



THE WITNESS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1610 PRINCE ST., CONWAY, ARKANSAS, 72034

Journeying Through Holy Week at Conway FUMC

All are invited to journey through Holy Week and celebrate Easter!

Bishop Laura Merrill will lead us into Holy Week with a triumphant entry on Palm Sunday with the waving of palms on March 24. Bishop Merrill will lead us in worship for all three worship services that day.

As we have studied Jesus' final words from the cross this lenten season, during Holy Week we will journey through Jesus' final days.

On Maundy Thursday, we will remember the Last Supper with a celebration of Holy Communion as we remember the ways Jesus served in radical and loving ways. This service will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 28, in the Great Hall.

In a service of Tenebrae, join us in holding space for Christ's death on Good Friday with readings and the extinguishing of candles. This service will be at 7 p.m. March 29, in the Sanctuary.

All the little ones in your family will definitely enjoy the annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30, at Laurel Park. In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be held at the church.

Certainly death is not the end! May we rejoice on Easter Day as the tomb is empty and the resurrected Jesus is seen! As witnesses to Christ in the world, join us this Holy Week.



Flower the Cross!

We would love for you to bring flowers from home on Easter Day (March 31) to place on the Easter crosses in the Sanctuary and the Great Hall.

Don't have any flowers? Don't worry! Extra blooms will be available.



Palm Sunday With Bishop Laura Merrill!

Bishop Laura Merrill will join the people of First United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 24, as we worship on Palm Sunday and begin our journey through Holy Week. Bishop Merrill will bring the message in all three worship services that day.

Please make plans to join us for worship as we move from Palm to Passion. **We especially invite children from ages 3 through 4th grade to join the Palm Processional in the 9:05 and 11 a.m. services.**

Please gather at worship entrances about five minutes prior to worship time. Adults are also welcome to process, and everyone will receive a palm.



EASTER egg hunt

10 a.m. Saturday,
March 30

Laurel Park in Conway
All Are Invited!



Sing 'Hallelujah' With the Choir

On Easter Day, join the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary at 8:30 or 11 a.m. worship to sing Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from Messiah. You may come to the balcony during the final hymn (music is available), or you may sing from your pew. All ages are welcome. The words are easy!

Trustees Workday



Thank you to all who came on March 9 to help spruce up the inside and the outside of the church campus in advance of Holy Week. (Photos courtesy of Pastor Nathan)



FUMC Attends Arkansas Handbell Festival

From Jason Saugey,
Director of Worship Ministries

Our FUMC handbell day started shortly before 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, unloading 2 cars packed to the ceiling with five octaves each of bells and chimes along with everything else it takes for a choir to operate. This day was the 2024 Arkansas Handbell Festival, hosted by Highland Valley UMC in Little Rock. Members of our choirs attend this event each year, a full day of continuing education, fellowship, and terrific music making.

Throughout the day over three plenums and two divisional rehearsals, we, along with choirs from throughout our region, worked out the details of five repertoire items and presented them at the end of the day at an informal concert. This year, FUMC was very well represented at the Festival with 12 ringers both from our Bells of Grace and our Chancel Ringers.

Not only is this yearly gathering a chance to study music under a different conductor, it's a chance for our ringers to work together and to enjoy each other's company apart from our typical playing spaces.

Events like this teach us new ways to approach a musical art form we love and at the same time to engage in ways better to bring us all together, not only as a team but also as a choir of musicians in service to Church, the Liturgy,



and to the Most High -- and having tremendous fun while doing it.

Conway FUMC two adult bell choirs and two ensembles for young people. Consider joining one (or more) of these groups to discover in them a supportive, inclusive, and welcoming community which will offer fellowship and friendship while deepening your faith as you encounter Christ in others through in-reaching service to all who come to worship at First United Methodist, Conway.



United Women in Faith

Several members of the Nell Dyer Circle of United Women in Faith met recently to assemble more than 100 compassion bags. Pictured are Debbie Bartrow, Shirley Taber, and Sherry Owen.

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Join us on a seven-week journey through scripture to (re)discover your spiritual gifts and consider prayerfully how God is calling you to use them in your daily life. This journey will not be intended to find us more to do, but to find the places where we can meet God in service and community.

There are two opportunities to join the study. On Wednesday night, we'll begin on April 3 and end on May 15, meeting in Room 216. On Sunday morning, we'll meet from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and begin on April 7 and end on May 12.

Sign up by scanning the QR code so we can be sure to get you a book.



FUMC Financial Stewardship

Our stewardship supports many different ministries we engage in as a congregation. Did you know in the month of February we highlighted our College ministry in worship? The Wesley Foundation is a ministry of our congregation and your gifts in the offering plate go to support this vital ministry in Conway! In the next few years, we hope to continue to grow our commitment to this vibrant ministry!

February Financials

Year to Date Income: 204,811.24
 Year to Date Expenses: 190,616.87
 Year to Date Loss/Gain: +14,194.37

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Bud Hines by: Martha Bumpers, Loretta Whitney, Alan & Fonda Stone, Fred & Pam Hueston, Clint Johnson, David & Pebble Sutherland, Jackie Robinette, D.B. & A. Webb, Carol Schedler, Doug & Cindy Rushing

In memory of Joy Cross by: Martha Bumpers, Loretta Whitney, Claudia Davis, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Larry & Marilyn Williams, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, Fred & Pam Hueston, Clint Johnson, Jackie Robinette, David & Pebble Sutherland, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Larry & Hilda Malpica

In memory of Don Robbins by: Loretta Whitney, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, David & Pebble Sutherland, Jackie Robinette

In memory of Wiletta Schrick by: Claudia Davis

In memory of Allan Bruner by: Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Thomas McFalls by: Claudia Davis, Jackie Robinette, Jamie Bird, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Bill & Cecilia Patterson

In memory of Helen Renner by: Claudia Davis

In memory of Pat Ross by: Jamie Bird, Jerry & Cherry White, Dotty Robins Sunday School Class, Sara Shinn

In memory of Mary Louise Rogers by: Jamie Bird

In honor of Pastor Nathan Kilbourne by: Family of Bud Hines

In honor of Rev. Dede Roberts by: Family of Bud Hines

In honor of Jason Saugey by: Family of Bud Hines

In honor of Steve Cohen by: Family of Bud Hines

In honor of Josh South by: Family of Bud Hines

In honor of Rev. Samuel and Lady Carole Teague by: Claudia Davis

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

Join our team this summer.
 For more details and an application, email Zach at zschrack@conwayfumc.org

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!

Join our team as a Youth Ministry Intern

Gain valuable experience and grow in your faith. Limited spots available. Apply now.
 #YouthMinistry
 #InternshipProgram

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Food Pantry, Cafe Distributions Adjusted

Our food pantry and Amazing Grace Cafe will begin in April to invite our community into our Fellowship Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. We could use more volunteers to welcome and help our community those weeks, but also at other times of the month.

If you would like to get involved in Conway FUMC's community food ministries, contact Kisha Bumpers, kbumpers@conwayfumc.org.

Slapjack Smorgasbord Set April 21

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 21, for a Spring Slapjack Smorgasbord to raise money for FUMC's landscaping fund.

We will be serving sausage and pancakes with all kinds of sweet toppings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee, tea, and beverages will be provided.

Come fellowship, enjoy breakfast, and support the continued beautification and maintenance of our grounds. Suggested donations are \$5 a plate, and all pancake breakfast donations will be directed to FUMC's landscape fund.

Help Needed for Middle Grounds

Do you enjoy coffee and connecting with others? Are you willing to help with hospitality logistics? The Middle Grounds ministry needs you! We are looking for help with all the things: set up, picking up donuts, making coffee, helping to welcome people into the space and cleaning up afterward.

If you would be willing to help out with this ministry every 4 to 6 weeks, please contact Clay Bumpers (clay.bumpers@gmail.com) or Kisha Bumpers (kbumpers@conwayfumc.org).

First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries -- Jason Saugey
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Catherine Gatlin
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Jules Koen
Director, Lay Ministries -- Kisha Bumpers
Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick
Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer

Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores
Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball
Church Administrator -- Jill Hankins
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

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