



THE WITNESS

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

Holy Week at Conway FUMC

It won't be long before we are waving palm branches on a Sunday and imagining the people of Jerusalem shouting Hosanna as Jesus entered the city for the last days of his life. Only Jesus fully understood what his last week would entail; the disciples didn't have a clue. Only in retrospect, were the disciples able to see and understand.

In the same way, we look back to the last week of Jesus' life through the lens of the Resurrection uncovering what God has done for us through him. For the Church, this last week, Holy Week, is the most important time of the year. Within three days, God changed the world. Because of this, we intentionally slow down to take it in and ask God's Spirit to continue to inspire and enlighten us.

This year, we hope to see you at our varied Holy Week Services. Palm Sunday services are part of our normal Sunday schedule and take place on April 13. Our children will be able to process and wave palm branches in each service during the opening hymn.

On April 17, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall for our Maundy Thursday Service. During this service, we will hear once again Jesus mandate (Maundy comes from the Latin word, mandatum) to "Eat this Bread, and Drink this Cup." We will gather for worship and communion that evening.

On April 18, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our Good Friday Service. Through this service, we will walk through the final hours of Jesus' life as

Holy Week Worship and Activities

Maundy Thursday -- 6:30 p.m. April 17, Great Hall

Good Friday -- 6:30 p.m. April 18, Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt -- 10 a.m. April 19, Laurel Park

Children invited to wave palms on Palm Sunday
Families may bring fresh flowers for Easter Crosses
Sing "Hallelujah" chorus with 8:30 & 11 a.m. choirs

we recall his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

On April 19, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Laurel Park at 10 a.m. This is open to any in the community! Please invite your friends!

Finally, we will close out Holy Week with Easter Sunday as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "If Christ is not raised from the dead, we have nothing to preach." The Resurrection is the lynchpin of the faith and gives meaning to Jesus' ministry and the cross. Join us for a time of great celebration. Bring fresh flowers for our Easter Crosses in our services at 8:30 p.m., 9:05 a.m., and 11 a.m.! And, if you're so inclined, you may join our choirs at 8:30 and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary to sing the Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from Messiah at the end of worship. Music will be available in the balcony.

Let us be grateful for God's great work on our behalf in Jesus Christ.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH 10:00 AM
LAUREL PARK PAVILLION
RAIN LOCATION
FUMC CONWAY - TRINITY BLDG

Flowers for the Easter Cross!
We would love for you to bring flowers from home on Easter to place on the Easter cross in the Sanctuary and the Great Hall.
Don't have any flowers? Don't worry! Extra blooms will be available at the church.

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”**

- MATTHEW 25:35



UMCOR SUNDAY

March 30, 2025, in all three worship services

Come hear about Conway FUMC's recent trip to Guatemala to build stoves for Guatemalan families.

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ON IMMIGRATION

Please join the Church and Society Committee for our first Fifth Sunday presentation of 2025. Sunday, March 30, at 10 am in the Great Hall.

We will be discussing the immigration crisis currently happening in our country. Presenters include Brooklyn Solis with Alliance Immigration and Fritzie Moore Vammen, Attorney at Law, P.A.

Brooklyn will be sharing some experiences with Immigration. Fritzie will be discussing the latest news and laws regarding Immigration and provide information on our rights moving forward.

This is sure to be an important conversation you won't want to miss.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30
10AM - GREAT HALL**



Financial Update for February 2025

From Rev. Nathan Kilbourne:

We are doing well so far this year financially.

At the end of February, we were \$50,000 ahead of expenses. This is normal for our congregation as we get ahead during the early winter months, and then as summer time hits our expenses rise due to HVAC costs and the like. So the more we are able to stay ahead, the more we are able to bring to fruition the plans God has in store for us as a congregation.

Moreover, our Capital Campaign is going really well. To date, we now owe \$325,000 on our loan! In other words, we've paid off around \$825,000 worth of principal since the kick off of the campaign in fall last year! Thank you so much for your generosity as we tackle phase 1 of the campaign of paying off our debt!



Homebound Goodie Bags for March

Our Congregational Care Ministry team members created goodie bags for some very lucky people during March. The bags included beads and colorful candies.

If you would like to help deliver these bags to our homebound friends, please contact coordinator Brenda Porter at brendadudleyporter@outlook.com.

Being the Hands and Feet



How Does Your Garden Grow?

Members of the C1Youth group and leaders recently worked in the garden of Ms. Peggy Schultz, a church member, to help her get the garden ready for the season to plant.

Who did we serve?

February 2025



CHURCH & SOCIETY
The United Methodist Church
Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

Individuals:
129

Seniors:
37

Kids:
66

New Faces:
70

Did You Know?
In Jan & Feb, volunteers brought and distributed 11,442.8 pounds of food from the Food Bank and local grocery stores.

Pounds of Food:
6,368

Food Pantry Drive Thru:
April 3rd & 17th
Indoor Food Pantry
& Amazing Grace Cafe:
April 9th & 23rd
Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm

Items Needed:

- Tampons/Pads
- Hand Soap
- Body Soap

Volunteer to Serve:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 12-2pm; Thursday 1:30 or 3-6:00pm

FOOD  **PANTRY**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CONWAY, AR

Want More Information? Email: FoodPantry@ConwayFUMC.org

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping with the church's Feeding Ministries? Scan the QR code to find out more about our Food Pantry and ways you can help. There are still several opportunities to help during April!




Middle Grounds Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy coffee, doughnuts and conversation? Then you'll love Middle Grounds, held on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help pick up the doughnuts, set up the coffee station and clean up afterwards. There are plenty of opportunities to help during March and beyond!

Please scan the QR code to see the available volunteer opportunities.





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!



Egg Hunt Candy Collection

Now collecting candy for our annual egg hunt! Collection baskets will be in the Trinity Lobby and Hospitality area until April 9.

LILY FUND 2025



If you wish to make a donation, please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church and include this form. You may also give online by scanning the QR Code to the left.

All those in whose name a gift is given and the donors will be listed on a flyer to pick up at worship entrances on Sunday, April 20. Any donation amount is appreciated. The deadline for donations is Sunday, April 13, to have your name printed in the list.

This gift is made in memory of

This gift is made in honor of

Enclosed \$ _____

Your name as you wish it to appear:

Please use this gift for:

_____ Methodist Family Health, a complete continuum of care for Arkansas children who are abandoned, abused, neglected and struggling with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues.

_____ Other (please list) _____

Help Support Methodist Family Health Through Lily Fund Donations

During Lent 2025, our Lily Fund donations will be primarily dedicated to supporting Methodist Family Health in Arkansas.

The Methodist Family Health statewide, psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual continuum of care includes inpatient, residential and outpatient venues of care. Services are provided through the 60-bed Methodist Behavioral Hospital, psychiatric residential treatment centers, qualified residential treatment program (therapeutic group homes), a transitional home for clients who have graduated high school, a day treatment program, Arkansas CARES (Center for Addictions Research, Education and Services), community- and school-based counseling clinics, the Kaleidoscope Grief Center and the Methodist Family Health Foundation.

For more information, visit www.methodistfamily.org/ or www.facebook.com/methodistfamilyhealth

JOIN US FOR THE...



PASTOR'S COFFEE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6 @ 10AM
IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY
(SANCTUARY BUILDING)**

**BEEN VISITING & WANT TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT CONWAY FUMC? INTERESTED IN
CONNECTING? JOINING? ALL ARE
WELCOME AT THE PASTOR'S COFFEE!**

Noonday Prayer on Friday in Lent



**March 7, 14, 21 and 28 12:10 p.m. in the
April 4 and 11 Sanctuary**

Friday Noonday Prayer will center upon a spiritual exercise, providing an opportunity to gather together in community prayerfully to contemplate each exercise. The services will last no more than 30 minutes and will also allow time (approximately 15 minutes) for quiet, private prayer and meditation. Everyone is invited!

'Soul Care' to Be Topic of UWFaith Meeting

Attention, Ladies of all ages! Are you in need of some "Soul Care"?

On Sunday, April 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Eva Englert-Jenssen from Methodist Family Health will speak on "Soul Care" at the United Women in Faith Spring Unit Meeting. The title of her talk will be "Abundant Life: Cultivating Personal & Communal Well-Being in a Tumultuous Time."

All women are invited to attend the presentation. You are also welcome to stay for our Unit Business Meeting if you are interested in learning more about UWFaith. UWFaith is open to women of all ages and Christian affiliations.

Please RSVP by March 31 to Debbie Bartrow at fddcbartrow@conwaycorp.net.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



6:30 PM

30MARCH2025



FELLOWSHIP HALL



Save the Date!

FUMC "Caregiver Connect"

10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 22

A respite event and info fair for area caregivers

Caregivers are invited to bring your loved one to the Fellowship Hall for a morning of directed activities. Then you can swing by the Parlor in the Trinity Building to connect with other caregivers, learn about upcoming summer events, and take a goody-to-go before returning to pick up your loved one.

Registration is required for the event: form to be posted online April 1. The deadline to register is Friday, April 18. Directed activities are designed for up to 10 recipients. The drop-in mixer and info fair can accommodate up to 40 attendees.

For more information, check out our Caregiver Ministry online resources: conwayfumc.org/congregational-care/

Conway FUMC Staff Changes

Children's Ministry Update

From Rev. Nathan Kilbourne and Richard Counts, chairman of the Staff Parish Relations Committee:

We wanted to provide an update to the church as to what is happening in the Children's Ministry after Jules Koen, our Co-Director of Children's Ministry, made the decision to step down at the end of February. In the interim, Catherine Gatlin, our other Co-Director of Children's Ministry, is going to step into the position of full-time Director of Children's Ministry until the staff parish is able to hire a Nursery Coordinator.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, in looking over the positions, thinking through responsibilities, and having conversations with Catherine, decided the best course of action would be to hire a part-time Nursery Coordinator, to work with our pre-school and infants, and have Catherine be our Director of Children's Ministry. The Nursery Coordinator would be responsible for ensuring our nursery is hospitable and safe to all our younger children who participate in it and would work in conjunction with Catherine to offer age-appropriate Christian curriculum for them on Sundays. Moreover, this part-time position would help schedule the other nursery staff on a week-to-week basis.

If you are interested or know of someone who would be great with young children and has the skills to coordinate a nursery staff, please contact Pastor Nathan.



Jill Hankins Announces Retirement

It has been an honor and pleasure to have Jill on staff as our Office Administrator over the course of the past several years. Jill joined the team right as the pandemic started. In fact, she was hired the month of March 2020. A

week or so after her hire, the church went into COVID protocol and all in-person activity stopped!

Nonetheless, Jill has served faithfully in her role as Office Administrator, helping to ensure the office has run smoothly as well as helping to keep our financial books in order. Initially Jill planned on retiring after her career at Hendrix College, but when the job of Conway FUMC opened, she wanted to serve the church in this capacity. Having been a member here for years where she has sung in the choir, she remarked, "it was icing on the cake to serve the church by being on staff."

Jill is excited about pursuing her long-time hobbies of sewing and quilting as well as continuing to pursue her newfound love of playing the piano! She looks forward to filling up her "National Parks passbook" and spending more time with her husband Wade.

In the meantime, Jill has agreed to stay on staff until we find her replacement. Her position will be transitioning to strictly a financial position as the church will be looking for a part-time Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper.

The rest of her office duties will be shifted among the staff with Colleen Holt taking on many of the office management duties like calendaring and booking events.



**Interested in joining our amazing team at Conway
First United Methodist Church?**

Take a look at our available job postings and apply!

- Accounts payable/bookkeeper
- Nursery coordinator



Check us out at <https://conwayfumc.org/job-postings/>

Senior Sunday at Conway FUMC

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

04 MAY 2025

Come celebrate our High School Seniors with us!!



Men's Prayer Breakfast

7 a.m. Wednesdays,
Fellowship Hall

Healing Prayer Ministry

9 a.m. Wednesdays,
Trinity Chapel

Noonday Prayer

Each Friday at 12:10 p.m.
through April 11, Sanctuary

Fifth Sunday Program

10 a.m. Sunday, March 30,
Great Hall
"A Conversation on
Immigration"

Church Council Meeting

6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30,
Fellowship Hall

Midweek Activities

Wednesday, April 2
Dinner starts at 6 p.m.
Cost is \$7 per person/\$28
max per family

**Food Pantry
Distribution**

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 3
Drive-through distribution

Pastor's Coffee

10 a.m. Sunday, April 6,
Church Library

Check out our website at
[conwayfumc.org/events-
calendar/](http://conwayfumc.org/events-calendar/)
for a comprehensive list of
church events!

Save the date

**United Women
in Faith Sunday**



**May 18, 2025
All 3 worship services**

The UWF Mission: To connect and nurture women through
Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative
fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence and
impact local and global communities.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1610 PRINCE ST.
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Sunday Worship

In-person:

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

9:05 and 11 a.m. services
are livestreamed on
Facebook, YouTube and
our Website at
www.conwayfumc.org

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Bud & Sue Hines by:

Libba Tierney

In memory of Greg Copley by: Bill &

Mary Kay Dunaway

In memory of Jean Parrack by: Joseph

& Amy Fuggi

In honor of FUMC Confirmands by:

Bill & Cecilia Patterson

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles

Pittman

Volunteer at Ida Burns Elementary

The staff at Ida Burns Elementary
School has extended an invitation to
volunteer at one or more of their events
this spring:

May 7 -- Prepare for Mother's Day event

May 8 -- Mother's Day Jewelry event

May 9 -- Behavior Bash @ Boys & Girls
Club (shifts at 8:30, 10:00, and 1:00)

To volunteer, contact Donna
Wilchie, Ida Burns Elementary School
counselor (501-450-4825;
wilchied@conwayschools.info)

First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby
Director, Children's Ministries -- Catherine Gatlin
Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick
Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer
Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries -- Jason Saugey

Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball
Church Administrator -- Jill Hankins
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears
Custodian -- Tim Tarpley
Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds
Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

Contact staff by email at:
first initial of first name plus
last name
@conwayfumc.org

Example: nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org