



# THE WITNESS



Prayer Requests?

Email

joysandconcerns@  
conwayfumc.org

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

## Journeying Through Holy Week

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 March 29. Our children will be able to process and wave palm branches in each service during the opening hymn.

On April 2, 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 3, 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 we recall his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

On April 4, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. at the church. 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.

## Wesley Foundation Growing New Ministry

By Nathan Fryar:

For several years, the yard behind the Wesley Foundation on College Avenue has been a fruitful location for the ministry. From movie nights on the lawn, fire side devotionals, and a fair number of pickup soccer matches, this spot has grown students in fellowship and faith.

But now, it will be growing more than spiritual fruit. For several months, students have been hard at work building a large garden bed to grow food for the feeding ministries of Conway First United Methodist Church. The work started back in April 2025, when a group of students with a vivid imagination and nothing much else to do peered back into what was at the time a thicket and saw what it could be. Over the next summer, students spent hundreds of hours clearing brush, leaves, weeds, and trees up to 45 feet tall from this area of land. A large, raised bed has been constructed and filled with a mixture of soil on sight and compost. It is estimated that more than 100 different individuals from four different colleges, as well as other church affiliated volunteers, have worked on this garden bed.

As it stands to date, students are waiting for the growing season to begin in Central Arkansas this month, then planting can begin. The garden will grow spinach, turnips, okra, kale,



carrots, onions, corn, potatoes, beans, and squash. The students at the Wesley will use this garden to gain experience and education in food production in residential areas, learn about sustainable methods of growing food, and take this knowledge with them to their own homes and communities, while simultaneously serving our neighbors here in Conway.



During MidWeek activities on March 11, the children learned about Palm Sunday and acted out the story of Jesus coming into the city of Jerusalem. They also ended the evening sharing their highs and lows of the week. We would love for as many children as possible to join us on Palm Sunday to wave palms during worship!

## Palm Sunday Worship



Sunday, March 29  
8:30 & 11 a.m.  
in the Sanctuary  
9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall

### Attention Children!

You're invited to wave palms on Palm Sunday. Just meet us at the back of the Sanctuary at 8:30 or 11 a.m. worship, or in the Lobby of the Great Hall for 9:05 a.m. worship to process into the worship area.

## 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.

## Candy Needed for the Easter Egg Hunt!

We would love to have donations of candy to use at our upcoming Easter egg hunt on April 4 at the church.

Candy collection bins will be in the Trinity Lobby and the Hospitality Area of the Sanctuary building.  
(No peanut or peanut butter candy).  
Deadline: March 29.

# We're Hiring

OPEN POSITION

**Summer Youth Intern**  
**School Year Intern**

CONTACT ZACH SCHRICK FOR  
DETAILS  
ZSCHRICK@CONWAYFUMC.ORG  
870-949-2514



FIND OUR JOB DESCRIPTION  
AT CONWAYFUMC.ORG  
OR ON OUR LINKTREE IN  
OUR BIO

[Online Application](#)

### PERKS

Paid Internship  
Flexible hours  
Hands-On Ministry  
Experience  
Mentorship & Supportive  
Faith Community  
Leadership Development



## Sing With the Choir on Easter

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.

# Desegregation to Be Topic of Fifth Sunday Presentation

Most of us have heard about the Little Rock Nine, but have you heard about the First Twenty Five?

The Committee of Church and Society is honored to host Rev. Dr. LaVerne Bell-Tolliver at our 5th Sunday presentation on Sunday, March 29. During her presentation, "The First Twenty-Five," Rev. Dr. Bell-Tolliver will share her experience desegregating Little Rock's five public junior high schools—East Side, Forest Heights, Pulaski Heights, Southwest, and West Side—in 1961 and 1962.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand about a pivotal moment in Little Rock's history and to reflect on the ongoing work of justice and reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. Bell-Tolliver is a retired clergy in residence at Pleasant Hill the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, where she formerly served as pastor. She remains at that church and is currently serving as a children's Sunday School teacher and director of the children's church, which is her passion. She is an ordained deacon and elder of the CME.



**10 a.m. Sunday,  
March 29, Great Hall**

**Featured Speaker:  
Rev. Dr. LaVerne Bell-Tolliver  
author, editor & therapist**



Professionally, Rev. Dr. Bell-Tolliver is a contract therapist at HLH Consultants, an agency working with clients who are referred from the Department of Children and Family Services.

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The presentation is free and open to the public.

# In Honor & Memory

**In memory of Joyce Heird by:** Larry & Hilda Malpica, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, Jerry & Cherry White, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Valera Tate, Kathy & Chris Cooper, John & Glenda Brownlee, Jamie Bird, Claudia Davis, Wade & Jill Hankins, Billy & Elizabeth Humphrey, Round Table Sunday School Class, Tom & Theresa Gerard, Michael & Donna Harris, Deana Barnard, Roger Lewis, Jim Bruce, Stan & Marilyn Ott, Roger & Linda Mills, Kathleen Boone, Clifford & Elise McGinnis, Ida McGinnis, Carolyn Sanders, Kathy & Paul Butt, Suzanne Nuss, Rex & Martha Ross, Rod & Betty Beasley, Pat & Beverly Bowles, Charlene James, Karen Hughes

**In memory of Richard Porter by:** Jeremy & Moriah Bruner

**In memory of Paul Taber by:** Carol Schedler

**In honor of Kish Jones by:** Charles Pittman

**In honor of Brenda Porter by:** Jeremy & Moriah Bruner

## Volunteer Opportunity Grief Care Ministry Needs Helpers to Send Notes

The Conway FUMC Grief Care ministry is well under way, and your help is needed. As part of this ministry, congregants offer hope, support and recovery by extending quality care and helpful resources for those experiencing grief in our church family.

A large part of this effort includes sending notes on important dates in a grieving person's life. If you would like to join in this ministry area of sending notes, please contact Donna Stephens or call the church office.

## Pizza with the Pastors Set April 12

Join the Pastors for a Pizza Lunch after worship on April 12 in the fellowship Hall from 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

As we enter the season of Easter, we invite you to consider your next steps as disciples of Christ. How do you see yourself plugging in at Conway FUMC? Are you ready to enter into a covenant of membership and walk with fellow Christians in your journey?

Join us in learning about the United Methodist Church and specifically Conway FUMC!

## Walk in the Footsteps of Paul



Join Pastor Nathan on a journey through Greece and Turkiye October 12<sup>th</sup> - Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 2026!

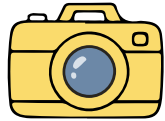
**INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
2 p.m. Sunday, March 29, in the Fellowship Hall**

# 2026



# Confirmation Sunday





**Photos  
by  
Amity  
Lemmer**





# Missions Moment

CONWAY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The FUMC Missions Committee and the Faulkner County Library have been longtime partners in community outreach. As a committee we have chosen to partner with the library again on their new program **Bubbles**.

**Bubbles** will be a mobile laundry program they are hoping to kick off on April 17th. The Faulkner County Library will host a mobile laundry truck where friends in the community can come and wash clothes free of charge. They will provide the supplies and machines. Along with the mobile laundry unit, they are hopeful to give out hygiene kits. These kits will include basic hygiene needs, as well as some optional items to tend to individual needs including food, creative outlets and seasonal items.

Our outreach is only made possible by our amazing congregation and your continued support of our fundraisers like Trivia Night and Christmas Coffee House. So, sincerely, thank you!! We will be collecting items to help the library get this program started. There are a variety of items needed - from laundry detergent and cleaning supplies to toiletries, snacks and more. Please see the attached lists and join us in helping this new program serve our community!

## Ways to Donate

We will have donation tubs in the Trinity lobby outside the Great Hall and by the elevators in the Sanctuary Hospitality Area. Please click the links below to view the Amazon wish lists.

\*\* The library has said they do not need these particular or name brands, but they would appreciate "scent free" or sensitive skin detergents to accommodate the most people.

**\*\* We will be collecting items through Easter Sunday to help the library get this program started\*\***



## Bubbles

### Mobile Laundry Truck

Scan the links below for the **amazon** wish lists.



Laundry Supplies



Hygiene Kits



# Veritas 2026!

More than 30 youth and adults representing C1 youth attended Veritas the weekend of Feb. 27 through March 1 in Fort Smith. We attended worship sessions and talked about “Imago Dei” or Image of God, a beautiful reminder of how our identity is grounded in who we are to God. We don’t get to decide the worth of anyone, including ourselves! Our worth has already been decided by the one who created us in his image. Youth also got the opportunity to join breakout sessions, where they learned about everything from “how to talk to people you disagree with” to “weird and funny things in the Bible”



# AGAPE FEAST



All current 7<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to join in this yearly tradition May 3rd!

# ATTENTION

All 4<sup>th</sup> graders

Midyouth will have a preview day April 29<sup>th</sup> for you to experience what midyouth could be like for you!

*April 26, 2026*



**SENIOR SUNDAY**

*Class of 2026*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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# LILY FUND 2026



Each year at Easter, the Worship Committee invites you to memorialize or honor someone special to you by contributing to the Lily Fund.

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 or visiting [conwayfumc.org/give/](http://conwayfumc.org/give/).



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 5. Any donation amount is appreciated. The deadline for donations is Sunday, March 29, to have your name printed in the list.

This gift is made in memory of

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This gift is made in honor of

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Enclosed \$ -----

Your name as you wish it to appear:

**Please use this gift for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rise House in Conway.** Since 1995, Rise has advocated for and assisted survivors of family violence and sexual assault in the central Arkansas area. They provide outreach services including emergency shelter, food, clothing, legal advocacy, and crisis counseling.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other** (please list)

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## First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
 Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
 Director, Youth Ministries -- Zach Schrick  
 Director, MidYouth Ministries -- Christy Lemmer  
 Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores  
 Dir., Music/Worship Ministries -- Jason Saughey  
 Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt

Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) -- Linda Ball  
 Nursery Coordinator -- Cara Rucker  
 Bookkeeper -- Libby Conder  
 Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears  
 Custodian -- Tim Tarpley  
 Financial Assistant -- Laura Bounds  
 Communications Assistant -- Colleen Holt

**SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:**  
 8:30 & 11 A.M. - SANCTUARY  
 9:05 A.M. - GREAT HALL  
 LIVE-STREAMING AT 9:05 & 11 A.M.:  
[WWW.CONWAYFUMC.ORG](http://WWW.CONWAYFUMC.ORG)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC](https://FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC)  
 OR YOUTUBE: @CONWAYFUMC