



THE WITNESS

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

One Service Sunday Tradition Continues at Conway FUMC!

Following the one worship service at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, the congregation will join together to make Health Kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Watch for weekly announcements throughout the summer for specific items that can be donated, and for opportunities to make monetary donations for this event. An Amazon Wish List has been created. You will find it at this link: bit.ly/3yAD6sR

All Are
Welcome!

September 1, 2024

ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

WORSHIP

One Service at
10 a.m., Sanctuary



UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief

Service Project: 11 a.m., Great Hall

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of the United Methodist Church. Founded in 1940 by the General Conference of the Methodist Church (USA) in response to World War II's devastating effects around the world.

It is a non-profit organization operated under the

auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns and global health issues.

UMCOR's current responsibility is to provide immediate relief of acute human need and to respond to the

suffering of persons in the world caused by natural, ecological, political turmoil, and civil disasters. UMCOR is the first in and the last out with all disasters. They support immediate and long-term disaster relief efforts by stockpiling aid items and keeping a unit of trained "disaster response specialists" ready for immediate dispatch.

General Conference Follow Up: And Are We Yet Alive!

From Rev. Nathan Kilbourne,
Senior Pastor, Conway FUMC

Each year at Annual Conferences across the globe, United Methodists gather and sing Charles Wesley's hymn, "And Are We Yet Alive." The first verse starts out, "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give, for his almighty grace."

Originally the song was to be sung at the beginning of the annual Society meeting as a reminder of God's presence in the mid-1700s.

It was meant to be a reminder of the community God had blessed us with in the world, who are of one mind in regards to living in the name of Jesus. Every week, I stand amazed and glad to see people gathered to worship and serve the Lord. What a blessing it is that every day we awake to know we are still alive to do God's work in the world and to do it together.

Following General Conference a couple of weeks ago, some have proclaimed the United Methodist Church is dead. I guess they haven't

visited Conway First United Methodist Church. Just because the decisions which have been made may run counter to one's belief systems doesn't mean another group is dead. We may be dead to those who are different from us, but we are not dead. God has been and continues to use the United Methodist Church for the sake of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The future of the United Methodist Church remains vibrant as

See **GENERAL CONFERENCE** on Page 3

+ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Conway FUMC is hosting OMP June 9-14! We are set to have over 100 campers, so we need help extended hospitality to those coming to share the love of God in our community!

Our 3 biggest needs are:



SCAN ME
Snacks



SCAN ME
Meal Help



SCAN ME
Work-Day Help

If you have questions or want to help in a different way, please contact Amy Shores at (501)733-7870 or ashores@conwayfumc.org

Join the fun. WOW Camp 2024! Volunteers Needed

From teaching, cooking, decorating, dancing, and loving on our kiddos, we have tons of ways to get involved in our Children's Ministry this summer! We would love to spend the week with you!! Join us for soem fun on the farm as we explaore the Fruit of the Spirit!

Sign Up Today



Or contact us: Catherine Gatlin cgatlin@conwayfumc.org
Jules Koen jkoen@conwayfumc.org



NEED A COUGH DROP? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

Hospitality baskets in each bathroom include hygiene products, diapers and wipes, floss, contact solution, bandaids, lotion, mints, cough drops, and emergency snacks.

Use what you need, and have a wonderful day!

FUMC & FCL

SUMMER LUNCH MINISTRY

FUMC is teaming up with the Faulkner County Library to serve 3700 lunches to our neighbors June-August. Find out how you can help...

DONATE

Select "Special Giving" & type "Summer Lunch Ministry" in the notes.



VOLUNTEER



In Memory and in Honor

In memory of Greg Wren by: Pam Wren
In memory of Allan Bruner by: Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Joy Cross by: Rock & Melissa Jones, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Nancy Williams & Bob Dornblaser

In memory of Clay Cross by: Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, The Morse Family
In memory of Thomas McFalls by: Larry & Marilyn Williams, Rock & Melissa Jones, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Nancy Williams & Bob Dornblaser

In memory of Frank Ross by: Kathy & Chris Cooper

In memory of Fred Tate by: Kathy & Chris Cooper

In memory of Danny Burris by: Kathy & Chris Cooper, Martha Bumpers, Claudia Davis, Bill & Cecilia Patterson

In memory of Bruce Netherton by: Kathy & Chris Cooper

In memory of Elizabeth Shock by: Martha Bumpers, Pam Wren, Fred & Nancy Thessing, Jamie Bird

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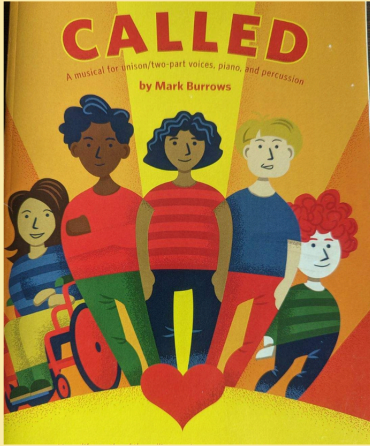
In memory of Vernon Pierce by: Pam Wren

In memory of Melanie Salley by: Pam Wren

In honor of FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry by: Valera Tate

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

Conway FUMC To Present ...



“Called”

**A Children's
Summer
Musical!**

**Love to sing easy
and fun songs?
Want to try acting
in a play?**



Be in our summer children's musical!

Open to rising 3rd graders through high school age

**Monday, June 10 through Thursday, June 13
8 a.m. to noon each day
Performance on Thursday, June 13, at 7 p.m.**

Contact Linda Ball for more information
(lbball@conwayfumc.org)

Please pre-register by Monday, June 3
It's open to all, so bring your friends!



**Scan this
QR code
to sign up
today!**

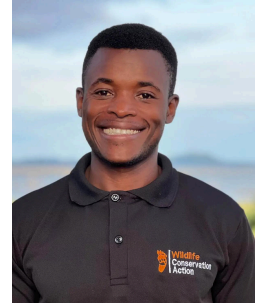
New Covenant Partner Relationship Announced

The FUMC Mission Committee is excited to announce that we have entered into a new covenant partner relationship with a global missionary to extend over the next 12 months.

Tapiwa Prosper Chimbadzwa is an international Global Mission Fellow with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. He is a member of the Zimbabwe West Annual Conference and is currently serving in Sierra Leone. His passions for conservation and social justice are evident in his mission work, and he has future plans, “to combine research and policymaking to become an influential voice for social justice, specifically affecting wildlife, youth and sustainability.”

The Mission Committee has committed \$1,500 towards Tapiwa’s mission work. We ask that you be in prayer for him, his work, and the community in which he now serves.

To learn more about Tapiwa, visit:
umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/chimbadzwa-tapiwa-prosper/



GENERAL CONFERENCE from Page 1

long as we stay focused upon our mission which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

For some the news coming out of General Conference is quite exciting while for others it is disappointing. I will say, from those who attended, the spirit of the Conference was like none they'd experienced in a long time. There was a feeling of mutual respect as well as camaraderie. There was a willingness to work together even though there were a variety of opinions around various subjects. Indeed there were major decisions made at General Conference for the future of the church. There were major decisions around our structure, social issues, most prominently sexuality, and financial issues for the Church moving forward.

While space does not permit a full insight into all decisions, let me offer a couple of thoughts. First, one of the major changes was what has been called “Regionalization.” For many decades now, the United States has sat upon the seat of power in the United Methodist Church. The Church, though global, has been dominated by U.S. voices. Many items of legislation, for instance, have focused on predominant U.S. issues like pension programs. All to say, many from around the globe were dealing with matters that didn't pertain to their context nor were their voices really being heard with issues that needed discussing. Thus, the General Conference moved to regionalize the Church putting all areas (like the U.S., Africa, etc) on equal footing. Such allows for varied issues to be tackled within the contexts pertaining to those specific areas.

While core beliefs will remain, some specific items in the Discipline may be altered for specific contexts.

This brings us to the second major decision that happened at General Conference, which was around the issue of sexuality. As you may be aware, the language that “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” was removed from our discipline as well as other language regarding homosexuality in the Discipline (e.g. the language of homosexuality and qualification for ministry).

The intention of the removal was to recognize as a denomination, we do not agree about issues related to homosexuality. And the Church is willing to live in this disagreement and allow Conferences, bishops, churches, boards of ministry, and individuals to make decisions of conscience around issues of sexuality. Some United Methodist churches may choose to allow gay weddings, some may not. Some pastors may choose to do a gay wedding, some may not. Some churches may welcome a gay pastor, others may not.

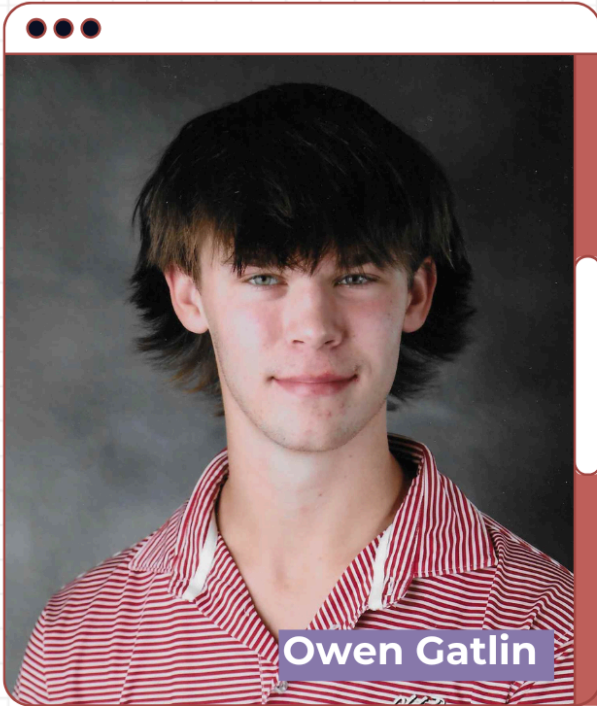
All to say, we don't agree and so levity has been given for those who want to be fully inclusive and have a place and for those who feel different to also have a place. It opens the table for all to be present and participate fully in the life of the church recognizing God is at work among us and even at times beyond us.

We had a good discussion about the happenings at General Conference on Sunday, May 19, and you are always welcome to visit with Pastor Nathan and Pastor Miranda if you have questions.

Congratulations Class of 2024!

Mason Bintliff plans to attend UCA and major in nursing

Favorite Memory:
The mystery mission trip to Chicago



Owen Gatlin plans to pursue engineering at Sewanee: The University of the South

Favorite Memory:
Reconnect at the beach in 2023



Matthew Grimes plans to attend UCA and major in business

MC Grimes is planning to attend Swarthmore College



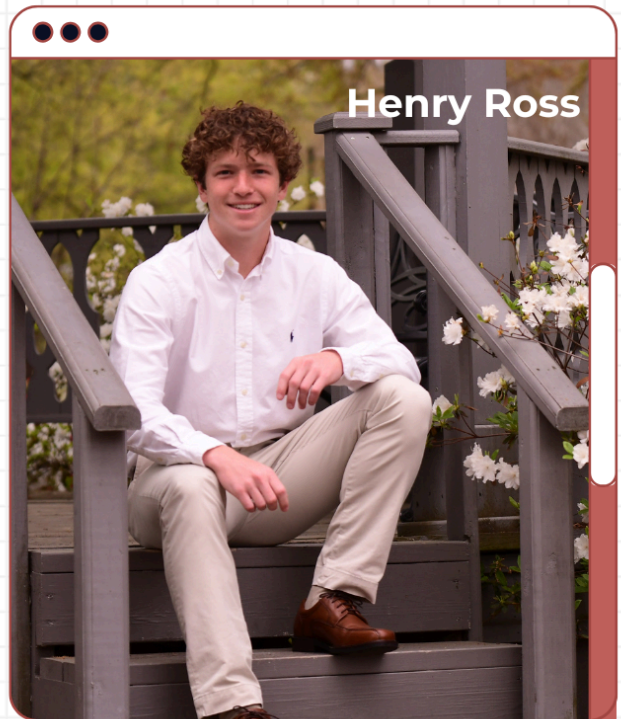
MC Grimes



Mason McCuin

Mason McCuin plans to attend the University of Arkansas

Favorite memory: Confirmation



Henry Ross

Henry Ross plans to attend the University of Arkansas and study Engineering

Favorite Memory: Reconnect 2023 because I was able to deepen my friendships with other youth and make lasting memories.



Lilli King



Lilli King plans to attend Hendrix College and play Soccer

**Favorite Memory:
Jumping into Lake Michigan on the JH mystery trip to Chicago**

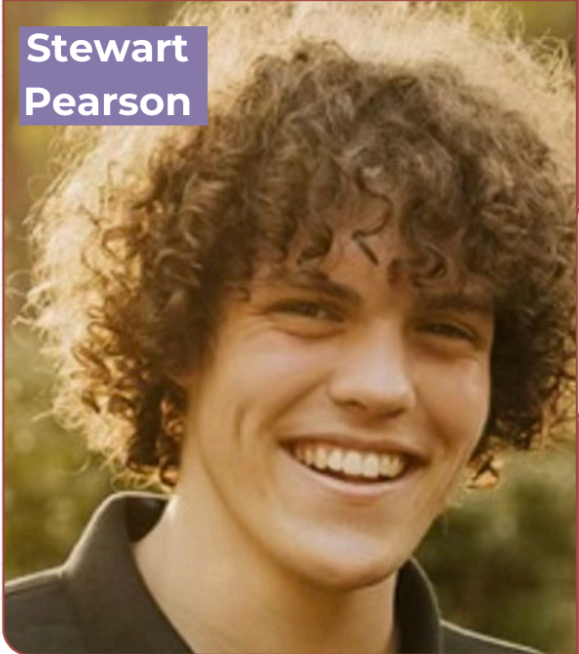
Meredith Pearson



Stewart Pearson plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in Biology/Pre-Med track

**Favorite Memory: Two things:
I love you and God loves you and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it!**

Stewart Pearson



Meredith Pearson plans to attend Arkansas Tech and major in Medical Administration

Favorite Memory: Going to Chicago with my youth group and serving others for a week. One of my favorite things was having to put ourselves in others shoes by only having \$10 for our sub group to find food

A Day of Discovery: Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza

On Saturday, April 27, First United Methodist Church and St Peter's Episcopal Church, Conway, along with the Central Arkansas Chapter American Guild of Organists, hosted Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza.

Fifteen young future organists along with almost as many parents and guardians from around central Arkansas got up early and arrived at Conway FUMC to start a full day to meet and interact with a marvelous musical machine: the pipe organ.

Activities started with a chance to ask questions of real-life organists: When did you start playing? What do you like to play? Why are you an organist? Do you play other instruments? Do you have to practice? Organists James Stanley, John Krebs, Sungyun Kim, and Jason Saugey were ready with all the answers, and they all agreed they did have to practice.

A quick (and careful) climb up the steep and curvy stairs brought all participants to the console of the FUMC organ to see for themselves where and how the instrument is played and what all the buttons, knobs, keys, and pedals do. Then, each student took the organ for a test drive, playing a few tunes on one stop or two or three or in creative combinations – some even tried the



Eli Smittle tries out the organ at Conway FUMC.

pedal keys and played with their feet!

Following lunch, it was time for the short walk down the street to St. Peter's to meet another pipe organ with an entirely different personality. St. Peter's Director of Music JoAna Rusche welcomed everyone to the

church and pointed out the particulars of the interior, both the similarities and differences between the two spaces of the day. A discussion of how different traditions use the organ in worship, and how, despite some variations, the organ still plays a vital role in lifting hearts, minds, and voices was held. Since much of the pipework is exposed at St. Peter's, young organists were able to see close up the different shapes and sizes of the pipes.

To conclude the day: the Boomwhacker Experience. Linda Ball came prepared with a giant net full of plastic tubes, different in length, but all red in color, all C's. Instead of teaching a complicated math lesson about fractions, Linda showed how shorter tubes (pipes) made higher pitches, and how a tube twice as long made a pitch an octave lower. In combination, all the tubes (pipes) made a chorus. A boomwhacker organ!

A few days later, I asked one of my piano students what he thought about Pipes, Pedals and Pizza. His face lit up, his eyes got wide, and he put on a big broad smile. "I liked it all! But especially I liked sitting at the organ and playing the trumpets!" It was a good day.

Trustees Update

The Conway FUMC Trustees committee is in the process of purchasing a new 15-passenger van! Our current 15-passenger van is about 24 years old and has been good to us. But due to many safety concerns, it's time to buy a new one. Once again, thanks to the Dickson Estate and the C1Youth Group (which gave a generous donation of \$10,000) as well as other various entities, we are able to purchase this van with cash without financing at the current 9 percent interest rate!

Keep your eyes open over the next couple of weeks for the new van to hit our parking lot!

Prayer Ministry Opportunities

As we seek to be a caring congregation, prayer is an essential element of the church. There are a myriad number of ways you can be involved in the prayer ministry at Conway First United Methodist Church.

First, we encourage our congregation to submit prayer requests on Sundays during worship, as well as throughout the week through our email, joysandconcerns@conwayfumc.org. Our new website at www.conwayfumc.org also has a prayer wall where you can submit specific prayer requests, either with your name attached or anonymously.

If you prefer to submit your joys and concerns on paper, you have a few options. Prayer cards can be found in the attendance registration binders found in the Sanctuary pews and the chairs in the Great Hall worship area. There are also prayer boxes with cards available at the ramp entrance to the Sanctuary building and outside the doors to the Great Hall in the Trinity Building. You will also find pieces of paper in two prayer walls available near both worship areas: in the C1Youth wing in the Trinity Building and in the narthex of the Sanctuary building.

Each Wednesday at 9 a.m., a group meets to pray for not only these joys and concerns, but also for those related to our community and beyond. We not only value your requests and will lift them up during our time together, but confidentiality will be strictly maintained. Our pastors will also be praying for these requests. This team is open to anyone wishing to participate in this important ministry. Please prayerfully consider joining.

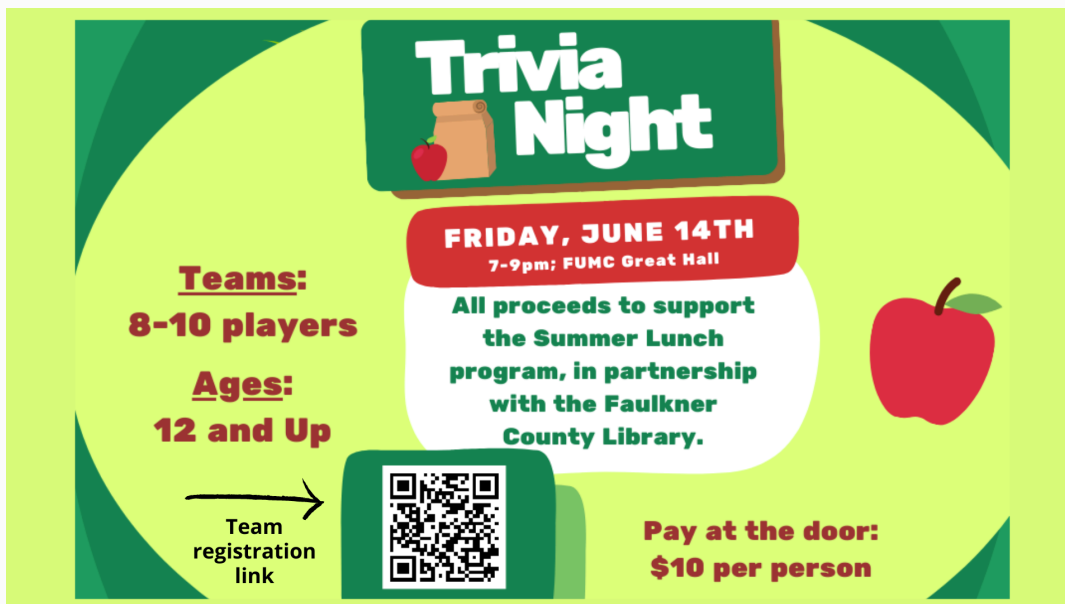
Please watch your communications for other ways to participate in prayer-related activities throughout the year. If you wish to serve or would like more information, contact Jema Elms at 501-837-0653 or Jelms55@yahoo.com.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Trivia Night

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH
7-9pm; FUMC Great Hall

Teams:
8-10 players

Ages:
12 and Up

Team registration link

All proceeds to support the Summer Lunch program, in partnership with the Faulkner County Library.

Pay at the door:
\$10 per person

The poster features a green background with a large white circle. At the top, a green banner contains the text 'Trivia Night' with an illustration of a bowl and a red apple. Below this, a red banner displays the date and time. A white speech bubble contains information about the proceeds. A red apple is illustrated on the right side. At the bottom left, an arrow points to a QR code with the text 'Team registration link'. At the bottom right, the text 'Pay at the door: \$10 per person' is displayed.

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 and
YouTube

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
Business Assistant -- Todd Burriss
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries -- Ed Spears
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