



# THE WITNESS

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

## Unleashing My Gratitude

### A Note of Thanks from Pastor Nathan

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, words cannot express the gratitude I feel in my heart for the generosity of the congregation. As you are aware, on Nov. 3 we announced our preliminary total for our “Unleashing our Potential” capital campaign. At the potluck, we announced we had pledged \$2.7 million! As of today, we have pledges of \$2.79 million! In fact, individuals have already begun paying their pledge. This week, we made a \$100,000+ payment to the principle on the loan! This is so wonderful!

Like I said, words cannot express the thanksgiving I feel in my heart. The success of the campaign speaks to the faith and love you all have for this congregation and our desire to see the Kingdom expand in and beyond Conway FUMC. Thank you again to all those who helped with the campaign possible from our prayer team, discipleship team, events team, capital campaign team, and more. What an amazing time to be part of Conway First United Methodist Church!



## Advent Series: Presence Matters

Presence matters. When we are present to others, it can change their outlook on a situation, it can give us strength to face a new day, or it can offer comfort in a difficult time. Presence is powerful.

This Advent, we are kicking off a series of sermons around Jesus’ birth and how his physical presence matters in our lives. Early in Christian history, followers of Jesus reflected a great deal on what would become known as the incarnation or Jesus becoming human. They came to see that God becoming flesh changed their lives. They began to see the benefits and blessing that came with Jesus Christ’s presence in their life.

Throughout our Advent series, as we celebrate Emmanuel -- God with us -- we will be exploring the variety of ways Jesus’ presence makes a difference in our lives. This series will be a great opportunity to explore the incarnation and why it matters. We hope you can join us and invite a friend or neighbor to join us as well!



Join us for a churchwide

## Advent EXTRAVAGANZA

Sunday, December 1st

5:30 - 7:30 pm

in the Great Hall



Join us to kick off the season of waiting for the coming of our Lord. Fun, food and fellowship for all ages!

Do you want to help? We need chili makers, greeters and help with a variety of activities and games.



Scan the QR code for the Sign Up form.

# 'Isaiah's Voice': A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols



Since 1918, when the service of Christmas Lessons and Carols was first devised at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, communities of faith worldwide have maintained the tradition of gathering each year both at King's and at their local parish churches to hear the news of God's saving work in Word and song. This practice at Christmas had become so popular through the years, that a set of appointed lessons and prayers was made available specifically for use in the Advent season also, which foretell the coming of the Messiah, making ready his path to enter the world as one of us.

It is this order of Advent Lessons and Carols which we offer each year at First United Methodist Church, Conway, to the glory of God and for the benefit of our congregation as well as for that of the wider Conway community. Lessons and Carols here has been celebrated mid-December for many years, an integral part of the Advent observance for many people.

This year, we invite you to attend our Advent Lessons and Carols titled "Isaiah's Voice," on Dec. 15, the third Sunday of Advent, at 11 a.m. in the church Sanctuary.

This special service of singing, prayers, and lessons from Holy Scripture takes the place of the regularly scheduled 11 a.m. worship service. If you would like an opportunity to attend the service of Advent III, you may do so at either 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary or in the Good News Celebration at 9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall.

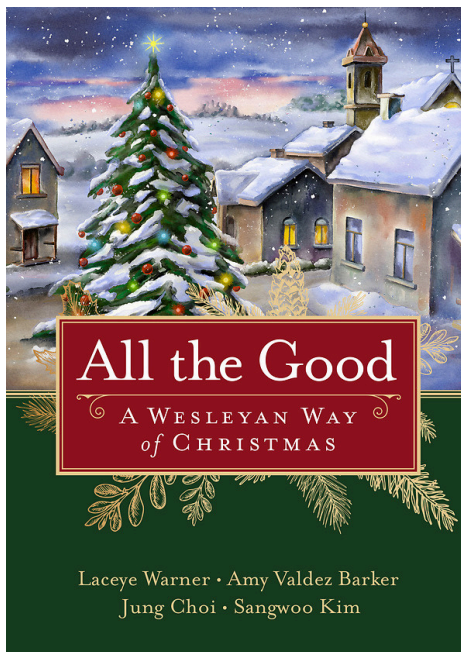
In addition to beloved carols and hymns of the season, there will be choral and instrumental works by Antonio Vivaldi, Charles Wood, Sally Beamish, Malcolm Boyle, David Johnson, William Mathias, Eleanor Daley, John Ferguson, and Denis Bédard. Musicians include the Chancel Ringers handbell choir, the treble choristers of the Joyful Sound and Aldersgate Choirs, the Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church, Andrew Irvin, violin, and Betty Cohen and Jason Saugey, organists.

The Music Department of First United Methodist Church hopes that you take time to attend this annual offering of sacred music, Holy Scripture, and prayer as we anticipate with longing expectation to gaze into the manger of Bethlehem and see there the infant face of our salvation, the promised One of ages.

## Advent Study

Let's get in touch with our Wesleyan roots this Advent Season! Gather with Pastor Miranda in the Youth Big Room to read and discuss on Wednesday 10-11:15am.

DECEMBER 4-18TH



Want a book? Email Pastor Miranda by November 25 or use the QR code at the right!



## Longest Night Service

In this Advent season, while many celebrate joyfully, others find this time to be heavy with grief, loss, or loneliness. As we approach the longest night of the year, we invite you to a service of quiet reflection, comfort, and hope as we remember that in Jesus, God came close to us—even in our darkest moments.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, in the Chapel as we remember we are not alone and find peace in the presence of Christ among us.



# Advent Group Spiritual Direction

Join us the first three Wednesdays  
of December (Dec 4, 11, 18)  
at 6:00 pm in the Parlor!

Open to all! If you're curious about  
Spiritual Direction, are looking for  
ways to deepen your Advent  
experience, or are desiring a time of  
community, we'd love to have you!

Questions? Talk to Amy Shores  
ashores@conwayfumc.org or  
(501)733-7870.

# Questions of FAITH

## Send the Pastors Your Questions of Faith

Part of our relationship with God is to ask questions and wrestle with those answers. Different events and life experiences often spark questions, and we would love for people to share their questions to inspire our planning and preparation. From Jan. 19 through Feb. 23, let us dive into these questions together.

If you would like to submit a questions, please email it to Pastor Nathan at [nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org](mailto:nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org) or Pastor Miranda at [mhornsby@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mhornsby@conwayfumc.org).



## Attention Kids! Join the Joyful Sound Musicians

The Joyful Sound Musicians have had a busy semester learning basic music skills, singing, and chiming together. The chimes have been the most fun, but also the biggest challenge! Joyful Sound shares their music in church services in ways that add to the liturgy and worship. We have lots of fun while learning lifelong skills. Any child in grades 2, 3, or 4 is welcome to join our team! Parents: if your child would like to join, please contact Linda Ball at [lball@conwayfumc.org](mailto:lball@conwayfumc.org).



## December Senior Adventure

Ageless and Awesome!

**3:15 to 10:15 p.m.**  
**Sunday, Dec. 15**

Seniors! (age  
60 and up)

### Get in the Christmas spirit!

We will be visiting the Arkansas State Capital building to see the beautiful and very tall indoor Christmas tree along with other Christmas decor.

Then we are headed to Murry's Dinner Playhouse to have a delicious dinner and see the much-loved musical, "White Christmas".

**Cost - \$44**

**\*\*\* You must make a reservation with Bonnie immediately as they anticipate being sold out in two weeks! \*\*\***

We will be traveling by church van. Call Bonnie Laycock at 316-207-0883 to reserve a seat on the van.



# C1Youth Update for November

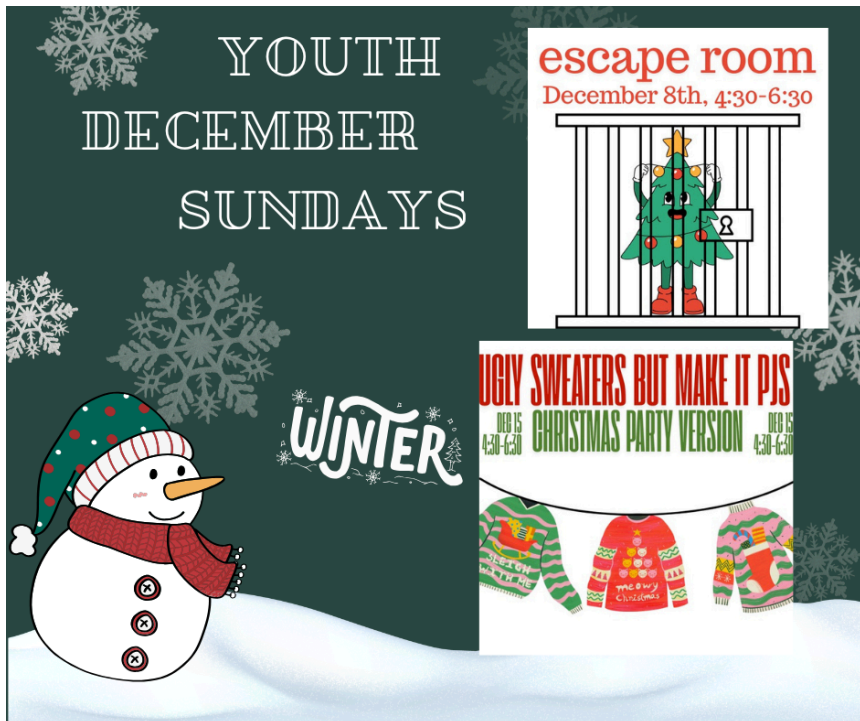


## Thanks to Our Supporters for Refuge 2024

A huge thank you to all our amazing supporters for making Refuge 2024 possible!

Thanks to your generosity, 30 youth and 6 adults got to be part of this incredible experience. We connected with United Methodist youth ministries from all over the state, made new friends, tackled some fears through exciting activities, and enjoyed fantastic meals. Most importantly, we grew closer as a group and as individuals, learning to "Seek Sanctuary" wherever life takes us. This unforgettable experience wouldn't have been possible without your commitment to youth ministry at FUMC.

We'd love to share our stories with you or your small group! Just reach out to Zach to set up a visit.



## Coffeehouse Fun



Thanks to all of the C1Youth members who volunteered at the Christmas Coffeehouse!



# UCA Wesley for Fall & Winter

## Advent @ the Wesley



Wednesday, Dec 4;  
7:30 pm  
Trinity Chapel  
@ FUMC Conway

ALL ages are welcome to join this service of music and testimony as we prepare our hearts for the coming season!

## Christmas Jam Session

JOIN WESLEY AT THE UCA AMPHITHEATER FOR HOT COCOA & A CHRISTMAS SING ALONG! ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5  
5:30-6:30 PM

## Save the Date (And Your Stuff!)

The Wesley Foundation will be having a yard sale early this Spring to help students pay for our mission trip. If you are cleaning out as you prepare for Christmas, we ask that you consider setting aside any items that you may be parting with. And, if you need it gone now, let us know and we can store it for you! Contact Amy Shores for more info! (501-733-7870; ashores@conwayfumc.org.



## Be Our Guest! Hospitality & Outreach at FUMC

### Take a Door Hanger, Invite a Friend!

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors. Often, it is easy to love the people we know, the people we see often, but how might we show love and grow in love together?

This holiday season, show your neighbors some love and let them know that they are welcome and loved at Conway FUMC!

On Sunday morning, grab a door hanger, deliver it to your neighbors, and invite them to our upcoming Advent celebrations! The door hanger is also available on Facebook, ready for "sharing" with your friends!



### Get Ready for Christmas Worship Services and Order a Church Name Tag!

Order your church name tag today so that we may grow in our call to be hospitable disciples. The name tags cost \$12 and can be ordered using the QR code! Name tags can be picked up approximately 2 weeks after ordering during office hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.



# INTERESTED IN OR ALREADY VOLUNTEERING?



**DID YOU KNOW THAT FUMC IS ALL ABOUT CREATING SAFE SPACES?**

**WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER \*FREE\* ONLINE TRAINING FOR OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**

**WHETHER YOU'RE WORKING WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR VULNERABLE ADULTS, SAFE GATHERINGS HAS GOT YOU COVERED—AT NO COST TO YOU. JOIN US AND FEEL CONFIDENT, PREPARED, AND READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

QUESTIONS?  
ZSCHRICK@CONWAYFUMC.ORG

SCAN OR TAP AND HOLD THE QR CODE FOR THE LINK



ANYONE WORKING WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR VULNERABLE ADULTS MUST BE SAFE GATHERINGS CERTIFIED.



**Advent Extravaganza**  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1  
Great Hall in Trinity Building.  
Fun for all ages!

**Dickson Estate Sale**  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday,  
Dec. 1 -- Fellowship Hall

**Advent at the Wesley**  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4  
Chapel in the FUMC Trinity Building. All are invited!

**Advent Spiritual Direction Group**  
6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18  
Church Parlor, Trinity Building

**Christmas Jam Session With UCA Wesley**  
5:30 to 6:30 Thursday, Dec. 5  
University of Central Arkansas Amphitheater

**Church Council Meeting**  
6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8  
Fellowship Hall

**Senior Adventure**  
3:15 to 10:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15  
Trip to Little Rock to the Capitol and Murry's Dinner Playhouse

**Longest Night Service**  
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19,  
Sanctuary

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Tuesday, Dec. 24  
11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sanctuary  
3 and 5 p.m., Great Hall

**Christmas Day Worship**  
10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25,  
Sanctuary.

# Join our AMAZING Tech Team

**9:05 am Good News Celebration**  
**11 am Traditional Service**

**Interested youth & adults email:**  
**cholt@conwayfumc.org**



# Christmas Coffeehouse

Nov. 17, 2024



## Christmas Eve

11 a.m., Sanctuary  
3 p.m., Great Hall  
5 p.m., Great Hall  
7 p.m., Sanctuary

**Carols, Candles & Communion**



# Christmas

**Worship at 10 a.m. Dec. 25, in the Sanctuary**

Bring the whole family!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1610 PRINCE ST.  
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## In Memory and In Honor

**In memory of Fletcher & Jo Nell**

**Lowry by:** Julie Adkisson

**In memory of Elizabeth Shock by:**

Robert & Myung Courtway

**In memory of Allan Bruner by:**

Jeremy Bruner

**In honor of FUMC Staff by:** Bill &

Cecilia Patterson

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

Pittman

**In honor of Sandra Humphreys**

**by:** FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Estate Items to Be Sold on Dec. 1

Church member Ron Dickson graciously left his estate to our Church. In his house, we found some items of value and wanted to offer them to the members for purchase. Profits from this sale will go back into his estate to put towards things like building maintenance.

Items include tools, pictures, model tractors, collectable toys, and musical instruments. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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  
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