



THE WITNESS

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

All Saints Day: Perceiving the Cloud of Witnesses through the Stillness

By Jason Saugey,

Director of Music and Worship Ministries:

Growing up, November was a particular month unlike any other. In my family, we called it “der Monat der Stille”, the month of stillness. That descriptor has stuck with me all my life, and it's true: November marks the start of winter preparation. Leaves begin to wither, turn colors, fall from their trees to gather in dry crunchy drifts along the ground. The green, brilliant hallmark of the previous two seasons fades and weakens as plants consider their impending winter sleep. Animals, too, seek shelter from coming cold. The world turns inward, conserving heat and energy to persevere through the approaching snows, blustery winds, and rigid ice.

Human beings are no different, part ourselves of this seasonal process. As nature around us slows to rest, our

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Submit Names for All Saints Banner

On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will observe All Saints Day. It is our tradition here at Conway First to read the names of church members who have gone to rise in glory within the past year. In addition, those faithful departed who are non-members may also be remembered at 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship as part of our All Saints banner, to which small ribbons are affixed, each bearing the name of one who has died.

If you would like friends and loved ones to be remembered on the banner in this way, please submit their names to Libby Conder in the church office (lconder@conwayfumc.org) by Friday, Oct. 24.

C1Youth Impact Fund

Formerly 1610 Investment Plan

Investing together in the church of today, to impact the church tomorrow.

How to Invest

\$25/month

\$300 one-time

\$1,100 sponsor

Your choice

amount

Last Year's Impact

36

44

48

Refuge

Veritas

ReConnect



42
Assembly

50+
Mission
Trips



C1Youth Impact Fund Launches

We're thrilled to invite you to be part of something new and truly special here at 1610 Prince St. You may remember our 1610 Investment Plan, but after more than a decade without raising the ask - while everything around us, from prices to participation, has grown - we knew it was time for an upgrade.

That's why we're launching the newly branded and restructured C1Youth Impact Fund. By giving just \$25/month for one year (\$300 total), you'll invest in the incredible experiences of our C1Youth ministry. Your support helps send our youth to three major Conference events - Refuge, Veritas, and Assembly - plus our spring retreat, ReConnect, and an exciting summer mission trip, all at no cost to them!

See **C1YOUTH** on Page 2

ALL SAINTS *from Page 1*

hearts and minds too yearn more closely for the deep warm earth, as the world unseen draws closer to us. In the month of stillness, the veil grows thin. Those who've gone before are nearer, as we ourselves become ever more aware of the nurturing soil from which our Creator formed us.

There is no coincidence then that the Liturgical Year in its infinite wisdom appoints for us the first and second days of November to be twin days set apart. Both to celebrate with those who enjoy eternally the "fullness of felicity", (as British poet Edmund Spencer described it) and to recall in living memory those faithful departed, the most recently dead. These days are the festivals of All Saints and All Souls. In many Protestant faith traditions both days are combined into one celebration and observed on the first Sunday of November, a day marked with joy for those who stand at the throne of God and with solemn remembrance of those whom we've just bid farewell.

Our local tradition at Conway First United Methodist Church is no different. Although we always participate with the entire Communion of Saints whenever we gather for worship, the Church visible and invisible, on Sunday, November 2, we take more keen notice of that vast part of the faithful no longer with us physically, but who are with us always in spirit, in memory, and especially in prayer. For just as we pray for each other here on earth, they too pray for us

and watch over us. More powerful prayers there are none than from them that stand before the very face of God. What unimaginable splendor this must be!

In the month of stillness, the unseen Church comes more clearly into focus than at other times. As we approach the conclusion of the year, as nature ebbs toward seasonal slumber, we are more mindful of our own eventual eternal slumber in Christ Jesus, a comfortable rest surrounded by the limitless cloud of witnesses.

All Saints is not a day of sadness or despair, but one of hope-filled assurance. A day on which we come to realize that we are not alone in the Trinitarian Life, that the Communion of Saints is not just a collection of living persons in physical bodies, but that as we journey with the Holy Trinity, we are partnered with the multitudes of souls who partake in that Life, fully and completely.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, a 19th century French Carmelite mystic, when asked about dying, replied that she is not afraid of it, that after her death, she intends to do so much more good for the living. On All Saints Day, we give thanks for the Communion of Saints, for our part in it, for their companionship, their solidarity with us, especially for all the good they do for us in prayer, and on this day, we look forward even more fervently to joining the ranks of them who no longer see only in part, but who live in the fullness of God's transcendent love.

C1YOUTH *from Page 1*

Through these opportunities, our young people build lasting friendships, serve others, and grow deeper in their faith as they encounter God in new and meaningful ways. And because, through faithful stewardship, these opportunities continue to be offered at no cost, it's easier than ever for our youth to invite their friends — multiplying the impact and growing the community of faith together.

We're Growing!

This year, we're expanding our ministry to include all 5th-7th graders who attend Brag On Jesus (discipleship retreat), C.A.M.P (mission retreat), Refuge. It's all part of our three-year plan to bring MidYouth into the mix and make our program even more awesome.

Ways to Get Involved:

Online Payment: Scan the QR code to make your investment super easy and convenient or go to the FUMC website conwayfumc.org/give/

Mail or Offering Plate: Write a check to Conway FUMC with 'C1Youth Impact Fund' in the memo line.

**Your Investment**

- ☐ \$25/month
- ☐ \$300 one-time
- ☐ \$1,100 sponsor (pays for all 5 trips for one student)
- ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

- ☐ Check (memo: C1Youth Impact Fund)
- ☐ Online (scan QR code)
- ☐ Auto Draft:
 - Bank Name: _____
 - Routing #: _____
 - Account #: _____
 - Signature: _____
 - Date: _____



You may also obtain a pledge card and drop your investment in the offering plate or mail it to the church. The pledge card can be found on the church website at conwayfumc.org or in the church office. We can also mail you a pledge card — email welcomes@conwayfumc.org to request a mailed card.

(All investments are tax-deductible and above and beyond all other financial commitment to the church).

We Burned a Mortgage!



September 28 was an exciting day to celebrate being debt free so that we can unleash our potential. This will allow money dedicated to the loan to be potentially used for other areas of ministry. At a time when the ministry of the church is so desperately needed, we will be poised to do wonderful acts in

the name of Christ for the world. Thank you to some of our former pastors -- Revs. Phil Hathcock, Michael Roberts, Dede Roberts and Lynn Kilbourne -- and District Superintendent Natasha J. Murray for celebrating with us, and to Bishop Laura Merrill for her uplifting message of hope for the future.

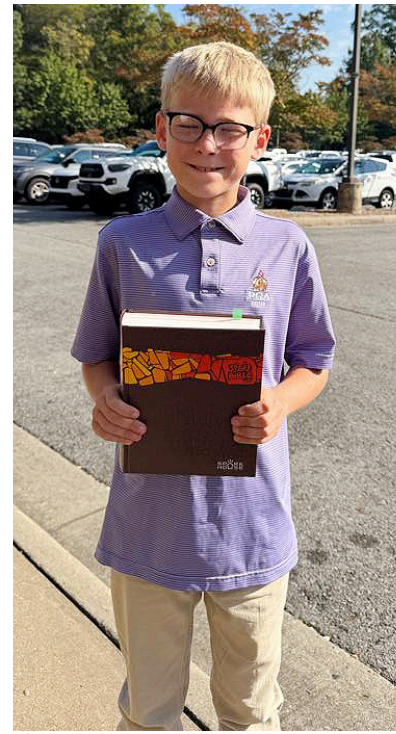


Love grows here



Third Grade Bible Sunday!

Congratulations to our third graders who received their Bibles on Oct. 12! Pictured (at left) are Connor Olsen, Ethan Fincher, Bennett Bell, Cooper Lind and Catherine McConnell. Pictured at right is Alan Bell. Not pictured are Fletcher McCarthy and Amelia Taylor. Thank you to Catherine Gatlin, director of C1Kids Ministry, and the parents of these youngsters.



LGBTQIA+ Support Pins for Our FUMC Congregation

From the Church and Society Committee:

We are so proud and excited we have a new way to show our 'Affirming Love' to our LGBTQIA+ Community! As part of our ongoing commitment and desire to create a welcoming and affirming space for all, we are excited to share a small but meaningful gesture of love and solidarity: LGBTQIA+ support pins.

These pins are a visible symbol of our congregation's embrace of diversity, inclusion, and the sacred worth of every person. Whether you identify as LGBTQIA+ or as an ally, wearing a pin is a way to say: "You are seen. You are loved. You belong."

Why Pins? Sometimes, the smallest things carry the greatest meaning. A pin can be a quiet but powerful sign of safety, affirmation, and community. It can spark conversation, offer comfort, and remind someone they are not alone.

How to get one - These pins will be available at the welcome tables before and after services throughout the month. You're invited to take one for yourself, and perhaps one for a friend or loved one who might appreciate the gesture.

Don't like wearing pins? We will also have stickers you can add to your church name tag.

What they represent - Each pin features colors and symbols that reflect the beautiful diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community. By wearing one, you help us live out our values of compassion, justice, and radical hospitality.

Please remember that wearing an LGBTQIA+ pin is just one way to show your support. There are many ways. If you do not wear one, or if you see others who may not be wearing one, it doesn't mean that person does not support inclusivity. We welcome and encourage each person to show their inclusivity in a way that feels right for them.

Let's keep the conversation going. We encourage everyone to engage in open-hearted dialogue, ask questions, and share stories. Our goal is not just to wear a symbol, but to embody the love it represents; We welcome ALL here at Conway FUMC! Thank you for being part of a congregation that chooses love, every day.

Hosts Needed for Charge Conference

On Monday, Nov. 3, at 5 p.m., Conway FUMC will host a Charge Conference for our church and several other churches from Faulkner, Conway and Perry counties.

Charge Conference is an annual meeting of the leadership of a pastoral charge, held to make key decisions on behalf of the congregation.

Because we will have so many visitors to our church on that day, we would love to have some church members serve as hosts. This could include helping guests find the fellowship hall and restrooms, or greeting those who attend.

If you can help with this ministry opportunity, please contact Pastor Nathan. Thank you!

Linktree*



Check out our Link Tree list of sign up forms and volunteer opportunities by scanning the QR Code, or visit the Resources section on our church website.



Church Council Visioning Retreat

Several members of the Church Council and the church staff gathered Oct. 4 for a Saturday retreat focused on the group's continued work of discerning who we are as a congregation and our next steps in the future. This retreat was focused on clarifying our mission and vision as well as values. Leading the conversation was Paula Ihms of Inspiring Leadership. Paula is

an Arkansan and United Methodist at Central UMC in Fayetteville. She's worked with many businesses and organizations to help them understand and further their mission and has coached Fortune 100 senior executives as well as pastors. The discussion will continue with a second retreat on Saturday, Nov. 8.

YOU'RE INVITED

Christmas
COFFEE HOUSE

Silent Auction | Missions | Coffee

Sun, Nov. 16th
3 PM - 5 PM

FUMC Trinity Building
1610 Prince Street



Crochet and Play!

Did you miss our first Crochet and Play? We plan to do it again at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22 and 29. Contact Pastor Miranda Hornsby at mhornsby@conwayfumc.org for more information.

Questions for November Church & Society Event Requested

Submit your question for our next Fifth Sunday Presentation panel to be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 30 in the Great Hall. Our Church & Society Team will host a discussion on Mental Health and Family Dynamics, with a special focus on the challenges many face around the holidays. The panel will include licensed therapists and experts who will share insight and resources.

As people of faith, we recognize that mental health

is an essential part of well-being and that the church has a responsibility to support individuals and families facing these realities.

We invite you to submit questions you would like the panel to address. While we cannot guarantee that every question will be covered, your input will help guide the conversation and ensure it reflects the real concerns of our church family.



SCAN ME

Feeding Ministries Update



Your food pantry donations have a new look! Thank you to Church and Society, the Food Pantry Team, and all who helped develop this vision and made it happen. We hope this cart with fancy wheels allows us to set up donations more often and takes a literal load off our volunteers who organize the donations that come in each week. Here, you can bring your hotel soaps, basic hygiene items, and special monthly donations so our neighbors can get them on Thursday evenings. Want to help provide items that our neighbors request? Check out our Amazon wish list by scanning the QR Code.



Who Did We Serve? CHURCH & SOCIETY The United Methodist Church Living WITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

September
2025



191

Amazing Grace Meals

Did You Know?

Nearly 1 in 4 children in Arkansas live in households where they may not always get enough nutritious food.

Adults
293

Children
71

Needed:
hygiene
items

FOOD PANTRY

First United Methodist Church
Conway, AR

Volunteers Needed:

Oct 16th & 30th at 2pm

AND

Oct 23rd from 1:30-3:00pm

When we have items donated, we love to distribute them to our neighbors! Recently one of our neighbors got a new pair of shoes!



There is a place for you! Sign up on the Link Tree to serve in our pantry.



Last night, something truly touching happened. A young man came in and asked if he could play the piano. He said, "I don't have one to play, and it does my soul good." He told me he's self-taught, can't read music, but had played since he was nine. I let him play and his face lit up with the biggest smile, and tears filled my eyes. In that moment, I knew God was reminding me I was exactly where I needed to be. He says he'll be back to play again.

- Sandra Humphreys

Vision 2026

Sunday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.

The year 2025 has been a wonderful year of ministry here at Conway First UMC. We've seen many new faces. We've heard stories of people's lives changing. We've experienced and participated in life-altering worship. We've enjoyed Christian Fellowship, served our neighbors, and grown in our knowledge and love of God

It's amazing to take a moment to look back and consider all that God has done among us. We've seen more youth participating in youth programming during the summer. We've seen our kids choir expand with new faces. We've had members join the choir, and the praise band continues to add to its rotation of gifted musicians. We've started a new small group for young adults. We launched a new livestream on Facebook, "Lectio and Lunch," to reach out in the digital space throughout the week to those in our community. All to say, God has been doing good things among us and through us. And, of course, we've paid off the debt on our building!

Yet, as we enter the last part of 2025, it's time to dream and consider the plans God has for us in 2026! Who is God calling us to be in the coming year? What are the plans that have been laid upon the hearts of our staff and congregation? What are our next steps as we seek to love God and neighbor at this time in our life together?

If you want to hear the answers to these questions, join us at 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, in the Great Hall as the pastors and staff share the plans for ministry we have for the coming year. Come hear what God is stirring in our hearts and how we envision ministry in the coming year. Come hear about new ideas as well as how you can support ongoing ministries. Furthermore, see how this is all tied to our financial goals and how ministry flows in and out of generosity. During this time, we will present the ministry budget. Our hope is that this isn't simply about "the numbers" but that these numbers represent dreams and plans, and what we need to make these dreams become reality. We desire this time to be refreshing, insightful, and challenging as we, as a congregation, seek to bring to fruition the dreams God is laying on our hearts!

In Honor & Memory

In memory of Gene Wilbourn by: Baptist Health & Baptist Health Foundation, Lila & Ted Dickey, Joseph Mowery, Jamie Bird, Bunny & Carol Adcock, Cecille Boyd, Terri Boyd Shotts, Ed & Mona Lea, Claudia Davis, Bart & Sandra Smith, Rebecca Mills, Paul & Dorothy Young, Bill & Denise Bethea, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Missy Shock, Leigh Ann Biernat, CPA, Jack & Liz Ann Case, Kutak Rock LLP/Michelle Stewart, Libby & Scott Davis, Tom & Amy Payne, Martha Bumpers, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, Bruce & Barbara Sossamon, Jay White

In memory of Dr. Tom Higgs by: Jamie Bird

In memory of Patsy Newton by: Carol & Richard Clark

In memory of Allan Bruner by: Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Ramsey Daugherty by: John Thompson

In memory of Ellen Rose Williams by: Claudia Davis

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

United Women in Faith Soul Care Women's Retreat



Nov. 2 through 4
Mount Eagle's Kaetzell Lodge

Rev Dede Roberts, Facilitator

\$80 all inclusive w/shared room)*
Contact Kathy Cooper
501-940-5149

*Limited # of single rooms @ \$120

Greenery Sales



The Music Department's Greenery Sale is under way to raise funds for special projects throughout the year!

How to order:

- Order on Sunday mornings at the information booth in the lobbies of both buildings or during Middle Grounds.
- Order online using the QR Code -- you will pay the church directly either by check or at conwayfumc.org/give/



**Sales will be held from
Oct. 15 through Nov. 10**

Questions? Email Van Lamar at
greenery@conwayfumc.org



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1610 PRINCE ST.
CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72034
501-329-3801

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Welcome!



Welcome to Cassy Patton, who joined this community of faith on Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025. Cassy is a college student who is active with the Wesley Foundation.

Trunk or Treat & Costume Fun
BOO-TIFUL NIGHT
STARTS AT 4PM
26 OCT
Scan and sign up to host a trunk
Details in the link

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
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
FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC
OR YOUTUBE: @CONWAYFUMC