



The Witness

First United Methodist Church, 1610 Prince St., Conway, AR, 72034

Volume LIII

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Number 2

Lauren DeLano Named Pastor at Vilonia UMC

On Sunday, Feb. 23, our associate pastor, Lauren DeLano, was placed as the next pastor at Vilonia United Methodist Church, taking effect on July 1.

Certainly there is an element of sadness in this news. Pastor Lauren has served our congregation faithfully for four years and will now take her well-deserved place in a long line of beloved pastors. At the same time, we celebrate with her. This new appointment shows much confidence and appreciation for her gifts in ministry. In her first appointment out of seminary, we have had the honor of participating in the



development of these gifts and receiving the blessings of these gifts. We give thanks for that.

In the United Meth-

odist Church, appointments are made by the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, made up of District Superintendents, with consideration of the congregation's recommendations. This means that a new appointment to our congregation will be announced in the near future.

For associate positions, a representative from the Cabinet will consult with our Senior Pastor, Michael Roberts. With input from our Staff Parish Relations Committee, Pastor Michael will submit a profile of what is needed for this position and will have the opportunity to have a conversation/

interview with prospective candidates.

In the Arkansas Conference, new appointments take effect on the first Sunday in July, so this is not "goodbye." Pastor Lauren will be with us until then, and we will schedule an appropriate farewell at a later date. In the meantime, all of you are encouraged to keep this process of transition in your prayers. We trust that God is at work and will guide us all as we seek to grow in both faithfulness and fruitfulness. In the midst of grief may we also start looking forward to what God will do through a new pastor among us.

Join Us in March for a Neighboring Small Group

Beginning Wednesday, March 4, we will have small groups in people's homes as we explore neighboring using curriculum based on the Mr. Rogers movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood".

These gatherings will last four weeks, from March 4 to April 1, taking a break for Spring Break. These small groups are meant to help us get to know one another within our congregation. The groups are intergenerational, so all ages from children to adults are welcome and encouraged to participate.

We will have three sites, and we invite you to choose the one closest to your home. Each gathering will be from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.: there will be a light meal/snack supper and a time of fellowship from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. and discussion will take place from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.

If you'd like to sign up for a neighborhood small group, visit the sign up form on the church website at www.conwayfumc.org under the Quick Links menu, and check out your options!



Churchwide Neighboring Movie Night: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Mark your calendars and get your favorite cardigan ready for a churchwide dinner and movie night at Conway FUMC, scheduled for Friday evening, March 6, in the Great Hall! We'll gather to watch, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood". A meal will be available from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. The movie will begin at 6:15 p.m. The movie is PG, so a movie and activities will be available for younger children. We'd love for you to join us whether you are a small group participant or not!

Lenten Luncheon Series Under Way

The community-wide Lenten Luncheon Series hosted by the Faulkner County Unit of Church Women United continues on Thursday, March 5, at First United Methodist Church.

At the lunches, local pastors and lay persons will lead weekly devotionals with scripture, prayer, and music at noon throughout the Thursdays of Lent. The simple lunch of soup, cornbread, drink, and dessert is provided for a suggested donation of \$4 per person. Participants are also encouraged to bring a jar of peanut butter for an area food pantry. Everyone is invited to these luncheons.

Dates for the noon luncheons in the series are as follows:

March 5: First United Methodist Church, 1610 Prince St.; Co-hosts: Christ Temple and Janie Harrison.

March 12: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 925 Mitchell St.; Co-host: Christ Temple.

March 19: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2310 East Oak St.; Co-host: St. James CME.

March 26: First Presbyterian Church, 2400 Prince St.; Co-host: Sandi Zimmerman.

April 2: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 925 Mitchell St.; Host: St. Joseph Catholic Church; Co-host: Four Winds.



Worship & Fellowship Opportunities During Lent

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY:

April 5, 2020

Worship: 8:45 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary
9 a.m., Great Hall

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

April 8, 2020

Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall

GOOD FRIDAY:

April 10, 2020

Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

HOLY SATURDAY:

April 11, 2020

An Easter Egg hunt will be held for the children at 10 a.m. – location to be announced later. This is a particularly joyful time for families with children. Everyone is invited to attend!

EASTER DAY:

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Worship: 8:45 and 11 a.m., Sanctuary
9 a.m., Great Hall

Enneagram Sharing

Enneagram Sharing meetings are open to anyone who knows their Enneagram number and has some experience with the Enneagram. We will share our knowledge of the Enneagram and our life experiences. How has it helped us to understand our friends and family? How has it helped us develop our relationships? How has it helped us to live better Christian lives? We meet the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30, in room 216.

No commitment is necessary, come when you can!

Journey to Israel

In January of 2021 we will help sponsor a pilgrimage to Israel, led by Pastor Michael and Rev. Mackey Yokem, a veteran leader of such trips. We will depart Monday, Jan. 11, and return Thursday, Jan. 21. Detailed information will be available soon. If you are interested, check your calendar and hold the dates!

DID YOU KNOW: CONWAY FUMC & AUTUMN MANOR

Did you know that Conway First United Methodist Church is one of 12 sponsors of an apartment community for senior citizens in Conway?

Autumn Manor is a planned apartment community of 41 units for senior citizens 62 years or older. According to the Autumn Manor website, this community is “the result of dedicated efforts of 12 Conway churches which banded together to provide an attractive residence for seniors whom the government defines as ‘low income.’” The apartments are available to anyone who qualifies by age and income, without regard to church membership, and rent is limited to roughly 30 percent of the resident’s income.

Autumn Manor information says the 12 churches (from eight different denominations) sponsoring the project “felt the need to serve the poorer members of our community, and so they created Conway Inter-Church Housing Inc. in 1983.

By 1987 they had received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and had built and opened Autumn Manor Apartments.”

The property has 10 buildings with four units each, another building with an apartment for the property manager and one rentable unit, a community building with laundry facilities, a community room with a library for the residents, and the manager’s office. A computer, treadmill, and a large deck area are available for residents to use, and all facilities are ground level with five units designed to be handicapped accessible. Autumn Manor has landscaped grounds and “offers its residents a peaceful, safe and quiet residence,” officials say.

Autumn Manor is governed by a board of directors named by the 12 churches which created Conway Inter-Church Housing Inc. At this time, Carole Teague and John Pickett are the board

representatives from Conway First United Methodist Church. The board meets quarterly, and employs a professional management company to provide the day-to-day operation of the facility. Board meetings are open to the public, and everyone is invited to visit the facility and see what Autumn Manor offers.

The churches which joined in creating and sustaining Conway Inter-Church Housing Inc. are Ebenezer United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Peace Lutheran Church, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Salem United Methodist Church, Union Baptist Church, University Church of Christ, and Wesley United Methodist Church.

Autumn Manor is located at 315 Hubbard Road in Conway. For more information, call 501-327-9242.

Women's Ministry Opportunities Planned

From Pastor Lauren:

There are always lots of things going on for women at Conway FUMC, and I wanted to make sure you have all the information you need to sign up and join us! We have a Lenten Bible study coming up, a Spring Retreat (for the first time), and a monthly book club that meets in the evenings where we read a few chapters of a book at a time. More information about meeting times is below. To sign-up for any of these opportunities, please email me at ldelano@conwayfumc.org and let me know. I'll add you to the list!

Women's Bible Study: Wednesday mornings,

10-11:15 a.m., March 4-April 8

Over the Lenten Season, we will study the last week of Jesus' life, from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. Each week, we'll look at one day of Jesus' last week on earth. Together, we will delve into the Biblical accounts of his final days, and we will seek to understand the emo-

tions and experiences of those who walked this journey with Jesus. We'll use Amy-Jill Levine's book, "Entering the Passion". The book is optional reading, but if you'd like for me to order you a copy, let me know when you sign up. The cost for a book is \$10. The study will begin on Wednesday, March 4, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in the Basement.

Women's Book Club: Next Meeting, March 16, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., Church Parlor

We have a great opportunity for those who want to gather with other women at FUMC in the evenings. Once a month, the third Monday of the month, we gather for Book Club in the Church Parlor from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. We will have dessert and fellowship from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. and then have discussion from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We only read a few chapters of a book at a time. The meetings for the rest of the Spring will be: March 16, April 20, and May 18. We'll read a few chapters of the book each

week. If you'd like to join us on March 16, let me know. Our next book will be *Grateful* by Diana Butler Bass.

Women's Retreat: Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, at Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock

Save the Date for our Spring Women's Retreat which will be Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18. We will meet at the church on Friday evening and arrive back to Conway by 4 p.m. on April 18. This is a great time to get away from the busyness of life, to fellowship with other women at FUMC, and to learn and have fun! A theme will be announced as the date approaches. The three meals that will be provided are: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. The cost for the retreat is \$30. But if that is prohibitive, please let me know! Friends, sisters, mothers, grandmothers, daughters are all invited! If you'd like to sign-up, contact me at ldelano@conwayfumc.org or sign up online at www.conwayfumc.org under the Quick Links menu.

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Barbara Henry by: Michael & Marsha Long, Jim & Gayle Maloch, Jackie Robinette, Richard & Carol Clark, Tom & Patsy Desaulniers, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Jamie Bird, Charlotte Mulford, Doretta Bright, Cecille Boyd, Terri Shotts, Marcia Lacy, Elizabeth Campbell, Sam & Carole Teague, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Chris & Kathy Cooper, Marion Baker, Mary Ann, Blake, & Bryan McKinney, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside, Earlene Henry, Callis & Debbie Childs, Carol Schedler, Jerry & Libby Cude, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Sharon Thompson, Pam Wren, Sue Jones, Bruce & Barbara Sossamon, Nancy Graddy, Roger & Linda Mills

In memory of Bob Henry by: Jerry & Libby Cude

In memory of Jan David Ellis by: Peggy Hundley, Wayne & Jeanie Reed, Larry & Pat Crowder, Tom & Cathy Goodwin, Jamie Bird, LeRoy & Frances Hendricks, The Stefanik Family, Randy & Brenda Everett, Mary "Molly" Bahner Day, Chris & Kathy Cooper, Ronnie & Evelyn Griffis

In memory of Laura Kendrick by: Jackie Robinette, Tom & Patsy Desaulniers, Jamie Bird, Cecille Boyd

In memory of Emily Montgomery by: Tom & Patsy Desaulniers, Ellis & Kim Arnold, Dorothy

Robins Light Sunday School Class, Sam & Carole Teague, Chris & Kathy Cooper, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, David & Margaret Crouse, Marion Baker, Don Robbins, Nona Jo Spatz, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside, Shirley Montgomery, Nina Simpson, Karen Ledbetter Taylor, Paula & Robert Reynolds, Jay Fortner

In memory of Chuck Mulhearn by: Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside, Jerry & Libby Cude, Mike & Kate Moreau

In memory of Bob McCormack by: Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside

In memory of Ellen Johnson by: Cathy & Kenne Ketcheside

In memory of George Adkisson by: Sherry Bartley

In memory of Robert Robinette by: Nancy Graddy

In memory of Milton Davis by: Nancy Graddy

In memory of Ann Davis by: Nancy Graddy

In honor of FUMC Staff by: Bill & Cecilia Patterson

In honor of Dory Lind by: Pam Wren

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

Older Adults Ministry Trip

On April 30 and May 1, we will travel to Branson, Mo., to attend the Sight and Sound Theater production of "Noah The Musical." Returning for one season only, this landmark production takes you on board one of the world's best-known voyages, as live animals fill the stage and aisles!

After that we will check into The Lodge of the Ozarks for a short rest and dinner before attending the Jim Stafford show that evening. This is Jim's 28th season in Branson. You will be entertained with his older songs and comedy acts along with some new material.

Cost of this trip will be \$155 per person for double hotel occupancy, and \$185 for single room occupancy. The deadline to register is April 3, with one half of the cost per person required at time of registration.

To register, contact Kathleen Caruthers at kcaruthers@conwayfumc.org or 501-944-9473.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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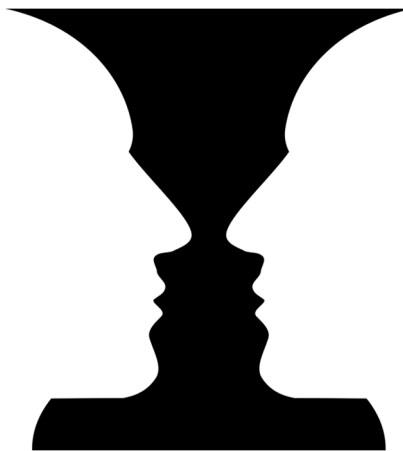
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Lenten Worship Series: A Matter of Perspective

Think of words that include the word “spect,” — respect (to look again), inspect (to take a deeper look), expect (to see out of experience). Throughout the season of Lent we will explore passages of scripture where an encounter with Jesus leads disciples to see things in a new way. It is not that their old perspective is wrong, but it is not the whole picture or the only way to see. Jesus expands perspectives, helping us to see ourselves, more clearly, the way God sees us. So often we don’t know what we are missing until it is revealed. The hope is that worship during Lent will help all of us to gain new perspectives into what God wants for us.

Scriptures for the season will include the story of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3, where a new perspective



on birth is given; Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4, where the metaphor of water is used to help us know of the living water that God wants for us;

Jesus giving sight to a blind man in John 9 and in the process helping many to see how they are blinded and in need to a new way of seeing. These and other scriptures will be shared with the promise that we will come to see our lives from a new perspective.

Lent is a high and holy season in the church, where we take 40 days to intentionally prepare to receive the good news of Easter and the new life that comes.

The Resurrection gives us the ultimate new perspective on life. You are encouraged to practice a holy Lent — through intentional worship, prayer, fasting, reading of scripture, and service. Through it all, may God open the eyes of your heart and expand your perspective.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY

Senior Pastor — Michael Roberts
Associate Pastor — Lauren DeLano
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries — Janet Gingerich
Director, Children’s Ministries — Pam Lentz
Director, Lay Ministries — Kisha Bumpers
Director, Youth Ministries — Zach Schrick
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Nursery Assistant — Paula Bruner

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Our Core Purpose:

To cultivate faithful and fruitful disciples
of Jesus Christ.

