



# The Witness

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

Volume LIII

July 2020

Number 7

## In-Person Worship Survey Results

*From Dr. Michael Roberts,  
Senior Pastor:*

Grace and Peace to all as we navigate a new reality in the midst of a pandemic. I will get to the survey results soon, but first I want to share some theological context. As United Methodists we follow “Three Simple Rules” – Do no harm, Do good, and Attend to the Ordinances of God. These rules are actually a part of our doctrine.

Do no harm! For a pandemic version of this rule, we could add expectations around wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing, and washing hands. Doing these “three simple things,” as one article put it, would make a big difference. Do good! Goodness flows from the virtues of holiness – patience, kindness, humility, along with finding ways to lift up others (See Eph 4:1-3). We all need more of that. These first two rules are empowered by the third – by being intentional about worship, prayer, reading scripture, gathering for holy conversation, and other “ordinances” that ground us in faith and



give us the spiritual resources we need to live out our faith.

These rules motivated the survey that was shared last week and will continue to motivate our response. The full reports from Google Forms are available through links on our website at [www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org) and in email communications, if you are interested in more than a brief summary.

A total of 230 people (and/or families) responded. A little over 80 per-

cent stated clearly that they would not be comfortable returning to “in-person” worship at this time. We had previously talked about Back-to-School Sunday as a possibility for a relaunch of some kind. Seventy-three percent believe that this is not the time to consider that and that we should focus on online experiences and/or consider options that do not involve large-group gatherings indoors. For the next few questions, the vast majority (98%+) would wear face coverings, avoid physical contact, and practice physical distancing, and thus both “do no harm” and “do good.” Eighty-five percent and up believe the church should require these things as well, if we were to gather in-person. Concerning comfort with children being present and involved in activities, the results were mixed with 24 percent comfortable with children being present in worship only and 30 percent comfortable with children in classes and nursery with precautions in place – if we were to return to in-person worship at this time. Ninety per-

See **SURVEY** on Page 4

## 268 Boxes of Cereal Collected at Drive



The people of Conway First United Methodist Church donated 268 items during the drive-through Cereal Drive on Sunday, July 19.

The effort was hosted by United Methodist Women in conjunction with the church’s drive-through Holy Communion offering. These two efforts allowed the church to help feed others both physically and spiritually!

Thanks to everyone’s generosity, our church’s food pantry will be able to give a box of cereal to every family for the next several weeks. The United Methodist Women appreciate all who participated!





# WOW CAMP 2020:

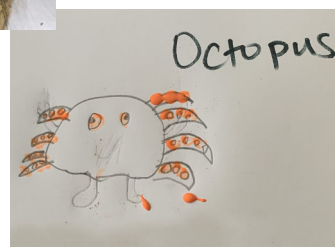
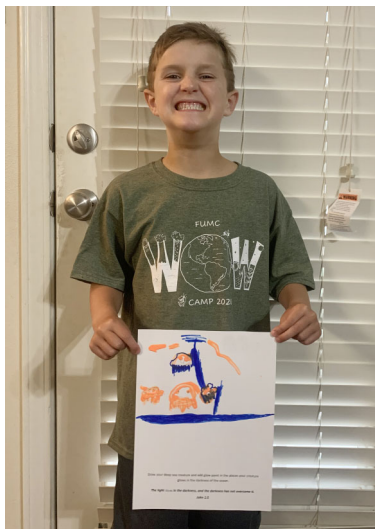
## FAMILY AT HOME EDITION



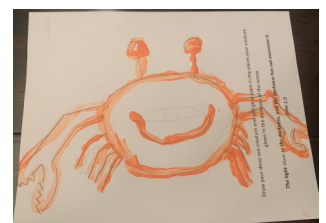
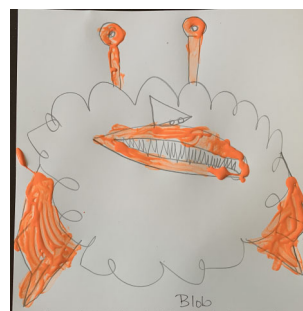
*(Photo at left)*  
The contents  
of the boxes  
given to partici-  
pants of WOW  
Camp 2020:  
Family at  
Home Edition.



*(Photo at right)*  
On July 12,  
families who  
picked up their  
camp boxes  
also received a  
package with a  
Moon Pie and a  
Capri Sun.



Day 1 lesson on  
Bioluminescence





# WOW FAMILIES



Families that signed up for boxes were invited to the church on July 12 to pick up the materials they would need for the whole week of WOW Camp 2020: Family at Home Edition. The families also had the opportunity to have a photo taken with some cool photo props and a really neat background! They also got packages of Moon Pies and Capri Sun from Pastor Michelle.





## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

(USPS 625-840)

*The Witness* is published monthly by  
First United Methodist Church  
1610 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034.  
Periodicals postage paid at Conway, AR  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to  
"The Witness," c/o Colleen Holt, editor;  
First United Methodist Church,  
1610 Prince St., Conway, AR 72034



WWW.CONWAYFUMC.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/CONWAYFIRSTUMC



### ***SURVEY*** from Page 1

cent have participated in and enjoyed online worship. Through the survey we also got a good sense of other ministries and online opportunities in which people have participated.

For some conclusions, after discussions with our relaunch team and our board of trustees, we will continue to focus on online experiences and continue our efforts to improve our offerings, especially from a technical standpoint. We have a goal of being a church where people turn for a quality and inspiring online experience. While we will continue to plan for a relaunch of in-person worship, there is no date in mind at this point. Under our current stage, as set by the Arkansas Conference, we can have smaller gatherings at the church – with procedures and policies in place – masks, distancing, etc. We are developing protocols which will be shared soon. We will move slowly with our three simple rules in mind.

## Calling the Crafty!

### **Can you:**

- Cut fabric
- Sew face masks

### **Do you have fabric to donate that (must meet these requirements for safety reasons):**

- Is 100 percent cotton
- Is relatively new
- Has not been exposed to pets or cigar/cigarette smoke

If so (or should we say sew), then contact Pastor Michelle at [mmorris@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mmorris@conwayfumc.org) or call 870-635-1519 to help us make masks in preparation for Back to School Sunday Drive-Thru on August 23!

You may also bring fabric to the church Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



First United Methodist Church  
1610 Prince St. Conway, AR 72034  
[www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org) 501-329-3801

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY

Senior Pastor — Michael Roberts  
Associate Pastor — Michelle Morris  
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries — Janet Gingerich  
Director, Children's Ministries — Pam Lentz  
Director, Lay Ministries — Kisha Bumpers  
Director, Youth Ministries — Zach Schrick  
Director, MidYouth Ministries — Sandra King  
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) — Linda Ball  
Praise Band Leader — Stuart Holt

Church Administrator — Jill Hankins  
Business Assistant — Todd Burris  
Supervisor, Hospitality Ministries — Ed Spears  
Financial Assistant — Laura Bounds  
Communications Assistant — Colleen Holt  
Kitchen Coordinator — Kathleen Caruthers  
Elementary Assistant — Catherine Gatlin  
Nursery Assistant — Paula Bruner

Contact staff by email at:  
*first initial of first name plus last name*  
[@conwayfumc.org](mailto:@conwayfumc.org)

Example: [mroberts@conwayfumc.org](mailto:mroberts@conwayfumc.org)

### **Our Core Purpose:**

To cultivate faithful and fruitful disciples  
of Jesus Christ.

