



THE WITNESS

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

Announcement of Pastoral Change

From Pastor Michael Roberts:

Dear FUMC Family,

On Saturday morning, our associate pastor, Michelle Morris, was placed as the next senior pastor at First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, taking effect on July 1.

Certainly there is an element of sadness in this news. Pastor Michelle has served our congregation faithfully this past year, bringing much inspiration and blessings. At the same time, we celebrate with her. This new appointment shows much confidence and appreciation for her gifts in ministry.

In the United Methodist Church, appointments are made by the Bishop in consultation with the Cabinet, made up of District Superintendents, in consultation with Pastor Michael and the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Together, we will begin the process of discerning our pastoral needs for the future.

In the Arkansas Conference, new appointments take effect on the first Sunday in July, so this is not "goodbye." We will schedule an appropriate farewell at a later date.

In the meantime, all of you are encouraged to keep this process 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.



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**EASTER AT
CONWAY FUMC!**

UMW Circle Chair Organizes Collection of Books for School in Guatemala

Mariana Linck, chairman of the Pearle McCain Circle of the United Methodist Women at Conway First United Methodist Church, has organized a project to obtain 100 English/Spanish books to be taken to a school in Guatemala.

Mariana became passionate about providing these books after a visit to a school in Guatemala. "In 2015 when I was just 3 months pregnant with Catalina, Edwin and I went on a stove team mission through our Irvine, Calif., Rotary Club in Guatemala, and I'll never forget the kids at the local school who quickly made their way into our hearts," Mariana said.

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GUATEMALA from Page 1

After moving to Conway, Mariana came into contact with FUMC members Bonnie and Steve Laycock, who have coordinated stove-building teams to Guatemala through this church and others they have attended.

"I was inspired by Bonnie Laycock's speech on FUMC's Guatemala stove team mission. She explained how much both children and adults loved getting books. Since then it was really in my heart to search for a way to get bilingual and Spanish books for them," Mariana said.

After a year of researching possible donations, the International Book Project, based out of Lexington, Ky., generously donated 100 books for this vision and charged only \$150 in shipping. The shipping was paid for by the Conway FUMC United Methodist Women.

The International Book Project donated the books based on the Circle's request and project description.

The books have been received, and will be ready to send with a mission trip in the fall. They are a combination of hardback and paperback books.

The book project also includes a goal of collecting \$5 per book, which will go toward both Guatemala and local Conway missions for Spanish-speaking children, Mariana said. In addition, \$1.50 will go toward a renewal application to create an on-going mission of securing 100 books for each forthcoming year.

If interested in supporting our Pearle McCain Book Project Missions, please contact Mariana at drmarianaloyalinck@gmail.com.



(Photo above)
Mariana Linck shows the books donated for the Guatemala school.

(Photo at right) Edwin & Mariana Linck on stove-building trip in Guatemala.



Confirmation Sunday

May 2 -- All worship services (9 and 11:15 a.m. in person, and 9:30 a.m. online)

Senior Sunday

May 16 -- All worship services (9 and 11:15 a.m. in person, and 9:30 a.m. online)

More information to come!



Easter at Conway FUMC!



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Our Prayer Team Would Love to Pray For You

A group of church members has been gathering together each week (either virtually or in-person, depending upon protocols) for several years to pray over a variety of prayer requests received at the church. They now have an email address specifically to receive your prayer requests.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to prayers@conwayfumc.org.

The prayer team and members of the church staff are the only ones with access to this email, and prayer requests are held in strict confidence. You are also welcome to call the church at 501-329-3801 to tell us your prayer requests. We will pass them on to the prayer team.

In Honor and In Memory

- **In memory of Tracey Sutherland by:** Bill & Sue Higgs, Martha Bumpers
- **In memory of Herb Skiles by:** Martha Bumpers
- **In memory of Cabe Isom by:** James & Toran Isom
- **In memory of Herb Skiles by:** Louise Skiles
- **In memory of Timothy Stalnaker by:** Jerry & Cherry White
- **In honor of Janet Gingerich by:** Bill & Janie Craddock
- **In honor of Kish Jones by:** Charles Pittman
- **In honor of Thea & Chris Spatz by:** James & Toran Isom
- **In honor of Sandra & Oliver Humphreys by:** Joy & Clay Cross, Eleanor & Lydia Kilbourne

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

Contact staff by email at:
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plus last name
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Example: mroberts@conwayfumc.org