



THE WITNESS

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

UMW Jumping Up and Down to Send Ropes to Guatemala

Conway FUMC's circles of United Methodist Women are taking recycling to a new level, learning to make jump ropes out of old T-shirts to be given to the children of Guatemala.

On a recent Monday, members of two UMW groups – Nell Dyer Circle and Mary Mitchell Circle – gathered for instructions on how to cut and braid the shirts into good, sturdy jump ropes. The finished product will be delivered to Guatemala by church members Bonnie and Steve Laycock, who are planning to take a team sometime in the near future to work with the Stove Builders of Guatemala.

In her demonstration, Bonnie told the Nell Dyer women that T-shirts of all sizes can be used. Examples she had included one with red, white and blue shirts, and one had beige and brown patterns which almost look camouflaged. She likes to use three different shirts of differing colors, but the ropes can also be just one or two colors.

Church member Mary Henderson is also instructing the UMW circles on the jump rope making. Mary said she has made about 70 jump ropes so far. When she asked Bonnie how many were needed, Bonnie just said, "How many

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(Above) Debbie Bartrow stretches a strip of T-shirt for her jump rope.



(At left) Marilyn Williams holds the end of a jump rope being braided by Bonnie Laycock.



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Sunday Worship

In-person worship:

8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
9:05 a.m. in the Great Hall
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Online worship:

9:30 a.m. Sundays
www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc OR
www.conwayfumc.org

Covenant Discipleship Groups Forming

Covenant Discipleship Groups are forming at Conway FUMC at the end of October. It can be difficult to live a Christian life on your own, and it helps to have others doing the same thing with you. Covenant Discipleship Groups can provide a weekly confidential small group meeting for the purpose of mutual support and accountability in Christian discipleship as we grow together in the love of God and neighbor. The first groups will meet for one hour each week for seven weeks (taking off the week of Thanksgiving).

Contact Lynn McClure at pastorlynn5@me.com for more information.

Women's Bible Study to Start in November

A five-week Women's Bible Study with Pastor Dede will begin Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 10 to 11:15 a.m. in the Youth Big Room of the Trinity Building.

We will continue our fall theme of gratitude and get ready for the holidays with Ann Voskamp and her classic study, "One Thousand Gifts". In this five-session small group Bible study, we will ponder the questions of finding joy in the midst of everything -- from the typical grind daily chores and deadlines to the calamity every person eventually faces. The question Ann Voskamp considers is, "How do you break the bondage of fear that has white-knuckle control on your life and instead embrace the everyday blessings that immerse you in Christ's fullness?"

We will all be encouraged to keep a gratitude journal throughout the study, since Ann believes that it's only in this expression of gratitude for the life we already have, that we discover the life we've always wanted ... a life we can take, give thanks for, and use to serve others. In it, we come to feel and know the impossible right down to our core: We are wildly loved by God.

Participant guides are \$10. Please register with Pastor Dede, droberts@conwayfumc.org.

Prayer Walks in November

Each Wednesday night through Nov. 17 we will have a different prayer route and focus. We will walk, fellowship and pray for around an hour. We will gather in front of the Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. and return by 7 p.m. Routes will include praying for our schools, city, hospitals, etc. Please note: Start and end times and distance walked may be adjusted week by week depending on daylight.

Contact Kisha Bumpers, kbumpers@conwayfumc.org or 329-3801.

Annual Greenery Sales Under Way

The Sanctuary Music Department's annual fresh greenery fundraiser is under way. You may place an order for fresh wreaths, garland, centerpieces and other holiday items starting immediately, through Sunday, Nov. 7. All of these will be delivered to and may be picked up from the church the week after Thanksgiving. You may also place "direct delivery" orders. These items make wonderful Christmas gifts for family and friends in other locations; they are delivered directly to the recipient.

Proceeds from our sale assist the music department with items/events that are beyond the scope of our regular annual budget.

You can place orders in 3 ways:

- Place your orders at <https://sherwoodfundraiser.com/conwayfumcmusic/>. Payment can be made at www.conwayfumc.org/. Click "give online" and then look for the seasonal funds. Enter the amount in the greenery/music line.
- Set up your own Sherwood Forest Farms' participant account. To register, visit the website listed below and scroll down the page. Once you are registered, you will be able to view your orders placed on our group website. To access your participant account after registration, click on the "Participant Login" button in the upper right hand side of our group website.
<http://util.sherwoodforestfarms.com/users/register/regcode:f5ac21c6ab>
- Use a traditional brochure and order form. If you'd prefer this option, contact Diane Robinson at greenery@conwayfumc.org or Janet Gingerich at the church.

Names Sought for All Saints Banner

Each year for All Saints' Sunday we use a special banner that has names of loved ones on it. It already has Conway FUMC members that have passed. If you would like to add a non-member to the banner this year, please pass their name on to Jill Hankins at jhankins@conwayfumc.org. She will make sure a ribbon with their name on it is added. Submissions should reach her by Tuesday, Nov. 2.

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 7, 2021.

Christmas Coffeehouse

Sunday, Nov. 14

3 to 5 p.m.

**Trinity Building
and Great Hall**



Visit with local
non-profit
organizations!

Purchase items from our awesome
silent auction!

Masks are
strongly
encouraged.



Refreshments will
be available at our
holiday "Drink to
Go" table.

Sponsored by the FUMC Missions Committee

Donations Needed for Coffeehouse Silent Auction

As you have supported this event in the past, the Missions Committee would greatly appreciate donations for the silent auction this year at our Christmas Coffeehouse on Nov. 14.

Due to continued health concerns from the pandemic, we will not be able to include home-produced food items in the auction this year. We welcome individual and group/Sunday School class consolidated items, such as theme baskets, gift cards, store-bought prepackaged food items, Acts of Service certificates (car detailing, yard work, leaf raking, gutter cleaning, etc.), vacation home stays, hunting/fishing trips, art work, photo shoots and many more.

Options are open to your creativity and imagination.

**We would like all donations
turned into the church by
Sunday, Nov. 7.**

In Honor & In Memory

In memory of Eloise Raymond by: Martha Bumpers
In memory of Mary Pat Cullum by: Martha Bumpers
In memory of Andrew Poindexter by: Martha Bumpers, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Jamie Bird
In memory of Ann Poindexter by: Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Rex & Martha Ross, Bill & Sue Higgs, Paul & Katherine Butt, Fred & Valera Tate, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Jim & Carolyn Bruce, Jeff & Norma Kelley, Stan & Marilyn Ott, Jamie Bird, Jerry & Cherry White

In memory of Erika Cohen by: Sam & Carole Teague
In memory of Leah Farris by: Pam Wren
In memory of Gay Moore by: Nancy Williams
In memory of Irma Gail Hatcher by: Nancy Williams
In memory of Jean Churchill by: Nancy Williams

In honor of Chris & Megan West by: Steve & Laura Middlekauff
In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

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children live in Guatemala?" So, Mary intends to continue making jump ropes until the mission team leaves. "They are easy to make," she added. "You can do it while you're watching TV."

To make the jump ropes, Bonnie cut across the shirt, just under the sleeves. The body of the shirt is what is used for the ropes. She also cut off the hem on the bottom, and that section is used later to wrap the jump rope into a small bundle that is easier to carry. Next, the shirt is cut into strips about two inches thick. This strip is then stretched until it "almost curls up on itself," she said.

Once you have three strips, a knot is made in the end that will serve as the tassel on the end, and it's time to braid. Some jump rope makers slip the knot over a door knob to hold the rope in place during braiding, but you can also slip it over your foot or have a friend hold it tight to make braiding

easier. Bonnie said she usually uses three lengths of strips to complete one rope, which is about three yards (or six feet).

The beauty of this project is that most of the discarded T-shirt is used for the jump rope, and a circle member came up with a great idea for the part with the sleeves that has been discarded in the past. JoNell Plafcan said she has a friend who uses T-shirt sleeves to make baby caps for people in Africa. So, all the sleeves from the jump rope T-shirts will now be given to JoNell to deliver to her friend for use on caps.

Several of the women stayed after the demonstration and worked on jump ropes, choosing T-shirts that had been previously donated. Some brought their own shirts and scissors. Dayna Echols chose three shirts that would make a red, white and blue pattern. Debbie Bartrow was using blue and white. Margaret Cline chose shades of green, and Marilyn Williams was working with a gray shirt.

First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor — Michael Roberts
Executive Pastor — Dede Roberts
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
Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores

Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt
Organist -- Jason Saugey
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
Children's Ministry Assistant -- Catherine Gatlin

Contact staff by email at:
first initial of first name plus
last name
@conwayfumc.org

Example: mroberts@
conwayfumc.org