



# THE WITNESS

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



## THE STORY OF OUR CHURCH BUDGET



# “Beyond the Pandemic”

From Rev. Michael Roberts,  
Senior Pastor, Conway FUMC:

It looks like we are coming out of the pandemic! That is good news for many reasons. As a church, we have been challenged to trust more deeply in God's grace and guidance. We have poured energies into creative efforts to help us all stay connected to each other and in relationship with God. We have found new ways for God's love to grow in us and through us. We give thanks for your faithfulness and support through it all. Now we are looking towards 2022 and believe that God will continue to guide us into new fields of ministry – as we continue to offer online ministry and relaunch in-person ministries.

As we continue to discern the future, we are not making any major changes in our annual operating budget of \$1.2 million. We are, however, rethinking all areas of ministry and how we will faithfully use these resources. Inside you will find the story of our budget for 2022. It is so much more than numbers!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE GRATITUDE PATH

PAGE 7

## 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/](https://www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc)

[conwayfirstumc.org](https://conwayfirstumc.org) OR

[www.conwayfumc.org](https://www.conwayfumc.org).

## PROGRAM MINISTRIES:

**Our budget for programming and program staff is around \$350,000.** Over the last couple of years, we have seen adaptations and changes in every area of ministry in order to be faithful in the midst of a pandemic. In 2022, our goals are to expand and offer hybrid opportunities – online and in-person. Your faithful giving will help make this possible.



## ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY:

We are so grateful for all who work behind the scenes to support our wonderful ministries. From copy machines, to bookkeeping, from communications to cleaning, we do so much to provide opportunities for you to grow in God's love. **Our budget for this area, including staff, is around \$200,000.**

## PASTORAL STAFF:

We are faithfully served by two appointed pastors, Michael Roberts and Dede Roberts. We are thankful for their leadership through this challenging year and their guidance as we move into a fruitful future. **Our support for our pastors, including housing, insurance, and pensions, is around \$200,000.**



## FACILITIES AND SACRED SPACE:

As we move more fully into in-person ministries, we are also seeing needs to make updates and repairs. We want to provide sacred and safe space for our buildings to be full again with children playing, voices singing, basketballs bouncing, meals eaten, and Bibles being opened. **The budget for our facilities, including utilities, insurance, maintenance, and custodial needs is around \$250,000.**

## MISSION AND SHARED MINISTRY:

We will continue to be involved in missions all over the world. **Through the Conference Tithe and Missionary Support, we will give around \$200,000 to this important work.** Because of your tithes and offerings, a young person will graduate from seminary; a retired pastor will be supported; a youth director will be trained; people will be fed; lives will be transformed. You are a part of it all!



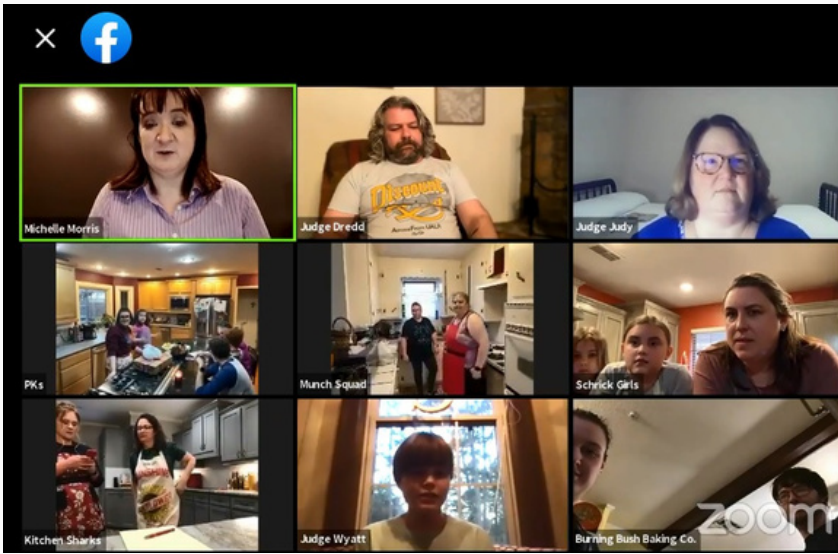
# CONWAY FUMC IN 2021 -- A PHOTO ESSAY





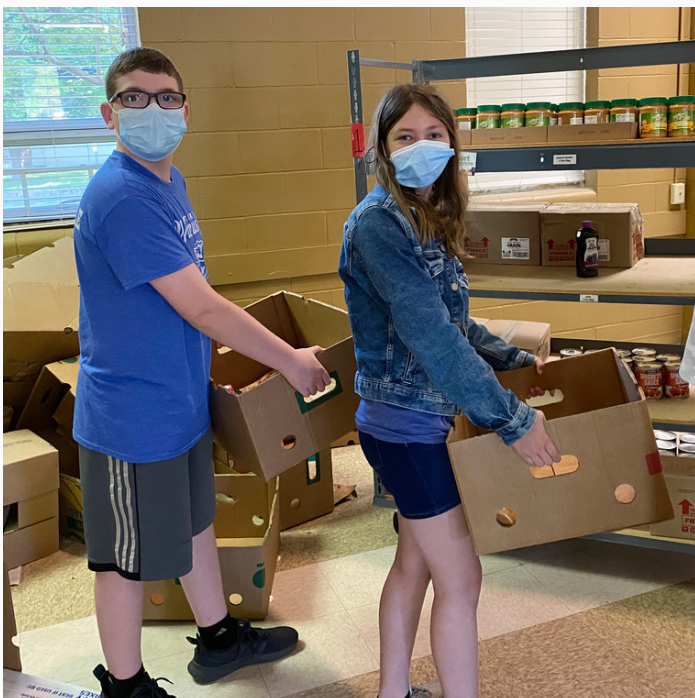






### Our Free Little Library is Ready!

A Free Little Library lovingly built by church member John Pickett and beautifully painted by church member Shirley Bowen is now ready for use. It has been installed on the parking lot side of the church, and will be filled with books for visitors to pick up at any time. The books will be from the donations received through the church's Bookshelf Ministry. Donations of new or gently used books, especially for children, are appreciated and may be dropped off at the church during office hours.









# AGE TO AGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The primary focus of this effort is to pay off our current debt of \$1.2 million on a \$7.5 million project, which included the Trinity Building and Major Renovations to the Sanctuary Building. Our current monthly payment is \$20,000. Removing this debt on our shared church home would open the way for new missions and ministry.

A capital campaign calls for sacrificial commitments, over and above our regular tithes and offerings – often from stocks, insurance, proceeds from a sale, second-mile giving, etc. What can you do to make it possible for us to be debt free as a congregation and help generations to come to grow in God's love?



**AN IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
Due to the pandemic, we made the decision to postpone a capital campaign and are entering in the fourth year of a three-year campaign. We also welcome new commitments and additional support. Please pray about this! We are also asking current participants to continue giving until we are able to have a formal campaign.



## THE GRATITUDE PATH

Gratitude is a key to experiencing the grace-filled life that God wants for us. This has been the theme of our most recent worship series. As we walk the gratitude path, we come to see life as a gift. We become more aware of God's active love working in and through us. This is such a blessing! As a church we want to cultivate this blessing in the lives of many. And this is possible because of the generosity that flows from gratitude.

As a church, we want you to experience this blessing through the

giving of tithes and offerings. And this calls for some personal decisions. While Jesus commends the giving of our tithes and first fruits to God, he also counsels against giving only from a sense of obligation. God wants each of us to give as we have made up our minds to give, "not reluctantly or under compulsion but from a spirit of cheerfulness and love." (2 Corinthians 9:7). The truth is that we were created to give. This is a big spiritual lesson for us today. In a world that teaches us that we are made to consume, God's hope for us is that we would

experience true life through the generosity that flows from gratitude. When we give, we open a space in our lives for God to come in and fill us with the abundance of God's love.

This week, you are invited into the blessing of taking some time and making some decisions. We encourage you to pray about your stewardship. We encourage you to step up in a percentage of your giving, if you feel led to do so. We trust that our shared generosity will continue to make our church a place where love grows!



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1610 PRINCE ST.  
CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72034  
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(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

# MAKING A COMMITMENT

Commitment Forms are available online and will come by email and mail. On this form, you have options for both the Operating Budget and our Capital Campaign. You have options of pledging a specific percentage of income or amount, or simply letting us know that you are making a personal commitment to give, without naming a specific amount. This is up to you.

Of course, we understand these pledges are statements of intent and may be changed at any time. Thank you!

## OPTIONS FOR GIVING?

Options for Giving include:

- Automatic Draft
- Giving through the Website (either as a recurring contribution or a one-time contribution.)

Information is available on the Connection Tables outside worship areas, on the Website at [www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org) and through the Church Office.

# 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](mailto:@conwayfumc.org)

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