



THE WITNESS

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

'Shepherd Me, O God' During Lent

Before we know it, the liturgical season of Lent will arrive, and with it a plethora of religious practices to help us prepare for the celebration of Easter. Among these practices are feasting, fasting, joy, worship, contemplation, prayer and hope.

Lent is a period of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," which means "spring." In 2022, Lent runs from Wednesday, March 2, through Saturday, April 16. Easter Day is Sunday, April 17.

More information will come later concerning our Holy Week activities, which will include Palm Sunday on April 10, Holy or Maundy Thursday on April 14 and Good Friday on April 15. One activity planned for Saturday, April 16, is our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. The time and place will be announced soon.

Ash Wednesday Pancakes and Worship

On March 2, our MidYouth Department will sponsor an Ash Wednesday pancake supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, followed by an Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period where we focus on what God has done for us through Christ's death and prepare for the good news of life through Christ's resurrection. Through this season, we share in Christ's sacrifice and rejoice in the life that comes through Christ.

Ash Wednesday is intended to be a time for us to confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. With the mark of the ashes, we are reminded that we are mortal and that our hope is found in the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal way of participating in the call to repent.

Lenten Sermon Series, Devotional and Spiritual Practices

During Lent 2022, our worship emphasis will be based on the title "Shepherd Me, O God." For five Sundays and Ash Wednesday, our theme will be the beloved Twenty-Third Psalm.

Shortly before Lent begins, we hope to send a mailing to the entire congregation that will expound on ways Psalm 23 can be studied, learned and taken to heart in our lives. Prayer cards containing the text of Psalm 23 will be available, and we would love for your family members to memorize the psalm. We would also like to see pictures of where you have chosen to display the card in your home, or even videos of your family reading or memorizing the psalm.

Small group opportunities will also be available, including the use of a devotional book and a collection of spiritual practices that will enhance your study of Psalm 23.

For a deeper look into Psalm 23, you are invited to join a small group to explore the presence of God in the midst of our darkest valleys. This group will meet Sundays, March 6 through April 17, during the Sunday School hour at 10 a.m.

Another activity we invite you to do is to "paint" the psalm. We will have small blank canvases available to use in creating a scene that comes to mind when contemplating Psalm 23. You may use paints, pens, markers, or any items you need to perfectly create your Psalm 23 picture.

Plans are to display the completed canvases throughout the church campus, and to also share digital versions on the church's social media with the hashtag #paintingpsalm23

Please watch church communications both in print and online for more information throughout the season of Lent.



PAINTING SNOW
PICTURES AT THE
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER

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**INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE**

Sunday Worship

In-person:

8:30 a.m. in the
Sanctuary
9:05 a.m. in the
Great Hall
11:15 a.m. in the
Sanctuary

Online:

9:30 a.m. Sundays
[www.facebook.com/
conwayfirstumc](http://www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc) OR
www.conwayfumc.org



Painting Snow!

Students at the Early Childhood Center spent part of their day recently painting the snow outside the building. We love their creativity and all of the pretty colors that were used.



Registration for Summer Adventure Camp 2022

Church Members/Returning Campers
Begins at 7:30 a.m. Monday, March 14

New Campers
Begins at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, March 17

Dates of Operation: May 31 through August 5
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For campers entering Kindergarten through fifth grade

Registration for Early Childhood Center 2022-23

Church Members/Returning Students
Begins at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28

Open to the Community
Begins at 7:30 a.m. Monday, March 7



Thank you to all
who made
Valentines,
packaged
Valentines, and
delivered the treats
to our homebound
friends.



In Honor & In Memory

In memory of Liz Workman by: Nancy Meredith, Jamie Bird, Linda Tyler, Lorlie March, Vicki Crockett, Cliff & Maribeth Garrison, Jackie Robinette, Pam Wren, Judy McKnight, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn

In memory of John & Liz Workman by: Jeff & Norma Kelley, Tom & Cathy Goodwin

In memory of Ann Poindexter by: Henry & Cheryl Wilson

In memory of Dustin Lea by: Gerald Hammons, J.R. & Mary Wiese, Alan & Cathy White, Alan & Fonda Stone, Barbara Greene, Di Anthony, Gloria Ferguson, Gloria Jensen, Jackie Robinette, Speedy & Dayna Moreland, Pam Wren, Fred & Nancy Thessing, Alice Teague, Judy McKnight, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Bob & Susan Bell, Andrew & Martha Frits, Melissa Ennis, Herbert & Wanda Moreland, Larry & Becky Shirron, Bunny Adcock, Susie Walker, Tom & Leola Cotton, Missy Ellis, Donald & Sarah Burke, Nancy Mulhearn, Harold & Mary Henderson

In memory of Gay Moore by: Milton Satterfield

In memory of Camilla Ferguson by: Jackie Robinette, Mike & Donna Harris

In memory of Alice Glendene by: Pam Wren

In memory of Zelda Ward by: Judy McKnight

In memory of Linda Ward Maddox by: Michael & Donna Harris

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman



TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Holy Land 2022

Our postponed pilgrimage in 2021 has been rescheduled for June 6-16, 2022.

There are a few spots left on the trip.

If you are interested, please download the brochure that can be found on the church website at conwayfumc.org. You may also talk to either Pastor Michael or Pastor Dede.

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Free Formal Wear Shopping Day Set March 5

The Missions Committee is pleased to announce they will be hosting the Free Formal Wear Shopping Day on Saturday, March 5, at the church.

This event was formed to assist High School girls with financial needs to obtain a dress and accessories for Prom. We have contacted 15 different schools/organizations within the county and surrounding areas, inviting them to this event. We have also asked for teacher and counselor assistance to identify those individuals and provide them with an invitation.

The schools and organizations have expressed their appreciation of this event and our mission focus for outreach to this age group. Thank you for your support and prayers over the years for this event.

Spring Forward



Daylight Saving
Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor — Michael Roberts
Executive Pastor — Dede Roberts
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries — Janet Gingerich
Interim Dir., Children's Ministries — Catherine Gatlin
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

Contact staff by email at:
first initial of first name plus
last name
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