



THE WITNESS

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

Congregational Care Ministries Expand

Conway First United Methodist Church is committed to extending love and care to all who enter our doors. This is done through our newly revamped Congregational Care Ministry.

Initiated by Kisha Bumpers, director of Lay Ministries, and our interim senior pastor, Rev. Dede Roberts, a group of church members has created a comprehensive plan that covers all sorts of care for all those who enter our doors. Pat Crowder is the overall coordinator of the Congregational Care Ministry, with others taking leadership roles within the other ministry areas.

Within Congregational Care, you will find ministries such as

taking baked goods to our homebound friends, sending cards to those who have lost loved ones, knitting prayer shawls to be given to people of all ages, and bereavement services. Two of the largest ministries – prayer and grief care – will be detailed more on Page 2 of this publication.

“Our Membership Care Teams are committed to caring for our members in a number of ways,” the team says in its newly created brochure.

“We invite you to participate in any way you feel called by God, either in our existing ministries or in a ministry in which you would love to help start. Resources and training will be provided as needed.”

Congregational
Care Ministry of
Conway FUMC



For more information about any of these ministries, please contact

Kisha Bumpers at kbumpers@conwayfumc.org or Pat Crowder at pecrowder@gmail.com.

The new Congregational Care Ministry brochure will be available to pick up soon at the church.

Rev. Nathan Kilbourne Named New Senior Pastor

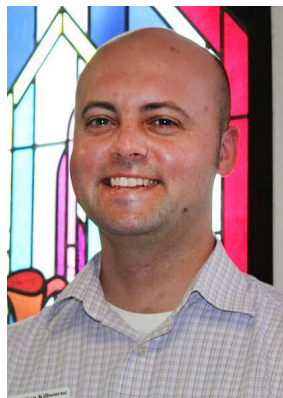
Conway First United Methodist Church is excited to announce that Rev. Nathan Kilbourne has been appointed to serve as our new senior pastor beginning Jan. 1, 2023. His first Sunday in the pulpit at Conway FUMC will be Sunday, Jan. 8.

Nathan is currently the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Arkansas, where he has served since July of 2016.

He also currently serves on the board for Methodist Family Health and chairs both the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Prior to his appointment to Jacksonville United Methodist, Nathan served at both Vilonia and Asbury United Methodist Churches.

Nathan looks forward to leading Conway FUMC and says that he is excited to work “to create vitality and to make disciples of Jesus Christ by leading by example and equipping the saints for ministry.” He sees his role as being



the servant of the servants of God and he looks forward to serving both this congregation and this community.

“Through the spoken word, prayer and relationships there is a joining in partnership to fulfill our call as Christians to be disciples and to make disciples,” Nathan says. “Whether it is building up current ministries or discerning and envisioning new ministries, this partnership plays a vital role in the ongoing health and vitality of the community of faith. I have been set apart for these tasks to see the church succeed in its calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Nathan is from Tennessee. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Emory with a B.A. in Religion and Psychology and then, in 2009, he earned his Masters of Divinity from Duke Divinity School.

Nathan is married to Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, who is a former associate pastor here at Conway FUMC. Together, they have two wonderful daughters – Eleanor (age 7) and Lydia (age 2).

Welcome messages can be sent to nate.kilbourne@arumc.org or to 7032 Gap Ridge Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120.

Joys and Concerns: Our Prayer Ministry



As we seek to be a caring congregation, prayer is an essential element of this ministry. We encourage our congregation to submit prayer requests on Sundays during worship, as well as throughout the week through our email, joysandconcerns@conwayfumc.org.

We also have three prayer boxes located throughout our building. Following are the locations:

- North Entrance to Sanctuary (by ramp)
- Hospitality Area of the Sanctuary Building
- Lobby of the Trinity Building

Look for these boxes where Joys and Concerns cards are provided, or you can scan the QR Code to share your requests.

Each Wednesday at 9 a.m., a group meets to pray for not only these joys and concerns, but also for those related to our community and beyond. We not only value your requests and will lift them up during our time together, but confidentiality will be strictly maintained. Our pastors will also be praying for these requests.

This team is open to anyone wishing to participate in this important ministry. Please prayerfully consider joining. If you wish to serve or would like more information, contact Jema Elms at 501-837-0653.



Grief Care Resources at Conway FUMC

Our trained Grief Care members will offer hope, support, and recovery by extending quality care and helpful resources for those experiencing grief in our church family.

We will pray for these families, make phone calls/send texts on special dates (birthday, anniversary), and send notes/cards at regular intervals. We will share resources to provide comfort during the grieving process. We will invite families to special worship services they may find helpful.

For more information or to volunteer to serve on this team, contact Nancy Mulhearn (nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net) or Lynn McClure (lynn.mcclure@arumc.org).



Fall Back!

Turn Your Clocks
Back One Hour
on Nov. 6



Coming in Advent: 'Missing Jesus'

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 27, and continuing until Christmas, we will be taking a closer look at the book of Isaiah, studying all the different ways we can be "Missing Jesus."



In Honor & In Memory

In memory of Iris Ziegler by: Dotty Robins Light Sunday School Class

In memory of Sue Jones by: Jerry & Cherry White, Kathy & Chris Cooper, Jeff & Norma Kelley, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Sam & Carole Teague, Doris Williams, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Martha Bumpers, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Lorie March, Beth Ruple, Jay & Kathy McDaniel, Jana Cherry, Richard & Carol Clark, Gordon & Helen Smith, Conway Children's Clinic, Wayne & Janet Gregory, Bobby & Myung Courtway, Fred & Pam Hueston, Jamie Bird, Bob Dornblaser & Nancy Williams, Linda Hollis, Carol Schedler

In memory of Sue Hines by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Otto Teague by: Kathy & Chris Cooper, Linda Hollis

In memory of Jewel Deane (Scott) Lea by: Kathy & Chris Cooper

In memory of Peggy Crowell by: Martha Bumpers, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Blake & Vicky Browning, Randy & Pam Sims, Dotty Robins Light Sunday School Class, Dan & Kaye Clanton & Family, Jamie Bird, Bob Dornblaser & Nancy Williams

In memory of Dustin Lea by: Sam & Carole Teague

In memory of Bill Jacob by: Sam & Carole Teague

In memory of Jim Peak by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Don Munro by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Julie Haught by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Becky Benedetti by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Dot Welch by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Rev. Dr. Clif Ford by: Fred & Pam Hueston

In memory of Buddy Pugh by: Dan & Kaye Clanton & Family

In memory of Wendy March by: Dan & Kaye Clanton & Family

In honor of Pastor Michael Roberts by: Bill & Sue Higgs, Kevin & Ruthann Browne, Jessica Remetic, Linda Hollis, Bob Dornblaser & Nancy Williams, Skeet & Mary Jane Morse, Brent & Deb Hill, Sara Shinn, Lorie March, Matthew & Heidi Crane, Melanie Crnic, Nancy Mulhearn, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Martha Bumpers, Bill & Janie Craddock, Stan & Marilyn Ott, Jerry & Cherry White, Jamie Bird, Dottie Patterson, Larry & Sarah Morse, John Collier, Linda Mills, Jimmy & Janet Harris, Barbara Satterfield, Sam & Carole Teague, Pamela Woodard George, Betty Diehl, Ed & Mona Lea, Ward & Lora Boone, Jeanne Hanson, David & Janet Adcock, Rex & Martha Ross, Frank & Debbie Bartrow

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

Names Sought for All Saints' Banner

It has become our tradition, on All Saints' Sunday, to use a banner in Sanctuary worship that bears the names of loved ones who have passed away.

If you have a name you would like to submit for inclusion, please send it to Jill Hankins at jhankins@conwayfumc.org or call the church office. Names of church members who passed away after Nov. 1, 2021, will automatically be added.

All Saints' Sunday this year is Sunday, Nov. 6; names must be received no later than Tuesday, Nov. 1.



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Board of Trustees Update

Here are some updates from the Board of Trustees:

- The basement renovation is about 95 percent completed. We're still waiting on kitchen counters but things are coming along nicely.
- Trustees has approved upgrading the stage lights in the Great Hall. We should see that upgrade in the next month or so.
- To get ready to greet the incoming pastor, Trustees has voted and approved to have commercial grade luxury vinyl flooring in Pastoral office areas as well as painting the offices of the Church Administrator and the Senior Pastor to match the paint color in Pastor Dede's office.
- Conway FUMC has officially acquired the properties for the Wesley Foundation. The deeds have been switched out from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church to our Church holdings.

If you would like to contact the Trustees with a "thumbs up" about the state of the church campus or if you see issues that need attention, please email fixit@conwayfumc.org. The chairman of the Trustees is Emily Walter and Pastor Dede is the staff representative.

Sunday Worship

In-person:

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

9:05 and 11 a.m.
services are
livestreamed.

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

First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Interim Senior Pastor — Dede Roberts
Dir., Music/Worship Ministries — Jason Saugey
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries — Catherine Gatlin
Co-Dir., Children's Ministries -- Jules Koen
Director, Lay Ministries — Kisha Bumpers
Director, Youth Ministries — Zach Schrick
Director, MidYouth Ministries — Sandra King
Campus Dir., Wesley Foundation -- Amy Shores

Assoc. Dir., Music (Praise Band) -- Stuart Holt
Assoc. Dir., Music (Children) — Linda Ball
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
@conwayfumc.org

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