



# THE WITNESS

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

## Meet the Pastor: Nathan Kilbourne

By Colleen Holt

As you are aware, we've got a new pastor in town. We are glad to have him with us and he's excited to have his feet on the ground now. Recently, we sat down and talked. I wanted to get to know him, what makes him tick, and his hopes and dreams here at Conway FUMC. Enjoy our conversation.

Colleen: Ok, first question, and most important...Are the girls settling in OK in Conway?

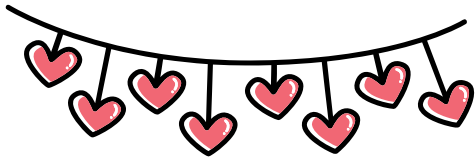
Nathan: You bet. Eleanor is enjoying her new school and is settling into life in Conway. While school is school for an 8 year old, she loves her new teacher. She has begun taking over the church. Before we realize it, she's going to be in charge around here. In fact, she apparently taped a note to Pastor Dede's desk notifying Pastor Dede that she was taking over her office. And Lydia is doing great as well. She loves her Conway house and has settled well into daycare.

Colleen: You know we do care about you. But we all want to know about your girls! You also know we love your wife, Lynn. And many of us know her pretty well because

of her service as the associate here about 7 years ago. But, you were in Vilonia as the pastor at the UM Church there. So, let us know a little about you. Who are you? How did you get into ministry?

Nathan: Yes, I'd be glad to do so. So I grew up in East Tennessee where my father was a United Methodist pastor and my mom was an elementary school teacher. As a pastor's kid in the United Methodist Church, we moved all up and down East Tennessee. But I'd consider my home to be Johnson City, Tennessee. It was there I graduated high school as well as had some of the most formative experiences. I went to college at Emory & Henry College in Virginia where I graduated with a B.A. degree in Religion and Psychology. It was at Emory and Henry I answered a call to ministry. For years I had struggled with my call given I have a family full of ministers. I just didn't think it was an authentic call. But I had an experience that I couldn't deny and surrendered my life to Christ and ministry. You will hear the full version of the story soon!

See **MEET THE PASTOR** on Page 2



## Valentine's Day Cards for Our Homebound Friends

Let's send some extra love to our homebound friends this Valentine's Day! Create your own cards or buy some at the store. It doesn't matter. They just love hearing from you!

A list of names of our homebound friends will be placed in the church lobbies, or you can contact Kisha Bumpers, [kbumpers@conwayfumc.org](mailto:kbumpers@conwayfumc.org), to have a list sent to you. If you would like to mail your own cards, we can provide a list with addresses.

Boxes will be in the Sanctuary building hospitality area or Trinity Building lobby for you to deposit cards on Sundays, or you may bring them to the office during the week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

All cards will be delivered along with a goodie on Tuesday, Feb. 14. If you are willing to help deliver on Tuesday, Feb. 14, or prepare Valentine bags on Monday, Feb. 13, please contact Kisha.

Also, if you have a name to add to the recipient list, please contact Kisha.

## Confirmation Sunday To Be Held on Feb. 5

Several of our seventh-graders have been going through Confirmation classes for the past few months, and are now ready to be confirmed as full members of the United Methodist Church.

Confirmants will be confirmed at the 9:05 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, Feb. 5. A brunch for the Confirmants and their families will be held during the Sunday school hour. For more information, please contact Zach Schrick ([zschrack@conwayfumc.org](mailto:zschrack@conwayfumc.org)).

## Remodeled Basement Dedication Set Sunday, Feb. 5

The newly remodeled basement in the Sanctuary building will be officially dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 5, at 10:40 a.m. Activities will include tours of the basement, which will be held before and after the dedication ceremony. Everyone is invited to come downstairs and see the new areas in which our elementary-aged and MidYouth children will spend the Sunday school hour.

**MEET THE PASTOR** *from Page 1*

One more important thing to note is how I got to Arkansas. Well, you all can thank (or not) a brown-haired, brown-eyed lady named Lynn for that. We met in seminary at Duke University. I decided wherever she went I would follow! She came to Arkansas, so I followed!

Colleen: That's great. Ok, on to business. You've been here three or so weeks. What have you learned so far?

Nathan: Too much! My brain is full of names, opportunities, and more. One thing I've learned is this is an active church! There are so many groups within the church that are active in helping the church be the church. From worship teams, prayer teams, youth and mid-youth, children's ministries groups, missions' groups, and more that help the church be the body of Christ. It's amazing to be part of such an active body. I will say also, we've got a great staff here, too. I can tell our staff passionately serves Christ and helps others love and grow in love with Christ. I'm excited to see us work together to empower the church for ministry. All to say, I can see Christ is at work among us. And I'm so humbled to be asked to be the Senior Pastor of such an historic and vital church in Conway.

Colleen: Thank you for your time. I understand that there will be some Cottage Meetings coming up in which the congregation can get to know you more as well as you get to know us more. Is that correct?

Nathan: Yes, I am working with the Staff Parish Relations Committee to set up these Cottage Meetings so I can get to know you all, the dreams of this congregation, and begin to consider who God is calling us to be in this season of life together.

## Welcome Kilbournes!

Rev. Nathan Kilbourne was in the pulpit of Conway First United Methodist Church on Sunday, Jan. 8, as senior pastor. He welcomes visits with and calls from congregants. You may contact him at the church at 501-329-3801 and [nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org](mailto:nkilbourne@conwayfumc.org).

A reception for Pastor Nathan and family -- his wife Rev. Lynn Kilbourne and daughters Eleanor and Lydia -- was held during the Sunday school hour on Jan. 8.



## FUMC Food Pantry Update



The Kitchen Store recently made a monetary donation to the Conway FUMC Food Pantry.

Conway FUMC provided 70 families with a bag of food for Christmas. The Christmas meals included hams, sides and desserts. This was in addition to our weekly boxes of food and our Amazing Grace Cafe meal. Thank you to Ashley Peoples for coordinating the gathering of food for the Christmas bags.

Thanks to the Kitchen Store, PEO Chapter BE, and the United Methodist Foundation for their generous support at the holidays with monetary donations. Thank you also to the many individuals supporting this ministry throughout the year.

Last but not least, thank you to our weekly volunteers as well as those who helped with our holiday giveaway. It takes many generous hands and hearts to sustain this ministry to our community. Thank you for making it a priority!



# In Honor & In Memory

**In memory of Sue Jones by:** Dan & Kaye Clanton, Steve & Laura Middlekauff

**In memory of Loretta Harris by:** Stan & Marilyn Ott

**In memory of Ben Bakker by:** Elisabeth Ann Bakker

**In memory of Dr. Fletcher B. Lowry by:** JoNell Lowry & Family

**In memory of Joel Lane by:** Dotty Robins Light Sunday School Class

**In memory of Peggy Crowell by:** Carol Ann McAdams, M.M. Satterfield

**In memory of Dustin Lea by:** Stephen & Gwen Crowe

**In memory of Liz Workman by:** M.M. Satterfield

**In memory of Ben Montgomery by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Chuck Hill by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Nadia Bass by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Ellen Johnson by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Greg Wren by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Milton Davis by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of George Thompson by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Ann Davis by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Bob McCormack by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Ann Poindexter by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Sue Jones by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In memory of Marion Baker by:** Milton & Teresa Huff

**In honor of Mary Louise Rogers by:** Cassandra Goodgame

**In honor of Revs. Michael & Dede Roberts by:** Dan & Kaye Clanton, Louise Skiles, Elizabeth Tierney

**In honor of Revs. Nathan & Lynn Kilbourne by:** Dan & Kaye Clanton

**In honor of Beth Ruple by:** Paul & Patricia Thessing

**In honor of Holly Haley by:** Deborah & Charles Holmes

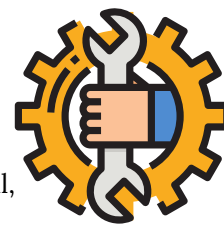
**In honor of Jason Saugey by:** Jack & Sarah Frost

**In honor of FUMC Staff by:** Bill & Cecilia Patterson

**In honor of FUMC Music Ministry by:** Bill & Cecilia Patterson

## An Update from the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees wanted to give a HUGE thank you to everyone who showed up for our Work Day we had in December. The workers were: Chris and Cher Masters, Pat and Larry Crowder, Ritchie and Adair Howell, Zettie Caudle, Victoria Walter, JoNell Plafcan, Betty Diehl, Nancy Mulhearn, Randy Elms, Debbie and Frank Bartrow. And a double thank you to Debbie Bartrow for leading the event!

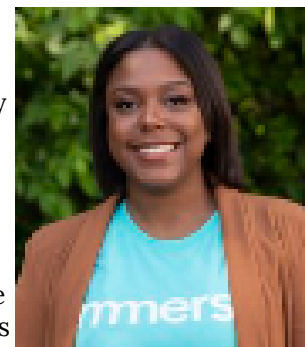


As a reminder: anyone who would like to make a suggestion or sees an area of needed maintenance on our campus, please send an email to [fixit@conwayfumc.org](mailto:fixit@conwayfumc.org).

## Fifth Sunday Speaker Set Jan. 29

The Church and Society Committee invites you to join us as we welcome our guest speaker, Jamie Middleton, during the Sunday School hour on the fifth Sunday of this month, Jan. 29.

Jamie is a volunteer coordinator for Immerse Arkansas, a program that seeks to surround youth from crisis with unconditional relationships and help show them a vision of a restored future. Immerse also encourages and equips them with tools to reach their goals and overcome barriers to a healthy adulthood.



A little more about Jamie, in her own words: "I was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. University of Arkansas LR is where I really blossomed into my marketing and non-profit skills. I graduated from UALR in 2016 with a bachelor's in marketing. From there I worked at a finance company and helped grow their Community Outreach program. I started volunteering at Immerse in 2018 and have enjoyed being on staff since spring of 2022. My biggest passion has and always will be giving back! I've always been a firm believer that if I have it, so do you! 'TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN..MUCH IS REQUIRED' Luke 12:48

Church and Society hopes to see you at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, in the Fellowship Hall.

## Early Childhood Center Registration

Registration begins soon for the FUMC Early Childhood Center. The Early Childhood Center (ECC) is a weekday program for children ages 2 years to 5 years. Our goal is to provide a consistent, caring, and respectful environment for children. We encourage creativity, individuality, and self-expression for every child. We actively promote the values and skills needed for social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual development.

In-house and church members registration: Monday, Feb. 6, starting at 7:30 a.m.

Community registration: Monday, Feb. 13, starting at 7:30 a.m.

For more information, you may email director Angie Hogue at [ahogue.ecc@conwayfumc.org](mailto:ahogue.ecc@conwayfumc.org).

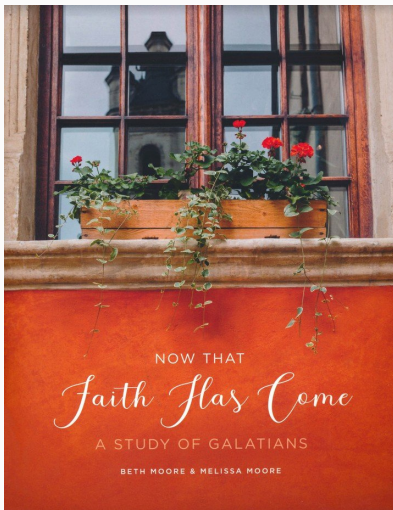
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## Women's Bible Study Starts Feb. 1



Join Pastor Dede on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 in Room 1105 (in the Trinity Building) for Women's Bible Study. (Please note the change in starting date from what was originally announced).

We will be guided by Beth Moore in her new study, "Now That Faith Has Come," a deep dive into the book of Galatians. A study guide is recommended, and there is individual work outside of the weekly sessions that participants will find helpful. Books can be ordered from Amazon, Christian Book Distributors or Living Proof Ministries ([www.lproof.org](http://www.lproof.org)).

To register, please send an email to [droberts@conwayfumc.org](mailto:droberts@conwayfumc.org). Invite friends! This is going to be a great study!

## 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

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Executive 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](mailto:@conwayfumc.org)

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