



# THE WITNESS

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

**Sunday, September 3**

## ONE SERVICE SUNDAY

**Worship:**  
10 a.m., Sanctuary

**Service Project:**  
11 a.m., Great Hall

One Service Sunday is back!

On Sept. 3, we will be having one worship service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and then a service project to follow at 11 a.m. in the Trinity Building. There will be no Sunday School on Sept. 3.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to gather as an entire congregation for worship and service together. In the past, we've put together dehydrated meals. This year, we will be putting together United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) hygiene kits. With so many natural disasters recently, this is one way we can help those experiencing them find relief and hope!

## Summer Program Feeds 3,700

First United Methodist Church partnered with the Faulkner County Library to serve more than 3,700 lunches as part of the Summer Feeding Program.

"FUMC volunteers prepared, delivered, and served 3,720 lunches at the library. Almost 4,000 community members took part in the library's summer lunch programming, and our library director can attest to the impact this partnership has had," said Tricia Burris, FUMC co-coordinator of the program with Lori Mulhearn. The program is overseen by Kisha Bumpers, the FUMC director of lay ministries. FUMC church member Alyssa Burris has been working as the summer library employee in charge of the program, choosing the movies and supervising the church volunteers.

Funding was provided in a number of ways, including through monetary donations from church and community members. As the numbers of those coming to lunch soared from about 100 to more than 120, the donors and volunteers continued to step up to provide food for these families "Thank you to each FUMC member who supported this ministry through their time or financial support," said Burris.

The feeding program was part of the library's overall initiative called Lunch and a Movie, held midday on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Lunches were served for 11 weeks — one week less than last summer — yet the program provided far more lunches in 2023.



Volunteers packed lunches to be delivered to the library.

John McGraw, director of the library, said the lunch program has had an impact that is "immeasurably broad."

"It is a maxim in libraries that if you want to have a successful program, you serve food. Arkansas has more food insecurity than every state but Mississippi, but is unrivaled in 'very low food security,'" said McGraw. "In summertime, library attendance is peaking even as school lunches are taking a break. The optimal solution is for libraries to step into the gap however they can."

In Faulkner County, the branch libraries at Twin Groves and Mount Vernon have been traditionally able to

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Handing off meals to library employee Bobbie Tebo (center) were FUMC volunteers Dawn Jackson (at left) and Melissa and Annie Gates (at right).



"For a parent, this program has been such a blessing. For so many families it gives them an opportunity to take their children somewhere where they may not be able to due to funds or whatever the case may be -- it also gives the children a lunch where in some cases they may not have one."

--- Quote from a participating parent

I am a volunteer who has been helping with the feeding program during 2022 and 2023. Both summers the church has been providing lunches and sending volunteers to help the other librarians and volunteers. The program has helped many families in our community get food and entertainment during the summer. It has also given me experience in volunteering/work that I put on my school application and could put on future job applications. I wouldn't have been able to do that if it wasn't for the program and the church's support to the library.

--- Quote from a program volunteer

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secure food budgets at their scale, he said. "Given that Conway sees some 84 percent of all the traffic in the county-wide system, scaling up has been refined for a couple of years. I am pleased to say the result has been incredibly positive for us and the community we serve. The lunch-and-a-movie numbers this year largely mirror last year's. However, when 200 people show up for 100 lunches, the effect is everyone showing up earlier the next day."

The entire library schedule has been impacted by the lunch program. "This summer's 'All Together Now' theme has inclined us to lean into multi-generational programs, as well as stacking the schedule with events beginning just as others end," said McGraw. "Attendance at teen programming and adult programming has already eclipsed 2022 totals. While there are real limits on how many people you can feed every day, far less substantial is the limit on how many people — how many families — leave the library having had a positive experience while they visited."

A comparison of the branches serving lunch with those not serving is a mirror into how well such programming works, McGraw said. "This year our three locations not serving food averaged a 2.25 percent decline in attendance over last summer. The three locations serving food averaged a 24.27 percent increase in attendance, and in Conway it was 33.54 percent. Those lunches have had an impact that is immeasurably broad, and the dividends will be paid back to the community for years to come."



## Summer Music Camp!



Our second Summer Music Camp of 2023 was a resounding success, with 19 students attending. Our teachers were Janie Heffington and Linda Ball, choir; Ruthann Browne, drama; and Jason Saugey, bells. Thank you to our other helpers: Peggy Weatherly, Paula Bruner and Brit Ball.



### MUSIC FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH

These ensembles for young people in grades K-7+ meet weekly by the school semester as part of the "Wonderful Wednesdays" evening of programming. For more information, contact Linda Ball ([lbball@conwayfumc.org](mailto:lbball@conwayfumc.org))

**K-1 Choir** (Kindergarten through 1st Grade),  
Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 p.m., Room 218.

**Joyful Sound Choir** (Grades 2-4),  
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:20 p.m., Room 218.

**MidYouth Choir** (Grades 5-7+),  
Wednesdays, 5:25-6:00 p.m., Room 218.

**Joyful Ringers Chime Choir** (Grades 2-4), Wednesdays,  
5:25-6:00 p.m., Room 213.

**MidYouth Bell Choir** (Grades 5-7),  
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:20 p.m., Choir Room.



# UCA Wesley Starts a New Year!



## Welcome Packages Given to International Students



From donated supplies and financial contributions to packed and distributed kits, the Wesley students thank everyone at FUMC Conway who helped out with this ministry to UCA's incoming international students this semester. The students were delighted by the generosity!



## Fall Schedule

**mondays**  
7:30 pm - Bible Study @ the Wesley

**wednesdays**  
7:30 pm - Worship in FUMC Chapel

**sundays**  
10:10 am - College Bible Study @ FUMC



 @ucawesley

1903 College Ave | [www.ucawesley.org](http://www.ucawesley.org)



The Wesley Foundation hosted a dinner for new University of Central Arkansas International Students on Aug. 16. We played nine-square (and learned some new card games), discussed music, sports, Arkansas weather, and so much more!

We are now officially back in the swing of things, with Bible Study on Monday nights, Wesley Worship in the Trinity Chapel on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., and a variety of fellowship and mission events each week! If you are a young adult (or know a young adult) in the area, we would love to have them join us!

[www.ucawesley.org](http://www.ucawesley.org)
[ashores@conwayfumc.org](mailto:ashores@conwayfumc.org)

# Youth Welcome Week 2023!



Youth Welcome Week was a great way for our C1Youth Ministry to kick off a new school year. Activities included a Paint and T-Shirt wall party at the church, BroomBall at Arkansas Skatium in Little Rock, bowling and pizza, attending an Arkansas Travelers game, playing at Main Event in Little Rock, and a movie night at the church. For more information about C1Youth (grades 8-12) and MidYouth (grades 5-7), contact Zach Schrick ([zschrack@conwayfumc.org](mailto:zschrack@conwayfumc.org)).



## MidYouth Director Sought

We're still looking for someone to lead our MidYouth Ministry for students in Grades 5-7.

Conway First United Methodist Youth Ministry's mission is to help students build faith for life by welcoming them to an inclusive and supportive environment, cultivating strong mentor relationships with adults who care, and engaging students in service, with attention to challenging and intentional conversations about discipleship, United Methodist theology, and justice.

For more information about the job, visit [www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org) and click on the Job Postings link. You may also contact Zach Schrick at [zschrack@conwayfumc.org](mailto:zschrack@conwayfumc.org).





# FUMC Music Ministry Opportunities

## Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals have begun Wednesdays, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the choir room upstairs in the Sanctuary building. This community of singers always welcomes new voices. Members experience the joy of preparing sacred music with texts that teach, uplift, and guide the hearts and minds of our worshiping assembly through the Liturgical Year. Week by week the choir proclaims in music the story of Jesus and the story of our salvation from the time we await him, his birth, his public ministry, his suffering and death, his resurrection, ascension, and the sending of God's Holy Spirit. We sing music not only from our own modern era, but we also share the Good News in song and sound from a diverse and multicultural heritage of repertoire handed down through the Communion of Saints for more than 12 centuries! Choir membership is perfect for folks who enjoy team work, fellowship with community, establishing close and supportive friendships, and the blessing that comes from inspiring others in worship. There is a place here for everyone! Becoming a member is easy: come to Wednesday rehearsal or contact Jason by email ([jason@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jason@conwayfumc.org)).

## First Service Singers

First Service Singers rehearses on Sunday mornings from 8 to 8:25 a.m. and sings the 8:30 service. Their repertoire is ideal for small ensemble singing of 5-10 voices, often unison or two part anthems, introits and responses.

Just like Chancel Choir, the musicians of the First Service Singers are a welcoming and supportive community who find joy in singing about the marvelous things our Lord has done and does for us. Join the First Service Singers by coming to rehearsal, Sundays at 8 a.m., or by contacting Jason by email ([jason@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jason@conwayfumc.org)).

## Good News Celebration Praise Band

The Good News Celebration Praise Band rehearses on Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and leads the music each Sunday at the 9:05 a.m. Great Hall worship service, the Good News Celebration. New band members — vocalists and instrumentalists alike — are always invited. Those interested should be proficient on their instruments, and be able to learn new songs from chord charts and/or recordings. Band members are expected to arrive for practice sessions on time and prepared. The band would love more members who specialize in drums, guitars, keyboards, and more traditional stringed, brass and woodwind instruments. Experience with Contemporary Christian music is not required. The Praise Band's repertoire includes music from the beginning of the Contemporary Christian experience in the 1970s to today's new favorites. Contemporary Christian music uses real-world themes to convey messages of love, hope, peace and God's power. For more information about the Praise Band, please contact Stuart Holt ([sholt@conwayfumc.org](mailto:sholt@conwayfumc.org)).

# FUMC Worship Ministry Opportunities

All of our areas of worship ministry welcome new participants throughout the year, but especially in the fall. To join these ministries, or to find out more, you can email Jason Saugey ([jason@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jason@conwayfumc.org)) or contact each of the ministry area coordinators:

**Lay Lectors:** These ministers read Scripture and lead some of the prayers at Services each week. (8:30 a.m., Beverly Bowles: [bowles72bev@gmail.com](mailto:bowles72bev@gmail.com); 11 a.m., Sarah Frost, [frost55@conwaycorp.net](mailto:frost55@conwaycorp.net)).

**Communion Ministers:** Lay ministers who administer the elements of Holy Communion once a month (8:30 a.m. Beverly Bowles, [bowles72bev@gmail.com](mailto:bowles72bev@gmail.com); 9:05 a.m. Nancy Mulhearn, [nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net](mailto:nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net); 11 a.m. Pamela George, [dongola13@yahoo.com](mailto:dongola13@yahoo.com)).

**Altar Guild:** The guild curates and keeps the sacred vessels, lamps, paraments, linens, etc. associated with the altar for worship services. Guild teams work in regular scheduled quarterly rotation (8:30 & 11 a.m. Beverly Bowles, [bowles72@gmail.com](mailto:bowles72@gmail.com); 9:05 a.m., Nancy Mulhearn, [nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net](mailto:nmulhearn@conwaycorp.net)).

**Altar Arts:** The teams of liturgical creatives who prepare seasonal and/or festival displays beyond customary seasonal changes at or around the altar, including banners and devotional scenes (8:30 & 11 a.m., Jill Hankins, [jhankins@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jhankins@conwayfumc.org), Ruthann Browne, [kba@conwaycorp.net](mailto:kba@conwaycorp.net); 9:05 a.m., Brenda Porter, [brendadudleyporter@outlook.com](mailto:brendadudleyporter@outlook.com)).

**Ushers:** The ushers greet the worshiping assembly as they arrive, distribute printed worship media, and see to the general well-being and comfort of the worship assembly during services. Libba Tierney, Sanctuary, [ltierney@conwaycorp.net](mailto:ltierney@conwaycorp.net); Toran and James Isom, Good News Celebration, [torani@conwaycorp.net](mailto:torani@conwaycorp.net)

**Baking Guild:** The guild prepares the bread loaves for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. (Jason Saugey, [jason@conwayfumc.org](mailto:jason@conwayfumc.org)).

**Acolytes:** Acolytes are servants of the altar present at the 8:30 & 11 a.m. services. They assist clergy in the worship celebration. The College of Acolytes is open to all from third grade to adult. FUMC Acolyte Master: Peggy Weatherly ([peggyw51@yahoo.com](mailto:peggyw51@yahoo.com)).

# A New Year for Children at Conway FUMC

**Save the Date!**

**Volunteering**

*September 17th*

Let's "TACO-bout" Volunteering  
Meet & Greet 5:30 pm

*October 22nd*

Children's Sabbath

*October 29th*

Fall Festival 4:00 - 6:00 pm

*November 12th*

3rd grade Bible dedication  
& Family lunch

*November 29th*

Advent Extravaganza  
6:00 - 8:00 pm



**Let's "TACO-bout"  
Children's Ministry!**

Join us Sunday, September 17th  
5:30 pm in the basement big room to talk  
about fun opportunities to get involved  
with our Children's Department this year!

For families with  
children up to Grade 4

For more information, contact Catherine Gatlin  
(cgatlin@conwayfumc.org) or Jules Koen  
(jkoen@conwayfumc.org)



**Back to  
School  
Sunday!**



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## Wonderful Wednesdays Are Back!

Wonderful Wednesdays are back on Aug. 30.

There are activities for all ages. Here's a quick preview of the schedule:

- \* Youth Hangtime: 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.
- \* Music 2nd Grade to 4th: 4:30 p.m.
- \* Mid-Youth Choir: 5:20 p.m.
- \* K-1 Music: 6 p.m.
- \* Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m.

Make a Meal is Catering this year! The Aug. 30 menu is Cheesy Beef Lasagna, Salad and Garlic Bread

- \* Adult Classes: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
- \* Kid's: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.
- \* Mid Youth: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- \* C1Youth: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- \* College Age: 7:30 p.m.

There are three Adult Classes being offered this semester. They include: Methodism 101, The Old Testament, and a Prayer 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 on  
Facebook and  
YouTube

## First United Methodist Church Staff Directory

Senior Pastor -- Nathan Kilbourne  
Associate Pastor -- Miranda Hornsby  
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  
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

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

Example: nkilbourne@  
conwayfumc.org