



THE WITNESS

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

\$10,000 Donated to Food Pantry

A total of \$10,101.80 was recently donated to the Conway First United Methodist Church Food Pantry through proceeds from an Oktoberfest event sponsored by The Kitchen Store & More, a downtown business with a rich history of supporting non-profit organizations across the community.

Tricia O'Connor, an owner of the business, presented the check to food pantry volunteers and pastors on Oct. 19 during the pantry distribution. Oktoberfest activities were held Oct. 9 through 14. All proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the food pantry, along with a portion of sales at the store on Oct. 12, and a corn hole tournament on Oct. 14.

Kisha Bumpers, director of the feeding ministries at Conway FUMC, and lay person Sarah Frost, one of the pantry's loyal volunteers, headed up the Oktoberfest ticket sales and publicity at the church. Sarah said she was in "total disbelief" in hearing the grand total of the donation. Looks of shock and even some teary eyes could be seen on the faces of those gathered for the check passing.

Mrs. O'Connor said an invitation from a friend is all that was needed to start the path that eventually led to the donation being made. John Phillips, a young food pantry helper, invited her son, Ben, to begin volunteering at the pantry. Ben soon joined his friend — and several other youth — as a valued member of the team. This invitation sparked the idea of the Oktoberfest proceeds benefiting this outreach program. In addition, the corporate sponsor for Oktoberfest was Zwilling, which is a cooking-related company, so it was just natural that a food-related group would receive the event proceeds.

"When Tricia and The Kitchen Store staff asked to meet with Kisha and me last March we had no idea what the meeting was about.

See **FOOD PANTRY** on Page 2



(Photo above)
Pantry
volunteers show
expressions of
shock and
disbelief as
Tricia O'Connor
(at right) shows
them the
donation total.
(Photos by Clay
Bumpers)



Celebrating Methodism in Faulkner County

On All Saints Sunday, which is Nov. 5, we will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial (or 150th Anniversary) of the United Methodist Church starting/forming in Faulkner County.

On Nov. 5, during the Sunday School hour at 10 a.m., Emily Walter will give a historic tour of our Church for anyone to join. The tour will include stops throughout the buildings and detail information from our boxcar beginnings to the completion of the Trinity Building in 2008. All ages are invited.

If you are not able to make the history tour on Nov. 5, there will be two more tours, both during the Sunday School hour on Nov. 12 and 19. All start in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.



Reserve
your dinner
by clicking
on the QR
code or call
the church
office.

Immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service on Nov. 5, we will have a church-wide theater/luncheon in the Great Hall. At this event, you will hear "first-hand witnesses" who were there throughout the past 150 years to help build our Church

into what it is today.

Great food and dessert will also be served. Gluten free and vegetarian meal options will be available.

The Wesleyan-Methodist revival of Christian faith and experience spreading through England during the 18th century and migrating to the newly born United States of America in the 19th century made a "whistle stop" in Conway in the early 1870s that transformed into a major settlement.

Who knew that Conway's first Methodists holding worship services in a boxcar on a siding of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad would emerge into a major spiritual force in this town?

'Meet the Author' Book Signing



A book reading and book signing by Leigh Anne Fortner, a member of the Conway First United Methodist Church family, was held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, Oct. 22, in the church library. Leigh Anne, a self-published children's book author, recently released the book "Ripples," a picture book for ages 4-8. The book is described as "a simple, yet profound, story of hope written from a child's perspective. Copies of "Ripples" and her two previous books are available for purchase at the church. Paperbacks are \$10 and hardbacks are \$15.



The Wesley Foundation in Fall!

The Wesley Foundation is having a great time exploring Arkansas this fall! We've been to the White River for a float trip and to Petit Jean for a hike.

If you are (or know) a college-age young adult, we'd love for them to join us! We can be found in the chapel at Conway FUMC every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. for worship.

We would love for the congregation to follow our Instagram, as well, to stay up-to-date with all we've got going on! @ucawesley.

FOOD PANTRY from Page 1

We came away thrilled that they had chosen our food pantry as the recipient of their Oktoberfest Fundraiser," Sarah said. "Our whole church supported this effort, all the way from selling tickets to buying tickets and making donations plus attending the Thursday evening event downtown at The Kitchen Store. Our pastors and church staff and so many church members were there during the event, with more than 30 volunteers working the food, drink and ticket tables. Now that's a 'feel good' event for sure!"

When it comes to how the funds can be used, Kisha said there are some specific uses in mind. "The outcome was so much more than we imagined. We will be utilizing some of the funds this week as we have partnered with a Hendrix College student, Betsy Van Meter, to help provide information to our pantry guests about eating healthy. We will be purchasing all of the groceries needed to make one of the healthy meals that Betsy has provided in her nutrition packet," she said. "These extra funds will also help us with the Christmas meal bags that we will give our pantry guests in December. We are so appreciative to The Kitchen Store & More for giving us the opportunity to provide additional resources to our community."

The Conway FUMC Food Pantry is open from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. each Thursday. All that is needed to receive food is a valid identification card. The pantry continues to be a drive-through operation, with the exception of the fourth Thursday when pantry guests are invited to come in the building to choose their own food. On the second and fourth Thursdays, a meal is also served to those visiting the pantry through the Amazing Grace Cafe.



Tricia O'Connor visits with John Phillips, a pantry volunteer who invited her son, Ben, to become a food pantry volunteer. (Photo by Clay Bumpers)

"As I drive home each Thursday evening after working the Food Pantry, I smile thinking about our youth who come after school and college classes to volunteer and interact with our clients," said Sarah. "My heart becomes so full thinking about what we are doing for so many in our community in need. It's that joy of giving in an atmosphere where certainly #LoveGrowsHere."

Join us for a churchwide

Advent Extravaganza!!

29 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM
NOV | in the Great Hall

Come and join the fun with our Children's Department as we host an Advent Extravaganza for all ages! We will have food, fun, fellowship and faith builders to get us ready for the wonderful waiting season of Advent and the coming birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ on Christmas!

First United Methodist Church, Conway, Arkansas

In Memory and In Honor

In memory of Ken Stephens by: Arvil & Janet Burks, Laura Niswonger, Clint Johnson, Donald White, Pam Wren, Arvil & Janet Burks, Laura Niswonger, Harry & Ellen King, Beth Ruple, Richard & Carol Clark

In memory of Charles Mayo by: Richard & Carol Clark, Bill & Sue Higgs, Hollis Haley

In memory of Chris Spatz by: Bill & Sue Higgs, Bill & Cecilia Patterson, Rick & Becky Rasnick, Carol Schedler, Larry & Hilda Malpica, Robert & Shirley Bowen, Fred & Valera Tate, Tom & Cathy Goodwin, Pam Wren, Beth Ruple, Jamie Bird, Rex & Martha Ross, Men's Prayer Group, Paul & Shirley Taber, Teresa Elliot, Meagan Nichols, Richard & Carol Clark, Linda Tyler, Matthew & Heidi Crane, John & Glenda Brownlee, Claudia Davis, Betty Diehl, Paul & Katherine Butt, Pat & Beverly Bowles, James & Carolyn Bruce, Gene & Meredith Wilbourn, Madelyn & Jerry Adams, John Collier, Mr. & Mrs. Kramer Darragh, Wayne & Rynnett Clark, Dottie Patterson, Bud Hines, Libba Tierney, Sherry Owen, Paul & Patricia Thessing, Martha Bumpers, Laurie & Ted Smith, Fred & Nancy Thessing, Joyce Miller, James & Karen Foust, Roger & Linda Mills, David & Pebble Sutherland

In memory of David Teague by: Rick & Becky Rasnick, Martha Bumpers

In memory of Norma Kelley by: Robert & Shirley Bowen, Beth Ruple, Paul & Shirley Taber, Tom & Cathy Goodwin, Martha Bumpers, Laurie & Ted Smith, David & Pebble Sutherland

In memory of Allan Bruner by: Jeremy Bruner

In memory of Sue Hines by: Bud Hines, Libba, Beth, Scott & Ashton Tierney

In memory of Ramsey Daugherty by: Tom & Cathy Goodwin, Martha Bumpers, Larry & Hilda Malpica

In honor of Susanna Sutherland & Jeremy Vanover by: Pam Wren

In honor of Kish Jones by: Charles Pittman

Digging Deeper

THIRD GRADE BIBLE CELEBRATION & EXPLORATION

Calling all 3rd Graders!

Join Us: Sunday, November 12th
to receive your Bible in any of our 3
worship services



Register Here!

then bring your parents or favorite adults
for a celebration lunch & learn
12:15 - 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall

November 12th (3-5pm)
Trinity Building

CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE

hosted by the

Mission Committee

LOCAL NON-PROFITS

SILENT AUCTION

COFFEE & TREATS

MUSIC W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

*Praise Band &
Conway Symphony Orchestra Quartet*



Charge Conference

6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13

All are invited to come for a report on the mission and ministry of First United Methodist Church.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1610 PRINCE ST.
CONWAY, ARKANSAS 72034
501-329-3801

(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



We Need a Little Christmas, Right This Very Minute!

The Music Department of First United Methodist Church will once again conduct our annual Greenery Sale to raise funds for special projects throughout the year. Many of you have been so generous in past years, participating eagerly in this regular event, and have benefitted in the following holiday seasons, being able to enjoy in your homes the natural evergreen wreaths, garlands, and other distinctive décor items available from Sherwood Forest Farms. These handsome evergreen products also make thoughtful gifts for family and friends.

We will have an informational table set up in the church hospitality area on Sunday mornings, along with a sample wreath. You may sign up at the table or order online at sherwoodfundraiser.com/ConwayFUMC.

Your purchases will arrive the first week of December. We certainly hope you will continue to participate in this yearly tradition of decorating your homes so festively while helping to support our special music projects at Conway FUMC. For more information, please email Van Lamar (greenery@conwayfumc.org).

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