2019 Church Directory & Guidebook

LOVE GROWS HERE

LOVE GROWS HERE

First United Methodist Church

1610 Prince St.
Conway, AR. 72034
501-329-3801

welcome@conwayfumc.org
www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc
@ConwayFUMC

First United Methodist Church

1610 Prince St. ~ Conway, AR 72034
Phone: 501-329-3801 ~ Fax: 501-329-1347
www.conwayfumc.org ~ e-mail: welcome@conwayfumc.org
www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc

Worship Services

Traditional worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Good News Celebration at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall
Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church ... *"Love Grows Here"*

Our Core Calling:
To Glorify God and to Grow in God's Love.

Our Core Purpose:
To cultivate faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Core Vision:
To be a growing congregation of faithful and fruitful disciples who are alive in the grace of God, rooted in the love of Christ, and who branch out to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Our Core Values:
As a congregation, we value graciousness, generosity, and growth. With God's guidance, we strive to cultivate the virtues of compassion, respect, hospitality, and a commitment to bear the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control.

Our Core Pattern for Living:
To GATHER for weekly worship. To GROW through the Means of Grace. To GO into the world equipped to share the good news and to live as faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ. To GLORIFY God through it all.

Our Core Approach:
We cultivate faithfulness and fruitfulness through: 1. Inspiring Worship. 2. Growth-Producing Ministries for children, youth, and adults. 3. A Variety of Opportunities to be a blessing in the congregation and the community. 4. Gracious Care and Support for One Another. (We Gather, Grow, Go, and Glorify)

Our Core Beliefs:

As a part of a worldwide and diverse community of Christians, we believe in one God, the source of all goodness, truth, and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's presence made flesh, who reveals the way of forgiveness, justice, love and life. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, empowering us to bear the fruit of God's blessings. We share a common conviction that God's life-giving grace is for all people. We grow in this grace through the disciplined practice of the "means of grace," or the "methods of Methodism," which include worship, prayer, the reading of the scriptures, holy conferencing and conversation, giving, and service. We trust that God is with us, in life, in death, and in life beyond death and that nothing can separate us from God's love. We see the Bible as God's inspired guide for faithful and fruitful living, to be used together with the resources of tradition, reason, and experience. We celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as instituted by Christ and offer an "open table" where all are welcome. We believe that God's blessings always come to us on their way to someone else.

Our Core Relational Dynamic:

We are a community of open hearts and open minds, built upon the love of God as revealed through Jesus Christ and cultivated through the continuing work of the Holy Spirit. We accept people wherever they are on their faith-journey and believe that a variety of perspectives helps all of us to grow. We come together, not to agree on everything, but to learn how to love, forgive, bless, and honor one another. In this way we practice for our place as citizens of God's expansive kingdom which is always bigger than our finite perspectives. While we proclaim the core doctrines of the Christian faith as given to us through the scriptures and the historic creeds, we are also willing to ask questions of interpretation, to struggle with difficult issues, and to engage one another with respect and compassion. As John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement once said, "As to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think." In another place he said, "In essentials unity; in nonessentials freedom, and in all things love."

A Word From Pastor Michael:

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, once said: "There is no such thing as private salvation, only social salvation." In other words, being saved is not just between you and God. In salvation we are incorporated into a Body; we become part of a community of faith where we learn how to love and are able to grow into the persons God has called us to be.

This annual directory and guidebook is one of many tools to help us be "social" in this way. I hope that you will use it to make connections where mutual growth can take place. I also encourage you to use it as a way to pray for fellow members. In addition, use it to learn about the many ministries of our church, our plans for the coming year, and to discover where you might make your contribution.

Another distinctively Methodist word that describes the social nature of the faith is the word "conference." Our congregation, for example, is a part of the Arkansas Conference. Every year we have a Charge Conference to review our ministry and to vision for the future. Beyond these institutional manifestations, the word "conference" tells us something about our calling. The word connotes community and communion, where mutual support, encouragement, and growth take place. Through "conferencing" we discover the blessings of being participating members of the family of God. Again, this directory is a tool to help us develop these kinds of relationships.

I look forward to "conferencing" with you during the coming year, where we can work together to discern God's will for our congregation and support one another as we "press on towards the goal of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:14). May this annual guidebook help us towards that end.

Grace and Peace,

Michael Roberts
Senior Pastor

Staff

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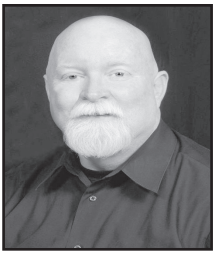

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Welcome to Conway FUMC!

Can anyone attend the services?

Absolutely! We welcome all people to attend and fully participate in all aspects of our worship services and Sunday School classes. We hope you will feel a warm welcome when you worship with us and we will make sure you feel at home. For those attending worship in the Sanctuary, restrooms are in the narthex on the west (pulpit) end of the sanctuary. The narthex may be accessed through either set of "exit" doors at the front of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms can be found in the basement, accessed by stairs in the east (rear) narthex. For those attending worship in the Great Hall, restrooms can be found in the Lobby of the Trinity Building, just outside the Great Hall.

How Can I Participate in the Service?

Our ushers will offer you a printed order of service. We usually stand when we sing and recite the liturgy and creeds. We sit to hear announcements and the sermon, as well as during prayer times. On the first Sunday of every month and on some special Sundays we celebrate the service of Holy Communion. We practice "open communion," meaning that one does not need to be a member of our congregation or a Methodist in order to participate. Our liturgy says "It is the Lord's table, and you are welcome."

Where Do My Children Go During Worship?

Children of all ages are welcome in all of our worship services. Some parents and guardians feel more comfortable placing infants and small children in our nursery. The nursery, staffed by trained volunteers and paid staff, is located in the children's wing of the Trinity Building and is available during all of our Sunday morning classes and worship services. You may enter the nursery through the far northwest doors (near the playground) or through the glass doors on the east side of the Trinity Building and continue through the Great Hall.

For those attending worship in the Sanctuary building, we also have a space designed for nursing mothers to feed their babies. Room 112 is located in the area outside the Sanctuary. Room 107 off the Sanctuary is also available for babies and toddlers that may need a space during worship to cry or play. The worship service can be heard on a speaker.

For those attending worship in the Great Hall, we have a space designed for nursing mothers to feed their babies. It is located in the Parlor just off the Trinity Lobby and is available during the Good News Celebration worship.

Would You Like More Information About First United Methodist?

For more information about First United Methodist Church, please see our weekly e-Witness and monthly magazine, The Witness. You may subscribe to receive the e-Witness each week on e-mail by contacting Colleen Holt at cholt@conwayfumc.org. You may also check out our church website at www.conwayfumc.org, and our church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/conwayfirstumc.

Sunday Morning at First United Methodist Church

Each Sunday morning, our members and guests gather for one of three worship services and for one hour of adult Christian education and Sunday school for children and youth. Childcare is available for all worship services and during the Sunday school hour. We welcome all persons to attend and fully participate in all aspects of our worship service. It is our desire to be a welcoming congregation and to help you feel at home.

8:45 a.m.	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary, with music led by the First Service Singers.
9:00 a.m.	Good News Celebration (Contemporary worship), with music led by the Praise Band.
9:45 a.m.	Middle Grounds – Fellowship Hall. Enjoy coffee and fellowship.
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages.
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary, with music led by the Chancel Choir.

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Traditional Worship at First United Methodist

Our traditional services incorporate most elements of traditional worship, including sung and spoken liturgy, the reading of scripture, congregational hymns, a choir-led anthem, a sermon and offering. Our ushers will offer you a printed order of service which will guide you through the service, lead you in the liturgy, direct you to pages in the hymnal and pew Bible, and show you when to sit or stand. On the first Sunday of every month and on certain other designated occasions, we celebrate the service of Holy Communion. In accord with our liturgy, which states: "This is the Lord's Table, and all are welcome", we practice "open communion," meaning that one does not need to be a member of our congregation or even a Methodist in order to participate. We welcome all persons to attend and fully participate in all aspects of our worship service.

The Good News Celebration at First United Methodist

At 9:00 a.m., our contemporary service takes place in the Great Hall. This service incorporates a contemporary worship style, utilizing multi-media presentations in a more casual setting. The music is led by the Praise Band and participants will see the words to the songs and any liturgy on a projected screen. We usually stand when we sing and recite the liturgy and creeds. We sit to hear announcements and the sermon, as well as during prayer times. A printed order of worship will be available from the ushers. On the first Sunday of every month and on some special Sundays, we celebrate the service of Holy Communion. We practice "open communion," meaning that one does not need to be a member of our congregation or a Methodist in order to participate. Our liturgy says "It is the Lord's table -- and you are welcome." We welcome all persons to attend and fully participate in all aspects of our worship service. It is our desire to be a welcoming congregation and to help you feel at home.

Sunday School for All Ages at 10:00 a.m.

We invite you to visit and explore the variety of classes offered on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. for adults of all ages and stages of faith. For more information, contact Kisha Bumpers at 329-3801 or kbumpers at conwayfumc.org. The Chapel Bible Study is in the Trinity Building and all others are located in the Sanctuary Building on the second floor:

Chapel Bible Study

A group of individuals and couples of all ages who meet together to learn about scripture. This class is mostly lecture-style format. Taught by David Sutherland.
Meets in the Chapel in the Trinity Building

Dorothy Robins-Light

A group of couples and singles in their 60-80's. Highlights of the class each week are hymn singing, sharing prayer concerns, and Bible study discussion led by class teachers, using various curriculum.
Meets in room 212

Faith In Action

An active group of couples with growing families. Join this open circle of friends to explore the Bible and a variety of issues of interest to the group through study and sharing. Activities include family meals together, baby showers, and mission projects.
Meets in room 214

Faithbuilders

An adult Sunday School class that alternates between Bible Study and Life Application studies. Outside of Sunday school, the class plans and participates in regularly scheduled church and community mission projects.
Meets in room 220

Forum

A diverse, inclusive and intellectually alive class of all ages of singles and couples. We discuss a variety of topics and issues (often ones that are different from, and even opposed to, our own), so that we might expand our intellectual horizon, social mission and theological consciousness.
Meets in room 222

Genesis

A group of adults interested in growing spiritually through biblical as well as topical studies.
Meets in room 221

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together)

Small group of young adults that utilize various bible studies to explore scripture and discuss issues pertinent to life. Fellowship outside of the Sunday School hour includes holiday gatherings, ladies nights out and other impromptu gatherings.
Meets in room 216

Koinonia

A class of mostly couples in our 40-60's, studying a variety of topics with an emphasis on Bible study and fellowship. This class is actively involved in mission outreach together.
Meets in room 219

Round Table

This small group of adults, ages 60+, seeks biblical understanding in our contemporary world through shared leadership, guest speakers, and video presentations.
Meets in room 217

Middle Grounds

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, but non-coffee drinkers also welcome. This is simply a place for you to be during the Sunday School hour. You will have the opportunity to fellowship with others, make your grocery list, etc. New to Conway FUMC? There will usually be someone around who can help fill you in on Sunday School classes, small groups and other opportunities we have to be involved in the church.

Children's Ministry (Infant through grade 4)

Babies and Toddlers

Our youngest children begin to learn about God in our Butterfly class. Babies will see, touch, and hear about God and His creation in a caring and loving atmosphere. The class takes place during the Sunday School hour and nursery is provided throughout the morning. These classes are held in the nursery area of the Trinity building on the west side of the campus.

Little Seekers

Little Seekers offers 2- to 4-year-olds a multi-sensory learning environment for learning the stories of the Bible. We use learning center play, snack making, games, music and active storytelling to help children better understand the stories of our faith. This is offered during the Sunday School hour. These classes are held in the nursery area of the Trinity building on the west side of the campus.

Seekers

Seekers is our Kindergarten through 4th grade Sunday School program. Our goal is to help children learn by offering multi-sensory experiences that incorporate different learning styles. These classes are held in the basement of the Sanctuary building, surrounding the center "courtyard" area. Kindergarteners meet in their own classroom while 1st-4th grade children will rotate by grade level to a different themed room each week.

Seasonal Activities

Children and Family events are offered throughout the year. The Children's Council sponsors events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Preschool Story Time and WOW Camp.

To learn more about Children's Activities, please see our web site at www.conwayfumc.org or contact Pam Lentz, Director of Children's Ministries, at plentz@conwayfumc.org.

Ways to Get Involved

- **We have volunteer opportunities in Elementary Sunday school:** Shepherds who assist with a grade level Sunday school class. Volunteer Classroom Coordinators to gather supplies for themed classrooms. Workshop leaders who lead one month of lessons in a themed classroom.
- **College students** are hired to work in the nursery/preschool.
- **StoryTime for Little People and WOW Camp are typically offered each summer in June and July.** There are numerous opportunities for MidYouth, Youth and adults to volunteer for these fun and exciting activities to teach children from toddlers to 4th grade about the stories of the Christian faith.

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Safe Sanctuary Certification

If you would like to volunteer with the Children's Ministries of First United Methodist Church, you must be Safe Sanctuary certified. To view our online Safe Sanctuary certification video, please visit the church website at www.conwayfumc.org. For more information, please call the church at 501-329-3801.

MidYouth Ministries

MidYouth is a ministry designed to bridge the gap between children & youth ministries. Grades 5-7.

Schedule for MidYouth:

We invite all MidYouth and their friends to join us for all/any of the following opportunities:

Sundays, 10:00-10:50 a.m.: 5th/6th Sunday School, B32, Sanctuary building

Sundays, 10:00-10:50 a.m.: Confirmation Class, Orange Room, Trinity building

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: MidYouth, Great Hall

Other MidYouth options:

- Refuge for 7th graders in November
- Brag On Jesus Retreat for 5th/6th graders in November, Camp Tanako
- Central Arkansas Mission Project (C.A.M.P. for upcoming 6th and 7th graders in June)

And many other great opportunities for mission and fun.

For more information, contact Sandra King, Director of MidYouth Ministries sking@conwayfumc.org

Ways to Get Involved

- **A MidYouth Leadership Team** is available to help youth grow in their leadership roles and support the Director of MidYouth Ministry in planning programs and activities.
- **Parental help** is always needed in the MidYouth Department. To sign up as a chaperone/helper at MidYouth Hang Time or other activities, please contact Rod.

Safe Sanctuary Certification

If you would like to volunteer with the Children's Ministries of First United Methodist Church, you must be Safe Sanctuary certified. To view our online Safe Sanctuary certification video, please visit the church website at www.conwayfumc.org. For more information, please call the church at 501-329-3801.

C1 Youth

There is a place for everyone in the C1 Youth Program.
We offer a variety of activities from fellowship meals, game nights, weekly worship, small groups, Bible studies, retreats, youth conferences and mission trips! We would love for you to join our family of youth here at Conway FUMC.

Regular Weekly Schedule (School Year)

Sundays:
10:00-10:45 a.m. – Sunday School – Begins in Youth Big Room
5:00-6:45 p.m. – Youth Sunday Nights. All grades.
Meet in Youth Cafe
7:00 p.m. – Senior High Supper Club
(location varies week to week)

Wednesdays:
3:30-5:15 p.m. – All Youth Hang Time
6:15-7:30 p.m. – CNVRG Bible Study for all youth 8th-12th grade

CNVRG Bible Study = Where the Bible and the World collide *

Thursdays:
7:00-8:00 a.m. – All Youth Breakfast Club
Meets in Trinity Lobby
* Consists of Breakfast, Drinks, and Prayer *

Sunday School Curriculum for each grade level:
8th Grade = Old Testament
9th Grade = New Testament
10th Grade = Affirmation of Faith, Christianity's Family Tree, Christianity, and World Religions
11th-12th Grade = Christian Ethics & UMC Social Principles, Life of the Church, Owning Your Own Faith

Ways to Get Involved
- Provide snacks for C1 activities: Kids LOVE to eat, and parents are invited to bring snacks for Breakfast Club, Sunday morning classes, and Hang Time.
- Opportunities are available to serve on leadership teams, for parents & youth.
- Become an Investor in C1 Youth! Invest $16.10 per month for 1 year to help our youth, plus some newcomers, to attend conferences, workshops and mission trips for FREE! This plan is a proven way for C1 Youth to focus less on fundraising events and more on faith development, community outreach and service-oriented projects.

For more information about the Youth Program: Visit www.conwayfumc.org; find us on Facebook; contact Zach Schrick, Director of Youth Ministries, zschrick@conwayfumc.org.

College Ministries

College Life is for anyone who falls in the undergraduate college age range, post high school to early 20s. We have opportunities for students who attend school in the area as well as those who go away for school. We know that this is a pivotal time in your life ... and we want to be along for the journey!

√ PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP
We love for College students to participate and be involved in all our worship services. Our worship teams love including students in choir, praise band, as lay readers, and as communion servers.

√ DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Join us on Wednesday evenings for the Well. We gather for a free meal and a short devotional. You are also welcome to participate in the hobby groups or Bible studies offered after dinner.

Sunday school is a great place to get involved and engage with other people. Not only do we have adult Sunday school classes that welcome college students and appreciate diversity, students can also gather in the Fellowship Hall for Middle Grounds, a laid-back atmosphere for coffee and conversation. Sunday School and Middle Grounds is held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Outreach Ministries are available for you to help others in the community, such as volunteering with the Food Pantry and the Amazing Grace Café on Thursday evenings.

For more information, contact Rev. Lauren DeLano, Associate Pastor, at ldelano@conwayfumc.org.

Weekday Childcare

First United Methodist Church offers two childcare programs: the Early Childhood Center, a weekday program for children ages 17 months to 5 years, and also a Summer Adventure Camp, held each year for children entering kindergarten through entering seventh grade. In both programs, our goal is to provide a consistent, caring and respectful environment for children. We encourage creativity, individuality and self-expression for every child. Check out our new website at www.fumcearlychildhoodcenter.com.

Early Childhood Center

The First United Methodist Church Early Childhood Center is proud to maintain the highest level (Level 3 status) with the Arkansas Better Beginnings Program. ECC has been a state-accredited facility since 2003, and the teachers and staff are excited to be a part of the state's current Quality Improvement Rating System. The children of Conway deserve nothing less than the very best, and ECC strives to offer that!

At the Early Childhood Center we will nurture Christian values and equip each child with skills for social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development. The Early Childhood Center opens for classes each fall, and closes in late spring. Options for enrollment are as follows:

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Two-Day Preschool

Developmental preschool classes are offered to children 17 months to 3 years (note: Class assignments are based on your child's age as of August 1 of the current school year). These classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the 3-year-old classes.

We currently have three classrooms serving children 17-35 months. The age ranges for each class vary slightly from year to year based on enrollment. The Monkey class serves the toddlers. The younger 2-year-olds meet in the Frog class, and the older 2-year-olds in the Lamb class.

Three-Day Preschool

A second developmental preschool class for 3-year-olds is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (8:45-11:30, 8:45-2:30 or 7:30-4:30) Depending on enrollment, this class may consist of all 3-year-olds, all 4-year-olds or a mix of 3- and 4-year-olds.

Five-Day Pre-Kindergarten

The five-day classes for 4- and 5-year-olds provide focus on skills to prepare children for kindergarten. This foundation is enriched through several enrichment activities including chapel, art, music, and a variety of guests ranging from the LR Zoo to concerts. This class is a morning program (8:45 to 11:30 a.m.), with extended care (11:30 a.m. to 2:30p.m.) available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and/or Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is also a Monday – Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm option.

For more information, call 501-329-1467 or e-mail:
Angie Hogue, Program/License Director – ahogue.ecc@conwayfumc.org
Pam Brenske, Assistant Director – pbrenske@conwayfumc.org
In your email, please include the following information:
Name of Parent
Name of Child
Phone Number
E-mail
Child's Birthdate
To receive text alerts – Text @eccof to 81010
Like us on Facebook – FUMC Early Childhood Center

Summer Adventure Camp

Summer Adventure Camp is a full time or part time day care. It is a Better Beginnings Level 3 accredited program licensed by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

What makes our program special?

Our philosophy is to provide a safe and secure place to learn and play while meeting the unique needs of school-aged children. Children learn decision-making as they plan their day through a choice of activities. We have low child-to-adult ratios with experienced staff members who provide a consistent and caring environment for each child. We encourage each child's development of creativity, individuality and self-expression. Through daily chapel times and other Christian experiences, we encourage the spiritual growth of each child. Some scholarship funds may be available. Please contact the SAC office at 501-329-1467.

Registration Information

Placement in the program is made on a first-come, first-served basis with preference being given to those seeking full-time care. Children who will be entering Kindergarten through seventh grade in the Fall may enroll. There are two options for enrollment. Full time care is Monday through Friday every week. Part-time care is where you pick which days your child will attend (selected attendance days will be the same each week).

The program starts the Tuesday after Memorial Day and ends the last business day before Conway Public Schools resume.

For more information, call 501-329-1467 or e-mail:
Pam Brenske, Program Coordinator - pbrenske@conwayfumc.org
Lisa Murray, Administrative Coordinator - lmurray@conwayfumc.org
In your email, please include the following information:
Name of Parent
Name of Child
Phone Number
E-mail
Grade child will be entering

Adult Ministries – Go!

Conway First considers it vital to our faith to be mission minded. We believe it is theologically and biblically based to reach beyond our walls into our community and beyond. Our mission participation includes financial support and hands-on involvement.

Ongoing hands-on opportunities for mission include:

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRIES

Do you knit or crochet? We give prayer shawls to wrap our congregants in love when they are going through a challenging time and also blankets for our babies/children at their baptisms. Our shawls and blankets are made by members of our congregation. We would love to have you help make these! If you are interested contact Joan Ausburn at jlausburn@conwaycorp.net.

SUMMER FEEDING MINISTRY

During the summer months we serve approximately 60 kids a sack lunch two days a week. Volunteers make the sandwiches, put the sack lunches together and deliver the lunches to Brierwood Apartment Complex and the Conway Housing Authority. If you are interested look for more information in April or May of next year, or contact Kisha Bumpers.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRIES

- Be a part of one of our bereavement meal teams - we have four teams that take turns providing a bereavement meal for grieving families.
- Write cards to those who have experienced the death of a loved one - we do this on specific anniversary dates.
- Be a phone pal to one of our homebound.

Contact Brenda Collier at bcjc5@conwaycorp.net, to find out how you can help.

VISITATION MINISTRIES

It is good to have lay members involved in our hospital and/or homebound visitation. Once a month we bake and deliver goodies to about 40 homebound church members and family of church members. Get on our list to help deliver or find out how to help with visitation from Kisha Bumpers.

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee holds two big fundraisers — Trivia Night and Christmas Coffeehouse — each year to help support various missions and outreaches in our community and beyond. We coordinate an angel tree through CASA, go on short mission trips, and help with disaster relief and much more. We always welcome new committee members. Contact Debbie Bartrow at fddcbartrow@conwaycorp.net.

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CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The Church & Society Committee oversees our food pantry and Amazing Grace Café. This committee looks for needs in the community and develops ministries to meet these needs. One of our current ministries is Healing Ministries (a partnership with the juvenile court system). We also work at finding ways to help educate and provide resources for our congregation's food pantry and café visitors. If any of this interests you, contact Angela de Freitas, angela@sellbuylive501.com or Faye Shepherd, justfaye57@hotmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY

We always need volunteers in our food pantry. Volunteers help pick up food orders in Conway, Little Rock and Greenbrier, to help unload these food orders when they arrive, work the pantry and help with various other needs.

AMAZING GRACE CAFE

We need volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays to help set up, serve and clean up. The time commitment is 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We also need bus drivers for this ministry.

Adult Fellowship Opportunities – Grow!

THE WELL

Our Wednesday night fellowship opportunity called The Well is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather and grow so that we might go into the world equipped for faithful and fruitful living as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Come be refreshed and renewed in the middle of your busy week.

The night will look like this:
5:15-6:15 – Dinner & Fellowship
6:15-7:00 or 7:15 p.m. – Group Opportunities

SPRING 2019 OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ANNOUNCED

For more information, email Kisha Bumpers at kbumpers@conwayfumc.org. Childcare will be provided.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

AMITY:

A fellowship for older adults (ages 50+). The group meets for fellowship, potluck and a variety of programs at noon on the second Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Guests are always welcome! Past programs have included a Christmas meal, a presentation on bird watching, and times of storytelling.

PRIMETIMERS:
We plan day trips two to three times each year. We have recently made trips to Subiaco Abbey and Garvan Woodland Gardens. Members and guests are always welcome. We are always open to suggestions for our next trip. For more info contact Kisha Bumpers.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

The First United Methodist Church Prayer Team offers a time of prayer at 9 a.m. each weekday in the church prayer room off the chapel to pray for requests from the congregation. The prayer team would like to extend an invitation to meet with us as we pray for our church, community, nation, and world. Please consider joining us, especially if you are new to prayer or want to learn how to pray in community. You may also make prayer requests by placing your concerns in the prayer box at the north entrance to the Sanctuary, the prayer box in the Great Hall lobby or in the Hospitality area.

A Men's Prayer Breakfast group meets at 7:00 a.m. every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome.

ADULT LEAGUE SPORTS

We provide opportunities for fellowship through recreational sports. Men's softball and women's volleyball have been offered in our recent past, but we are willing to organize teams for any sport where there is enough interest. Team registration will be announced in the Witness. Whether you are a player or a spectator, it is great fun and fellowship with church friends. If there is an adult league in which you would like to participate, let us know.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Lauren and Kisha Bumpers co-lead a study a couple times per year if you are looking for a way to grow deeper in your understanding of scripture while also getting to know women of all ages, this would be a great opportunity for you! **Childcare will be provided.** Sign up by contacting Pastor Lauren at ldelano@conwayfumc.org or 501-329-3801.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Join the monthly Book Club that gathers in participants' homes on the third Monday of each month. We will have a snack supper at each meeting. We will read one to two chapters of a book each month and discuss them as we gather together. If you wish to participate, contact Pastor Lauren at ldelano@conwayfumc.org or 501-329-3801.

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join the women of FUMC as we go to Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock for an overnight retreat. A theme and more details will be forthcoming. There will be a small cost of $30 to cover three meals and lodging.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women are women like you. Women of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds: employed, not employed, housewives, business women, retired women, single, married, divorced, widowed, young, middle-aged, and older women. Meetings are scheduled to provide an opportunity for all members to attend some or all Unit and Circle meetings. Circles meet monthly at various times and places. For more info, contact Jamie Bird or Carole Teague.

Food Pantry and Emergency Outreach

Our Mission Statement

In keeping with our calling to serve God and our neighbors, the Food and Outreach Program of the First United Methodist Church of Conway, Arkansas, strives to provide food and financial relief to those persons who are in need.

Hours of Operation of the Food Pantry

We provide bags of groceries to those in need every Thursday from 4 to 6:00/6:30 p.m. Help is always needed to shop for food, fill bags, work with food recipients, etc. You can also support the food pantry by designating a donation to this ministry. This ministry is funded 100 percent by donations. If you would like to volunteer in this vital, busy and encouraging ministry, please contact Kisha Bumpers at kbumpers@conwayfumc.org.

Emergency Outreach Assistance

Although no cash is provided, limited financial support in the form of vouchers for utilities and lodging, and gasoline cards may be provided depending upon the availability of funds. Donations are always appreciated to help fund this ministry.

Purpose and Administration

Our food and financial relief program is for persons unable to provide for themselves and their dependents in emergency situations. This assistance is extended at no charge to all persons on the basis of need alone under guidelines, subject to the approval of the Church Council, established by the Church and Society Committee of the First United Methodist Church of Conway.

Please forward questions, suggestions, or interest in service to church staff liaison Kisha Bumpers, who will refer inquiries to the team of Pantry Coordinators who administrate manpower, inventory/shopping, and recordkeeping/reports.

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We Welcome Your Support

Church and community volunteers make the Food Pantry project possible. Contact Kisha Bumpers or sign up at the hospitality desk to become involved as a stocker, sacker, or pantry-day receptionist. Donations of non-perishable food items are gathered in large, labeled plastic tubs located by worship entrances and the hospitality area. All financial contributions are also welcome: please identify in an envelope or on the memo line of a check as "Food Pantry" or emergency "Outreach." The Food Pantry is affiliated with the Arkansas Foodbank.

Amazing Grace Cafe

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. -- Matthew 25:35

On alternating Thursday nights, First United Methodist Church (1610 Prince St.) and First Presbyterian Church (2400 Prince St.) are offering hot meals free of charge. If you are hungry and in need of a FREE HOT MEAL, please join us every other Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Congregational Care Ministries

Our Congregational Care Committee as well as some other ministries and individuals help to carry out the caring ministries of our church. These include:

- **Hospital Visitation:** Pastors and laity check in daily at Conway Regional Medical Center and other area hospitals as we have members/constituents admitted.
- **Homebound Visitation:** Monthly we bake goodies for our homebound folks and have volunteers drop them off and visit as they are able. We welcome laity to help out with homebound visitation on a regular basis or just as you are available.
- **Rehabilitation Visits:** We welcome laity to help us in following up with our members/constituents after they have been released from the hospital and are at a center or in their home rehabilitating.
- **Spiritual Direction:** We have people from our congregation as well as other Methodist congregations who are trained to be with you as you attempt to deepen your relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in your own personal spirituality.
- **Counseling Services:** We can help refer you to professional counselors.
- **Caring Card Ministries:** Send cards to those who have been hospitalized and/or those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Knitters and Crocheters in our congregation make prayer shawls and baby blankets to contribute to this ministry. The shawls are given to people in our congregation suffering through a hard time. Baby blankets are given when a baby in our congregation is baptized. We welcome knitters and crocheters to contribute your work. We invite those who want to learn to knit or crochet to join us on Wednesday nights during the Fall and Spring as our seasoned folks meet together and help teach you.
- **Bereavement Meals:** We host meals for our families directly before or after memorial/funeral services. This is a great way for us to support our families as they face the death of a loved one. We welcome you to join one of our four meal teams that rotate this responsibility.

Support Group Opportunities

Alzheimer's Support Group for families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. This group is open to the community and meets on the 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in room 216.

Music at First United Methodist Church

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"
(Psalm 150:6)

At First United Methodist Church, we take these words very much to heart. Our music program strives to include people of all ages and levels of experience and to provide all people with the opportunity and the means to praise God through music. Our many choirs and instrumental ensembles lead the congregation in worship weekly, and present special programs at various times during the year. For many, participation in such a group is also a great opportunity for fellowship. Being involved in the music program is an "all-in-one" way to fulfill your promise to support the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Our musical ensembles are ALWAYS delighted to welcome new members.

K-1 Choir (Wednesdays 4:00-4:30, Room 218)
A music opportunity for children who are in kindergarten and first grade. We spend thirty minutes a week singing, moving, playing simple instruments, and learning about God through word and song. They have the opportunity to share their music in worship services about once a month. If you have a "little lark", this group is just for them!

Joyful Sound Choir (Wednesdays 4:30-5:20, Room 218)
This group is for children in grades 2-4, and the goal is to have fun while learning about music through singing, drumming and playing instruments. We work on reading music and rhythms, and we make great friends, too! We encourage the members of this choir to join the Joyful Ringers so they can enhance their musical skills. This group sings in worship services about once a month and they often join with other choirs for special events.

MidYouth Choir (Wednesdays 5:25-6:00, Room 218)

Scheduled between MidYouth Bells rehearsal and regular MidYouth activities, this group for young people in grades 5-7 is a great place to learn about music while enjoying time with friends. We sing a wide variety of music that we share in worship services once a month. We often sing with other choirs and musical groups of our church. Sometimes our rehearsal is a drumming circle to learn about musical concepts in fun, new ways.

C1 Music (Mondays 3:30-4:30, Room 202)

Specially designed for growing musicians in grades 8 and up, this group will extend their musical abilities by exploring a variety of musical experiences. Rehearsals are set on Monday afternoons so students can come directly from their schools. Advanced handbell techniques, mallet/percussion skills, hand drum techniques, accompanying hymns with strings and wind instruments, experiences in worship arts and part-singing are just a few of the challenges for this enthusiastic and multi-talented group.

Joyful Ringers (Wednesdays 5:25-6:00, Room 213)

This choir gives third and fourth graders an introduction to the skills of ringing handchimes and reading music. What the participants learn here complements what they learn in the Joyful Sound Choir and the rehearsal times are designed so young musicians can participate in both groups. This is a great "stepping stone" opportunity to the older handbell choirs. This chime choir rings in one of our three worship services about once a month.

MidYouth Bells (Wednesdays 4:45-5:20, Room 202)

This group gives 5-7 graders the opportunity to ring handbells, enhance their music reading skills, and have fun making music with their friends. The time of rehearsal allows for young musicians to be in both MidYouth Bells and MidYouth Choir. Ringers have the opportunity to ring in worship about once a month and they often add handbell accompaniments to hymns and worship songs. If they wish, ringers in this choir may participate in church-sponsored events such as X-treme Ring; in this event young ringers from all over the state gather to ring and learn and play together.

First Service Singers (rehearse Sundays 8:00-8:45 a.m.)

This small but dedicated group leads the music weekly in our 8:45 sanctuary service. The repertoire draws heavily on a rich and varied tradition of hymns as well as accessible anthems for unison, two-three part and SATB. New members in this group are always needed and cherished!

Chancel Choir (rehearse Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 202.
Chancel Choir leads the music at our 11:00 Sanctuary service each week and at other services throughout the year. This 30-40 voice group sings a wide range of styles and has a lively sense fellowship in, around and outside rehearsal.

Chancel Ringers (rehearse Mondays, 6:45-8:00 p.m., Room 202)
Our "primary" handbell choir for adults assumes some prior knowledge of ringing, or at least of music. (If you can read music, we can teach you to ring a bell in a hurry!) We ring level 3-4 pieces and would LOVE to have a couple of new ringers to join us.

Bells of Grace (rehearse Mondays 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 202)
Originally our "beginning" bell choir, this group has progressed by leaps and bounds, such that we had to change the name! Still a good place for a less experienced ringer, or one who just desires less pressure, these musicians play mostly level 2 pieces and are eager to embrace new recruits.

Adult Praise Band (rehearse Thursdays 7:00-8:30 p.m., Great Hall)
This group leads the music each Sunday in our Good News Celebration service. New band members are always invited! Those interested should be proficient on their instrument, able to learn songs from chord charts and/or recordings, and come to practice on time and prepared. Experience with contemporary Christian music is not required.

Otto Hoffman Pipe Organ
Conway First United Methodist Church is home to a 3-manual, 33-rank Otto Hoffman pipe organ that was installed in the sanctuary in approximately 1962. This current organ replaced an electronic organ that had served the congregation for many years. Otto Hoffman was an organ builder originally from Louisiana. The organ is used in both Sunday sanctuary worship services, as well as for sanctuary funerals, weddings, and other worship events. The organ was re-voiced in the late 1980s, and was re-leathered in 2010. In 2014 the church received a bequest from the estate of a long-time member. This bequest provided funds to replace the original console and add two new ranks of pipes. The work was done by Nichols/Simpson organ builders in Little Rock, Arkansas. The new console was designed and built specifically for this organ, and was installed during March 2016. The new console meets AGO specifications, and offers 100 levels of memory, MIDI capabilities, and transposing options. It stands ready and able to lead the congregation in worship and singing for the next 50 years!

Ways to Get Involved

- **Instrumentalists** — Instrumentalists of all ages and levels of experience are invited to share their talents in worship as soloists or as part of ensembles.
- **Music Committee** — The function of the committee is to support the music program and musicians by assisting with "non-musical" tasks, such as coordinating receptions for special events, moving equipment, helping with fund-raisers, writing thank you notes or newspaper articles.

For more information, contact:

Janet Gingerich (Director of Music & Worship)
jgingerich@conwayfumc.org
Linda Ball (Children's Choirs) lball@conwayfumc.org
Stuart Holt (Praise Bands) sholt@conwayfumc.org