Everybody is talking In Conversation Together

The Foundation’s monthly webinar aims to connect others through interesting speakers and topics.

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas began a new program in October 2020, “In Conversation Together.” Each month the Foundation invites our friends to hear from well-known philanthropists, religious leaders, and popular motivational speakers as they share their work, stories, and visions.

The idea of the conversations came during the height of the COVID pandemic, where we found friends and family were isolated and lonely. The Foundation’s Vice President of Development, Janet Marshall, developed “In Conversation Together” after seeing the opportunity to hear from some special people, learn new things, and have something to look forward to on a regular basis. “I present ideas for speakers, usually that have connections to Arkansas, to the Foundation staff, and we choose from the list of names offered. I then invite the selected person to participate. To encourage people to join the program, we send emails and promote the program on our website and Facebook page. Word-of-mouth also helps get people to join us,” said Marshall. “I think In Conversation Together has been successful because our friends are staying at home and have been interested in the topics we have been able to offer them.”

Since October, the conversations have featured Rev. Mary Jane Cole, speaking on isolation; Christy Moore with Heifer International; Rev. Mackey Yokem with a virtual tour of the Holy Land; author Missy Buchanan; author John Grisham; Master Gardener, Janet Carson; and former Arkansas Razorback and coach, Anthony Lucas.

See a list of our upcoming Conversations (right) and register to join us at methodistfoundationAR.org.

Upcoming Guests

Thursday, May 20, 2021
Bishop Gary Mueller
Episcopal Leader, AR United Methodist Church

Thursday, June 17, 2021
Chelsea Clinton
Author & Vice Chair, The Clinton Foundation

Thursday, July 15, 2021
Craig O’Neill
Media Personality & Philanthropist

Thursday, August 19, 2021
Rev. Juanita Rasmus
St. John’s UMC, Houston, TX

Thursday, Sept 16, 2021
Mary Lewis Dassinger
200,000 More Reasons AR Conference of the UMC
I’m blessed.

At one of the churches I served, Miss Mabelline often kept the nursery. This gentle soul with a prophetic voice was loved by children and adults alike. Occasionally she would babysit my children, but that will be a story for another time.

Mabelline was a retired woman who lived below the poverty-level, and by all measures, had many disadvantages. However, you would never know by her attitude and overall persona. Sometimes I would take Mabelline home or stop by her house with a little something to give her. The house was very minimal, with holes in the front porch and a few holes in the floor inside. She cared for her ill husband when she wasn’t doing volunteer work for her church. Yet, despite all her adversities and lack of money, every time you asked Mabelline how she was doing, she would respond, “I’m blessed.” In how most of the world measures’ blessings, they might not think Mabelline was blessed. But she had family, health, friends, faith, a roof over her head, and food on her table. She reminded all who met her what true blessings mean.

Years later, I worked at Hendrix College, where I had a student who replied, “I’m tired” each time others inquired how he was doing. He lived a good life, went to college, had two parents, and friends. His “always being tired” reflected on his friendships, studies, soul, and attitude, which led him to have a few conversations with me. He couldn’t see all his blessings through his ‘tiredness.’

It’s all how we look at life and our situation. I hope you feel blessed and your life brings blessings to others. I pray amid all the challenges in our world that each of us will continue to realize that God is in charge.

In this edition of Legacies, you will see how people have been a blessing to the Foundation. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know how we can help.

BLESSINGS,
Wayne

Praise for the Perkins 2021 Summit for Faith & Learning

Attendees traveled virtually, from 12 different states and one Canadian province, for “a day of seminary” at the Perkins Summit for Faith & Learning, held online March 19-20, 2021. The Summit is a program led by the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. With the theme “Looking Forward, Learning Together,” the series offered various courses taught by the Perkins faculty and alumni members. Thanks to grant funds,
Scholarship Spotlight
LaToya Shephard

We are excited to announce the Foundation’s Scholarship Selection Committee has awarded a second year of scholarship assistance to LaToya Shepherd. This scholarship is made possible through the Allen Asbury and Roberta Fuller Few Memorial Scholarship. LaToya will continue her seminary education at St. Paul School of Theology in Leawood, KS. LaToya currently serves full-time as the Associate Pastor of Outreach at Heritage United Methodist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas while pursuing a Master of Divinity at St. Paul. She is a certified candidate for ordained ministry on the Elder track. This scholarship award will play a role in enabling her to answer God's call by covering St. Paul's tuition and fees for the year.

Mission u 2021
Arkansas United Methodist Women

The Foundation is a proud sponsor of Mission u. Arkansas Conference Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on recent mission study topics. Mission u is open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women. Mission u offers classes on topics covering three themes: spiritual growth, social issue and geographic studies as well as studies for children and youth. At Mission u, participants grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church. Mission u events also include worship & singing, interest groups around current issues, presentations, and fellowship events.

Mission u will take place on July 28-31, 2021 on the campus of Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. For more information visit armissionu.weebly.com.
the Foundation has sponsored attendees from the Arkansas Conference over the last several years. "This annual event allows people to experience a 'day at seminary' with a deep dive into theological, biblical, and thematic topics," explains Priscilla Pope-Levison, Associate Dean for External Programs. The Summit aims to enhance attendees' understanding of God, the Bible, and spirituality through a deeper concentration than that experienced during a sermon or Sunday morning class.

"I consider the yearly availability of classes at the Perkins Summit part of the continuing journey of discovering the truth and essence that God has provided to us through learning and study," said Kathy Ann Conley, the Lay Leader of the Arkansas Annual Conference. "Participating in a class with seminary professors is a wonderful way for the laity to become more discerning in their views, not to mention this is just another way for their understanding to develop so to bring more of the Word to their congregants."