

# LEGACIES

AUGUST 2025

## Foundation Issues \$30,000 LPI Challenge at Annual Conference



Dr. Carla Cardoza reacts to the news of a \$30,000 grant for Lydia Patterson Institute from the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas as the Rev. Wayne Clark announces the gift and presents the check during the Arkansas Annual Conference in June.

*ARUMC photos / Rev. Corey Read*

Methodist Foundation for Arkansas President and CEO the Rev. Wayne Clark planned a surprise for this year's Arkansas Annual Conference session in Hot Springs.

It took the cooperation of MFA's Grant Administration Committee in quietly allocating the funds, plus the willingness of Bishop Laura Merrill and her staff to ensure Clark would be called upon to deliver the MFA report immediately before the Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI) report.

LPI, also known affectionately as "La Lydia," educates students in grades 6 through 12 who live on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. It is a ministry of the South Central Jurisdiction of the

UMC, an eight-state area that includes Arkansas, and each year La Lydia's President, Dr. Carla Cardoza, visits the connected Annual Conferences to provide updates on this mission that has worked to educate children in the El Paso-Juarez area since 1913.

At the close of his June 20 report to the Conference, Clark spoke of a February visit he and other leaders of Methodist foundations had made to LPI, sharing some of the inspiration they experienced and the needs they saw there. He then turned to Dr. Cardoza and presented a \$30,000 check for LPI.

Following the applause of Conference members, he issued a challenge to them and their churches:

*see LPI CHALLENGE on page 9*

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## A MESSAGE FROM WAYNE

Rev. J. Wayne Clark  
President & CEO

# Here for the Miracles

In Eastertide and Pentecost, the church year holds space for the miraculous: Jesus, dead three days, risen and walking again among the disciples. The dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit, descending on each person, enabling them to speak and understand the message God wants us all to hear.

Amid these liturgical seasons, we also experience the beauty of spring and summer here in Arkansas. Yet, that beauty has been paired with reminders of nature's destructive force. We respond with our ability and calling to help neighbors who are inundated by water and wind. In late June, our Lusk Training Center temporarily transformed into a Central District Disaster Response depot, where interns from Project Transformation Arkansas worked alongside MFA staff with direction from Roy and Shelley Lee, assembling cleaning buckets that will help local churches help their neighbors when such disasters strike close to home.

This spring at MFA, we gave thanks at our annual Bishops' Club Luncheon through fellowship and celebration with givers who anchor our growing Grants Program. We thanked a number of our MFA Seminary Scholars, too, at a luncheon just for them, where Bishop Laura Merrill offered words of encouragement for their service to God and neighbor. And in addition to PT Arkansas's visit to our Little Rock office, in July they joined us at a Travelers game for some much-needed recreation (re-creation!) time that gave MFA staffers another chance to thank them for their summer of service.

Really, we live in a spirit of thankfulness at MFA all year long. Our Grant Committee meets monthly to review applications from ministries throughout the state seeking a financial boost to help them achieve their world-transforming goals. Our staff looks forward to the committee's emails; it's a miracle we have the privilege of seeing 12 times a year, and one that requires our sustained effort to help it continue. You'll see some of the results in these pages.

What miracles are you seeing this season? Where is God doing a new thing? The results are all around us; all we have to do is bear witness.



# NWA Gives

NWA Gives launched seven years ago, hosting its first Day of Giving on April 5, 2018. That first regional day of giving had 115 nonprofits participating from across Benton and Washington counties. Together, they raised \$208,000 in 12 hours — not bad for its first year!

OUT  
& ABOUT  
WITH  
AMY

Amy McGovern  
Northwest Arkansas  
Development Officer



Doug Matayo, President of the Board for NWA Gives, tours the OMP Northwest Arkansas office with Jules Anderson.

However, over the last seven years, NWA Gives has grown. Although the big push is on one day of collective giving each year, it has developed into a year-long giving campaign for nonprofits in Northwest Arkansas. This year's event happened on April 3 and in only 12 hours, 131 local organizations received \$1,165,653 from 3,946 donors! How incredible is that?! It was heartening to see a million dollars raised for NWA nonprofits in such a small timeframe.

This remarkable statistic reminds me that we live in an amazingly charitable community that supports many wonderful and worthy organizations. And it's one of the major reasons the Foundation opened an office in NWA: to better partner with that big spirit of generosity in this part of the state. I'm in a unique position in that not only do I get to work with the wonderful people in the Methodist congregations here, but also with a number of nonprofits whose services overlap with the Foundation's grant priorities.

So, as this year's NWA Gives Day was ramping up, I started to receive emails from nonprofit organizations that I have had the pleasure to get to know and support through either our grant or sponsorship programs—all a result of the connectional nature that Methodism practices and promotes. This approach is crucial and so present in all the work that these churches and nonprofits do to help those in need.

The Foundation can collaborate with so many of these organizations because of our relationships and partnerships with churches, institutions, and individuals across the state. Without their trust in us managing their accounts or being members of the Bishops' Club, we would not be able to have the thriving grants program that allows us to give back to our communities in need. Fun Fact: Did you know that since 2010, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$16 million in grants? It's true!

So friends, let's continue to do what our Methodist "father," John Wesley, encouraged:

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.*



NWA Gives yard signs ready for pickup by local nonprofits to display around the community.



Former FUMC Bella Vista pastor Ron Hayes presents a check to Jules Anderson (left) and Bailey Faulkner (right) of Ozark Mission Project.

## CONTACT US

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# Foundation's Grant Administration Committee Awards Nearly a Quarter Million Dollars in Q2 2025

## *Running total for grant disbursement in 2025 surpasses \$835,000*

The Grant Administration Committee of the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas (MFA) Board of Directors has awarded a total of 15 grants in their three monthly meetings of the second quarter, bringing total granted funds to \$249,029.69 for the calendar quarter and more than \$835,000 for the year to date.

Grantees and their award amounts during the second quarter are:

**First United Methodist Church of Sheridan:** \$14,400 for the church's summer 2025 feeding ministry, which serves 400 children weekly.

**Imprint: Central District Council on Youth Ministry of the UMC:** \$7,400 for food ministry supplies during a one-day mission service project at Asbury UMC of Little Rock.

**Methodist Family Health:** \$35,000 for MFH's community health initiatives Arkansas CARES (\$10,000); Holiday and Christmas Celebration (\$10,000); and the HERO program (\$15,000).

**Hendrix College:** \$50,000 toward a larger commitment supporting a major renovation of historic women's dormitory Galloway Hall.

**AR Kids Read:** \$20,650 to assist AR Kids Read in working with seven Arkansas school districts during summer 2025. The programs, housed at local libraries and out-of-school program sites, are projected to serve more than 500 students.

**Heart of the Bay:** \$7,500 to assist a community feeding ministry based in Fairfield Bay that serves nearly 500 households through multiple distribution sites in Van Buren and Cleburne counties.

**Hunter UMC of Little Rock:** \$3,750 to fund the congregation's food pantry and community garden.

**Spiritual Direction Program:** a total of \$20,000, allocated for no more than \$2,000 per participant, for a two-year program administered through the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Church (ARUMC).

**Fisher Street UMC of Jonesboro:** \$7,200 for the church's summer feeding ministry.

**First UMC of West Memphis:** \$15,000 for their food pantry, which serves approximately 12,000 meals per year.

**ARUMC Community Outreach:** \$18,026 for a series of events relating to the "One More Question" community involvement emphasis of the Arkansas Annual Conference. Using "The Learning Tree" and its leaders, the Rev. Michael Mather and D'Amon Harges, they seek to provide continued training for congregations.

**Healthy Church Academy of the ARUMC:** \$9,403.69 to provide two in-person learning sessions for clergy and laity on: 1. Conflict and Communication, and 2. Practices of Resilience. These sessions will serve as the launch for the Healthy Church Academy. The grant will also provide funding for congregational leaders to develop stronger connections with their pastors by understanding their perspectives and their calling.

**Arkansas UMC Clergywomen's Fall 2025 Retreat:** \$7,500 to support a three-day event at Mount Eagle Retreat Center that offers Arkansas Conference clergywomen time to come together in worship, learning,

and community building to aid in self-care and spiritual renewal.

**Loaves and Fishes Food Ministry of Salem UMC Conway:** \$3,200 to assist with purchase of protein-rich entrees, canned vegetables, fruit, breakfast items, and child-friendly foods.

**Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI):** In collaboration with other Methodist Foundations across the eight-state South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the Foundation in June announced a grant of \$30,000 to assist El Paso, Texas-based Lydia Patterson Institute. LPI serves students in grades 6 through 12 who live on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, and 98% of its students go on to attend college. The Foundation has issued a matching challenge to Arkansas United Methodists, inviting them to give to the Foundation's LPI Fund, and expects to see the amount at least doubled in response.

### Grants Beyond Committee Action

In addition to the grants above and those announced at the close of the first quarter, the Foundation has made other disbursements since January 1:

- to support programs that began receiving approved funding before the current fiscal year, and
- smaller disbursements that do not require committee action based upon the bylaws of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

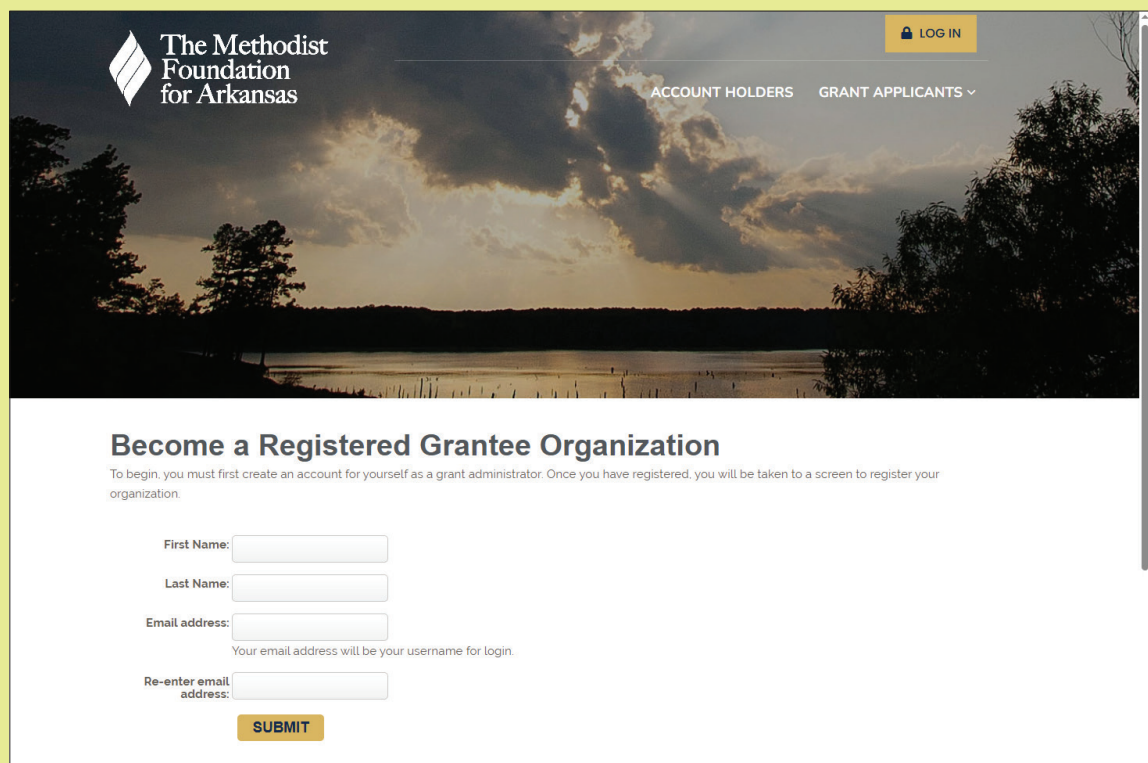
Like the disbursements through the Grant Administration Committee,



# MFA LAUNCHES NEW GRANT PORTAL

## 100% ONLINE PROCESS NOW READY FOR APPLICANTS

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas welcomes grant proposals from Methodist and Pan-Methodist churches and organizations, as well as non-church-related community nonprofits that pursue goals aligning with one or more of the priorities listed at [methodistfoundationAR.org/grants](http://methodistfoundationAR.org/grants). A new link on the Grants page of the MFA site is essential for churches and organizations planning to request grant funds: The sidebar on the Grants page now contains the “Set Up Your Grant Portal” button, which leads to the screen pictured below.

The screenshot shows the 'Become a Registered Grantee Organization' page. At the top, there's a header with the MFA logo and navigation links for 'ACCOUNT HOLDERS' and 'GRANT APPLICANTS'. Below the header is a large image of a lake at sunset. The main content area has a title 'Become a Registered Grantee Organization' followed by a brief instruction. Below this are four input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email address', and 'Re-enter email address'. A 'SUBMIT' button is at the bottom. A small note indicates that the email address will be used as the login username.

**Because this is a completely new system, previous grant recipients must set up their Grant Portal before submitting an application, even if the organization has previously received funding from MFA. All new grant proposals must be submitted through the Grant Portal.**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

these gifts span the 11 grant priorities of MFA, including clergy and laity educational opportunities, clergy self-care, community health, fostering inclusivity and understanding among groups of people with differing beliefs and backgrounds, enabling education and employment, environmental awareness and energy education, evangelism and discipleship, food insecurity, ministries with unhoused persons, ministries that attempt to reverse poverty in local communities,

and charitable support for organizations that provide immediate assistance to persons in need.

These additional disbursements — ranging from \$500 for a community “blessing box” that helps a local church address urgent food insecurity in its neighborhood to providing the final \$100,000 of a three-year commitment to the Hope Scholarship initiative, which makes undergraduate education possible for students with low incomes — bring the total grant funds issued between January 1 and June 30 to more than \$835,000.

“The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas is grateful to the many partners who have helped grow our endowment so that we can offer this level of support,” said MFA President and CEO the Rev. J. Wayne Clark. “So many clergy and laity have made large and small bequests over the years. The Foundation continues to manage these funds to maintain a steady flow of resources, enabling us to help our churches and communities through our Grant Program.”

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# Laity: Apply for Civil Rights Journey, April 21-25, 2026

## MFA to cover part of cost for travel and accommodations

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas offers study/travel opportunities rooted in its commitment to resourcing leadership development and spiritual growth for United Methodist laity and clergy. The Civil Rights Journey for Laity, planned for April 21-25, 2026, builds upon the Arkansas Conference UMC's Dismantling Racism Initiative.

The Foundation will subsidize approximately 50% of each selected participant's cost for the five-day experience, which includes:

- Hotel accommodations in Tulsa, Memphis, Birmingham, and Montgomery
- Breakfast and dinner each day
- Private motor coach transportation
- Tours of more than a dozen museums and historic sites across four states
- Group conversation with at least one leader in the Civil Rights Movement



**Applications are due by October 1, 2025**, and applicants will learn their selection status by November 1. Those selected will need to secure their reservation with a \$300 deposit by December 3, with the remaining balance (either \$287.50 or \$415 depending on final group size) due in March. Travelers may also upgrade to private lodging for an added fee.

Feeling called to pursue this immersive learning opportunity? Visit [methodistfoundationar.org/civil-rights-journey-2026](https://methodistfoundationar.org/civil-rights-journey-2026) for information and the link to apply. Questions before applying? Please contact Cathy Hall at 501-664-8632 or [chall@methodisfoundationAR.org](mailto:chall@methodisfoundationAR.org).

## International Clergy Cohort Visits Greece and Turkey, Envisions Paul's Journeys

The MFA cohort that traveled to Turkey and Greece in February to follow in the Apostle Paul's footsteps included 15 pastors from around Arkansas. Their visits to these sites provided context for the story of how the Good News of Jesus Christ spread to Europe and beyond.



Members of the MFA international cohort that journeyed together in February explored Greece and Turkey through the lens of the Apostle Paul's travels in the region.



# Resources from MFA for National Make-A-Will Month



August is

**NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH**



The Methodist  
Foundation  
for Arkansas

Did you know that 60% of people die without a will? What happens to everything these people worked and saved for? How do they know that the loved ones and charities they care for are taken care of after they're gone? Sadly, people who die with no will have no say over the distribution of their assets—they are dispersed according to the estate laws governing their state.

With a will, YOU decide how your estate will be distributed, and your loved ones avoid a lengthy probate process. You can avoid legal challenges to your estate, and you can leave legacy gifts to the nonprofits that you value.

## **PAL: Available All Year from MFA**

One way to get started on the will-making process: Talk with your church leadership about inviting the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas to present **Planning a Legacy (PAL)**. In addition to a presentation from a staff member of the Foundation, this 90-minute seminar includes a meal, a Q&A with an attorney, childcare, and take-home resources — and is offered at no cost to you or your church.



The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas offers the 90-minute **Planning a Legacy** seminar and meal at no cost to local churches or attendees.



## **Archive of Learning Zoom Available Online**

The Foundation recently hosted "**Demystifying Wills & Trusts**," a free Zoom session led by attorney Jarred Kibbey. A recording is now archived on the Foundation's website, [methodistfoundationAR.org](https://methodistfoundationAR.org); under **News & Events**, look for the "**Learning Videos**" link. The page contains this most recent resource plus Learning Zooms on several other topics, such as donor-advised funds and grant opportunities available through MFA.

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# Mobile Laundry Ministry Gets Rolling

## A Methodist Foundation for Arkansas Grant Update



Above left: First United Methodist Church of Little Rock's Lil' Rock 'n Roll Wash, a church van repurposed to help neighbors who need laundry services, sits ready to serve. Above right: Scotty Shivley works a shift in the Lil' Rock 'n Roll Wash.

Photos by Rev. Haley Jones Wells

The Lil' Rock 'n Roll Wash, a new ministry of First UMC Little Rock that received a startup grant from the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas in 2024, celebrated its grand opening June 2.

As of late July, it had completed more than 70 loads of laundry, answering a need voiced by many of the neighbors who visit the church's Community Café on weekday afternoons. Clean clothes give comfort

and self-esteem a boost, in addition to being necessary for job interviews and work shifts. Members and staff of First UMC did the bulk of the planning and work to repurpose one of the church vans to hold two washer-dryer units and water tanks.

The Rev. Haley Jones Wells, the church's pastor of community engagement, urges anyone interested in helping to choose a time at [www.fumclr.org/serve](http://www.fumclr.org/serve).

"Right now, we have one regular Tuesday volunteer and about 6-7 callout volunteers — people who will fill in when needed," says Wells. "We are looking for people who can come every week!"

FUMCLR hopes to take Lil' Rock 'n Roll Wash on the road soon, beginning with stops at Canvas Community, a nearby United Methodist ministry that works with unhoused community members.

## MFA STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to three Methodist Foundation for Arkansas staff members on their recent achievements:

- **Kristin Hartman:** Promoted to Senior Director of Accounting
- **Orea Meeks:** Earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Central Arkansas; title change to Account & Operations Analyst
- **Cathy Hall:** Earned Certification in Event Planning from the International Association of Professions Career College



HARTMAN



MEEKS



HALL

"We have a wonderful staff at the Foundation who never stop finding ways to learn and grow," said the Rev. J. Wayne Clark, MFA President and CEO. "I'm proud of Kristin, Orea, and Cathy and the different ways they use their ever-growing expertise to further our mission."



# Stock Gifts Offer Benefit for Ministry and the Giver

When you support your favorite causes, you may instinctively reach for cash. But if you have stocks in your portfolio that have generated substantial gains over the past few years, using them for charitable giving may work most effectively. Donating these non-cash assets could benefit ministries you value while enabling you to realize tax savings.



If you were to sell your long-term appreciated stock to donate the cash, you would owe capital gains tax. But if you donate the stock directly to a public charity, such as your local church or the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, you would avoid the capital gains tax and also become eligible for an immediate income tax deduction. You save on taxes while ensuring the full amount of the stock value supports the charity of your choice.

Many congregations do not have brokerage accounts, which is where the Foundation can help: We can liquidate your donated stock through our brokerage firm, then transfer the proceeds to your congregation or to a fund here at the Foundation that benefits your congregation. This process ensures you have the flexibility to determine how your gift will make an impact.

Want to know more? Contact us at one of the numbers at the bottom of this page.

## LPI CHALLENGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

match or exceed the amount of the Foundation's grant to LPI by contributing to MFA's LPI Fund, which sends 100% of its gifts to La Lydia.

"All the foundations across our Jurisdiction decided to collaborate to bring attention to the essential ministry of Lydia Patterson Institute, and to provide assistance for it to continue," Clark says. "It was my joy to be able to bring the need to the MFA Grant Committee, then to deliver the result of their



Give to the  
LPI Fund at



benefiting **Lydia Patterson Institute**  
(lpi-elpaso.org)

decision to Dr. Cardoza while sharing the need for support with the members of our Conference. The next part is up to our local churches, groups like United Women in Faith, and individual United Methodists to feel that urgency and make a difference in the lives of these students."

During Annual Conference, LPI remained unsure of what the latest State Department restrictions will mean for the 99% of La Lydia's students who must walk across the border each day to attend school (approximately 40% are Mexican nationals and 60% are U.S. citizens living in Mexico). But regardless of how border restrictions may evolve, La Lydia needs funding to continue educating her students and changing lives. To learn more about LPI and its mission that goes back more than a century, visit [www.lpi-elpaso.org](http://www.lpi-elpaso.org), or follow Lydia Patterson Institute on Facebook or Instagram.

To contribute to the LPI Fund, use the QR code at left, visit [methodistfoundationar.org/give](http://methodistfoundationar.org/give), or mail your check to the Foundation's Little Rock office (address on page 12) with "LPI Fund" in the memo line.

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## Seven New Members Join MFA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas (MFA) has elected seven new members:

**Kathy Conley**, a member of First United Methodist Church of Blytheville, serves as Lay Leader of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She is also a Certified Lay Servant and a member of the Northeast District Committee on Ministry.

**Maurica Dooley** of Forrest City, a farmer and co-owner of Happy Farms Feed and Farm Supply, has served in multiple lay leadership positions in First United Methodist Church of Forrest City, including education chair, worship committee chair, and her current role as Church Council chair.

**Beverly Lyn-Cook, Ph.D.**, of Little Rock, Senior Interdisciplinary Research Biologist in the Division of Biochemical Toxicology, the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), is a member of Hunter United Methodist Church, where she serves in multiple ways, including as Lay Leader.

**Dr. Stephen Routon** of Little Rock, a radiologist with CARTI, is a member of St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock; before attending medical school at UAMS, he graduated from Hendrix College with a major in chemistry and minor in religion.

**Megan Rugg** of Little Rock is Chief Financial Officer at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, where she and her family are members. She is a licensed

CPA in Arkansas, a member of the Hendrix Alumni Association Board of Governors, treasurer of the Pulaski Heights UMC United Women in Faith unit, and an active Fulbright Elementary PTA member.

**Jonathan VanHorn** is Founder and President of Tooth & Coin, a Little Rock-based CPA firm that exclusively serves dental practice owners across the U.S. He is a member of St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

**The Rev. Dane Womack**, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Paragould, is a Cave City native who attended Duke Divinity School on an MFA Seminary Scholarship. He currently chairs the Northeast District Trustees and is a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

The new Board members were announced June 30 and will officially begin their service at a two-day retreat in November. However, because of regularly scheduled committee meetings, new members who sit on the Grant Administration Committee started participating in June and members on the Finance Committee began their service in July.

"The Foundation is so pleased to welcome all of these new members," said MFA President & CEO the Rev. J. Wayne Clark. "I look forward to seeing how they each use their gifts and knowledge to help MFA find ways to carry out its work even more effectively, which will benefit an even broader variety of ministries across the state."



# ROGERS, SHEPHERD NAMED SEMINARY SCHOLARS

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has selected Grace Rogers and LaToya Shepherd as 2025 Seminary Scholars. Their MFA Seminary Scholarships will cover the full tuition of the United Methodist seminaries at which they are enrolled.

Rogers is entering her third year at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; Shepherd is a licensed local pastor in Arkansas and attends Saint Paul School of Theology, which has campuses in Leawood, Kansas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



ROGERS

Every MFA Seminary Scholarship recipient signs a covenant agreement committing to serve two years under appointment as a deacon or elder in the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church for each year of scholarship support received.

Since the program's inception, the Foundation has awarded more than 40 Seminary Scholarships to students attending one of the 13 U.S.-based United Methodist seminaries, with five full-time seminary students enrolled as Foundation scholarship recipients for the fall semester of 2025.



SHEPHERD

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas Seminary Scholarships aim to strengthen Methodist churches in Arkansas by ensuring strong leadership in communities throughout the state. These scholarships enable some of the best and brightest students to answer

God's call and become clergy serving through local churches within Arkansas. Assisting these students is important and satisfying work, and MFA donors have responded generously in making these scholarships possible.

## MFA Supports BackPacks for Kids Program in NWA

Samaritan Community Center's BackPacks for Kids effort helps prepare at-risk children across Northwest Arkansas for the school year by giving them backpacks filled with age-appropriate school supplies.

For three years, the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas has provided sponsorship support for this effort, and this year, SCC invited MFA to help distribute the packs.

Northwest Arkansas Development Officer

Northwest Arkansas Development Officer Amy McGovern, right, presents a supply-filled backpack to a student at the July 26 BackPacks for Kids event.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCGOVERN



Amy McGovern, her husband Michael McGovern, and her son Jacob Anderson represented MFA in distributing the supplies July 26 at Arvest Ballpark in Springdale. The effort resulted in the distribution of 4,000 backpacks, 84,800 pencils, and 6,300 binders, with over 300 volunteers and 165 community partners participating to ensure the area's children and youth have what they need to begin the school year.

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# Project Transformation Arkansas Interns at Work and Play with MFA

After a week of leading, encouraging, mentoring, and teaching elementary-age students at their summer-long programs in Pine Bluff and Little Rock, Project Transformation Arkansas interns on June 27 did some experiential learning at MFA's Little Rock office. They participated in a key element of disaster response ministry by assembling Cleaning Buckets (formerly called Flood Buckets) with guidance from Roy and Shelley Lee, who help with disaster response through the Conference and the Central District, as well as United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Arkansas churches will keep these kits at the ready for when a disaster strikes nearby. As they worked, the interns learned about standards set by UMCOR for disaster response kits that can be sent far and wide. Over lunch, they also heard about the MFA Seminary Scholarship program from Director of Development the Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, who was a Seminary Scholar herself.



In addition to the morning of service-learning, interns joined MFA for dinner and the Arkansas Travelers game July 9 at Dickey-Stephens Park. PT Arkansas made a difference in young lives this summer at their two sites in Pine Bluff and Little Rock, and the Foundation was glad to provide an evening of fun in appreciation for all they do!



MFA is grateful to support PT Arkansas. Learn about this ministry that seeks to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships at [projecttransformation.org/arkansas](http://projecttransformation.org/arkansas).

## 32 Arkansans Prepare Relief Supplies at UMCOR's Sager-Brown Depot

February brought an MFA-sponsored adventure in service for 32 Arkansans, primarily laity. They gathered in Baldwin, Louisiana, to work alongside staff at Sager-Brown Depot, a ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Arkansas servants joined groups from Texas and Tennessee to prepare Health Kits and Cleaning Buckets to be sent to areas where flooding, wildfires, and other disasters make such resources scarce at exactly the time when they are needed most. Some group members also fanned out into the Baldwin community to meet needs identified by UMCOR staff, such as building wheelchair ramps, organizing an area thrift store's new donations, and visiting residents of an assisted living facility. Learn more about serving at Sager-Brown Depot by visiting [umcmmission.org/umcor-supply-depots](http://umcmmission.org/umcor-supply-depots).







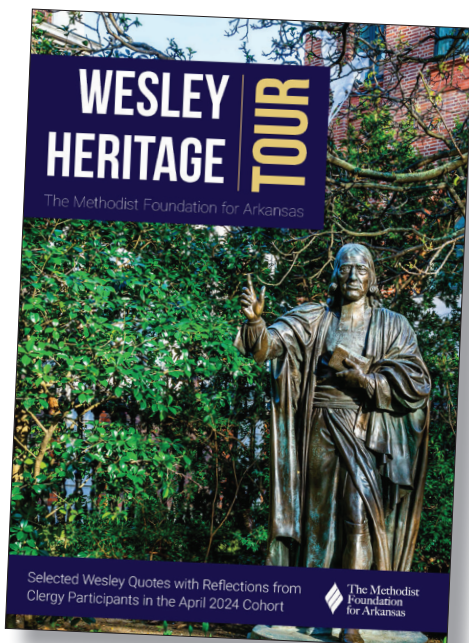
## Central AR Methodist Lawyers Conference Set for Sept. 18 *Second Conference Added in Northwest Arkansas on April 9, 2026*

The Central Arkansas Methodist Lawyers Conference will convene at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, at Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock. A registration link and details of the agenda will soon be available on the Foundation News page of [methodistfoundationAR.org](https://methodistfoundationAR.org).

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas will add a second Lawyers Conference to its event schedule in the coming year, increasing the conference's reach and providing double the opportunities

for continuing legal education. The Northwest Arkansas Methodist Lawyers Conference will be held Thursday, April 9, 2026, at Central UMC in Fayetteville.

Both of these day-long events are offered at no charge to Arkansas Methodist attorneys. Their agendas will cover separate topics relevant to the work of representing churches and congregations, so a participant in the September event may choose to attend the April event, as well.



## Limited Copies Available: Wesley Heritage Tour Booklet with Participant Reflections

The Foundation recently produced a limited-run, 16-page booklet featuring reflections from participants in last year's Wesley Heritage international clergy cohort journey to England. If you have not received a copy but would like to have one, please contact Cathy Hall at 501-664-8632 or [chall@methodistfoundationAR.org](mailto:chall@methodistfoundationAR.org).

*"We just got our Wesley Quotes booklet from the Foundation. Love it! Especially since I'm helping teach a study on Methodism right now. On Sunday we talked about early missions, The New Room and The Foundry. I actually thought of you, Wayne, and wished I had been to those places. Thank you!" —Rev. Lu Harding*

**CONTACT US**  
501.664.8632 (LR) OR 479.957.3089 (NWA)



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2025 | MFA



MFA staff members attended the Project Transformation luncheon held April 9 at St. James UMC Little Rock. From left: Rev. Wayne Clark, Emily Madden, Rev. C.E. McAdoo, Amy Forbus, and Cathy Hall.

Our House Executive Director Ben Goodwin visits with Rynnett & Wayne Clark at the groundbreaking for Our House's latest capital project.



Helen Guenter and Maurica Dooley



The Rev. Wayne Clark greets attendees of the Bishops' Club Luncheon.



MFA provided stipends to clergywomen from the Arkansas Conference UMC to attend this spring's Lead(HER) Conference in Leawood, Kansas.



During the 2025 Arkansas Annual Conference, clergy from MFA presented each newly ordained clergyperson a leather-bound United Methodist Hymnal embossed with their name. From left: Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, Rev. Jerrod Bacchus, Rev. C.E. McAdoo; Kilbourne, Rev. Daniel Curry; Rev. Mackey Yokem, Rev. Chad Hornsby, Rev. Miranda Hornsby, Kilbourne; Rev. Abbey Maynard, Yokem.



The Rev. Jesse James offers the closing prayer at the 2025 Bishops' Club Luncheon.



# MOMENTS | BISHOPS' CLUB LUNCHEON, MAY 16, 2025



Members of the Journeys of Paul Cohort who traveled together to Greece and Turkey earlier this year attended the 2025 Bishops' Club gathering at Camp Aldersgate.



Kathy Cooper, Craig Wood, the Rev. Chris Cooper, and Nancy Wood



Rev. Sara Pair and Rev. Dane Womack



The Rev. Wayne and Rynnett Clark with Kim and The Honorable Mark Leverett. Judge Leverett served as keynote speaker for this year's Bishops' Club gathering.



Mable, Andrea, and Dr. Charles Donaldson



Matthew Anderson, Dr. Sarah Argue, and Elise Argue

*Bishops' Club photos by Margo Duvall*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Foundation grants are funded in part by gifts made through the Bishops' Club. Learn about membership at [methodistfoundationAR.org/bishops-club](https://methodistfoundationAR.org/bishops-club).

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# NADIA BOLZ-WEBER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025  
staples auditorium | hendrix college  
conway, arkansas | 7 p.m.  
free admission | no reservation required

also leading at the  
JOHN & MARJEM GILL  
PREACHING WORKSHOP  
NOVEMBER 3-4, 2025  
[hendrix.edu/gillworkshop](http://hendrix.edu/gillworkshop)

presented by



New York Times bestselling author, ordained Lutheran pastor, and creator and host of The Confessional podcast **Nadia Bolz-Weber** will visit Hendrix College in November. Known for her raw, authentic storytelling and radical grace, Bolz-Weber brings a fresh voice to faith, justice, and what it means to be human.

Her public talk on **Monday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. in Staples Auditorium** is free, with no reservations required.

Bolz-Weber will also lead this year's John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop, which begins earlier in the day on Nov. 3 and concludes Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 4. Registration is available at **[www.hendrix.edu/gillworkshop](http://www.hendrix.edu/gillworkshop)**.

This event is co-sponsored by the Hendrix College Office of Religious Life and its John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop, and also by the Compelling Preaching Initiative (CPI), which is funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment and administered by the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas.

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