

November 2024

Conley's United Methodist Church

THE CONNECTION

In essentials, unity In non-essentials, liberty In all things, charity



THERE IS
ALWAYS
SOMETHING
TO BE
thankful FOR.



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Special Points of Interest

- Poetry, Prayers, and Words of Wisdom
- Notable Days in Nov.



The Pastor's Pen

a word from Pastor Bill Davis

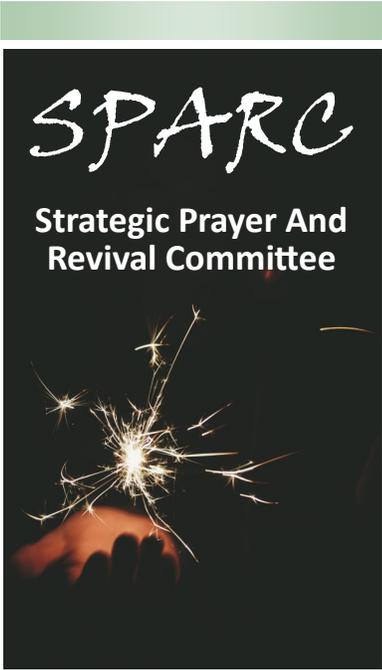
*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17*

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who gave me gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month in October. Conley's SPRC chairperson, Tina Washington, came up with a unique idea in suggesting gift cards to your favorite local restaurants. I have enjoyed taking Susan on "dates," and, because of your generosity, I am looking forward to many more dates to come. Your gifts have provided us with a delicious start to the Thanksgiving season - thank you!

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. For years I have encouraged the congregations I have served to regard the time beginning with All Saints Day and concluding with Thanksgiving Day as the "Thanksgiving Season." I encourage all of you to send Thanksgiving Cards to people who have blessed you in the past year. It is a small gesture, but it can have a profound, positive impact. Dr. Gail Saltz of Cornell Medical Center says, "Writing a note to someone you feel is deserving of your thanks can shift your focus to the positive, and a recent study revealed that note will mean more than you think to its recipient" (*How Gratitude is Good for Your Health, Health Matters*, November 2023).

The passage above tells us that it is God's will for followers of Jesus to give thanks. It should not be surprising, then, that research has shown those who regularly express gratitude are healthier and happier. Let us strive—as a congregation and as individuals—to be thankful people. And may this be a blessed Thanksgiving Season for us all.





Why is Prayer Important?

The Path of Righteousness

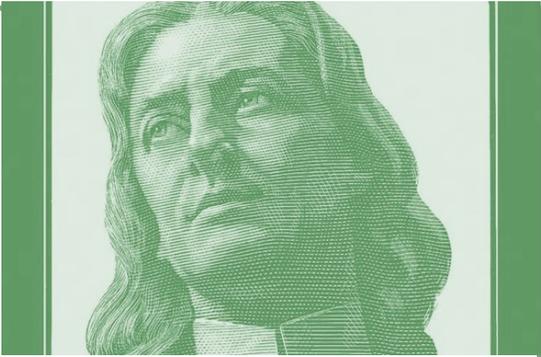
*Reverence for the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...Proverbs 1:7
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5
I run in the path of Your commands, for You have broadened my understand-
ing. Psalm 119:32
You have made known to me the paths of life; You will fill me with the joy of
Your presence. Acts 2:28; Psalm 16:11
Be perfect as Your heavenly Father is perfect Matthew 5:48*

Righteous Lord Jesus, we gain our righteousness through our faith in You. Righteous living does not happen overnight, nor does it come to us by our own power. At the moment of our repentance and baptism, The Holy Spirit enters our hearts and sets us on the path of righteousness. We seek the Holy Father and You lead us to Him. You fill our hearts and minds with wisdom and knowledge which leads to understanding; which leads to acceptance; which leads to trust; which leads to obedience; which leads to righteous living; which leads to perfection; which leads to the glory of God. Guide us as we set our feet on the path to righteous living. Grant us increasing knowledge and understandings as we take up the mantle of the gospel of love following Your lead. Fill our cups to overflowing to others who hunger and thirst for Your love. With gratitude In Your Holy and Righteous name, we give You praise and glory, Amen.

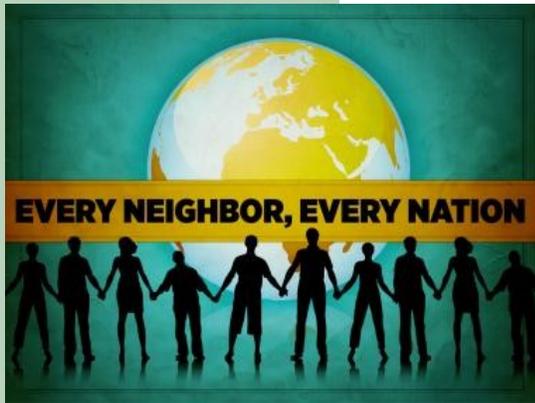
You have made known to me the paths of life;
You will fill me with the joy of Your presence.
Acts 2:28; Psalm 16:11

O, Begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises... Whether you like it or no, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days...Do justice to your own soul; give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer.

—John Wesley



Greetings from the Missions Team



Did you know?

Conley's distributes 10% of all income from church offerings to local, national, and international missions programs.

Your Mission Team and Youth Director

are planning a mission trip for youth and adults to Appalachia Missionary Conference (formerly Red Bird Missionary Conference). We are making plans for this summer 2025. Before we register, we will need to establish

what your interest would be in volunteering/supporting this mission trip.

A few things you should know first:

Groups of at least 5 people, including at least 2 adults 19yrs or older – leaders will need to complete a background check if yours is more than 3yrs old.

All volunteers must be 11+ and have completed 6th grade.

\$95 non-refundable deposit – paid

Top choices for week of service – July 6-12 or July 13-19,

Top choice for service locations - TBD

This service opportunity requires a total cost of \$375 per volunteer for the week. Each volunteer will be responsible for this amount. Scholarships will be available through ASP and Conley's UMC. Fundraising opportunities will be available.

For additional information or to volunteer please contact:

Jess Mastriana jessmastriana@icloud.com 302-545-7673

or Marie Van Der Wall mavanderwall@gmail.com 302-249-7897 or the church office 302-945-1881.

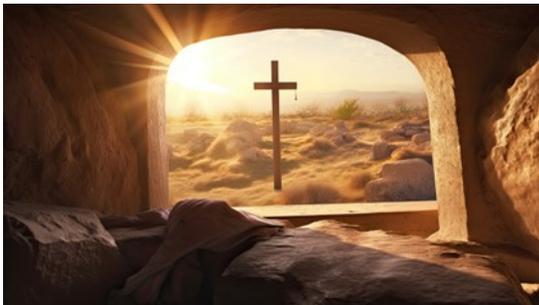
Transform lives. Answer prayers. Americans living in poverty need you.

[Youth Mission Trips - Appalachia Service Project \(asphome.org\)](http://asphome.org)

Evangelism Team News

How Can We Evolve/Improve the Lenten Devotional?

Do you remember this picture from the 2024 Lenten Devotional?



Thanks to all who contributed to the 2024 Lenten Devotion book. Several people have expressed interest in us doing another Lenten Devotional book in 2025. (Did you know that Ash Wednesday is on March 5th next year?)

Before we start asking people for contributions to the devotional starting in January, **we want to provide you the opportunity to provide feedback on how we can evolve and improve it** to make it easier for people to contribute and hopefully encourage broader participation. We welcome any and all ideas!

One idea for the 2025 edition of Conley's Lenten book is to mostly have a book of pictures or artwork instead of mostly personal testimonies. However, while just a relevant Lenten-related picture or artwork would be fine as someone's contribution, some think **we should leave it up to the contributor as to whether they also want to include a relevant scripture verse, prayer or hymn** or, like last year, provide a personal testimony of their Christian faith if they want. Right now, that seems to be the direction we are taking for the 2025 Lenten book edition. However, we think it's important to see what others might suggest! What do you think?

Please provide your ideas and any feedback to me or Louise Finn via email, or in person at church.

Thanks for your consideration and helpful comment!

Jerry Pawlikowski
gjpawlikowski@verizon.net

SOCIAL CONCERNS

A HELPING HAND FOR THOSE IN NEED



Solitary religion is not to be found . . . The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social religion; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.

(From John Wesley's intro to "Hymns and Sacred Poems.")

The Latest from Conley's Social Concerns Team

Soup for the Soul

The Wednesday Soup Social continues to have a fairly large group of diners; between 35 and 50 per week. We have been serving three kinds of soup plus sandwiches, desserts and beverages. Soup Social needs your help to keep our freezer stocked with soups and to provide a variety of desserts each week. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Contact Dale Kehrer with questions.

Feeding the Flock

Feeding the Flock now has it's own checking account. Checks can be made to Feeding the Flock.

We have been serving upwards of 300 meals per week with Monday being our largest day for distribution. In addition to the 200 bag lunches, we take food to the tent community on Route One. This community now has 28 residents. We are also feeding the tent community on Wednesday. Siesta 2 motel on Long Neck has several families living there. We are trying to supply them with foods that can be cooked in crock pots or electric skillets. The Hickman motel which is one of our bag lunch locations has other needs in addition to food. We thank the Thrift Store for providing small housewares and clothes.

The Flock appreciates the generosity of the congregation. Donations are welcomed but we do get some foods that are difficult to distribute. Please do not bring cake mix, brownie mix, instant pudding, (many people don't have milk).

We can always use dry cereal, canned soups, shelf stable milk like Parmalat and spaghetti sauce.

There continues to be a number of people coming to the pantry. After speaking with Long Neck Methodist Church, we may see an increase in the number of people we serve as the monthly drive through Food Bank program may be ending.

After 11 years, we have terminated our relationship with Panera Bread. They were good to us through those years. The season for that aspect of our food ministry has ended due to many changes.

Family Assistance

There is a steady stream of people seeking financial aid. We are continuing to partner with Love, INC as a vetting agency. Two weeks ago we met Liz Flack, one of the new Case Managers at Love, INC. She is visiting agencies and partner churches in eastern Sussex County which will be her focus.

It is our church policy that people needing financial aid must call Love, INC and have an intake form completed prior to our helping them. This is a safeguard for all parties.

The church has gas cards available. We do limit people to one card per month.

NEWS from CONLEY'S THRIFT SHOP



Greetings from your Thrift Shop people. We added 3 new volunteers this past month. Stop by and give a Conley's Greeting to George and Mary and to Beth. A great big thanks for joining our team.

Donations continue to be strong. So strong, that on several days each week we have had to close taking donations early in the day. Our storage spaces are so limited. If you plan on dropping off donations, you might want to try to come earlier in the day and/or call the shop prior to coming over and being upset that we can't take just one small bag or box. Thanks for understanding.

One of our regular customers told us about her church joining with another church in New Castle to supply items to be taken to North Carolina. I asked if we could help fill their truck and was given an ok. In less than 5 hours, our team came together and bagged enough large trash bags full of clothing, shoes, coats and blankets to fill the back of a large pickup truck. We were so grateful to share our bounty with them. Our team was like little children at Christmas time, full of joy with being able to help others in need. We can help with more if anyone hears of other trucks being filled. Just let either Sally or Pat know.

The shop continues to supply winter clothing to the homeless in our area, Georgetown and Millsboro. If you have extra socks, underwear, hats and scarfs, please drop off at the thrift shop and we will get them delivered. We could also use more men's jeans in smaller sizes.

Please keep us in your prayers for health and safety.

Did you know?

Conley's Thrift Shop donates 10% of all income to local charities.





Camp Hope is Rolling into Fall!



We're so excited by the response to our spin-off program, **Bible Buddies!** The group is small right now but we expect more when some of the school activities ease up. We're very optimistic about the kids' strong connection to the program in a short period of time. They really seem to be loving it!



Our annual Christmas party, for the whole camp – 29 to 30 kids – will be on Saturday, December 7th.

If you'd like to get involved, there are many options, including helping out that day, baking Christmas cookies, donating Christmas candies, and helping us provide gifts.

We're hopeful that many of you will donate **hats, mittens & gloves, or socks.** We can use *all* kids' sizes, colors, or designs – so no worry there! There is a box in the Narthex where you can drop off your donations. *We'll need them no later than Sunday, December 1st, please.*

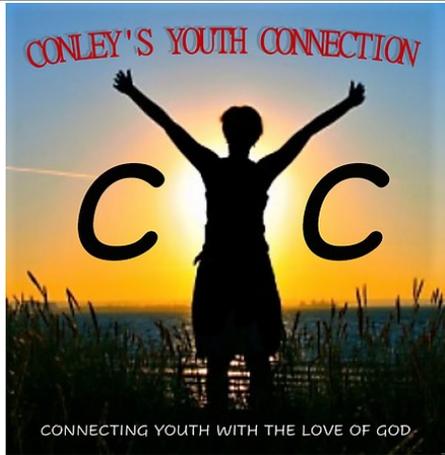
For our bakers out there, we are looking for a variety of **cookies and/or brownies** along with **Christmas candy.** We will serve them at the party as well as package them so that each child will have a take-home bag of goodies to share with their family. Please drop off your donation at the church office between Sunday, December 1st and Thursday, December 5th. No need to cut or bag anything. If you'd like your container returned, please put your name on it and we will leave it behind the coffee bar.

Thanks so much, my lovely Conley's Family!



Blessings, Karen Lessey, Camp Hope Director

All praise and glory to God!

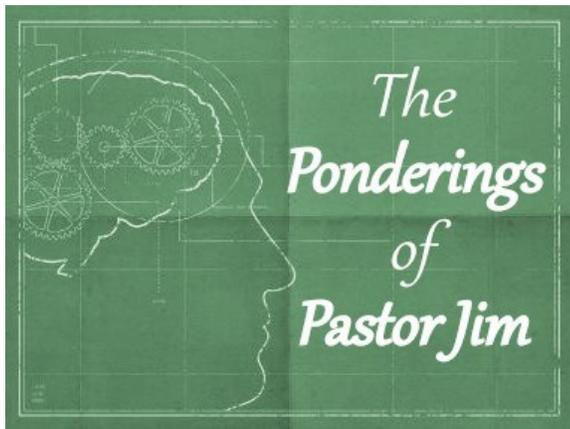


Providing a safe and fun environment
where young people can
learn about God,
build their faith,
and form friendships.

I remember a shopping trip when our daughters were younger, it was right before Halloween. One of the girls noticed the shelves being stocked with Christmas items and asked, “Mom, shouldn’t we be thankful first?” There may have been a single isle of Fall and Thanksgiving decorations at that time that were hardly noticeable. This question asked so innocently many years ago, always comes back to mind every November. November has always symbolized the month of being thankful to me, a month where things slow down a little and we look forward to seeing family and friends as Thanksgiving Day approaches - the month of cozy blankets and sweatshirts, falling leaves and favorite fall colors of yellow, orange, red and brown—the calm before the Christmas storm of shopping, cards, decorations, and busy schedules - easily losing sight of Jesus - the true meaning of the holiday season. If we take time to reflect on our many blessings each and every day and offer a praise or prayer of thanksgiving for what may seem like even the smallest thing we might find ourselves extra joyful and more aware of His peaceful presence to carry us into the holidays. I am encouraged to take time each day this month (and maybe beyond) to list something or someone I feel thankful for. I am sure most days there will be more than one thing or person to list. I have a feeling that the ongoing list will bring an overwhelming feeling of what it means to truly be thankful and the gratitude will be enough to carry me through the more challenging days. The list will always point to Jesus, from whom all blessings flow, and be a steady reminder of how we should be thankful first for all of the wonderful ways He continues to fill our lives with blessings both big and small.

I am so thankful for our youth group at Conley’s and for all the support we receive from our Conley’s Church family.

In class we are currently studying Jesus and Forgiveness, which has presented us with some challenging thoughts to ponder - We are to forgive others continuously even if they have wronged us more than once and to not sin against others, which puts them in the position of having to make a decision on whether to forgive us. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. (note-No class on Sunday, November 10)



Son Scott lives in Nashville with his wife Ashley. He called us up and said I have tickets to the Tennessee Titans – Green Bay Packers football game. They were excellent club level seats – near food service, bathrooms, close by indoor seating with abundant televisions of the game. Even though Marie had two weeks prior seen the Packers play the Philadelphia Eagles in Sao Paulo Brazil – we agreed to drive to Nashville to see the game.

The stadium was filled with Green Bay Packer fans – as many as Titan fans. While Scott, Ashley, and I were dressed in Titan paraphernalia, Marie wore her Packers garb. It was a lopsided 30-14 Green Bay win.

We drove our Tesla to Nashville through rural, antebellum Virginia. There were still many Confederate flags flying in the area. We stopped to charge our Tesla and while we waited, we walked across the street to a small diner. I ordered the BBQ platter while Marie ordered a hot dog with French fries. Our waitress was the mother to the cook – that was the entire staff. Soon we looked out the window and the waitress drove off in her red pickup. I immediately got up and spoke to the cook – “Umm, I think our waitress has left.” That’s when the cook explained that they had no hot dog rolls, so her mother drove off to Dollar General to pick some up. Only in small town Virginia!

On our way down to Nashville, we discovered Buc-ees. It was like Wawa steroids, it had gas, Tesla charging, and a convenience store the size of a Super Wal-Mart. What a place! On Saturday before the game, we went to Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. It is the largest/longest cave system in the world. Evidence of human presence exists from 5,000 years ago. I love spelunking but to navigate the cave system I had to use my cane. Yes, with my neuropathy and diabetes I use a cane for my substantial walks. Old age is a bummer. Slave labor was used for the grueling work of removing the rocks to open up the cave entrance to visitors. A slice of American history.

Knoxville is in the eastern time zone, but Nashville is in central time. We stopped in Knoxville to recharge the electric car both coming and going. They have a conveniently located Five Guys where we ate burgers and fries.

For much of my younger life I attended First Baptist Church in Paterson, New Jersey. While there we had an ongoing mission to Caney Creek Tennessee. We were told, even have pictures of children wearing rags and no shoes. Families washed their clothes in the creek. Our Sunday School collected money in coin folders to help the Caney Creek residents. One time we delivered a tractor trailer filled with clothes and other supplies for the impoverished residents. Well, we rode by Caney Creek on the way to Nashville. It is now a large upscale boating community and water park. I am not sure if my sacrificial giving helped the poor children of that community or if I paid for an amusement park.

A couple of final tidbits. Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey has the following graduates: me, my brother John, my sister Barbara, my (deceased) brother-in-law David, and my nephew John Jr. And these family members own Tesla’s or all-electric cars: Marie, brother John, nephew John Jr., son Jay, daughter-in-law Ashley.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

'THE JOT AND TITTLE'

by Ron Starich

(featuring excerpts from: John Wesley's, The Journal)

....Wesley Burned In Effigy...

“Monday 21st, I rode to Bandon from 3:00 in the afternoon till past 7:00, the mob of Cork marched in Grand procession and then **burned me** in effigy near Dant's bridge!

“Wednesday 23rd, the mob was still patrolling the streets abusing all that were called Methodists and threatening to murder them and pull down their houses, if they did not leave this way.

“Thursday 24th, they again assaulted Mr. Stockdale's house broke down the boards he had nailed up against the windows, destroyed what little remain of the window frames and shutters and damage a considerable part of his goods .

“Friday 25th, one Roger O'Farrell fixed up in advertisement at the public exchange that he was ready to head any mob in order to pull down any house that should dare to harbor a swadler, (a name given to Mr. Cennick first by a popish priest who heard him speak of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and probably did not know the expression was in the Bible, a book he was not much acquainted with.)

“By Saturday the 26th, many were under great apprehension of what was to be done in the evening. I began preaching in the main Street at the usual hour, but to more than twice the usual congregation. After I had spoken about a quarter of an hour, a clergyman, who had planted himself near me with a very large stick in his hand, according to agreement opened the scene. Indeed, his friends assured me he was in drink or he would not have done it. But, before he had uttered many words, two or three resolute women, by main strength, pulled him into a house, and after expostulating a little sent him away through the garden .

“The next champion that appeared was one Mr. M, a young gentleman of the town. He was attended by two others with pistols in their hands. But his triumph too was but short, some of the people quickly bore him away, though with much gentleness and civility .

“The third came on with great fury, but he was encountered by a butcher of the Town, not one of the methodists, who used him as he would an ox, bestowing one or two Hardy blows upon his head. This cooled his courage, especially as none took his part. So I quietly finished my discourse.”
(pg 157-158)



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH
Fall Festival Report & Upcoming Events

Proceeds from Festival: \$4,695.34

Distribution as follows:

\$1,000 to Camp Hope

\$1,000 to Conley's Food Pantry

\$1,000 to Conley's Family Assistance Fund

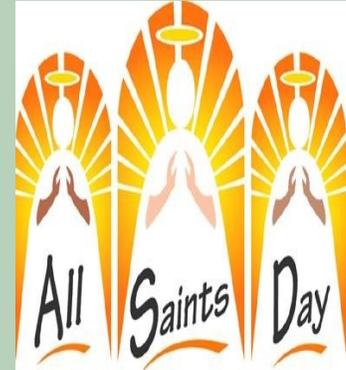
\$1,000 to Clothing Our Kids organization

\$500 to Conley's Goat Fund

Upcoming Events:

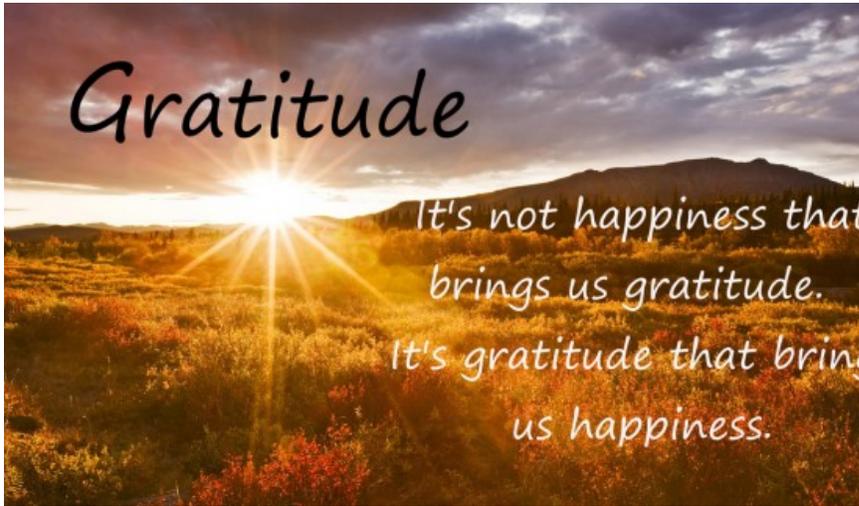
Greening of the church for Advent/Christmas Season
Saturday, November 30 - 10 am

Christmas Tea - sign up sheets in the narthex
Saturday, December 14 - 1 pm



You can, on this All Saints Sunday, say thank you to the saints sitting in the pews, the ones teaching in the Sunday school or preparing the meals or snacks. This is a wonderful day to thank those who have gone before and those who continue to labor in the fields of the Lord.





Be Thankful Every Day

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:8-9

Let us worship God, our father and His son, Jesus Christ, in whom He is well pleased.

We gather together on Sunday morning to glorify and sing praises to our Savior. Jesus is God's gift of grace that makes it possible for us to share in the joy of salvation. He is our comforter and our king.

Let us awaken each day counting our many blessings. Let us reach out to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and all those we come in contact with, sharing the good news of the gospel.

Let us take to heart the message our pastor prepares blessing our souls in our daily routines.

Let us be ever thankful that we live in the United States of America where God and freedom reign. In Jesus name, is our Amen.

Sandie Wysocki

Words of Wit & Wisdom

Gratitude

“Whatever you appreciate and give thanks for will increase in your life.”

“To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it.”

“Pause and remember— Every single event in your life, especially the difficult lessons, have made you smarter, stronger, and wiser than you were yesterday. Be thankful.”

“Gratitude is riches. . .”

FEELING
GRATITUDE
AND NOT
EXPRESSING IT
IS LIKE
**WRAPPING A
PRESENT**
AND NOT
GIVING IT.

~WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD~

Angela Lee



ANGEL TREE
Ministry Opportunity

Look for the Angel Tree in the Narthex on November 10th where you will be able to choose a boy or girl in order to purchase up to 3 Christmas gifts, and make their Christmas a little brighter..... Gifts should be purchased, wrapped, and returned to the Church office by December 15th.



Worship With Us This Month

Worship with us on Sundays at 10am. You may join us either in-person or online. Our worship service is livestreamed on Vimeo and Youtube; links are provided on our website.

When joining us online, please check-in using the “Connect Card” located under the worship tab at the upper left corner of our homepage — we want to know you’re worshipping with us!

The “Connect Card” may also be used to submit prayer requests and/or praise reports during our worship service or any time.

You may give your tithes and offerings to the Lord through the church via the “donate” button at the lower right corner of our homepage.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving — we believe God is doing great things through the ministry of his church!

What’s Happening

On-Going Weekly Events

Sunday

Adult Bible Study taught by Rev. Jim Vanderwall in the Library, 8:30-9:30am.

Youth Bible Study taught by Jess Mastriana in the Youth Room, 9am.

Monday

Choir practice in the Choir Room, 6-7:00 pm.

Bell Ringers practice in the Fellowship Hall, 7:00-8:00pm.

Tuesday

Over 50 Yoga in the Fellowship Hall, 10:30—11:45am. Bring your own mat and bottled water. Cost is \$10 per session, cash only.

Wednesday

Soup for the Soul provides free lunch and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall, 11am-1pm. Contributions are welcome; sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Adult Bible Study Led by Pastor Bill, Nov. 20th begins our Advent study, Heaven and Earth, 6:30pm in the Library.

Thursday

Adult Bible Study - Led by Louise Finn and Karen Lessey, Nov 21 begins our Advent study, Heaven and Earth, 10am. In Fellowship Hall.

Praise Team practice in the Sanctuary, 5:30-6:30pm.

Happening This Month

The Trustees meet Tuesday, November 5th, 6:30pm, in the Library.

The Church Council will meet Thursday, November 21st, 6:30pm in the Library.

United Women in Faith-Decorate for Christmas, Nov 30th, 10am

United Women in Faith-Christmas Tea, December 14th, 1-3pm.

Opportunities to Be a Blessing

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Join Conley's Sight and Sound Team!

We are in need of people on Sunday mornings to operate the soundboard, screen projection computer, and livestream computer. Are you computer literate; are you willing to learn? Our friendly Sight and Sound Team will train you so that you can take a turn in this ministry that supports Sunday worship.



ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES

Greeters

A friendly welcome at the door makes a great first impression—both for new comers and regular attenders. Help get people ready for worship with a warm welcome to all and helpful directions to visitors.

Ushers

You can help worshipers by directing them to open seats and bringing a microphone for prayers and praises, and providing helpful directions as needed.

Contact the church office if you would like to serve your Conley's Church family in any of these capacities; 302-945-1881

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

if it is serving, then serve;

if it is teaching, then teach;

if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;

if it is giving, then give generously;

if it is to lead, do it diligently;

if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

ROMANS 12:4-8

**Conley's United
Methodist Church**

began as a Methodist society in 1800 and was incorporated as a Methodist church in 1838.

Our Mission:
To make disciples
of Jesus Christ.

Notable Days in November _____

- 1st All Saint's Day
- 3rd Daylight Savings Ends
- 11th Veterans Day
- 28th Thanksgiving Day

Conley's United Methodist Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

