



Conyngham United Methodist Church
PO Box AB, 411 Main Street,
Conyngham, PA 18219
570-788-3960
conynghamumc@ptd.net
www.conynghamumc.org
February 2023

Pastor's Pen

Dear church friends and family,

I was recently shopping in Gould's only to find that the store was closing early that day. They happened to be doing their yearly inventory that day, and had to close the store early to do it, only so they could stay late to do that work. At the time, when I heard that I thought "Well that must be the biggest pain in the tuckus." And it probably is. But it is also necessary to run a business to take stock of everything.

Taking stock of things is also necessary for the human soul. I almost feel like we are too busy these days. Everybody has the next thing to do, the next thing to get to, the next thing on the schedule always before them. We wear ourselves thin, but we never take the time to recover. We are too busy to take stock of our lives and where our God is at work in them. It just seems like it will take too much time or energy. But when we do take stock of God, it refreshes our very soul.

We're in the middle of a sermon series on baptism right now, and what our baptism means for us today. We're getting back to the basics this new year. And one of the basics is taking time to take stock of all the ways God is working in your life.

We see this reflected in the psalms. Psalm 136 tells us time and time again that God's love endures forever. "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. 2 Give thanks to the God of gods. His love endures forever. 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. 4 to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. 5 who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. 6 who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever. 7 who made the great lights— His love endures forever. 8 the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. 9 the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever."

This psalm is taking stock of all of God's goodness. It is full of the affirmation that signs that God's endures forever are all around you. Now the psalmist invites you to take stock too. What are the signs you see that God's love endures forever? And I want to be real now and say this will take a bit of time. And you might not feel like you have the time for it. But if you do take stock of God's love in your life, in the end you will know it is worth it. And you might even say happily along with the psalm, God's love endures forever. So take some time each day or each week, and take stock of God's love around you. It will be worth the time in the end.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Graham

Lectionary

05-February

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Psalms 112:1-9 (10) (UMH 833)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

12-February

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

Scouting in Ministries Sunday

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalms 119:1-8 (UMH 840)
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

19-February

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms 99 (UMH 819)
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

22-February

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (UMH 785)
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

26-February

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalms 32 (UMH 766)
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Irene and Robert Burger, Carol Chyko, Marie Colihan, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Janette Eckrote, Collette Eskin, Mike Fellin, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Connie Hofmann, Aggie Kisenweather, Rose Luethy, Mark and Theresa Marinock, Cristina and David Matthey, Frank Tarselli, Marilyn Tedesco, Josh Wagner, Jacqueline Walker, Marie Waschko, Ron Eckrote, Kaylee Barbush, Gil Bittenbender, Glenn Kirschner, June Blamey, Carl Roberts, Amelia Berteron, Jill, Carol Seiwel, Lois Ann Earley, Nicole Bachert, Kasha in Ukraine, Joanne Mumie, Gerri Griffith, Clyde VanHorn, Tyler Wolfe, Carl Flaim, Joe Tomcheck, Pat Ferrari, all cancer patients, our military, anyone with COVID, People with opioid addiction, The People of Kentucky flooding, the Ukraine/Russia situation and families of addicts.

Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Graham Truscott, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection. Also, pray for the leaders of our country and military personnel.

February Birthdays

<i>01-Feb</i>	<i>Sally Shupp</i>
<i>04-Feb</i>	<i>Scott Cara</i>
<i>05-Feb</i>	<i>Ciara Bannon</i>
<i>08-Feb</i>	<i>Charles Mandrick</i>
<i>10-Feb</i>	<i>Robert Hilliard</i>
<i>11-Feb</i>	<i>Robert Burger</i>
<i>12-Feb</i>	<i>Lisa Schuetz</i>
<i>12-Feb</i>	<i>Brad Klein</i>
<i>16-Feb</i>	<i>Deborah Cara</i>
<i>17-Feb</i>	<i>Kelly Mace</i>
<i>17-Feb</i>	<i>Robert Stark, Jr.</i>
<i>17-Feb</i>	<i>Mackenzie Malenovitch</i>
<i>22-Feb</i>	<i>Wendy Young</i>
<i>24-Feb</i>	<i>Rodney Hawk</i>
<i>25-Feb</i>	<i>John Cara</i>
<i>26-Feb</i>	<i>Jay Wetzel</i>
<i>27-Feb</i>	<i>Larry Rossi</i>

February Anniversaries

<i>14 Feb</i>	<i>Bob and Nancy Stark</i>
<i>16 Feb</i>	<i>Don and Dottie Matthey</i>



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01 Mar	Beth Yost
04 Mar	Ron Hofmann
04 Mar	Keelyn Radzwich
06 Mar	Autumn Mumich
08 Mar	Janessa Malenovitch
09 Mar	Bradley Young
20 Mar	Elizabeth Flaim
27 Mar	Charlie Lingenfelter
31 Mar	William Pursell

March Anniversaries

None

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



We are so very proud of our Sailor Logan Wetzel! Many of you have asked for his address:

FN Wetzel, Logan
101 NNPTC Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Logan can now receive packages as well as cards and letters. The one thing he misses from home is Middleswarth BBQ Chips. I am sure he would love to hear from his Church Family!

Ash Wednesday- Wednesday February 22nd

Ashes to Go: During Lent we receive ashes to remind us of our need for God. The ashes represent that we are finite, we are mortal, and we make mistakes and sin. For all of that, we need a loving God. And we receive those ashes in the sign of the cross to remind us that the God we need loves us. If you can't join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service then come and receive ashes to go in our parking lot. Simply drive by in our parking lot and receive ashes and a blessing. **There will be opportunities to receive ashes from 7:30am-9am and from 4:00pm to 5:30pm.**



Ash Wednesday Worship: Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be Wednesday, **February 22nd at 6:30pm.** During Lent we receive ashes to remind us of our need for God. The ashes represent that we are finite, we are mortal, and we make mistakes and sin. For all of that, we need a loving God. And we receive those ashes in the sign of the cross to remind us that the God we need loves us. That is what we will focus on in worship to begin the season of Lent.

Heartwood Center

We are stepping up in our ministry with the Heartwood center, the local daytime homeless shelter in Hazleton. We are going up once a month to sit and eat with our friends, to share in life with our neighbors there, and sit with people in love just as Jesus did. Matthew 2:13-17 tells us what Jesus ate with the people he called to be his disciples, as well as tax collectors, sinners, and the outcasts. This was part of how Jesus loved people and how he invited people to love him back. We are doing the same thing at the Heartwood center, following Jesus in these steps.

While we are up there we often hear about the concerns and needs of our neighbors and friends. Because we love them, we want to respond to their needs, their worries, and their stories.

We are going to be doing that in two ways, in addition to our monthly meals and activities at the Heartwood center.

The first is by collecting much needed supplies for our friends in these winter months. During our last visit there, we met a family who had a baby named Jzavier. His parents had to carry him around all day in one of those baby backpacks and have no place to stay at night. Kate Flaim, seeing this, immediately remembered that she had an old stroller in her garage. That same day we were able to deliver that stroller to that family, much to the comfort of little Jzavier and his parents. You can show the same kind of love as Kate by giving some supplies. Currently our friends need blankets, winter coats, scarves, and gloves, laundry detergent (the Heartwood center had laundry facilities), travel size toothpaste, sensitive skin deodorant, paper cups for coffee, and to go containers.

The second is by beginning a Bible study at the Heartwood Center called "Through Heaven's Eyes." In this informal Bible study we, together with our friends at the Heartwood Center, will learn to take a more loving and kinder look at ourselves by thinking about ourselves through the eyes of God. If you struggle with your self-worth, self-love, or the ability to forgive yourself, or if you struggled with those things in the past, this is a great opportunity to be drawn further into the love of God together with our friends at the Heartwood Center. This Bible study will begin at the end of February. We are still working out the date so keep on the lookout for our announcement about it soon.



PLEASE HELP OUR FRIENDS AT THE HEARTWOOD CENTER



The following items are greatly needed

Blankets

Hats, gloves and scarves

Laundry detergent

Travel size toothpaste

Baby wipes

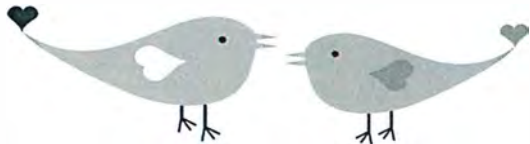
Sensitive deodorant

Paper cups for coffee

To go containers

Earrings and more sale! We have a basket of Earrings, Key-chains and Tea which have been donated to us by Rose from Sugarloaf Soaps.

All we are asking for is a donation and all proceeds will be given to the **Heartwood Center**.



VOLUNTEER



We are in need of volunteers for the Nursery each week, please consider helping out. If we get enough volunteers it may only be once a month or every other month. See Brittany for additional information.

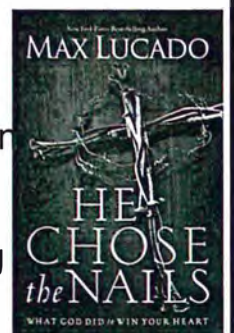
BREATHING ROOM

Breathing Room: During the month of December, we opened our “Breathing Room”. Some of the folks that used the breathing room have requested that we keep it going at least for a few more months and get the word out to our community that this “Room” is available. For us to do this, we need volunteers to be here. It only takes one person to set up the room and be there should someone come. A new, proposed schedule would be **Tuesday and Wednesday 12-3pm and Thursday Friday 3-6pm**. If you can volunteer even for an hour or so at a time, there is a sign-up sheet in the social hall. You can call or email Heidi your availability and she can get you on the schedule. If you have any questions, please call the church office.



Secret Sisters will meet for lunch again at Sally Purcell's on **February 15th at 12:30 pm**. Anyone in the Secret Sisters group is welcome to come. It's a great way to catch with your “Secret Sister” secretly!

Sisters will start a new 5 Week series by Max Lucado called “He Chose the Nails” This series will begin on **Tuesday, March 7th @ 10:00 am**. Please consider joining us during the Lenten Season!





2023 Tools for Ministry

It's time to open the proverbial toolbox again and help build and repair church ministries—to fix what's broken and improve what's working. That requires leadership development and training more than anything else. The Eastern PA Conference will sponsor its **2023 Tools for Ministry on Saturday, March 11 from 8:30AM till 12:30PM.** **Please check out the classes available, there is something for everyone!** If you need the link, Pastor or Heidi can forward it to you.

Pathways Program

Our congregation has entered into a coaching relationship with a Pathways coach facilitator to be curious about where the Holy Spirit is inviting our church community into vitality.

What does this mean? We meet monthly with a Coach Facilitator to be resourced and encouraged along a pathway of growth. Our team is using an intentional process to prepare, assess, learn, and grow in their understanding of what it means to be a healthy, fruitful congregation in a post-pandemic world.

Who is on our team? They are Tom Burns, Jay Morgan, Carrie and Thomas Wiley, Kate and Lizzy Flaim, Chris Gogola, Heidi Klein, and Pastor Graham

Who is our Coach Facilitator? Rev. Monica Guepet is an assisting elder in the North District and lead pastor of Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. She has two decades of experience in serving with congregations. Pastor Monica is an ordained elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, has served 5 congregations in different settings, and is married with three children

Why are we doing this? Vital congregations are led by and made up of vital disciples. These are some marks of vital disciples:

Disciples worship

Disciples make new disciples

Disciples engage in growing their faith through small groups

Disciples engage in mission

Disciples give to mission

Through the Vital Congregation Pathway, we will work with a facilitator to develop one of the vital congregation markers.

How long will this process take? The team and facilitator will work together for 12-18 months to develop a strong foundation and implement an action plan. Our Coach Facilitator will resource us and hold us accountable.

Does this cost anything? The coach facilitator and access to resources is a part of your Connectional Ministry Fund contributions, so it's free!

What can I do? Pray for which pathway we are being called to at this time. Pray for our church family and our community.

Where can I get more information? Ask any of the people on our team.



December 13, 2022

Conyngham United Methodist Church
411 S Main St
Conyngham PA 18219

Greetings!

Thank you for coordinating the amazing 2022 blood drives. We were very grateful for the support and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift.

The efforts of Conyngham United Methodist Church have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

Blood Drive Results for 2022:

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE STATS:

75 heroes registered to give 🙋

68 units of lifesaving blood were collected 💧

Approximately 204 patients may be assisted !!!!! 😊

3 First Time Donors!❤️

Thank you to everyone who came out, whether donating blood or volunteering your time. 🙌

Together, we help save lives! 🙏

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive.

Jacqueline Dercole
Account Manager, Donor Recruitment

American Red Cross Blood Services
Northeast Pennsylvania Region

29 New Commerce Blvd; Ashley, PA 18706
Cell: (570) 793-6715 Email: Jacqueline.Dercole@redcross.org



FEBRUARY FLOWERS



02/05: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

02/12: John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

02/19: Beverly Kraft will give a donation to the General Fund in memory of her parents, Fred and Mary Kraft.

02/26: Isabel Kinsler will give a donation in memory of her husband, Charles.

United Charities, Inc.
107 West Madison Avenue
West Hazleton, PA 18201
Phone (570) 455-1528
January 17, 2023

Conyngham United Methodist Church
411 Main Street
Conyngham, PA 18219

Dear Pastor and Parishioners;

Thank you so much for your generous monetary donation to United Charities, Inc. Your generosity is so deeply appreciated and truly demonstrates your commitment to the community and the agency.

Your kindness will always be remembered. Thanks again for thinking of us!

Best wishes for a happy healthy New Year!

Sincerely,
Jill Zapotocky, BS
Executive Director
Donation \$114.53

January 18, 2023

Dear Conyngham UMC Members,
Thank you for your continual support of our Valley Food Pantry. Your \$114.53 this January certainly gives us a great way to begin 2023! We also appreciate the food donations that always are donated. The dedication of our church to those in need is so wonderful!

Blessings, Your Valley Food Pantry
Volunteers

Thank
YOU

Thank you

I want to take a quick moment to say thank you to the whole congregation for your generous gift at Christmas time. I know it is coming every year, but every year I am still deeply touched by your generosity and love. May God bless you all to keep showing love through generosity.

Thank you and God's peace be with you,

Pastor Graham



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH IN DRUMS NOW HAS TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO! KITCHEN OPENS AT 5 PM WITH SPECIAL SOUPS, SANDWICHES, BEVERAGES, ETHNIC FOODS AND LOTS OF OTHER GOODIES. EARLY BIRD GAMES BEGIN AT 6:00 PM. THE COST IS \$14.00 FOR A REGULAR BINGO PACKAGE AND SPECIAL GAMES ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE. CALL 570-788-3141 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

UCC WILL BE SELLING EASTER CRYSTALS! \$14.00 PER BOX, ORDER BY MARCH 15TH. PICK UP DATE IS APRIL 1, BETWEEN 10 AM AND NOON. CALL BARB @ 570-788-3246 TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

SAINT JOHN BOSCO BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY: SHARING THE JOURNEY "GRIEF SHARED IS GRIEF DIMINISHED" BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 6TH FROM 6-8 PM. SEVEN WEEKLY SESSIONS. OPEN TO ALL.

ALYSON OF HEALTHY RHYTHMS IS OFFERING ZUMBA CLASSES HERE AT CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH! EVERY MONDAY AND TUESDAY FROM 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. \$7 PER CLASS WITH 1ST CLASS FREE AND DISCOUNTED PACKAGES AVAILABLE.

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	2 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4
5 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	6 6:00pm Zumba Class	7 12:00pm Breathing Room 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	8 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Breathing Room	9 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 3:00pm Breathing Room	10 3:00pm Breathing Room	11
12 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	13 6:00pm Zumba Class	14 12:00pm Breathing Room 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	15 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Breathing Room 6:30pm Christian Conversations	16 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Breathing Room	17 3:00pm Breathing Room	18
19 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	20 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Pathways Meeting	21 12:00pm Breathing Room 6:00pm Zumba Class	22 7:30am Ashes To Go 10:00am Religious Studies 12:00pm Breathing Room 4:00pm Ashes To Go 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	23 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 3:00pm Breathing Room	24 3:00pm Breathing Room	25
26 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	27 6:00pm Zumba Class	28 12:00pm Breathing Room 6:00pm Zumba Class				