



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

Dear friends and church family,

I hope you've all had a merry Christmas and a happy new year. For me, Christmas always brings with it the big family Christmas party. This is a tradition that I was adopted into during my teen years. My parents got divorced when I was 13 and my dad remarried when I was 16. That first year, as I was getting to know my new step-mother and step-siblings better, I went to the first big family Christmas party with my step-mother and dad's side of the family. And I had a blast! The two families came together with open arms! It was a holiday tradition from my early childhood, but now it's something I look forward to every Christmas.

In the same way we are adopted into the family of God and the family traditions of God. January is the month every year that we celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday. That's a Sunday when we remember Jesus' baptism and our own, because it's from Jesus' baptism that we learn what ours means. We find the story of Jesus' baptism in the first chapter of Mark: ⁹About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. ¹¹And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Did you catch what God said to Jesus? "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." We believe that in our baptism God says the same thing to us that God said to Jesus. It's God's way of welcoming us to the family. Whenever somebody is baptized God says to them, "You are my child, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." God looks at you the same way God looks at Jesus. We are God's family. And like with me being brought into my step-family, becoming God's family comes with certain traditions. You could almost call it a family business. Since you're part of God's family, you're part of the business too. What's the business, you ask? It's life changing love that save people from all the brokenness of the world.

Yes, you're a part of that family business with God too. That's what baptism means. You are a part of God's family, a child who God deeply loves, and nothing is going to change that. At the same time, you're in God's family business of ministry. Just like at a normal business, everybody has their role. Some handle the money, some make the things you sell, some actually sell them, some clean up the store. Just like at my family Christmas party, everybody has a dish to bring. Some bring vegetables. Some bring deserts. Some bring entrees. Some bring wine. Some bring appetizers. As a member of God's family, you have a role in what God is doing and God's business. You have your own part to play in transforming lives in the love of Jesus Christ.

It's a new year, a time for new resolutions. I know resolutions can be daunting. And let's face it, many of us don't keep them past the second week of January. But I want to offer you one resolution to keep, this year, discover your place in the business of God. What's your role in God's family business? What dish are you binging to God's Christmas party? And know that no matter what happens, you are a member of God's family. Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Graham

What's Going On In The UMC?

Over these past few months, we've been getting more and more questions about what is going on with the denominational "split" within the UMC. Specifically, the "split" we are referring to is about human sexuality and how disagreement on that issue is causing some churches to leave the denomination. We've had questions like: "Is the church splitting up?" "Do we vote to stay in or not?" "What exactly is the denomination fighting over?" "I heard the UMC is (fill in many rumors here). Is that true?"

We want to keep you in the loop about what is going on in our denomination at large, what is going on in our Annual Conference, the Eastern PA conference (the piece of the UMC that has jurisdiction over our church), and how this will and won't affect our local church.

We will be having a conversation about what is going on in the UMC on Saturday January 21 at 3pm. Anybody is welcome to attend. That includes members and non-members. If you know people who are curious, or have heard some rumors, you are more than welcome to invite them to attend.

We hope that this conversation will be a safe space to ask questions and express opinions. If somebody disagrees with you, that is okay. More important than anything is our commitment to Christ and love one another as Christ commanded us. Even if we disagree, our love for Christ and each other binds of together in one body of Christ, made up of many parts. And each is as valuable as the next.

Lectionary

01-January

New Year's Day

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Psalms 8 (UMH 743)

Revelation 21:1-6a

Matthew 3:13-17

06-January

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)

Ephesians 3:1-13

Matthew 2:1-13

08-January

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29 or (UHM 761)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

11-January

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

15-January

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day (offering)

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-11 (UHM 774)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

16-January

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's

Birthday Observance

22-January

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 4-9 (UMH 758)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

29-January

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15 (UHM 747)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

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, Christine 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.

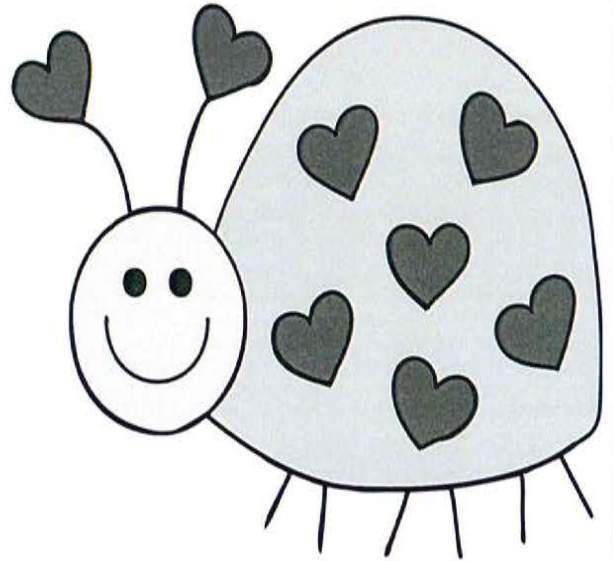
Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Graham Truscott, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection. Also, pray for the leaders of our country and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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

02-Jan	Ivy Huey
07-Jan	Emily Flaim
07-Jan	Joey Dretzel
08-Jan	Kirk Wetzel
08-Jan	Jennifer Quinn
10-Jan	Jenson Huey
12-Jan	Denise Earley
12-Jan	Araceli Gogola
15-Jan	Hallie Cara
19-Jan	Jeremy Rossi
21-Jan	Loisann Earley
25-Jan	James Bannon

January Anniversaries

14 Jan	Scott and Jean Luchi
30 Jan	Gary & Millini Skuba



February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

14 Feb	Bob and Nancy Stark
16 Feb	Don and Dottie Matthey

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Breathing Room

During the month of December, our church offered to our community a space in the building that we called the breathing room. We transformed our library from 12-6, Tues-Fri, into a room where people can relax or take a break. Many people commented that they felt relieved soon after they walked in. The room really helped a lot of stressed-out people to take a break and rest a little.

Some of our people who used the breathing room has requested that we keep it going all year round, or at least for the next few months. Our plan to do this is to resume the breathing room starting January 17. A new, proposed schedule would be Tuesday and Wednesday 12-3pm and Thursday Friday 3-6pm. If you know of people who would be interested in a morning schedule, please let us know.

If we are going to do this for a longer period of time, we will need people to help run this ministry. For Advent it was Heidi and I who set it up each day, bought snacks, and stayed in the building so we could leave it open for people to walk in. If this is a valuable way of showing Christ's love to one another and our community, then we will need help from you, the ministers of our church, to do it.

Ideally, people helping with the ministry would only need to do it for 1 hour at a time. If you are willing to be a minister in this ministry, please let either Heidi, Kate, or I know.

Peace in all busy seasons,

Pastor Graham



BREATHING
ROOM



**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
TO ALL WHO
DONATED
TOYS FOR
TOYS FOR
TOTS!**

January Flowers

01/01-Bruce and Beverly Hilliard will give a donation to the General Fund in memory of Leon and Betty Buffington and Foster and Blanche Hilliard.

01/08-Scott and Jean Luchi will give a donation to the Building Fund in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

01/15-Open

01/22-Open

01/29-Millini and Gary Skuba will give a donation to the General Fund in honor of their Anniversary.



**Altar
Flowers**



**How can
I help?**

AMAZON SMILE: By making your Amazon purchases through AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to our church.

Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7320048> and support us when you shop.



Gould's Gift Cards: Purchase Gould's Gift Cards through our church. They are easy to use at Gould's ShurSave, just swipe and get a receipt with your balance. Our church earns 5% of each gift card sold. See Heidi or call the office



UMC Market: By making your online purchases through UMC Market our church earns a percentage from every purchase, and there are thousands of vendors. Online shopping through this site will benefit us all. The website is <http://www.umcmarket.net/>.



For with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	2 6:00pm Zumba Class	3 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	4 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	5 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	6	7
8 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	9 6:00pm Zumba Class	10 10:00am Sisters 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	11 10:00am Religious Studies	12 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	13	14
15 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	16 6:00pm Zumba Class	17 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class	18 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	19 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	20	21 3:00pm What's Going on in the UMC Meeting
22 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	23 6:00pm Zumba Class	24 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class	25 10:00am Religious Studies	26 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	27	28
29 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	30 6:00pm Zumba Class	31 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class				