

**Conyngham United Methodist Church**  
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**Conyngham, PA 18219**  
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**www.conynghamumc.org**  
**May 2022**

My Dear Church Family and Friends,

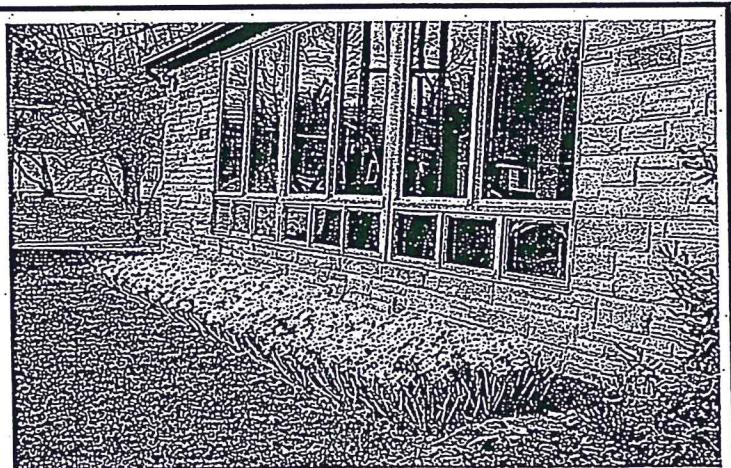
Happy Easter! The holiday may have come and gone but in the church, it is now the season of Easter. This season occurs between the day of Easter, April 17, and Pentecost, June 6. Every day during this season is a fresh chance to celebrate and find new life and meaning in the resurrection of Jesus. Just as this Easter season is all about joy, I hope that your lives will be filled with joy as the weather and the flowers seem to truly begin embracing spring.

But this Easter season is about more than that. It is also about encountering the resurrected Jesus. We hear so many stories in the gospels about how the disciples saw Jesus after his resurrection, and how those fated meetings were so impactful for their lives. I want to share a condensed version of one of those encounters with you, as two disciples walk down the road to a town named Emmaus. Luke 24:13-16, 28-32:

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread; gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

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In this story the disciples encountered Jesus in the form of a stranger traveling on the road. They didn't recognize him at first, but once they sat down and ate a meal with him, they recognized that it was Jesus they were talking to. In this season of Easter, and even beyond, we can meet Jesus in the same way. God so often works through other people, and through them we can encounter the risen Jesus.

Let me share a story with you of one of my more memorable encounters. A few years back I had a friend in the hospital recovering from major surgery. I and a few other friends went to visit them after church. We were there having a wonderful time talking and catching up, and playing a few card games to relieve my friend's boredom. One friend, who was always late, got there around this time. But they had a good reason for being late that day. They had brought my hospitalized friend communion from their church (they both went to the same church). At the time I thought that was very sweet. It wasn't until I got home later, and I was reflecting on the experience, that I realized that Christ was present in that space.

Now that is a rather special situation, but the same thing happens all the time. You can encounter the risen Jesus everywhere. You can find him at the grocery store, at work, doing errands, going shopping, at sporting events, at school, and so many other places. Like the disciples and like me, you might not realize it at the time. Sometimes it's only in looking back on events that we see the risen Jesus being so active in our lives. In this Easter season I want to encourage you to be on the lookout for the risen Jesus. Take some time each day to reflect on where you might have had an encounter with the risen Lord.

May the joys of Easter be with you this whole season,

Pastor Graham

#### COVID Guidelines

Hi everybody, we want to be clear about what our current COVID guidelines actually are, so we know everybody is on the same page. Currently, church council has voted and our current guidelines are that masks are optional for all people. While we encourage mask wearing while in a crowd and around our most vulnerable, it is not a requirement, and it is up to you. If somebody does choose to wear a mask on Sunday morning please be courteous of them and their choice. A great way to be courteous and kind is to ask somebody wearing a mask if they would also prefer to social distance. Church council will continue to monitor the COVID situation and with the possibility of updating our guidelines again, if or when there is a significant change in the virus in our area.

# Lectioary

01—May

3rd Sunday of Easter

Native America Ministries Sunday

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)

Psalms 30 (UMH 762)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

08—May

4th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23 (UMH 754)

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

15—May

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148 (UMH 861)

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

26—May

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47 (UMH 781)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:22-53

29—May

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Psalms 97 (UMH 816)

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11

Psalms 47 (UMH 781)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

## Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Ron Eckrote, Pat Derr, Pastor Sandy Murphy, Valley Food Pantry Families, Irene Miller, Judy Younker, Connie Hofmann, Nancy Cromley, Irene Healey, Gil Bittenbender, Bev Hilliard, Sandy Houseknecht, Maxine and Bill Magill, Kayla Baucum, Larry Sims, Steve Janso, Tony Tier, Beverly Kraft, Father Rick, Marilyn Tedesco, Rose Luethy, Jacquelyn Walker and All Essential Workers.

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, Rev. Joanne Young of the Hazleton Enlarged Ministry and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection. Also, pray for the leaders of our country and military personnel.

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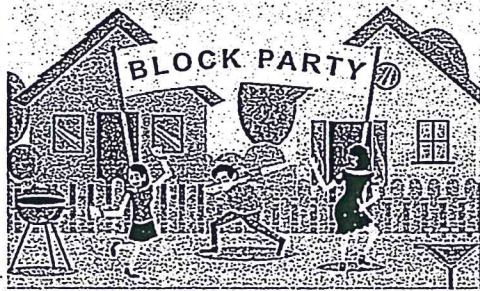
**Ron Eckrote, Pat Derr, Pastor Sandy Murphy, Valley Food Pantry Families, Irene Miller, Judy Younker, Connie Hofmann, Nancy Cromley, Irene Healey, Gil Bittenbender, Bev Hilliard, Sandy Houseknecht, Maxine and Bill Magill, Kayla Baucum, Larry Sims, Steve Janso, Tony Tier, Beverly Kraft, Father Rick, Marilyn Tedesco, Rose Luethy, Jacquelyn Walker and All Essential Workers.**

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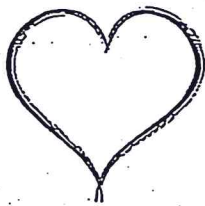
# NEWS — *from the* — PEWS

**Block Party Planning Meeting:** Will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> right after worship service at 11:30 am.

Our Block Party will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> and we need help in planning this fun event. Come and bring your ideas!



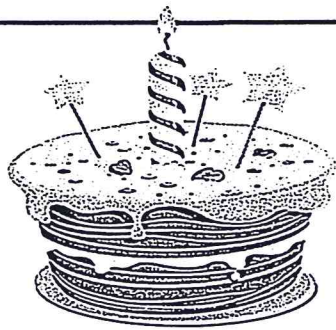
**DON'T FORGET! WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 AM ON MAY 15TH! THIS IS SO WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET UP TO THE SHELTER TO SERVE LUNCH.**



**Mother's Day Afternoon Tea:** Join us on May 8<sup>th</sup> right after Worship Service as we celebrate all women in our lives. This is open to all women in our community. Bring your Mom or a friend!



**Let's help feed the homeless:** Our Confirmation Class has chosen a service project. On May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am they will be at the new Day Shelter/Heartwood Center on 100 South Wyoming Street in Hazleton serving lunch. Our Confirmands are extending the invite to you to come and join them! Come, work alongside our youth in our community! Note: **Worship Service will begin at 10:00 on this Sunday so we have enough time to get up to the Shelter.**



**JOE RACHO IS TURNING 80 YEARS OLD!**  
WE'RE CELEBRATING IN THE CHURCH SOCIAL HALL. PLEASE STOP IN ON SATURDAY, MAY 14H BETWEEN 2:00 AND 4:00 TO JOIN IN THE FUN AND WISH JOE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Rummage Sale:** Yes, we are having a Rummage Sale this year!! So many of you have been asking if we are and the date has been set. Mark your calendar for May 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. More information will follow, but in the meantime, start collecting all those goodies that are "just what I've been looking for" for someone else. Sign up sheet is located in the social hall.



### **Annual Conference:**

This year Annual Conference is May 20-21. On May 21st, Pastor Graham will be commissioned during the ordination service at 11:00am. Commissioning is the step right before ordination in the United Methodist Church and represents a recognition of God-given gifts to serve as a pastor. This service will be live streamed on the conference YouTube page. Look up "EPAUMC" on YouTube to find it. Everybody is invited to attend the service online to watch and support Pastor Graham.

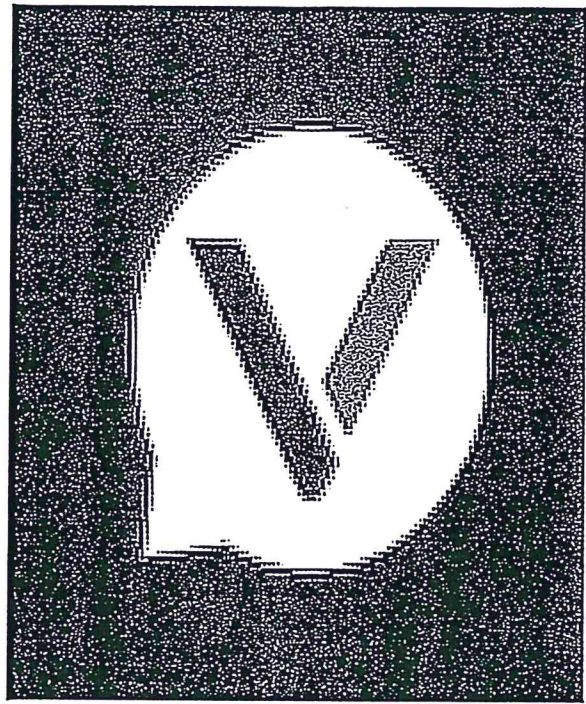
What is Annual Conference: Annual Conference is an event each year where the churches of our conference meet to discuss important church issues, have a time of fellowship, and vote on church resolutions for the upcoming year. Each year every United Methodist Church sends a pastor and a lay representative to Annual Conference to represent the church and to vote for them on these resolutions. If you want to find out more information you can search online "EPAUMC Annual Conference 2022" and click on the first result to find more information. This year the theme is NOW, based on Romans 13:11: Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

**Our Small Business and Vendor Event** will take place here in the CUMC parking lot on **June 4th**. It will be a day of food trucks, crafters, and small business. Look for more information soon!



**You can now make contributions to our church through a mobile app!**

To get started, download **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for **"Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement"** to quickly find and download the app today. Find our church by searching for **Conyngham**. Then you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry and thank you for your continued support.



## **MAY FLOWERS**

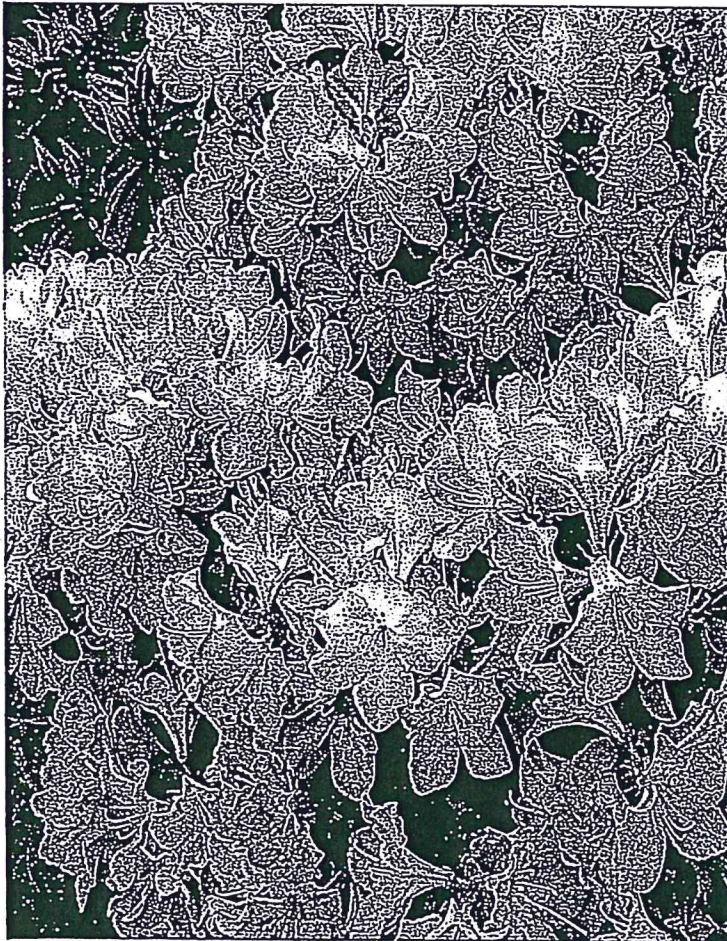
**May 01:** John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

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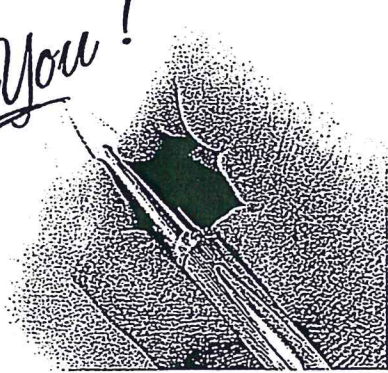
**May 15:** Matt, Vanessa, Hallie, Ellena, Darryl and Alyssa will have flowers in memory of RYANNE'S Birthday

**May 22:** John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

**May 29:** Jay and Julie Morgan will have flowers in memory of CPL William D. Morgan USMC MOH/ Recipient



*Thank You!*



*Dear Saints of Conyngham UMC  
Thank you for your gift of \$352 to  
be put towards the North District  
Mission Fund to assist those in  
Ukraine. What a joy and blessing  
to see so many of our North Dis-  
trict Churches and Members join in  
our efforts to support our brothers  
and sisters in Ukraine.*

*Thank you again for your support of our mission efforts.*

*The North District Team*

## COMMUNITY NEWS

The City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine is collecting items for Ukraine which can be dropped off at Blaise Alexander Car Dealerships (either location in Hazleton or Hazle Township) Monday through Friday from 9AM to 8 PM (except Wednesday and Saturday to 5 PM). They are not collecting clothing at this time although new underwear is a much-needed item as well as socks. Drug Store items are badly needed such as toothpaste, soap, and other toiletry items. Larger items such as tents as well as camping items, yoga mats, and blankets are also requested. Nonperishable food is also accepted. Information will be updated on Facebook. Search for The City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine.

Church Women United will host May Friendship Day on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Good Shepherd Church, 1:00 pm. There will be a Bakeless Bake Sale, and everyone is asked to bring a roll of wrapped pennies.

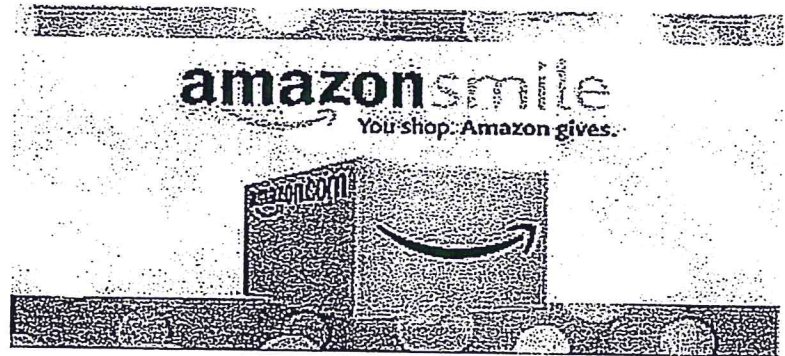
Conyngham Valley Historical Society would like you to join them for their annual Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Conyngham Borough Building. Tickets are \$12 each and must be purchased in advance. Call: 570-582-9028 and leave a message.



## 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*