



**Conyngham United Methodist Church**  
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**May 2023**

Pastor's pen

Recently I was talking to a friend who lived in Wilkes Barre. My friend told me that he had a hard time believing in God at the moment. These last few years of his life had been so difficult, full of disaster and one moment of suffering after another. All of that had turned into a question, where is a loving God in all this mess?

This isn't exclusive to my friend. We all know our community wrestles with pain and sin. We see it whenever rules or laws forget one group or unfairly favor another. We see it where racism thrives. We see it when we are forced to work long hours that wring us dry. We see it when our elderly are forgotten, or when kids are forgotten and turn to drugs to cope with the pain. We see it when the people we trust hurt us. We see it when we make mistakes and hurt others, by the words we say or left unsaid. This is all not the way God intended us or this world to be, so we call it Sin. And our world and community wrestles with it.

Like my friend, so many people in our community only see the sin, the pain, the loss but don't see God's power of resurrection. They see no hope.

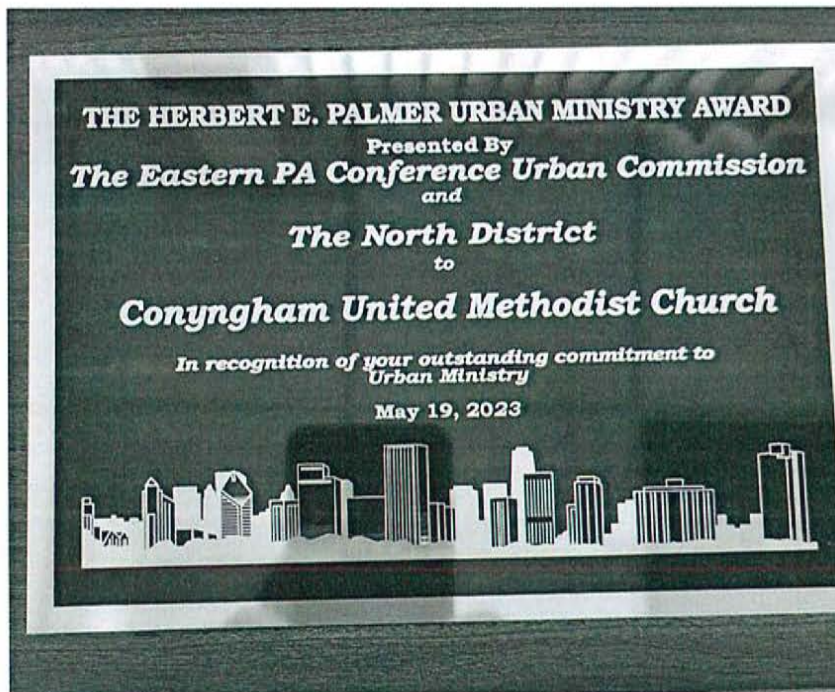
Jesus said this to Thomas who finally believed that the resurrection is real. John 20:29 CEB "Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

I myself do find a lot of happiness because I believe in the resurrection, even though I have not seen Jesus face to face like Thomas. My friend asked me "how do you believe in a loving God when this world is so full of pain?" I answered I have hope that this pain is not all there is because I have hope in Jesus' resurrection. I have hope that Jesus is resurrecting us right now and saving us now from Sin. I have seen how Jesus is doing that in the ministries of our own church.

I saw it just this past Sunday at the heartwood center. Kate Flaim and Heidi Klein made friends with an unhoused women in her 80s named Dottie. She was evicted with her daughter earlier this month and was in the middle of finding a new place to live with the help of the center. You can imagine that she felt abandoned by God, by others, by the world. But after our visit there she said this "I realize now I am loved by God." She did not feel abandoned anymore. Was every last bit of her suffering eliminated? No. But did she experience a bit of resurrection from her suffering? Yes.

Moments like that give me hope that though we still wrestle with suffering and Sin, our God is resurrecting us! And it gives me hope that one day there will be no more crying, nor tears, nor mourning, nor pain, nor death as we experience the full power of the resurrection. As Jesus said to Thomas, I am happy that though I do not see Jesus face to face, I see the present power of his resurrection and believe.

Our community who, like my friend, wrestles with despair needs to see the power and hope of the resurrection too. The kind of church our community needs is one that will show them the power and hope of Jesus' resurrection, so that they may believe and hope as you and I do. The kind of church God calls us to be is one that shows the people around us resurrection. We already do this in many ways. But let us fully embrace this call from God in this Easter season. How do you experience the resurrection and believe? How can you show it to others in our community? How can our whole church work together to shine as God's light? Amen.



## WE WON AN AWARD!

We were nominated for our outreach and fellowship with our pool parties and movie nights, feeding the hungry in our many community meals and through the food pantry, and our work with the people most in need at the Heartwood Center.

Pastor Graham graciously accepted our award and this beautiful plaque is currently in Heidi's office. Feel free to pop in and see it!

**Together we can accomplish  
great things**

# Lectionary

**04—May**  
**National Day of Prayer**

**05— May**  
**Friendship Day**

**07—May**  
**5th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16 (UMH 764)  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14: 1-14

**14—May**  
**6th Sunday of Easter**  
**Mother's Day**  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalms 66:8-20 (UMH 790)  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

**18—May**  
**Ascension of the Lord**  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalms 47 or Psalms 19 (UMH 781)  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**21—May**  
**7th Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1:6-14  
Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35 (UMH 792)  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

**Ascension Sunday**  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalms 47 or Psalms 19 (UMH 781)  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

**24—May**  
**Aldersgate Day**

**28—May**  
**Day of Pentecost**  
Acts 2:1-21  
Psalms 104:24-34, 35b (UMH 825)  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
John 7:37-39

**29—May**  
**Memorial Day**

## Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Barbush, Gil Bittenbender, June Blamey, Lois Ann Earley, Joanne Mumie, Irene and Robert Burger Family, Carol Chyko, Marie Collhan, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Janette Eckrote, Ron Eckrote, Collette Eskin, Mike Fellin, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Ron and Connie Hofmann, Theresa Howley, Glen Kirshner, Mary and Robert Kisansky, Aggie Kisenweather, Rob Lockwood, Rose Luethy, Mark and Theresa Marinock, Cristina and David Matthey, Kim Murphy, Carl Roberts, Danny Sampson, Carol Siewell, Maureen Susa, Valerie Sutton, Frank Tarselli, Marilyn Tedesco, Jacqueline Walker, Marie Waschko, all cancer and COVID patients, our military personnel, as well as leaders of our country, the Russia/Ukraine Situation, families of addicts, Clyde Van Horn, Pat Ferrari, The Hawke Family and the Kelly Family.

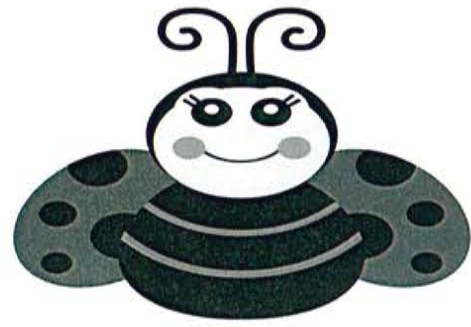
Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Graham Truscott, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry, Heartwood Center and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.

### *May Birthdays*

06-May Cassidy Bicking  
08-May Judy Whitaker  
12-May Joseph Racho  
13-May Rita Washick  
13-May Kirsten Young  
15-May Gerry Cromley  
15-May Ruth Huey  
17-May James Ancharski  
21-May John Selby  
22-May Megan Flaim  
25-May Paulette Laskos  
27-May Bonnie Racho  
31-May Patti Ancharski  
31-May Mary Lou Legg

### *May Anniversaries*

08 May John & Deborah Cara  
16 May Jeff & Heidi Klein  
26 May Chris & Bethany Gogola  
27 May John & Beverly Selby



### **June Birthdays**

02-June	Brandon Bicking
03-June	Logan Wetzel
08-June	Beverly Kraft
09-June	Dianne French
09 June	Louise Boyle
13-June	Betty Duffy
15-June	Matthew Cara
20-June	Bethany Gogola
24-June	Dr. Robert Washick
24-June	Jessica Morgan
25-June	Scott Luchi
25-June	Rev. Joseph Healey
25-June	Rebecca Rossi
29-June	Jeremy Bicking
29-June	Vanessa Cara
30-June	Noah Ancharski

### **June Anniversaries**

01- June	Rev. Joe & Irene Healey
04-June	Charlie & Karen Lingenfelter
07-June	Bruce & Beverly Hilliard
08-June	Steve & Tamara Huey
08-June	Fred & Heather Groce
09-June	Gerry & Nancy Cromley
10-June	Craig & Keelyn Radzwich
19-June	Joe & Bonnie Racho
24-June	Ron & Connie Hofmann
28-June	Charles & Rosemary Mandrick
29-June	Tom & Jane Burns
29-June	Michael & Sharon Farver

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

feeding body  
and soul ♡

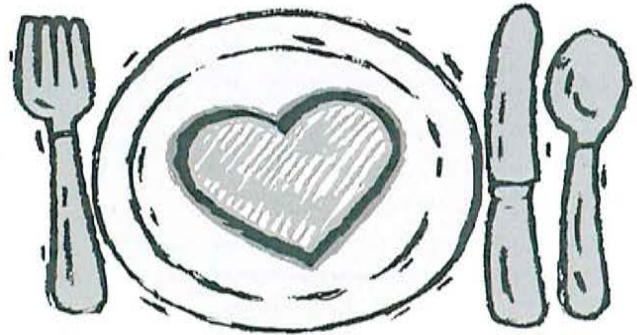
### DINNER AND DEVOTIONS

Starting this Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, we are having a free dinner and devotion at the church. This Dinner and Devotions is a time to grow closer to each other with good food, good company. It's also a time to grow closer to God with devotions and brief worship led a church member. The dinners will be at 5:30 pm on Thursday-May 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday-May 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday-May 17<sup>th</sup>, Thursday-May 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday-May 31<sup>st</sup>. All are welcome to join us!

### Community Meal:

Our valley interfaith council is hosting another community meal. Our second meal will be **May 12th, 5:30-7:00pm** at **St. John Bosco Church**. We will be inviting people from all walks of life, people who use our food pantry, people who come to our churches, people in our community and from around the valley. Tickets are available here at the church. There is no fee, but a Free Will Offering will be taken to cover costs, etc.

**Note:** If you would like to volunteer to help in any aspect of this, (shopping for food, preparing food, baking, clean-up, etc.) please contact Pastor Graham.



### COMMUNITY DINNER

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It is Annual Conference season again! This year Annual Conference will be May 18-20 in the Oaks Expo center in Philadelphia. What is the Annual Conference? Once each year, pastors and lay delegates from each UMC church in Eastern PA gather for fellowship, connection, worship, and to discuss important matters for all our Methodist churches for the next year. This includes things like a budget for our slice of the denomination, Grant approvals, and other important legislation to help our churches grow.

This year our theme is possibility. "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 At Annual Conference we will be discussing what will be possible with God at our churches.

We ask that you pray for us as Methodists from all over Eastern PA come together to discern and plan for how we may do God's will in Eastern PA and all our churches.

## Heartwood Center

We love our ministry at the Heartwood Center! The Heartwood Center is a daytime shelter for our unhoused friends in the Hazleton area. They help people with no homes find jobs, find new homes, find a community of love and support, develop life skills, recover from addiction and more!

Our ministry with the shelter is one of the important ways that we all work together to meet the various needs of our unhoused friends. Many of our unhoused friends struggle to feel the God of the whole universe loves them as a parent. Some have trouble forgiving themselves. Some feel they offer no worth to the world. Some days these are some things we struggle with too. So we go up on the 4th Sunday of each month for lunch and a Bible study. We show our love by cooking good food and talking with our friends. Then we all learn together how God loves us, forgive us, and equips us to love others.

Here's some recent feedback we were told by 3 of our friends at the shelter.

"I enjoyed our time together. It helped me to understand that I am loved by God"

"For the first time in a while I feel accepted and loved. It feels like God has made it possible to save my life"

"I finally feel like I have peace of mind. Please keep coming back"

Please consider joining us to walk in love with our friends. We go every 4th Sunday of the month at noon. Talk to either pastor Graham or Heidi.

And thank you everybody for all the supplies you have given and donated for the Heartwood Center! They are much appreciated!



Join Our

**B L O C K P A R T Y**

**Block Party: Our 2nd Annual Block Party will take place on June 11th!**

We have often thought it is a shame that we don't know many of our neighbors directly around the church building. After all, how can we love our neighbors if we don't know them? And we have often lamented that loss of a sense of community these days. But to get to know people, and to rebuild community is tough. This block party is the first step in that direction. We want to be intentional to invite our neighbors, and our church's neighbors to this block party to have some fun and to get to know each other, and build up that sense of community. And of course, this party is open to the whole town and valley as well. We need your help to do it!. If you like to get involved in planning this party and outreach, then please contact Bob Kalinchok @ 570-710-9268 or Pastor Graham @ 267-421-2606

## FLOWERS

**05/07:** John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

**05/14:** Matt, Vanessa and Children will have flowers in memory of Ryanne's Birthday

**05/21:** John and Debbie Cara gave a donation to the General Fund.

**05/28:** Jay and Julie Morgan will have flowers in memory of CPL William D. Morgan USMC/MOH Recipient.



## Altar Flowers

# Community News

Church Women United will host **May Friendship Day** on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Saint John Bosco Church, 1:00 pm. Everyone is asked to bring a roll of wrapped pennies.

Conyngham Valley Historical Society is hosting a **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea**, Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Conyngham Borough Building. Tickets are \$15.00 and must be purchased in advance. Please call 570-582-9028 and leave a message.

*Spring into life.*

Give blood.



American  
Red Cross

**Community Blood Drive**  
**Conyngham**  
**United Methodist Church**

Social Hall  
411 South Main Street  
Conyngham, PA 18219

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: CONYNGHAMUMC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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# Willow Foundation Hope Auction Basket Raffle

*All funds raised will assist in meeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness &/or food insecurity in the Greater Hazleton Area*

early ticket sales begin May 5th



*8AM to 6PM*  
at The Heartwood  
Center  
100 S. Wyoming St. Hazleton

Saturday, May 13th  
*9AM to 3PM*

Drawings will start at 3:30PM

*2.5 for \$ 5.00*  
Tickets are \$1 each or ~~2~~ for ~~4~~

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Pathways	<b>2</b> 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>3</b> 10:00am Religious Studies	<b>4</b> 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Dinner/Devotion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>9</b> 10:00am Sisters 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>10</b> 10:00am Religious Studies 5:30pm Dinner/Devotion 6:30pm Pathways Group Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	<b>12</b> 4:00pm Community Meal	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>16</b> 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Dinner/Devotion	<b>18</b> 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:30am Worship Service	<b>22</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>23</b> 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Christian Conversations	<b>25</b> 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 5:30pm Dinner/Devotion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Heartwood Center	<b>29</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Zumba Class	<b>31</b> 5:30pm Dinner/Devotion			