

***Conyngham United Methodist Church
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October 2022***

Dear Church Family,

When I was in seminary, I had a running buddy who I would run with about 3 times a week. One of our running days was Sundays after worship and church events, as we were both pastors and seminary students. One fall I remember running down a tree lined street in Durham after a particularly rough Sunday at church. As we ran, we marveled at the colors of the leaves, the niceness of the crisp fall air, and vented our frustrations like a moving confessional both. I have to say that on that day, I experienced as much of the grace of God running with my running partner, as I did in church that morning.

Friends, the month of October this year makes me think of two things, grace and relationships. Grace because we will be doing a short sermons series on God's love and grace in the month of October. Relationships because Sunday school is getting back into the full swing of things, we have our community meal, our ministry with the Heartwood center, and Halloween and All Saints Day are right around the corners.

Thinking of all of this, a particular scripture comes to mind: Hebrews 12:1-2a "So then, with endurance, let's all run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (CEB)"

This October is a time to focus on grace and relationships. It is a time to focus on the grace we see in what scripture calls the great cloud of witnesses, all the people around us, all the people who have passed on, all the people who are examples of great faith in God, and all the people and community in which we see God's grace. As Methodists we believe that there are things called means of grace, channels or activities through which we can experience God's grace more powerfully than at other times. These include prayer, reading the Bible, participating in worship, taking communion, and helping the poor. But our means of grace is not limited to those things. Our relationships with that great cloud of witnesses can also be a means of grace.

So, this October I invite you to embrace relationships with that great cloud of witnesses as a means of grace. Just like I found God's grace in talking to my running buddy, I invite you to seek out God's grace, God's love, God's patience, God's forgiveness in your relationships with others as well. This doesn't mean we should ignore the other means of grace, just that I invite you to focus on the relationship one as well for this month. Whose relationship with you help's you feel God's love, and not just that person's love? Who is the person that helps you fix your eyes on Jesus Christ, the one in whom we place our faith, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith? In the month of October, thinking through these questions, I invite you to look for and find the love of God in a powerful way, just like me and my running buddy. It will help you run the race of life well, just like it did for us. Amen.

Pastor Graham

Lectionary

02—October

**17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalms 137 (UMH 852)
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

09—October

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalms 66:1-12 (UMH 790)
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

16—October

**19th Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday/Children's Sabbath**

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalms 119:97-104 or Psalms 19 (UMH 750)
2 Timothy 3:13-4:4
Luke 18:1-8

23—October

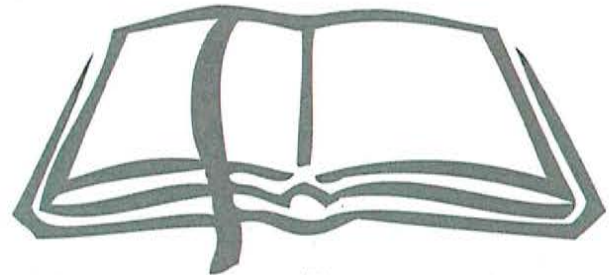
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32
Psalms 65 (UMH 789)
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

30—October

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalms 119:137-144 (UMH 840)
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10



Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Geof Blackner, Irene and Robert Burger, Carol Chyko, Marie Colihan, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Edna Drum, Janette Eckrote, Collette Eskin, Mike Fellin, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Connie Hofmann, Mary and Robert Kisansky, 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, Henry Parks, Carol Seiwel, Lois Ann Earley, Nicole Bachert, Sandy Fairchild, Kasha in Ukraine, Alice Talanca, all cancer patients, our military, anyone with COVID, People with opioid addiction, The People of Kentucky flooding, and the Ukraine/Russia situation.

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.

October Birthdays

06-Oct	Don Matthey
08-Oct	Lindsay Washick
08-Oct	Rosemary Mandrick
12 Oct	Irene Healey
14-Oct	Jean Luchi
16-Oct	Carrie Wiley
16 Oct	Patsy Brutosky
17-Oct	Pat Foley
18 Oct	Alyssa Cara
19-Oct	Barry Jones
22-Oct	Sharon Farver
24-Oct	Vicky Wolfe
24-Oct	Jill Hawk
24-Oct	Jeff Klein
29 Oct	Willie Lingenfelter
31 Oct	Wyatt Mumich

October Anniversaries

08 Oct	Brian and Denise Earley
08 Oct	Roy and Lisa Schuetz
09 Oct	Jeff and Vicky Wolfe
19 Oct	Jonathan and Brittany DeBalko



November Birthdays

02-Nov	Anna Montague
03-Nov	Eli Ancharski
03 Nov	Prudence Mumich
04-Nov	Tyler Bicking
11-Nov	Frederick Groce
11-Nov	Caleb Ancharski
13-Nov	Dottie Matthey
14-Nov	Paula Piacenti
16-Nov	Tiffany Rossi
17-Nov	J. Matthew Racho
19-Nov	Derek Radzwich
23-Nov	Millini Skuba
23-Nov	Kurt Klein
27-Nov	Ross Burns

November Anniversaries

19 Nov	Thomas and Carrie Wiley
23 Nov	Matt and Carol Racho

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

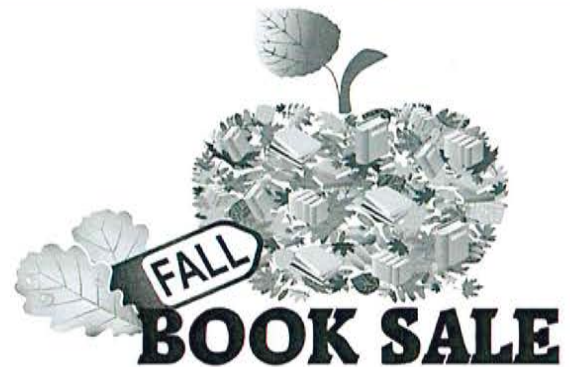
Book Sale: If you can help set up at the book sale, the times are as follows:

Wednesday - October 5th, 9 AM - Noon & then 5:30 PM - 7:30PM.

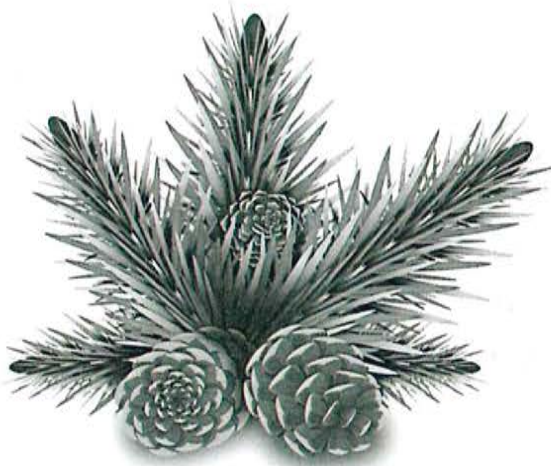
Thursday - October 6th, 12:30 until finish.

The sale is on Friday and Saturday, if you can help, just show up, 9 AM - 2 PM.

Thanks, Billie & Beverly



Bazaar News



It doesn't seem possible but the Bazaar is only a month away and I wanted to ask for your assistance!! First off, the sign up sheets will be available right after the Book Sale. Your help will be needed to assist those who will be there just about all day. Secondly, if you have items for the Jewelry, Bake Sale, Crafts, Basket Auction or Attic Treasures you can drop them off at any time in Heidi's Office!! Bake Sale items can be dropped off the Friday before the Bazaar. Finally, come out and visit for it will take all of us to make this a successful day!!

Mary Lou and Sharon

On October 16 at 1:00pm we will hold our annual charge conference.

A charge conference is a yearly event where churches from around the area meet together with our district superintendent to do a variety of things. We pray with each other, we mourn for each other, we celebrate with each other. Together we take stock of where we have come from as churches, how things are right now, and we think God is leading us. We also make important decisions, like approving church finances and reports. This year once again it our church that will be hosting this charge conference for the churches in our area. This is an important part of our connection with the larger United Methodist Church and we want you all to be informed about what is going on with our connection.



Charge
Conference

Period Poverty Drive: During the **month of October**, Bethany Gogola, with the help of our church, will run a period poverty drive to collect feminine hygiene products for the local homeless shelter. A box will be set up in the social hall for any donations of these products or gift cards to a local store (CVS or Giant) that is within walking distance from the shelter. An email regarding this topic was emailed out to the congregation. For more information on this project, or if you would like to help in any way or just find out more about this issue, please contact Bethany Gogola at 570.401.9613 or bethanygogola@gmail.com.

Love Thy Neighbor
Helping the Homeless



**Boscov's Friends
Helping Friends
Discount Coupons**

Purchase your Boscov's coupon now to receive a discount

off your purchases on October 19th. Please consider taking a few to sell to your friends, buy them as gifts.

The coupon is good for 25% off most goods but there are some exceptions. See Paula Piacenti or Heidi in the church office for the \$5.00 coupon that is good at all Boscov's stores.

We need folks to sell passes at Boscov's, there is a sign-up sheet in the social hall with times.

Trunk or Treat will take place on **October 31st 6:00-8:00 pm**. If you would like to be a part of this year's trunk-or-treat, please sign up in the social hall. You can bring your car to decorate, or just come dressed up and hand out candy.

Candy donations are desperately needed and there is a box located in the social hall for the candy donations.



Community Meal:

We all know the joy and the goodness of sitting down to eat with somebody else, especially friends and family. There is also joy in inviting others to that table as well. Our valley interfaith council is planning on creating a community meal right here in Conyngham.

Our first meal will be **October 21, 5:30-7:00pm** at **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**, right up the road from us in Conyngham. 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, clean-up, etc.) please contact Pastor Graham.



Community Meal

FOOD PANTRY



Our Church will be collecting **applesauce** for the **Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets**. The deadline for this is **November 17th**. All donations can be placed in the shopping cart in our Social Hall.

Ministry with the Heartwood Center

In Spring we went up to the new homeless daytime shelter, the Heartwood center, with the confirmation class for a service project of feeding the homeless. As we were driving up to the center on Wyoming street in Hazleton, I had no clue what to expect when I got there. I don't know if we would get a warm welcome from the people we were hoping to love, or some cold stares of apathy. Things ... started off slow. We arrived at the shelter, introduced ourselves, and began prepping lunch after a short tour. When we introduced ourselves, a few of their members (what they call folks experiencing homelessness), said hi, but that was it. The staff were excited to have us at least. But once we started serving lunch, things began to change. As we served lunch, we introduced ourselves, and heard the names of the people we were serving as well. Then we got our lunches and sat down to eat with the members as well. That was when things really began to pick up. As we tried to build relationships with folks, hearing their stories and sharing a story or two of our own, we began to have a lot of fun. We laughed and joked around the lunch table with the members, and for a brief moment it felt like we weren't two separate groups, but one. Then one of the members, asked us point blank, with an enormous smile on her face, "When are you folks coming back?" I couldn't answer because I didn't know. A short while after that, we took prayer requests from folks, said a few prayers, and went on our way.

But for weeks afterwards, what that one member said has stayed with me. "When are you folks coming back?" I often wear a red rubber bracelet with two things on it. One is the phrase "Change the world." The other is a Bible verse, Matthew 25:35: "For I was hunger and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me. I was naked and you clothed me." Jesus goes on to say a few verses later "I tell you, whatever you have done to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done to me." In other words, how we treat the least of these is how we treat Jesus. And that is why that question "When are you folks coming back?" has stuck with me. What if it was not only a homeless woman looking for an affordable apartment, but a homeless Jesus Christ asking that question?

I have prayed about this a lot. I have talked about this a lot with church council and the other people who visited the heartwood center with us. We all truly believe that God has called us to go back there, and to be in ministry with those people there. After talking with the staff, we see that the biggest needs of the people there are relational. Like I talked about with communion this past Sunday, relationships can be healing. So, we want to just begin in ministry with the people there by simply going up, eating, talking, maybe praying, and getting to know people. Once we get to know people more, we hope to start a Bible study next year to help meet some of their spiritual needs as well. And we are doing our period poverty collection to help meet some of their physical needs too.

For now, we plan to go up once a month to help prep food, to eat, to chat, and do some thanksgiving and Christmas oriented fun activities in the appropriate seasons. **If you would like to join us, we are leaving immediately after our worship service on October 23rd, leaving at 11:30am, to return to the Heartwood center. All are welcome to join us, even if you are just curious to see what it is all about.** If you are interested, just let me know so we can give them a headcount, so they can secure enough food for the meal. Cell:267-421-2606. Email:

wgruscott@gmail.com



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive October 13, 1-6pm

Sign up on the red cross blood drive website.
Only 10 slots left.

Community NEWS

Annual Pumpkin Fest at Christ UCC will be held on **October 8th** from **10:00-3:00**. Tricky Trays, Homemade Food and Bake Sale.

Christ Lutheran Church will hold its annual **Apple Festival on Saturday, October 15th** from **8am-3pm**. There will be a flea market, crafts, tricky trays, kid's games and kids' crafts. Homemade foods, apple pies, cakes, dumplings and more.

Church Women United will hold a planning meeting at Fratelli's here on Main Street on **10/10 at Noon**. Please consider attending this meeting, we need CUMC to be represented.

On October 21st the **Valley Interfaith Council** will hold **"Community Free Meal"** at **Christ Lutheran Church**.
****See more information about this under our Church News!**



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.



OCTOBER FLOWERS



October 2-John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

October 9-John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

October 16-Jonathan and Brittany DeBalko will give a donation in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

October 23--Bethany and Chris Gogola will give a donation in memory of Bethany's Dad, John Klein.

October 30-Sally Kijanka will have flowers in memory of her husband, Mike.

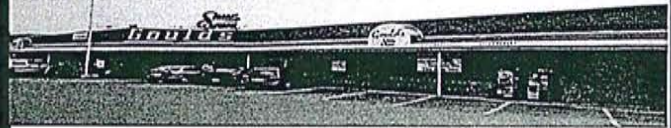
WAYS TO HELP

AmazonSmile: 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

The Amazon.com logo is displayed in white text on a black rectangular background. The word "amazon.com" is in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a curved arrow underneath the letters "a" and "z" pointing from left to right.

“...but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.”
Proverbs:12-11b

Gould's Supermarket



Gould's Gift Cards: Purchase Gould's Gift Cards through our church. They are easy to use at Gould's Shur Save, 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/>.



MEDITATION GARDEN PAVERS

To order a paver:

1. Please print your request.
2. 1, 2, 3, or 4 lines of wording are acceptable.
3. Use no more than 12 characters per line of wording.

Requester's Name: _____

Phone: _____

On my paver, I want the following engraved:

If you have 2 or more pavers from your family that you wish placed side by side, please specify.

Return this form and your payment of \$100 to Barry Jones.

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Ignite Youth Event 9:15am Sunday School Meet and Greet 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Latino Bible Study	3 6:00pm Zumba Class	4 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	5 9:00am Set Up for Book Sale 10:00am Religious Studies 5:30pm Set Up for Book Sale 6:30pm Christian Conversations	6 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:30pm Set Up for Book Sale	7 9:00am Book Sale	8 9:00am Book Sale
9 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Latino Bible Study	10 12:00pm Church Women United Planning Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	11 10:00am Sisters 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	12 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	13 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 1:00pm Blood Drive	14	15
16 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 1:00pm Charge Conference 2:00pm Latino Bible Study	17 6:00pm Zumba Class	18 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Pathways Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	19 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	20 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 5:00pm Community Meal	22
23 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Heartwood Center 2:00pm Latino Bible Study	24 6:00pm Zumba Class	25 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class	26 10:00am Religious Studies	27 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry	28	29
30 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Latino Bible Study	31 6:00pm Trunk or Treat					