

Conyngham United Methodist Church
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October 2023

Pastor's Pen

Dear Church Friends and Family,

Do you ever feel like you are drowning? I remember one particularly rough semester back in my college days. I had assignment, after assignment, after assignment. So much so that I always turned them in minutes before they were due. No matter how much I tried, I couldn't catch up. I could never get ahead in my work. The to-do list always got longer, not shorter. My friends told me to rest, but I refused saying "I won't get it all done if I stop." Of course, halfway through that semester I became burnout, turned in assignments late, and barely passed one of my classes. Now I wished I had taken even a little time to simply be still. But that's hard to do when you are drowning. It requires faith that somebody will stop you from sinking while you are still.

Case in point, this story from Mark 4:35-41 about Jesus and his disciples in a storm. **35** Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." **36** They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along. **37** Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. **38** But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?" **39** He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. **40** Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?" **41** Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Jesus asks the disciples if they have faith yet. He wants them to have faith that he will catch them when they are falling, save them when they are drowning, keep them afloat when they are sinking. What does it take for you to be still? For me, it takes trust in God that everything **won't** fall apart while I rest in God.

I want to clarify that resting doesn't mean doing nothing. Different people rest in different ways. People who work with their minds a lot or do repetitive tasks all day often rest by working with their hands, like woodworking or knitting. That's because it rests their minds. People who work with their bodies all day often rest by taking a nap, eating a snack, or just staying still. That rests their bodies. People who have tired souls or emotions often rest by venting, by processing those emotions, or just taking time to tune out the world that made them tired and connect with somebody. That rests their souls. In all of these forms of resting, we can connect with God.

We're at a busy time of the year, both in the church and in the rest of the world. It seems like our schedules just get more and more full. Like the disciples, we might be asking Jesus today, Lord, Teacher, Savior, don't you care that I am drowning? Jesus does care. Trust in him that he will keep you afloat while you are drowning, and if you rest, know that he can keep everything from falling apart. Let him calm the storm in your life, and rest with him. That way you won't end up like me in college. Take time to rest, be still, and know that Jesus has your back. Amen.

Pastor Graham

Lectionary

01—October

18th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday (Offering)
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

08—October

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalms 19 (UMH 750)
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

15—October

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Laitiy Sunday
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829)
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

22—October

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Children's Sabbath
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalms 99 (UMH 819)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

29—October

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 809)
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46



Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Cheryl Pecora, Joe Tomcheck, Jean Ann Weich, Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Bar-bush, June Blamey, Joanne Mumie, Irene and Robert Burger Family, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Arty Deis, Ron Eckrote, Collette Eskin, Mike Fellin, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Barbara Gavel, Irene Healey, Ron Hofmann, Theresa Howley, Glen Kirshner, Mary and Robert Kisansky, Aggie Kisenweather, Rose Luethy, Mark and Theresa Marinock, Cristina and David Matthey, Kim Murphy, Carl Roberts, Danny Sampson, Carol Siewell, Maureen Susa, Valerie Sutton, Jacqueline Walker, all cancer and COVID patients, our military personnel, as well as leaders of our country, the Russia/Ukraine situation, families of addicts, Pat Ferrari, Jay Wetzell, Edie Larsen, Madelyn Lawson, Fred Polmounter, Larry Generose, Kyle, Don Zufall, 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, Emmaus Road Travelers and Drivers and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.

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
30 Oct	Tammy McCauley
31 Oct	Wyatt Mumich

October Anniversaries

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

October Worship Leaders

October 1

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher:
Liturgist: Sadie DeBalko
Singer: Carrie Joy Wiley
Children's Message: Billie Shaffer
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Hazel DeBalko

October 8

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher:
Liturgist: Tammy McCauley
Singer: Joe Racho
Children's Message: Pastor Graham
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Freddy Jacob

October 15

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher:
Liturgist: Eamon Wiley
Singer: Carrie Joy Wiley
Children's Message: Kate Flaim
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Malcolm Wiley

October 22

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher:
Liturgist: Jean Luchi
Singer: Rena Bicking
Children's Message: Carrie Joy Wiley
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Eamon Wiley

October 29

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher:
Liturgist: Kate Flaim
Singer: Joe Racho
Children's Message: Billie Shaffer
Sound Board: Wiley Family
Acolyte: Hazel DeBalko

October Altar Flowers

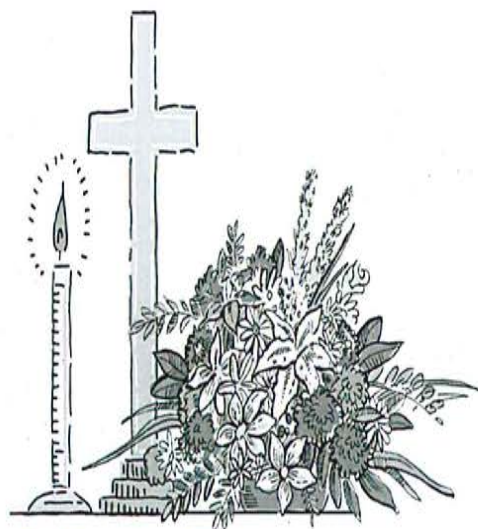
10/01—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

10/08—Jonathan and Brittany DeBalko will give a donation in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

10/15—Bethany and Chris Gogola will have flowers in memory of Bethany's Dad, John Klein.

10/22—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

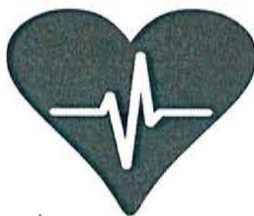
10/29—Sally Kijanka will give a donation in memory of her husband, Mike.



Altar Flowers

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

AED



Automated External
Defibrillator

There will be an AED Tutorial after Worship Service on Sunday, October 8th. Please plan on attending, it can save a life!

We will be collecting applesauce for the Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets.



Deadline is 11/12

Heartwood Center News: Pastor Graham has been going to the center on Thursday afternoons to play basketball and or hike with a few of the folks there, if you would like to get in on a game or two or even watch, let Pastor Graham know! We are going to the center **Sunday, October 22nd** to serve lunch and have a short Bible Study. We are always in need of someone to prepare food for about 25-30 people, main dish, side dishes or dessert. Let Heidi know if you are willing to make anything. Special thank you to those who continue to make food and support this ministry in any way!

Everyone is welcome to come along!

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. **Candy donations are desperately needed** and there is a box located in the social hall for the candy donations. You can bring your car to decorate, or just come dressed up and handout candy, talking with kids, and being with your church community.

Our Dinners and Devotions are returning this fall! These are a time to have dinner together, hear a devotion to guide our lives with God, and have a brief time of worship. They will be every two weeks on Thursdays at 5:30. **Our next one will be Thursday, October 12th at 5:30pm**. Before we can start these up again, we need your help with two things. 1 we need people in our church who can prepare the meals! If you can make a homecooked meal for us or just get something from the store, we would greatly appreciate it. Usually, 25-30 people attend dinners and devotions. 2. We need people from our church or community to lead the devotions. You can write your own devotion, share a Bible story that means a lot to you and tell us the story why, or simply share a devotion that spoke to you in your daily readings. If you can help out with either of these please let pastor Graham or Heidi know.



BOOK SALE & AUTHOR SIGNING

October 5, 2023 – Noon to ~~5 PM~~ 7 PM

October 6, 2023 – 10 AM to ~~2 PM~~ 3 PM

Conyngham United Methodist Church
411 Main Street - Conyngham

- . Local Author - D'Andre Alexandre
- . Local Author - Mia McGlynn

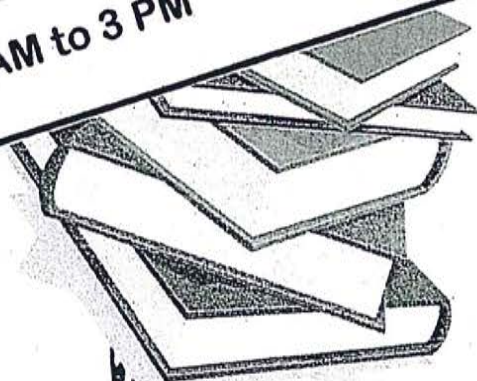
Both Authors will be signing.

Due to the overwhelming amount of books we have received, we
are adding additional hours to the book sale/author signing:

Thursday October 5, noon to 7 PM

Friday, October 6, 10 AM to 3 PM

(Few exceptions)





Ladies and Lassies Tea

**Sunday, October 15th
2:00-4:00 pm
Church Social Hall**

Our Secret Sisters group invites all ladies and girls to join us for an afternoon of tea and friendship.

We ask that you bring your favorite tea cup, saucer and if you wish, some tea bags to share. We will provide tea and hot apple cider. Also, if you would like to help with finger food/ dessert, it would be greatly appreciated.

A sign up sheet is in the social hall, so sign up friends and family by October 8th. All ladies and lassies are welcome.

We will also have a beautiful fall and relaxation gift basket to be auctioned off, if you would like to try to win it!

Please join us for a relaxing , fun friendship and enjoyable afternoon. We deserve it!



Annual Bazaar Deck The Halls

November 04, 2023
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Vendors, Bake Sale
Basket Auction

Kitchen Menu
Barbeque, Chicken Corn Soup,
Vegetable Soup and Haluski

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Church Health Group

Our pathways group has transitioned to a group focused on church health and we want you all to know what is going on. This new group focused on helping our church become a healthier congregation is reading together "Reclaiming the Great Commission: a Roadmap to Parish Health." Our focus in this group is reclaiming the purposes of church, that great commission to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." We believe doing this will help us become a healthier church. To do this work we are discussing barriers in our church, what we can do to remove, remodel, or shift them, and what practical steps we can take to refocus on that mission Jesus gave the church. We meet every other Wednesday to discuss the roadmap the book is laying out for us. If you have any question, please feel free to ask anybody in the group: Pastor Graham, Kate Flaim, Tom Burns, Carrie Wiley, Thomas Wiley, Christ Gogola, Heidi Klein.



COMMUNITY NEWS

October 14th—Christ Lutheran Church Apple Fest from 8am-3pm.

October 15th—St. John Bosco Church will host the Hazleton Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in a seasonal concert at 3:00 PM. Free admission, donations appreciated.

St. John Bosco Church is overjoyed to welcome acclaimed OCP artist and composer Sarah Hart on the weekend of October 21-22, 2023! Sarah is the composer of many hymns that are becoming standards in church music ministries. Some of her most well-known hymns are "The House That Love Is Building," "Drawn To You," "Alleluia, Love is Alive," and "Go in Peace." Sarah's music is poignant, and prayerful and offers listeners and musicians a beautiful way to help congregations praise together in Sarah will present a **Musicians Workshop** (open to all choir members, cantors, accompanists, and musicians) on **Saturday, October 21st from 9 a.m. to noon** in the Church proper. This workshop delves into the new music emerging from the greater church, and how it fits (or doesn't) into our modern-day yet traditional liturgy. Attendees will learn and sing new material, as well as participate in discussions about "praise versus performance" songwriting (and psalm-writing), cantering, putting together a great worship band, and effectively introducing new music to the congregation. **Tickets for this event are \$20 and include a luncheon and fellowship following the workshop at noon.** If you are interested please contact Jen Gerhard, SJB Music Director, at Jinny_97@hotmail.com or Joanne Oakum, SJB Music Ministry, at jmoakum@gmail.com for registration forms or if you have questions! Space is limited so we encourage you to register soon.

November 7th—St. John Bosco Election Day Pasta Dinner from 3 pm—7pm.

November 11th—St. John's UCC Chinese Auction and Tricky Trays.

Conyngham Union Cemetery—Cemetery graves are available for burial or cremation for \$750.00 each at Conyngham Union Cemetery. A plot of four graves would cost \$3,400.00. For more information or to schedule an appointment to determine location please send an email to ConynghamUnionCemetery@gmail.com. We will be raising prices as of November 1st. If interested, please take advantage of our current pricing.

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	2 6:00pm Zumba Class	3 10:00am Sisters 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	4 9:00am Set-up for Book Sale 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	5 9:00am Book Sale 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	6 9:00am Book Sale	7
8 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am AED Tutorial after Worship	9 6:00pm Zumba Class	10 5:30pm Trustees Meeting 6:00pm Zumba Class	11 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Book Group for Church Health	12 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 5:30pm Dinner and Devotions	13	14
15 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Ladies and Lassies Tea	16 6:00pm Zumba Class	17 1:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00pm Zumba Class	18 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Christian Conversations	19 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	20	21
22 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Heartwood Center	23 6:00pm Zumba Class	24 Apply for Equitable Compensation 6:00pm Zumba Class	25 10:00am Religious Studies 6:30pm Book Group for Church Health	26 9:30am Plastic Mat Ministry 5:30pm Dinner and Devotions 7:00pm SPRC Meeting	27	28
29 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 1:00pm Gebhat/Flaim Birthday Party	30 6:00pm Zumba Class	31 6:00pm Zumba Class 6:00pm Trunk or Treat				