

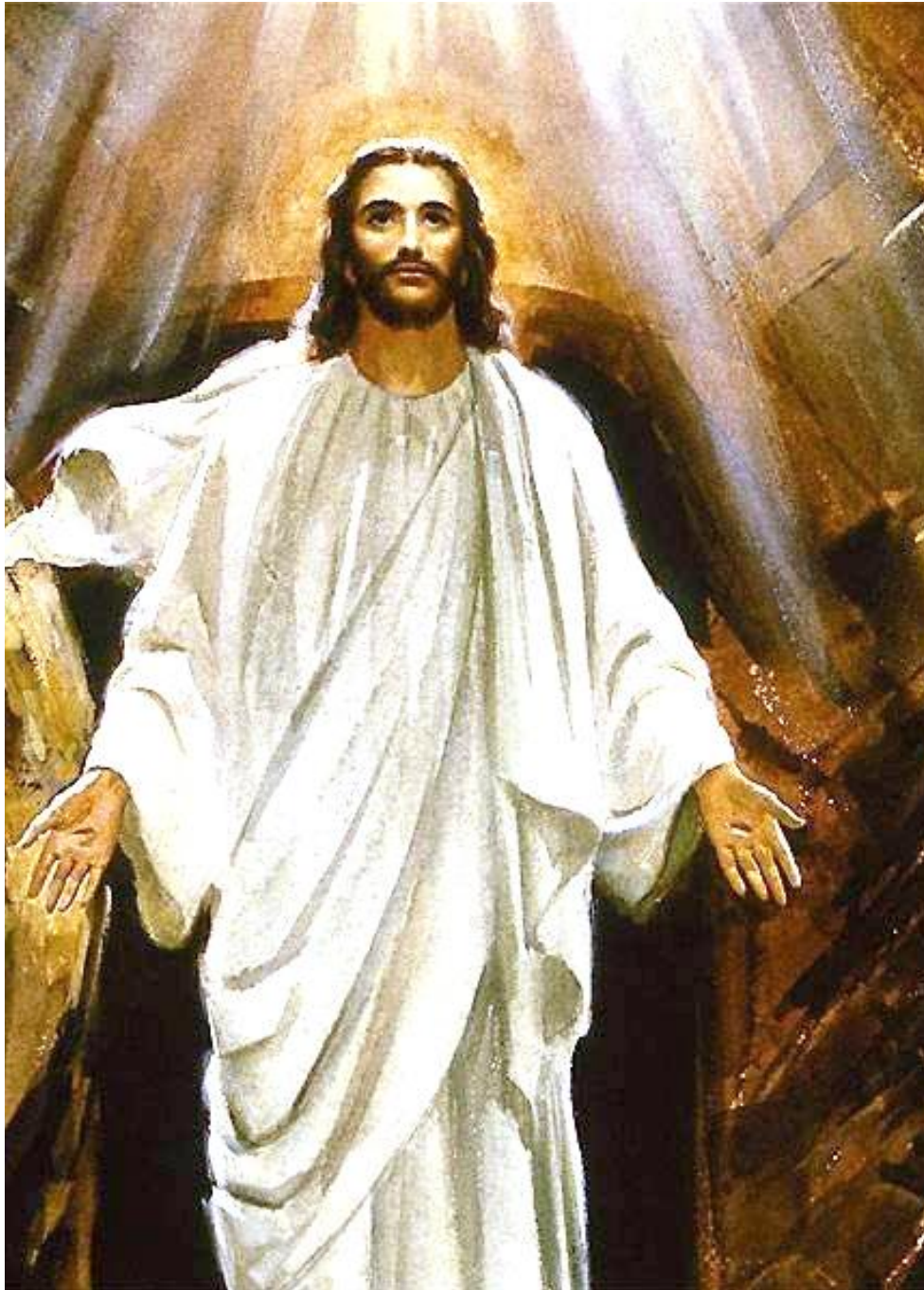
April 2026

Conley's United Methodist Church



THE CONNECTION

In essentials, unity In non-essentials, liberty In all things, charity



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Special Points of Interest

- Poetry, Prayers, and Words of Wisdom
- Notable Days in April



The Pastor's Pen

a word from Pastor Bill Davis

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed, he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'

This is my message for you."

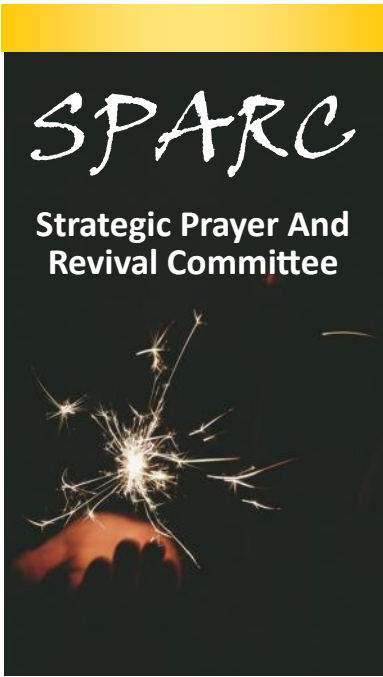
Matthew 28:5-7

Easter Sunday is the most-attended worship service of the year. And for good reason; the Resurrection of Jesus is at the center of our faith and of God's plan for the world's salvation. Easter, however, is not a one-day celebration in the liturgy of the Church. Easter Sunday is the first day of the Season of Easter which lasts until Pentecost (May 24th). During this time, we reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. The verses above (from our Lectionary reading for Easter Sunday) instruct fearful people in the midst of fearsome circumstances to leave fear behind and walk forward in faith. How is this possible? Because Jesus has been raised and is going ahead. God made peace with us--his enemies--through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In so doing, God demonstrated sacrificial grace and showed us the way to peace. Mercy and love in the face of bitterness and hatred is what it means to follow Jesus.

God continues to call people to step out of their fear and walk in the peace of Christ. God's Word calls us to strive for peace with our Creator, our family, our neighbor, and our enemy. Fallen humanity struggles with this . . . especially that last one. When we are hurt, when we feel threatened, the natural human reaction is to respond with violence, to hate those who hate us and to curse those who curse us. We seek to sanitize our violent actions and hateful thoughts and words by calling them "righteous anger." This discounts the fact that, other than Jesus Christ himself, "there is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10) and "human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires" (James 1:20). Thomas Merton wrote: "I have learned that an age in which politicians talk about peace is an age in which everybody expects war; the great men of the earth would not talk of peace so much if they did not secretly believe it possible, with one more war, to annihilate their enemies forever. Always 'after just one more war' it will dawn, the new era of love; but first everybody who is hated must be eliminated. For hate, you see, is the mother of their kind of love" (*Emblems of a Season of Fury*).

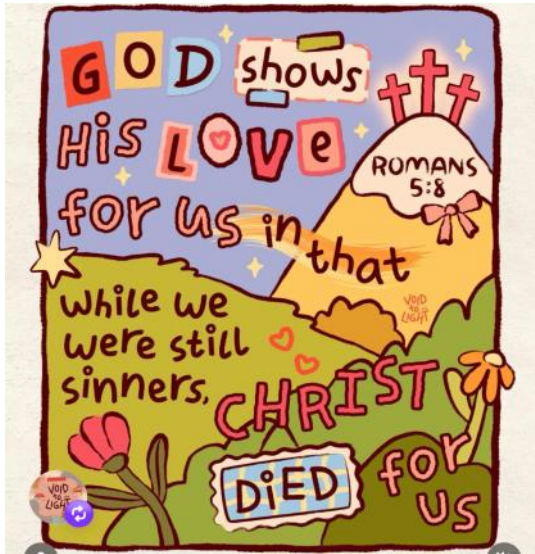
The world's prescription for peace is expressed simply: peace through superior firepower. Unfortunately, this has a 100% failure rate. Six millennia of recorded human history attests to our utter inability to achieve peace by force. In contrast, Christ's prescription for peace is difficult to express. How can a turn-the-other-cheek approach ever lead to peace? Indeed, even the apostle Paul admitted that the peace of God "transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). But at the same time Paul promises us that God's peace will guard the hearts and minds of those who are in Christ Jesus. God's prescription for peace does not fail because true peace is a gift of God. It is bought by the death and resurrection of Jesus and offered freely to all who believe.

God never calls us to live a certain way without supplying us with the necessary resources. As we progress through the Sundays of Easter, we anticipate Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the necessary resource that enables all people in every place and time to experience the everlasting peace of God. May we all have fresh and refreshing encounters with Holy Spirit this Easter Season and may Conley's Church always be a place of peace.



As the season of lent transitions to the celebration of Easter, my heart is full of a joyful gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Our sins have been forgiven and washed away! Thank You, Jesus! We can leave our worries, shame, guilt, and anything else burdening us right at the foot of the cross, walking away feeling relieved, lighter, and free. The season of new life and new beginnings is here again; we should intentionally bask in this gift of renewal and the fresh start it brings without allowing the things of the world to distract us too quickly.

Our hearts break on Good Friday for the unjust suffering Jesus endures, but then on Easter morning, our broken hearts are mended and softened—He Lives! Keep your hearts soft and open to receive the love Jesus continues to pour out on us. We can make His sacrifice on the cross more meaningful carrying it beyond this Easter season, keeping Him close and by sharing Him, His Love, and His Light with others.

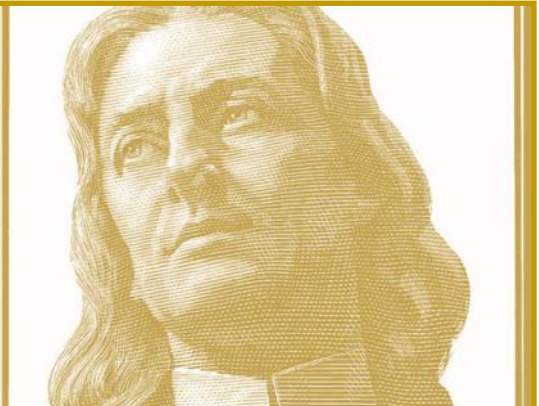


Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives

God sent His son they called Him, Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives!

“Christ the Lord is risen today, Sons of men and angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.”

—John Wesley



Greetings from the Missions Team



Did you know?

Conley's distributes 10% of all income from church offerings to local, national, and international missions programs.

Our mission trip is:

June 21-27

Please consider joining the team.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my Birthday Month Celebration.

Thanks to your generosity Kairos Outside Prison Ministries received a donation of \$1150.00 and I matched that amount with a donation to Conley's UMC general fund.

Kairos Outside Prison Ministries shares the love of Jesus with women who have been impacted by incarceration. Many of these women are shunned by their families and friends. Kairos Outside provides them with a safe place to express their feelings and to feel safe and loved by Jesus. Continuing Ministry keeps the team and guest involved in SWAP (Share, Witness, Accountability, Prayer)
It is just one of the many ministries Conley's UMC supports with your weekly tithes.

Thank you, Conley's UMC Missions Team

Evangelism Team News



The Hope of Eastertide

By Patience Strong

Mourner, dry your tears of sadness. This the time for joy and gladness. God is good. Cling not to sorrow; turn your eyes towards tomorrow.

You whose heart with grief is breaking; see now life around you waking!
Flowers about your pathway springing — songbirds at your window singing.

Christ is risen, He has spoken; and the bond of death is broken.

Fling your doorway open wide — to the hope of Eastertide.

Submitted by: Cheryl Wood



Infusing New Life

Those of us at Conley's church who cannot participate as we have in the past want you to know that we see all of you in union with the Holy spirit carrying the torch of ministries and activities farther and stronger for Conley's than ever before. Awesome. We thank you for saying yes to your dedicated call, whatever your talent and hard work.

For us advanced seniors, all of you remain continued sources of joy and pride. It warms us to see God's work flourishing through you, especially in this season of new life. Whenever you see a name of someone you don't recognize who's gone to be with the Lord, know that another of Conley's pillars has journeyed to support God's kingdom face to face. His or her time, treasure and talent were spent at Conley's for you to build upon. And you are doing just that.

Again, thank you, God bless you, and Happy Easter.

Kathy & Gene Meredith

SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Latest from Conley's
Social Concerns Team



Feeding The Flock

We continue to meet new people each week when delivering lunches. Some of our long term "friends" have moved on. One thing I have noticed is the number of children who are not in school on any given day. This is not tied to regularly scheduled days off. Most can't or don't want to share why they are absent from the classroom. These are elementary and middle school age kids. Concerning!

The Lewes Farmers Market Farm to Community Program kicked off a new season, today, March 30. We are so blessed to have Cross Farms (Berlin) and Enoch and Reid Farms returning. Our lunch people were happy to see produce. Our contact at the market has confirmed the DE Dept of Agriculture will be funding the program through 2027.

Once again, we will be taking lunches to the Tharros Village tent camp on Route One. This will be on Mondays in conjunction with our bag lunch program. At the present time, there are only 10 people signed up to live there.

One of our Flock Board Members, Kathy Hughes, is working with LaRed Health Care and Sussex H.E.L.P. to provide diapers, wipes, and formula to families that have been impacted by immigration detentions and deportations. If you would like to help; bring any of these items to the church and put in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

We are appreciative of all the ways you, the Conley's Family, help the Feeding the Flock Ministry.



Solitary religion is not to be found . . . The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social religion; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.

(From John Wesley's intro to "Hymns and Sacred Poems.")

Food Pantry

We still have a fairly well stocked pantry but can use the following items: Small Canned Hams, Spam, Beef Stew, SpaghettiOs

Please do not bring Instant Potatoes

Soup Social

PLEASE DO NOT BRING SOUP UNLESS YOU HAVE CHECKED WITH DALE KEHRER FIRST.

Our Freezer is overflowing.

Desserts are always welcomed.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

A HELPING HAND FOR THOSE IN NEED



Update on Conley's Vegetable Garden

Have you noticed Conley's vegetable garden is now planted and growing a lot of Spring greens?



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(From John Wesley's intro to "Hymns and Sacred Poems.")

The lettuce, spinach and broccoli will be harvested by early May to make room for tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers. 18 blueberry bushes have also been planted in the garden.

2026 is the 4th year that Conley's vegetable garden has supported Feeding the Flock's food ministry and its mission of giving away all that we grow to needy in the community.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with watering, weeding and harvesting even if you are only available once or twice a month to help. Please contact Jerry at 610-207-7139 if interested or with any questions. Thanks for your consideration!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)
“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Submitted by: Jerry Pawlikowski

God's Way

“Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.” (Psalm 25:4-5)

Deep roots symbolize a firmly established, resilient, and mature spiritual life that stands firm against challenges, prioritizing internal, unseen growth over surface-level appearance. This concept highlights that true spiritual depth is nurtured through a consistent, and enduring connection to God, rather than emotional, temporary experiences. **“Deep roots highlights true spiritual depth” prompt. Gemini, March 2026 edition, OpenAI, chat.openai.com**

March 21st was a beautiful Spring day at Conley’s vegetable garden. I was planting blueberry bushes and Steve Daddona, our church’s tree expert, stopped by. He said he was happy to see we planted blueberries. He had recommended we grow blueberries but also blackberries and raspberries at Conley’s.

Later on, while Joyce Yanchus and I were planting some more lettuce seedlings, Jess Mastriana came to feed the goats. I mentioned to Jess I had just finished planting blueberries but we shouldn’t expect any fruit this year. I explained that we will be snipping the flowers and not allow any fruit to develop **so the plants put all of their energy into their roots** as well as vegetative growth before producing berries next year.



Jess said she liked hearing that because that is God’s way for us - **that we first need to grow spiritual roots** before we can produce fruits of the spirit. She suggested that I share this with Conley’s church.

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, **you will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)

I was busy planting Conley’s new blueberry patch but little did I know that **the blueberries would teach us an important lesson on God’s Way.**

Submitted by: Jerry Pawlikowski

NEWS from CONLEY'S THRIFT SHOP



It looks like that Spring has finally decided to make an appearance and we are sooooo thankful for it. Those dreary, cold days just took a toll on all of us.

Our clothing rooms are full of bright and cheerful colors just waiting on you to come shop. There is some of everything that you might need for your summer wardrobe. Shoes, hats, purses and jewelry accessories are also available at very reasonable prices. Going to a party? We have a large selection of formal wear just waiting to go on a cruise with you.

Furniture donations continue to be strong. The furniture barn is loaded with great selections of gently used furniture and our prices are many times only 25% of new furniture prices. It is a must see situation.

Did you know that we have a health shopping area?? We have everything from crutches, walkers, potty chairs to adult diapers, bed pads and many other health needs. Check out shed #4. We frequently have wheel chairs. This week someone donated 2 electric powered wheel chair/scooter style. One is practically new. If you know anyone in need please tell them about Conley's. We have it priced at 50% of the original sales price and we have battery and charger.

The thrift shop will be closed in observance of Good Friday and again on Tuesday, April 7th. The county sewer system is being connected to our current facility in preparing for the new pole barn. We are still working through the permit process. Nothing seems to be easy with obtaining permits. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

Bring a friend and come shop with us.

Did you know?

Conley's Thrift Shop donates 10% of all income to local charities.





Save the Date! Tommy Town 2026 Coming Soon

Even if you were there in 2024, don't hesitate to join us for this year's Tommy town event, **Saturday, May 9th** from 11 to 3:00. Many more fun things added! If you missed the 2024 event, this is an absolute must. Please help support this summer's Camp Hope!

50/50 RAFFLE

VINTAGE AMERICANA
"A reminder of the past"

- * FOOD AVAILABLE
- * VINTAGE SIGNS & ANTIQUES
- * CLASSIC CARS & MOVIE CARS
- * 50/50 RAFFLE
- * And LOTS MORE!

Come support Camp Hope of Delaware Fundraiser, to raise money for underserved children from our community. Camp Hope provides kids with activities, food & field trips during the summer months!

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
{Rain Date May 16th}
11am - 3pm

"TOMMY TOWN"
20104 DODDTOWN RD
HARBESON

\$10 ADMISSION **Kids 10 & under free**

Karen Lessey, Camp Hope Director
All praise and glory to God!



J E S U S
U T A P I
S E L O N
T R V N N
I N A E
F A T R
I L I S
E O
S N

By: Sandie Wysocki



A Psalm of Redemption

When on the morn you rose for me, And left my death upon the tree.
 With love that measured endless bound, Your blood you gave, spilled on
 the ground.
 Into the depths of darkest night, My sin you carried there in flight. But, did
 not tarry, for above your Father’s throne was gleaming bright.
 The ransom paid by Christ, God’s son, whose sinless life, was high the cost.
 To bring His Father’s children home, through Adam’s sin, by choice, was
 lost.
 Christ gives a gift of love received, to all who’ve chosen to believe.
 We live for Him on earth below, then reign with Him above.
 A place prepared for those who see, the depth of Jesus’ love.

By: Sandie Wysocki

MY SHIPS' CAPTAIN (Psalm 23)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." (from A Fall of Words, by Ron Starich)

YES, "HE", is my ships' Captain, and that do I tout,
together, we shall not be tossed about;
though storms often do fall
and rough seas prevail
though strong winds howl
through my stillness oh thou be revealed
your peace like majestic sails
gently canvassing all;

WHEN, in blackness clouds kidnap the night,
then inward to You I look, Your glowing stars unveiling
the lost horizons' dusky light;
You are my ships' Captain, I shall not be tossed about
No matter oft' I've abandoned, You warmly return me
with smiling arms, ne'er by stern or loud shout;

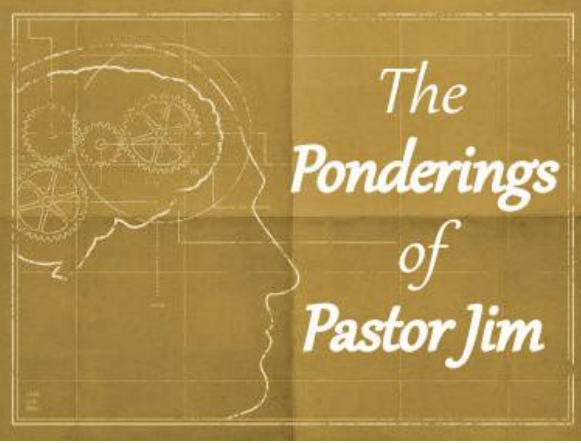
AS goes the sailors' life... to rarely see land
for so many months at sea
I'm oft aimless and discouraged, but You bring me hope,
courageous belief, and certainty;
And when our rations seem to be at end
You show me how to fish the waters, to learn something new,
I am restored and renewed daily, and all over again;

JOURNEYING for the days can oft seem endless
alone as a messaged bottle amid an eternity of blue
then YOU, my Captain spins me a yarn'
knowing laughter and camaraderie is just what I need,
embracing our whole crew like we were your only few!

AND daily when I'm hailed to top side
by the clanging ships' brass bell
I'm inspired to zeal in my daily tasks, as my captains' own hand lifts the sails,
all indeed, must "...be well!"
You Lord, are my ships' captain, I shall not want

You are my daily anchor; I shall not be tossed about.



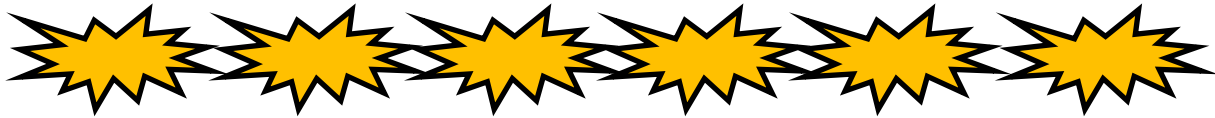


The Ponderings of Pastor Jim

What to do when Marie is gone for the day:

- ◆ Breakfast was a Taylor Ham (pork roll) sandwich.
- ◆ Went to VIP nails in Millsboro (BJ's shopping center) for a manicure and pedicure. Is \$20 a healthy tip?
- ◆ Fast food lunch at Burger King—a Whopper meal with Coke Zero (making the meal a bit healthier)
- ◆ Grocery shopping at BJ's.
- ◆ A healthy length walk, with a cane, in Plantation Lakes Golf and Country Club. I could find no one who was willing to walk with me.
- ◆ Consoled granddaughter Hannan as she was fitted for a back brace due to her scoliosis.
- ◆ Talked 45 minutes on the phone with Diane Jones (Conley's former choir director/member of Guns and Roses) discussing her upcoming nuptials.
- ◆ Diane invited me but I am unable to attend.

Just think—March 8 Daylight Savings Time began. The long winter is closed.



Life as a retired Pastor

- ◆ Church, Sunday School teacher, volunteer at Thrift Shop as cashier, sing in choir.
- ◆ Play golf.
- ◆ Go out to eat at local restaurants like China Buffet, Texas Roadhouse, Grottos, Cracker Barrel, Mission Barbeque, and more.
- ◆ Travel: Most recently I took a cruise out of Miami to Grand Cayman Island & Cozumel.
- ◆ Read, read, read
- ◆ Exercise in gym; Walk, walk, walk; Swim, swim, swim (in season).
- ◆ Guest preaching: Most recently at Concord United Methodist Church in Seaford.
- ◆ Family—grandchildren.

I have had the most enjoyable life as a retired pastor. For instance, I've spent much of my time traveling. Along with Marie, my brother, SIL, and sister Barbara we have departed from Amsterdam and cruised the North Sea and seen Scandinavia, Russia, and Estonia. On another cruise we circumvented Great Britain. We sailed through the Panama Canal on a third cruise. And visited tropical Caribbean Sea sites on still another cruise. Separately, Marie and I spent time in Hawaii.

My brother owned an RV and we used it extensively. We made cross country trips from Delaware to California, and other times we drove from California to Delaware. Twelve trips in all. As a result, I have been to 49 states, only missing Idaho.

Of course, I have been called upon to perform marriages and baptisms and preach at innumerable churches. I also take pleasure in teaching Sunday School at Conleys and singing in the choir.

I take 12 prescription drugs, walk with a cane, and was hospitalized once for 13 days due to prostate issues. I also suffer from chronic foot neuropathy,. Welcome to old age.

We purchased a home in Plantation Lakes golf and Country Club (Millsboro Delaware) which has enabled us to use the community walking trail, gym, as well as secure unlimited golfing and swimming.

Is a retired pastor ever really retired?

Worship With Us This Month

Worship with us on Sundays at 10am. You may join us either in-person or online. Our worship service is livestreamed on Vimeo and Facebook; links are provided on our website.

When joining us online, please check-in using the “Connect Card” located under the worship tab at the upper left corner of our homepage — we want to know you’re worshipping with us!

The “Connect Card” may also be used to submit prayer requests and/or praise reports during our worship service or any time.

You may give your tithes and offerings to the Lord through the church via the “donate” button at the lower left corner of our homepage.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving — we believe God is doing great things through the ministry of his church!

What’s Happening

On-Going Weekly Events

Sunday

Adult Bible Study taught by Rev. Jim Vanderwall in the Multi-Purpose room, 8:30-9:30am.

Monday

Choir practice in the Choir Room, 6-7:15pm.

Bell Ringers practice in the Fellowship Hall, 5:15-5:45pm.

Tuesday

Over 50 Yoga in the Fellowship Hall, 10:30—11:45am. Bring your own mat and bottled water. Cost is \$10 per session, cash only.

Wednesday

Soup for the Soul provides free lunch and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall, 11am-1pm. Contributions are welcome; sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

No soup donations are needed at this time. Desserts welcome.

AM Adult Bible Study-led by Louise Finn and Karen Lessey in the Multi-Purpose room, 10-11:30am. Last class 4/29-then hiatus for the summer.

PM Adult Bible Study - led by Pastor Bill in the Multi-Purpose Room, 6:30-7:30pm, No class on 4/8.

Thursday

Praise Team practice in the Sanctuary, 5:30-6:30pm.

Happening This Month

Trustees Meeting-April 7th, 6:30pm, in the Multi-Purpose room.

United Women in Faith-April 10th, dinner at Captain’s Pizza, 5:30pm.

Good Friday Service-April 3rd, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunrise Service-April 5th, 6:30am, in the Prayer Garden.

Easter Sunday-He is Risen!!!-April 5th, 10am in the Sanctuary.

The Church Council will meet Thursday, April 16th, 6:30pm, in the Multi-Purpose room.

Opportunities to Be a Blessing

New Opportunities

Join Conley's Sight and Sound Team!

We are in need of people on Sunday mornings to operate the soundboard, screen projection computer, and livestream computer. Are you computer literate; are you willing to learn? Our friendly Sight and Sound Team will train you so that you can take a turn in this ministry that supports Sunday worship.



On-Going Opportunities

Greeters

A friendly welcome at the door makes a great first impression—both for new comers and regular attenders. Help get people ready for worship with a warm welcome to all and helpful directions to visitors.

Ushers

You can help worshipers by directing them to open seats and bringing a microphone for prayers and praises, and providing helpful directions as needed.

Contact the church office if you would like to serve your Conley's Church family in any of these capacities; 302-945-1881

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

if it is serving,
then serve;

if it is teaching,
then teach;

if it is to encourage,
then give encouragement;

if it is giving,
then give generously;

if it is to lead,
do it diligently;

if it is to show mercy,
do it cheerfully.

ROMANS 12:4-8

**Conley's United
Methodist Church**

began as a Methodist society in 1800 and was incorporated as a Methodist church in 1838.

Our Mission:
To make disciples
of Jesus Christ.

Notable Days in April _____

- 2nd Maundy Thursday
- 3rd Good Friday
- 4th Easter Eve
- 5th Easter Sunday-He is Risen!
- 22nd Earth Day

Conley's United Methodist Church

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Lewes, Delaware 19958

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www.conleysumc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

