

# CONLEY'S CONNECTION

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

## *A Message from Pastor Davis*

*Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.*

Revelation 14:1

We are now well into the “dog days of summer.” That expression originates in the sun’s alignment with the constellation *Canis Major* (The Great Dog) during this time of year. Most people are unaware of the origin of “dog days of summer,” however, and in a recent survey, the most popular guess was that the phrase referenced the sweltering heat that makes the days not fit for a dog. And, for sure, most of us prefer to hunker down in air-conditioned buildings rather than venture out into the oppressive heat. Even the Church Calendar seems to encourage a more subdued attitude following the high seasons of Easter and Pentecost—we are now in the season called “Ordinary Time.”

The term *Ordinary Time* is rather uninspiring. However, the word “ordinary” does not mean “routine” or “not special.” Rather, it refers to the “ordinal numbers” (first, second, third, etc.) used to name the Sundays. For example, the first Sunday of August this year is “The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost” on the Church Calendar. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* says that “Ordinary Time” is a season to emphasize our citizenship in the Kingdom of God—the **extra**ordinary truth that through faith in Christ we are God’s holy people.

A uniquely American feature of the dog days of summer is baseball. As I write this, “the boys of summer” are entering the homestretch of their season. I have autographed pictures of baseball Hall of Famers Brooks Robinson and Jim Palmer. These pictures have no intrinsic value; they are ordinary photographs printed on ordinary paper. What makes them extraordinary and valuable are the signatures—the marks left by the hands of the great players themselves.

The same principle is true of us. There is nothing special about our natural, ordinary selves. Humans are but one of countless creatures composed of flesh and blood. Even in the narrower category of “people” we are each just one out of about eight billion people in the world. What makes us extraordinary and valuable is that God’s image has been stamped upon us. The Bible tells us that we are the work of God’s hand; we are shaped by our Creator in the same way that a potter sculpts clay (Isaiah 64:8). In the passage above, John relates a vision of those who have been redeemed by Jesus. Notice that they have His name and the name of God written on them—God’s people are autographed by their Creator!

Your life is valuable. Not because of what you do, or even who you are, but because of **whose** you are. You may not feel particularly special, and your life may seem very ordinary. Others may not always recognize your value. But God places great value on you. You are His—a divine work of art being molded and renewed in the image of Christ.



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## STRATEGIC PRAYER



AND REVIVAL COMMITTEE



## SPARC

God Is Enough

As Pastor Jim illustrated in his sermon last Sunday, when we have Jesus and prayer, God is enough. Our God, who is in heaven, gives us, forgives us, leads us, and delivers us. What more do we need? God is enough.

***Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.***

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## CONLEY'S THRIFT SHOP

It has been a really challenging month for the Thrift Shop. Temperatures in the upper 90s, road construction, full days of blacktop paving, just to name a few obstacles. It appears that the paving in front of the shop is just about finished. Hopefully, customers will be able to get in and out of our parking lot.

Donations continue to be strong. From the appointments booked, it looks like we are going to be heavily stocked with sofas and recliners. Come check them out—lots of great buys to be had.

Sally and I want to thank Rob Wood for his years of volunteering at the shop. He has been responsible for all of the wall art and mirrors that have been donated. Rob has decided to retire at the end of July. Thanks again, Rob. Hope you have lots of fun things planned.

Our summer clothing sale continues. The children's room items are 50% off the marked price, and women's clothing with yellow tags is 50% off. That means that there is a great selection of blouses and shorts/capris., etc. that will only cost \$2.00. The racks are replenished daily.

We've got the ac set to nice and cool in the furniture barn and in the main shop. Bring a friend and come on over.

**PS: With the weather being so hot, our donation shed may close early. Please call first if you are coming just for donations.**

*- Pat Vogt*



## ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

### Ordinary Time

By Art Schmidt

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam the mountains quake with their surging.* (Psalm 46:1-3 NIV)

In her book *Praying the Hours*, Suzanne Guthrie<sup>1</sup> reminds us, “Worship takes place in the midst of the mundane tasks, in the little dreams of human relationship that play out in a family.”

All too often in the life of faith, we look for big splash events to indicate to us the “presence of God” in our daily life. We want the assurance that God is really *with us*. But we overlook the fact that God works even in the little moments of our life, and it takes a spiritual discipline to be aware of them. We could call that discipline “being still and knowing that God is present.” In Psalm 46, we find a good biblical precedent for this. God calls us to experience life to the fullest, even in the small moments, and know that the God of creation is the God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In the year of the church, we are in the liturgical season called “Ordinary Time”—after Pentecost ends and before Advent begins—derived from the word *ordinal*.<sup>2</sup> It’s a time in our life of hope and anticipation and offers us the opportunity to experience God in the ordinary times. The well-known phrase “stop and smell the roses” comes to mind and reminds us to take time to look into a rose and see the beauty. Touch it, smell it, and see that in the ordinary bloom of a thorny bush lies the grace of God. Let’s look into the face of one another and see God’s grace in the lines and expressions of joy, knowing that God is present.

God has given us many extraordinary events, if we would just take the time to see and experience them fully. God lives in the ordinary times of life, and it is in our experiences that they become extraordinary and are to be celebrated. Be still and see God everywhere and in everyone!

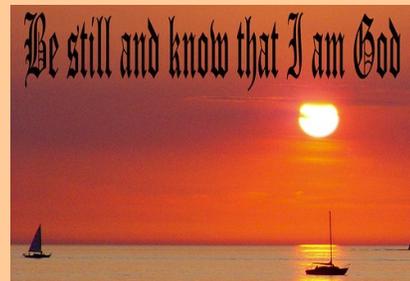
“All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.”—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

<sup>1</sup> *Suzanne Guthrie* is an Episcopal priest at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Kingston, NY. She offers us a contemporary way to practice the ancient tradition of hallowing time throughout the day by marking the hours with prayer and thanksgiving. By praying the hours, all activities of our day become part of the sanctification of time and place.

<sup>2</sup> *ordinal (adj.)* c. 1400, Latin “regular, ordinary; well-regulated, proper.”

*He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Psalm 46:10 NIV



# DID YOU KNOW



...these interesting summertime facts?

- The first day of summer is between June 20 and June 22 and varies due to the Earth's rotation not exactly reflecting our calendar year. The first day of summer is called the "summer solstice," and it's the longest day of the year. The last day of summer is September 20.
- August was named after Julius Caesar's nephew. He had received the title of "Augustus," which means "reverend."
- Watermelon is one of summer's best summer treats. Watermelons are not a fruit but a vegetable instead. They belong to the cucumber family of vegetables.
- The Eiffel Tower actually grows in the heat of the summer. Due to the iron expanding, the tower grows about 6 inches every summer.
- Television shows used to only be reruns during the summer months. The idea being that everyone was outside enjoying the weather.
- The first women's bathing suit was created in the 1800s. It came with a pair of bloomers.
- The first modern Olympic Games were held in the summer of 1896 in Athens, Greece.
- The "dog days of summer" refers to the dates from July 3 to August 11. They are named so after Sirius the Dog Star. This star is located in the constellation of Canis Major.
- Frisbees were invented in the 1870s as a pie plate, but in the 1940s college students began throwing them around. They have since stopped being used for pie plates and are now a summertime staple.
- Mosquitos are most prevalent during summer months and have been on earth for more than 30 million years.
- More thunderstorms occur during summer in the month of August.
- Ice pops were invented in 1905 by an 11-year-old boy.



## TRAVELS WITH THE VAN DER WALLS

When we retired, Marie and I traveled. I've been to 49 states—only missing Idaho. In an RV, we journeyed across the country 12 times—sometimes from Delaware to California, sometimes the other way around. We have cruised to Alaska, to Scandinavia and the North Sea, and circumnavigated Great Britain. Then came COVID, and our traveling abruptly halted.

But with COVID waning, there are some modest trips on our horizon. Marie is flying to Dallas for the Kairos (prison ministry) annual conference. Later on in August, she is driving with Maui (her dog) to visit with her sister Sandy in Blairsville, Georgia.

In September, we are driving to Statesville, North Carolina, where I am officiating at a renewal of wedding vows for two people who graduated high school with me in 1970. At the end of September, we are staying with friends in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, so that we can spend a week enjoying the well-known Bloomsburg Fair. On September 30, I am taking Marie to a Guns N' Roses concert—certain to be enjoyed by at least one of us!

Marie and her daughter Valarie are flying to London in October so they can see a football game between the Green Bay Packers and the New York Giants. At the end of October, I will be in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, officiating at the wedding of family friends. And on December 30, the wedding of a former parishioner takes me out of town to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

In addition to all this traveling, Plantation Lakes Golf and Country Club provides me with unlimited swimming and golf. Being Conley's visitation pastor, working at the Thrift Shop, teaching Sunday School, belonging to the American Legion, refilling the 18 doggie-bag stations around Plantation Lakes, being "grandpa," and a host of other activities keeps me busy. All in all, I am enjoying retirement.

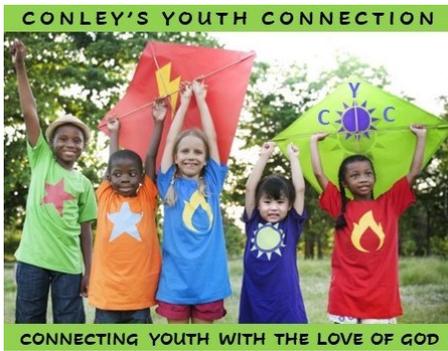
Our blended family includes Marie's two daughters: Nicole who lives in Felton, and Valarie who lives in Milford. And I have two sons: Jay who lives in Albuquerque, and Scott who lives in Nashville. All four are happily married, Praise God! And Valarie and Scott are each building a brand-new house.

When I was seeking ordination, I applied to the Northern New Jersey Conference. Due to a poor interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry, along with an abundance of candidates for ministry, my application was denied. I was told to reapply next year. Instead, I chose to go elsewhere and was ordained in the Northern New York Conference. After a few years, a set of circumstances led me to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference where I spent 35 years proclaiming the word, helping the needy, and seeking social justice. For me, those 35 years were filled with God moments: God directing the events of my life.

And God continues to work among us all at Conley's Church! Happy trails!



# CATCHING UP WITH CYC



# SUMMER CAMP



The camp is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30 am—2:30 pm.





**God has blessed Conley's with this ministry so that we can be a blessing to these children by helping them learn about the Love of God while they have fun.**



**If you can be available to help or want more information, please contact Karen Lessey at 302-448-9924.**

## WORSHIPPING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Worship with us on  
Sundays at 10:00 AM  
in person or online.

Our sanctuary is  
cleaned and sanitized  
every Monday in  
accordance with  
guidelines.

We live-stream  
the service on  
Vimeo and YouTube.  
Links on our website.

Produced by:



You can make a  
donation or tithe using  
the online portal on  
our website:  
**conleysumc.org**

Thank you  
for supporting our  
mission and for your  
faithfulness in giving!

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT CONLEY'S?

### ◆ Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Jim Van Der Wall leads this group every Sunday morning at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

### ◆ Over 50 Yoga Class

Tuesdays 10:30-11:45 am in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own mat and bottled water. \$10 per session (cash only please).

### ◆ Soup Kitchen

Wednesdays at 11:00 am—1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We need soup donations and helpers. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

### ◆ CYC Summer Camp Program

Conley's Summer Campers would like to show their appreciation for all your prayers, love, support, and donations by holding a FREE Car Wash Monday, August 8 (rain date Aug 9) at 11:00 am. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Camp schedule is Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30 am—2:30 pm through August 26. We need volunteers to drive the church van, chaperone, and help with meal preparation. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. For more info: Karen Lessey 302-448-9924; karenlessey@icloud.com.

### ◆ UWF Meeting

Saturday, August 20, 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Planning Team: Susan Davis, Barb Evans, Louise Finn, Tina Washington. For more information, click on the UWF icon on the church's website.

### ◆ Church Council Meeting

Thursday, August 18, at 6:30 pm in the library.

### ◆ Prayer Service

Wednesday, August 24, at 6:30 pm in the Missions Room. Please join us for a contemplative time to lift up prayers of praise, repentance, petition, and thanks. All are invited.

### ◆ UMM

The group is taking a summer break and will meet next on Saturday, September 10, 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. The Planning Team: John Reinford, Art Schmidt, Ron Starich.

SCAN TO VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE



## WATCHING THOSE THAT LIVE...

From the book: "A FALL OF WORDS" by Ron Starich

*"silver' is passed, grabbed whole, gulped in a flash"*

Ocean-side, Florida's sugar-sand west coast,  
hot, hot, August; the clear, glaring, bright, high noon,  
view, a glistening green aquamarine to layers blue  
ocean cacophony cackles around, waves curl the long  
in stereo, right to left—*whhhiiisSHSHSHSH*;

against the wispy powder blue yonder  
I eye a white dot twinkling, angling, tacking, flapping  
adeptly this gull careens past, a pinkish silver held fast  
she not eating, holding, as it to another bring  
lie perpendicular in its mouth;

she zooms round 'n round, as some NASCAR oval track  
lassoing around, rolling and pitching above her 'group',  
her 'flock', her 'clan,'  
her gypsy 'troop', some fifty to one hundred, white 'n black  
stubby kindred,  
this *convention* ' of stick-legs and beaks, congregating for minutes  
not weeks,  
these preeners, "Ack-Ack'ers", squawkers 'n talkers, laughers.

All in a day, find some posturing and puffed up now and then,  
strutting high-headed with attitude, but mostly simple want  
to laze about, or skittle back 'n forth to the surf,  
to wash away the turf  
a 'sponge bath', as birds incline when the chance,  
yet she circle, her catch unspotted, she, *still looking down*, circling,

*for something*, but I, can only handless watch;  
she keeps flying, roving, hoping, alerting others not of her gain,  
**then—an instant—she stops—lands!**

Next to her *small other* she alights, stands!  
In a 'Quarter*beak* Sneak', 'silver' is passed, grabbed whole,  
gulped in a flash!

As quickly, she ascends back into the air  
...it was *Mom*—and her little one fair!

A 'DONZI' roars in the distance—  
water erupts like a Vesuvius spews, spitting sky-high-ward  
rising out its stern, classic sign of this "Banana' boat:  
an arrow, a 'cigar' on water,  
buzz-saw-whining, speeding the horizon, out-of-sight unrelent.  
Of those who live here—afternoon draws down,  
a clouding comes—my gulls, all flight-planned up, no longer near.  
...O but for a while...'twas my tern...*I was with them, resident.*

*...I gave it (the wild donkey) the wasteland as its home,  
the salt flats as its habitat. It laughs at the commotion  
in the town; it does not hear a driver's shout.  
It ranges the hills for its pasture...*

*Job 39:5-8*



**CONLEY'S CHURCH**  
33106 Jolyns Way  
Lewes, DE 19958

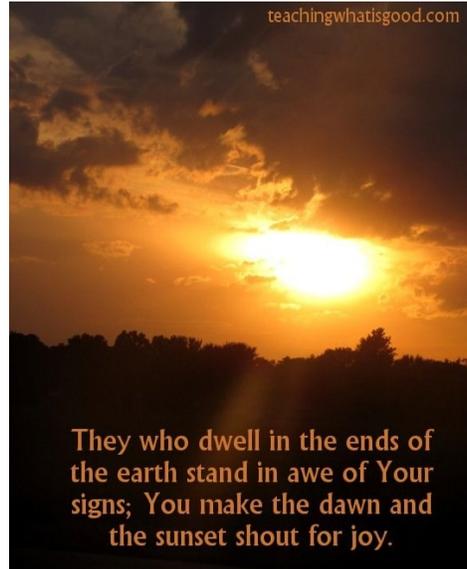
**Pastor: Rev. Dr. William Davis**  
**E-mail: conleysumc@gmail.com**  
**Website: conleysumc.org**  
**Phone: 302-945-1881**

**Worship with us:**  
**Sunday at 10:00 AM**  
**(Details provided on page 12)**

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**Conley's United Methodist Church**  
**33106 Jolyn's Way**  
**Lewes, Delaware 19958**

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

