October 2025

Conley's United Methodist Church

THE

CONNECTION



Lewes, Delaware

In essentials, unity

In non-essentials, liberty

In all things, charity



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I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

This passage (from our September 21 lectionary reading) is a familiar one. Yet, as so often happens, something new stood out to me this year. In it, God calls us to be thankful for all people. We're supposed to be thankful for **all** people? Even those we don't like, Lord? Even those who dare to disagree with us? Tellingly, Paul felt it necessary to specify that "kings and all those in authority" are included. These people disagreed with Paul and his preaching. They disagreed so strongly that they were doing all they could to silence the gospel message and were persecuting Paul and those he loved.

God created people in the image of God. **All** people. This passage forbids us from reducing people to a set of opposing views and our relationship with them to a debate. Sadly, this is the way of the world encouraged by our pundits and modeled by our leaders. The disdain and even hatred various factions of our society exhibit toward one another reduces the image of God in humanity to nothing and all that's left in its place is an argument. An argument that can never really be won. And even if one side does "win," it certainly does not satisfy the deeper desire to live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

The world is wounded and souls are scarred when one group of people believes their sin is less egregious than the sin of those who think differently. The world isn't being destroyed by progressives or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans, red states or blue states. Rather, it is being destroyed by each side blaming the other for the destruction. In truth, the world has always been and always will be on the brink of destruction. When the atomic bomb was invented, C.S. Lewis was asked how people were to live in an atomic age. He responded:

Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents. In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented . . . It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things--praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts--not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.

Since the fall of humanity, our history has been an unbroken line of turmoil and conquest. All our amazing advances in medicine, technology, and travel have done nothing to stem the tide of Continued on next page>



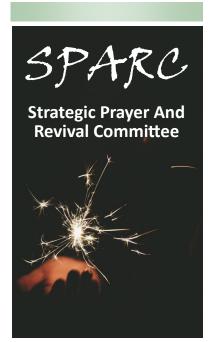
debauchery and destruction. The only thing that keeps humanity--and, indeed, the world itself--from completely falling apart is Christ. "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). If it is true that Christ holds all things together, than for the follower of Christ, there can be no *us* vs. *them*, there can be "no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (3:11-13). Our love for our own life is inextricably connected to our love of all life, of all lives, and of this divine miracle we call *creation*.

When we slap a label on people based on their worldview and assume we know everything about them because of their social or political affiliation, their economic status or nationality, how they dress or where they live, we are not seeing them for what they truly are: human beings created by God in God's own image. And we are not following Christ who loves them and gave himself for them. When we gleefully anticipate our next opportunity to prove someone "wrong" and ourselves "right," we are missing the vast, beautiful complexity of God's creation—and we are reducing the glory of life to a "viewpoint" or a "type" or, worst of all, a "side."

So, we must pray and be thankful for all people. We must pray for them no matter how undeserving we may think they are and no matter how distressing it may feel. No matter how wrong someone may appear to us, Christ died for them and the Holy Spirit is convicting their hearts and minds so that they may be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. No matter how bad someone may appear to us, they are no more a sinner than we are. Our thoughts and actions don't make us any more righteous or deserving of God's mercy and grace than anyone else—no matter how satisfying it is to tell ourselves otherwise.

The people for whom God instructed Paul to be thankful were people who hated Paul. They were also people to whom Paul could relate. As he noted earlier in this letter, Paul himself was once "a persecutor and a violent man" (1 Timothy 1:13). Paul did not become so self-satisfied in the light that he had no empathy for those stumbling in the dark. To sincerely pray for another requires that we consider their yearnings, their situation, and their perspective. We must not grow weary in our efforts to understand the point of view with which we most disagree. We must not grow weary in our efforts to connect with the people to whom we least relate. And we must at all times force ourselves to love the people who hate us. Love them because God made them, because they are our fellow travelers in this broken world, because they are capable of affection and of reason, and most of all because Jesus loves them.

And when we disagree with someone's words and actions? "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18). Disagreements are inevitable in this fallen world. We don't always need to pick a side other than that of Christ. As Paul wrote: "Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge" (1Timothy 6:20). When Christ, the perfect one, comes again, we will know perfectly. In the meantime, we all see darkly and know in part. Let's have the courage to doubt and question our motives and beliefs as easily as we doubt and question the motives and beliefs of others. And if we err, let us err on the side of grace. It remains our only real hope for salvation and has more power to heal than any ruler or authority this world could ever offer.



Why is Prayer Important?

Prayer in Our Spiritual Growth

Prayer is more than a spiritual discipline; it's the heartbeat of our relationship with God. Prayer helps us to cultivate gratitude, strengthen our faith and align with God's purpose for us. It transforms challenges into opportunities, doubts into trust and dreams into plans.

Regular prayer sharpens our spiritual senses. As we seek God's guidance, we grow in wisdom. Prayer opens our hearts to divine insights and helps us navigate difficult or complex decisions.

Jesus emphasized persistence in prayer. "...that they should always pray and not give up." (Luke 18:1) Persistence in prayer builds resilience.

When we pray through our doubts or unanswered requests, our faith deepens. We learn that God's silence is not rejection but preparation. As we wait for answers, may our faith be strengthened. Remember, God's best gifts often come wrapped in time.

Join with prayer team members at the altar on Sunday mornings to pray for your needs and celebrate the answers to your prayers.

In using all means, seek God alone. In and through every outward thing, look only to the power of His Spirit, and the merits of His Son. Beware you do not get stuck in the work itself; if you do, it is all lost labor. Nothing short of God can satisfy your soul. Therefore, fix on Him in all, through all, and above all...Remember also to use all means as means-as ordained, not for their own sake.

—-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. We're excited to share that registration is completed. The 2026 Appalachian Service Project mission trip is scheduled for June 21-27, 2026.

We'd love for you to join us in serving together! These trips are a powerful way to build community, grow in faith, and make a lasting impact. We can't wait to see how God will move through ASP this year.

Please prayerfully consider joining our 2026 Mission Team trip with Appalachian Service Project. This is an opportunity to be in God's service to those who have the greatest need.

Contact Marie Van Der Wall 302-249-7897 for registration information.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Evangelism Team News

The Ark of Salvation By Billy Graham

"By faith Noah, ... became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith." — Hebrews 11:7, RSV

The Bible warned the people of Noah's day, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever (Genesis 6:3) They laughed at Noah and mocked his words, and went about their usual business and their pleasures

without ever dreaming he might be right. God was speaking — but they ignored Him. Eventually God's patience gave out — and by then it was too late.

Outside the ark men and women struggled for their lives, clutching at pieces of driftwood, until the pitiless hand of death reached up and drew them down beneath those cruel waves. All were lost. Every soul outside the ark perished. They had had their chance, but tossed it away.

You cannot come to Christ unless the Spirit of God brings you. But what if you ignore His warnings? Then you are in the gravest danger, for someday God will no longer be speaking to you. Then it will be too late. Come to Christ while there is still time. Christ, God's greater Ark, stands ready to welcome you to safety today.

Are you in the Ark?

Hope for Today:

Can you imagine anything more heartbreaking than a man who never quite decides it's time to hear from God? It will be a reality for too many people. Pray fervently for the lost to heed His call.

What Are You Waiting For?

Come to Christ while there's still time.

Source: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

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SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Latest from Conley's Social Concerns Team



Feeding the Flock

Our team continues to provide 200 lunches to our Millsboro neighbors each Monday. In addition, we are providing a meal to Tharros tent camp on Monday. We are thankful to have an op-

portunity to minister to the people we see each week.



The Farm to Community Program is now being administered by the Delaware Department of Agriculture. We are continuing to receive produce from the Lewes Farmers Market but on a much more limited scale. Conley's Vegetable Garden has been a great blessing to us in terms of providing tomatoes, beans, peppers, squash and cucumbers, filling in the gap left by financial cuts.

As a totally volunteer 501c3 corporation, we rely on the financial generosity of our congregation and friends, and the Thrift Store to provide financial stability for our ministry. We are very thankful for everyone who does support us.

Food Pantry

Many people are coming to the pantry as food stamp allotments continue to be cut. We are fortunate to be able to supply most of their needs. Currently we need the following items:

Tuna fish, Applesauce, Dry Cereal, Stuffing Mix

Soup for the Soul

From John Wesley's intro to

Please sign up in the narthex for Soup and Desserts. Soup supplies in the freezer have been almost depleted.

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.")

NEWS from CONLEY'S THRIFT SHOP



THANK YOU, THANK YOU THANK YOU !!!! To the 14 ladies (and 2 of our male assistants) that joined us on Monday Sept. 22nd for the change over of the summer clothing to the fall and winter items. This is a major event where all of the hanging items and summer shoes are removed and bagged to send to another charity, the rooms are cleaned from top to bottom and a full selection of fall and winter items are hung in replacement. The statement that many hands makes easy work is so true for this event. No cross words were uttered (at least not out loud), much laughter was heard and a really good lunch was provided to all. Hopefully next season in March will be the same. Tuesday was a banner day for the new clothing sales. We have several shoppers who love to come to Conley's because of our quality and affordable pricing. They purchase and resale. I told the young woman on Tuesday, "as long as you pay our asking price, we don't care that you resale and make money this way'" It's a win - win for both of us.

Donations continue to be strong and we are so blessed. The barn and sheds are full to the brim with really nice furniture and decorative items. If you haven't been to the thrift shop lately you should plan a visit. You never know what you might find to take home with you. We continue to share with those in need that come to us.

The thrift shop was at the Conley's Fall Festival on September 27th with 2 tables of fall and Christmas decorative items for sale. Dale Tulloch takes on this project for the shop and selects the better items all year long for our sale tables. Dale and Cheryl Conway have assisted me (Pat) with the set up and sale day for the past several years. Thanks to these ladies that this is a great event for the shop.

Great news!!! On September 17th we met with the companies that will be building our new Pole Barn and signed contracts and paid deposits. It will be a lengthy process because of having to connect to the county's sewer system, kill the current septic system and bring in additional electrical service. Most likely most of the construction will be done during the winter months. (please pray for an easy winter). We have begun to save items that are being donated that can be used in the new barn. I contacted Tanger Outlets to see if any stores might be closing that could donate or sell at reasonable prices any usable items. The guys were able to pick up 6 shelf units at no cost on Tuesday. A great big thank you to the management at Tanger and also to Laura and Roland Hill for allowing us to use one of their buildings to store these items until we can use them. We give thanks for our many blessings.



Did you know?

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



TIDBITS FROM OUR TREASURER

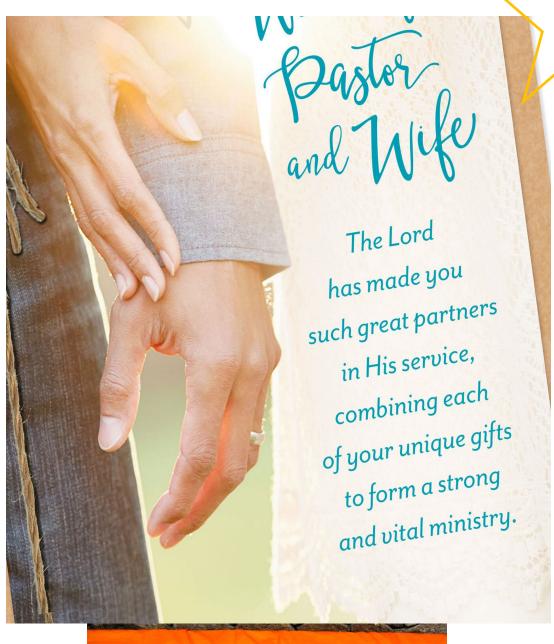
"Those who give freely gain even more; others hold back what they owe, becoming even poorer. A generous person will prosper, and anyone who gives water will receive a flood in return." Proverbs 11:24-25

God asks us to give freely of our time our talents and our gifts. All that we have is from God. As a tithing church Conley's gives 10% of all offerings back to God by supporting missions locally, nationally and internationally.

If you do not tithe, please consider increasing your giving in 2026. Our blessings do not always come in the form of a financial return, but the act of giving itself draws us closer to Christ. There are no records of Jesus or the apostles, living lives of wealth and comfort because of their giving. But they continued to give sacrificially.

Dear God, thank you for the generous gifts that you have given us. You have shown us unlimited mercy, grace, and love even when we don't deserve it. You have showered us with blessings both monetary and eternal. Lord, change our hearts to give freely. I pray that the Holy Spirit would guide us to give forgiveness and love to others just as Jesus Christ has for us. I know that God sees our hearts and sees the times that we selfishly give and sacrificially give. Thank you in advance for the blessings on earth and the ones awaiting us in heaven. You are such a good God, and I pray that we could show that goodness to those around us. Amen.

Pastor Appreciation Month: Do something nice for our Pastor









An Auction Fundraiser!

Please Join Us on November 1st

We call Camp Hope *Jesus's program* since He has blessed us in so many ways, far beyond any expectations we started with. Each year our kids respond enthusiastically to our primary message, Jesus's love for them, demonstrated for them through our Christian



model of unconditional love. On the first day of camp, we watch the children begin to connect to the Bible lessons and, without a doubt, when they leave on the last day, Jesus goes with them! As Camp Hope continues to grow, we ask you to join us in supporting this wonderful ministry for God's children.

Yes, our silent Auction and Live Auction is coming up soon:

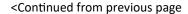
Saturday, November 1st, here at Conley's. The doors open at 11:30 AM, for viewing the Silent Auction items, and the Live Auction begins at 1:00 PM. *Admission is free*, so you can bring all of your family and friends! Food will be available for purchase, so please plan to come for lunch.

We have been collecting a vast array of items for you to consider; such a great way to begin your Christmas shopping. We'll have lovely handmade items, including quilts, artwork, jewelry, stuff for guys, a golf outing, Lenox and other collectibles, and some really lovely gift baskets.

It is not too late to **donate auction items!** Do you know of a business or a service that would be able to donate an item or a gift certificate? Do you have any brand-new items that you haven't opened? Would you like to put together a pretty gift basket? Can you make something hand-crafted?

For those of you inclined to show off your baking skills, we need your donated **baked goods** to sell to our hungry guests. Conley's always excels at this, so please add this event to your list.





Be a part of the fun! **Volunteers** needed for a variety of tasks.

Only a couple of your hours are needed for this event. You can help serve food, register auction guests, assist guests with the Silent Auction tables, help out our Auctioneer, talk to people who want to learn more about Camp Hope, or assist people with parking. So

much to do - don't hesitate to join us!



Sign-up sheets for volunteers and for baked goods will be in the Narthex.

One more thing: We need a big audience for this event. Please help us **spread the word**. – you will make all the difference! You can get copies of the flyer from the church office or the Narthex.

Why are we doing all of this? Why have we been working on this since the Spring? Fundraising - through gifts from our numerous church partners and community donors - is an ongoing task for our team. As I'm sure you are aware, Camp Hope is a costly proposition. We pay for food, bus transportation, field trips, games, crafts, equipment, and countless miscellaneous items. And, while the camp is overwhelmingly managed through volunteer efforts, we do have some staff salary costs. And it adds up.

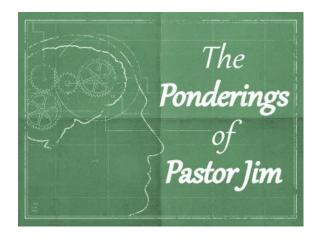
So, why do we do it? We do it for Him. "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

We appreciate all you do for Camp Hope throughout the year. Thank you so much for your participation, your prayers, and other forms of support!

Karen Lessey, Camp Hope Director

All praise and glory to God!





My wife Marie has secured a job as Conley's church treasurer. She works 3 days a week (Monday – Tuesday – Friday). It is quite an adjustment for me because I was used to her being home 24/7. When she comes home from work, I ask her what we are going to have to eat. She answers: "I don't know. Where do you want to go." However, if the truth be known, I am Incredibly happy for her and this new opportunity for employment.

Conley's has a new music director – Jazmin Salaberrios. She is an incredible talent. I was so close to Diane Jones as the previous director, but Jazmin quickly won me over. She expects a lot of effort from the choir, particularly from members who have fewer musical skills (like me).

Marie is driving a Tesla, and she has never let me get behind the wheel of her vehicle. She points out the three accidents I have been in, but I remind her that only one of them was my fault.

So many of my Conley friends have died recently – the danger of listing them is I will leave some out. But let me start this month with an incomplete list: Wally Hudson, Ed Perry, Alyce Amussen, Lew Jobes, Ed John, Jim Joseph, Jack Vogt, George Truitt, James Wolf, George Walsh, Bob St. John, Eileen Robbins, Louise McGinnis, Jeanne Kehrer, Greer MacMasters, Brenda Eaton, Herb Crow, Libby Boswell, Bill Mason, Charlie Michel, Len Wysocki, and more.

Because I have type 2 diabetes, my doctor has prescribed Trulicity – a prescription that is injected weekly into my belly. One of the pleasant side effects of Trulicity is weight loss. However, on the downside, due to my diabetes, I now walk with a cane.

I continue to teach an 8:30 Sunday School class. We simply read a book in the Bible and discuss it. The class is a wonderful experience, and I invite you to join us,

Marie and I will be taking a Caribbean cruise in early December. Leaving from Miami, for the duration of the trip, we will be staying in a junior suite—which includes a balcony. The ship, on Royal Caribbean cruise lines, will be the Freedom of the Seas. Our first port-of-call brings us to Grand Cayman Island. We will then move on to Cozumel, before finishing the cruise back to Miami. We talked my sister Barbara (who lives in Long Boat Key, on Florida's Gulf Coast), along with brother John and SIL Nancy into joining us. The pair live in Babcock Ranch/Fort Myers Florida. We will drive to Miami, carefully avoiding the abundance of alligators in the area, and then cruise from December 8-13.

Conley's Caring Hearts Ministry

What is the "Caring Hearts Ministry"? The "Caring Hearts Ministry" at Conley's provides support, love, help and Communion (if requested) to our Church Family. Support may be a visit to someone who is lonely and needs a friend to talk to. It could be a telephone call or a card to let you know that we care about you. Help could be a meal (s) or ride to the doctor if you are in a pickle.



Communion is for anyone who is unable to attend Sunday Church services and would like to partake in Christ's Blessings at home.

We would like to Bless you with the love of Jesus. Please let me or Sandy know what we can help with. We promise not to bite:).

Blessings,

Jay



Autumn—a time of harvest

"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. —John 15:4

As the leaves of green turn into the bright, vibrant colors of red, orange and gold, so shall we become a changing spirit in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the vine whose roots spread over the earth looking for places to spring up and become a strong tree that does not wither in the wind.

As the tree's branches reach out and grow, the tree's life flourishes bringing forth lush leaves. When Jesus is invited into your life, He places His Holy Spirit into your spirit so He can feed you with never-ending fertilizer. The fertilizer, called love, will make you flourish.

As you, the branch, strengthens in your faith, your love for Jesus will become stronger and you will be able to testify of Him to all you come in contact with in your daily life.

You will plant seeds of faith that will bring forth a never-ending harvest of believers who can spread the good news of the gospel.

As seeds blow in the wind and fall and flourish, so shall the word of God fall and be harvested.

——By: Sandie Wysocki

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 YouTube; 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 worshiping 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 right 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 Library, 8:30-9:30am.

Youth Bible Study - On Hiatus.

Monday

Choir practice in the Choir Room, 6-7:30 pm.

Bell Ringers practice in the Fellowship Hall, 7:30-8:00pm.

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.

AM Adult Bible Study led by Louise Finn and Karen Lessey, starts Nov. 5th, 9am-10:30am, in the Sanctuary.

PM Adult Bible Study Led by Pastor Bill, 6:30pm in the Prayer Room.

Thursday

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

Happening This Month

The Trustees meet Tuesday, October 14th, 6:30pm in the Library. **The SPRC** will meet Tuesday, October 28th, 6:30pm, in the Library. **The Church Council** will meet Thursday, October 16th, 6:30pm in the Library.

United Women in Faith-Business meeting, October 11th at 9:30am, in the Library.

Church Conference-Wednesday, October 15th, 6:30pm at Bethel UM Church, Lewes.

Cemetery cleanup-October 9th, the 4-H club will be cleaning the cemetery. Please remove any decorations you wish to keep.

Camp Hope Auction-Saturday, November 1st, in the Fellowship Hall.

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 October

5th World Communion Sunday

13th Columbus Day

24th United Nations Day

31st Halloween

Conley's United Methodist Church

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PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

