

March 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
- Special Days in March



The Pastor's Pen

a word from Pastor Bill Davis

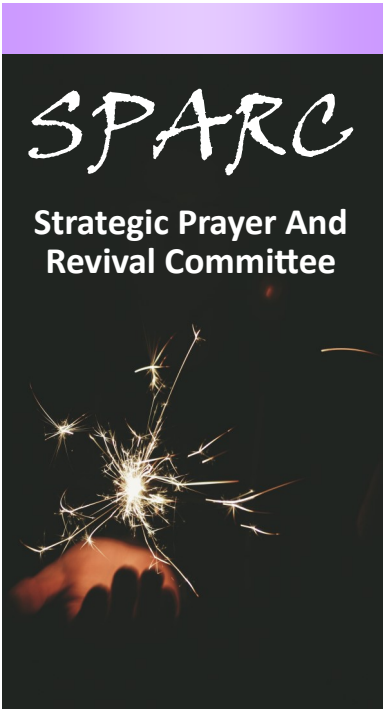
*The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
Psalm 121:5-6*

I am sure biblical images of darkness and light are familiar to you. They are common in the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments. In Psalm 56:13, David sings, “You have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.” In the New Testament, Paul tells believers, “You were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord; live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). However, the verses at the top of the page (part of our Lectionary reading for Sunday, March 1) turn the familiar imagery upside down; here, the darkness is where we *want* to be. It is an attention-getting twist the author uses to emphasize God’s protection. And it is a powerful image—God protects the people of God from danger and also provides cooling, calming relief from the heat of the day and fear of the night. The 121st Psalm is one of my favorites and it is especially appropriate as we move into the season of Lent where the church features images of darkness and light and emphasizes God’s merciful presence in both.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Lent is called “The Bright Fast.” Believers are reminded that though the Lenten themes of mortality and repentance are solemn, they are not without joy. The shadows of Lent present us with a quiet place where we are invited to be still and know that “the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore” (Psalm 121:8). God is present in our failures and in our restoration. Present in our brokenness and in our healing. Present in our past, our present, and our future.

The church prepares for Easter by fasting and repentance. This preparation is not separate from the great Easter celebration; it is an integral part of it. The world cannot conceive of celebration through self-denial and confession. Fallen humanity imagines that giving things up makes life smaller. Lent replies that it enlarges life. In his work, *The Usefulness of Fasting*, St. Augustine explained that fasting empowers us to govern our desire, purifying it and directing it toward God so that it may be set free to expand. When we deny ourselves a little pleasure, we learn that pleasure was never a need; it was--and always is--a gift from God. Fallen humanity fears that admitting fault is weakness. Lent replies that it empowers growth. Confessing our sinfulness does not make us worse; it makes us honest. And while such honesty may wound our pride, it is the beginning of freedom and the path to fulness of life.

There is something wonderfully liberating about Lent. It tells our appetites, “You do not rule my life.” It tells our failures, “You do not have the final say.” It tells our works, “You are not my savior.” When we fast and repent, we are not earning God’s grace; we are clearing space for it. When we walk toward the cross, we do so with solemn steps; yet we know that each step leads to Resurrection. May the season of Lent be blessed and bright at Conley’s this year.



Lord
Empty me, Fill me, Use me.
Empty me, Fill me, Use me.
Empty me, Fill me, Use me.
Amen

This is a Lenten prayer written by Mother Olga found on the Hallow app. Even though the words are few, the prayer is deep. Asking God to empty us of self and anything worldly that distracts our attention away from Him. Then, fill us with your Holy spirit, Your love, Your peace, Your presence. Finally, use us for Your purpose, to love You and others.

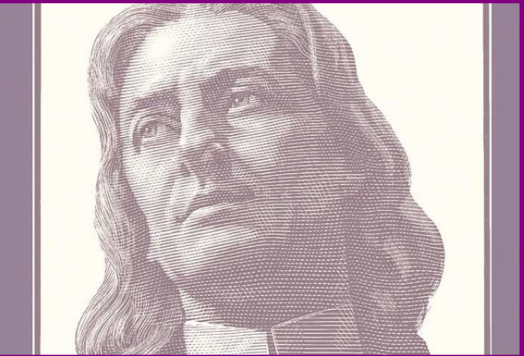
Please remember to add a link (or a few) to our prayer chain in the Sanctuary. Links of brown and purple can be found in the Sanctuary and in the Narthex. Feel free to write a prayer or anything you would like to lay at His feet as we center our minds and hearts on Jesus before Easter.

May His peace be with you.



“I have never known more than fifteen minutes of anxiety or fear. Whenever I feel fearful emotions overtaking me, I just close my eyes and thank God that He is still on the throne reigning over everything and I take comfort in His control over the affairs of my life.”

—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 2025 Tithing Report

Annual Conference	\$ 250.00
Cape Henlopen Food Basket	\$1,225.00
Missionary Edwin Campomanes	\$4,000.00
Missionary Finda Quiwa	\$4,000.00
Kairos Inside Delmarva	\$2,000.00
Kairos Outside Delmarva	\$5,700.00
ASP Mission Trip	\$2,000.00
Red Bird Missionary Conference	\$5,000.00
UMCOR Undesignated Projects	\$2,500.00
Kairos Inside Baylor	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Total:	\$28,175.00

UMCOR Undesignated Projects goes to natural disaster relief work.
Ex: Hurricanes

We are happy to report we will be continuing to support these missions in 2026. Conley's is a tithing church and for that we are all grateful.

Thank you, your Missions Team

People Reaching People
EVANGELISM



Evangelism Team News

HAPPINESS

By: Billy Graham

So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time. —Matthew 6:34 (TLB)

King George V wrote on the flyleaf of the Bible of a friend, "The secret of happiness is not to do what you like to do, but to learn to like what you have to do." Too many think of happiness as some sort of will-o'-the-wisp thing that is discovered by constant and relentless searching. It is not found by seeking. It is not an end in itself. Pots of gold are never found at the end of the rainbow, as we used to think when we were children; gold is mined from the ground or panned laboriously from a mountain stream.

Jesus once told His disciples, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." The "things" He spoke of were the things that make us feel happy and secure—food, drink, clothes, shelter. He told us not to make these the chief goal of our lives but to "seek the kingdom" and these needs would be automatically supplied. There, if we will take it, is the secret of happiness.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Forgive me, Father, for the times when I am anxious. You have promised to take care of all my needs.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Latest from Conley's Social Concerns Team



Feeding The Flock

The past few weeks have been challenging due to the weather; snow, extreme cold, and high winds. We are looking forward to more moderate temperatures in the coming weeks. Members of the Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary

have begun working with us on the first and third Mondays of the month. This allows our regular team members a bit of flexibility with days off. We have noticed a slight increase in the need for food boxes beyond our bag lunches. We are fortunate in that we have a fairly well stocked pantry, including shelf stable milk, ground beef, chicken and eggs. Many people have had their food stamps reduced or discontinued. The Flock sincerely appreciates the support we get from the Conley's family.



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.")

Soup Social

Attendance has varied since the holidays with some weeks serving almost 50 and other weeks as few as 20. Weather and the burst pipe in the Admin Wing also affected the operations on several Wednesdays. Please talk with Dale Kehrer before bringing soup. The freezer is quite full. Desserts are always welcome. If you have containers on the rack in the Beverage Bar, please pick them up. Any unlabeled containers will be taken to the Thrift Store early in March.

Pantry

The pantry is still well stocked but does get several visits per week from neighbors. At this time the most needed items are SpaghettiOs, Spam, Small Canned Hams, Chili with or without beans and dry cereal (anything but Cheerios). Thank you for your continued support of this outreach program.

NEWS from CONLEY'S THRIFT SHOP



What a past couple of months!!! This has been one of the coldest winters that I can remember since moving to Delaware in 2009 and definitely more snow. If you are like me and the thrift shoppers, we're thinking spring and warmer weather. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, the 17th and plan to come shopping for the first of our spring and summer clothing selections. The volunteers and staff of the shop will meet on Monday the 16th and remove all of the remaining winter selections, deep clean the rooms and fill all of them with lots and lots of spring and summer items. We will continue to offer reasonable prices.

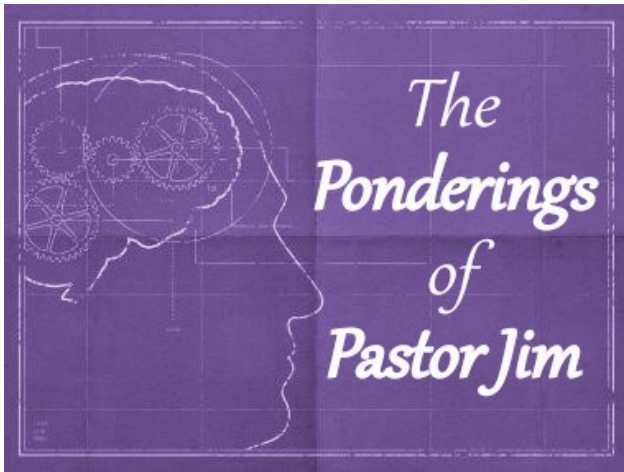
We want to thank our customers for understanding when we had to close the donation center because of the extreme cold temperatures. Donations have been great on the days we were able to open, so we have our normal amount of clothing in backlog. We continue to donate our excess to Phoenix Clothing Company. We are committed to keeping our recycling to a minimum. Please remember that after mid-March we will only accept spring and summer clothing items.

For those of you that are interested in the future pole barn building, our plans are currently in the hands of Del Dot for entrance and exit road review. We do not expect any issues and hopefully can move forward with the county permits. Now that the weather is getting better, the switch over of the existing main building from our septic system to county water and sewer can take place. Hopefully by next month we will have a more definite timeline to share. We have been watching our donations for anything usable in the outfitting of the new building. We have been given several wire shelf units and glass display cases. Tanger Outlets notified us of a store closing and we got several shelf units and counter units from them. All Saints Thrift Shop closed it's Rehoboth location and we obtained 5 large shoe racks and 18 clothing racks. What a BLESSING for us. We still need more wire shelves and tall wood bookcases if you have any taking up space at your home. Call the shop at 302 945 5566 and we will schedule a pickup time for you. A great big thank you to Roland and Laura Hill for allowing us to store all of these items at their farm.

We are seeing more and more new visitors each week and they are very pleased and complimentary of our cleanliness, organization of our shopping areas, quality of items, our great pricing and how pleasant our staff and volunteers are. Sounds like an A+ rating to me. As we meet new shoppers, we ask if they have a local church and invite those that don't to give us a try. It is wonderful that several people have come to visit on Sundays and several are now attending regularly. Please continue to keep the volunteers and staff in prayer.

Did you know?

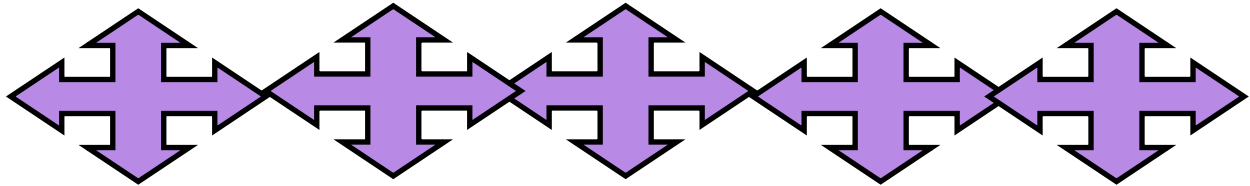
Conley's Thrift Shop donates 10% of all income to local charities.



I began the day making oatmeal for an early breakfast.
Then I watched LBJ on Netflix, highly recommend.
Drove to Rehoboth Beach and ate lunch at the Chinese Buffet.
Bought Marie a pair of red “Mary Jane” shoes at Birkenstock—saleswoman was Jessie Mastriana, a dear friend from church.
Came home and worked out at the gym. Finished off with a short walk. Returned home and napped.

Fiscal family meeting adjusting our tithing now that Marie is working as the church treasurer.
Dinner—homemade Manhattan clam chowder (clams from Maine)

This is how you spend a day during a sub-freezing weather event.



I entered Drew Theological School in September of 1975, after graduating from Ramapo College in Mahwah NJ. I lived on campus my first year at Drew but acted as the assistant to the pastor on weekends at the Sergeantsville-Kingwood UMC in NJ. My second and third years at seminary I was appointed to Frankford Plains UMC (in NJ) and lived in the parsonage there.

After graduating from seminary, I was ordained in the Northern New York Conference and was sent to First UMC in Ogdensburg NY.

I moved to the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and was appointed to Melsons UMC in Delmar MD. A three-church charge was my next stop at Queenstown-Grasonville-Carmichael. Grasonville grew rapidly and built a parsonage and kept me as their pastor for the next seven years.

My next appointment was a two-church charge: Whatcoat UMC (Camden DE) and Woodside UMC (where I met Marie). Marie and I moved to Harrington serving Asbury UMC and Houston UMC. We then moved to Grace: Millsboro and while I was there created a million-dollar addition to the church.

My next appointment was St. Paul’s UMC in Wilmington. It was a large church with a staff of seven. My final appointment was Salem:Selbyville. When I retired from there I went to Conley’s Church and am very happy here!

The Promise of Spring

When spring arises from the ground,
With flourishing life all around.
I think of how the earth has grown,
From seed that in the soil was thrown.
A seed of faith from one who knows,
The Christ, whose word to us He sows.
Christ gave the earth a gift of love,
To bring us to God's home above.
His sacrifice to bring us near, to God,
Our maker-listen, hear!
Jesus died, but rose again. To save
Us from our willful sin.
Rejoice with God, your life of grace,
Because you've seen our Master's face.

Authored by the Holy Spirit
Written by Sandie Wysocki



Peace With God

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts." —Colossians 3:15, NKJV

Science has confirmed what the Bible taught centuries ago: there is a close relationship between our minds and bodies. Proverbs puts it this way: "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones" —Proverbs 17:22, NIV

But there is also a close relationship between our mental and physical health and the health of our spiritual lives. Guilt, fear, jealousy, bitterness, futility, escapism—these and a host of other problems are spiritual ills, brought about by the disease of sin. Like poison, they can sicken us in mind and body.

But when Christ comes into our lives, He removes our guilt and takes away our fears. He gives us love for others and a new purpose in life. His joy and peace neutralize sin's poison—and that promotes emotional and physical health.

Does that mean our emotional and physical problems will vanish? Not necessarily. But like a spring of pure water, God's peace in our hearts brings cleansing and refreshment to our minds and bodies.

Hope for Today

The weight of worldly concerns can crush our spirits. We get bogged down in life and forget what has been given to us. Ask the Lord to restore to you the joy of your salvation and refresh your spirit.
—By: Billy Graham

Words of Wit & Wisdom

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome".

—Anne Bradstreet, poet

"The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created Spring. —Bernard Williams, philosopher

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush".

—Doug Larson, columnist

"With the coming of spring, I am calm again".

—Gustav Mahler,
composer

"Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses, a box where sweets compacted lie".

—George Herbert, poet

"I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen".

—Anne Lamott, novelist

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.

Youth Bible Study-On Hiatus.

Monday

Conley’s Choir rehearses 6:00pm-7:15pm in the choir room.

Conley’s Bell Ringers rehearse 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. We are okay on soups at this time. Desserts are needed.

AM Adult Bible Study-10-11:30 am in the Multi-Purpose Room, led by Louise Finn & Karen Lessey.

PM Adult Bible Study-6:30pm, led by Pastor Bill in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Thursday

Cemetery clean-up by the 4H club will be on March 5th. If you have decorations that you wish to keep, please remove them.

Happening This Month

Trustees will meet Tuesday, March 3rd, 6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Room.

SPRC will meet March 24th, 6:30pm in the Youth/Family Room.

The Church Council will meet Thursday, March 19, 6:30pm, in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Reminder

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8th. Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour!

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 March

- 2nd John Wesley died (1791)
- 8th Daylight Saving Time begins
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
- 20th First Day of Spring
- 29th Charles Wesley died (1788)
- 29th Palm Sunday

Conley's United Methodist Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

