



# Condit Courier

September 2020

*Streaming Live Service . . . .*

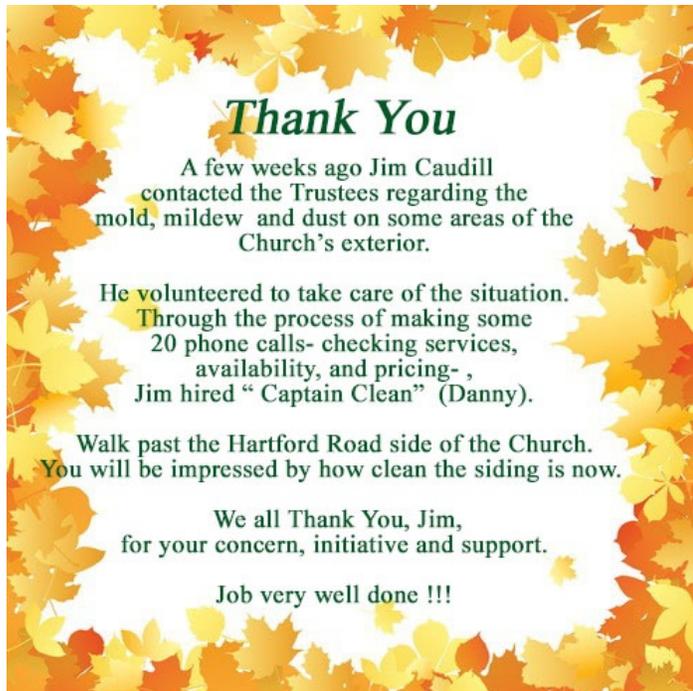
## Condit’s Outdoor Worship Draws Families to Pine Grove

Condit made history for the church by live streaming their Worship Service beginning August 9<sup>th</sup>. Even with a few technical problems it was great to see the children practicing social distancing during their special service. Behind the scenes, Lyle Melick worked his magic to get the broadcast online.

Trustees Bob Westbrook and George Justice, recruited others to help set up canopes, wiring for equipment and other necessities for a meaningful Worship experience.

By the second week, everything ran much smoother. It was wonderful to see and hear Adam Garner add his talent to the live service. About 3 dozen people attended each service in August.

Once again, Condit has proven it can embrace change and come out a winner.



### *Prayer Flags Created by Condit Kids*

Kits of materials were delivered to children who were free to create a Prayer Flag. The flags were hung at Condit’s first Outdoor Worship before being taken in to the church to be displayed on the big bulletin board in the hall.

“It has been interesting to continue inspiring the children when meeting in person is not in their best health interest,” noted Sue Milem, chair of the Christian Education Committee. Supplies have been ordered for another kit for each child to complete in the next month.

Milem reported she has not had volunteers jumping at the chance to instruct our young people on the Bible stories which will help them lead good lives. “The hard part is choosing a curriculum complete with teacher’s aids, lessons and crafts. The committee has done that so the teachers will have to spend a minimum of time in class preparation.

Please consider helping the committee by providing Sunday School leadership for Condit’s children of all ages.

Call Sue Milem to volunteer, 614-984-7966.

# Let's Go On A Retreat!

By Rev. Annie Melick

One of the things that has been important to my spiritual health and growth over the years is going on spiritual retreats. I've been to retreats with hundreds of people, with 20 people, 2 people, and even by myself. I've retreated at home, at church, at a camp, at a hotel in Amish country, at conference centers, at a convent in Italy, and even in Africa. I've done retreats with women, men and women, youth, young adults, and children. I love retreats!



*Rev. Annie Melick*

**A retreat is a time set aside to draw close to God.** It's called a retreat because we retreat from our normal routine and activities in order to focus on spiritual things. By breaking our routine and putting ourselves in a space that is conducive to prayer, we make the conditions right for being able to hear from God. It's not that our prayer isn't powerful at other times and in other places, it's just that a retreat helps us recharge our spiritual batteries. It's like going out for a special meal with someone you love. You may have eaten lots of meals together, but when you break up your normal routine and pick a special place to eat together, it usually leads to deep conversation and connection.

Almost 20 years ago, a friend taught me **how to have a personal spiritual retreat.** I had always thought of retreats as something you did with a group of people, but she told me about her practice of having monthly personal retreats. I'm a pretty social person, so it wasn't immediately appealing to me, but I tried it. It was life changing. **For the first time, I was able to truly quiet my soul and mind and pray for an extended period of time.** It was amazing to see how God could speak into all of the joys and concerns on my heart. One of the most difficult things for me was **setting aside distractions** in order to pray meaningfully. The technique I developed that worked to combat this was to make a list of all of my distractions before I started. Then, even during my time of prayer, if a distraction popped into my mind, I would quickly write it on the list and then continue to pray. My list often looked like this:

1. Laundry
2. Date with husband!
3. Daughter being picked on at school
4. Parent's health problems
5. Oil change

I'm sure you can relate. There are those things that just pop into our minds whenever we are still enough to leave room in our thoughts. Sometimes they are tasks needing to be done, sometimes they are things we worry about, and sometimes they are things we're happy about. What I found was that when I wrote the distractions down, I was then able to set them aside during my time of prayer, knowing that I could come back to the list later and think about them or make plans to deal with each item. What surprised me was that during my prayer, God seemed to help me deal with each of them. My worries were usually put in perspective, and sometimes I even came out of prayer with a plan to deal with various things.

**It doesn't matter how long you pray.** (Another one of my favorite prayers is a breath prayer that lasts about 3 seconds!) When I started doing personal retreats, I was able to pray for about 10 minutes. Over time, I was able to spend longer periods of time, even hours, praying. The amount of time isn't important; connecting with the Lord is what's important.

Since March, most of us have spent more time at home or more time alone than ever before. This seems like a great time for us to develop a new spiritual practice – personal retreat! You will find an outline below to follow to do this on your own. If you have questions, or would like guidance, please get in touch with me. I love to talk about this!

If you would like to try this in person with me, I will be doing **a personal retreat at the church on Friday, September 4 at 10am.** I will plan for this to be about 45 minutes to an hour long. You are welcome to join me for guidance in your retreat. **Please RSVP** if you plan to join me. If this day and time does not work for you and you would like me to lead you through the retreat, contact me to arrange another time. Please wear a mask and meet at the door to the basement Fellowship Hall. Gather the materials you will need: a copy of the outline below, Bible,

journal/paper and pen, water. Optional things you may want to bring are art supplies, music source and headphones, a blanket, a pillow, and a list of attributes/names of God.

Whether you join me at the church on September 4, or you try this at home, know that **I am praying for you**. I believe that my prayers for you are one of the most important parts of my ministry as your pastor. One of my prayers this month is that you will **say yes to the invitation and go on a spiritual retreat!**

## SPIRITUAL RETREAT

### 1. Prepare.

Gather the materials you will need: a copy of this outline, Bible, journal/paper and pen, and water. Optional things you may want to bring are art supplies, music source and headphones, a blanket, or a pillow. Find a comfortable spot and settle in. Sit quietly for a little bit and get used to your surroundings. Do some gentle stretches. Take some deep cleansing breaths. Make a list of all of the things you are distracted by today and ask God to take care of them while you have your retreat.

### 2. Reflect on how you've experienced God's presence since your last retreat.

- a. How has God been with you?
- b. How have you grown to love Him?
- c. Has God nudged you into some particular activity, discussion, or idea?

### 3. Pray using the ACTS model.

- a. Adoration – declaring qualities of God. (You can find a list of attributes or names of God online that might be helpful.)
- b. Confession – name your sin and ask God to forgive you.
- c. Thanksgiving- thank God for all he's done for you.
- d. Supplication- pray for others.

### 4. Read Scripture.

### 5. Be silent and listen for God to speak to you.

### 6. Gently stretch before you depart.



# Outdoor Worship

10:00 Each Sunday Morning

in the Pine Grove behind the Church

Worship Service is live streamed. Link is on website [at](#)

[www.ConditChurch.org](http://www.ConditChurch.org)



Relationships  
101

Jesus Teaches Us How to  
Thrive

## Jesus Teaches Us How to Thrive

9/06/20	Confrontation 101	Matthew 18:15-20
9/13/20	Forgiveness 101	Matthew 18:21-35
9/20/20	Resentment 101	Matthew 20:1-16
9/27/20	Humility 101	Matthew 21:23-32



Relationships  
101

Jesus Teaches Us How to  
Thrive



*Getting to Know You . . . .*

# Pastoring in a Pandemic

by Jennie Kavage

It was you, the members and friends of Condit Presbyterian Church, that the Rev. Annie Melick envisioned as she preached to empty pews the last several months. In college theater classes the bright stage lights made it impossible to see and she learned to imagine the audience just as she imagined Condit families worshipping at their computers.

***Rev. Annie Melick***

When the Covid-19 crisis shut down everything in March Annie taught herself how to upload video to YouTube and send links. Worship services moved to online where they reached not only the local Condit family but “snowbirds,” shut-ins and former residents. Husband Lyle, a professional techie, provided his expertise. They tried to film announcements in different areas so viewers could see their church.

“We didn’t miss any church services. That was huge,” Pam Sheets says. “We felt connected.”

Since April Annie has launched a variety of Zoom groups trying to meet the needs of the Condit family – kids on Tuesdays, adult lunch on Thursdays, Wednesday prayer meetings, Maundy Thursday and Communion Services, Session and Trustee meetings, Coffee Hours and Happy Hours. She has posted a book list for adults, an old movie list and suggestions for family activities, all with religious components.

“I have learned how to use some technology and that I have to be flexible,” Annie says. “You offer things and see if it works.”

Annie has not been able to visit family members who live out of state and she misses that but they have family Zooms. She attended son John’s graduation from seminary via Zoom and she sees him online preaching at his new post in Boston. When she took a week’s “staycation” she did visit her 91-year-old father who lives in-state.

She’s performed three funeral services since the pandemic began including for Ann Ross and Gary Gilbert and is glad she was able to be with Ann before she died.

“It’s really been hard not to see people,” she says. “I’ve had to use phone calls and text messages to stay in touch but you don’t realize how much you rely on facial expressions and body language in communication.”

Pam Sheets, who helps with the Kids’ Zoom, notes that Annie has had to protect herself from the virus to keep her family safe as well as her church family. Since she was exposed to the Covid virus and self-quarantined for two weeks, she has made sure those who want to see her wear masks. During her self-quarantine Annie provided a Sunday worship service from her own deck. She worried about how her dog Birdie would behave, about insects and motorcycles roaring by but the setting was calming and the service serene as she talked on God’s beauty in the world while sitting in the midst of it. *(Continue on Page 5)*



***Condit Kids, Averie and Addison,  
Zooming with  
Rev. Annie and Pam Sheets***

*(Pastoring in a Pandemic, continued from page 4)*

Annie is chairperson of the Committee for Church Professionals for the Scioto Valley Presbytery and in that capacity interviews pastors joining and departing the Presbytery. She leads Presbytery pastors in a weekly Zoom session to exchange ideas on pastoring in a pandemic.

When civil rights leader and congressman John Lewis died some church members joined Annie at the church on the day of his funeral to ring bells in his honor. Elder Sue Milem and Pam Sheets filled and delivered kits of supplies for Condit children and youth to make prayer flags expressing their feelings on the issues of the day. These were the backdrop when Condit worshippers gathered August 9 for their first service together since pandemic restrictions began.

The start of outdoor services was the advent of live streaming Condit's worship services. "We've talked about live streaming for about four years," Annie says. "Now we are doing it as opposed to filming the day before. Our service is presented as it happens and people can worship with us from home or from the sidelines at soccer tournaments or wherever they are." A video will continue to be posted online following the service. The congregation is masked and social distanced but, at last, Annie is seeing real Condit faces again.

## Trustees Need Help Removing Dead Trees

Behind the Church are 5 large Pine Trees which need to be taken down. The Trustees need some help. Would anyone with a chainsaw and willing to help on this project please contact any of the Trustees. We'd like to coordinate and schedule a time to tag team these trees: drop them, pull them to parking lot, cut them into pieces, pile them and burn them.

We would appreciate anyone's time and effort. Hoping to get a crew of 5-6 tree trimmers!

## Orndorf's Blood Saves 300 Lives



David Orndorf gave his 100th pint of blood at the Condit Drive on August 14 to become a member of the Century Club.

After years of giving his special blood which was needed for babies, David had some health issues which put him on blood thinner so he was unable to donate. His health has improved so he wanted to donate again. "It felt good to give the 100th," noted Orndorf. "I'll wear the shirt proudly."

Sadly, Condit missed its goal by 1 pint in August.

Condit's next drive is October 9<sup>th</sup>. Dave has signed up to give his 101<sup>st</sup> pint at the October 9<sup>th</sup> blood drive.

To donate, email [GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org](mailto:GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org).



### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Sue Overturf
- 7 Abby Welch
- 18 John Whitney
- 19 Beverly Marshall
- Mike Mucci
- 21 Teresa Gorsuch
- Rick Ross
- 23 Zachary Joseph
- 30 Austin Gilbert



SEPTEMBER 5  
Austin and Trisha Gilbert

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



# September 2020



**Outdoor Worship is in the Pine Grove behind the Church.**  
 Print bulletin from the website  
[www.ConditChurch.org](http://www.ConditChurch.org)

**1**  
 10:00 For Our Children's Children  
*via Zoom*

**2**  
 7:00 Adult Book Club

**3**  
 6 pm Fitness Club

**5**

**6**  
 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship with Communion

**8**  
 10:00 For Our Children's Children  
*via Zoom*  
 6 pm Fitness Club

**10**

6 p.m. Fitness Club

**12**

**13**  
 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship

**15**  
 10:00 For Our Children's Children  
*via Zoom*  
 6 pm Fitness Club

**17**

5:30 Fitness Club  
 7 p.m. Session and Trustees

**19**

**20**  
 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship

**22**  
 10:00 For Our Children's Children  
*via Zoom*  
 6 pm Fitness Club

**24**

6 pm Fitness Club

**26**

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER**

**27**  
 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship

**29**  
 10:00 For Our Children's Children  
*via Zoom*  
 6 pm Fitness Club

**30**





*SourcePoint Makes Life Beautiful for Seniors*



**Condit Presbyterian Church**

15102 Hartford Road  
Sunbury, OH 43074-9725  
<http://www.conditchurch.org>  
Pastor: Rev. Annie Melick

**SESSION**  
**Class of 2022**

Chip Welch.....614-774-0390  
Ken Bartlett.....740-965-1529  
Sue Milem.....614 984-7966

**Class of 2021**

Doug Kerns.....614-216-0964  
Jeff Marshall.....740-816-4676  
Sheila Micholes.....740-965-4394

**Class of 2020**

Darlene Ross.....614-403-1341  
Sue Overturf.....614-563-2570  
Polly Horn, Clerk.....740-965-3582

**Youth Elder Class of 2020**

Abigail Welch.....614-774-0390

**Church Pastor**

Rev. Annie Melick.....440-308-7664  
Condit Presbyterian Church.....740-965-2911

**Music Director**

Adam Garner.....740-739-0002

**Church Treasurer**

Ken Bartlett.....740-965-1569

**Financial Secretary**

Darlene Ross.....614-403-1341

**Christian Education**

Sue Milem.....614-984-7966

**TRUSTEES**  
**Class of 2022**

Bob Westbrook.....614-668-8850  
George Justice.....740-965-9668

**Class of 2021**

Allison Skinner.....614-214-5813  
Grant Bartlett.....614-915-9698

**Class of 2020**

Molly Blevins.....740-225-2640

**Sunday School and Bible School**

Pam Sheets.....937-902-4779

**Nursery Care**

Molly Blevins (Nursery).....740-225-2640

**Special Events**

Jeff Marshall .....740-816-4676

**Ushers/Greeters/Flowers**

Sheila Micholes.....740-965-4394

**Acolytes**

Bill and Teresa Gorsuch.....740-965-3742

**Church Directory**

Donna and Laura Mucci.....740-965-5798

**Custodian**

Lynette Waldo.....614-562-7769

Newsletter Polly Horn . .....740-965-3582

Website Bob Westbrook.....614-668-8850

