



Condit Courier

December 2020

Session Temporarily Closes In-Church Worship

Following Presbytery's recommended course of action as the number of covid cases rises, Condit's Elders voted to once again close the church for Worship. Services will continue to be live-streamed and available through links on the website and Facebook. Committees are working hard to keep us all in touch with our traditions during this special holiday season.

Advent Begins Sunday, November 29

Advent Devotionals for All Ages

Each local Condit family should have received a set of Advent materials: candles, devotional, Psalms bookmark, and materials for children and youth. (If you didn't receive them and would like a set, please email janamilem@aol.com.)

Advent Wreaths, Nativity Scenes – Assemble Then Take a Photo

We would love to show pictures of your Advent wreath or a nativity scene that you have set up in your home. We will include the pictures in one of our online worship videos in December. If you have a picture to share, please send it to conditpresbyterian@outlook.com. Thank you!

A Psalm-a-Day for Advent

While we are experiencing social distancing in 2020, let's gather together in a common devotional activity by reading a Psalm-a-day. The list is on the bookmark you should have received, and also is listed on page 7. There will also be a video each day on Facebook and YouTube where Rev. Annie will read the Psalm and share a thought or a song.

Virtual Christmas Pageant In Your Home on December 13

Condit's Christmas Pageant is one of the biggest events on the church calendar. It is a time for the children of all ages to shine. Many elves have worked behind the scenes to film individuals and assemble a virtual program you can enjoy from the safety of your home. The link to it will be posted on the website and on facebook.

Sanctuary Open House 4-7 p.m. Monday, December 14

– Reservation Required –

We all love our beautiful sanctuary at Christmas time. This year our church family will not be able to attend onsite worship services, so we invite you to come for an Open House to enjoy the decorated sanctuary at Condit. This will be a time for you to enter the sanctuary, hear some recorded Christmas music, enjoy the seasonal decorations, and pray. For Covid safety, you will be able to reserve a time slot so you will be the only one in the sanctuary at that time. To make your reservation, contact Rev. Annie at annie@melick.net or 440-308-7664.

Condit Christmas Eve Online Silent Night Singalong From Cars

Enjoy the Christmas Eve Worship Service online. Then we are planning to join together safely for our traditional candle-lit singing of *Silent Night*. On Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. you are invited to come to the church, where you will remain in your car. Bring an Advent candle for each person in the car. Crack your window an inch so you can hear. Then we will all light or turn on our candles and sing *Silent Night* together. This will be a night we will remember for the rest of our lives!

THOSE WHO DREAM



Rev. Annie Melick

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

By Rev. Annie Melick

What have you been dreaming of lately? I dream of being able to see all of my children. I dream of getting and giving big long hugs. I dream of traveling to visit loved ones. I dream of having parties. In Psalm 126, the Psalmist describes what it was like to be restored: it was like those who dream. There was laughter, joy, thankfulness, and abundance. It sounds wonderful!

Our worship theme this year for Advent is *Those Who Dream*. I hope you will join us for worship services, whether they are online. Advent is a time of wonder and deep joy as we think about God coming to dwell among us in the person of Jesus. In spite of the difficulties of living during a pandemic, there is a sweet inner peace and joy that we can experience through our Lord.



Keep in Your Prayers . . .

Peggy and Max Sheets, Sue Overturf
Covert Family, Bergmann Family,
Joe Cox,
Our Friends and Neighbors who are
fighting Covid
Our Health Care Workers who step in
danger's path to care for others
Our Leaders who have to make tough decisions

Happy December Birthday

- 1 Holly Fuller
- 4 Hayden Agnew
- 13 Megan Gilbert
- 18 Bob Westbrook
- 21 Jim Irwin
- 25 Alma Jones
- 28 Kate Skeen
- 29 Ann Lafatis-Schuler
Katlin White

Happy Anniversary

- 17 Jeff and Terrie Groseclose





Worship for Advent and Christmas

November 29, 2020 The 1st Sunday in Advent

Those who dream... keep awake (hope)

Focal scriptures: Mark 13:24-37 | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Those who dream do not fall asleep to the realities of the world. God prompts us to pay attention to where God's dreams for change and new life are emerging. In Advent, we remember that God's ultimate dream is to be intimately connected to us—to come down and dwell among us. As we keep awake, we join Isaiah and the psalmist in pleading for restoration and for God to draw near.

December 6, 2020 The 2nd Sunday in Advent

Those who dream... prepare the way (peace)

Focal scriptures: Mark 1:1-8 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

John the Baptist calls the crowds into the journey of repentance and transformation. Similarly, we are called to prepare the way for God's message of love and liberation to be shouted, heard, and received. Those who dream make way for righteousness and peace to kiss, for faithfulness to spring up from the ground.

December 13, 2020 The 3rd Sunday in Advent

Those who dream... sow joy (joy)

Focal scriptures: Luke 1:46-55 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Ps. 126

Ultimately, dreams sow joy, even if that joy doesn't immediately spring forth. Sowing seeds into the soil always feels risky and feeble—how can something so small become something so beautiful, so big, and so nourishing? Like Mary, we are called to tend and nurture the dreams God has woven into us.

December 20, 2020 The 4th Sunday in Advent

Those who dream... are not alone (love)

Focal scriptures: Luke 1:26-45 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

This week, we recognize what preceded Mary's song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another's dreams.

December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

This night, we are those who dream.

Focal scriptures: Luke 2:1-20 | Isaiah 9:2-7

The Christmas story reminds us that we are all dreamers. Like those gathered around the manger, we come to this night each year with awe, wonder, and holy imagination for what is possible. Like Mary, we treasure God's dream in our hearts and commit to keeping it alive. Like the holy family, we believe and trust in a God who comes to us in the vulnerability of a child.

December 27, 2020 1st Sunday After Christmas

Those who dream... will not keep silent

Focal scriptures: Luke 2:22-40 | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

God's dreams are not for us alone. Simeon and Anna could not keep silent—they witnessed Jesus' divine presence in the temple and were compelled to speak up. Like the prophet Isaiah, we will not keep silent and we will not rest until what has been sown will spring up as righteousness and peace in every nation.

January 3, 2021 Epiphany

Those who dream... persevere

Focal scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12 | Isaiah 60:1-6

On Epiphany, we celebrate how God's love transverses cultural and geographical barriers to become good news for all people. We marvel at the persistence of God to shine the way for the Magi so that they might bear witness to the divine. We honor that the Magi trusted their dreams and returned home by another way. As we journey forward, we carry the dreams of our ancestors in faith. With courage and resilience, we dream on.

Getting to Know You . . .

Allison Skinner

By Jennie, Kavage

When she chose her career in health care, Allison Skinner picked nursing because she thought nurses were more closely involved with patients than doctors could be. The Toledo-grown graduate of Heidelberg University went to Valparaiso University in Indiana for her nursing degree. Then she planned to head out west.

While waiting for her Board scores, Allison visited friends in Delaware who persuaded her Central Ohio was a good place to live. Hospitals weren't hiring at the time so she worked in skilled care facilities for adults until she was hired for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Grant. She was there 20 years.

In 1999 Allison married Phil Kirby. She and her husband had two sons, Sam and Nathan Kirby. After divorcing, she moved to a house on N. County Rd. 605 and, in due time, began attending Condit Presbyterian Church. She liked the size of the church and found the people very welcoming, very generous and relaxed. The Rev. Annie Melick's messages were relevant. Now she is a church trustee. Both boys participate in Condit's youth program and Sam has joined the church.

Just last year she took a nursing position in Labor and Delivery at University Hospital which gets "the sickest of the sick" from all over the state and even out of state. She has been shocked at how many young people are "really sick with high blood pressure, obesity or have had strokes. Some with Type II Diabetes don't take their meds or change their diet. I am shocked that they don't choose to take care of themselves," she says."Some pregnant women neglect getting prenatal care because they are afraid they will get Covid."

She was already working with women with the most serious conditions when Covid-19 hit. She sent her sons to live with their dad and took the Covid patients. In the beginning, she says, it took days and weeks to get tests back and supplies were limited. She had to put her mask and goggles in a paper bag and leave it at the patient's room to use again. At the end of her shift the bag of supplies went in her locker to use the next night.

"It took months for us to get to the point of sending these personal protective items to Battelle to be sanitized," she reports, "and it was the same for my friends who worked in the Covid unit. It was very concerning. You just have to trust you are doing the best you can."

Practices have improved and are more streamlined nine months in. Now everyone gets the PCR test for Covid. Allison has never tested positive but at the end of July the test showed she had antibodies. She never had symptoms but she had been exposed to the virus. While Allison doesn't believe University Hospital will be overrun with patients she says mental health facilities may be.

"Routines are gone which is hard for those with autism and for their parents. Support groups like AA and Narcotics Anonymous, are shut down. There is an uptick in domestic violence and violence against children,"



Allison and Her Sons, Nathan and Sam

(Continue on Page 5)



George Justice Finished Painting Figures

Trustees Work on Condit's New Drive-By Nativity Scene

To spread the love and joy of Christmas in these difficult times, our Trustees have been working on a new lighted display for those driving by the church.



Bob Westbrook

Bob Westbrook, left, cut the figures from plywood and George Justice has painted them.

They plan to install and light the display in the yard on Saturday after Thanksgiving so they will be ready for Advent.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers Sunday December 5

Condit's Nominating Committee has a slate of officers for 2021 to present to the congregation at 11:00 Sunday morning following Worship. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed on Saturday. Only members may vote.

Elders to be elected to the Class of 2023 are Marianne Westbrook, Judy Watts, and Darlene Ross.

Trustees to be elected to the Class of 2023 are Molly Blevins and John Whitney.

Youth Elder to be elected to Class of 2021 is Jaden Jacob.

There is a paper ballot on page 7 for you to vote if you are unable to Zoom. Please mark your ballot and mail to Condit Presbyterian Church, 15102 Hartford Road, Sunbury, Ohio 43074 by December 1st.

(Allison Skinner Continued from page 4)

she says. "On the plus side people are washing their hands more and actually staying home from work when they are sick."

Good stress relievers for people in her profession, Allison notes, are being able to get a massage, a manicure or a pedicure. She has been able to see some friends and family and went to Florida. She is cooking more and teaching the boys to cook. She likes to learn new things, loves history, enjoys reading, working crossword puzzles, being outside, walking. As soon as she works out life on the night shift she hopes to be back in church more often.

American Red Cross to Collect Blood at Condit 1-6 on December 4

At press time we have 30 donors scheduled to give blood on Friday the 4th. They are asked to wear masks and enter at the door to the patio where their temperatures will be taken before entering the building. Donors who complete Rapid-Pass online or on their cell phones will have their total visit time cut in half. Link for Rapid-Pass will be emailed to donors on Monday, November 30.



A PSALM A DAY FOR ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

NOVEMBER 29	Psalm 150
NOVEMBER 30	Psalm 45
DECEMBER 1	Psalm 145
DECEMBER 2	Psalm 146
DECEMBER 3	Psalm 147: 1-11
DECEMBER 4	Psalm 148
DECEMBER 5	Psalm 130
DECEMBER 6	Psalm 90
DECEMBER 7	Psalm 40
DECEMBER 8	Psalm 33
DECEMBER 9	Psalm 53
DECEMBER 10	Psalm 18: 1-20
DECEMBER 11	Psalm 102
DECEMBER 12	Psalm 149
DECEMBER 13	Psalm 24
DECEMBER 14	Psalm 67
DECEMBER 15	Psalm 85
DECEMBER 16	Psalm 17
DECEMBER 17	Psalm 126
DECEMBER 18	Psalm 16
DECEMBER 19	Psalm 80
DECEMBER 20	Psalm 25
DECEMBER 21	Psalm 122
DECEMBER 22	Psalm 94
DECEMBER 23	Psalm 50
DECEMBER 24	Psalm 132
DECEMBER 25	Psalm 98

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MAIL IN BALLOT FOR MEMBERS ONLY OF Condit Presbyterian Church Election of Officers December 5, 2020

The Nominating Committee recommended the following Slate

Elders - Class of 2023

Vote for 3 Elders

Darlene Ross

Judy Watts

Marianne Westbrook

Write-in _____

Trustees - Class of 2023

Vote for 2 Trustees

Molly Blevins

John Whitney

Write-in _____

Youth Elder Class of 2021

Jaden Jacob

*Please complete the ballot, cut along the line,
sign your name and
mail by December 1st, 2020 to
Condit Presbyterian Church
15102 Hartford Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074*

Signature of member of Condit Presbyterian
Church

**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 Marshall740-816-4676

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