



# Condit Courier

September 2023

## *An Introduction from the New Pastor...*

You get only once chance to make a first impression. It's why it is called the first impression. While I have been blessed to already preach for you all, this is slightly different. As a recovering English Major, I love to write. It's very much in my wheelhouse. Yet the question remains: how does one introduce oneself to their new church family?

By now, I am confident that much of the biographical information has been given out. I'm a Kent State and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduate. I have six children I adopted from foster care. I am engaged to a wonderful woman. I love OSU and have a complicated relationship with the Cleveland Browns. Some people call me the space cowboy. Wait... no. That's Steve Miller. I do, however, love quotes be it from songs or movies or books.



All these things make me who I am. I must wonder, though, if that is the core of my being. I know it isn't all who I am. In fact, I have developed three questions to ask someone to get to know them very well.

So here are my answers: my favorite song is My Way by Frank Sinatra. My favorite book (outside of The Bible) is The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. My favorite movie is Star Wars: A New Hope (because it introduced me to the series).

Even these I feel are not enough. Allow me a moment, then, to tell you my favorite scripture. Jeremiah 20:9. "If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' then within me there is something like a fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot." For me, this is why I do what I do. I can't help but speak of God's love and goodness. It's why I will speak at length about Bible stories or theology.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you all. It is an exciting time to begin a new ministry together. I know that when we work together, God will be glorified. I have a feeling this is going to be the start of something wonderful and I am honored to be here with you all to experience it.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sam  
(330) 207-7038  
[pastorsamuel85@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsamuel85@gmail.com)

*Pastor Sam will lead worship services beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup>. An official "Welcome Lunch" has been planned for September 10<sup>th</sup> after the service. All are welcome so plan to fill the pews and set our ministry together off on the right path. Have you remembered to invite a friend?*

# County Crews Clean Our Ditch!

Submitted by the Trustees

Delaware County Engineer's staff once again came to the aide of Condit Presbyterian Church this summer as a crew cleaned out the CR 605 drainage ditch and culvert just south of the church.



In the above picture, operator Dennis Rahn backhoes the cattails and weeds out of the ditch on Thursday, July 27. Dennis was assisted by fellow operator Randy Wilgus with the job, and they mentioned the culvert under CR 605 to Rattlesnake Creek was completely blocked, not allowing the ditch to drain.

The two men are part of the employees under Jimmy Drum's supervision, who take care of roads, bridges, ditches in Engineer Chris Bauserman's office.

Rahn and others came to the church's aide last year when a thunderstorm blew over a large tree in our SE side yard, blocking CR 605 and entry to our parking area. He also drives

snowplow in winter and has made passes along our Hartford Rd. parking area clearing snow for us.

The county road crews have also been utilizing our parking lot for their equipment recently while they resurface and chip & seal, Hartford Rd, and CR 605. "We're eternally thankful for our working relationship with all the Delaware County employees and departments," Trustee President George Justice reports.

## Mark your calendar



Plan to gather in the fellowship hall following worship on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Pam Sheets and Sue Overturf have organized a luncheon to welcome the Monte family to Condit. All are invited to attend.

In addition to the luncheon the congregation will be blessing the Monte family with an old fashioned "**Pounding**." This term stems from the Quaker custom of showering new ministers, neighbors or newlyweds with "a pound" of dry goods to help them stock their pantry in a new home. To welcome the Monte family to Condit everyone is being asked to bring "a pound" of non-perishables to help fill the cupboards at their new residence. Your "pounds" should be delivered to the church no later than September 10<sup>th</sup> as they will be presented to the family at the conclusion of the luncheon.



The annual fall bonfire and Trunk or Treat have been scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. More details will be released following the September 14<sup>th</sup> Session meeting with Pastor Sam.



Please remember to pray for: the family of Joe Cox, Homer & Mary Jo Wilson, Bill Walker, Clayton Davey, Shelli Evans, Max & Peggy Sheets, and the Monte family.



## Getting to Know You....

Pastor Sam Monte

by Jennie Kavage

It wasn't much time but they did it! Pastor Sam Monte accepted the call to Condit on July 23 and by August 14 the Monte family of eight had moved from northeastern Ohio to Andrews Drive in Westerville. Piles of boxes were still to be unpacked but everyone had a place to sleep, clothes to wear and some of the children started to school the next day. Their new house is just a walk away from Alcott Elementary and Central High and a short distance from Genoa Middle School.

Samuel Paul Monte grew up in East Liverpool, OH and at the First Presbyterian Church across the Ohio River in Newell, WV, home of Fiesta tableware. When he was 16 he began to feel ministry was something he could do but hearing he would have to learn Greek and Hebrew was daunting. Sam graduated with a degree in English from Kent State University in 2008 and married Gail Harsh the same year. While serving as an Elder at his church, he had a few opportunities to fill the pulpit. It felt right, he says, and the idea of becoming a minister crept into his head again.

In 2009 he entered Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a graduate theological school of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Hebrew and Greek classes were hard but he passed. When he graduated in 2012, Sam and Gail adopted their foster son, Xavier. Within five years, through the process of fostering and adoption they created a family of six children.



**MEET CONDIT'S NEW FAMILY:** That's Elijah, 14, standing behind Xavier, 15. Juliana, 10, and Nemo, 7, are on the couch with Pastor Sam. Seated in front are the twins Martha, left, and Odessa, 12. On the right is Jules Miller, Pastor Sam's fiancée, a senior continuity specialist for PNC Bank.

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## *Getting to Know you...., continued from page 3*

“God led us to have a heart for children in foster care,” Sam says. Now divorced, he is the custodial parent but Gail lives in Westerville and will be involved in the lives of the children.

Pastor Sam has served as a Teaching Elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wellsville, minister at First Presbyterian Church in Barnesville, and at Makemie Memorial Presbyterian in Snow Hill on the eastern shore of Maryland. He comes to Condit from serving both North Kingsville Presbyterian and First Presbyterian of Ashtabula.

The prophets got Sam’s attention in Seminary. Prophets talked both to God for the people and for God to the people. “The prophets called out injustices and held people accountable,” he says, “but there is also grace and love to be found; a wealth of information.”

Stories from the prophets may come to play in Pastor Sam’s sermons but he will follow the lectionary. “I do that to challenge myself. I look at the text and try to see where God is leading me,” he says.

Pastor Sam wants to be accessible so he plans to be in the church building on a regular basis. He also intends to be involved with the community, a part of the ministerial association and other local organizations.

Growing up, Sam’s room was a scarlet and gray tribute to Ohio State University. This fall when the Buckeyes are playing football, he will be watching. He’s also a long-time fan of the Cleveland Browns but admits that relationship has grown more complicated the last year or so. The family pet is a Saint Bernard named Barker Mayfield for a former Browns quarterback.

Cooking is a favorite activity and he’s a perfectionist when it comes to turning out his special pizza. There is also a flatbread he likes to make from the Star Wars Cookbook; easy and great for breakfast tacos. Alas, his sourdough starter has died and he will be

working on getting that going again. He is pleased the new house has a yard with space to grow fresh vegetables.

A new relationship is beginning for Condit with a new pastor and a new family to get to know. Pastor Sam’s first sermon as Condit’s minister will be September 3. He looks forward to sitting with Session. He says he hopes to “hit the ground running, to spread God’s word. How do we do that? We don’t just go to church, we ARE the church in the world. There is so much potential!”

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## Change of Address



Grant Bartlett  
2766 Harney Path  
PMB 228  
Fort Sam Houston  
Texas 78234

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*Submitted by Polly Horn*

Thirty people came to Condit to donate blood on August 11. Two were unable to give but the others donated 28 pints to save 84 lives. Thanks Condit!

Following the monsoon on Wednesday, the Trustees and their crew mopped 3" of rain from the basement so we could continue the drive. Both Red Cross and the donors were very understanding.

Many thanks to Beverly Saksa for helping with check-ins. Neither of us got anything done on our projects we brought but that was OK. We enjoyed the company and kept the line moving.

The next blood drive is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Register early to help with this mission. Call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 or email [GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org](mailto:GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org).





Women's Circle will meet September 20<sup>th</sup> at noon in the fellowship hall. Led by Mary Ann Counts, the discussion will be about Chapter 3 of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Please remember to pack a brown bag lunch and be prepared to answer study guide questions. All women are welcome.



Faith Filled Women met Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church for the yearly planning meeting. President Donna Orders presided over the discussion. The women of Condit volunteered to host Faith Filled Women in 2024 for the May 10 meeting and to provide the program for the meeting on November 8. Additional business discussed was the upcoming sale of Scrip gift cards. Cards will go on sale soon with sales to be completed by the end of October in time for holiday delivery. Please consider supporting Condit women in this endeavor.

The final meeting for 2023 will be at 11 a.m. on November 10<sup>th</sup> at The Bridge. Condit will have the opportunity to present the program. Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting. All women are always welcome to attend.



## September Birthdays

5 Sue Overturf  
7 Abigail Welch  
18 John Whitney  
19 Beverly Marshall  
Mike Mucci  
21 Teresa Gorsuch  
Rick Ross  
23 Zachary Joseph  
26 Dave Vermillion  
28 Sheryl Hernandez  
30 Austin Gilbert, Jennifer Shick



## September Anniversaries

5 Austin and Trisha Gilbert  
7 Doug and Sheri Linnabary



## Did you know?

The English word for Bible is derived from the Latin word *biblia* or Greek word *byblos*. The ancient Phoenician port city, Byblos, was known for importing papyrus from Egypt and distributing it throughout the Middle East. It was in Byblos that the Phoenician and other Western alphabets were developed, using papyrus as a recording tool. During the Phoenician civilization, with frequent usage, *byblos* came to mean *papyrus*. Today the Greek



name for the city, Byblos, still remains in use, linking the city with its purposeful history. The word "Bible" ultimately derives from the important Greek name

of the city and its historic cultural influence.

Byblos is still a thriving Mediterranean port city on the coast of Lebanon. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, dating back to 5000BC. Today it is re-emerging as a tourist destination featuring Phoenician, Roman and Crusader ruins, sandy beaches, and picturesque mountains.



## Wands for Wildlife

Recycle mascara wands to be used to remove eggs and larva from fur and feathers.

Wash wands in warm soapy water to remove any mascara. Dry.

Donate clean wands to Sheila Micholes by September 30 at

Condit Presbyterian Church  
15102 Hartford Road  
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

# Deer Haven Outing

Unpredicted thunderstorms held off just long enough for the outdoor programs to be completed at Deer Haven Park before the sky let loose with several hours of passing rain. A group of children of all ages departed from the church at 8:45 am on July 29<sup>th</sup> for an outing to Delaware Preservation Park's location on Liberty Road. The morning began with a naturalist led Habitat Hike through the forest. The short hike progressed to the forest edge, and then transitioned to a small prairie. Preserved animal skins, taxidermies and mounted insects were used throughout the walk/presentation to convey the animal-habitat arrangement.



*Madi Howard holds the Naturalist's fox pelt.*

The second program was Wetland Exploration. A second naturalist explained the term wetland, the wetland's function as a natural sponge, and some of the aquatic organisms thriving in this ecosystem. Everyone had an opportunity to use nets to capture specimens from the water for identification purposes. Various aquatic plants, birds nesting in grasses, and insects were also discussed.



*Sandy Thacker removes a net from the wetland.*

To conclude the naturalist arranged program, a reptile/amphibian presentation was held inside the Nature Center. Approximately five different turtle species could be observed in aquariums, along with three frog species, and a salamander. Turtle shells were discussed in detail then a common box turtle was displayed and walked freely around the seating area. Wanda, the Albino Milk Snake was passed around for all to hold, as was the salamander. Large viewing windows in the nature center provided a lookout to bird feeders where an abundance of bird types were identified, as well as a mother raccoon and four kits.

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*Madi holds Wanda.*



The outing came to a close after sharing a brown bag lunch and a short Bible lesson covering Genesis Chapter 1, the creation story. Three take a ways from the lesson: 1) The perfect world God created from darkness over 6,000 years ago is the same beauty we enjoy today. Only He could create something so complex from nothing. 2) God was pleased with what He made because He “saw that it was good.” 3) The purpose of creation was for God to make a world to share with His creatures. He created us in His image and is pleased with us. God created a world where we can rest and rule with Him forever.



*Sandy Thacker, Pam Sheets, Marianne Westbrook and Madi Howard observe the box turtle.*



*Sandy and the Salamander.*



On a beautiful July evening, Todd and Connie Jacob enjoyed attending the celebration of marriage for their eldest son, Levi Daniel Jacob. Levi is also the nephew of Kathy Kees and George Justice. Levi, of Johnstown, and Taylor Williams, of Croton, officially became Mr. and Mrs. Jacob on July 22, 2023. Levi's brothers, Isaia and Jaden, joined in the celebration as bestman and groomsmen, respectively, during the ceremony.



Levi graduated from Lake Erie College and now works for Ro-Tech Healthcare as a regional sales executive. He is also the head coach for the boys varsity lacrosse team at Johnstown High School. Taylor graduated from Ohio University and works for Forbidden Root Brewery Corporate as a digital marketing and photo editing consultant.

Levi and Taylor currently reside in Upper Arlington, Ohio, with the hope of relocating to the Johnstown area. Levi and Taylor are a fun loving couple who enjoy spending time with friends and family. You will find them attending various music events along with enjoying the upcoming OSU football season. Congratulations and best wishes Levi & Taylor Jacob!

Submitted by the Jacob family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>    </div>						
September Flowers <i>Sandy Thacker</i> September Ushers <i>Dave &amp; Melissa Vermillion</i>					1	2
3 10:00 Worship with Communion	4  <b>Labor Day</b>	5 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	6 6:00 <b>Chancel Choir</b>	7 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	8	9
10 10:00 Worship  <b>Welcome Lunch after Worship</b>	11  <b>PATRIOT DAY 9/11</b>	12 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	13 5:00-7:00 <b>Food/Fun</b>  6:00 <b>Chancel Choir</b>	14 5:30 <b>Fitness Club</b>  7:00 <b>Session &amp; Trustees</b>	15	16
17 10:00 Worship	18	19 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	20 Noon <b>Women's Circle @ church</b> 6:00 <b>Chancel Choir</b>	21 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	22	23
24 10:00 Worship	25	26 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	27 5:00-7:00 <b>Food/Fun</b>  6:00 <b>Chancel Choir</b>	28 6:00 <b>Fitness Club</b>	29	30  <b>7:00 Eucrhe!</b>



# The Parable of the Apple Tree

Once upon a time there was an apple tree which God had created. It was a young tree without any leaves or fruit. One night the young tree saw the brilliant stars and was very unhappy. He wished for himself to have these sparkling stars on his branches so that he too would be beautiful.

The next morning, God noticed that the tree was unhappy, and He said to him, "Let me make something for you. I will dress you up in a beautiful mantle of green so that you will be beautiful to behold. Then you will not be so unhappy."



But the tree was not content with God's plan. "I do not want a mantle of green, I want stars." The next morning the tree saw that God had not given. Once again the tree said to God, "I want stars," but instead, God gave him beautiful red fruit. The tree was even more unhappy. The wind saw how unhappy the apple tree was and the wind became unhappy too. The wind blew and tried to set the apple tree free of the leaves and the fruit, but he failed. However, as the wind blew, some of the leaves and fruit fell to the ground. One piece of fruit broke into two pieces right in the middle. When the tree looked upon the broken fruit, guess what he saw? Inside the fruit was the shape of a star!

Many times you and I, like the apple tree in the story, want a special gift like one God has given to someone else. We may even try to give God instructions as to what is best for us. We must remember that God gives each of us special gifts as he deems best. When we rejoice in the gifts he has given us and use them to do his work, then we will shine like the stars.



Father, help us to be content with the work that you do in us, and to use the gifts which you give us to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Copied from [SERMONS4KiDS.com](http://SERMONS4KiDS.com)

Help the worm find its way through the apple.



Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
15102 Hartford Road  
Sunbury, Ohio 43017

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Sue Overturf

*Class of 2024*

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Sandy Thacker

*Class of 2023*

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Marianne Westbrook

Minister     Rev. Samuel Monte

Music Director Adam Garner

Treasurer             Ken Bartlett

Financial Secretary     Doug Kerns

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Church Phone Number: 740-965-2911

Website: <http://ConditChurch.org>

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*Newsletter Editor*

Melissa Vermillion

*Website, Streaming*

Bob Westbrook

Ushers/Greeters

Georgann Whitney

Acolytes     Bill and Teresa Gorsuch

All Contact Info in Church Directory

available in the church