



Condit Courier

February 2024

What is True Love?

“Love is like oxygen. Love is a many, splendid thing. Love lifts us up where we belong. All you need is love!” Let’s be honest here: we’ve heard all of these and more. We still hear them. There is a reason why we have romantic movies and love songs and all that jazz. It’s because humans understand a deep-seated need for love. In order to be actualized people, we understand the need for intimacy and love. But to understand why, we need to answer a question from an annoying 90’s song- what is love?

As stated above, we know that love is something that is needed for human development and contentment. That’s great. We can describe feelings of love. That’s fine, but problematic. The ancient Greeks, for example, had five types of love. But each type of love was a different kind of love. So the idea of an all-consuming definition of love is problematic. All types of love revolve around a strong connection to something out of some personal ties. This also is fine, but I don’t really think this helps us understand what love is.

The Bible uses the word “love” quite a lot. In fact, in 1 John 4:8, we read something that would seem to be the best definition of love we can find. “Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love.” We need to dissect this sentence a bit. It doesn’t say “God is loving.” It doesn’t say “God loves” or anything like that. It plainly states God **is** love. Every kind of love we can imagine is bound up in God. If we have no understanding of how to love in some way, we cannot then know God because God is love.

Given that, what else does the Bible say about love? We know from 1st Corinthians that it is patient and kind. We know from Proverbs that love covers all wrongs. We know that we love because God loved us first. That’s from 1 John. Do you understand? If you want to know what true love is, look at God. God has done all these things to show God’s love for us. John 3:16 tells us the total depth of the love God has for us. God withheld nothing from us. God sent God’s only son Jesus to die for us. That’s how far God’s love goes for us.

Let us take God’s example to heart. If love is something that is so central to the human condition, then we must begin to grapple with it. Once we do, we will be able to see that love is never far from us. We will see the Love of God all around us. This is the perfected love that God has for us. We should then be about sharing this love with others. How can we share this love with others? What are some tangible things we can do to share God’s love with all we meet?

Blessings.

Pastor Sam
(330)-207-7038

Pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

Office Hours Monday-Thursday 9:30-2:00

Pastor Sam will be managing the e-mail prayer chain. Prayer requests should be submitted directly to him. At this time there is no longer an active telephone prayer chain.

February Events



Have A Heart, Give Blood

Statistics are fearsome. They say 25% of us will need blood sometime in our life. Unfortunately only one in every eight people donates blood.

Condit is a small church in the country but we have continually worked every other month to save as many lives as we can. Ask your friends and neighbors to join us at Condit between **12 and 6 on Friday, February 9 for the first Condit Blood Drive in 2024.**

Remember if you register ahead and complete the Rapid-Pass the day of the drive, your visit should not take longer than an hour to save 3 lives.

To register email GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org or call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 and leave a message and your phone number. You may also register on your cell phone using the Red Cross App.

Lenten Study Group



The Education Committee will be offering a Lenten Book Study **beginning February 19th at 6:00 p.m.** Pastor Sam will lead the discussion about *Meeting Jesus at the*

Table, an 8 chapter course studying the scripture and words of Jesus as he shared wine and bread. The group will meet for four Monday evening sessions-February 19, 26, March 4 and 11. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex through January 28th, or call/text Melissa Vermillion to have your name added. The cost of the book is \$10. Please join the group for this course of hospitality and invitation to the table.

Valentine Dinner/ Ash Wednesday Service



Celebrate Valentine's Day, **February 14**, by having dinner at **Food & Fun (5-7:00 p.m.)** and then stay for the **Lenten Ash Wednesday service, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** The menu will be that of the traditional Condit Sunday Valentine luncheon: spaghetti, salad and garlic bread with desserts. Please join everyone for this special evening.



Women's Circle

Women's Circle will hold their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, February 21 at noon.** Since the January meeting was cancelled due to cold temperatures, pages 61-67 in the study guide will be discussed at this session. Bring a sack lunch and come prepared for an in depth discussion of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

February Birthdays



10 Trisha Gilbert
17 Helen Gilbert
21 Alex Sheets
26 Christopher Fuller

Euchre!



Euchre will **NOT meet on February 24.** Games should resume in March. Please spread the word to anyone who attends and does not receive a newsletter.



Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held after the worship service on January 21. A packet including December 2023 Financials, the Session approved 2024 budget and end of year committee reports was provided for each in attendance. The congregation voted to accept the 2024 budget. Church Treasurer, Ken Bartlett, and Financial Secretary, Doug Kerns were nominated and approved to continue their roles in 2024. Ken will also serve as the Assistant Financial Secretary. The Financial Review Committee- Ken Bartlett, Doug Kerns, Molly Blevins, and Pam Sheets- were also nominated and approved to serve in 2024.

Partners in Education (P.I.E.)



Four Condit Elders traveled to Covenant Presbyterian Church on January 20 for a day of leadership training. Chip Hardwick, a Synod Executive, was the keynote speaker and spoke on the topic of

Reaching Outside of Ourselves. He challenged us to define the church and from that definition evolved a discussion with a few takeaways that all churches should be considering:

1. If our church ceases to exist, will our community miss us?
2. Is our church building an asset to the community or a clubhouse for members?
3. If we follow Jesus, the primary beneficiaries of the church should not be those on the inside.

The Presbytery is encouraging congregations to **Reach Outside Themselves** in order to make their presence known within their community and to be creative in how they accomplish this task. Condit addressed some of these questions last winter as a result of the Holy Cow! questionnaire. Please continue to prayerfully consider how we can **Reach Outside Ourselves** to better serve the Condit community. Contact an Elder if you have any creative insight.

Prayer Lab

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley is offering a Prayer Lab on February 3, 9am-Noon at Covenant Presbyterian Church. If interested call the Presbytery office to register. 614-847-0565

Ordination & Installation of Church Officers



From left: J. Watts, M. Vermillion, M. Westbrook, J. Whitney.
Not Pictured: K. Kees, M. Blevins

Pastor Sam ordained and installed Trustees and Elders during the January 7 worship service. Installed Trustees were John Whitney and Molly Blevins. Elders installed were Marianne Westbrook, Kathy Kees and Judy Watts. Melissa Vermillion was ordained and installed as a new Elder. Past and present Elders were invited forward to lay hands on the newly installed officers (photo below) as Pastor Sam prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to be with the Elders in their service and commitment to the church.



Church Cancellation Policy



In the event of bad weather the Trustees will make a decision whether to hold worship service on Sunday mornings by 8:00 a.m. A "This Week in Condit" message will be sent out no later than 8:30 am to notify everyone of the decision. If there is a Level 2 Snow Emergency Church events will automatically be cancelled.

Getting to Know You....

Beverly Saksa

by Jennie Kavage



Bev with a farm quilt she is working on now.

“When life hands you scraps, you can make a quilt.” That is what Beverly Saksa is doing as she stitches her life back together after the death of her husband, Tim, to cancer two years ago.

Assembling the colors and pieces that make a quilt has long been a passion of the former Home Economics teacher. She grew up in Wauseon, near Toledo, where she enjoyed spending time on her grandparents’ farm and fell in love with old things. When it came time to go to college teaching Home Economics seemed to fit. Her bachelor’s degree is from The Ohio State University Department of Agriculture, which is where the Home Ec classes were at that time. Later she earned a Masters of Education degree in guidance and counseling.

Bev taught for more than 30 years, mostly at River Valley High School in Marion. When she started the Home Economics course was for girls and included sewing and cooking from scratch. Then came Title IX which opened doors for boys as well as girls. By the time Bev retired Home Economics had become Family and Consumer Sciences, included boys and such topics as financial fitness, interviews and resumes. There was

no more making cakes and mayonnaise from scratch or sewing your own clothes. Women were in the work force so cooking focused more on foods that provided the best nutrition and less time in the kitchen giving parents more time to spend with their children.

In 2001 she married Tim Saksa, a Chase Bank IT employee. They lived in Delaware. In 2005 he had his first round with cancer. In 2009 he had a cancerous kidney removed. At that point they decided life could be short, they’d better enjoy it. Tim retired and Bev did, too, at the end of school year in May 2010.

They moved to a five-acre property in Knox County with intentions of homesteading including a wind turbine, pellet stove and animals. They raised daylilies, more than 900 different kinds, that they shipped all over the United States and internationally. They enjoyed camping; Bev setting up her sewing machine on the picnic table to work on the latest quilt.

Dec. 31, 2020 they learned Tim had stage four kidney cancer. He died Jan. 29, 2022; the same day Bev’s mother had died seven years earlier. The two people who had loved her the most were gone. Her nearest relative, a sister, lives in Colorado.



Bev displaying a quilt made of batiks for her late husband, Tim. He liked batiks and vibrant colors.

“The hardest part,” she says, “has been loneliness and making decisions. I lost my compass. God will have to have his bright headlights on because sometimes I don’t have a clue. It changes you.” *Continued on pg 6*

Questions for Reflection

Pastor Sam has provided thought provoking questions (below) for spiritual reflection for the month of February. The questions, listed by date, should be used that week as a means to reinforce the pastor's message and to reflect inward for personal spiritual application. The questions follow the liturgical calendar and therefore blend with the sermon topics of that respective week.

February 4

What does Paul mean when he says that he became all things to all people so that he could save some (1 Cor. 9:22)?

February 11

The Old Testament reading for today presents Elijah as a "new Moses"—striking the Jordan with his mantle and causing its waters to part so that he and Elisha could pass through on dry ground (2 Kgs. 2:8). The Gospel reading builds on this comparison by placing Moses and Elijah together at Jesus' transfiguration (Mark 9:4). There is also a parent-child dynamic in each of these passages. Elisha asks to receive a "double share" of Elijah's spirit (2 Kgs. 2:9)—the appointed inheritance of a firstborn son (see Deut. 21:17). At the transfiguration, God's voice from the cloud bestows on Jesus the mantle of divine authority: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" What do these constellations of relationships suggest to you? How do they help you to understand the transfiguration of Jesus? How is Jesus a fulfillment of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah)? (See also Luke 24:44.) How is Jesus revealed to be God's Son, and what does that mean for us? (See also Luke 3:22, 38.)

February 14

In today's Gospel reading from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches his disciples to do acts of piety in secret (Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21). However, in an earlier part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs his disciples, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your

Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). How do you manage this paradox in your life?

February 18

The phrase "kingdom of God" occurs fourteen times in the Gospel of Mark. Though Jesus is described at the Gospel's opening as being "from Nazareth of Galilee" (Mark 1:9), at Jesus' baptism it becomes clear whence he comes and to whom he belongs. Jesus is God's beloved Son, and his baptism signals the only realm to which he owes allegiance. His baptism, then, not only is a religious act, but also is a political and economic one. In what ways does your baptism into Christ make claims on your political, social, and economic practices as well as your religious practices?

February 25

Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. How do you practice self-denial for the sake of the gospel? Is every instance of self-denial an act of obedience to Jesus? Can some forms of self-denial foster oppression?

Remember in Prayer

Mary Jo Wilson

Jane Cockrell

Sheri Linnabary

Sheila Micholes

Clayton Davey

Melissa, niece of Judy Watts

Carla, Emalee & Luke

Ralph Monte

Dave Rebman

Family of Bill Walker



Saksa, *Continued from page 4*

She was helped by “great counselors” from Hospice, reads books on the subject of loss and tries to stay in the moment rather than the “what if.” She journals to Tim every day, talking about everything from the weather to “What should I do.” She listens to everyone. In the checkout line at Walmart recently she talked to a woman who was preparing to make Ezekiel bread, as the prophet was instructed by God while he was in the wilderness prophesying the downfall of Jerusalem. It’s now on her to-do list, along with homemade ravioli.

Bev has found family in her Condit Crazy Quilters group and the Harlem Garden Club. And there’s Ruben (sic), her sixth “Lassie” dog. She needed a church family. She was raised Methodist and exposed to a variety of Protestant denominations before she met Tim who was Catholic. Fellow “Crazy Quilter” Judy Watts invited her to Condit last spring. Bev did some research and Condit’s Mission and Vision statement told her this was a church that could be accepting of what she terms her “broad view of Christianity.”



Ruben Saksa

Her family all sang and she sang in the churches she attended. After throat surgery she can’t sing any more but she participated in the bell choir during the holiday season. She had a role in the Condit Christmas evening, eats at Food and Fun, and is studying *The Pilgrim’s Progress* with the Women’s Circle. She organized and opened her house for Women’s Circle members to make patriotic pillowcases for veterans at Country View. When she saw the name Stoltz on Melissa Vermillion’s sewing machine case she thought she had discovered a cousin. They have the same maiden name!

Her sister suggests she move into town but Bev loves her five acres in the country even with 2800 acres of solar panels to be built nearby. The daylily fields will

go natural and with her tractor, golf cart and zero-turn mower she can manage the outside. Inside the pellet stove warms the main room and above the mantel is a portrait of Ruben made entirely of small pieces of material by Harlem Garden Club member Diana Daily. Upstairs three rooms are equipped for sewing and closets are stacked with vibrant fabric just waiting to be turned into quilts.



Treasurer's Report

December 2023 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett

Our regular offering was approximately 91% of its full-year budget amount (**\$117,462.30** of **\$128,761.22**; **\$11,298.92** in arrears). Total receipts are **\$141,835.46** of the full-year budget amount of **\$152,846.22**, **\$11,010.76** in arrears.

The budget was prepared as though a full-time pastor was in place for the entire year, so the net savings for the year for the differential of our pastoral leadership was **\$38,163.76**. Total expenses were **\$104,553.72** against a full-year budget of **\$152,846.22**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$48,292.50**.

December net was **\$23,872.43** in the black, and the full year net was **\$37,281.74** in the black after eleven months.

Receipts were **\$7,489.07** less than a year ago, while expenses were **\$678.74** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$8,167.81** worse than a year ago.

Investment performance improved in December and investments finished up **11.9%** for the year, totaling **\$249,165.41**. Total funds available were **\$305,559.72** as of the end of December, **\$55,153.94** higher than the beginning of the year.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>February Flowers- Carmie Joseph</i>				1	2 	3
				4 Worship with Communion 10:00	5	6 Exercise 6:00
11 Worship 10:00	12 	13 Exercise 6:00	14 Food & Fun 5-7:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 Valentine's Day	15 Exercise 6:00	16	17
18 Worship 10:00	19 Lenten Study Group 6:00 President's Day	20 Exercise 6:00	21 Women's Circle @ Noon Choir 6:00	22 Exercise 6:00	23	24 No Euchre!
25 Worship 10:00	26 Lenten Study Group 6:00	27 Exercise 6:00	28 Food & Fun 5-7:00 Choir 6:00	29 Exercise 6:00		

Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter
 15102 Hartford Road
 Sunbury, Ohio 43074

SESSION

Class of 2026

Marianne Westbrook Judy Watts
 Melissa Vermillion

Class of 2025

Grant Bartlett Sheila Micholes
 Kathy Kees

Class of 2024

Doug Kerns Mick Sheets
 Sandy Thacker

Minister Rev. Samuel Monte
 Music Director Adam Garner
 Treasurer Ken Bartlett
 Financial Secretary Doug Kerns
 Clerk of Session Chip Welch
 Church Phone Number: 740-965-2911
 Website: <http://ConditChurch.org>

TRUSTEES

Class of 2026

John Whitney Molly Blevins

Class of 2025

Bob Westbrook George Justice

Class of 2024

Allison Skinner Kenneth Bartlett

Church Directory

Donna and Laura Mucci

Custodian Lynette Meliorre

Newsletter Editor Melissa Vermillion

Website, Streaming Bob Westbrook

Ushers/Greeters TBD

Acolytes Bill and Teresa Gorsuch

All Contact Info in Church Directory
 available in the church