



Condit Courier

March 2024

Reflections about the Resurrection

“Mortal, can these bones live?” It is the question God asks Ezekiel in chapter 37. It is the famous “Valley of Dry Bones” passage. I must confess: I really love this passage. First, it’s very weird. The imagery is very evocative. There’s lots of bones and it’s creepy and weird. The passage typically comes up around Easter time. How could it not? It’s a story of resurrection on a massive scale.

Perhaps that is why I really enjoy this passage. Often times around Easter, we focus on our own personal resurrection. We focus on the new life we have individually found in Christ Jesus. Paul assures us that if we have died a death like Christ’s, we will rise to new life with Christ when he is raised. This is, of course, the crux of the good news. In Christ, we have new life and salvation.

However, I find that there is a slight problem with it all. The problem comes from Ezekiel 37. That passage seeks to ask the question if the House of Israel can live again after the exile. It’s a good question. It’s an important question. Ezekiel’s answer is simple: “O Lord GOD, you know.” Of course God is the only being who can know if resurrection is possible. Of course, with God, resurrection is possible. With the Spirit of God, full resurrection is possible.

Do you happen to see the issue? This is good news. I love this story because it is one of hope. However, too often we as people focus on our own personal resurrection. We forget that we are a part of a community. The resurrection found in Jesus Christ is not just one promised to an individual, but to the fellowship of believers. It is my hope and prayer that

this season, as we continue our journey towards the cross of Christ and resurrection, we can remember that we are all connected as the body of believers.

What are some ways that you can work towards this vision of communal resurrection? How can we live and work together as the risen body of Christ in the world? Why is this something that is important?

Blessings,
Pastor Sam
(330)-207-7038
Pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

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

Editor’s Note: Per many requests, the Questions for Reflection will now be printed in the weekly bulletin. Please look for them there.

Remember in Prayer

Family of Doris Wampler
Family of Jane Coekrell
Pastor Wayne Morrison & family
Ralph & Cindy Monte
Grandma Angie Walters
Mary Jo Wilson
Trisha & Helen Gilbert
Carla
Ken Bartlett
Sheri Linnabary
Sheila Micholcs



Condit Easter Events



All youth are invited to go on a **“Road Trip”** on **Saturday, March 9, from 4-6 p.m.** The Destination, Easter. This event will be hosted by the Education Committee and is a journey following Jesus’ path around Jerusalem during Holy Week. This will be an educational, spiritual and fun time for all. Each stop along the road will offer a scripture reading/Bible story and an activity/challenge to reinforce the lesson. Seven stops are planned so volunteers are needed to help read scripture and supervise activities. The entire congregation can help by donating new, shiny pennies to be used for a craft. A penny collection jar has been placed on the table in the narthex for this purpose. If you are interested in helping or have any questions please contact Sandy Thacker or Melissa Vermillion.



The **Lent Book Study Group** met Monday February 19 and February 26. Two chapters of “Meeting Jesus at the Table” were covered each week. Pastor Sam led the discussion with nine individuals participating. The group will meet **March 4 and March 11 at 6 p.m.** in the church library to complete the study. Anyone is welcome to join.



Sunday School will be offered **March 10, 17, and 24 during worship.** The lessons offered March 17 and March 24 will be lessons pertaining to Palm Sunday and Easter, respectively. Please have children come so they develop a full understanding of Easter.



Palm Sunday Worship Service, Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.



Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner with Worship Experience Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a unique worship experience. This dinner will combine worship, music, communion, and dinner into one integrative experience where we will be “Meeting Jesus at the Table.” Come join the congregational community in this one of a kind Easter event. Who will you invite to join us at the table?



Good Friday Prayer Opportunity, Friday, March 29 3:00-6:00 p.m. The church will be open for those who would like to seek solace and pray. All are welcome to enjoy the peace and quiet of the sanctuary.



Easter Breakfast, Sunday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. A light breakfast will be enjoyed in the Fellowship Hall on Easter morning before the worship service. Please contact Pam Sheets if you will be interested in helping with the breakfast fare.



Flowering the Cross- The wooden/wire cross will once again be available this year for all to adorn with fresh flowers. Please plan to add your flowers upon arrival to the church.



Easter Worship Service, Sunday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. Please plan to join the congregation for the annual Easter worship service. As the Education Committee is hosting the “Road Trip” on March 9 as the main youth Easter event, there will be no Easter egg hunt offered after the worship service.

Additional March Events



Faith Filled Women will meet **Friday, March 8 at 11 a.m.** The women of the Olive Green Church of Christ in Christian Union will be hosting the meeting and luncheon. Ladies from The Bridge will be providing the program.



Women's Circle held their monthly brown bag lunch/Bible study on Wednesday, February 21. All in attendance enjoyed chocolate cake shared by

Beverly Saksa. (Recipe provided on page 4) MaryAnn Counts led the discussion covering the last section of Chapter 4 of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The next scheduled meeting will be **March 20 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Discussion will cover Chapter 5, study guide pages 64-70. All women are welcome to attend.

Members also set **Saturday, April 20**, as the date to sew spring pillowcases for Country View. We will meet at Beverly Saksa's home for this project. Details will be finalized at the March meeting.



Per Capita...\$40 per Member

(Excerpt taken from the website of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley)

It is once again time for our annual per capita payments. Per Capita is crucial to the overall health and well-being of the PC (USA), not only because it provides for our ministries, but because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one Church. (J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly)

The presbytery approved \$40 Per Capita for 2024. The 2024 Per Capita is based on the congregations' reported membership for December 31, 2022. Scioto Valley Presbytery's \$40 Per Capita for 2024 is made up of:

- Presbytery of Scioto Valley – \$26.95
- Synod of the Covenant – \$ 3.25
- General Assembly – \$ 9.80

When paying your per capita by check, please indicate "per capita" on the memo line.



March Birthdays

- 3 Trent Pettit
- 12 Marilyn DeFranco
- 15 Joe Marshall
- 16 Levi Jacob
- 22 Madi Howard
- 24 Lynda O'Quinn
- 29 Jane Strouse
- 31 Molly Blevins



March Anniversaries

- 5 Marv & Pat Monroe
- 23 Max & Peggy Sheets



Looking Ahead to April



Thirty three people came to the Condit Blood Drive on February 9. Six were deferred and 27 pints of blood were collected which will save 81 lives. Thanks, Condit!

We are now making appointments for the next **Condit Blood Drive** scheduled from **1 to-6 p.m. on Friday, April 12**, in the Fellowship Hall. You may register on your APP, or by calling Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 or emailing GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org

Lent 2024 Began at Food and Fun



How many candy hearts can you balance on a popsicle stick while walking?

Valentine's Day was celebrated at Food and Fun with a dinner of spaghetti, salad, and dessert. "Fun" was added for the kids with various challenges using Valentine's Day candy. The meal was followed by a meaningful Ash Wednesday Service held upstairs in the sanctuary. **Food and Fun Dates are March 13 and 27, 5-7 p.m.** Come find out what fun waits!



How many chocolate kisses can you unwrap in one minute while wearing mittens or poofy gloves?



How many candy hearts can be stacked without them falling over?

The Best Rich and Moist Chocolate Cake

submitted by Beverly Saksa
from Jennifer @ Plowing Through Life

Ingredients

- 1 box Devil's food cake mix
- 1 small package instant chocolate pudding
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup warm water
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 ½ cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9" x 13" pan. (Two 9" round pans can also be used.)
2. Mix all ingredients except chocolate chips at medium speed for 2 minutes.
3. Gently fold in chocolate chips.
4. Bake for 30-40 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Notes:

- Mix ingredients very well before adding chocolate chips.
- Be careful not to add liquids to pudding mix only as it can begin to set up like pudding.
- The pudding makes this cake so moist, but it also means the cake takes longer than normal to bake.
- Baking times vary, so I use a toothpick to test the cake a couple of times to prevent burning.
- I always use 1 ½ -2 cans of store bought icing to save time, but feel free to make homemade icing.



“Let there be light.”

A luminary lit night hike at Shale Hollow Park was enjoyed Saturday, February 24th. Twelve gathered in the parking lot at 7:00 p.m. for the 1.1 mile trek under the light of the full Snow Moon. Afterwards participants enjoyed cookies and cocoa provided by Delaware Preservation Parks.



Getting to Know You...

MaryAnn Counts

by Jennie Kavage

“I love those Condit women,” MaryAnn Counts says when asked why she leads religious studies for Condit’s Women’s Circle.

She also acknowledges her gratitude to the women of Condit who went out of their way to give her and her five siblings as normal a childhood as possible. Her father had problems, including alcoholism. He was frequently gone, which was bad, but, she says, things were worse when he was there. Her mother, Angie Avenali, whose parents had immigrated from Italy, quit school after eighth grade to work in a shirt factory. She was epileptic and didn’t drive.

MaryAnn’s aunt Rachel Buxton, a life-long Condit member, brought Angie to church women’s meetings and the children to Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Condit 4-H and youth groups. In the same school grade with Linda Cockrell, MaryAnn spent considerable time in the Cockrell home where mother, Jane, taught her about gardening, how to sew and a host of other life lessons. Condit member Lolly Searles, a Big Walnut High School teacher, “was so good to our family” Mary Ann recalls.

When Doug Orbaker was Condit’s pastor there came a time when he and his family took MaryAnn, her siblings and their mother in at the manse. After graduation from BWHS in 1972 she and Frank Counts were married at Condit by Pastor Orbaker.

Due to her circumstances, MaryAnn says she got a full-ride scholarship to Ohio State where she earned a degree in nursing and a master’s degree that enabled her to teach. Frank got a degree in microbiology and became supervisor of OSU’s Blood Bank. Away from home she felt independent, ready to take on the world. She struggled with her beliefs, concluding that her goals and happiness rested on never being poor again. Soon the Counts had a house in Upper Arlington and two children, a boy and a girl, just as they had pictured their perfect life would be. Yet, she felt incomplete and unfulfilled.



MaryAnn with her childhood highchair.

They moved to Ashville, North Carolina when Frank got a job offer at the Blood Bank there. The best preschool they could find for their daughter happened to be at a Presbyterian Church where the pastor was a first cousin of the Rev. Billy Graham. As they began to get back into church their belief in God began to grow.

“That really settled us,” MaryAnn says. Another child was born. After five years, Ohio State called Frank and wanted him back. “After living in the Bible Belt where people talked to you about God even in the grocery store, we knew it would be a change.” They found Worthington Grace Brethren Church, where they met people homeschooling their children, a practice not yet legal in Ohio. Soon MaryAnn was homeschooling her three and the two more to come. They wanted space so the children could spend more time immersed in nature and 20-some years ago moved to a house nearly 200 years old on 70 acres in Knox County.

The house was rustic when they got it and they have kept it that way. MaryAnn loves the old beams and old treasures left by previous owners. Her childhood highchair sits in one corner and crates from Aunt Rachel’s barn sit in another. During the pandemic she and Frank stripped down an ancient cupboard that came with the house to what may be its original paint. The bones of an old wagon lean against an outside wall. When they built on a kitchen/family room she kept the 1950s Tappan Deluxe stove. *Continued on page 6*



MaryAnn and Frank in front of the cupboard stripped during the pandemic.

With five children of their own, the Counts added and then adopted a fostered girl who needed a new home. Following a family mission trip to Russia, the kids gave up their weekly pizzas and ice skating to have a Russian brother and sister.

All eight children are off on their own now. The Counts' 19th grandchild will be born in April. MaryAnn feels God has reinforced that He is her foundation; that true success comes with closeness to and trust in God. She participates in two Bible studies a week; one at Polaris and an online group with participants worldwide.

As she had more time of her own, she began to drive to Sunbury to take her mother to Condit Circle meetings. When Marilyn Woodruff gave up the leadership role several years ago, the women asked MaryAnn to lead their studies. Currently she is guiding the group through "The Pilgrim's Progress," a challenging symbolic allegory written by John Bunyan in an English prison and published in 1678.

Treasurer's Report

January 2024 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett

Our regular offering was approximately 75% of its one-month budget amount (\$10,627.00 of \$14,166.33; **\$3,539.33** in arrears). Total receipts were \$12,541.33 of the one-month budget amount of \$16,333.00, **\$3,769.67** in arrears.

Insurance and real estate taxes have been fully paid for the year as of the end of January. Billing for the pension & insurance was missed in January, but caught up in February. Total expenses were \$18,589.51 against the one-month budget of \$16,333.00, resulting in outflows greater than budget by **\$2,256.51**.

January net was **\$6,048.18** in the red.

Receipts are **\$3,452.11** more than a year ago, while expenses are **\$5,131.84** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$1,679.73 (38.1%)** worse than a year ago.

Investments as a whole were up **1.0%** in January. Investments total **\$251,612.19**. Total funds available were **\$301,958.41** as of the end of January.

BBQ Sauerkraut- Linda Dado's Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1.5 lb. hamburger
- 1 large chopped onion
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 11-15oz tomato sauce
- 26 oz can sauerkraut

Directions:

Brown hamburger, sauté onion, drain and rinse sauerkraut. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Transfer to a 9" x 13" baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.





March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Sunday School will be offered March 10, 17, and 24 during worship.</i>				1	2 
3 10:00 am Worship with Communion	4 Lent Book Study 6 pm	5 Exercise Club 6pm	6 Choir 6 pm	7 Exercise Club 6pm	8 Faith Filled Women 11 am	9 Youth "Road Trip" 4-6 pm
10 Worship 10:00 am Daylight Savings Begins	11 Lent Book Study 6 pm	12 Exercise Club 6pm	13 Food & Fun 5-7 pm Choir 6 pm	14 Exercise Club 5:30pm Session & Trustees 7 pm	15	16
17 Worship 10:00 am 	18	19 Exercise Club 6pm 	20 Women's Circle @ noon Choir 6 pm	21 Exercise Club 6 pm	22 	23
24 Worship 10:00 am  Palm Sunday	25 	26 Exercise Club 6pm	27 Food & Fun 5-7 pm Choir 6 pm	28 6 pm Maundy Thursday Dinner including Worship and Communion	29 Church open for Prayer 3-6 pm Good Friday	30 No Euchre! until further notice
31 Breakfast 9 am Worship 10:00 am 	<i>March Flowers- Mike & Donna Mucci</i> 					

Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter
15102 Hartford Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

SESSION

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Melissa Vermillion

Class of 2025

Grant Bartlett Sheila Micholes

Kathy Kees

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Sandy Thacker

Minister Rev. Samuel Monte
Music Director Adam Garner
Treasurer Ken Bartlett
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Church Phone Number: 740-965-2911
Website: <http://ConditChurch.org>

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Acolytes Bill & Teresa Gorsuch
All Contact Info in Church Directory
available in the church