



Condit Courier

December 2025

Holiday Changes

The Christmas tradition was always a party at my grandparent's house on Christmas Eve. We would all gather there in the afternoon and eat and exchange gifts. My grandfather always got scratch off lotto tickets for the family stockings. My dad always made fried chicken livers. We would stay there and eat and then eventually open gifts with the kids going first. The adults did a gift exchange. Later, we would head out and go to the candlelight Christmas service.

It started to change slowly with my aunt and my mother hosting every so often. By the time I entered seminary and would be busy on Christmas Eve, things changed even more. Eventually, the tradition fell by the wayside due to the passage of time and losing people. It wasn't an all at once thing. It was a slow movement, but it was movement none the less. The Christmas Eve party now only exists as a memory. The holiday is simply not the same.

It's normal and natural. I'm in this weird place now where all the family traditions I used to do as a kid are gone and even then, some of the traditions I tried with my family don't work. Christmas just isn't the same as it once was. I believe that is the point, though. I believe that Christmas, in general, is all about changing.

The world shifted for Mary and Joseph. They were thrown into new and honestly terrifying roles. The world then watched and waited as the divine became flesh in Jesus. This was a change in how God related to humanity and the world. Following the birth of Christ, the world couldn't go back to how it once was. That's the thing about holiday changes- they happen even if we don't want them to. I would like to think that the bible stories about Christ's birth prepares us for the changes that life has in store for us in general. While everything was changing, the one that didn't was God. That is how it is with God- while everything

else around us changes, God doesn't. God is our rock and foundation no matter what life throws at us.

Have you ever had holiday traditions change? How did they make you feel? Did it make the holiday any less special? What lessons can we learn from handling holiday changes that we can keep with us all year round?

Christmas Blessings,

Pastor Sam
(330)-207-7038*

Office hours Monday-Thursday 9:30-2:30

*Text is the best method of contact

Remember in prayer

Homer & Mary Jo Wilson
Marv & Pat Monroe
Linda Dado
Polly Horn
Max Sheets
John & Helen Szakas
Joe Szakas
Michelle Ross
Randy Longshore
Chris Lawless



Calendar



November 29- Poinsettia tree/Nativity set up will be on Saturday morning. All are welcome to help.



November 30- Advent Begins
Poinsettia order forms due, see page 7
2026 Sanctuary altar flower sign-up due
Decorate the church after worship



Condit Christmas

The Condit Christmas program will occur Sunday, **December 7 at 6:00 pm**. The program will be led by Adam Garner in the sanctuary. Afterwards, the Event Committee, headed by Mary

Kingseed, will serve cookies and punch in the Fellowship Hall. There is still time to sign up to share your gift, talent or art form with everyone. See Adam with any questions of how you can help. Please come share in an evening full of fellowship.

Food & Fun

Halloween was celebrated at Food & Fun on October 22. Goulash stew with pumpkin carrots and ghost mushrooms was served as the main course. Bob Westbrook made a pumpkin graveyard for dessert.



Doreen and Ken served Thanksgiving dinner to a large crowd on November 12. **Wednesday, November 26** they will offer a light dinner before the actual holiday.

Doreen's diner will be open from **5:00-7:00 pm** for anyone wishing to take break from home preparations to come enjoy fellowship over a bowl of steamy soup.

Wednesday, December 10 will be the only Food & Fun date in December (**5-7 pm**) as the fourth Wednesday falls on Christmas Eve. All diners are welcome to attend **Christmas Eve service at 7 pm**.

Food & Fun community dinners will resume on **Wednesday, January 14 at 5:00 pm**.



The American Red Cross will hold the Condit Blood Drive on **Friday, December 12 from noon to 5:30 p.m.** Come help contribute to saving lives.

December begins the 12th year of Condit holding blood drives. Your continued help in serving this important mission is greatly appreciated. Register in the Red Cross App. or call Polly Horn 740-965-3582 or email GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org.

BIG WALNUT FRIENDS WHO SHARE



It is time to fill the Christmas Food Boxes given by Big Walnut Friends Who Share to their clients each year. Once again, we have been asked to provide 120 boxes of JIFFY MUFFIN MIX. The collection will take place **through Sunday, December 14**. There will be boxes in the vestibule for your donations. As always, if you prefer, Kathy is happy to do your shopping for you. If you have questions, please see Kathy Kees. *Submitted by Kathy Kees*



Mittens, hats and gloves will also be collected during the above dates. Please feel free to donate to decorate the mitten tree.



Condit Women's Circle will hold their December Christmas luncheon
Continued on page 3

meeting at the home of Mary Kingseed on **Wednesday, December 17 at noon**. All ladies are welcome to share in this end-of-year celebration.



Condit will be Christmas caroling at Country View on Friday, **December 19 at 2 pm**. All voices are welcome. Come and help spread some Christmas cheer! Listen to church announcements for further details.



for Jesus!

Condit's Christmas Eve worship service will be held on **Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Plan to attend this beautiful, candle lit service. Come see the church glow



2026 Directory Update

Please check the 2025 Condit Church Directory to be sure your information is correct. If information is incorrect or additions need to be made, please contact Sandy Thacker or Donna Mucci by the end of December.



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Holly Fuller | 21 Jim Irwin |
| 4 Hayden Agnew | 25 Alma Jones |
| 13 Megan Gilbert | 28 Kate Skeen |
| 18 Bob Westbrook | 29 Kaitlin White |
| 19 Pat Monroe | |
| 20 Bill Kavage | |



- 17 Jeff & Terri Groseclose
18 Richard & Janice Howensteine
26 Dave & Melissa Vermillion

Notice

Bob Westbrook will be taking over the PowerPoint slide preparation for the Sunday worship service. Please have **announcements to him by Wednesday evening** to have them included in the presentation for Sunday morning.

Many thanks are extended to Polly Horn for her countless hours of preparing worship slides over the years.



Looking for someone to help with **PowerPoint slides** for the worship service. Currently Bob Westbrook is creating them, and we would like to have a backup person to cover for Bob when he is away.

Do you like to post pictures to your **FaceBook page**? If you do, and are interested in helping the church, we need someone to post pictures of activities to our church facebook page. This would only need to be done about once every 2 weeks.

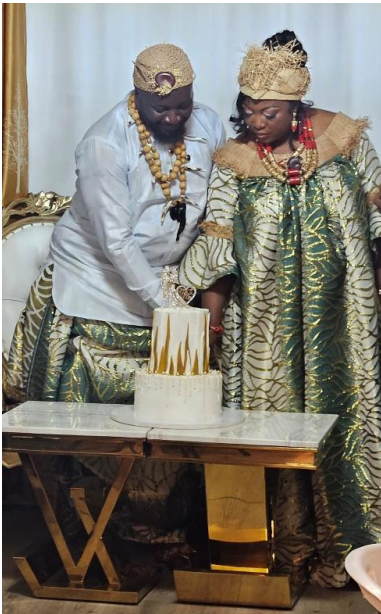
Looking for a person to create the **YouTube shortcut link** for the streamed worship video. This is done each week. Currently done by Jennifer Shick.

If you are interested in helping, please let Sandy Thacker know. Thanks! Submitted by Sandy Thacker, Communications Committee Chair



...to love and to cherish..

October was a month fortunate to have two Condit couples joined in marriage. Friday, October 24, Mr. Mafany and Mrs. Patience were married in a private civil ceremony in Worthington. Saturday, October 25, Pastor Sam and Jules were married at a venue within the Columbus Zoo. Best wishes to both brides, and congratulations to each groom!



Mafany and Patience wore traditional American wedding garments for their court wedding. The above photo, left, was taken at their Friday evening wedding celebration, where they opted for traditional Cameroonian outfits. Sunday, October 26, the couple and their families attend worship at Condit. Adam Garner blessed the newlyweds in prayer and the couple presented the church a special Thanksgiving offering, which is custom in Cameroon after being united in marriage. (Photo above right)



Pastor Sam and Jules Miller were joined in matrimony in a private outdoor ceremony at the Columbus Zoo. The couple then spent a week honeymoon in Florida at Walt Disney World.

Substitute Ministers

As Pastor Sam was off work for two weeks for his wedding and honeymoon, Condit was left in need of a minister. Adam Garner graciously filled in on October 26, wearing hats of minister, pianist, and choir director.



Adam Garner having a discussion with Bible Bot 9000 ("BB") during the Children's Message.

Dr. La Montagne directed worship at Condit on November 2. He led communion and offered a special Children's Message that was joyfully attended by three children.



Dr. La Montagne teaching the children the difference between faith and hope during the Children's Message.

Thank you to both gentlemen for allowing worship to be possible while Pastor Sam was away.

Mission update

Submitted by Marianne Westbrook

We have successfully completed 26 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes were dropped in Johnstown, OH, will be taken to Dayton, OH, and then on to the Aurora, Ill processing center. From there, they will start their long journey to the particular child God has chosen for your box. These boxes reach not only a child, but a family and village for JESUS. Madi, my granddaughter, and I attended a packing party in Newark, OH where approximately 1000 boxes were prepared and are ready to ship. It was pretty awesome. Thank you to all who participated from Condit this year!

The Blessing Box is being visited. We are stocking with nonperishable food, personal care items, baby items. They have to fit comfortably in the box. We are looking for volunteers on a monthly basis to stock and organize the box. We have some items on hand for the box. There will be a Book Box as well, at some point.

Thanks for your support at church!
Marianne Westbrook



Advent Readers/Wreath Candle Lighters

November 30	George Justice & Kathy Kees
December 7	Bev Saksa
December 14	Mike & Donna Mucci
December 21	The Linnabary Family
December 24	The Gorsuch Family

Mark your Calendars

Partners in Education (P.I.E.) Training will be held Saturday, January 31 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus from 9:00-2:30. The theme is "*The Church at the Crossroads, Turning Toward What's Next.*" Eight workshops will be offered, to include the topics of Immigration and White Christian Nationalism. Online registration is now open. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch.

Treasurer's Report
October 2025 Financials
Submitted by Ken Bartlett



Kroger Community Rewards Program
Submitted by Georgann Whitney

Our regular offering was approximately **59.7%** of its ten-month budget amount (**\$84,354.28** of **141,225.00**; **\$56,708.72** in arrears). Total receipts were **\$10,667.48** of the ten-month budget amount of **\$163,841.67**, **\$53,174.19** in arrears.

Insurance, real estate taxes, and per capita have been fully paid for the year and propane has been pre-bought for the winter season. Total expenses were **\$157,322.09** against the ten-month budget of **\$163,841.67**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$6,519.58**, approximately **4.0%** under-budget.

October net was **\$2,111.09** in the red, and October year-to-date was **\$46,654.61** in the red.

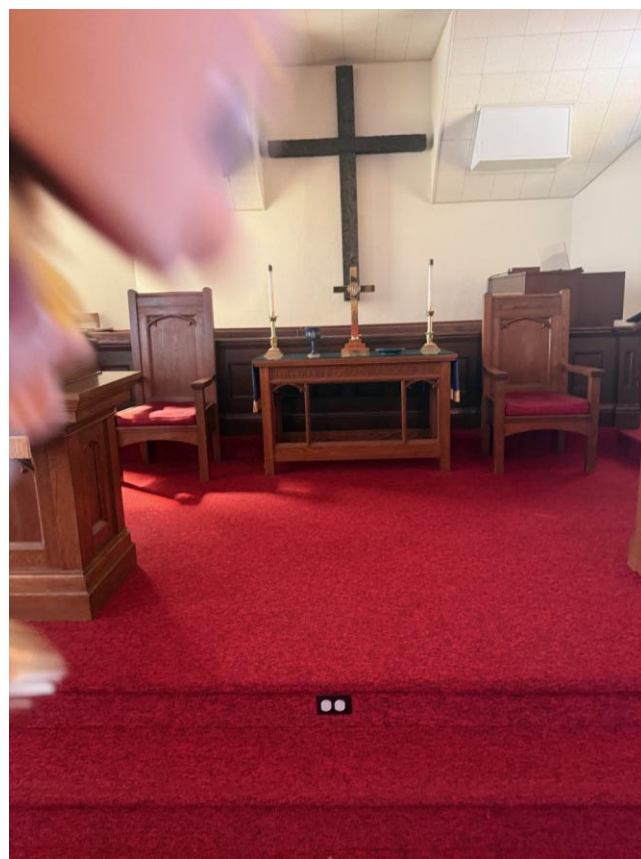
Receipts are **\$30,926.54** less than a year ago, attributable to a \$30,300 bequest received in 2024. Expenses are **\$12,299.38** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$43,225.92** worse than a year ago.

Investments as a whole were up **8.4%** through October. Investments totaled **\$315,243.31** as of the end of October. Total funds available were **\$325,894.03** as of the end of October. \$122,624.15 of this amount is general undesignated funds, \$169,574.83 is Condit's Building Fund balance, and \$33,695.05 is the aggregate balance of a variety of special funds.

Through the end of October, offering has continued to lag behind our budget and spending levels. And we continue to lag behind last year's all-in pace. Spending has continued to be generally in line with or less than budget. Current reserves provide sufficient coverage so there is no need to panic, but we do need to look our commitment to discipleship and being good stewards for our church. We need to ask ourselves how we best fulfill our mission, and how we can best contribute to our community, and how we can be the best stewards and disciples for our Lord.

We have an opportunity to obtain cash for Condit by enrolling in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. If you shop at Kroger, please go to "Kroger Community Rewards Program", and fill out the requested info. Every 3 months, Condit will receive a check from Kroger. Last time, it was only \$80. Let's see if we can double that!

Mysterious Photo



Zeke has been hearing some noises in the sanctuary. He managed to snap this blurry picture. What could this possibly mean?

Poinsettia Order Form

Order by November 30

Name _____

Quantity _____ x \$8.25 each = \$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Make check payable to Condit Presbyterian Church
(write Poinsettia on memo line of check)

Please give or mail to George Justice, 16019 Hartford
Road, Sunbury, Ohio 43074



Debbie explained that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is National Tie One on Day. The day celebrates the apron as well as the past generations of women who wore them and it was also created as a day to bring joy to the life of someone in need and celebrate the spirit of giving. National Tie One on Day encourages people to wrap a baked good in an apron, attach a note, and then deliver their offering to a neighbor, friend or organization in their community. Debbie had a sample gift prepared and gave it away as a door prize in a name drawing.

The program was followed with a soup/sandwich lunch served by the ladies from The Bridge. The next meeting will be on Friday, March 13 at Olive Green CCCU.



Star of the Nativity

By Joseph Brodsky

In the cold season, in a locality accustomed to heat more than to cold, to horizontality more than to a mountain,
a child was born in a cave in order to save the world;
it blew as only in deserts in winter it blows, athwart.

To Him, all things seemed enormous: His mother's breast, the steam out of the ox's nostrils, Caspar, Balthazar, Melchior—the team of Magi, their presents heaped by the door, ajar.
He was but a dot, and a dot was the star.

Keenly, without blinking, through pallid, stray clouds, upon the child in the manger, from far away— from the depth of the universe, from its opposite end—the star was looking into the cave. And that was the Father's stare. From *Collected Poems in English, 1972-1999*



Faith Filled Women met at The Bridge on Friday, November 14 for their quarterly meeting. Debbie Skeens provided the program with a tribute to Aprons of the Past. She had favorite and meaningful aprons from her past on display and spoke a little about each one. She read a poem entitled *Grandma's Apron* then invited each attendee to give a few words about the apron they wore to share.



Debbie Skeens holding one of her grandma's hand embroidered aprons.

December

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Exercise 6 pm	3 Choir 6 pm	4 Exercise 6 pm	5	6 
7 Worship with Communion 10 am Condit Christmas 6 pm	8	9 Exercise 6 pm	10 Food & Fun 5-7 pm Choir 6 pm	11 Exercise 6 pm Session & Trustees@ Rattlesnake 6 pm	12 Blood Drive 12-5:30	13
14 Worship 10 am BWFWS deadline	15 	16 Exercise 6 pm	17 Women's Circle @noon Choir 6 pm	18 Exercise 6 pm	19 Caroling at Country View 2 pm	20
21 Worship 10 am	22	23 Exercise 6 pm	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25 	26	27 
28 Worship 10 am	29	30 Exercise 6 pm	31  New Year's Eve	December Altar Flowers- Doug & Karen Kerns 		

Newsletter Deadline will be Wednesday, December 17.

Last year Condit Women's Circle held their Christmas luncheon at the historic Myers Inn Museum in Sunbury. Polly Horn provided a "period appropriate" dessert for the group and shared the following information as an explanation.

Origins of the Yule log tradition

The burning of a special log in a fireplace for luck and fortune has been a holiday tradition long before the arrival of Christianity in Europe. As are most holiday traditions, the origins of the Yule log are believed to have stemmed from Germanic or Scandinavian paganism. The tradition of burning the Yule log began as an early winter solstice ritual, though the exact date the tradition started has been lost to us. The earliest references to the Yule log tradition appear in 17th century German texts though it is widely believed to have been practiced for centuries prior.

Centuries later the Yule log was adopted by Christianity. The lighting of the Yule log was used to symbolize the birth of Jesus by some while others claimed it symbolized Jesus's triumph over sin. Today the burning of the Yule log is seen more as a secular holiday tradition though it is still performed by those of Christian and pagan beliefs alike during the holidays.



The Dessert

Similar to a Swiss roll, the Yule log cake is made of a soft sponge cake and is believed to have originated in France around the 19th century and was known as *Bûche de Noël*. The cake is shaped, decorated and frosted to resemble the Yule log from the original tradition. The cake usually consists of yellow sponge

cake with chocolate buttercream in a spiral fashion, though many variants of the traditional recipe are used today. The frosting is often scraped to give a bark-like texture to resemble the traditional Yule practice. While the edible treat originated in France, it quickly spread to other nations as the burning of the Yule log tradition began to lose public interest.



Both Traditions in Modern Day

Today, both Yule log traditions are still held, and families take part in either one or both traditions during the holidays. For families without a fireplace, modern technology has provided alternatives. The burning of the Yule log has been replaced in most homes by a TV broadcast or digital recording of a Yule log burning in a holiday themed fireplace. This modern tradition began in 1966 when the New York City television station, WPIX, aired a multiple hour-long television show titled "The Yule Log." This show was simply a recorded film loop of a Yule log burning in a fireplace while Christmas music played softly in the background.

Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter
15102 Hartford Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

SESSION

Class of 2027

Sandy Thacker Mick Sheets
Mary Kingseed

Class of 2026

Marianne Westbrook Judy Watts
Melissa Vermillion

Class of 2025

Georgann Whitney Sheila Micholes
Kathy Kees

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

TRUSTEES

Class of 2027

Ken Bartlett Dave Vermillion

Class of 2026

John Whitney

Class of 2025

Bob Westbrook George Justice

Church Directory

Donna and Laura Mucci

Newsletter Editor M. Vermillion
Website, Streaming Bob Westbrook

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