

CONDIT COURIER

JANUARY 2026

Forward

Condit
Presbyterian
Church

Minister

Rev. Samuel Monte

Director of Music

Adam Garner

Session

Clerk of Session

TBD

Class of 2028

Georgann Whitney
Ken Bartlett
John Whitney

Class of 2027

Sandy Thacker
Mick Sheets
Mary Kingseed

Class of 2026

Marianne Westbrook
Judy Watts
Melissa Vermillion

Board of Trustees

Class of 2028

Mike Mucci
Bill Gorsuch

Class of 2027

Dave Vermillion
Bob Westbrook

Class of 2026

George Justice

We have made it to another year. For many people, 2025 was a rough year. I am sure that there are times we wonder how exactly we made it through the year. And we are tired, aren't we? We are tired of the negativity. We are tired of what seems like a never-ending battle against the horrors that this world can have. All we really want is a break. We just want the universe to calm down and allow us to simply exist in the goodness that we hope and pray still exists.

We have fought so long to be where we are. We have battled against what Shakespear would call "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." We just want it to stop. Yet we know in our souls that isn't an option. I find that in those moments, we can acknowledge where we have come from and we have a choice. We can either keep moving forward or we can go back.

Philippians 3:13 has a very interesting context. Paul writes, "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of this. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." Paul is very aware of the idea of where he personally came from. He knows the person he used to be. He knows the mistakes and the pain of the past. He is exhorting others to do as he does and move ahead anyway. It's not about forgetting the past. It is about acknowledging where we came from and where we are headed.

Something lifts us up. Something dances inside of us giving us the strength to move forward. That something is Jesus. Returning to the pain and stress of the past is comforting because we know it- even if it is not good for us. Yet look at where we are from, where we have come from. Each day we move closer and closer to God. We have come so far. In this new year, let us resolve to keep moving forward.

What are some ways you have grown closer to God in the previous year? Can you see the ways in which God helped you throughout the year? How can we move into an unknown future? What challenges does that bring us?

New Year's Blessings,

Pastor Sam

(330) 207-7038

Pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

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



Church Officers will be installed **during worship on Sunday, December 28.** Please plan to attend.

January Calendar



Food & Fun Doreen will open the diner on **Wednesday January 14 and January 28 from 5-7pm** for winter homecooked dinners. Brave the cold to pick up a friend and come eat some comfort food in the presence of great fellowship. Carry out is also available- pick up a meal and deliver it to a shut in.



A reception for new members will be held **after worship on Sunday, January 18.** The memberships of Rose and Joseph Muakang will be recognized. Rose will join the church during the worship service on January 18 by reaffirmation of faith. Joesph has already transferred his membership to Condit from the Worthington Presbyterian Church. Come celebrate their memberships and welcome them to the Condit Family.



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25** after worship. Please plan to attend.



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.

- 2 Mike Joseph
- 8 Doreen Bartlett
- 12 Karen Kerns
Xavier Monte
- 16 Christy Krinn
Richard Day
- 19 Jeff Marshall
Peyton White
- 22 Joseph Muakang
- 26 Jeff Groseclose
- 27 Laura Mucci
- 28 Jane Markley
- 30 Jane Lahmon
- 31 Virginia Kavage



January 23 Rick & Darlene Ross

Remember in Prayer

- Homer & Mary Jo Wilson
- Marv & Pat Monroe
- Max Sheets
- John & Helen Szakas
- Joe Szakas
- John Kerns



Three Notes of Thanks



December 12th was the first **Blood Drive** of Condit's 11th year to collect blood for the Red Cross. Each year we host six drives in the Condit Fellowship Hall. Donors are members of the church and also friends from the surrounding area.

Jim Gorsuch completed donating 19 pints at this drive to save 57 lives. He is not a member of Condit but donates with his brother Bill and sister-in-law Teresa.

Many things determine the number of pints collected in any drive. At the December drive, we had seven who were unable to attend: 2 because of overage in earlier drives and 5 not feeling well.

Red Cross added Power Red to their collection in April. The donor has the option to give platelets over an hour and the remaining is returned to the donor. This means less trips to Condit because you skip a month after giving Power Red.

At the December Drive we collected 4 pints of Power Red and 20 Whole Pints for a total of 24 pints to save 72 lives. Add this to the ten year total and we have hosted 58 drives to save 3,864 lives.

We are now taking reservations for the **February 13** Blood Drive. Use your Red Cross App, call Polly Horn, 740-965-3582, or email GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org.

Submitted by Polly Horn

1 As we begin the new year, my family and I would like to give our heartfelt gratitude to our church family. Your generosity, kindness, and love shown to us all throughout the Christmas season is a testament to the love of God. Your spirit of love and giving in all ways has been a beautiful reminder of Christ's light at work in our community. This blessing and giving spirit goes far beyond just my family, but is shared in word and deed throughout the whole community. We are truly blessed and grateful to walk alongside you all in so many meaningful ways. As we turn our gaze to the future, we are truly grateful to walk alongside you all in faith. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in the year ahead.

With love and appreciation,

Rev. Samuel Monte and Family

BWFWS

Submitted by Kathy Kees

2 A big thank you to all of you who participated in the collection of Jiffy Muffin mixes for the Big Walnut Friends Who Share Christmas Food Boxes Project. We were asked to supply 120 boxes of muffin mix. As always, we exceeded the number requested! 120 will be used in the Christmas boxes helping each neighbor in need have a wonderful Christmas meal. The remainder of the mixes have been put on the shelves at the BWFWS food bank.

Thank You from the Trustees

Submitted by George Justice

3 The Trustees want to thank all of you who helped prep and decorate our church for the Christmas Season. Many hands make a big task much easier and faster! Erecting the outdoor Nativity Scene, setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree, organizing the Poinsettia Tree, and hanging garland and wreaths is a huge task! Travelers along Rt. 605 and everyone entering our sanctuary can feel and appreciate the Spirit of Christmas at Condit. Thanks again and Merry Christmas to everyone! *Reference photos page 5 and page 7*



Zeke was spotted taking care of the poinsettia tree.



Condit Women's Circle met on Wednesday, December 17 at the home of Mary Kingseed. A potluck Christmas luncheon was shared. Mary invited Ken and Doreen Bartlett to present details of their late September African Safari journey with the group after the luncheon. Ken had prepared a slide show and together he and Doreen described their 15-day adventure of Tanzania and Rwanda, which included three African National Parks and a hot air balloon safari. The list of wildlife they encountered is extensive and Ken's photos captured so many beautiful scenes and creatures. Their stories of interaction with the guides and local people were insightful. Overall, the presentation was very educational. Thank you to Ken and Doreen for sharing such an in-depth summary of this once in a lifetime trip.



Ken and Doreen Bartlett in Tanzania with the Maasai village people.



Ken & Doreen both had their legs hugged by a young gorilla similar to this one.

The next Women's Circle will meet **Wednesday, January 21 at noon** in the fellowship hall. MaryAnn Counts will introduce the next study topic, the history of the church. All women are encouraged to attend. Bring a brown bag lunch, Bible, notepad and a willingness to learn.

Treasurer's Report

November 2025 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett

Our regular offering was approximately **73.7%** of its eleven-month budget amount (**\$114,442.28** of **\$155,347.50**; **\$40,905.22** in arrears). Total receipts were **\$143,897.78** of the eleven-month budget amount of **\$180,225.83**, **\$36,328.05** 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 **\$171,500.84** against the eleven-month budget of **\$180,225.83**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$8,724.99**, approximately **4.8%** under-budget.

November net was **\$19,051.55** in the black, and November year-to-date was **\$27,603.06** in the red.

Receipts are **\$26,410.36** less than a year ago, mainly attributable to a \$30,300 bequest received in 2024. Expenses are **\$12,163.74** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$38,574.10** worse than a year ago.

Investments as a whole were up **10.0%** through November. Investments totaled **\$320,380.41** as of the end of November. Total funds available were **\$350,314.77** as of the end of November. \$143,301.52 of this amount is general undesignated funds, \$172,465.83 is Condit's Building Fund balance, and \$34,547.42 is the aggregate balance of a variety of special funds.

Through the end of November, 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. As we prepare for 2026, we seek how to best fulfill our mission; how to best contribute to our

community; and how to be the best stewards and disciples we can be for our Lord.



*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*



Saturday, November 29, the nativity was set up for the season of Advent. Left to right: D. Vermillion, J. Whitney, B. Westbrook, D. Linnabary, M. Mucci

Condit Christmas 2025

The Condit Christmas program was held Sunday, December 7. A plethora of music was performed by Condit musicians and a puppet skit entertained the audience. Photos below capture most of the highlights.



Nemo plays the recorder



Madi plays the clarinet



Marv plays multiple instruments



Ken plays the mellophone



Beverly, Pam, Sheila and Marv play bells (left to right)



The choir sings: Left to right: Marv, Linda in the front row, Polly, Bev, Pam, Deb in row two, Ken in the back



Adam and Madi in the puppet skit

Continued on page 7

Condit Christmas, *continued from page 6*



Ken, Deb, Madi, and Polly play bells (left to right)



Cookies and punch after the program



John and Pastor Sam in the puppet skit



Jules, Pastor Sam, Nemo talking with Jace

Thank you from Trustees, *continued from page 3*

Saturday, November 29, the interior of the church was also decorated.



Kathy and Teresa unpack poinsettias



Pam hangs garland



Teresa, Ken, George arranging poinsettias

2025 Poinsettia Tree



Ken and Doreen Bartlett

*In honor of: Adam and our musicians
In memory of: Ralph, Lois, Ed, and Connie*

Merrill Bender

In memory of: Squire Wheaton; Mercy Jacobus; My 3rd Great Grandparents

Deb Bergman

In memory of: Sue Overturf

Robert Comstock

In honor of: All the people at Condit who helped me grow up

Linda Dado

*In honor of: My children and grandchildren
In memory of: Ralph*

Vicki Eckhart

In memory of: Pete, Millie, and Alicia Eckhart

Bill and Teresa Gorsuch

*In honor of: Our children and grandchildren
In memory of: Our parents; Chase Cockrell*

Jim Irwin

In memory of: My wife, Sharon K, Irwin

Todd and Connie Jacob

*In honor of: Betty Lou Stull; Our sons, Jaden, Isaia, and Levi, his wife Taylor, and their daughter Amora
In memory of: Our parents and grandparents, Rev. John Stull, Ray Jacob, Rev. James A. Kees, and Nancy Sparrow*

George Justice and Kathy Kees *In honor of: Betty Lou Stull; The Justice and Kees families*
In memory of: Donovan and Dorothy Justice; Rev. James A. Kees; Rev. John W. Stull; Jerry Gordon; Ron Stemen; Ron Coleman; Denny Hood; Jim Bergandine

Virginia Kavage *In honor of: Our grandsons, Hank and Luke Adams, who turned 21 November 29, 2025*
In memory of: Lucy Gibbs Weber; Fred Weber; Sarah McConnell Kavage; Nick Kavage

Doug and Karen Kerns *In honor of: Jacqui, Ben, and Amanda*
In memory of: Loved family members

Mary Kingseed *In memory of: My husband, Al Kingseed*

Jane Lahmon *In honor of: Julie, Jack, Emily, Brian, Brittany, Brennan, Jaxson, and Kallum Miller*
In memory of: Jim, my 60 year life partner; My Parents; 9 brothers and 4 sisters; Aunt Betty; Jonah

Doug and Sheri Linnabary *In memory of: Frank C. Linnabary; Walter and Minnie Linnabary; Roy and Herta Nutt*

Sheila Micholes *In memory of: My mom and Dad, Gee and Nancy Fuller;*
In honor of: All of my great nieces and nephews

Marv and Pat Monroe *In honor of: Pam, Mick, Emily, and Alex Sheets; Mark and Ginette Monroe; Chantal, Mo, Roman, Adelyn, and Cooper Carey*
In memory of: The Neumann and Price families; The Monroe and Allen families

Rev. Sam Monte and Family *In Memory of: Ralph Monte*

Mike and Donna Mucci *In honor of: Nick and Laura*
In Memory of: Donovan and Dorothy Justice; Norman Mucci; Roberta Mucci

Beverly Saksa *In memory of: Tim Saksa; Evelyn Stoltz*

The Saunders Family *In memory of: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Saunders; William Neibarger; Sue Overturf*

Mick and Pam Sheets *In honor of: Our children, Emily and Alex; Our parents, Max Sheets, and Marv and Pat Monroe; The Condit Choir, past and present*
In memory of: Peggy Sheets, who is now singing in the celestial choir

Sandy and Larry Thacker *In honor of: Our mom, Patricia Thacker; Our grandchildren, Becks and Logan*

Dave and Melissa Vermillion *In honor of: Our children, Isaac and Eric*
In memory of: Bill and Mary Vermillion; David Stoltz

Judy Watts *In memory of: My mom and dad, Ann and George Ross*

Bob and Marianne Westbrook *In memory of: James and Mary Wilson; Bob and Agnes Westbrook*

John and Georgann Whitney *In honor of: Tessa; Allie; Cameron and JoJo; Joseph, Rose, Ryan, Mafany, and Patience*
In memory of: Henry and Margaret Stueckel; Bill and Marian Whitney

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>January Altar Flowers: Mick and Pam Sheets</i></p>				<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>Worship with Communion 10:00</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>Exercise 6pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Choir 6 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Exercise 5:30 pm</p> <p>Session & Trustees 7 pm</p>	9	<p>10</p> 
<p>11</p> <p>Worship 10:00</p>	<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Food & Fun 5-7 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	16	17
<p>18</p> <p>Worship 10:00</p> <p>Reception for New Members</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Women's Circle @ noon</p> <p>Choir 6 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	<p>23</p> 	24
<p>25</p> <p>Worship 10:00</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Food & Fun 5-7 pm</p> <p>Choir 6 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Exercise 6 pm</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>P.I.E. Training 9:00-2:30</p>

Church Telephone Number: 740-965-2911

Website: <http://ConditChurch.org>

Epiphany

Z L I Y Z N R T W W Y M Z C I R Q
Q S V V B E T H L E H E M A T D M
V T V Z F G M A G I C F A M P N J
N A G I F T S F B H T H R E E F T
H R Y G A S P A R N D C X L J T N
H J E P I P H A N Y R N S S V K B
O F R B A L T H A S A R Y G K I J
M E T W E L F T H L I G H T I N C
A A M A N G E R Q E H N A N K G L
G S T G M U R U G H B H M I I K W
E T O F F E R I N G U Y J G N Y W
Y W C P G K K G O L D E E H G X I
E O X R A M Y R R H V I S T H M S
F R A N K I N C E N S E U S E M E
K N K O D C H I L D D I S F R A M
Z Z E J Z O M E L C H I O R O R E
K I T R E A S U R E B Q Z O D Y N

Balthasar Bethlehem Camels Child
Epiphany Feast Frankincense Gaspar Gifts
Gold Homage Jesus King KingHerod
Light Magi Manger Mary Melchior Myrrh
Night Offering Star Three Treasure
Twelfth Wisemen

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Newsletter