

CONDIT COURIER

FEBRUARY 2026

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

In February, we often think of love and heart shaped chocolate boxes. We think about love. The problem with love is that it goes hand in hand with heartbreak and loss. Most of us carry a crack or two on the inside. Loss, disappointment, regret, words we wish we could take back. Life has a way of breaking hearts quietly, without ceremony. The good news is that God does not turn away from broken things. In fact, Scripture seems to show that God moves toward them.

Psalms 147:3 tells us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." That verse does not promise a quick fix or a pain-free path forward. What it does promise is presence. God's healing often looks less like erasing the hurt and more like patiently tending it, stitching hope back in where despair once lived. God doesn't just heal our broken hearts. God sits with us in the midst of the sadness.

Healing can be slow. It can feel uneven. Some days we feel strong, other days the ache resurfaces without warning. Yet God works faithfully in the middle of all of it. God meets us in prayer we can barely form, in silence when words fail, and in community when we need others to help carry the weight.

If your heart feels a little worn right now, take comfort in this. God is not rushed, and He is not finished. Broken hearts are not the end of the story. In God's hands, they become places where grace grows and new life quietly takes root. What are some ways your heart is a little broken now? Have you prayed about it with God? What are some ways that you have already seen God heal the broken hearted?

Blessings,

Pastor Sam
(330) 207-7038

Pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

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

February Calendar

Food & Fun Come one, come all! Food & Fun community outreach dinners will be held **Wednesdays, February 11 and February 25 from 5-7 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Wintery fare will be offered to help warm your soul. Please talk with Bev Saksa to learn how you can assist with meal preparation while Ken and Doreen are vacationing.



First, I must apologize for my error in the December Newsletter. At the December Blood Drive in 2025, Jim Gorsuch completed 19 GALLONS not pints. There are 8 pints in a gallon so Jim has donated 152 pints to save 456 lives. YAH, JIM!

American Red Cross will be in the Condit Presbyterian Church, on **Friday, February 13 from 12 to 5:30 p.m.** to collect much needed blood. We have 24 signed up but can use another 24 donors. You may sign up using your Red Cross APP on your cell phone, email "GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org or call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 and leave a message with your phone number. *Submitted by Polly Horn*



Begin Lent by attending the Ash Wednesday service which will be held **Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.



Condit Women's Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 18 at noon** in the fellowship hall. MaryAnn counts will lead the discussion of the History of the Church after a brown bag lunch and a shared dessert. Read chapters 4, 5 and 6 in *Church History 101* to prepare for discussion. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Condit FHS 4-H Club will hold a Kick Off pizza party on **Saturday, February 28 at 5:30 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. This group will begin meeting regularly at Condit in March on the first and third Mondays of each month. Please contact Deb Bergmann, Club Organizational Advisor, if you have questions, would like to help, or know youth who would like to join.



February Birthdays

- 10 Trisha Gilbert
- 13 Ryan Che (Patience's son)
- 17 Helen Gilbert
- 21 Alex Sheets
- 26 Pastor Sam Monte

Mark Your Calendars



Pastor Sam will be leading a Lenten Study in March. The book to be used is *Meeting Jesus on the Road* by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. All interested in learning how to walk with Jesus on the path to the cross will meet on **Mondays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 6:00 p.m.** in the church library. Please contact Melissa Vermillion soon if you would like to participate and have not yet signed up so additional books can be ordered.

Remember in Prayer Part 1



- Doug Kerns- in rehab
- Marianne Westbrook-surgery recovery
- Grant Bartlett- serving in Honduras
- Marv & Pat Monroe- health concerns



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 shortly thereafter to notify everyone of the decision. If there is a Level 2 Snow Emergency church events will automatically be cancelled.

Feeling Blue?



The Congregational Care Committee would like to request if you are feeling under the weather, have cold/flu like symptoms or feel slightly “off” to please stay home from church activities until you are back to par. The winter months are high contagion transmission months and if we each do our share to help protect others we can prevent the spread of illness within our church community.

2026 Directory Update



It is time for the yearly directory update. Please check the 2025 Condit Church Directory to be sure all of your information is correct. If it has changed, please

use the attached form on page 8 to correct your information and return it to Donna Mucci so she can update the corrections in the 2026 edition.

Remember in Prayer Part 2



Long term health needs:
Max Sheets
Homer & MaryJo Wilson
John & Helen Szakas
Joe Szakas
(Szakas are brothers of Jane Lahmon)
Cindy Monte

“Doreen’s Diner”



In December Ken and Doreen Bartlett gave a presentation about their African safari trip to Condit Women’s Circle. As a thank you for the presentation, hostess Mary Kingseed arranged for the women of Condit to gift them a plaque hand-fashioned by Mike Mucci, displaying the words “Doreen’s Diner.” For readers unaware, “Doreen’s Diner” is a nickname given to the fellowship hall during Food & Fun community outreach dinners held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, which are predominately prepared and served by Doreen with assistance from Ken. In January, anonymous donors left two aprons in the church kitchen for them, and mysteriously, a second sign marked “Doreen’s Diner” was hung above the serving window. The photo above shows Ken and Doreen wearing the aprons holding the wooden plaque created by Mike Mucci with the second sign hanging above their heads in the background.

Take what you need. Leave what you can. *Submitted by Jennie Kavage*

You see Condit's Blessing Box on the left as you drive off St. Rt. 605 into the church parking lot. Painted a bright turquoise and white and stocked with food, it serves as a conduit between those who are blessed to have food to share and those in need who are blessed to receive it. It is the latest weapon in Condit's mission to do something about food insecurity.



Blessing Boxes began to blossom in the Columbus area before the pandemic to serve the poor and homeless. There's one at the Sunbury Methodist Church and another south on St. Rt. 605 at the Glass Rooster Cannery. Marianne Westbrook, former head of Condit's Mission Committee, thought it was something Condit's congregation could do, as well.

Judy Watts and her daughter Shelli Evans had been looking for something to dedicate to Ann Ross, who was Judy's mother and Shelli's grandmother. Ann died July 2, 2020 just 10 days short of her 98th birthday. She had been a very involved member of Condit for 58 years. Judy thought a Blessing Box at Condit would be an excellent memorial and she worked with Marianne to get one established.

Session approved the project. There was a donation from Judy and a grant from Presbytery. Supplies were purchased and Bob Westbrook built the box. The Trustees installed it. Judy and Marianne kept it stocked the first two months. Mary Kingseed and Bev Saks handled the month of January.

Ann Ross



Two volunteers are needed each month to keep the Box stocked. Marianne has posted a sign-up sheet in the foyer. There's a bin in the church vestibule for those who feel blessed to place donations to help stockers keep the Box filled. A list of suggestions is taped to the top of the bin.



Judy Watts and Marianne Westbrook with the labeled donation tub.

Marianne says non-perishable food items are needed,

Continued to page 5

Take what you need, continued from page 4

things that won't be damaged by freezing in these winter months. Nothing should be in glass containers and everything should be easy to open and prepare.

She suggests peanut butter, dry milk, cereal, in warmer weather canned food with ring tabs for opening when available. Judy mentions rice has been a popular choice. Items for babies and children are welcome.

Toiletries are also needed: toilet paper, hygiene products, women's hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste (in summer), soap, band aids, baby wipes. Handwarmers, mittens and socks might come in handy. Pet food might, as well.

Please reference the suggested donation list on page 7 for ideas of what you can contribute.

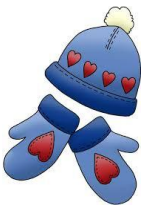
Who really benefits from the Blessing Box?

Seniors on fixed incomes, employed people with unexpected expenses, college students, homeless people, financially burdened people...the list goes on. The items are taken anonymously so Marianne says they don't know how many or who the Blessing Box is helping but people are bringing food and people are taking it out.

More information about Blessing Boxes and a map of box locations can be found online at Columbusblessingboxes.com.

FYI: Georgann Whitney is researching the feasibility of adding a similar box for the exchange of gently-used books for the convenience of Condit's neighbors.

B.W.F.W.S.



Teresa Gorsuch was happy to announce that before the holidays Condit was able to collect **31** hats, **31** sets of gloves, **3** headbands and **5** pair of socks for the winter mitten/hat drive. All items were delivered to B.W.F.W.S. and distributed to area families in need. Thank you to the congregation for helping with yet another local mission.

Treasurer's Report

December 2025 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett

Our regular offering was approximately **74.5%** of its full-year budget amount (**\$126,294.22** of **\$169,470.00**; **\$43,175.78** in arrears). Total receipts were **\$157,661.40** of the full-year budget amount of **\$196,610.00**, **\$38,948.60** in arrears.

Total expenses were **\$187,348.80** against the full-year budget of **\$196,610.00**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$9,261.20**, approximately **4.7%** under-budget.

December net was **\$2,084.34** in the red, and December year-to-date was **\$29,687.40** in the red.

Receipts are **\$27,152.75** less than a year ago, mainly attributable to a \$30,300 bequest received in 2024. Expenses are **\$13,293.69** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$40,446.44** worse than a year ago.

Investments as a whole were up **10.4%** through December. Investments totaled **\$321,580.42** as of the end of December. Total funds available were **\$349,430.53** as of the end of December. \$141,686.38 of this amount is general undesignated funds, \$173,120.26 is Condit's Building Fund balance, and \$34,623.89 is the aggregate balance of a variety of special funds.

Looking forward, current reserves provide sufficient coverage so there is no need to panic; however, we do need to look at our commitment to discipleship and being good stewards for our church. As we start 2026, we need to evaluate how to best fulfill our mission; how to best contribute to our community; and how to be the best stewards and disciples for our Lord that we can be.



Church Officers Installed

Aided by Condit Ruling Elder Grant Bartlett, church officers beginning service in 2026 were installed by Pastor Sam on Sunday, December 28. Ken Bartlett, John Whitney, and Georgann Whitney were each installed as ruling Elders of the Session for a three-year term. George Justice, Bill Gorsuch and Mike Mucci were all installed as Condit Trustees for two-year terms.



*Photo left: Grant Bartlett, Pastor Sam Monte
Photo Right: Ken Bartlett, Georgann Whitney, John Whitney, George Justice, Bill Gorsuch. Not pictured, Mike Mucci*



The Session and the congregation would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Deb Bergmann (*photo above*) for serving as Clerk of Session in

2025. Deb worked diligently to update the church records, clerk files and Session meeting minutes. We as a church are now in a much better position to move forward within the Presbytery. Thank you, Deb, for your dedication and hard work.

Church receives new members

Joseph Muankang and Rose Manyi were received as new members on Sunday, January 18. Joseph transferred his membership to Condit from Worthington Presbyterian Church and Rose joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ruling Elder Georgann Whitney assisted Pastor Sam in the installation. A cake reception hosted by the Membership Committee was held in the fellowship hall after worship, giving everyone an opportunity to greet and welcome Joseph and Rose to the congregation.

Photos below



Blessing Box Suggested Donation List (Please save as a shopping reference)

When possible, items should have pull top lids and be in plastic containers. Items with an asterisk () may freeze in temperatures below 32 °F.*

Food non-perishables

Canned soups* and sauces*
Canned chicken* or tuna* in water
Pasta sauce* and dry noodles (preferably boxed noodles)
Canned beans*- chili, baked, garbanzo
Canned fruit* /fruit cups* in water
Canned diced tomatoes*, tomato sauce*, and tomato paste*
Canned vegetables*
Peanut Butter* and nut butter alternatives* (Almond butter, Sunflower butter, etc.)
Jelly*
Condiments* (ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayo)
Cheerios/whole grain cereals/instant oatmeal packets
Granola bars/protein bars (soft and hard)
Crackers
Rice - white or brown
Dry beans
Nuts
Baking mixes/pancake mixes/syrup*
Dried fruit
Shelf based low fat milk or non -dairy products
Shelf stable meal kits
Seasonings (onion powder, garlic powder, Mrs. Dash, salt, pepper, low sodium taco seasoning)
Infant formula*, dry infant cereal
Packaged protein drinks

Personal & miscellaneous items

Shampoo* & conditioners*
Soap- bar or liquid*
Hand sanitizers*
Deodorant*
Toothpaste*/Toothbrushes
Lotions*
Band-aids
Antibacterial Ointment*
Anti-itch cream*
Sunscreen*
School supplies
Hats/Gloves/socks (seasonal items)

Help Us Get It Right: The Condit Family. . . .

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address if different than house street address:

Home Phone (____)-(____)-(____) Cell (____)-(____)-(____)

Email Address: _____ Text? Circle one YES or NO

Birthdate: 00/00/0000 ____ / ____ / ____

Spouse _____

Birthdate: 00/00/0000 ____ / ____ / ____ Cell (____)-(____)-(____)

Email Address: _____

Children:

1. Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

2. Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

3. Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

4. Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

5. Name _____ Birthdate ____ / ____ / ____

If not living in the home provide address and phone number below

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT TO BE PRINTED BUT TO HELP CONDIT SERVE YOU:

Are you a Member of Condit Presbyterian Church? _____ Date baptized _____

Do you have any health issues or disabilities we should know to better serve you? Use back of sheet if necessary.

Thanks!

Donna Mucci, Directory Editor



FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship with Communion 10 am Annual Congregational Meeting 11 am	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> 	3 Exercise 6 pm	4 Choir 6 pm	5 Exercise 6 pm	6 	7
8 Worship 10 am	9	10 Exercise 6 pm	11 Choir 6 pm Food & Fun 5-7 pm	12 Exercise 5:30 pm Session & Trustees 7 pm	13	14  Valentine's Day
15 Worship 10 am	16  PRESIDENT'S DAY	17 Exercise 6 pm	18 Women's Circle @ Noon Choir 6 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	19 Exercise 6 pm	20	21
22 Worship 10 am	23	24 Exercise 6 pm	25 Choir 6 pm Food & Fun 5-7 pm	26 Exercise 6 pm	27	28  Kick Off 5:30pm

February altar flowers - Carmie Joseph

Condit Presbyterian Church
Newsletter