



Conley's United Methodist Church  
Lewes, Delaware

June 2021  
Volume 14—Issue 6

## CONLEY'S CONNECTION

In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, charity.

### PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

*A Message from Pastor Bill Davis*

*They all joined together in constant prayer.*

*Acts 1:14a*

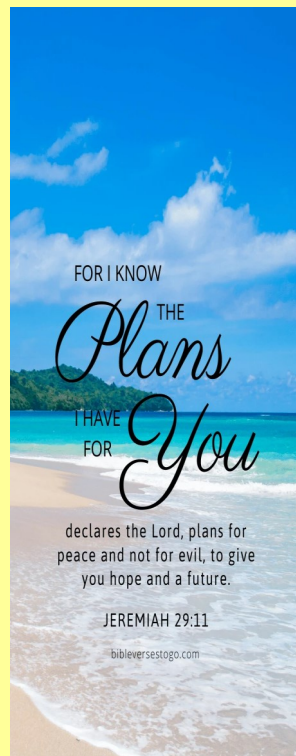
The lectionary reading for Ascension Sunday this year (Acts 1:1-11) stopped just short of the above verse. This is unfortunate, because this short phrase reveals what is arguably the most important thing the disciples did following Christ's return to the heavenly realm: they prayed. They committed the people of God into the hands of God.

How often do you pray for your church? Most Christians believe that it is important to pray and that God hears and answers prayer. We naturally pray for our earthly family and friends, but how often do we remember to pray for our spiritual family? On the day of Pentecost, God answered the disciples' prayers in a powerful way. I believe that God still answers the prayers of the church in powerful ways.

So how should we pray for the church? What should we pray for? Sometimes it is helpful to pray using Scripture as a guide. God's Word provides us with many examples of prayer. In your prayer time, try taking one of the prayers in the Bible and making it your own, simply inserting "Conley's Church" at the appropriate places. For example, take Paul's prayer for the church at Colossae (Colossians 1:9-12), and pray on behalf of our church:

*Gracious God, fill the people of Conley's Church with the knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. I pray this in order that they may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that they may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully give thanks to the Father, who has qualified them to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.*

When we pray for the church, we are not only following the example of those first disciples, we are also joining our prayers with the prayers of Jesus himself. The Bible tells us that Jesus is now at the right hand of God praying for us (Romans 8:34). As the pandemic ebbs and activities increase, let's join together in constant prayer for God's direction and anointing on the ministries of Conley's Church. I am excited to see what God does in response to the prayers of his people.



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPARC .....	2
Thrift Shop News.....	2
Odyssea .....	3
Great Walks and Trails.....	4
Belief In Times of Crisis .....	4
Feature Editorial .....	5
The Holy Spirit .....	6
Ponderings .....	7
Missions .....	8
What's Going On? .....	9



## AND REVIVAL COMMITTEE

## Praying for Others Who Are Burdened

Often our hearts are heavily burdened for friends or family who are struggling through a season of difficulty. We feel helpless to resolve the situation. We look to the Lord for help

(2 Chronicles 20:12). Praying the following prayer or one like it by inserting the names of the ones being prayed for will help. May it bring comfort to us and resolution for your friends and family.

Lord God, our very present help in trouble, I ask as King David wrote in Psalm 13, how long, Lord, will you forget my friends (names)? How long must they suffer sorrow in their hearts? How long must their faith be tested? I implore you, Jesus, Lord of lords, King of kings. Light of the world, shed your light in the darkness engulfing (names). Through the Prophet Isaiah you assured the people of Israel not to fear, for you were with them. Jesus today encourages all his disciples to remember he is with us always to the end of the age. May my friends (names), in their faithful hearts, realize his presence. The world and its distractions overwhelm the human mind. Raise up your ever-present Holy Spirit, and fill their home and their hearts with the power and reassurance that can come only from you. Forgive them for any doubt or uncertainty they give into and for any actions on their part that may have contributed to the current situation. Encourage them when they reach out to guide and strengthen others and renew their energy. Take each concern from them and resolve it quickly according to your will, that they may rejoice and sing your praises. In the name of Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer, Amen.

## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

We are truly blessed. Things have been running very smoothly for the thrift shop for the past several months, and we give thanks for this.

If you have visited the shop in the past few months, I'm sure that you have noticed that we have been working with a skeleton crew since the pandemic started. These volunteers have worked diligently to keep the shelves stocked and the shop and out buildings clean. Several of the volunteers have stepped up and are doing two or even three different volunteer time slots each week. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

We are pleased to add Judy and Charlie Parsons to our volunteer list and to welcome back Shelia Handley.

It is a pleasure to hear from our customers how clean and organized the shop is and that we are their favorite thrift shop. This makes all of our efforts worthwhile and brings wonderful smiles to our faces.

On a financial note, we are slowly but surely catching up with our pre-covid 2019 balance sheet.

Hopefully, by the end of the year we will match or exceed that total.

As of May 21, Delaware's governor revised the COVID mask requirements, and our shop is following those guidelines. We are asking that anyone who has not been vaccinated to please wear a mask while shopping with us. We still offer sanitizer stations and gently recommend that people use the sanitizer. We have noticed that about 60 percent of our guests are still wearing their masks; everyone was nonconfrontational and had beautiful smiles for us.

Church members, please remember that donations are accepted only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, or until the donation center is full. Also, on Saturdays from 9 to 1 or until full.

With all of the local yard sales, we tend to get full some days by noon. Please plan to visit early, or call us before coming over. Thanks for your understanding.

*- Pat Vogt*



## ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

### Papa Was a Rolling Stone

By Art Schmidt

**“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12 NIV**

The holiday known as “Father’s Day” has been a tradition for many years. However, in the last fifty or more years, the face of the family cornerstone changed considerably. Finding a traditional father figure in the contemporary family can be difficult. As children of God, we honor our “Heavenly Father” and trust that he will give us guidance, support, and love. As children of an “earthly father,” we discover they can’t always offer us that same trust.

That can be a harsh reality that hits some of us at an early age. In an era when single and unwed mothers are becoming more prevalent, “fatherhood”—the positive presence in a child’s life and not the act—has become a fading lifetime commitment. But God provides a silver lining to that dark cloud hanging over the children left behind in a broken home by blessing them with others who fill the void and bring light to the shadow their father left behind. For me, that light was my mom and her parents.

My dad served his country in both WWII and the Korean War. He was highly decorated, including two Purple Hearts. He joined the Washington, D.C. police force after retiring from the U.S. Army, and we moved to Silver Spring, MD. One afternoon, I came home from school and found a new bike in the living room. I knew I’d be getting a bike for my eighth birthday, but that was still a few weeks away, so I wondered what was up? When I went upstairs into my parents’ bedroom, Dad’s clothes and personal things were gone. Years later I found out that Mom wouldn’t tolerate Dad’s infidelity, so he moved out and my parents divorced.

Not much changed after Dad left except I started taking the bus to my grandparents’ house in D.C. after school instead of going home. Mom picked me up, and we went home together. I didn’t see Dad for a long time, but once the divorce was settled, I saw him at Christmas and in the summer. Then Dad moved from Virginia to Florida to take the post of police chief in the small town of Indian Harbor Beach. We stayed in touch by phone, and once I was old enough, I’d fly down to visit him. When I was sixteen, Dad moved to Orlando for a job at Disney World in the security department, so my visits became a lot more fun!



My memories of Dad are far and few between. He was outgoing and friendly. He could walk into a room of strangers and leave with a handful of new friends. Dad called on my thirtieth birthday to say he decided to move again; this time to Friendsville, MD. I was living in Germantown at that time, so we saw each other often and started to become father and son. I honored Dad by being the best man in his third wedding to a lady he met from Michigan, and a year later my sister Delilah was born. I felt like we were a family. Two years later they moved to Lansing to be near his wife’s parents, and I felt like Dad left again. A few years later, Dad called to say he had divorced, and he had moved to Jackson, Mississippi.

Seven years went by without my seeing Dad, until I got a call from his sister to let me know he had had a heart attack and wasn’t expected to survive. I flew to Jackson and spent time with Dad in the hospital before he passed. I honored Dad by attending his funeral held at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors in 1994. When God gave Moses the Fifth Commandment, I believe his meaning was that we shouldn’t blame or judge our parents but always forgive, respect, and love them. When Mom was alive and I still lived in Maryland, I’d honor Dad on Father’s Day by laying flowers on his grave, but then I’d spend the rest of the day with Mom to honor her—the one who brought light to the shadow Dad left behind.



## Great Walks and Trails in Sussex County

The Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary Club, a service organization serving the local community, prepared this 2021 version of Great Walks and Trails in Sussex County to encourage fitness and to make residents and visitors aware of the many opportunities to get outdoors and discover the beauty of Sussex County.

The Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary Club uses proceeds of the fundraisers such as this trail guide to fund scholarships and address other community needs, especially related to health and fitness.

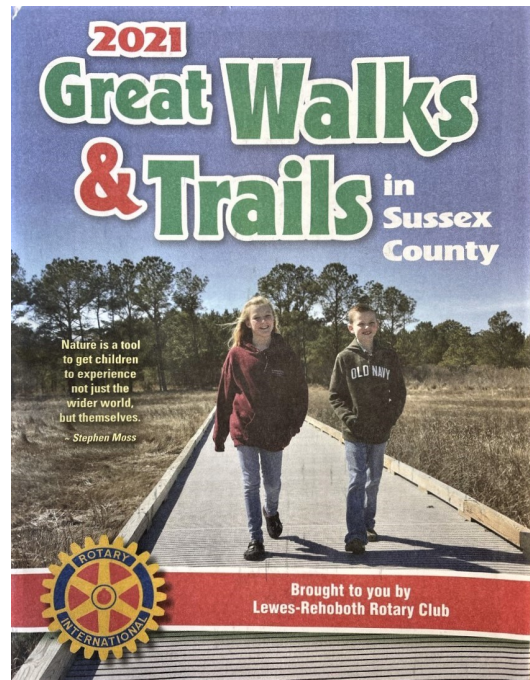
Members of Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary Club researched, wrote, and took photographs for this trail guide.

The club is deeply indebted to all of the advertisers who support this effort and make this trail guide possible and to the *Cape Gazette* production staff for bringing it all together.

The guides are available free of charge at the local Chambers of Commerce, realtors, banks, and stores. Also, copies of the guide will be available in the church narthex.

If you want to have copies sent by mail, just send \$5.00 and your name and address to Lewes-Rehoboth Rotary Club, P.O. Box 91, Lewes, DE 19958.

We welcome your input and suggestions as we plan our 2022 guide. - *Georgiann Deist*



## Do People Become More Religious in Times of Crisis?

“Organized religion has been on the decline for decades in the United States. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers found that online searches for the word “prayer” soared to their highest level ever in over 90 countries. And a 2020 Pew Research study showed that 24% of U.S. adults stated their faith had become stronger during the pandemic. Traumatic events are, at their heart, crises of meaning that cause people to question assumptions about their lives, including their spiritual beliefs. The years 2020 and 2021 certainly fit that bill: The global COVID-19 pandemic has indeed led to traumatic experiences for many people, due to the isolation, illness, fear and death that it created.

“People who experience traumas tend to question some of the assumptions they might have had about their faith. Mental health experts have known for decades that healing from trauma involves making meaning of the traumatic event. Traumatic events are often confusing for people because they don’t make much sense. In other words, traumas differ from the expectations of everyday life, and as a result, they seem to defy meaning or purpose. So even though people may have had limited access to buildings like churches or synagogues during the pandemic, they still had access to spiritual resources that can help them navigate traumatic events. This may explain data showing that some individuals are stating their faith is stronger than it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is why spiritual beliefs and practices across various religions can often lead to faith strengthening rather than weakening, following a trauma.”

- *Danielle Tumminio Hansen*, a theologian who studies trauma.

[[ministrymatters.com/all/author/danielle\\_tumminio\\_hansen](https://ministrymatters.com/all/author/danielle_tumminio_hansen)]

# The Times They Are a-Changin’

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV**

Whether you’re looking to make a major change in your life or just thinking about rearranging your living room, for some of us, change of any kind can be daunting. Change is inevitable in life, but we are, by nature, creatures of habit and resist change even when we know it’s for the best. Some of us lose sight that change can be a positive and necessary thing for survival. One place that is always a good source of encouragement and comfort toward growth and change is God’s Word.

In his online blog, *Church Answers*, Thom Rainer says, “Churches are dying and declining faster today due to a slow response to change as change accelerates all around us. Many churches are incredibly slow to change. For most of our American history, the pace of cultural and technological change was sufficiently paced for churches to lag only five to ten years. Now churches are lagging 20 and 30 years as the pace of change increases dramatically. To many attendees and members, the church thus seems increasingly irrelevant. To be clear, I am speaking about issues of style, methodology, and awareness, not changing doctrine or biblical truths. If you think it is more difficult to lead a church to growth, you are right.” (*churchanswers.com*)

How can Conley’s survive in the rapidly changing world around us? Christian churches are faced with many challenges: increasing secularization, decreasing biblical literacy, and aging members. Churches regularly wrestle with declining attendance, retention, and change. They are struggling now with how best to navigate through the choppy waters of a post-pandemic world and a culture in which young people are steering away from structured traditional worship. In his podcast, Carey Nieuwhof stated, “One of the primary missions of every church leader is to hand the faith and church over to the next generation. Practically speaking, churches that fail to reach young adults will struggle far more a decade from now than churches that don’t. Churches that elevate community will do better than churches that don’t.” (*careynieuwhof.com*)

Change is necessary for growth and survival, yet in churches, we find resistance to change. For those who watched *Star Trek*, you’ll recall in *The Wrath of Khan* (1982) Spock says, “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.” Then Captain Kirk answers, “Or the one.” It is difficult for some church members to see beyond their own comfort zone, so they resist the opportunities for growth that would benefit the entire church. Dr. Glenn C. Daman, an adjunct professor for a number of Bible colleges and seminaries, and author of *The Forgotten Church*, says, “People resist change in a church for four basic reasons: (1) Ownership with the past; (2) Change threatens traditions and the heritage of the church; (3) Change involves the risk of failure; (4) Change instills fear of the unknown.” (*ruralministry.net*)

Christianity is an ancient faith; one that is rich in tradition. And yet, it is also a living faith; one that speaks the language of every place and time. All things of this earth—including styles and modes of worship—pass away. Yet the Word of God advances endlessly, eternally relevant in our ever-changing culture. G.K. Chesterton wrote: “Christendom has had a series of revolutions and in each one of them Christianity has died. Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave” (*The Everlasting Man*). This is where our hope lies: the assurance that as every age passes away into history, in every new age the resurrected Savior shines forth a new light, the Holy Spirit inspires a new song, and a new generation of believers experiences the age-old faith in fresh, new ways.

Instead of looking at yesterday, the church of today must look at the present and help pastors and the church leadership prepare for the future so that the congregation will not only survive but also thrive. As the Body of Christ and a church family, it is through our diversity that we become truly powerful and unified in our mission—to serve God and our community. “Believers are never told to become one; we already are one and are expected to act like it.” - *Joni E. Tada*, an evangelical Christian author and radio host.

**“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” Psalm 133:1**

## WORSHIPPING DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

Worship with us on  
Sundays at 10:00 AM  
in person or online.

Our sanctuary is  
cleaned and sanitized  
every Monday in  
accordance with  
guidelines.

We live-stream  
the service on Vimeo,  
Facebook, and YouTube.  
Links on our website.

Produced by:



You can make a  
donation or tithe using  
the online portal on  
our website:  
[conleysumc.org](http://conleysumc.org)

Thank you  
for supporting our  
mission and for your  
faithfulness in giving!



## The Holy Spirit and the Trinity

The Sunday after Pentecost Sunday is Trinity Sunday. The Nicene Creed explains the Trinity in this way: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God in essence but three in “person” or “individual reality.” Think of a chord on a piano: There are three notes but one sound that is richer than each individual note. In the same creed, we learn that the Son is “begotten” of the Father and the Spirit “proceeds” from the Father and the Son. When we think of God this way, we affirm that God’s dynamic nature is directed toward our well-being. Through the three Persons of the Trinity, we recognize that God creates, saves and empowers all of God’s creation.

## The Holy Spirit and Christian Life

As Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit, we grow in a desire to serve God through service and mission. That means focusing not only on spiritual growth but also works of justice and peace and service to the poor, imprisoned, and suffering. When we witness or participate in such acts, we can be certain that the Holy Spirit is at work.

The joy of the spiritual life is constantly learning about God’s grace and God’s care. John Wesley’s emphasis on God’s grace illustrates his understanding of the work of God’s Spirit throughout our lives. Prevenient grace is with us from birth and works us toward justifying grace when we are converted to the faith. With salvation comes our growth in sanctification (holiness), wherein God perfects us. Wesley believed we must continue in grace in order to enter into the kingdom of God. In all these aspects of God’s grace, the Holy Spirit works in our heart, emotions, mind and will, helping us grow and transform. By “perfection,” Wesley does not mean we never make mistakes or that we are never weak. He means it as a growth of love for God and one another and a removal of our desire to sin. Such growth, as individual Christians and as communities of faith, illustrates the dynamic and vital presence of God’s Holy Spirit. The Spirit is both the daily presence of God and the way by which we grow as Christians. Pentecost Sunday is an excellent time to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit within us and within our churches.

-by **Paul Stroble**, a teacher at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, and an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church.





**Father's Day** is on June 20. I won't be in Conley's that day because my son Scott and his fiancée, Ashley, have asked me to officiate their marriage at Ridley Creek State Park in Pennsylvania. I am honored!

When I was a pastor in Wilmington, our church staff created a Group Workcamp experience in which young people gathered from far and wide to spend a week rehabilitating homes in the inner city. The home that Scott worked on was owned by a grandmother who died. The granddaughter inherited the property. A new deck was constructed in the back of the house. Painting was done throughout the inside. Old, hazardous metal fence posts were removed from the yard. Scott told me that the granddaughter, who was pregnant, could never have gotten these improvements done on her own. It was not complicated work, and a small group of teenage volunteers made a significant difference in her life. A little is much when God is in it.

My son Jay was sent to Iraq, living at Camp Slayer in Baghdad. His quarters consisted of a small trailer that was divided by plywood into quadrants. Each quadrant contained a set of bunk beds, meaning that a trailer was home to eight people. The latrines were quite a distance from the trailers, which was especially inconvenient in the middle of the night. Foreign nationals from places like Indonesia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh prepared the food in the chow hall. Even when they cooked hot dogs, hamburgers, and pizza, the food had a distinctly foreign flavor to American palates. When Jay arrived home, the first thing he wanted to do was eat at Outback Steakhouse. I reminded him that Outback was actually Australian food, but he didn't seem to mind. Summers in Iraq are hot—really hot. Jay tried to adjust his schedule so that he worked at night when it was cooler and slept during the day. Everything there was brown—the sand, the vegetation—rather than the green we are used to in Delaware. For Jay, all that brown had a depressing effect on him. For safety reasons, he couldn't even wander outside the compound. So, in many ways, he felt like a prisoner in his own camp. Jay was willing to serve his country but was glad when it was time to return home. There is no place like home.

**Jay and Scott, my two sons, are my legacy. When I pass, I leave the future to them—a future they are already creating!**

A windy day destroyed some of the ancient, two-hundred-year-old oaks that surrounded a church I served. Planting new trees would not produce immediate results. When we planted the replacement oaks, we did so with the knowledge that we wouldn't live to see the new trees mature. Future generations would benefit from our efforts even if we wouldn't. Isn't that the way life has to be lived? Don't we have to act now in order to benefit future generations?

Even if I knew my last day on earth was tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today. My children and grandchildren will benefit from the efforts I make today.

Happy Father's Day!

(Pictured: Scott, Pastor Jim, Jay)



THE LORD IS MY  
*shepherd*  
I HAVE ALL  
THAT I NEED  
PSALM 23:1

*“There will be one flock  
and one shepherd.”  
John 19:16*

*God has only one flock.  
Somehow we missed that.  
Religious division is not  
his idea...God has one  
flock.  
The flock has one shep-  
herd. And though we may  
think there are many, we  
are wrong. There  
is only one.*

*Never in the Bible are we  
told to create unity...Paul  
exhorts us to preserve “the  
unity which the Spirit  
gives.” Ephesians 4:3*

*Our task is not to invent  
unity, but to live in it.*

*Everyday Blessings  
Max Lucado  
2004*



## HELP WANTED

*Do you have a passion for missions?*

Have I got a job for you! No pay, short hours,  
and excessive satisfaction.

Every month Conley's United Methodist Church tithes our offerings to missions. Our missions include local, national, and international missions and missionaries. Local: Cape Henlopen Food Basket and Kairos Prison Ministries of Delaware. National: Red Bird Ministries and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). International: Methodist Missionaries

To support our new church council structure, the Mission Team invites anyone with a heart for missions to join us. We will be meeting on June 24 in the Mission Room at **6:00 PM**. This is a change to our past meeting time to accommodate anyone who works and would like to join us. This will be an organizational meeting, and I look forward to hearing new ideas.

Grace and Peace,

Marie Van Der Wall

Conley's UMC Mission Chair

*“What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8*





## WHAT'S GOING ON AT CONLEY'S?

### ◆ Soup Kitchen to Reopen!

Our Soup Kitchen reopens on Wednesday, June 2, and will offer take-out bag lunches 11:00 AM—1:30 PM. The bag lunches will contain a sandwich (choice of two), chips, fruit, dessert, and bottled water. The lunches can be eaten in the Pavilion or taken home, but no eating will be permitted inside the church building. Bon Appetit!

### ◆ Summer Bible Study

The Summer Bible Study series will be held on Thursdays, June 10, 17, 24, and July 1 in the church library at 10 AM. Focus to be announced in advance. To register or if you have questions, please contact Connie Paulson 302-644-1615 or wesconnie55@gmail.com.

### ◆ Women's Encouragement Group

Our resident pastoral counselor, Richelle Marvel, will be leading a new group to encourage and support women that meets the second Monday of the month from June to December in the church library at 6:30 PM. To register, 302-841-9794 or livewellbefit59@gmail.com.  
[Meeting Dates: 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, and 12/13]

### ◆ Homebound and Want Communion?

If you're homebound or not able to attend our worship service in person and are watching it online, please call or email the church office to let us know if you'd like a member to deliver a communion cup to you. We celebrate Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

### ◆ Wednesday—A Time for Ministry

At the May monthly meeting, the Church Council agreed to designate one day of the week for ministry-related meetings and events to avoid conflict and overlap with church business and non-ministry meetings and events. So, if you want to hold a ministry meeting or event, please reserve a church space on Wednesday if possible.

### ◆ Sight & Sound—Help Wanted

Do you have an interest in joining Conley's Sight & Sound Team? We are looking for someone to be trained as a backup for the Video Desk to fill in on an as-needed basis when Art is on vacation or away for the weekend. If you're interested, please contact Louise Finn: [louisefinn57@gmail.com](mailto:louisefinn57@gmail.com).



**Why is serving and participating in church events and activities important?**

It helps us discover our **purpose** and feel fulfilled.

It gives more meaning to our life as a servant of Christ.

**Our participation in church activities** is vital to the success of the church mission and our walk with God.

**We were created for good works. We were saved for good works which God preordained for us in Christ Jesus.**

When we **serve** and give up our time and energy for someone else, we get emotionally and spiritually recharged.



**CONLEY'S CHURCH**  
33106 Jolyns Way  
Lewes, DE 19958  
Phone: 302-945-1881

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. William Davis**  
E-mail: [conleysumc@gmail.com](mailto:conleysumc@gmail.com)  
Website: [conleysumc.org](http://conleysumc.org)

**Worship with us:**  
Sunday at 10:00 AM  
(Details provided on page 6.)

**Follow us:**  
Facebook: @conleysumc  
Instagram: /conleysumc  
YouTube: /Conleys UMC

**Editor: Art Schmidt**  
**Copy Editor: Anthony Chiffolo**

**Editorial Board:**  
**Pastor Bill Davis**  
**Louise Finn**  
**Art Schmidt**

**July Issue Deadline: June 24**

Heavenly Father,  
we know the plans that You have  
for us are not intended to harm us,  
but to give us hope and a future.  
Lord, we pray that in this period of  
change, we will remember that You  
have a plan for our church that  
outweighs what we see right now.  
Thank you for remaining  
with us always. Amen.

**Conley's United Methodist Church**  
33106 Jolyn's Way  
Lewes, Delaware 19958

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

