

CONLEY'S CONNECTION

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

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

By Louise Finn, Chair

What happened to the “Ad Council”?

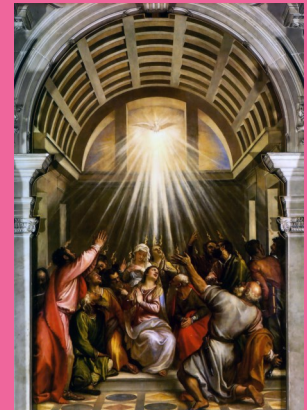
The Administrative Council met throughout the pandemic, wearing masks and being socially distanced. In the fall, our pastor proposed a new governance structure to the council. We spent time discussing it, asking lots of questions, and approving it. Why did we need a new governance structure for our church? There were several reasons: the committee structure that was in place was no longer working. Committee membership came with a three-year term, and filling each committee at the end of the year for the coming year was very difficult. There were 127 volunteers needed!

The new structure that was approved in December collapsed all the standing committees. The leader of each of the groups was then invited to take a seat on the new Church Council. The long-term commitments were removed, with project teams replacing the committees. For example, the trustees had many small projects to improve our facilities. Bill O'Brien can now form a team to work on a single project such as church signage. When the signs are placed, the team's work is complete. Another major reason the new structure was approved was that it works well in larger churches and enables growth—and Conley's wants to grow!

The new Church Council meets monthly, and our discussions are focused on the re-opening of our church. You may have noticed a new effort to track attendance and welcome our visitors. We are encouraging worshipers to return to in-person services; however, we know that is not possible for everyone, so we plan to continue our online worship services and the online bible study groups we have been offering. We want Conley's to grow, and providing short-term project opportunities for anyone to get involved using their skills, experience or interests is an important part of that.



PENTECOST



*Living God,
thank you for the
surpassing greatness
of Your power to us
who believe.
Because You came to
dwell in us on
Pentecost, we have
Your mighty
strength with which
You raised Christ
from the dead.
Strengthen us in
our inner being, so
that we can know
the love of Christ
that surpasses
knowledge and be
filled with the
spirit of God.
Amen.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPARC	2
Thrift Shop News	2
Odyssey	3
Mother's Day Tribute	4
Ponderings	5
My Aim	6

**AND REVIVAL COMMITTEE****The Circle of Praise**

Have you ever been in a situation and wondered where God is? Has your heart ever been so downcast you couldn't even come up with prayer words? When you can't see where God is, or you don't know what to pray for, begin the circle of praise. The more we praise Him, the more we see Him. The

more we see Him, the more we know Him. The more we know Him, the more we recognize and receive His blessings. The more we recognize His blessings, the more we praise Him.

The apostle Paul and his fellow evangelist Silas knew what to do in a dire situation. They were beaten, bruised, thrown in jail, and chained. (Acts 16: 25) They knew what to do. They praised God and sang hymns. The result? God showed His presence in a powerful way. They were set free from prison, as were their fellow prisoners—many of whom were also set free from their sins through conversion to faith in Jesus Christ.

The sounds of our praise should be louder than the sounds of our distress. God will move mightily in response to our praise. God may not show up in an earthquake for you. He may show up in a gentle whisper as he did for Elijah. (1 Kings 19:11-13) He will show up!

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**

The phones have been busy with calls for furniture donation pickups for the past several weeks. One day we are scratching our heads wondering where we are going to display everything, then we have a run on sales of something big (like 3 sofas) all in a weekend. I keep reminding myself and the others that God always provides.

The shop is doing well. Sales have increased with the warmer weather and the out of towners are beginning to visit our area. We are just slightly behind April 2019 and that was our best year ever for total sales dollars.

We do have a small need. When one of our volunteers has to be out of town for several weeks, we need a little additional assistance with pricing and stocking shelves with household items. If anyone could help us out on Tuesday and Thursday, we would greatly appreciate it. It can be temporary or we could always use extra hands. Please stop by and see Sally or me for more information.

Please remember to keep us in your daily prayers.

- Pat Vogt





ODYSSEA: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Call and Response

By Art Schmidt

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42 NIV)

This verse describes the early church. After a formidable fifty days, the church was born at Pentecost, as the disciples waited and huddled together after the Easter event. The mood of the early fellowship of the Risen Lord was one of spiritual excitement and energy, but all was not calm and hopeful at first, as there was great concern about the future and the welfare of the members.

In order to ensure the strength of the church and plan for the future, the newly formed fellowship shared their resources so that the work of Christ would continue. Times have changed since the early church, but the need for sharing resources is as critical now as it was then. The church of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, needs the support of those who call themselves Christians. Throughout the history of the church, there has always been a need for participation, communication, and fellowship on the part of those who follow Jesus—and today in the aftermath of a pandemic, that need is still crucial.

Conley's United Methodist Church has seen some ups and downs, and it was the pastoral leadership along with the participation and support of the dedicated members who kept the church moving ahead. Now, as we leave the pandemic behind us and face a new world, this is the time to consider the way ahead for Conley's.

Recently, our leaders on the Church Council met to discuss Conley's future and kicked off a new project—"We Are Conley's"—that you will be hearing more about in the Conduit and future newsletter issues. Pentecost reminds us that a new wave of "spiritual excitement," commitment, and energy needs to sweep through our church. "It is the creative potential itself in human beings that is the image of God. We too have the ability to create and I firmly believe that we are expected to use our creative gifts for the Glory of God."¹

Pastor Bill Davis has issued a challenging call to our leaders to actively look for viable solutions to our current gaps and the challenges ahead. Friends, let us keep our church leaders and the "We Are Conley's" project team in prayer so that we may serve God our Creator. "As the flame descended at Pentecost and ignited the world with the brilliance of what the Church might be—so does the light of Christ illuminate our future. We pray with confidence that we will rise to meet this occasion with prayer, grace, growth, and ultimately joy."²

¹ Tracy Radosevic, Professional Story Teller, Network of Biblical Storytellers, "Ruah," May 1998.

² Rev. Dr. Jarrett Wicklein (Retired), Mount Vernon Place UMC, "The Flame," May 1998.

PENTECOST ✠ SUNDAY MAY 23

Christianity didn't start with Jesus' birth, death, or ascension into heaven. It started with Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' death when the Holy Spirit entered a room holding all the apostles and descended onto them, making each speak in foreign tongues. This "Pentecostal" experience allowed the apostles direct communication with God and laid the foundation for what would become *Christianity*.



WORSHIPPING DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

Worship with us
Sundays at 10:00 AM

Conley's is open
for in-person worship
with safety protocols
in place.

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

If you can't attend
in person, please join us
online as we live-stream
the service on Vimeo,
Facebook, and YouTube.
Links on our website.

Produced by:



You can also make a
donation or tithe using
the online portal on
our website:

conleysumc.org

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

MOTHER'S DAY— MAY 9

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the tremendous influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. Here's a story about two mothers:

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away.

As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing.

He asked her what was wrong, and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me. I'll buy you a rose."

He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers.

As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home.

She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother."

She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, canceled the wire order, picked up a bouquet, and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house.

[www.theholidayspot.com/mothersday/stories]



*A mother holds her children's hands for a
short while, but she holds their hearts forever.*



PENTECOST

The Christian holiday of Pentecost is a movable feast and is celebrated on the Sunday closest to the 50th day from Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. It is known as the birthday of the church. We Methodists are continuing what was started on the first day of Pentecost. Here are three Methodist stories:

A SHED IN HARRINGTON, DELAWARE

One day a farmer called the Dover District Superintendent. A historic shed existed on his property that he was willing to sell to the Methodist Church for \$10,000. The shed needed to be moved or it would be destroyed. You see, during the Revolutionary War, Francis Asbury, a prominent Methodist preacher, was known to have British sympathies. That put his life in jeopardy. So, during the war, Asbury hid in a small building behind the home of Judge Thomas White, who lived outside of Harrington. The shed remained on the property, with Asbury's name carved on the inside wall, until the farmer finally decided it needed to be moved or destroyed. Unfortunately, the DS was unable to raise the funds quickly enough, and the shed was burned. A roadside historic marker commemorates that historic site, without the outbuilding Asbury lived in during the war.

GRAPE JUICE

I am a proud alumnus of Drew University, a United Methodist institution. One of the largest buildings on the Drew campus is Welch Hall, named for Dr. Thomas Welch, the creator of Welch's grape juice. The temperance movement was an organized effort to encourage abstinence from the sale and use of alcoholic drink as a beverage. The influential WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union) began in 1874 and was associated with the Methodist Church. Dr. Welch was a supporter of temperance, and the communion steward of a Methodist Church in Vineland, New Jersey. He thought it hypocritical to believe in temperance and serve wine during communion. Dr. Welch produced an "unfermented sacramental wine" that quickly became known as Welch's grape juice. Ever since the days of Dr. Welch, Methodists have been instructed to use "the pure unfermented juice of the grape" for communion. To this day, Welch's grape juice is a staple on Communion Sundays at Methodist churches.

BARRATT'S CHAPEL – FREDERICA, DELAWARE

In 1784, with the Revolutionary War over, John Wesley (the founder of Methodism) sent his friend Thomas Coke to America. His instructions were to find Francis Asbury and discuss with him the future of the Methodist Church in America. Coke was preaching at Barratt's Chapel on Sunday, November 14. During the sermon, Asbury arrived. Coke came down from the pulpit and embraced him. A bronze star, which exists to this day, was placed in the chapel floor to commemorate this historic meeting. Following the service, Coke and Asbury adjourned to the Barratt home across the field. That evening, they formulated plans to call all the American Methodist preachers together for a meeting in Baltimore on Christmas Day. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at this Christmas Conference. Today, over 450 United Methodist churches exist in our Peninsula-Delaware Conference. These churches are the legacy of that meeting between Coke and Asbury—and of the Holy Spirit descending on Pentecost to create the church.



CONLEY'S



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our worship service details
are provided on page 4.

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MY AIM

I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true;
For the heaven that smiles
above me,
And awaits my spirit too.

For the cause that lacks
assistance,
For the wrong that needs
resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.

George Linnaeus Banks



I Corinthians 16:14

Conley's United Methodist Church
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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

