



Condit Courier

December 2024

“Be not afraid”

My mother used to love angels. She still does, but she really loved them when I was younger. After she felt that she was done collecting turtle knick-knacks, she moved on to angels. She had this little shelf full of these beautiful women with wings or chubby babies with tiny wings meant to be cherubs. Of course we watched “Touched by an Angel.” She did- it wasn’t my cup of tea. Something felt off about it to me.

I realized that what felt off with her collection and that show was the amount of women verses men angels. Any mention of a named angel in the Bible was male yet those little statues were always few and far in between. By the time I started paying attention to the Bible in a hardcore way, I noticed one simple truth in regard to angels in the Bible.

They were terrifying.

Ezekiel’s cherubim are these chimera like fusion of man and beasts. Isaiah’s seraphs have six wings and you can’t even really see them. Plus the Hebrew word for seraph is used here and describing the snakes God sent to bite the Israelites in the desert. So what are they? How do they look? We don’t even really get a good description of angels in the New Testament other than humanoid and sometimes glowing. So what do these ones that speak more directly with humanity look like? Is it like some uncanny valley thing where they look human but off somehow? It’s no wonder that when angels show up, they have to remind people to be not afraid.

Our devotional and study this Advent season is called, “Calling all Angels” and it is about fearlessness and strength. This advent season as we prepare to celebrate

the birth of Christ, we need to do the hard work. What is it that makes us afraid? Why are we afraid when the world is in chaos? What can we do to remember that God is with us? What does “Be not afraid” look like for us today?

Blessings,
Pastor Sam
(330)-207-7038

Pastorsamuel85@gmail.com

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

Remember in Prayer

Max & Peggy Sheets
Homer & Mary Jo Wilson
Grandma Angie
Cindy Monte
Carol Pickworth
Christy Krinn and family
Jensen (4 year old with leukemia)



Christmas Calendar



Explore Wildlights at the Columbus Zoo, **Friday, November 29 at 4:30 p.m.** Please meet at the main gate of the zoo to tour together.



All hands on deck! **December 1** please plan to stay after worship to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.



Christmas on the Square

December 7 will be the yearly Christmas event in Sunbury. It will be from **4-8 p.m.** Condit will have a booth and will serve hot chocolate and take aways of crunch bags and

hand warmers. We will also be doing some caroling around the square. Look for sign-ups to help with the booth or to meet at the church to help with making the snack mix. Contact Marianne with questions or to sign up. *Submitted by Marianne Westbrook, Outreach*



Blood Drive will be **Friday, December 13 from noon to 6:00 p.m.** Polly Horn is taking reservations- call 740-965-3582

(leave your name and number for a return call), email GiveBlood@ConditChurch.org or use the Red Cross Blood App. Registered donors get a reminder to use Rapid-Pass which saves time at the blood drive. As there is a shortage of blood reserves, please ask your neighbors and friends if they would consider giving.

Food & Fun Come share a warm dinner on **December 11 from 5-7 pm.** Who could you invite to partake in some holiday cheer?



Condit Women's Circle Christmas Gathering will be held **Wednesday, December 18 at noon** at the Myers Inn Museum. Lunch will be

provided. Polly Horn will give a tour of the museum and share local history after lunch. Please **R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, December 11** to Mary Kingseed, 614-205-0483. Come enjoy fellowship together!

Submitted by Mary Kingseed



Monday, December 2 at 6 p.m. the Advent Book Study participants will meet in the library. The Introduction, Week One and Week Two of the selected book, *Calling All Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength* will be discussed. **Monday December 16 at 6 p.m.** participants will reconvene and discuss the remainder of the book. Come prepared with thoughts and questions.



Condit Christmas will be **December 22 at 6 pm.** Gather in the sanctuary for the Christmas program and venture downstairs afterward for cookies, punch and fellowship.



Christmas Eve worship service will be **Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.** Please plan to attend this candlelight event.



Advent Readers/Candle Lighters:

December 1: The Whitney Family
December 8: The Westbrook Family
December 15: The Vermillion Family
December 22: The Bartlett Family
December 24: The Sheets Family

December 1 Communion Servers:

Kathy Kees
Shelia Micholes
Sandy Thacker
John Whitney



December Birthdays

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



The last meeting for 2024 for FFW was held on Friday, November 8th at the Sunbury United Methodist Church. The quarterly luncheon was hosted by SUMC and Condit provided the speaker for the meeting. SUMC provided a wonderful lunch of chicken salad croissants and broccoli cheese soup.

The speaker was Sheli Morcom with Glory Reins Stables. MaryAnn Counts heard her speak at another church and felt she would be great for our meeting. Sheli provided a wonderful faith story on why they wanted to do this, and how she and her husband, Bob got their program started. They have used horses for healing at their farm for the last six years. They connect hurting kids (aged 8 - 17 yrs) with rescued or retired horses and ponies. The stable is a non-profit mission supported by churches. The kids called "ranchers" are matched one on one with a mentor and a horse that they can relate to. They do barn chores, tack up their own horses and ride with a support person. There is no charge for the ranchers and they have helped hundreds of kids over the years. They have a website if anyone wants to get more information.

The business meeting followed with a discussion on selling gift cards this month. Order forms (one per church) and money needs to be turned in to Debbie Skeens by Dec 1. Cards will be ready after Dec 14. *(Condit Women's Circle has opted not to participate this year)*

Prayer requests and updates followed the business portion.

FFW supports several missions through donations and various fundraisers. Currently donations are going to: BWFWS, Lazarus Ministries, LifeWise, Cornerstone of Hope and BW Ministerial Association.

The next FFW meeting will be on March 14, 2025 at Olive Green CCCU church at 11 am. All women are welcome! *Submitted by Sandy Thacker*



2025 Sanctuary Flower List

- January Mick & Pam Sheets
- February Mike & Carmie Joseph
- March Mike & Donna Mucci
- April Sheila Micholes, Easter Lillies
- May John & Georgann Whitney
- June Connie Jacob & Kathy Kees
- July Bill & Teresa Gorsuch
- August Judy Watts
- September Sandy Thacker
- October Bev Saksa
- November Ken & Doreen Bartlett
- December Doug & Karen Kerns, Poinsettias



December Anniversaries

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

Getting to Know You...

Elijah Monte

by Jennie Kavage

When Elijah Monte arrives at Condit Church on a Sunday morning he goes right to the Choir Room where he's teaching himself to play the piano. He likes music and decided recently to take advantage of the half-hour before the worship service to use the piano and keyboard the choir isn't using. He asked Music Director Adam Garner for help and Adam gave him an adult beginner's book to start on. He's learned the melody notes but is still working on putting those bass chords in the right place at the right time.

Fifteen years old, Elijah is next to the oldest in Pastor Samuel Monte's family of six children. He enjoys walking to Westerville Central High School where he is a sophomore. Elijah's favorite class is math - geometry this year, and he's in Math Club, which he describes as "sort of a second math class." He also has Honors English, Modern World History and Biology.

The Montes moved to Westerville just before school started in the fall of 2023. Before school started this fall they changed houses, fortunately in the same school district. What's all that moving like? Elijah says "I just go with the flow." As far as getting started in a new school, he says he's found it to be like this: "The first year you don't talk to anyone but the second year you start talking to people." He's making friends now, he says.



Elijah practices piano



He had a chance to try climbing at a camp and wanted to learn more so this year he's joined his school's Rock Climbing Club. He's really appreciative that his dad paid the money for him to do that. Last Wednesday the Club tried the climbing challenges at Vertical Adventures. He enjoyed "bouldering" (climbing around on boulders) and learned about "belaying" (using ropes to help a climber avoid falls).

At home, Elijah says he mostly plays video games and watches TV "unless Dad asks me to clean something." The Montes have a chore list and "what chore you do changes every day," Elijah explains. He would like to learn to cook but he knows "food is too expensive to experiment with."

His favorite video games are Xenoblade 3 and Kingdom Hearts. He likes the challenge and, as his skills improve, the reward of advancing to a higher level. Enemy is his favorite TV show. He really liked LEGO bricks as a kid so he's a big fan of The LEGO Movie.

Talking had to stop here as it was 10 a.m. and Elijah was off to Condit's production room to help Bob Westbrook with the video for the morning worship service in the sanctuary and on You Tube. He had stopped in one day because he was curious to see what Bob was doing and asked if he could help. Bob is grateful for the help and especially grateful that Elijah has learned how to do it all and can run the show when Bob takes a vacation. *Continued to page 5*

Treasurer's Report

October 2024 Financials

Submitted by Ken Bartlett



Bob and Elijah in the production room

That's not all. Many Sundays Elijah is also the acolyte. At the proper time he quietly rises from his chair, goes into the narthex to ready the lighter and walks down the center aisle of the sanctuary to light the altar candles. Symbolically it is an important responsibility. The First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, Nebraska describes it this way:

The word acolyte is from an ancient Greek word that means attendant, or "follower." Light and fire remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the sanctuary where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service. When you light the torch again, before extinguishing the candles, and then walk out with your torch lit, you remind the people that when we scatter out into the world, God will be there with us. Lit candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Our regular offering through October was approximately 62.2% of its ten-month budget amount (**\$88,116.80** of **\$141,663.33**; **\$53,546.53** in arrears). A \$30,300 bequest was received in May. Total receipts through October were **\$141,594.02** of the ten-month budget amount of **\$163,330.00**, **\$21,735.98** less than budget.

Insurance and real estate taxes have been fully paid for the year, per capita has been paid for three-quarters of the year. Total expenses through October were **\$145,022.71** against the ten-month budget of **\$163,330.00**, resulting in outflows less than budget by **\$18,307.29**.

October net was approximately **\$5,345** in the red. October year-to-date net was **\$3,428.69** in the red. Receipts through October were **\$42,825.34** more than a year ago, while expenses were **\$68,406.93** more than a year ago. This results in the net being **\$25,581.59** worse than a year ago.

Investment returns were up **11.8%** year-to-date. The \$30,000 bequest received in May was invested and investments totaled **\$308,906.81** as of the end of October. Total funds available were **\$331,873.33** as of the end of October. \$146,018.32 of this amount is general undesignated funds, \$155,857.44 is Condit's Building Fund balance, and \$29,997.57 is the aggregate balance of a variety of special funds.



Operation Christmas Child



Big thank you! 16 shoe boxes filled by Condit Presbyterian! Don't forget to track your boxes in January 2025.

Submitted by M. Westbrook, Missions

Orders for Condit T-shirts are still being accepted. Add your name to the list in the narthex if you would like to place an order. Cost is \$12.25 for a heather gray shirt with a full sized logo in white on the front. Shirts are Gilden brand, 50% cotton/50% polyester blend. A minimum of 18 shirts are needed to place an order.



December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship with Communion 10 am Decorate church	2 Advent Study 6 pm	3 Exercise 6 pm	4	5 Exercise 6 pm	6	7 Sunbury on the Square 4-8pm
8 Worship 10 am	9 	10 Exercise 6 pm	11 Food & Fun 5-7 pm	12 Exercise 6 pm Session & Trustees 6:30 pm @ Rattlesnake	13 Blood Drive 12-6pm	14
15 Worship 10 am	16 Advent Study 6 pm	17 Exercise 6 pm	18 Women's Circle @ Noon @ Myers Inn Choir 6 pm	19 Exercise 6 pm	20	21 
22 Worship 10 am Condit Christmas 6 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm	25 	26 Exercise 6 pm	27	28
29 Worship 10 am	30	31  New Year's Eve	Sunday, December 15 will be the deadline for the January newsletter. Thanks for everyone's help and timeliness this year! Melissa			



MondayMandala.com

Condit Presbyterian Church Newsletter
15102 Hartford Road
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

SESSION

Class of 2026

Marianne Westbrook Judy Watts
Melissa Vermillion

Class of 2025

Grant Bartlett Sheila Micholes
Kathy Kees

Class of 2024

Doug Kerns Mick Sheets
Sandy Thacker

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

TRUSTEES

Class of 2026

John Whitney Molly Blevins

Class of 2025

Bob Westbrook George Justice

Class of 2024

Allison Skinner Kenneth Bartlett

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