

Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

“The Invitation”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened...”—a simple invitation that still has the power to change lives today.”



There’s something powerful about an invitation. A simple “Come join us” can open doors, build bridges, and change eternities. Yet many of us find it surprisingly hard to extend that invitation to church. Why is that? It’s one of the core things Jesus asks us to do, yet we can’t seem to do it.

Let’s look straight to the words of Jesus Himself—the Master Inviter—and discover both why we hesitate and how His example gives us the courage and practical steps to invite with confidence.

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Jesus never hesitated to invite. He didn't wait for people to come to Him—He went out and called them in. His invitations were clear, compassionate, and full of the promise of hope. Jesus says in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

He spoke these words to the tired, to those searching. He didn't say, "If you feel like it someday..." He said, "Come." Right now. He knew exactly what people needed—rest—and He offered it freely.

Why do we hesitate? Sometimes we hesitate because we fear rejection. We think to ourselves, "I can't invite them to church because they are my friend." We don't invite because we are afraid they will say "no."

In Luke 14:23-24, in the parable of the great banquet, Jesus paints a vivid picture of the master who didn't take "no" for an answer from the original guests: "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

He sent servants to the highways and hedges to invite the overlooked, the outsiders, the unlikely. That is our model—go beyond our comfortable circles. Jesus modeled invitation as an act of love, not obligation. He saw people's deepest needs and offered the only One who could meet them—Himself. Jesus never let fear stop Him, and He doesn't want fear to stop us.

Jesus said, "My house will be full." Let's partner with Him this month to fill it—with our neighbors, our coworkers, our friends, and even the people we least expect. You are loved, you are equipped, and the Master Inviter is cheering you on.

Want to **Connect**
with
Pastor Exman?
(740) 505-0665
thexmanatct@gmail.com



**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**

Sunday, April 5

**Immediately after the
9 and 10:30 services**

Fellowship Hall

Family Life

by Lesa Exman

Your go-to spot for updates, tips, and opportunities to help children and youth grow in faith.



Spring has been such a sweet and meaningful season in the life of our church. There is something so special about watching our families come together—serving, celebrating, and simply enjoying these moments side by side.

Easter Egg Hunt – Coming Soon

We are looking forward to a joyful **Easter Egg Hunt** on **Sunday, April 5**, immediately following the 9 and 10:30 services. Even though we are keeping things simple, it will still be filled with laughter, excitement, and special moments for our children.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated candy and to those who helped fill eggs. Your kindness and willingness to serve are what make events like this possible. These small acts of love create meaningful memories for our children, and that is such a beautiful thing.

CT Scholarship Applications

We are so proud of our students as they prepare to take their next steps after graduation. Scholarship applications are available for all active CT youth seniors who plan to continue their education. It is truly a privilege to walk alongside our students during this exciting season of their lives. If your student qualifies, please pick up a form

in the church office or see me —I would be happy to help.

Camp Wesley – Summer Opportunity

As we look ahead to summer, I am excited to share about **Camp Wesley**. This is such a special place where children and youth can grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the joy of being surrounded by God's creation.

If you have never considered camp before, this could be a beautiful opportunity for your child. If you would like more information about dates, registration, or what to expect, please don't hesitate to reach out. I would love to help your family get connected.

Bowl For Kids Sake

We would love for you to help support this year Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for kids sake Fundraiser. Big Brothers Big Sister program is a non profit organization that creates and supports one to one mentoring relationships between adult volunteers and children facing adversity.

Our youth will be representing CT at this years event. The youth will be collecting donations Sunday, April 12 after each service to help towards our goal of \$1000.

I am so thankful for each of you and for the way you continue to love and support one another. It is such a blessing to be part of this church family.

Want to **Connect**
with
Lesa Exman?

(419) 605-6858

itslesaexman@gmail.com





WESLEY

CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

**Register Now for
Summer 2026!**

FULL WEEKS

JUNE 7-12
JUNE 14-19
JUNE 21-26

\$550

SHORT WEEKS

JUNE 28 - JULY 1
JULY 5-8

\$375



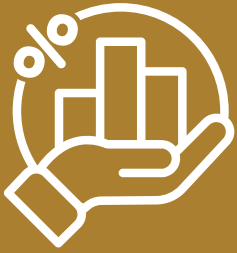
**Ages 7-17
Sibling Discounts**

UNPLUG, UNWIND, AND EXPERIENCE GOD

Year-to-Date Financial Report

by Holly Ruetz

February 2026



“Thank you for generously giving to the ministries of Central Trinity.

Here is a breakdown of what your gifts supported in February 2026.”

Personnel: \$22,206 (Salaries & Benefits)

Administrative: \$1,048 (Office supplies)

Christian Education: \$812 (Youth Super Bowl party, Easter books, Adult SS supplies)

Property: \$7,220 (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance)

Worship: \$717 (Organ service, choir member stipends)

Outreach: \$5,304 (Apportionments, Advertising)

Non-budgeted designated giving total \$1538 (Scholarship, Mission trip, altar flowers)

In Loving Memory of



Linda Lou Good

May 30, 1941 - March 15, 2026

Linda lived a life marked by dedication, kindness, and quiet joy. She devoted 44 years to education with Zanesville City Schools, where she made a lasting impact on her students and colleagues.

She found joy in music, reading, and creating welcoming spaces, and she especially cherished time spent with her husband, Larry—often dancing together to their favorite songs.

In later years, Linda faced health challenges with strength, supported by Larry’s constant love and care.

Their devotion to one another was a beautiful example of enduring love.

She is survived by her husband, Larry, and her family. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit and the love she shared so freely.

Please keep Larry and the Good family in your prayers.

February Attendance:
108

YTD Income:
\$79,089

YTD Expenses:
\$74,290

YTD Budget Target:
\$77,087

Ministry News

Winter Game Nights

Winter may still be hanging on, but the fun is just getting started! Join us on Friday, April 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a relaxed evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.

We'll gather at CT to enjoy dominoes and other games in a welcoming, easygoing atmosphere. Bring a light snack to share and come ready for laughter and connection and If you have questions or would like to help, please see **Jayne Dunlap** or **Patty Hockinberry**.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith meets Monday, April 6, 6 p.m., at the church. Janice Deal will lead the program "Seeds of Hope," based on Mark 16:1-7. This session focuses on building hope, particularly in our climate justice work, by imagining how things could be if we make the changes we know are needed.

Mission u

The theme for **Mission u** is Experiencing Emmanuel. The in-person sessions take place at Bergamo Center, Beavercreek, Ohio, June 12-14, for adults, youth, and children. Virtual sessions for adults are either Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings during July. The adult program is *A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel* that helps participants learn from Emmanuel encounters to help with their own discernment to faith, hope, and love in action. The youth program is *God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives* that invites youth to wonder about where and how God is present in their lives and what that means. The children's program is *Experiencing Emmanuel* that helps children explore faith to build their vocabulary, confidence, and a deeper awareness of God's presence in their lives. Registration starts April 1 and is limited to 140 attendees for the in-person sessions. For more information and to register, go to westohiouwf.org/2026-mission-u.

Continue on next page



Lead Pastor

Jon Exman

Children's Ministries

Lesa Exman

Director of Music

Jim McLaughlin

Chancel and Children's Choir

Ann Sims

Wesleyan and Carillon Bells

Andy Ruetz

Ignite Worship

Katlyn Border

Custodian

Dennis Dunlap

Treasurer

Holly Ruetz

Financial Secretary

Rick Mohler

Secretary

Monica Bevan

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, 5 p.m., in the parlor to knit or crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

CTs Scholarship Application

Applications are now available to all CT active youth seniors who plan on furthering their education after graduation.

Please pick up your form in the office or see Lesa.

Hocking River District Spring Event

Hocking River District Spring Event is Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Faith United Methodist Church. Melissa Best, Director of Community Engagement, of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio is the keynote speaker. Donations of gift cards in any amount from Home Depot or Lowes will be collected for Habitat for Humanity. We will recognize units for Mission Today and Five Star Giving and participants in the Reading Program; conduct a memorial service; and end with communion. Registration is \$10 and can be paid at the door. Please let Carmen Baker know by April 5 if you plan to attend.

Gratitude

With heartfelt gratitude, I want to thank all the wonderful ladies who help bring the *Connect* to life. Your time and dedication make each edition meaningful AND EXTRA SPECIAL! I truly appreciate your support and the joy you bring to this ministry.

Manila Bewan

Thank you to everyone who helped, even in the smallest way, to support Reece Baker and Alivia Sims in reaching their goals. Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference. As a church family in God, your support means so much and continues to strengthen our community.

CT Staff

Birthday Cards for Addison Davis

Addison Davis, who is serving in the Air Force, will not be able to be home for his birthday this year. If you would like to help celebrate him, we invite you to send him a birthday card!

Please place your card in the box located in the **Welcome Center**, and we will make sure they are sent to him.

Addison's birthday is **May 10**. Thank you for helping us help make his day extra special!



ET Worship

Come as Yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

Lenten Sermon Series But Wait... There's More!



April 2, 2026


Maunder Thursday



Communion 7:30 p.m.

April 3, 2026

Good Friday



Walk-in Communion 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday



Communion

Service Schedule

Ignite (Modern) 9:00 a.m.
Traditional: 10:30 a.m.

Children's worship available each Sunday from: 8:50 to 11:30 a.m.



(Birth - Infants - 6th grade)



Handicapped Parking available at North entrance of parking lot.

Hebrews 11:1-3,
John 12:44-47,
John 20:1-10 4:12-22,
Matthew 28:1-10

April 26, 2026

Hearing Voices and Being Sheep

John 10:7-15,
Psalm 23

April 12, 2026

Seeing is Believing

John 20:19-31,
1 Peter 1:3-9

April 19, 2026

A Walk to Remember

Luke 24:13-35

Ushers

Doug Briggs
Dan Kieffer
Duane Deal



To watch the service!

Music and Volunteers

Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



- April 5**
Chancel Choir & Carillon Bells
- April 12**
Chancel Choir
- April 19**
Wesleyan Choir
- March 22**
Chancel Choir

Volunteers

- April 5**
Patty Bradley
- April 12**
Amy Stanton
- April 19**
Katie Garrett
- April 26**
Holly Ruetz



Regular at Central Trinity



- 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir
- 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 6:30 p.m. CT Youth



- 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies



- 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM
- 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Kids Own Worship



- April 5**
Amanda smith
- April 12**
Lesa Exman
- April 19**
Lori Wyatt
- April 26**
Lesa Exman

Everybody is Welcome! Join us for our regular church activities, including worship services, Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and special events. No matter where you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you here at Central Trinity UMC. We look forward to welcoming you and growing together in faith and community.

JOIN NOW ➔

Support Our Youth One Can at a Time

Our Youth is collecting recyclable cans, and we are looking for a volunteer to help take them in for recycling. It is a simple way to make a real difference for our young people. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the church office.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month, we joyfully celebrate the birthdays of these cherished Central Trinity family members! May the year ahead be filled with blessings, joy, and new opportunities to grow in faith and love. Be sure to wish them a happy birthday when you see them!

Autumn Hurt	04/02	Ann Fleck	04/12	William Libby	04/18
Elizabeth Wheeler	04/03	Robert Beitzel	04/13	Julie Higdon	04/20
Lynn Wheeler	04/03	Jami Siddle	04/13	Valerie Graham	04/23
Wrenley James	04/03	Madelin Talbot	04/13	Heidi Williams	04/23
Melissa Dilley	04/04	Westyn Trout	04/14	Asa Sindeldecker	04/24
Brandon Smith	04/04	Margaret Baker	04/15	Kevin Coveney	04/26
Kyersten Hamilton	04/04	Bronson Wyatt	04/15	Laura Clutter	04/26
Levi Roberts	04/06	Jean Roberts	04/16	David Harper	04/26
Chester Coleman	04/07	Katherine Coleman	04/16	Jennifer Shields	04/28
Brice Mohler	04/07	Amanda Smith	04/16	Justin Willis	04/28
Kayla Grandstaff	04/09	Tammy Blevins	04/17	Marilyn Willey	04/29
Kyle Wilson	04/12	Avery Slone	04/17	Zachery Goldsmith	04/29
		Robert Reed	04/18	Cindy Buck	04/30

80s and 90s+

Margaret Baker
04/15 (85)
1284 Ellen Dr.
Zanesville, OH 43701-6072

Robert Reed
04/18 (99)
Helen Purcell Home
1854 Norwood Blvd Apt 113
Zanesville, OH 43701

Marilyn Willey
04/29 (94)
3305 Winding Way
Zanesville, OH 43701

We thank God for the gift of each of these lives!

"I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well."

—Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

A wedding anniversary is a beautiful reminder of love, commitment, and the journey shared together. As a church family, we celebrate these special milestones and give thanks for the lasting bonds that reflect God's love.




Dennis & Jayne Dunlap	04/01	26
Rhonda & Don Cassady	04/08	37
Brent & Renee Barnes	04/15	26
Larry & Debbie Raney	04/16	43
Melody & Steven Moore	04/30	32

April



Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters

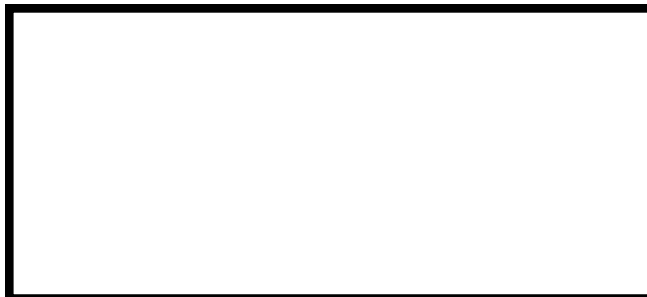
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	2 Maundy Thursday 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday 9:00 a.m. Spring Flowers Delivery 11 a.m. Walk-in Communion to 1 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	4
5 Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:30 p.m. CT Youth Egg Hunt After Services 	6 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. UWFaith	7 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	8 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	9 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	10	11 7:30 a.m. Men Breakfast 10:00 a.m. DAR/SAR 11:00 a.m. SAR Contest
12 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	13	14 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	15 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Margaret Baker (85)	16 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	17 6:30 p.m. Winter Game Night	18 Robert Reed (99)
19 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	20	21 6:30 p.m. Verla Moore SC 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	22 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	23 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	24 Border's Baby Shower Set-up	25 Border's Baby Shower
26 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	27	28	29 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Marilyn Willey (94)	30 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir		

CENTRAL TRINITY
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