

Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC



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The Affirmations of Faith

by Pastor Jon Exman

“Every Sunday we recite an Affirmation of Faith—but have you ever stopped to consider why? These shared words connect us to centuries of Christian belief and remind us not only who we are but also whose we are.”



I get asked this question often: What is an Affirmation of Faith?

Every Sunday at Central Trinity, we say some form of an **Affirmation of Faith**. If you look it up in a Bible dictionary, it says something like this: “An **affirmation of faith** is a public or personal statement of core beliefs, often referred to as a creed.” Basically, what that means is that affirmations provide the **foundational statements of belief for the church**. **These Affirmations of Faith can be historical creeds, statements of faith, or even daily affirmations.**

In the Methodist Church, an Affirmation of Faith is described as a **congregational declaration or recitation of core Christian beliefs** during worship services. These affirmations serve as **public, shared statements of what the church and its members believe**. Just like at CT, these affirmations are typically recited together by the congregation after a prayer, during baptism, confirmation, or other liturgical moments. These affirmations draw from **historic Christian creeds** and help unite worshippers in expressing their faith through a shared experience.

There are quite a few examples in the Methodist Church, and we will talk

about them in future newsletter articles. These examples include The Apostles’ Creed (we share the traditional version at CT). The Apostles’ Creed is one of the most frequently used affirmations. It summarizes key beliefs about God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, forgiveness, and eternal life.

Another great example is **The Nicene Creed**. This more detailed creed from the early church (A.D. 325/381) emphasizes the **Holy Trinity and Christ’s divinity**.

The Lord’s Prayer is also an excellent example. Although it is not considered a creed, it is definitely an affirmation of faith.

In short, an Affirmation of Faith is a worship tool for **voicing shared beliefs, fostering unity, and reinforcing the foundations of faith** in the life of the Methodist congregation. It tells us **who we are, as well as whose we are**.

I hope to see you this July at some or all of our wonderful events and services!

Want to **Connect** with
Pastor Exman?

(740) 505-0665
✉ thexmanatct@gmail.com



Family Life

by Lesa Exman

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



Summer is in full swing, and there are plenty of reasons to celebrate at Central Trinity!

First, we extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our church family:

Scarlett Rose Stanton



Scarlett Rose Stanton, daughter of Kristopher and Tiffany Stanton.

Esmeray Hope Border, daughter of Michael and Katlyn Border.

Esmeray Hope Border



Josephine Elizabeth Binkley, daughter of Logan and Bailey Binkley.

Josephine Elizabeth Binkley



Oak David Border



and **Oak David Border**, son of Shane and Kirsten Border.

Our church family has been blessed with the joy of welcoming these precious little gifts from God, and I pray that His love, guidance, and blessings will surround them as they grow.

As summer schedules fill up, please note that there will be **no Youth Group meetings on June 28, July 5, or July 12.**

We hope everyone enjoys this time with family, friends, camps, vacations, and other summer activities. Be sure to mark your calendars for our special summer event for CT Youth:

Scoops & Youth Group Game Night
Sunday, July 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

It will be an evening of water games, laughter, and an ice cream bar! Youth should wear clothes that can get wet, as we're planning plenty of splash-filled activities.

Summer offers wonderful opportunities to slow down, enjoy God's creation, and spend time with those we love. We pray that your summer is filled with joy, rest, and many reminders of God's presence in your life.

Blessings!

Want to **Connect** with **Lesla Exman**?

(419) 605-6858

itslesaexman@gmail.com



Swim, Splash &
Have a Blast!



FREE

CHURCH-WIDE
POOL
PARTY

DRESDEN SWIM CENTER

1330 Main St, Dresden, OH 43821

SUNDAY, JULY 19
6-8 P.M.

**A fun day for the whole church family to
come together and enjoy the pool.**

 **Pizza,**  **drinks, and**  **desserts provided!**

This event is completely free for everybody!

Don't want to swim? No problem!
Come to sit poolside and enjoy the fellowship!

Everyone is welcome! —all ages and families.
Invite a friend!

Year-to-Date Financial Report

by Holly Ruetz



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

Here is a breakdown of what your gifts supported in May 2026."

May 2026

Personnel: \$22,946 (Salaries & Benefits)

Administrative: \$538 (Office supplies)

Christian Education: \$639 (Mother's Day, Graduation Gifts, youth group)

Property: \$7,903 (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, LED lights)

Worship: \$335 (Choir party, choir member stipends, candles)

Outreach: \$8,207 (Apportionments, Advertising, renewal church app)

Non-budgeted designated giving total \$4,097
(Bowl for Kids Sake, Scholarships, Church camp, Neighbors in Need, kitchen supplies)

May Attendance:
133

YTD Income:
\$181,863

YTD Expenses:
\$189,299

YTD Budget Target:
\$192,718



ZANESVILLE MEMORIAL CONCERT BAND 2026 SEASON

The Summer Band Schedule of free concerts open to the public continue Sunday evenings, 7:00 p.m. at Zanes Landing Park. The "America 250" concert on June 28 includes a summer chorus prepared by Ann Lillie Briggs.

"Circus Days" is the theme on July 12. "Toward a More Perfect Union" concludes the concert season on July 26. If there is a weather challenge, the concert moves indoors to the STEAM Center auditorium behind the Zanesville Middle School, 1429 Blue Ave.



Join us for *Glow Night* at Central Trinity on August 9. from 6–8:00 p.m.!

This exciting event is celebrating its third year and is open to all ages!

Come enjoy a fun-filled evening with mini golf, face painting, bowling, skee-ball, delicious food, worship, and so much more. There is something for everyone, so invite your family and friends to be part of this unforgettable night.

If you would like to volunteer or help with the event, please contact Katlyn Border at 740-586-1096.

We can't wait to see you there!

Ministry News

UWFaith: Assembly 2026 & Mission U

Members of our **UWFaith** group recently had the opportunity to participate in meaningful events centered on fellowship, learning, service, and spiritual growth.

Jayne Dunlap, Janice Deal, and **Carmen Barker** attended **Assembly 2026**, joining women from across the globe for a time of worship, inspiration, and connection. The gathering offered opportunities to strengthen faith, celebrate ministry, and learn more about the ongoing mission work taking place within other churches and beyond.

In addition, **Holly Ruetz, Janice Deal,** and **Jayne Dunlap** participated in **Mission U 2026**, where this year's theme was *Experiencing Emmanuel*. Throughout the three-day event, they enjoyed worship, prayer, study sessions, fellowship, and hands-on mission activities that strengthened both faith and community connections. Highlights from Mission U included inspiring Faith Talks with Jennifer Farmer, appreciation for the eight study

leaders, prayers over youth, a visit to Urban Farm Church, a scavenger hunt, and a joyful Mission U birthday celebration. Participants also helped create and tie 100 blankets that were later commissioned as part of the ministry experience.



Our members also participated in the **Stud-A-Thon** with **Habitat for Humanity** by decorating wooden studs. These studs will become part of the walls of newly constructed homes, offering future families messages of hope, love, and faith within the very foundation of their homes.

United Women in Faith does not meet during July and August. During this break, members are encouraged to continue their Reading Program using books available at the public library to support ongoing spiritual growth and learning.

We are grateful for the dedication of these women and the many ways they continue to represent Central Trinity through faith, compassion, and service!



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 periodically during the summer; contact Jayne Dunlap or Janice Deal for schedule. If you cannot join the group, please continue to stitch and pray for this ministry.

Gratitude

Celebrating Stacy Thomas!

We proudly recognize **Stacy Thomas** for her participation in the **2026 State Summer Games in Columbus this May**.

Stacy competed in bowling and placed first in her division. As someone who is partially blind, her accomplishment is a beautiful reflection of determination, perseverance, and joy.

We are honored to have Stacy as part of our church family. Her participation is a testimony of strength, resilience, and the importance of inclusion within our communities.

Her Central Trinity family is proud of her and celebrates this wonderful achievement! Way to go Stacy!



A Joyful Celebration of 99 Years!



A wonderful milestone was celebrated on April 14 for Robert Reed's 99th birthday and surrounded by his loving family. It was a joyful and meaningful gathering, filled with smiles, gratitude, and the warmth of shared memories.

The photo captures a beautiful moment of Robert Reed's happiness as he enjoys time with those closest to him. His life continues to be a blessing to our congregation, reflecting faithfulness, strength, and a long journey enriched by God's grace.

We give thanks for Robert Reed and for the gift of his presence in our church family. May this special celebration be a reminder of the love that surrounds him and the many lives he has touched over the years.

Thank you

to everyone who sent cards,
gifts and prayers during my
surgery and recovery.

Andy!



Connect would not be the same without 64
Leslie Miller, Sue Wright, Dee Huntsman,
Janet James, Gloria Kieffer, Marjorie Sims and
Janice Deal, who generously share their time
and care to help keep our congregation
connected.

**Thank you for your continued support and
for being part of this ministry.**

Monica

eT Worship

Come as Yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

June 28, 2026

Serie: Trust & Obey

*Trust an Act
of
Vulnerability*

by Michael
Borden

July 5, 2026

Serie: Trust & Obey

*Obedience,
Listening &
Vulnerability*

by Michael
Borden



July 12, 2026

*Who Moved
my Cheese?*



Communion

by Lynne
Hottle

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.**

July 19, 2026

*Mountains &
Mustard Seeds*

Matthew 17:14-20,
Mark 11:20-25

July 26, 2026

*Uninterrupted
Devotion*

1 Corinthians 7:35,
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,
Romans 12:12-18

Ushers

Dennis Dunlap
Dan Hartman
Eric Fusner
Jayne Dunlap



To watch the
service!

Music and Volunteers

Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



July 05
Abby Robbins

July 12
Y-City Barbershop Chorus

July 19
Alivia Sims

July 26
Lucas Stant

Volunteers 9:00 a.m.

July 05
Patty Bradley

July 12
Katie Garret

July 19
Amy Stanton

July 26
Holly Ruetz



Volunteers 10:30 a.m.

July 05
Lexi Sims & Lilly Bradshaw

July 12
Amanda Smith

July 19
Amanda Smith

July 26
Lexi Sims & Lilly Bradshaw



Regular at Central Trinity



9:00 a.m.

Ignite Service

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

6:30 p.m.

CT Youth



5:00 p.m.

Angel Wings PSM

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.

Kids Own Worship

July 05
Amanda Smith

July 12
Lori Wyatt

July 19
Lesia Exman

July 26
Lesia Exman



Central Trinity UMC



@centraltrinityumc



@centraltrinityumczanesvill719

JOIN NOW ➔

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!

Kirsten Fusner	07/01	Linda Thompson	07/16	Karl Kaiser	07/25
Jeremy Roush	07/02	Julia Fisher	07/17	Lincoln Smith	07/26
Evelyn Ruetz	07/02	Steve Hockingberry	07/18	Brent Barnes Sr.	07/27
Bailey Joseph	07/03	Robert Radcliffe	07/18	Brent Barnes Jr.	07/28
Sydney Joseph	07/03	Kierston Willis	07/18	Trent Barnes	07/28
Jane Young	07/04	Zachariah Clapper	07/18	John Thomas	07/29
Gary Skelton	07/06	Rylan Kendrick	07/18	Carmen Baker	07/29
Samatha Roush	07/12	Nikki Ball	07/19	Hannah Dodd	07/29
Tyler Driggs	07/12	Lesia Exman	07/21	Patricia Bradley	07/30
Starla Payne	07/15	Katha Mercer	07/23	Verna Heigley	07/30
Olivia Garrett	07/15	Greg Miller	07/23	Carla Bell	07/30
David Vandenberg	07/16	Vicky Crowthers	07/24	Adam Davis	07/30
		Jessica Smith	07/24		

80s and 90s+

Ron Miller 07/04 (80) 4405 Eden Park Dr. Zanesville, OH. 43701	Sue Wright 07/08 (84) 1017 Federal Ave. Zanesville, OH. 43701	Jane Hartley 07/09 (80) 905 Somers St. Zanesville, OH. 43701	McKinley Smith 07/12 (94) 1725 Musselman Dr. Zanesville, OH. 43701
Willard Wheeler 07/18 (85) 8275 O'Bannon Rd. Nashport, OH. 43830	Clarence Holbein 07/23 (83) 3090 Holbein Dr. Zanesville, OH. 43701-6993	Anne-Marie England 07/26 (84) 1300 Somers St. Zanesville, OH. 43701	Maybelle Dickerson 07/31 (93) 3750 Sunrise Circle Zanesville, OH. 43701-9668

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.

Andy & Holly Ruetz	07/01	26	Gary & Marjorie Overdorff	07/18	62
Joshua & Heather Fraunfelter	07/01	9	Ken & Connie Skidmore	07/22	31
Donald* & Starrzanne Hilty	07/07	14	Paul & Margaret Baker	07/25	60
Jim & Sherie Garrett	07/11	56	Samantha & Wesley Wilson	07/25	11
Tammy & Dwayne Blevins	07/11	28	Heather & Evan Wills	07/30	15
Doug & Ann Briggs	07/12	18			

July

Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM	3	4  <i>Independence Day</i> Ron Miller (80) 
5 Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service	6	7	8 Sue Wright (84)	9 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM Jane Hartley (80)	10 Connect due Date	11
12 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service McKinley Smith (94)	13	14	15	16 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM	17	18 Willard Wheeler (85)
19 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service Church Pool Party 	20	21	22	23 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM Clarence Holbein (83)	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service Anne-Marie England (84)	27	28	29	30 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM	31 Maybelle Dickerson (93)	

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