



Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

“Our Savior”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“Wherever you look in the Bible, Christ came to save us from our sins. He truly is our Savior.”



As we enter into Lent and journey to the cross and the resurrection, I am reminded of this story I shared with you a few years ago in a newsletter article. The story I shared with you was about St. Jerome. St. Jerome was one of the distinguished Church Fathers who helped to guide the Church in matters of faith and the Bible. He translated the ancient Greek manuscripts into Latin to help put the Bible in the language of the people. **He wanted the people to read and know the Bible.** He even lived in the actual town of Bethlehem for a time to get a sense of how Jesus lived during His earthly journey among us.

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The rich oral traditions of the Church share how St. Jerome, while living in Bethlehem, had a dream that Jesus visited him. The dream was so powerful and convincing that St. Jerome gathered all his material blessings and offered them to Jesus. He heard the Lord declare, “I do not want your possessions.” So, being a good church leader, he offered all his money to Jesus. Jesus once again declared, “I do not want your money.” Finally, in desperation, St. Jerome cried out, “Jesus, what do You want from me?” Jesus simply replied, **“Give Me your sins. That is what I came for—I came to take away your sin. Give Me your sin.”**

The Gospel of Matthew announces Christ’s entrance into human history with these words, found in Chapter 1:21: “She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The Gospel of Mark declares, “For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

The Book of Revelation takes us even further back in history than the birth of Jesus to declare that Jesus Christ was the Lamb slain before the creation of the world for our salvation.

We also know from the Old Testament that the prophet Isaiah spoke of One who would be “numbered with the transgressors.”

Wherever you look in the Bible, Christ came to save us from our sins. He truly is our Savior. Remember that as we journey together to Easter Sunday.

Want to **Connect**
with
Pastor Exman?

☎ (740) 505-0665

✉ thexmanatct@gmail.com



**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**

JUL 17 Sunday, April 5

**🕒 Immediately after the
9:00 and 10:30 service**

📍 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 is always a beautiful and meaningful season in the life of our church, and this year is no exception. Even though Easter will look a little different, it will still be filled with joy, celebration, and the reminder of the greatest story ever told.

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, April 5

Immediately after the 9:00 and 10:30 services, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a quick and fun Easter Egg Hunt. Because of my upcoming surgery and recovery, we are keeping things simple this year, but just as special.

Make sure to bring your child(ren) to Kids Own Worship, Preschool, or Nursery on Easter Sunday. They will hear the greatest story ever told, enjoy donuts, and take part in lots of fun activities. After you pick them up, head downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for the egg hunt. The event will last about 10–15 minutes —just enough time for laughter, excitement, and a little friendly competition. I hope to see all of you there as we celebrate together!

Candy Donations Needed

We are currently collecting bags of individually wrapped candy to help fill lots of Easter eggs. You may drop off donations in the box next to the welcome desk or in the church office. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. Your simple act of

giving helps create joyful memories for our children.

If you would like to lend a hand, we will be filling **Easter eggs on Wednesday, March 24 and March 31 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Pairs and Spares room. Many hands make light work, and it is always more fun when we serve together!

CT Scholarship Applications Available

Applications are now available for all active CT youth seniors who plan to further their education after graduation. If your student qualifies, please pick up a form in the church office or see me directly. **All applications are due by March 22, 2026.** It is such a privilege to support our students as they take their next steps into the future God has prepared for them.

Thank You for Making Noisy Coin a Success!

Because of your generosity, we were able to collect the incredible total of \$881.47 this year.

I am continually grateful for each of you and for the way you love and support our church family. Even in seasons that look a little different, God is still at work —and it is a blessing to serve alongside you.

Want to **Connect**
with
Lesa Exman?

(419) 605-6858

itslesaexman@gmail.com



Why Should I Make the 40 Days of Leading My Heart to God a priority for my family?

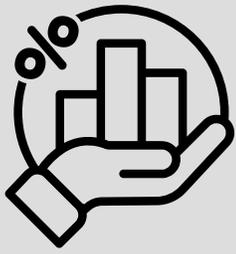
by Lesa Exman

It is important for children to understand the season of Lent because it helps them grow in their faith and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus. Lent teaches kids about sacrifice, prayer, and kindness in a way they can begin to apply in their own lives. As they learn why Christians take time to prepare their hearts before Easter, they begin to understand the depth of Jesus' love and the importance of gratitude and repentance. When children are taught the true meaning behind Lent, not just the traditions, they discover that faith is something to be lived out daily, not only celebrated during the Easter season.

Day 1  Say a morning prayer	Day 2  Help clean up without being asked	Day 3  Thank God for one thing today	Day 4  Say something kind to someone	Day 5  Pray for someone in your family	Day 6  Share a toy or game
Day 7  Sit quietly for one minute and listen	Day 8  Help set the table	Day 9  Forgive someone who upset you	Day 10  Draw something God made	Day 11  Say "Jesus, I love you"	Day 12  Smile at everyone you see
Day 13  Help put away toys	Day 14  Pray for a friend	Day 15  Choose kind words	Day 16  Read or hear a Bible story	Day 17  Give someone a hug	Day 18  Take a deep breath instead of getting mad
Day 19  Thank God for your family	Day 20  Help a sibling or friend	Day 21  Look at a picture of Jesus	Day 22  Say "I'm sorry" when you make a mistake	Day 23  Let someone else go first	
Day 24  Do a chore with a happy heart	Day 25  Talk about God with your family	Day 26  Be gentle with others	Day 27  Write or draw a kind note	Day 28  Pray before bedtime	Day 29  Thank God for your home
Day 30  Pause and think before you act	Day 31  Help someone today	Day 32  Choose patience	Day 33  Say "thank you" to someone who helps you	Day 34  Thank God for food	Day 35  Be a good listener
Day 36  Choose kindness when it's hard	Day 37  Draw something you are thankful for	Day 38  Thank God for friends	Day 39  Spend time outside	Day 40  Say: "I want to follow Jesus."	

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 January 2026.”

January 2026

Personnel: \$23,091 (Salaries & Benefits)

Administrative: \$1,867 (Office supplies)

Christian Education: \$298 (KWO, snacks, Bible study)

Property: \$5,803 (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance)

Worship: \$620 (Organ tuning, Organ substitute, choir member stipends)

Outreach: \$5,305 (Apportionments, Advertising)

Non-budgeted designated giving total \$708 (CT youth meals, Neighbors in Need gifts, poinsettias, kitchen)

January Attendance:
140

YTD Income:
\$42,166

YTD Expenses:
\$36,984

YTD Budget Target:
\$38,544



Baked Potato Luncheon

Please join us on **Sunday, March 22, 2026** after the traditional worship service for a baked potato luncheon in the fellowship hall. **This event will be a donations only fundraiser to help CT member & Ohio University nursing student Alivia Sims cover the necessary expenses for her summer mission trip to Estonia.**

Alivia's goal is to raise \$6,000 by April 2026 to participate in this mission trip. Potatoes, toppings, desserts, and drinks will be available for your meal that day. Donations of toppings and desserts would also be appreciated for this event.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or contact **Ann Sims with any questions. (740) 819-4773**

Big Fish

The **West Muskingum Vocal Boosters** will present **Big Fish** on **March 20–22, with performances Friday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.**

While this is not a church-sponsored event, many of our youth members are part of the cast and crew. We are proud of their hard work and dedication and encourage you to come out and support them as they share their talents on stage.

Tickets are available on <https://westmchoir.ludus.com/200518366>.



Ministry News

Winter Game Nights

Winter may still be with us, but the fun is just getting started! Begun last month and continuing through May, **join us on the third Friday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** for fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.

We'll meet at the church, 62 South 7th Street, for Dominoes and other games in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Bring a light snack to share, and enjoy an evening of laughter and community. For questions or to help, see **Jayne Dunlap** or **Patty Hockinberry**.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith meets Monday, March 2, 6 p.m., at the church. Jayne Dunlap presents the program "Mapping Our Meanders," based on Matthew 28:16–20. It is in the very nature of rivers to change. They flow, and so they cannot remain stagnant. This is what Jesus was referring to when he invited all to "living water." Living water is water that rushes, moves, and flows, carrying with it life and the new.

Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project

Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project helps people to help themselves. We help persons who have lost jobs, senior citizens, and low- and fixed-income families. In addition to seed potatoes and tomato plants, they collect and distribute beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon—just about anything that is hardy in zone 6.

During this month, **United Women in Faith** is collecting vegetable seeds to support the Gardening Project. Please place seed packages in the container in the Welcome Center.

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.

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

Day of Giving by UW Faith

On **March 23**, United Women in Faith celebrates a Day of Giving to raise funds for the Legacy Endowment Fund. The theme is "Grace in Abundance," based on 2 Corinthians 9:8. By our giving, we ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. More information is available at <https://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving/>.

Candy Donations Needed

We will be collecting bags of individually wrapped candy this month to help fill lots of Easter eggs. You can drop off candy in the box next to the welcome desk or the office.

Thank You in advance for your kind donations!

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.

March 29, 2026, Chancel Choir Cantata - Blessed by Joel Raney:

Please mark your calendars for the Chancel Choir performance of the cantata, *Blessed* by Joel Raney, **on Palm Sunday, March 29**, during the traditional worship service. This musical journey explores Holy Week through the lens of the Beatitudes. Through this experience, all are invited to see the Beatitudes with a new understanding: Christ is not only the One who blesses, but by becoming one of us, is Himself one of the blessed. The choir will be accompanied by musicians **Mark Haven** (violin), **Jeff Roquemore** (flute), **Dr. Hilary Hobbs** (oboe), **Jennifer Short** (cello), **Andy Ruetz** (trombone), and **Jan Gatton-Shirer** (piano). Please make plans to invite your family and friends to attend this very meaningful and memorable musical event.

Palm Sunday will begin a busy week for us all as we prepare and celebrate Easter, especially the choir. **Join the church to celebrate Holy Week**, as the choir will be singing anthems on both **Maundy Thursday** and **Easter Sunday** with the accompaniment of **Andy Ruetz** on Timpani and **Abby Cox** and **David Turrill** on Trumpets.

Gratitude

The Verla Moore Service Club wishes to thank everyone who supported our recent sub sandwich and bake sales. Your generosity was greatly appreciated and will allow our group to continue to share God's word and love within the church and our community. Thank you and God Bless.

Thank You for Making Noisy Coin a success!

Because of your generosity, we were able to collect an incredible total of \$881.47 this year. Thank you for supporting the kids and youth of CT. Your faithfulness and willingness to give are making a real and lasting difference.

Through your coins, God is moving and working in powerful ways in the lives of our younger generations. Your support allows us to minister to them, walk alongside them, and help them discover just how amazing a life with Jesus truly is. Thank you for being part of what God is doing and for investing in the hearts of our children and youth.

ET Worship

Come as Yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

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



Mar 7, 2026
2nd Sunday in Lent

Knowing Jesus

Matthew 7:21-23,
Matthew 7:28-29,
Matthew 8:18-22,
Matthew 16:13-20

Communion



Mar 8, 2026
3rd Sunday in Lent

Following Jesus

Matthew 4:18-22,
Matthew 9:9-13,
Matthew 16:24-28,
John 10:24-30

Mar 15, 2026
4th Sunday in Lent

Believing in Jesus

Matthew 11:25-30,
Matthew 14:22-33,
John 3:11-17

Mar 22, 2026
5th Sunday in Lent

Praying to Jesus

Matthew 26:36-46,
Romans 8:18-28

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.

Mar 29, 2026
Palm Sunday

Easter Cantata



Ushers

Jeff Ball
Dave Beitzel
Ron Stanton
Brad Sims




To watch the
service!

Music and Volunteers

Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



- March 1**
Chancel Choir
- March 8**
Chancel Choir
- March 15**
Carillon Bells
- March 22**
Chancel Choir



Volunteers

- March 1**
Patty Bradley
- March 8**
Amy Stanton
- March 15**
Katie Garrett
- March 22**
Holly Ruetz
- March 29**
-



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

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.



Support Our Youth One can at a Time

Our church's Youth Program 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.



Help Fill Easter Eggs

Wednesday, March 24 and 31
10 a.m. in the Pairs and Spares room

Easter Flowers

This year the **spring flowers are \$8.50** and **lilies are \$15**. Deadline for placing your order is:

Wednesday, March 11.

Please complete the form included with this Connect issue and return it to the church office with your payment.

You can find more forms on the Welcome Desk!



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!

Eric Fusner	03/01	Brian Garrett	03/15	Elloria Shaw	03/23
Cassidy Founds	03/02	Dee Huntsman	03/16	Addison Reisinger	03/23
Carol Murphy	03/03	Hudson Trout	03/16	Maxwell Higdon	03/24
Ava Fisher	03/04	Selina Brooks	03/17	David Allen	03/25
Bertha Doolittle	03/05	Opal Wheeler	03/18	Jeremy Wyatt	03/25
Sadie Wills	03/06	Rebecca Wiseman	03/19	Lily Stegmiller	03/25
Joanie Lewis	03/08	Paula Coveney	03/19	Willow James	03/27
Maxwell McIntyre	03/08	Sean Morgan	03/19	Jennifer Stegmiller	03/28
Taylor Slone	03/09	Mitch Tom	03/21	Kelcey Hinton	03/28
Anthony James	03/09	Walker Miller	03/22	Trace Wilson	03/28
Brad Sims	03/11	Deborah Brannon	03/23	Marissa Graham	03/28
Juanita Bishop	03/12			Lynn Shook	03/29
Ronald A Stanton	03/15			Beverly Bunker	03/31

80s and 90s+

Carol Snider

03/10 (84)

3180 Harper Dr.

43830-9745 Nashport, OH

Alma Dille

03/22 (95)

4267 Stratford Circle West

43701 Zanesville, OH

Jerry Wyatt

03/22 (85)

56 S Pembroke Ave

43701 Zanesville, OH

James McLaughlin

03/27 (80)

413 Moore Ave.

43701-1234 Zanesville, OH

Carmen Horn

03/28 (91)

826 Chestnut Circle Cottage2

45331 Greenville, OH

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)



Happy Anniversary to **Zachery & Amanda Goldsmith** as you celebrate 15 wonderful years on March 11, and to **Trent & Shelly Johnson** as you mark an incredible 50 years on March 23. May your marriages continue to be filled with love, joy, and God's richest blessings in the years ahead.

Belated happy **62nd wedding anniversary** to **Linda and Larry Good!** May God continue to bless you with many more years of love and joy.

March



Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 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 Eric Fusner	2 6:00 p.m. UWFaith Cassidy Founds	3 Carol Murphy	4 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Ava Fisher	5 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Bertha Doolittle	6 7:00 p.m. Civil choir Sadie Wills	3
8 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. No CT Youth Joanie Lewis Maxwell McIntyre	9 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting Taylor Slone Anthony James	10 Carol Snider	11 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Brad Sims	12 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Juanita Bishop	13	14 7:30 a.m. Men Breakfast 10:00 a.m. DAR
15 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 2:00 p.m. ZCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. CT Youth Ronald A Stanton Brian Garrett	16 Dee Huntsman Hudsyn Trout	17 6:00 p.m. Staff Parish 6:30 p.m. Verla Moore Service C. Selina Brooks	18 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Opal Wheeler	19 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rebecca Wiseman Paula Coveney Sean Morgan	20 6:30 p.m. Winter Game Night	21 Mitch Tom
22 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 Potato Luncheon 6:30 p.m. No CT Youth Alma Dilley Jerry Wyatt Walker Miller	23 Deborah Brannon Elloria Shaw Addison Reisinger	24 Maxwell Higdon	25 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies 6:00 p.m. Trustees David Allen Jeremy Wyatt Lily Stegmiller	26 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	27 James McLaughlin Willow James	28 9:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal Carmen Horn Jennifer Stegmiller Kelcey Hinton Trace Wilson Marissa Graham
29 Palm Sunday 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. Easter Cantata 6:30 p.m. CT Youth Lyn Shook	30	31 Beverly Bunker				

CENTRAL TRINITY
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