



# Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

## A Mother's Day Reflection

*"Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncroft  
With the least shade of thought to sin allied;  
Woman! above all women glorified,  
Our tainted nature's solitary boast..."*

— from The Virgin by William Wordsworth

This May, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we remember Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. In humble obedience she said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." She carried the Savior, nurtured Him, pondered His words in her heart, and stood faithfully at the foot of the cross.

Mary shows every mother (and every believer) what it means to trust God completely, to love sacrificially, and to point others to Jesus. Whether your journey of motherhood has been filled with joy, challenges, or quiet strength, you reflect something of Mary's faithful heart when you care for your family and walk with Christ.

To all the moms of Central Trinity UMC—biological, adoptive, spiritual, and those who mother in countless beautiful ways—thank you for your love, your prayers, and your witness. May the God who chose Mary bless you richly this Mother's Day and always.

*CT Staff*

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# The Questions

by Pastor Jon Exman

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“Life is all about questions... the ones that keep us up at night and shape how we live each day.”

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Life is all about questions. From a very young age, we learn that asking questions is important. From the moment we wake up until we lay our heads down at night, we wrestle with the big ones—the ones that keep us up at night and shape how we live each day. Over the years, I have heard and been asked many. Some are universal questions everyone asks. Others are the honest doubts that arise when we seek to place our faith in God.

We know God is bigger than us, and His thoughts are different than ours. Isaiah 55:8–9 says this, *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* This gives us some understanding, but we still have questions. Here are a few of the most common life questions and also the most frequent faith-related questions. **“Where did I come from?”** It is hard for many to understand that we were intentionally designed by a personal God who knows us by name.

The second is **“Who am I?”** In a world of shifting identities and social media comparisons, this question haunts many. Yet the Bible tells us in Psalm 139:14 we are fearfully and wonderfully made, not defined by our failures, successes, or what others say, but by our Creator.

The last one is **“Why am I here?”** A feeling of purpose eludes so many. We chase success, money, or approval, only to feel empty. God’s Word offers clarity and hope. Jeremiah 29:11 tells what that hope looks like: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Those were just a few of the life questions. You can see why they make so many stay up at night. Next month, we will talk about the faith questions. Before we go... remember this: Jesus is the Answer to every question. Jesus doesn’t just give answers; He is the Answer. No matter the question, if we give it to God, He will answer us. May God bless us this month as we ask the questions.

Want to **Connect**  
with  
**Pastor Exman?**

☎ (740) 505-0665  
✉ [thexmanatct@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**A**s we step into the beautiful month of May, our church family has so much to look forward to—moments that remind us of God’s faithfulness, the joy of watching our young people grow, and the power of coming together in love and support.

## Youth Sunday – May 10

Mark your calendars for a truly special day! **On Sunday, May 10**, at both the **9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** services, we’ll celebrate **Youth Sunday** alongside **Mother’s Day**.

This is a service you won’t want to miss. Our youth will lead us in powerful ways—through heartfelt prayer, anointed preaching, and uplifting music—as we reflect on what God has done and continues to do in each of their lives.

## Graduation Sunday – May 17

The following week, on Sunday, May 17, we’ll gather at the 10:30 a.m. service for Graduation Sunday. Let’s come together to celebrate and pray over our graduates as they step into new chapters:

- Ayla Davis
- Lucas Stant
- Jase Agin
- John Herrera

These young people have worked hard, grown in character, and represented our church so well. Graduation Sunday is a wonderful time to cheer them on, speak blessings over their futures, and remind them that God’s plans for them are good.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you for helping make our Easter Egg Hunt such a meaningful and joyful day! Even though the event looked a little different this year, our kids had a wonderful time celebrating Jesus’ resurrection and then hunting for eggs filled with yummy candy and prizes.

We’re also grateful for the way our church family supported our youth as they participated in the **Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids’ Sake**. It was a blessing to see our teens representing us with such love and enthusiasm. Their care for others and their faith in God shines through everything they do. Bowling might not be our strongest gift as a group, but we had a lot of fun trying—and we’re already looking forward to next year! CT is truly blessed to have such an amazing group of young people.

## Camp Wesley – Summer Opportunity

**Camp Wesley** is a wonderful place where children and youth can grow in faith, build friendships, and enjoy God’s creation. If you’re considering camp for your child, this is a great opportunity. Reach out anytime for details about dates, registration, and what to expect!

These events remind us how special it is to raise our children and youth in a community that prays together, serves together, and celebrates every milestone. Whether you’re a parent, grandparent, mentor, or someone who simply shows up with encouragement, your role in their lives matters more than you know. Let’s keep lifting up our families, our youth, and one another in prayer as we head into these meaningful Sundays in May. See you at church!

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

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✉ [itslesaexman@gmail.com](mailto:itslesaexman@gmail.com)



Family Life Ministry has been busy creating moments full of joy, laughter, and connection!

This season, we're excited to share a special collage featuring highlights from our Easter Egg Hunt and the BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake.

From little ones racing across the Fellowship Hall in search of colorful eggs to our Youth coming together for a great cause at the bowling lanes, these events were filled with smiles and meaningful fellowship.

Take a moment to enjoy the collage and celebrate the joy of doing life together!



*BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake*



*Easter Egg Hunt 2026*

# GRADUATION *Sunday* 2026



*Ayla Davis*



*Lucas Stant*



*Jase Agin*



*John Herrera*

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**MAY 17**

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At Traditional Service Hour

# Ministry News

## Winter Game Nights

Spring is here—get ready for fun! Join us Friday, May 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a relaxed evening of games and fellowship.

We'll gather at CT for dominoes and more. Bring a light snack to share and enjoy some laughs together. Questions or want to help? **See Jayne Dunlap or Patty Hockinberry.**

## United Women in Faith

**United Women in Faith** meets Monday, May 4, 6 p.m., at the church. The program is "Dreams of More," based on 1 Kings 3:4–15. If we are to live out our dreams, we also need some of the discerning wisdom Solomon asked for in his dream. Like Solomon, we must start acting and moving forward to make our dreams a reality, hoping and praying that wisdom will accompany us in our efforts.

## Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets Thursdays, 5 p.m., in the parlor. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

## Choir Potluck

All choirs (Chancel, Handbell, Wesleyan, and Children's) will have a potluck in the Fellowship Hall on Music Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 a.m., following the second service. Families of all choirs members are invited to attend.

## Gratitude

Thank you for the 62 seed packages we collected for Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project.

*UW Faith*

Thank you Central Trinity friends for your thoughtful calls, card, messages, and visits.

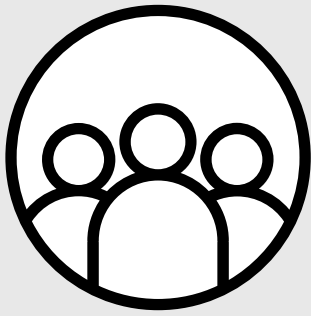
As I celebrate my 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, you remain a constant reminder of God's presence in our lives.

Blessings,

*Robert Reed and Family*

Many Thanks to CT for your kind gestures honoring my 80th Birthday.

*Jim McLaughlin*



### Lead Pastor

Jon Exman

### Children's Ministries

Lesia 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

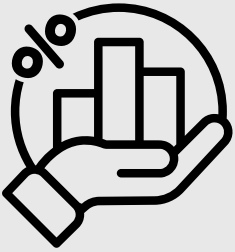
Rick Mohler

### Secretary

Monica Bevan

# 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 March 2026.”

## March 2026

**Personnel: \$22,473** (Salaries & Benefits)

**Administrative: \$845** (Office supplies)

**Christian Education: \$309** (Easter events, preschool supplies)

**Property: \$7,083** (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance)

**Worship: \$1181** (Piano tunings, choir member stipends, Ignite music license, camera cards)

**Outreach: \$5,304** (Apportionments, Advertising, District meeting)

**Non-budgeted designated giving total \$1,252** (Easter cantata, Neighbors in Need, Easter books)

**March Attendance:**  
138

**YTD Income:**  
\$109,357

**YTD Expenses:**  
\$111,633

**YTD Budget Target:**  
\$115,631

## May Music Opportunities

by Jim McLaughlin

**The McLaughlin Music Studio Student Recital** is held at Central Trinity Sunday, **May 10, 2:00 p.m.** This music program is free and open to the public. Students will be performing music solos for voice, piano, and organ. There will be refreshments following the recital.

**The Thursday Music Club** is offering a music concert for the community at **Central Trinity Tuesday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m.** The Civic Chorus Chamber Singers directed by Ann Lillie Briggs will perform a concert of choral music. The concert is free and open to the public.

**The CT Music Ministry's Annual Music Sunday is May 17** during morning worship. **The Children's, Wesleyan, Chancel Choirs, and Carillon Bells** will present a **“Sermon in Song.”** The congregation will also be featured in the service. This will be a wonderful celebration of the music blessings we receive throughout the year in worship. Plan to attend and bring a friend to join our celebration and time of thanking our volunteers for their dedication to our worship services. High school graduating seniors will also be recognized during the service.

**Sunday evening, May 31, 7:00 p.m.** at **Zane's Landing Park** the **Zanesville Memorial Concert Band** performs their opening summer music concert. The High School Honors Band will also perform at the concert. Both bands will perform together at the close of the concert. **This is free and open to the public.**

# ET Worship

Come as Yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

May 03, 2026

## Ask me Anything

John 14:1-14,  
John 16:23-24,  
1 John 5:13-15



May 10, 2026

## Youth Sunday

Mother's Day



May 17, 2026

## Music Sunday

graduation Sunday

### 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.**

May 24, 2026

## Do you Love Me?

John 21:15-19,  
Matthew 22:34-40,  
1 Cor. 13:13

May 31, 2026

## The Test

2 Corinthians 13:5-14,  
James 1:2-12



To watch the service!

### Ushers

Dennis Dunlap  
Dan Hartman  
Eric Fusner  
Jayne Dunlap

# Music and Volunteers

## Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



**May 3**  
Chancel Choir

**May 10**  
Special Music

**May 17**  
All Choirs

**May 24**  
Evelyn Ruetz

**May 31**  
Kaitlynn Kemp

## Volunteers

**May 3**  
Patty Bradley

**May 10**  
Amy Stanton

**May 17**  
Katie Garrett

**May 24**  
Lesia Exman

**May 31**  
Holly Ruetz



## Kids Own Worship

**May 3**  
Lesia Exman

**May 10**  
Amanda Smith

**May 17**  
Lesia Exman

**May 24**  
Lori Wyatt

**May 31**  
Lesia Exman



## 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.**

**JOIN NOW** ➔

## Summer Special Music



Our summer special music will begin on May 24. Several open Sundays remain in the months of June, July, and August. CT would love for you to share your talent with us during one of our summer services. Solos, duets, and special groups are welcome to perform vocal or instrumental pieces. **Please reach out to Ann Sims if you are interested, (740) 819-4773.**



# 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!

<b>Dan Hilty</b>	05/01	<b>Austin Mahan</b>	05/08	<b>David Coen</b>	05/18
<b>Connor Shields</b>	05/01	<b>Jerry Roberts</b>	05/09	<b>Sara Cable</b>	05/19
<b>Kyle Reilly</b>	05/02	<b>Jaxon Exman</b>	05/09	<b>Madison Durfee</b>	05/19
<b>Connie Hilty</b>	05/03	<b>Sharon Wheeler</b>	05/10	<b>Keith Young</b>	05/20
<b>Janet James</b>	05/03	<b>Daniel Hartman</b>	05/10	<b>Thomas Fenton</b>	05/20
<b>Amanda Williams</b>	05/04	<b>Addison Davis</b>	05/10	<b>Fletcher Rollins</b>	05/22
<b>Adam James</b>	05/04	<b>Robert Swanson</b>	05/13	<b>Sandra Winn</b>	05/23
<b>Leslie Miller</b>	05/05	<b>Ernest Brugh</b>	05/13	<b>Matthew Ring</b>	05/23
<b>Kalie Barnes</b>	05/05	<b>Kelly Shook</b>	05/13	<b>Janice McCloud</b>	05/26
<b>Owen Garrett</b>	05/07	<b>Jeff Ball</b>	05/14	<b>Anna Drogalis</b>	05/29
<b>Amelia Garrett</b>	05/07	<b>Sean Reilly</b>	05/14	<b>Alicia Graham</b>	05/29
<b>Thomas Huth</b>	05/08	<b>Angela Jarosik</b>	05/14	<b>Gary Overdorff</b>	05/30
<b>Kyle Huth</b>	05/08	<b>Lisa Cooper</b>	05/15	<b>Keyton Young</b>	05/30

## 80s and 90s+

**Nancy Miller**  
05/01 (88)  
2850 Frick Dr.  
Zanesville, OH. 43701-9406

**Frank Vetula**  
05/06 (80)  
1185 Walter Dr.  
Zanesville, OH. 43701-9426

**Sharon Bell**  
05/23 (82)  
5450 Center Rd.  
Philo, OH. 43771

**Evelyn Moody**  
05/24 (91)  
11775 Spring Rd.  
Zanesville, OH. 43701

**Roger Fitz**  
05/27 (90)  
2975 Eagle Crest Dr.  
Zanesville, OH. 43701

**Juanita Exman**  
05/30 (83)  
11311 Kinghorn Cir. E  
Grove City, OH. 43123

**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.

Elise & Dakota Burtnett	<b>05/05</b>	Gary & Tami Skelton	<b>05/15</b>
Kelly & David Shook	<b>05/08</b>	Timothy & Cathy Duff	<b>05/19</b>
Richard & Cheryl Polan	<b>05/10</b>	Darren & Sherry Founds	<b>05/21</b>

Bridgette & Michael DeCastro	<b>05/26</b>
Logan & Bailey Binkley	<b>05/27</b>
Charles & Janice McCloud	<b>05/29</b>

# May

Note:  
80s & 90s+ in bold letters



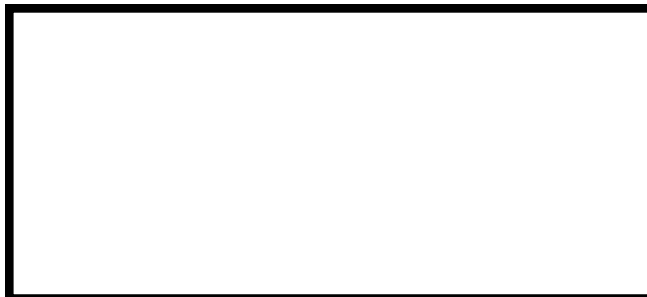
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies <b>Nancy Miller</b>	2 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service	4 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. UWFaith	5 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	6 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies <b>Frank Vetula</b>	7 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	8	9 7:30 a.m. Men Breakfast 10:00 a.m. DAR/SAR
10 Youth 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. Traditional Service	11	12 6:30 p.m. Staff Parish 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	13 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	14 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 6:30 p.m. Winter Game Night ConnecT due Date	16
17 Music 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. Traditional Service 11:45 a.m. Choir Potluck 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	18	19 6:30 p.m. Verla Moore SC 7:00 p.m. Civil Choir	20 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	21 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	22	23 <b>Sharon Bell</b>
24 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 <b>Evelyn Moody</b>	25	26	27 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies <b>Roget Fitz</b>	28 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	29	30 <b>Juanita Exman</b>
31 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						

CENTRAL TRINITY  
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