

Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

The Affirmations of Faith III

by Pastor Jon Exman

The Nicene Creed is more than an ancient document—it is a living affirmation of Christian faith that connects us to the earliest church and believers around the world.



The Affirmation of Faith we will look at this month is **The Nicene Creed**. In our Sunday morning worship, we often stand together and proclaim words that have echoed across centuries and continents. The Nicene Creed is one of the most profound of these ancient Affirmations. Truly though, it is far more than an ancient document; **it is a living affirmation of the Christian faith that connects us to the earliest church, to believers around the world, and to one another as Methodists.**

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In the early fourth century, the church faced a serious challenge. An Alexandrian Priest named Arius taught that **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a created being**—exalted above all other creatures, yet not fully and eternally God. This teaching threatened the heart of the gospel: **that in Christ, God Himself has come among us for our salvation.**

In **325 AD, Emperor Constantine convened the first ecumenical council at Nicaea** (in present-day Turkey) to resolve this theological dispute. Hundreds of bishops gathered to address this controversy and other matters of church life. The council produced a creed that clearly affirmed **the full divinity of the Son**: He is “begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father”. They used the Greek term *homousios*, meaning **“of the same substance or essence as the Father,”** so that there would be no doubt of its meaning.

The form of the creed most familiar to us today was refined and expanded at the **Council of Constantinople in 381**. It remains **the only truly ecumenical creed**, accepted across Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and major Protestant traditions.

Our Methodist founder, **John Wesley, held the substance of the Nicene faith without question.** Yet, interestingly enough, when he prepared resources for American Methodists, he omitted the Nicene Creed from the Sunday service. His emphasis was **on a living, experienced faith rather than formal creedal subscription.**

Since then, the church has realized the significance of living out your faith and sharing it with others. Standing on a Sunday morning and sharing in a reading together connects us to both our history and each other. **This shared**

experience is why these affirmations of faith are so important, and it is also why the Nicene Creed has found a valued place among Methodists.

You will find **The Nicene Creed in The United Methodist Hymnal, number 880.** I invite you to take time this month to read the Nicene Creed with me. **Consider how each line of this living affirmation shapes the way we pray, serve, and hope.** May God bless us this month as we learn and grow together.

Want to **Connect** with
Pastor Exman?

☎ (740) 505-0665

✉ thexmanatct@gmail.com



Holy Smokes...
a Chili Cook off!

Need Help With Our CT App?

Join us for **Holy Smokes: A Chili Cook-Off!**

Come enjoy great chili, good food, and plenty of fun while supporting our church community!



OCT 18

SEPTEMBER

NEW SEASON. NEW OPPORTUNITIES. GROWING TOGETHER.

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



As a new school year begins, we are reminded that every new season brings new opportunities, new friendships, and new ways to grow in our faith. We are excited to welcome our youth back and look forward to all that God has in store for this year!



Our youth program is beginning the year with new and exciting opportunities for our students. As a ministry, it is important that we reach teens where they are and provide an environment where they can learn, grow, connect, and build meaningful relationships.



We recognize that different age groups learn in different ways. Some students do best with shorter lessons and more games, while others enjoy deeper Bible studies and meaningful discussions with a few activities. With this in mind, we are excited to begin separating our Jr. High and Sr. High youth groups, while still creating opportunities for everyone to fellowship together.



While the groups will meet separately for their lessons and activities, we will bring everyone together a few times throughout the year for special events. This will give our students opportunities to spend time with all of their friends from both groups.



We are excited about this new season and all the possibilities ahead! Most importantly, we pray that our youth will continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and discover the plans God has for their lives.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

JR. HIGH



6:00-7:30 p.m.

DINNER TOGETHER



7:00-7:30 p.m.
JR. & SR. HIGH DINNER

SR. HIGH



7:00-8:30 p.m.

Want to **Connect** with
Lesa Exman?

(419) 605-6858
itslesaexman@gmail.com

Let's FEED OUR YOUTH Sunday Nights

Our youth have busy weeks filled with school, sports, activities, and homework. Sunday night dinner gives them a chance to relax, connect with friends, and grow in faith together. **You can make a difference!**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



DONATE MONEY OR GIFT CARDS

Gift cards to restaurants or grocery stores help us provide a variety of meals our students enjoy.



ORDER A MEAL

Order from any pizza place! Pick up a meal from a restaurant or drop off food—every bit helps and is so appreciated!



COOK A MEAL

Make a meal for our youth! Your homemade food and time are a huge blessing.

YOUTH FAVORITE FOODS

Tacos

Pizza

Subs

Fruit

Chicken

Spaghetti

KFC

Any pizza place:

- Little Caesars
- Domino's
- Papa John's and more!



MEAL NEEDS TO
ARRIVE BY

6:45 P.M.



15-20
students

Thank you for showing our youth love in such a practical way!

Sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk or contact Lesa Exman!

LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

Last month, the lives of our neighbors were forever changed by catastrophic flooding. In an instant, the life they knew and loved was turned upside down. They lost homes, cherished memories, and so much more.

Our neighbors need our help—not only today, but in the weeks and months ahead. As followers of Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility to come alongside those who are hurting, offering hope, compassion, and practical expressions of God's love, serving others with compassion in whatever way is needed.

Matthew 22:37-39 reminds us of the greatest commandments:

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

How Can We Help?

Throughout the month of September, our youth will be collecting monetary donations after each service. These donations will help purchase Lowe's gift cards, which can be used toward much-needed building materials.

We will also be collecting gift cards from:



Gas stations



Restaurants

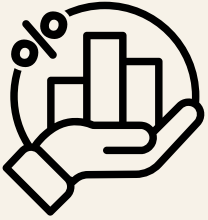
Every gift, every donation, every prayer, and every act of kindness can make a difference! CT has been called to serve, and what a privilege is to answer that call!

When we serve others, we become the hands and feet of Jesus!

Year-to-Date Financial Report

by Holly Ruetz

July 2026



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

Here is what your gifts supported in July 2026."

Holly Ruetz

Personnel \$23,637 Salaries & Benefits.

Admin \$696 Office Supplies.

Christian Education \$1,758 Dresden Pool Party, toys, Volunteer stipends.

Property \$6,182 Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance.

Worship \$3,083 Glow Night, Multitracks renewal.

Outreach \$5,666 Apportionments, Advertising, Coffee Bar, Upper Room.

Non budgeted designated giving total \$446
Y-City Barbershop donation, camper meals.

July Attendance:
140

YTD Income:
\$258,572

YTD Expenses:
\$275,322

YTD Budget Target:
\$269,805

board game nights

We're bringing it back!

join us for an evening of fun, games, fellowship, and good company! whether you love strategy games, classic favorites, or just want to enjoy a fun night with friends, there's a place for you at the table.

third friday of each month

 **september – december**

 **6:30 p.m.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO UPDATE

Let's update our church directory!

We want to make sure everyone is included and that our directory has the most current information.



Every Sunday in September



Available Before & After Each Service

*Stop by and have your picture taken or updated
—no appointment needed!*

We'll also be updating contact information, so please let us know if your email address or other information has changed.

We hope to see everyone!



Ministry News

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith at Central Trinity meets Monday, September 14 (a week later because of Labor Day), 6 p.m. at the church. The program is “Re-Orienting Ourselves” based on Romans 12:1–3. As the school year begins, we focus on opening ourselves to new perspectives and ways of looking at things. Are there times you have changed your perspective on something surprising or important? How can this inform how you approach the future and be willing to change perspectives again?

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry resumes meeting Thursday, September 10, 5–7 p.m. in the parlor. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

United Women in Faith sponsors the Fellowship Meal, Sunday, September 20, after the second service. Meat and drinks are provided. Please bring something to share.

Join us after the Fellowship Meal for a crafting project for the group **My Very Own Blanket**. This group provides the lasting gift of a handmade blanket to children who enter foster care or are in need.

The fleece for the blankets will be prepared so participants need only to tie a knot in the fringe and fill out the attached label. Markers will be provided. It should take about 15 minutes to complete a blanket. The finished blankets will be given to Muskingum County Child Protective Services for distribution.

My Very Own Blanket gave 28,997 blankets for children and teens in foster care in 2025. The goal for 2026 is 40,000 blankets. Thank you, Central Trinity, for help toward reaching that goal. “When we all do a little, together we accomplish a lot.” Jessica Rudolph, founder of My Very Own Blanket.

Verla Moore Service Club

After two years of serving as president, **Kate Cunningham** has passed the leadership of the **Verla Moore Service Club** to **Amy Stanton**. We are grateful for Kate’s dedication and leadership and look forward to all that the club will continue to accomplish under Amy’s leadership.

For more than 50 years, the **Verla Moore Service Club** has continued its mission of serving God, the church, and the community through outreach, fundraising, and support of local organizations.

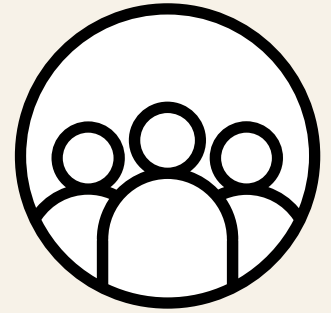
The Club welcomes anyone interested in joining or learning more. Meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.**, usually at the church. Come be part of a ministry that continues to put faith into action through service to God, the church, and our community!

Gratitude



We are grateful to **Roger and Juanita Lutz** for their generous gift of a new flagpole, which now proudly displays the American flag outside our church. This month, Roger continued that spirit of service by helping a group of Scouts dedicate and raise the Catholic flag.

We are thankful for the Lutz family and for all those who give their time, talents, and generosity to help make our church a welcoming place for our community!



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



Thank you my dear friends for all your cards, calls, food, and prayers. May God bless you! I know how much He loves you and I know how much I love you too!

Marcie Hunter

Connect would not be the same without 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

CT Worship

Come as Yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

September 6, 2026

The Chosen

Psalm 149
Colossians 3:12-17
Romans 8:31-39



September 13, 2026

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Exodus 20:1-6
Daniel 3:19-30



September 20, 2026

Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-5
Joshua 6:15-21

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.

September 27, 2026

Let my People Go

Exodus 11:1-10

Ushers

Dave Artman
Paul Baker
Clarence Holbein
Willard Wheeler



To watch the
service!

Music and Volunteers

Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



September 6
Connor Shields,
Katlyn & Michael Border

September 13
Chancel Choir

September 20
Chancel Choir

September 27
Carillon Bells

Preschool 9:00 a.m.

September 6
Patty Bradley

September 13
Katie Garret

September 20
Amy Stanton

September 27
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
6:00 p.m. JH CT Youth
7:00 p.m. Sr. H CT Youth



11:00 a.m. Bible Study



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 ➔



Preschool 10:30 a.m.

September 6
Lexi Sims & Amanda Smith

September 13
Lexi Sims & Lilly Bradshaw

September 20
Lexi Sims & Lilly Bradshaw

September 27
Amanda Smith & Lilly Bradshaw

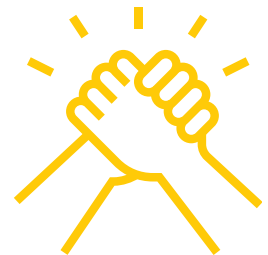
Kids Own Worship

September 6
Lesia Exman

September 13
Lori Wyatt

September 20
Amanda Smith

September 27
Lesia Exman



Central Trinity UMC



@centraltrinityumc



@centraltrinityumczanesvill719

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!

Sandra Robe	09/01	Brittany Heigley	09/14	Ann Sims	09/25
Wanda Founds	09/02	Mollie Founds	09/14	Jennifer Durfee	09/25
Jamie Smith	09/02	Ellen Libby	09/15	Kevin Cunningham	09/26
Lori Wyatt	09/03	Abigail Blevins	09/15	Rick Mohler	09/26
Mark Bishop	09/04	Gloria Kieffer	09/16	Jolene Braniger	09/26
Jack Fisher	09/04	Jerry Siddle	09/16	Tyler Cassady	09/27
Ryan Ring	09/05	Christopher Shields	09/16	Taylor Cassady	09/27
Patty Hockingberry	09/06	Bill Shaw	09/17	Sammy Exman	09/27
Carrie Stant	09/06	Alan Hurst	09/18	Lyla Fisher	09/27
Ethan Miller	09/08	Darren Founds	09/18	Angela Rucker	09/28
Wyatt Trout	09/08	Lisa Allen	09/18	Samantha Wilson	09/28
Lane Bell	09/12	Josephine Clutter	09/19	Jayne Dunlap	09/29
Sophia DeCastro	09/12	James Huth	09/20	Mackenzie Higgins	09/30
Karson Jones	09/12	Kylee Coronado	09/21	Jack McKendry	09/30
Christina Higgins	09/13	Ron Stanton	09/24	Shala Graham	09/30
Brianne Spencer	09/14	Katlyn Border	09/24	Brynlee Adkins	09/30
		James Heidler	09/25		

80s and 90s+

Sandra Robe
09/01 (86)
910 Pershing Rd.
Zanesville, OH 43701-5347

Wanda Founds
09/02 (86)
12015 Founds Rd.
Chandlersville, OH 43727-9774

Robert Potts
09/29 (85)
1680 Longshore Lane
Zanesville, OH 43701-9262

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.

Julie & Joe Higdon	09/06	23	Robert & Anne-Marie England	09/18	62
Kyle & Jodi Wilson	09/10	32	Jason & Danielle Lanning	09/18	22
Amanda & Robert Smith	09/10	10	George & Barbara Roberts	09/24	49
Carl & Carol Snider	09/14	63	John & Linda Thomas	09/27	11
Alex & Alisha Wyatt	09/15	8	Jack & Gwen Downing	09/28	12

Joe & Jan Lanning 09/29 **25**

September

Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Sandra Robe	Wanda Founds			
6 Holy Communion 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. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:00 p.m. JH CT Youth 7:00 p.m. Sr. H CT Youth	7 Labor Day	6:00 p.m. Staff Parish	11:00 a.m. Bible Study	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	Connect due Date	7:30 a.m. Men Breakfast
13 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. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:00 p.m. JH CT Youth 7:00 p.m. Sr. H CT Youth	14 6:00 p.m. UW/Faith	6:30 p.m. Verla Moore SC	11:00 a.m. Bible Study	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir		Baby Shower in Fellowship Hall
20 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. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service Fellowship Meal 6:00 p.m. JH CT Youth 7:00 p.m. Sr. H CT Youth	21		11:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Stewardship & Finance 7:00 p.m. Administrative Council	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir		
27 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. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:00 p.m. JH CT Youth 7:00 p.m. Sr. H CT Youth	28 Robert Potts		11:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Trustees			

CENTRAL TRINITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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ZANESVILLE OH 43701-4399

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