



Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC



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“Commitment”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Psalm 37:5 (KJV)



Last month, we talked about what it means to hold fast in our faith. So when we hold fast, what is the next step? I think, by really getting into Scripture, it is the idea of commitment. Let's look at it this way. November is always a special month because it often holds many wonderful events in the church calendar. The first Sunday in November is *All Saints Sunday*. The next is *Veterans Sunday*. We also have the *Handbell Festival* on the fourth Sunday. Then we have our *special Thanksgiving service* on Tuesday, November 25, with our neighbors across the street at Union Baptist. Then we finish the month with the beginning of the *Advent Season*. Wow! That is a lot of commitments!

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So what do having all these commitments teach us about commitment? The idea of commitment is woven throughout Scripture, but interestingly enough, it gets tied to three words in particular: covenant, faithfulness, and devotion. Psalm 37:5 gives us a good idea on commitment. The King James reads this way: “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” This shows us the emphasis on putting our trust in God and committing our ways—our lives—to Him. Another good way of looking at it is putting our whole trust in God. In other words, being committed to God is having faith in Him. One thing we have to remember is this: our faith—our commitment to God—shouldn’t be passive; it is active.

It is with this idea of commitment that we focus on the coming Advent Season. Just like last year, we are beginning the Advent Season with “The Table at The Stable.” Having the stable front and center as we begin Advent leads to many special moments. The kids of our church will come forward and portray the different parts of the Christmas Story. After we have done that, we will get to come forward to the very special communion table that is at the stable. And just like the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus, we bring the gift of ourselves by giving our commitment card to Him.

Commitment cards aren’t as elaborate as they used to be. You don’t even have to sign your name, because it’s a commitment that is between you and Jesus. It is a commitment that you are giving your prayers, your time, and your talents or gifts. Do you see why commitment is so important?

As always, I want you to know how much I, and the rest of your church family, appreciate and love each of you. So, as we begin November and get ready for Advent, let’s be committed!



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

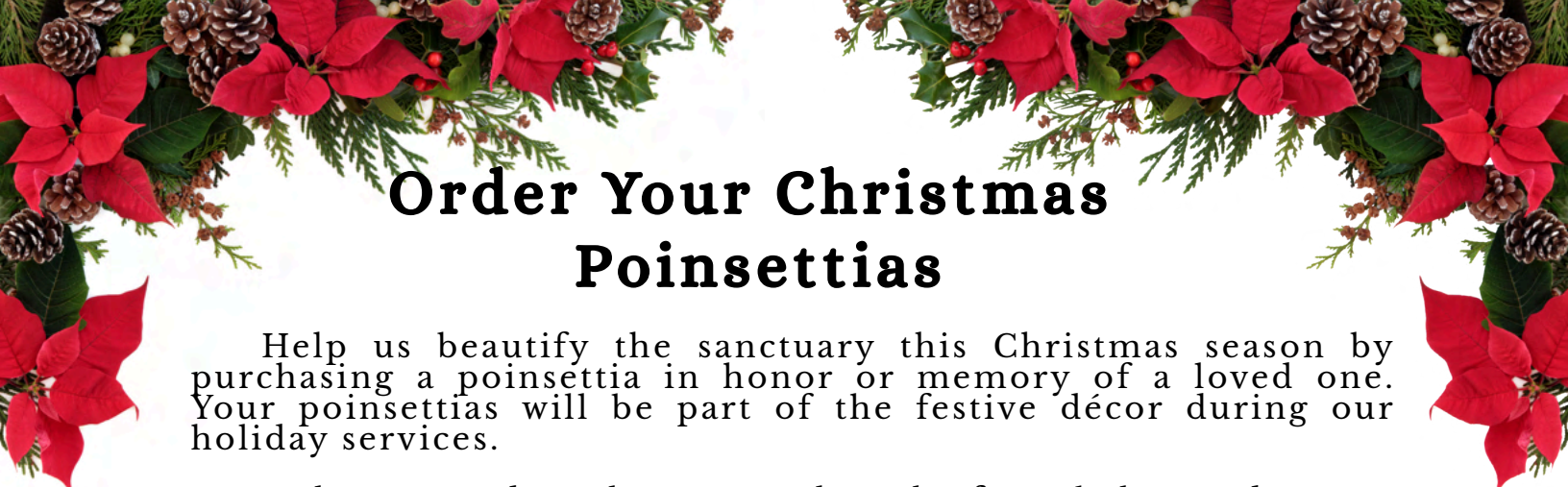
Secretary

Monica Bevan

Want to Connect
with
Pastor Exman?

(740) 505-0665
theexman433@gmail.com





Order Your Christmas Poinsettias

Help us beautify the sanctuary this Christmas season by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Your poinsettias will be part of the festive décor during our holiday services.

To place an order, please complete the form below and return it to the church office along with your payment.

Additional forms are available at the Welcome Center.



Red, Pink, White, or Red Glitter Poinsettia

Pot size available

6 ½ "(1 plant per pot)= \$9.50

8"(3 plant per pot)= \$20

*All Poinsettia color and sizes are on a first come, first served Basis.

*Some varieties sell out quickly-order early to secure specialty colors.

All order must be received by Monday, November 24th

Dear CT member and friends,

I just had to take a moment in this month's Connect to say a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you who are always pitching in and making amazing things happen. As your secretary, I couldn't pull off the newsletter without your help —whether it's folding, sending me stories, snapping photos, or just giving me that encouraging feedback. You make it all come together so beautifully, and I'm so grateful. And it's not just the office stuff; you go above and beyond —it's incredible how you all show up. My family has found such a warm, supportive home in this church, and it's truly a blessing every single day. Thank you for being you and for all you do. You make our community shine! With love and appreciation,

Monica
Your Secretary

PS: Don't forget to fill out your Commitment Card and your Poinsettias Order! 😊

Family Life

October was a wonderful month of community connection for our Central Trinity Youth! We are grateful for the opportunities we had to grow closer through fun events, shared meals, and seasonal celebrations—even when the weather didn't cooperate.

We kicked things off with the Baked Potato Fundraiser on Sunday, October 12. The Fellowship Hall was filled with the delicious aroma of baked potatoes and all the tasty toppings our volunteers provided. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this event! Your generous donations raised a total of \$800, which will help fund future Youth Ministry activities.

Our Youth, who baked, prepped, served, and cleaned up, definitely helped make this event a warm and delicious success! Thank you for such an amazing job, guys!



Although we were looking forward to our visit to McDonald's Greenhouse and Corn Maze on October 19, unfortunately, the weather had other plans. Due to the heavy rain in Zanesville, we had to suspend the pumpkin patch trip for everyone's safety and comfort. Although we were disappointed, we remain hopeful for a future outing!

We ended the month with our Trunk or Treat, where the church parking lot came alive with creatively decorated trunks and children collecting candy. Thank you to all who donated treats, decorated trunks, and helped us welcome neighborhood families with warmth and joy. It was a powerful reminder that hospitality and outreach can be just as sweet as the candy shared!

As we move into this season of gratitude and giving, we are thankful for each of you and for the many ways we continue to grow in faith—together.



Ministry News

Advent Bible Study

Join others around the conference and beyond for a virtual Advent Bible Study Sundays November 30 through December 21 from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. The study is *A Child is Born* by Amy-Jill Levine. The study explores the ancient and often turbulent stories of nativity stories. We are invited to eavesdrop on the conversations between Old Testament narratives and their Gospel echoes, revealing raw, human stories of longing, rivalry, and divine interventions. The book available for purchase at Cokesbury, Amazon, and Thriftbooks.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith at Central Trinity meets **Monday, November 6, 6 p.m.**, at the church. Carmen Baker presents the program “World Thank Offering — Giving as an Expression of Our Faith.” This month we practice our gratitude in the spirit of hope. Living in a spirit of scarcity can prevent us from leaning into our community. It can be isolating, and the burden become great. However, like the widow in Mark 12:41-44, the practice of giving from a spirit of abundance is a practice of faith, and a choice to hope.

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, at 5 p.m. at the church. No meeting November 27. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

Mitten Tree

Mitten tree will be ready Sunday, November 2, to receive hats, scarves, and mittens or gloves. After Wednesday, December 3, the items are collected and given to the Putnam Place store and Eastside Community Ministry.

Verla Moore Service Club

The Verla Moore Service Club will meet on Tuesday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. at church. All current members —and anyone interested in learning more about this meaningful, mission-focused ministry —are warmly invited to attend.

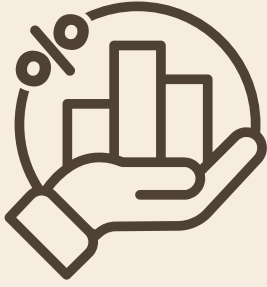
Join us for an evening of fellowship and service as we continue the important work of making a positive impact in our community.

Cookie Walk

Start thinking about baking your favorite cookies for the Cookie Walk, Saturday, December 13, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More information to come next month.

Year-to-Date Financial Report

September 2025



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

Here is a breakdown of what your gifts supported in September 2025.”

-Holly Ruetz

Total Giving to Designated Projects \$19,202

Total Expenses Designated Projects \$12,195

Personnel: \$22,854 (*Salaries & Benefits*)

Administrative: \$1,031 (*Office supplies*)

Property: \$10,375 (*Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, Pest Control, Boiler Maintenance*)

Outreach: \$4,982 (*Apportionments sent to Conference, Hospitality supplies, Upper Room subscription, Yellow Pages*)

Christian Education: \$49 (*Sunday School room supplies, Christmas books, includes offering for Adult Sunday school books*)

Worship: \$1,045 (*Choir music, piano tuning*)

Designated: \$2,534 (*Neighbors in Need gifts, altar flowers, Henderson Settlement & Helping Hands donations*)

Operation Christmas Child —Share the Joy



Central Trinity is once again partnering with Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child, and we invite you to join us in sharing the hope and love of Jesus with children around the world.

Just as we have done in years past, we encourage you to pack a traditional shoebox gift filled with toys, hygiene items, schools supplies, and a note of encouragement. These simple gifts can make an eternal impact!

Shoeboxes are due back to Central Trinity UMC by Thursday, November 20.

Cant' pack a physical box? No problem! You can also build a shoebox online through our Central Trinity online goal page —or do both!

Let's work together to bless children in need and remind them that they are loved and not forgotten.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Stanton.

Thank you for being part of this incredible ministry!

November
Attendance:
147

Budget Target
Year-to-Date:
\$339,970

Year-to-Date
Giving to Budget:
\$326,170

Year-to-Date
Budgeted
Expenses:
\$336,968



ANCHORED

A STEADY FAITH
IN A SHIFTING WORLD

The Podcast that Grounds Your Faith in the Midst of Change!

In a world full of distractions and uncertainty, Anchored invites you to rediscover the timeless truth that keeps us steady. Hosted by **Michael** and **Katlyn Border**, this podcast dives into how we can live out our faith in every area of life.



1. Foundations: Why Are We Doing This?

2. Faith and Culture: How Do We Engage?

3. Marriage and Ministry: Serving God Together

4. The Church Beyond Sundays

*Join us for deep conversations
on Faith and Life!*



Living ConnecTions

In honor of October's Pastor Appreciation Month, we're thrilled to feature an inspiring interview with Pastor Jon Exman of Central Trinity United Methodist Church in Zanesville. As the son of the former Pastor Gary Exman, Jon shares heartfelt insights into his faith journey, family life, and leadership. His story highlights the profound ways that early experiences and ongoing spiritual practices shape a life dedicated to ministry and community.

Q: Growing up as the son of Pastor Gary Exman, what early experiences shaped your faith and sense of calling?

A: Being a PK (Preacher's Kid) was always an interesting experience. Ever since I was little, my parents always instilled in me two things: I was God's child first and then right after that I was an Exman second. These early teachings and experiences helped shape me as I grew up. I always knew I was loved by God and loved by my family.

Q: Can you share a defining moment when you realized God was calling you into pastoral leadership?

A: I remember I was about six years old and one evening I went with my Dad to a revival he was leading that they called "Key Event" in a small town in Indiana. In those days I often went with my Dad to these things and my sister would stay

at home with Mom. So I remember this particular moment very clearly. As my Dad was giving the altar call, I felt myself get up from my seat and go to the altar. As I was kneeling there and looking up at my Dad praying, I remembered very distinctly hearing God's voice say, "Someday that will be you, Jon." I didn't remember that happening until I got older and the Board of Ordained Ministry asked how I knew I was called. And I had a flashback to that moment and I told them, "Well, God told me when I was six years old."

Q: How do your roles as a husband, father, and grandfather influence the way you shepherd your congregation?

A: I think all those roles are very similar: being a husband to Lesa; a father to Alex, Bailey, Sammy, and Jaxon; a father-in-law to Jason and Logan, and now, of course, being a "Pops" to Max.

Continue on next page



Altogether, these family roles ground me. They remind me that the church is not a business or a project, but a family—and my calling is to shepherd it with the same love, patience, and faithfulness I seek to live out at home.

Q: What has been one of your most memorable experiences leading Central Trinity UMC?

A: I don't think there is just one. For me it is EVERYTHING and EVERYONE. It is the people of CT. It is the powerful music that we have each and every week at CT. It is our kids' programs and experiences at CT. It is our wonderful CT staff and our amazing technology team. It is our engaging online presence and our amazing app. I could go on and on, but I hope you get the picture. I feel so privileged and honored that I get to serve here, because, to answer your question, it is all a memorable experience.

Q: Central Trinity is active in the Zanesville community—can you tell us a story of an outreach or ministry that deeply impacted someone's life?

A: One thing that my wife has tried to do in her position as Family Life Coordinator is to try and help some of those families in need in Zanesville. She has been working hard to try and build more of a connection with Eastside Ministries. We have included them in our kids' events and also fed them once a month. I have heard countless stories of the impact this has had on these families.

Q: How do you balance honoring your father's legacy with creating your own path in ministry?

A: When I first began in ministry, that is one thing I always heard: "Oh, you're Gary's son." When I was younger, I tried really hard to develop my own ministry identity. As I have gotten older, I realize how much that legacy helped me create my own foundation and legacy. Being Gary and Juanita's son meant I understood the important ways that our faith and our families are connected.

Q: What spiritual disciplines or practices sustain you personally in your daily life and leadership?

A: Another thing my parents always taught me is that praying was just "talking to God." I spend all day talking to God. It is an ongoing conversation. I love to find out new things from scripture. These are some of those practices, as well as taking vacation to be with my family and time to recharge when I need it.

Q: Looking back, what lessons from family and faith do you hope to pass on to both your children and your congregation?

A: I try to teach my family that life is a journey; it has its ups and downs. No matter what happens, God will be there always and family is meant to do the same. I pray every day that they will feel the closeness of family and the power of having faith in Jesus. My life verse has been the same since I was little. It is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Pastor Jon Exman's reflections offer a beautiful reminder of how faith, family, and community intertwine to create lasting legacies. As we move into November, let's carry forward the spirit of appreciation for our spiritual leaders and the ways they inspire us daily. Thank you, Pastor Jon, for sharing your story with Connect readers—we're grateful for your continued service at Central Trinity UMC.



Worship

All Saints Sunday

Nov 2, 2025

"The Saints"

Hebrews 12:1-2,
Hebrews 12:18-29,
Revelation 7:9-17

Preschool:

Patty Bradley

KOW:

Lesa Exman

Veterans Sunday

Nov 6, 2025

"The Humble"

Luke 14:7-11,
James 4:10,
Philippians 2:1-5

Preschool:

Holly Ruetz

KOW:

Lori Wyatt



Come as yourself
Grow in Faith
Serve with Love

Nov 16, 2025

"The Encourager"

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Hebrews 10:22-25,
Romans 15:4-7

Preschool:

Amy Stanton

KOW:

Lesa Exman



Sunday Schedule

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 Worship

10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

6:30 p.m. - CT Youth

Music During the 10:30 a.m. service

Nov 2 - Chancel Choir

Nov 6 - Chancel Choir

Nov 16 - Chancel Choir

Nov 23 - Carillon Bells

Nov 30 - Wesleyan Choir

Thanksgiving Sunday

Nov 23, 2025

"The Thanks
Given"

Psalms 100:1-5,
Colossians 3:15-17

Preschool:

Katie Garrett

KOW:

Amanda Smith

1st Sunday of Advent

Nov 30, 2025

"The Table at the
Stable"

Matthew 26:26-29,
Luke 2:1-20

Preschool:

Monica Bevan

KOW:

No KOW



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.



Ushers

Doug Briggs
Dan Kieffer
Duane Deal



To watch the
service!

Upcoming Events

Zanesville Civic Chorus Performs in NYC

The Zanesville Civic Chorus returns to Carnegie Hall in NYC on **December 1** to perform **Handel's Messiah** —an honor following their successful 2019 debut under director **Ann Lillie Briggs**. Choir members have worked diligently this year raising funds through grants, donations and partnerships with our community. The most recent was Jim's organ recital 10/5 where a freewill offering of \$728.45 was received and donated to the choir. Back home, catch their **96th Annual Messiah Performance on Sunday, December 14**, at 6:00 p.m. at **Central Trinity**. Free entry, open to the public, with live streaming on the church website; freewill offering benefits a local charity in the "spirit of Handel."



34th annual Zanesville Handbell Festival

Sunday, November • 23 7:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church • 516 Shinnick Street



Join us for the **34th Annual Zanesville Handbell Festival**, featuring six local choirs, on **Sunday, November 23**, at 7:00 p.m. at **Grace United Methodist Church**. Each choir will perform two selections, culminating in a unified "mass ring" led by guest conductor **Sherri Stoffer** of Akron, a Handbell Musicians of America board member and returning director (from 2008).

Highlights include the **CT Carillon Bell Choir**, a participant since the festival's start under director **Andy Ruetz**. Sponsored by the Thursday Music Club (in its 116th year, led by president **Crystal Engle**) and hosted by **Ann Lillie Briggs** of Grace UMC.

Admission is free; a freewill offering will support expenses. Come enjoy the festive sounds of handbells!

The Table at the Stable

Join us at CT for **The Table at the Stable**, a special Advent service kicking off the Christmas season on **Sunday, November 30**—the first Sunday of Advent—at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. This festive gathering reflects on the miracle of Christ's birth through unique music, scripture, and a meaningful Communion experience at a manger setup in the sanctuary.

Inspired by the nativity story, the service invites all to experience the joy and wonder of the stable where Jesus was born, blending modern and traditional elements for a heartfelt start to Advent. Whether you're a longtime member or new to our community, come as you are to celebrate the hope of the season.



Happy Birthday

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!

Kristofer Stanton 11/01
Sherry Founds 11/03
Eric Hartman 11/04
Doug Shirer 11/04
Jan Shirer 11/07
Sheryl Hartman 11/07
Kara Stubbins 11/08
Grant Stubbins 11/08

Jared Ball 11/08
Connie Biller 11/09
David Beitzel 11/10
Andy Ruetz 11/12
Angela Sweeney 11/15
Pastor Jon Exman 11/18
Kay Stubbins-Hamilton 11/21
Melody Moore 11/21

Chris Lutz 11/22
Donald Hilty 11/23
Diana Kreuter 11/25
Stacy Thomas 11/27
Brenden Blevins 11/28
Lauren Wyatt 11/28
Holly Ruetz 11/30
Amanda Stubbins 11/30

80s and 90s+

Dorothy Skelton 11/15 (98)
378 Pleasantview Dr.
43023-9316 Granville, OH

Bette Christman 11/21 (98)
532 Wayne Ave.
43701 Zanesville, OH

Mary Longshore 11/25 (85)
Storypoint
10351 Sawmill Parkway Apt. 160
43065 Powell, OH

Roger Lutz 11/30 (85)
3625 Maplecrafft Dr.
43821 Dresden, 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)

in November

- 2 All Saints, Communion
- 3 Staff meeting
- 9 Veterans Sunday
- 14 Connect due date
- 22 Decorate CT for Christmas at 9 a.m.
- 23 CT thanksgiving Sunday & Handbell Festival
- 25 Thanksgiving Service at Union Baptist Church, 7 p.m.
- 28 Civic Chorus board bus at CT for concert trip to NYC
- 30 First Sunday in Advent
Table at the Stable



Coming in December...

12/07 Festival of Carols
12/14 96th Performance of Messiah