



# Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

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## “A Child of Promise”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“As we walk together through the Christmas story this Advent, the Child of Promise will turn ordinary moments into memories we’ll never forget.”



It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We are going to have a wonderful December with each of you, our CT Church Family! Let’s check out some of these moments together.

Advent is what will kick off the festivities. This year’s Advent theme is **“The Child of Promise.”** Each Sunday in Advent will center around a special message about the Child of Promise and the Christmas story. The first Sunday of Advent is actually the last day of November. This special Sunday is a very meaningful one. We will again tell the Christmas story with the help of our youth and children. This Advent service is called “The Table at the Stable.”

**“The Table at the Stable”** will be all about the experience at the stable when Christ was born. There will be a stable scene with all our kids (both big kids and little kids)...

Continue on next page

participating, playing all the parts. Communion will be served with each of us being able to come to the communion table at the stable. This is also the time where we give our commitment cards to God. (Don't worry, we will have extra if you forget yours.) We are very excited to have this special moment and share it with each of you.

The second Sunday of Advent is called "**The Festival of Lessons and Carols.**" It is a beautiful service focusing on a journey through the Christmas story featuring scripture and the wonderful music of CT. All the music groups (the Choir, Ignite, and the Bells) at CT will be performing. It is sure to be a wonderful worship service.

The third and fourth Sundays in Advent will be all about the hope and joy we have in Jesus at Christmas. In between those dates is **The Messiah** on December 14th at 6 p.m. at CT. This event has been occurring for over 40 years now, and it is a wonderful moment to celebrate Christmas with your family.

Christmas Eve, as always, at CT will be AWESOME! It will be all about celebrating the birth of the Christ Child through the Christmas story and some amazing music! We will have our usual 4:30 p.m. combined service and then our traditional 11 p.m. service. Both services will end with the traditional **Christmas Eve candlelight service.**

I hope you join us for as many or all of these special CT moments! Be sure to check out the CT App (it is available for download on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for free!) or our website or Facebook page for all the dates and times.

This Advent season will be a time to remember! Merry Christmas to you and your family from your CT Church Family!

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

☎ (740) 505-0665

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



ALL kids are invited to:  
**Happy Birthday  
Jesus Party**

Sunday, December 21  
9am and 10:30 Service

Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas!

*A celebration  
they won't want to miss!!*

# Family Life

by Lesa Exman

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



## Make a Difference this Holiday Season

This Christmas, CT is stepping out in love to help make the season a little brighter. Through food baskets, gifts, and generous hearts, we're coming together as a church family to ensure everyone can experience the joy of Christmas.

This holiday season, CT is sharing God's love in a very practical way by helping our church families and individuals experience a meaningful and joy-filled Christmas.

If you are in need of a holiday food basket or gifts for your children, please contact **me** or **Monica** in the church office. All requests will be handled with complete confidentiality.

If you would like to be a blessing to someone this Christmas, our youth will be in the Welcome Center with baskets on November 30, December 7, and December 14 to receive donations and support for this ministry.

Together, as the CT Church Family, we can help make this Christmas a season of hope, generosity, and God's love in action.

Want to **Connect**  
with  
**Lesa Exman?**

(419) 605-6858  
itslesaexman@gmail.com



## Kids and Family Advent Celebration



Please join us as we celebrate the wonderful journey to the stable!

Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, December 7  
9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

10:00-10:30 Please join your child for a pancake breakfast with all the fun toppings and a family advent craft!

## Youth Group Christmas Party

December 21  
6:30-8:30 P.m

Lots of food, games & prizes!

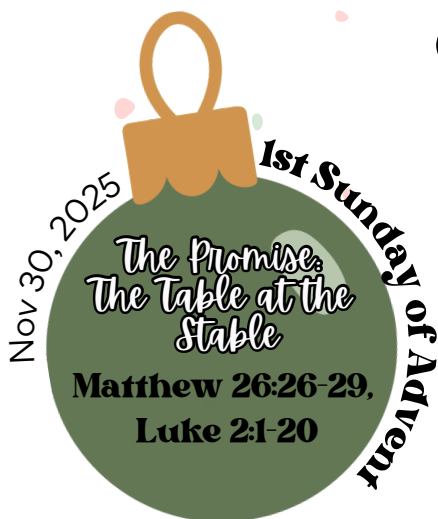


# The Advent Festival of Christmas

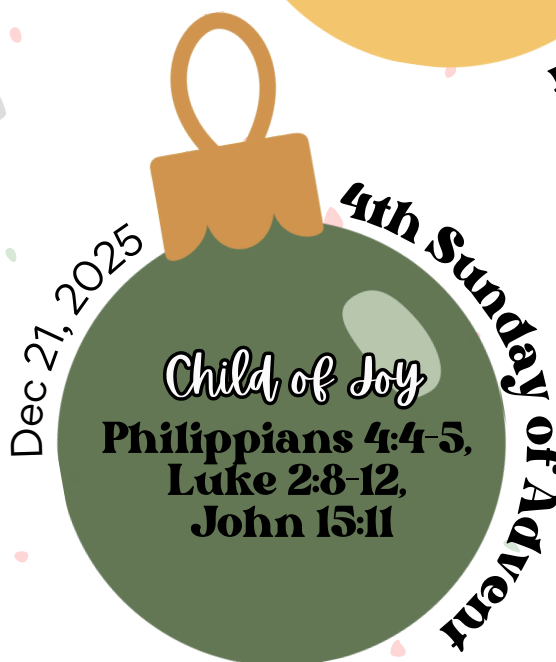
## Child of Promise



Come as yourself  
Grow in Faith  
Serve with Love



**December 24, 2025**  
**Christmas Eve**  
4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.  
**The Christ Child**  
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20,  
Matthew 1:21-23,  
John 3:16



To watch the  
service!



# The Advent Festival of Christmas

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

### First Sunday of Advent

#### "The Table at the Stable"

Communion around the Manger  
The Wesleyan Choir Singing  
Lucas Ruetz Playing the organ for the service and playing the trombone prelude

### Second Sunday of Advent

#### "The Child of Promise"

A Festival of Carols with the Chancel Choir and Carillon Bells

### Third Sunday of Advent

#### "The Child of Hope"

The Chancel Choir providing the special music

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### "The Child of Joy"

The Chancel Choir providing the special music

## Christmas Eve

### "The Christ Child"

#### 4:30 Service - Music

Connor Shields - prelude  
Vocal Solo - Evelyn Ruetz  
The Wesleyan Choir  
The Ignite Band

#### 11:00 Service - Music

Brass Ensemble - prelude  
The Carillon Bells  
The Chancel Choir

### Last Sunday of Advent

#### "Child of Promise"

Eric Shields providing Special Music

## Ushers

Dennis Dunlap  
Dan Hartaman  
Eric Fusner  
Jayne Dunlap

## 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 Service
10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
6:30 p.m.	CT Youth



Children's worship available each Sunday from 8:50 to 11:30 a.m. (Birth - Infants - 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

## Wednesday Schedule

11:00 a.m.	Bible Studies
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## Thursday Schedule

6:00 p.m.	Angel Wings PSM
6:00 p.m.	Carillon Bells
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
7:00 p.m.	Civil Choir

## Volunteers

### December 7

Preschool: Patty Bradley  
KOW: Lesa Exman

### December 14

Preschool: Amy Stanton  
KOW: Amanda Smith

### December 21

Preschool: Katie Garrett  
KOW: Lesa Exman

### December 28

Preschool: Holly Ruetz  
KOW: Lori Wyatt



Handicapped Parking available at North entrance of parking lot.

# 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 October 2025.”

-Holly Ruetz

## October 2025

**Total Giving to Designated Projects \$20,767**

**Total Expenses Designated Projects \$12,195**

**Personnel: \$22,709** (Salaries & Benefits)

**Administrative: \$426** (Office supplies)

**Property: \$6,402** (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, Pest Control, Elevator service call)

**Outreach: \$5,032** (Apportionments sent to Conference, Yellow Pages)

**Christian Education: \$631** (Sunday School supplies, Youth group meals/snacks, Trunk or Treat)

**Worship: \$872** (Choir music, piano tuning)

**Designated: \$6,785** (Neighbors in Need gifts, Trunk or Treat, Organ repair)

## CTOnline: Our Worship Beyond the Walls

by Carmen Baker

Our online viewing community is a vital part of Central Trinity. Many long-time members choose to watch from home when they cannot attend in person, and visitors mention watching from home before attending in person. As of mid-November, our videos had 2,578 views! Below are the average viewership numbers for the 2025 worship services:

- Live Views on Sunday Mornings on the CT app, website, Facebook, or TV apps:
  - o Ignite Service = 11
  - o 10:30 Service = 17
- Videos views throughout the year:
  - o Ignite Services = 19
  - o 10:30 Services = 27

**Thank you for watching CT!**

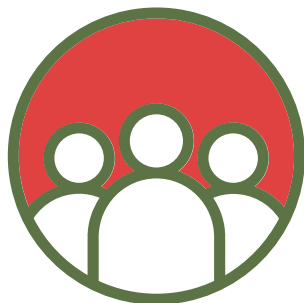
**October Attendance:**  
140

**Budget Target Year-to-Date:**  
\$377,744

**Year-to-Date Giving to Budget:**  
\$350,366

**Year-to-Date Budgeted Expenses:**  
\$373,039

# Upcoming Events



## 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

## Zanesville Civic Chorus Heads to NY

The **Zanesville Civic Chorus** performs Christmas carols on **November 30, 2025** at **Radio City Music Hall** as a prelude to the Rockettes. The Chorus then performs **Handel's Messiah** on **December 1, 2025** at **Carnegie Hall**.

This concert trip to New York City came in response to an invitation to perform after DCINY viewed the annual Zanesville Messiah performance on the internet. The chorus has worked diligently throughout 2025 writing grants, organizing fundraisers, and attending many rehearsals in preparation for the trip. The chorus first performed at Carnegie Hall in 2019.

## Handel's Messiah at Central Trinity

The **Zanesville Civic Chorus** performs its 96th annual production of **Handel's Messiah Oratorio** at CT on **Sunday, December 14**, at **6:00 p.m.** in our church sanctuary. Handel's Messiah is one of the most famous musical works in the world, taking words from Scripture and bringing them to life through Handel's music.

The 70-voice community chorus, along with five vocal soloists and chamber orchestra, is under the direction of Ann Lillie Briggs and sponsored by the Zanesville Thursday Music Club. Katlynn Border is one of the soloists, and numerous singers are members of the CT Music Ministry.

The performance will be live-streamed on our church website and app. The concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken and given to a local charity in the "spirit of Handel." This year the offering will go to the Southeast Ohio chapter of Habitat for Humanity. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to Thursday Music Club, the parent organization of the Zanesville Civic Chorus and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## Zanesville Memorial Concert Band Christmas Concert

The Zanesville Memorial Concert Band presents a concert of Christmas music on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace UMC. The concert is free and open to the public. Many from the CT Music Ministry play in the band, making this another wonderful opportunity to support and enjoy the musical gifts of our church family.



# Ministry News

## Advent Bible Study

There's still time to join the **virtual Advent Bible Study**, continuing Sundays through **December 21 from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m.** We're studying **A Child is Born** by **Amy-Jill Levine**, exploring the nativity stories and the human experiences of longing, rivalry, and divine intervention they reveal.

If you missed the first session on November 30, you're warmly invited to join the remaining sessions and reflect on these powerful stories with others from around the conference.

Books are available at **Cokesbury, Amazon, and ThriftBooks.**

## Winter Game Nights

Starting in January, we're kicking off **Winter Game Night at CT**, and you're invited!

Beginning in the new year, we'll gather on the third Friday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition. We'll meet at the church, **62 South 7th Street**, for **Dominoes and other games.**

Bring a light snack to share and enjoy a relaxed time together as we brighten up the winter months with laughter and community.

If you have questions or would like to help, please see **Jayne Dunlap** or **Patty Hockinberry**. Come join us and make Winter Game Night part of your monthly routine!



**December 13 @ CT UMC**  
**9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## Verla Moore Service Club "Christmas Favorites"

Carry-in Dinner

**DEC 16 TUE**

**START TIME**  
**6 p.m.**

### What to Bring:

Your family's favorite Christmas dish to share and a \$10 perishable gift for the gift exchange.

**Come enjoy food, fellowship, and Christmas fun!**







DEC 14 SUN

STAR TIME: 6 P.M.

The Zanesville Civic Chorus

Handel's  
**Messiah**  
Oratorio

Direction of Ann Lillie Briggs

Sponsored by the Zanesville Thursday Music Club.

📍 Central Trinity United Methodist Church

 [www.centraltrinityumc.com](http://www.centraltrinityumc.com)

# December Birthdays

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!

Reed Fleck	12/01	Parker Fleck	12/07	Brandon Dilley	12/21
Michael Border	12/01	Michael Hinton	12/14	Renee Barnes	12/21
Pearl Carpenter	12/01	Oliver Dilley	12/15	Kara Hinton	12/22
Tressa Brannon	12/02	Christopher Coen	12/15	Vicki Hicks	12/22
Nieokea Kirkbride	12/03	Kim Kerns	12/15	Courtney Talbot	12/23
Caden Adkins	12/04	Virginia McIntire	12/15	Stacie Riggle	12/23
Eric Johnson	12/04	Trisha Smith	12/16	Stacey Mohler	12/23
Monica Bevan	12/05	Trent Johnson	12/17	Landon Fraunfelter	12/25
Graisyn Roberts	12/06	Denise Carpenter	12/21	Clayton McCutcheon	12/28
Riley Zimmerman	12/06			Madelynn Oates	12/29

## 80s and 90s+

**Lynne Hottle**  
**12/13 (80)**

1309 Military Rd  
Zanesville, OH 43701

**Marjorie Overdorff**  
**12/20 (82)**

3150 Nob Hill Rd.  
Zanesville, OH 43701-1060

**Mary Hoover**  
**12/24 (81)**

1665 circle Lane  
Zanesville, OH 43701-8916

**Phyllis Bradshaw**  
**12/18 (86)**

860 Leonard Ave.  
Zanesville, OH 43701

**David Downing**  
**12/20 (89)**

545 S Atlantic Blvd. 1504  
Ft Lauderdale FL 33316

**Darylin Best**  
**12/30 (80)**

720 Wildwood Circle  
Zanesville, OH 43701

**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)



## Gratitude Letter

Thank you to the Verla Moore  
Service Club for remembering  
us with the Thanksgiving Gift.  
Was greatly appreciated!  
Tom Neff & Donna Barnes



# December



Note:  
80s & 90s+ in bold letters

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:00 UWF Reed Fleck Michael Border Pearl Carpenter	Tressa Brannon	11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Nieokea Kirkbride	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Caden Adkins Eric Johnson	Monica Bevan	9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m. High School Choirs at Secrest 9:00 p.m. Pre Messiah Practice Graisyyn Roberts Riley Zimmerman
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Festival of Carols Holy Communion 9:00am Ignite Service 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Wesleyan Choir 9:45am Childrens Choir 10:30am Sunday School Parker Fleck			11:00 a.m. Bible Studies	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	10:00am Cookie Walk Setup Day	8:00 a.m Pairs and Spairs Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk 10:00 a.m. DAR 2:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal Lynne Hottle
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Ignite Service 9:45am Wesleyan Choir 9:45am Childrens Choir 10:30am Sunday School 6:00pm Annual Messiah Michael Hinton	Oliver Dilley Christopher Coen Kim Kerns Virginia McIntire	6:00 p.m. VMSC Christmas Favorites Trisha Smith	11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Trent Johnson	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Phyllis Bradshaw		Marjorie Overdorff David Downing
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Ignite Service 9:45am Childrens Choir 9:45am Wesleyan Choir 10:30am Sunday School Denise Carpenter Brandon Dilley Renee Barnes	Kara Hinton Vicki Hicks	Courtney Talbot Stacie Riggle Stacey Mohler	4:30pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service Mary Hoover	Christmas Day Office Closed Landon Fraunfelter		
28	29	30	31			
9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Ignite Service 10:30am Sunday School Clayton McCutcheon	Madelynn Oates	Darylin Best	11:00 a.m. Bible Studies			

CENTRAL TRINITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
62 S SEVENTH ST  
ZANESVILLE OH 43701-4399

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Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC