

# Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC



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# “First Things First”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“First things first—because a new year begins best when we focus on what matters most in God’s eyes.”



What an amazing Christmas we had at CT, and now we move into a New Year, 2026! A New Year brings with it all kinds of new experiences—new challenges, new beginnings, and new expectations. Everything has a chance to be something that is either a positive or a negative moment in our lives. One of the issues of the New Year is figuring out which of all these moments is the most important. Not only what’s important in life, but as Christians, what is most important in our faith journey.

My Grandma used to always use the expression, “First things first.” First things first is an idiom that means one should do the things that are most important before doing anything else. Sounds simple, right? You might ask, “How did you come up with this as a sermon series?” Well, while speaking with my parents recently, my Mom asked what my New Year messages would be. I said I was still working on them. My Dad chimed in that I should do a message on first things. This made me remember Grandma, and now here we are. This sermon series about doing the first things first is one that I am really excited about. What are the most important things that we should do in God’s eyes?

What are God’s “First Things First” for each of us? Each message in the series will focus on one of the important faith lessons that the Bible teaches us and asks us to figure out. Just to give you a tease of what’s to come, the first one is “No Distractions.” Trust me, the Bible says a whole lot more about this than you may think.

Well, as we begin the New Year, I hope you join us for as many—or all—of these special CT moments! For the ones you can’t be here for, you can always watch each Sunday live (or really anytime) on the CT App. The app is available for download on both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for free; just search Central Trinity UMC or head on over to our website or Facebook page for all news and events of everything CT. This New Year will be a time to remember! Happy New Year 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)



# Family Life

by Lesa Exman

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



## Thank you for all the ways you helped make December a month full of Blessings!

Family Life set out to create a fun and meaningful experience as we counted down to Jesus' birthday. We began with Table at the Stable, where all the children brought the story of Jesus' birth to life. We then continued the journey with our Pancake and Advent Sunday, giving the kids the opportunity to enjoy delicious pancakes while creating snow globes and painting their very own nativity sets.

Each child also received The Advent Gift book from the church and *Otter B. Joyful* from the McIntire family. We wrapped up the month with our very own Happy Birthday Jesus! Party—a joyful and memorable way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

As we look ahead to the new year, our prayer is to continue teaching our children and youth about the importance of a relationship with Jesus and how deeply He loves each of them. We want them to remember that even though the holidays have ended and the snow has melted, we are still waiting for Him. Because God sent Jesus to us that first Christmas long ago, we can confidently trust that He will send Him again!

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

☎ (419) 605-6858  
✉ [itslesaexman@gmail.com](mailto:itslesaexman@gmail.com)



# Year-to-Date Financial Report

by Holly Ruetz

## November 2025

**Total Giving to Designated Projects \$24,526**

**Total Expenses Designated Projects \$20,606**

**Personnel: \$23,778** (Salaries & Benefits)

**Administrative: \$1,433** (Office supplies)

**Property: \$1,627** (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance)

**Outreach: \$5,072** (Apportionments sent to Conference, Yellow Pages)

**Christian Education: \$1,128** (Sunday School supplies, Trunk or Treat, Christmas/Nativity)

**Worship: \$1,136** (Organ & piano tuning, Handbell supplies & meals for festival)

**Designated: \$1,627** (Neighbors in Need gifts, Homeless Mission, Church family gift boxes)



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

Here is a breakdown of what your gifts supported in November 2025."

-Holly Ruetz

## 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!**

November  
Attendance:  
133

Budget Target Year-  
to-Date:  
\$415,519

Year-to-Date Giving to  
Budget:  
\$395,022

Year-to-Date  
Budgeted Expenses:  
\$410,248



### **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

# Ministry News

## **Winter Game Nights**

Beginning in this month, 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!

## **United Women in Faith**

**United Women in Faith** meets Monday, January 5, 6 p.m., at the church. The program for 2026 is **Mapping Our Way Forward**. There is a lot of uncertainty in this world. We don't always know what will happen next, what we will need, or who we will be surrounded by. But in the midst of that uncertainty—we can map our way forward into the unknown by holding on to God and our core values, letting them keep us grounded as we respond and flow with whatever we may encounter. This month, the program is "Light for Our Path," based on Psalm 119:101-105.

## **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.

## **Verla Moore Service Club**

**Verla Moore Service Club** will "kick off" sales for their annual **Super Bowl Sub Sale** on **Sunday, January 11**. Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk.

Subs will be available for pick-up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, after the Ignite or Traditional Service.

# Gratitude

**From: Central Trinity UMC  
To: All Who Made the 96th Annual  
Performance of Handel's Messiah  
Possible**

On behalf of Central Trinity United Methodist Church, thank you for your beautiful performance of Handel's *Messiah* last month. Your time, dedication, and musical gifts brought the story of Christ to life and deeply touched everyone in attendance.

This long-standing Zanesville tradition continues to inspire and unite our community each Christmas season. Your artistry honored this timeless work and brought joy to all who experienced it, both in person and online.

Thank you for sharing your talents and making this event so meaningful for our congregation and community.

**From: United Women in Faith  
To: Mitten Tree Donors**

Thank you all for donating to the Mitten Tree. We received 64 hats, 9 scarves, 2 scarf/hat/glove sets, 20 hat/glove sets, 25 pairs of gloves/mittens for kids, 41 pairs of gloves for adults, and 13 pairs of socks. These items were distributed to Putnam Place and Eastside Community Ministry.

**From: United Women in Faith  
To: Cookie Walk Bakers, Volunteers,  
and Supporters**

A big thank you to all the cookie bakers in the church and all who helped with or purchased cookies at the Cookie Walk. We collected \$840 to go toward youth and other projects. Again, thank you for your support.

**From: Family Life Ministry  
To: Central Trinity UMC Congregation**

Family Life would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donations, which allowed us to provide food, gift cards, and gifts for 9 children, 6 families and 4 individuals. Your kindness and willingness to give helped bring joy, hope, and the love of Christ to each of them. Because of you, their Christmas was brighter and filled with a meaningful reminder of the love their church and Jesus has for each of them.

**From: Central Trinity UMC  
To: Our Congregation**

Central Trinity UMC would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who helped decorate our sanctuary with Christmas poinsettias and to those who purchased them in honor or in memory of their loved ones.

Your generosity, memories, and tributes with our church family made our sanctuary a place of reverence and celebration during this holy season.

**From: Family Life Ministry  
To: East Side Ministry Donors**

Family Life would like to thank each of you who donated to Eastside Community Ministry. Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver blankets, warm clothes and food to help bring comfort and relief to those in need during this cold season. Your kindness truly made a difference and reflected the love of Christ to our community.



# Super Bowl

## *Sub Sale Sunday*



**Kick-off Sales: Jan 11**

Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk!

Subs will be available for pick-up on Super Bowl Sunday, **February 8**, after the Ignite or Traditional Service.

# CT Worship

Come as yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

## "First Things First"

Jan 4, 2026

### No Distractions

Matthew 6:19-21,  
1 Peter 5:6-11,  
Mark 4:18-20,  
1 Corinthians 7:35

Epiphany Sunday

Jan 11, 2026

### Listen

Luke 8:17-18,  
Matthew 11:15,  
Romans 10:16-21,  
Mark 9:2-8



### 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.**

Jan 18, 2026

### Love me with everything you have

Deuteronomy 6:4-7,  
Matthew 22:34-37

Part 1

Jan 25, 2026

### Love your Neighbor

Matthew 22:34-40,  
Leviticus 9:18,  
Romans 13:8-11

Part 2



### Ushers

Karen Herron  
Cassie Temple  
Junior Muse  
Kenny Skidmore



To watch the  
service!

# Music and Volunteers

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



**January 4**  
Lucas Stant & Ken Skidmore

**January 11**  
Chancel Choir

**January 18**  
Chancel Choir

**January 25**  
Carillon Bells

## Volunteers

**January 4**  
Preschool: Patty Bradley  
KOW: Amanda Smith

**January 11**  
Preschool: Amy Stanton  
KOW: Lori Wyatt

**January 18**  
Preschool: Katie Garrett  
KOW: Lesa Exman

**January 25**  
Preschool: Holly Ruetz  
KOW: Lesa Exman



## Regular at Central Trinity



9:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m.  
9:45 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.

Ignite Service  
Sunday School  
Children's Choir  
Wesleyan Choir  
Traditional Service  
Sunday School  
CT Youth



11:00 a.m.

Bible Studies

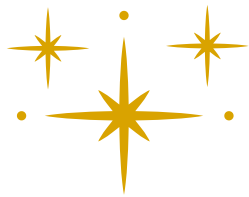


6:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

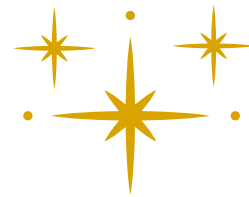
Angel Wings PSM  
Carillon Bells  
Chancel Choir

**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.**

Happy  
*New Year* 2026



# January 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!



<b>Juan Tornero</b>	01/05	<b>Camryn Slone</b>	01/16	<b>Neala Young</b>	01/25
<b>Rhonda Cassady</b>	01/08	<b>David Smith</b>	01/16	<b>Michele Miller</b>	01/25
<b>Andrew Morgan</b>	01/08	<b>Charles McCloud</b>	01/17	<b>Cheryl Poland</b>	01/25
<b>Jodi Wilson</b>	01/10	<b>Ken Skidmore</b>	01/17	<b>Bailey Binkley</b>	01/26
<b>Kylan Harper</b>	01/11	<b>Roger Murphy</b>	01/18	<b>Judy Stanton</b>	01/26
<b>Jayme Blevins</b>	01/12	<b>Cathy Duff</b>	01/18	<b>Julie Siddle</b>	01/27
<b>Carol Stemm</b>	01/13	<b>Timothy Hoffer</b>	01/19	<b>Andrew Roberts</b>	01/27
<b>Carrie Clapper</b>	01/13	<b>Laura Harper</b>	01/20	<b>Charlie Goss</b>	01/29
<b>Kay Walker</b>	01/13	<b>Emma Wills</b>	01/22	<b>Dennis Dunlap</b>	01/29
<b>Alexis Sims</b>	01/14	<b>Kendyl Young</b>	01/23	<b>Mindi Trout</b>	01/29
<b>Jack Sindeldecker</b>	01/15	<b>Ezra Kaiser</b>	01/23	<b>Robert England</b>	01/30
<b>Alisha Wyatt</b>	01/15	<b>Rebecca Downing</b>	01/24	<b>Chad Ludman</b>	01/31
				<b>Tia Miller</b>	01/31

## 80s and 90s+

<b>Charles McCloud</b> 01/17 (92) 1061 Georgian Way Zanesville, OH 43701	<b>Roger Murphy</b> 01/18 (82) PO Box 2693 Crystal River FL 34423	<b>Cheryl Poland</b> 01/25 (80) 6817 Parkwood St Sebring FL 33876	<b>Robert England</b> 01/30 (85) 1291 Rankin Dr. Zanesville, OH 43701
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**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)**



# January



**CENTRAL TRINITY**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Note:**  
**80s & 90s+ in bold letters**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				<i>Happy New Year!</i>		2:00 p.m. Gender Reveal
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Childrens Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. UWF Juan Tornero	6:00 p.m. Worship Committee	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 Rhonda Cassidy Andrew Morgan		10:00 a.m. DAR Jodi Wilson
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Childrens Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Super Bowl Sub Kick-off 6:30 p.m. CT Youth Kylan Harper	Jayne Blevins	Carol Stemm Carrie Clapper Kay Walker	11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Alexis Sims	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Jack Sindeldecke Alisha Wyatt	Camryn Slone David Smith 6:30 p.m. Winter Game Night	<b>Charles McCloud</b> Ken Skidmore
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Childrens Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. CT Youth <b>Roger Murphy</b> Cathy Duff	Timothy Hoffer	6:00 p.m. Verla Moore Service Club Laura Harper	11:00 a.m. Bible Studies 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee 7:00 p.m. Ad Council	5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Emma Wills	Kendyl Young Ezra Kaiser	Rebecca Downing
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Childrens Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. CT Youth Neala Young Michele Miller <b>Cheryl Poland</b>	Bailey Binkley Judy Stanton	Julie Siddle Andrew Roberts	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 Charlie Goss Dennis Dunlap Mindi Trout	<b>Robert England</b>	Chad Ludman Tia Miller

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

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