



Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC



In this Issue

- Message from the Pastor**
2
- Family Life**
3
- Financial Report CT online**
4
- Ministry News**
5
- Gratitude**
6
- Super Bowl Sub Sale**
7
- CT Worship**
8
- Music and Volunteers**
9
- January Birthdays**
10
- CT Calendar**
11

“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



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



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 November 2025."

-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)

CT Online: 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

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.



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

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

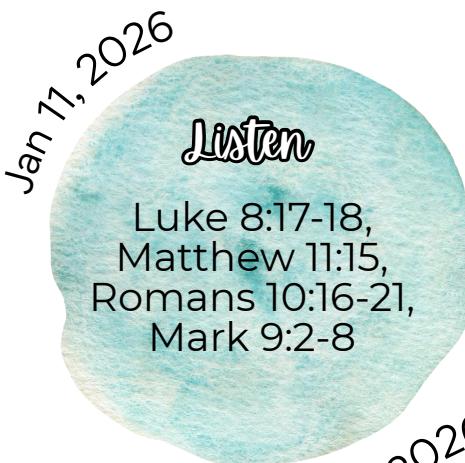
Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk!

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”



To watch the
service!

Ushers



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. 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



6:00 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.



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!



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

80s and 90s+

Charles McCloud
01/17 (92)
1061 Georgian Way
Zanesville, OH 43701

Roger Murphy
01/18 (82)
PO Box 2693
Crystal River FL 34423

Cheryl Poland
01/25 (80)
6817 Parkwood St
Sebring FL 33876

Robert England
01/30 (85)
1291 Rankin Dr.
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)



January
3



Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters

CENTRAL TRINITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ZANESVILLE OH
PERMIT NO
256

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:



Connect
Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC