



# Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC



## In this Issue

Message from the Pastor

1-2

Baked Potato

3

Financial Report

Ministry News

Gratitude

4

Anchored Podcast

5

Living Connections

6-7

Organ Recital

7

Trunk or Treat

8

Worship

9

Birthdays List

10

Upcoming Events

11

## “Hold Fast”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“In a world that feels like it’s shifting beneath our feet, it’s more important than ever to hold fast to our faith and the unchanging truth of God’s Word.”



In seminary, I learned about John Wesley’s Quadrilateral. Basically, what it means is that Wesley believed there were four things that help us understand how to keep our faith strong. These four areas of faith are Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. These four areas truly help us hold fast in our faith.

You might ask, “What does it mean to hold fast?” The phrase *hold fast* historically comes from the nautical command given to sailors to secure themselves to the ship during storms. Its literal meaning is to hold onto something firmly by gripping it. So what would this meaning have to do with our faith? It means to hold fast, or be steadfast, in our beliefs and values.

Continue on next page

We can do this by testing what we believe through Scripture, through the traditions we have, through reasoning, and of course, through our experiences.

*Hold fast* is an important reminder in today's world. The world often feels like it's shifting beneath our feet—filled with cultural pressures, political unrest, and moral ambiguities. It's more important than ever to anchor ourselves in the unchanging truth of God's Word. It's more important than ever to **hold fast** and stand firm in your faith.

Paul provides a powerful blueprint for us on holding fast in Ephesians 6:10–18, where he urges believers to “put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.” Here, we're instructed to gird ourselves with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God, while praying in the Spirit at all times. These verses remind us that to hold fast means being prepared—equipping ourselves daily through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. When doubts creep in or temptations arise, we don't retreat; we stand our ground; we hold fast with everything we have.

Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 16:13: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”

Also in Philippians 4:1, where he writes, “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!” He ties standing firm to our relationships in the body of Christ, encouraging unity and mutual support. When we stand together, we're stronger—able to endure trials that might overwhelm us alone.

As we begin this month, let us all lean on each other and hold fast with everything we have to the love of Jesus! Remember this: you are not alone.

Want to **Connect** with  
**Pastor Exman?**  
☎ (740) 505-0665  
✉ [theexman433@gmail.com](mailto:theexman433@gmail.com)



**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

## **Baked Potato Bar!**

Enjoy a variety of toppings, including chili and pulled pork.

# Baked **POTATO**

*Fundraiser*



**To-go containers available!**

**Drinks and desserts will  
be served!**

**Free-will offering!**

*Don't miss it!*

**October 12**

**Come and support the  
kids and youth after  
the second service.**



# Year-to-Date Financial Report

-August 2025-

Total Giving to Designated Projects \$12,162

Total Expenses Designated Projects \$9,661

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

Administrative: \$698 (*Office supplies*)

Property: \$10,836 (*Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance, Pest Control, Parking Lot Upkeep*)

Outreach: \$5,251 (*Apportionments sent to Conference, Hospitality supplies, Upper Room subscription, Yellow Pages*)

Christian Education: \$864 (*KOW supplies, Youth Group outing, Blessing of Backpack tags*)

Worship: \$1,776 (*Glow Night, Choir Music, Choir robe dry cleaning*)

Designated: \$4,225 (*Neighbors in Need gifts, altar flowers, Parking Lot Upkeep*)



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

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

-Holly Ruetz

## Ministry News

### United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith at Central Trinity meets Monday, October 6, 6 p.m. at the church. Deb Brannon leads us in the program "Carrying Our Faith Forward."

### Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., in the parlor. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

### Verla Moore Service Club

The Verla Moore Service Club will be collecting canned food to support the Salvation Army in providing Thanksgiving meals for our community.

We are asking for donations of the following items: canned corn, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned mixed vegetables, canned fruits, and gravy mix packets.

## Gratitude

I would like to thank everyone for your cards, phone calls, your love. It means a lot to me! Please know that God loves you and so do I!



-Marci Hunter







# 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

For this issue of **Connect**, we sat down with **Jim McLaughlin**—our Director of Music, Organist, and longtime leader in Zanesville’s music community. Jim has shaped worship through music at Central Trinity and inspired countless students, singers, and audiences throughout the years. We asked him to share a little about his journey, his passion for music, and the role it plays in our faith and community.

**Q: What first inspired you to pursue music?**

*A: I have always been surrounded by music at home, church and school. Singing or playing an instrument was just part of our family. Every family get-together always included music along with good food and great conversation. Everyone participated. I soon found myself encouraging others. It seemed logical that music was going to be a major goal in my life.*

**Q: Do you remember your very first performance or the first time you played at church?**

*A: My first time playing at church was a piano and organ prelude to start our church worship service at age 9. Kay Zink played the piano and I was at the Hammond organ. We never had any silent time in the service because our services were broadcast “live” on WSRW am radio each Sunday. I already was playing piano for the children’s worship services; but, this was the “big time” playing on the radio!*

**Q: How has music shaped your own faith journey?**

*A: Music practice is the perfect way for me to shut out the distractions of the world. I am drawn into a meditative spirit and personal prayer time. Music has also brought tremendous*



*opportunities for spiritual growth. What a privilege to be an instrument of peace when providing music at funerals, weddings and worship!*

**Q: What has been one of the most meaningful moments for you as a music director at Central Trinity?**

*A: The most meaningful moments for me at CT is every time one of our youth comes forward and sings or plays some music to uplift our worship. This is always a time to celebrate.*

**Q: You’ve mentored many students and singers. What do you hope they carry with them after working with you?**

*A: My hope is that each student feels joy and a calling for service as they use the talents God has given to them.*

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**Q:** If you could perform with any musician (past or present), who would it be?

*A: At this point in my life, there are so many former teachers and students that have gone on to be with God who I would love to perform with again. But, #1 on my list would be my mom, Virgie Lee McLaughlin. Growing up, her family were poor itinerant farmers. She was my most faithful supporter and even played piano on many of my recitals here at CT into her 90s.*

**Q:** Do you have a favorite hymn or piece of music that always moves you?

*A: My favorite hymn choice needs a little flexibility. Gospel - "Blessed*

*Assurance", Traditional - "O God Our Help in Ages Past" Classical - from Handel's "Messiah" - "For Unto Us a Child Is Born."*

**Q:** Finally, what's one surprising fact people might not know about you outside of music?

*You might be surprised to know that during high school and college I played organ music Saturday mornings on a WSRW am radio show called "Ole Smokey - Fire Protection" My music filled in when the Fire Chief was not talking. I also helped the Hillsboro Fire Department win several trophies at parades since I was usually positioned on top of the fire truck during the parade playing "live" music from a WWII pump organ.*

Jim's story reminds us that music is more than sound—it's a ministry that touches hearts, builds community, and strengthens our faith. We are grateful for the gift of his leadership and look forward to the ways God will continue to work through him and through music at Central Trinity. Thank you, Jim!

28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**Organ Recital**  
BENEFIT CONCERT FOR  
THE ZANESVILLE CIVIC CHORUS



In support of their upcoming performance of Handel's  
Messiah at Carnegie Hall — December 1, 2025

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER**

**5**

**CENTRAL TRINITY  
UMC**

**3 P.M.**

**ORGANIST**  
James L. McLaughlin



**We need your help:**  
*Sign-up Sheet at Welcome Desk!!*

\* Collecting individually  
wrapped Candy.  
Bin by Welcome Desk!

\* Volunteer to help  
with games, decorate  
your car, food, set up  
& clean up!

◆ Arrive at 3 p.m.

Oct  
27

4-5  
p.m.

Free

# Trunk *or* Treat

**Free Food & Fun Activities**  
**Costumes Optional**

62 S. 7th St, Zanesville, OH 43701

# Worship

*Eight Is Enough —  
Eight words that Jesus wanted us to know*

**Oct 5, 2025**

**"Grace"**

John 1:16-18

Luke 4:22

Luke 15:20-24

Ephesians 2:8-10

**Preschool:** Holly Ruetz

**KOW:** Amanda Smith

**Oct 12, 2025**

**"Faith"**

Mark 11:20-25

Mark 5:27-34

Matthew 17:20

Matthew 8:5-13

**Preschool:** Amy Stanton

**KOW:** Lori Wyatt



*Come as Yourself  
Grow in Faith  
Serve with Love*

## 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



Children's worship available each

Sunday from 8:50 to 11:30 a.m.

(Birth - Infants - 6<sup>th</sup> grade)



Handicapped Parking available at  
North entrance of parking lot.

**Oct 19, 2025**

**"Hope"**

Psalms 39:7

Romans 15:13

Matthew 24:29-31

**Preschool:** Patty Bradley

**KOW:** Lesa Exman

**Oct 26, 2025**

**"Love"**

1 Corinthians 13:13

Matthew 22:34-40

John 3:16

**Preschool:** Katie Garrett

**KOW:** Lori Wyatt

*Ushers*

Jeff Ball  
Dave Beitzel  
Ron Stanton  
Brad Sims



**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!**



**Exclusively  
available in the  
printed edition.**

**80s and 90s+**

**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)**





# Upcoming Events

**Civil Choir**  
Every Monday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Bible Study**  
Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
Every Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Carillon Bells**  
Every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m.

**Chancel Choir**  
Every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Children's Choir (Pre K - Elementary)**  
Every Sunday from 09:45 to 10:00 a.m.

**Wesleyan Choir (Teens)**  
Every Sunday from 09:45 to 10:15 a.m.

October



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Mark your calendars!  
Don't forget to save these dates!

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



5 Chancel Choir



12 Wesleyan Choir



19 Chancel Choir



26 Carillon Handbells

1 Family Life Meeting at 6 p.m.

5 Holy Communion  
Baptism  
Organ Pipe Recital at 3 p.m.

6 UWF at 6 p.m.

11 DAR at 10 a.m.

12 Youth Baked Potato Fundraiser

14 SPRT at 6 p.m.

19 Youth Fall Event

21 Verla Moore Service Club at 6 p.m.

26 Trunk or Treat at 4 p.m.

Coming in November...

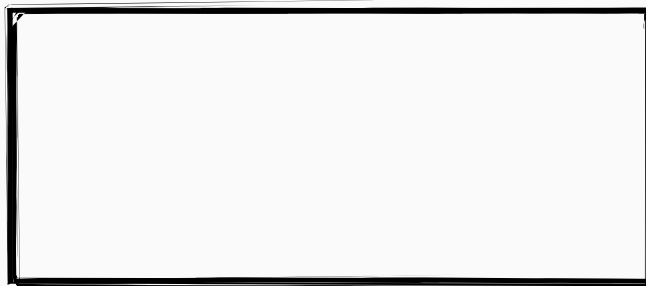
Sunday, November 23:  
Handbell Festival

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



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