

the Messenger

NEW SEASON

We can all breathe a sigh of relief as we notice signs that spring is almost here. Our hopes rise! The freedom of movement we anticipate can only match the lightness of being we recall from previous summer days!

What are you looking forward to doing first? What will help you move into a new season and allow you to put behind you the discomforts of winter?

As a minister arriving at a church that looks forward to a new era, I have had to endure a season of 'waiting.' I'm quite accustomed to being the 'outsider' adapting to a community that has shared a long history. I enjoy learning about the culture of the church; then finding my place in it!

It benefits no-one to rush this process. It has to be thoughtfully and prayerfully done! And it all begins with dependence upon the presence of God's Spirit. The work of watching and taking note; the work of developing relationships and spending time with those drawn by loving curiosity to the pastor; the work of unearthing stories of past problems and personalities; the work of defining what can realistically be changed or instituted...all take time!

And it is ongoing! You know it begins bearing fruit when a few key congregants voice their concerns about the same issue! That's a good starting point! As we engage in conversations about solutions; it becomes evident that there are others who are equipped and ready to help...and the circle grows!

This is the organic nature of problem-solving with God's help! The work has just begun at least two of our ministries plans to regroup and/or reorganize. Those involved are excited! There is hope! Their 'winter of discontent' is over!

Then there is 'the leap of faith'! Our Bible Studies are an example of taking a leap with trust and enthusiasm. Merri Pycraft and Chris Hudson were the willing champions of this ministry and now it's well on its way! Who knows where it will lead us. Anyone eager to, is welcome to start a new Bible Study at church or at home!

Do any of you feel inspired to raise your hand to be part of our church revival? In my conversations with church members, I have learned that at some point in the past, several of you have offered your gifts when called for. Will you be willing to pray for the power to discern how and when you will say 'yes' when you are asked? Listed below are some of the small tasks that are waiting to be accomplished:

1. New signs to be typed and laminated to replace the overlooked, ragged notices in various places (kitchen, bathrooms, etc.).
2. Going through our book collections to update and organize them (or at least dust them off)? Let's love our books and read them...or donate them! Book Club, anyone?

May you encounter the Holy Spirit in all that you attend to, no matter how small!

Blessings,

Pastor Merlyn

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who worship with us: Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle & family, Carol & Pat Burnison, Tim Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Pat & Wilma Chirdon, Tom Dinger, Sandy Elliott, Tom & Lucy Ewing, Maxine Fravel, Joan Graham, Janice Guy, Claudia Hendershot, Ann & Jerry Jones, Allyson Leisy, Nancy Mackey, Bev McCoy, Nancy Mishler, Cheryl & Ken Moon, Kelly Moorhead, Patti Myers, Bonnie Parker, Todd & Renee Patterson, Ron & Beth Pycraft, Bobbie Randall, Emma Sigler, Jimi Slover, Linda Spratt, Megan Taylor, Judy Van Zile, Sue Wolford, Jason Woodruff, Rick Yenne

Family: Andy S. & family (*Donna Humrichouser*), Aaron & Chantell Bennett (John & Jan), Don Bertch (Nancy Macky), David (Lisa Birkes), Doug Shultz (Leta Wisner), Lexie Hinkle (Lucy Ewing), Greg & Gale Gorrell (Claudia Hendershot), Jim Jones (Jerry Jones), Jim Martin (Linda Spratt), Mary Kay McCaron (Bev McCoy), Joni Morlock & family (Merri Pycraft), Max (David Bowden), The Nirode Family (Helen Fravel), Elwin & Nancy Saylor (Beth Pycraft), Mary Alice Shade (Wanda Hockenberry), Dianna Scott (John & Amy), Dottie Snyder's sister-in-law (Dottie), Jill Spitler (the Ewings), Robert Stimpert (family), Edwin Taylor, Sue Whitenack (Carol & Pat Burnison)

Friends: Candace Adams (CCC family), Donna Alexander friends), Donna Beam (Wayne Gilkey), Betsy (Bonnie Chellis), Evie (the Hudsons), Arie & Carson Cable (Bev McCoy), Claire & Korben (Madalyn Moorhead,) Deborah (the Hudson's), Helen Fry (Helen Fravel), Jamie (Kelly), Becky Koch (Leta), Russ Lengacher (Friends), Pricilla Martin (Linda Spratt), Scott McAfee (Amy Scott), Michael (Barbara Smetzer), Liz & Richard Miller (Kelly M.), Misty (Misty Baker), Molly (Merri Pycraft), Nina (Helen Fravel), Elaine & Rick Peterson (Pat Kennedy), Barry Phillips (Jason Woodruff), Kay Pitisinger (Bonnie Chellis), Ricky (Misty Baker), Bernie & Tencha Schafrath (Allyson Leisy), Tomeka & Markus Smith (Cheryl Moon), John Stofer Jr. (friends), Chris Waite (Trista & Kelly), Chuck Walland (Allyson Leisy)

God Bless our men and women who are serving across the world risking and sometimes giving their lives for a greater good. Some are military, police, fireman, some are doctors, nurses & teachers. Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world as they battle for their freedom and their lives.

Amen



If you have a prayer concern you would like to share with your family or just with the pastor, please call the church and let the office know or leave us a message. 330-262-4652



We are sending a very big welcome to one of the newest members of our church family. Please Welcome *Jade Alexandria Ewing*. Jade, weighing 7lbs 2oz and 19 inches long, was born on March 19, 2025, to Zack Ewing and Olivia Fenscik. The Grandparents are Tom and Lucy Ewing.

“MEAL TOGETHER SUNDAY”

When: April 6th, *right after church service*

Where: In Fellowship Hall

Fixings: **Pancakes** will be provided

What: Bring a dish to share, if you can't ...come anyway and share a meal and your smile.

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Hudson	4/1	Gary Sparr	4/1	Marianne Bowden	4/2
Hannah Bradham	4/2	Andrew Chenevey	4/2	Deb Hotte	4/3
Justine Mackey	4/5	Terry Chellis	4/6	Carol Ewing	4/6
Michele Kubilis	4/6	Julie Kastner	4/10	Chris Bradham	4/13
David Bowden	4/14	Laura Willisman	4/15	Bill Styer	4/16
Bill Adams	4/17	Randy Hudson	4/17	Brian Mackey	4/17
Nancy Dillon	4/18	Shawn Baker	4/23	Larry Drabenstott	4/24
Tom Ewing	4/25	Juli Pycraft	4/26	Dottie Snyder	4/28

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Carol Gray	4/6	56 Years
David & Marianne Bowden	4/20	45 Years
John & Amy Scott	4/20	29 Years

OUR EASTER SEASON started with a Drive Thru Ash Wednesday. A first time project for this church. The premise being you could drive up to the Gathering Room Doors and our Elders and Minister would come to your car and administer the ashes and blessing. Although this was something that was late in the process of planning we believe as with any new idea, some fine tuning, earlier and later hours and better advertising information it will a staple of our Lent experience.



Palm Sunday is the start of the busy Easter Week and we hope you will all come and joining us at 9:30 am on April 13th for the beginning of Jesus Journy to the cross. On Thursday April 17th at 7:00 pm there will be a Maundy Thursday Service depicting the Last Super. On Friday April 18th a Good Friday 12 hour Prayer Vigil, start at 8:00am. Please feel free to come anytime during those 12 hours to sit quietly in the Sanctuary. You will never be alone at any time during those 12 hours. On Saturday starting at 11am we are hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Green. Great Fun and praying for great weather. On Sunday morning we will celebrate the Risen Christ. Please come and join us for as many Easter events as you can.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

One of our church Out Reach programs that we are is People to People Ministries. They have let us know they have a need for *Shampoo * Canned Fruit *Saltine Crackers *1 lb. bags of Rice & *Pasta Sides. They also need: Women's Tennis Shoes sz 8-11 *Men's Shoes sz. 9-13 *Children's Clothing in all sizes and *Teen bras in all sizes. You can drop any of these items off at the PTPM office or bring them to the church.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		1 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM TOPS - 10:30AM Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM	2 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM Bridge 1 - 4 PM Bible Study "Journey with the Mess
6 Lent Experience 8:45AM Worship 9:30AM MEAL TOGETHER SUNDAY	7 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	8 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM TOPS - 10:30AM Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM Finance Committee Mtg - 4:30PM Cub Pack 79 Cake Auction	9 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM Bridge 1 - 4 PM Bible Study "Journey with the Mess
13 Lent Experience 8:45AM PALM SUNDAY Worship 9:30AM	14 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	15 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM TOPS - 10:30AM Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM	16 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM Bridge 1 - 4 PM Bible Study "Journey with the Mess
20 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 9:30AM	21 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	22 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM TOPS - 10:30AM Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM SLT - 4:30PM	23 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM Bridge 1 - 4 PM Coin Club 6:00PM Bible Study "Journey with the Mess
28 Worship 9:30AM	29 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	30 ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM TOPS - 10:30AM Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM	

April 2025

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>iah" 6PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM</p> <p>Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST</p> <p>Green Leaf Restaurant - 8:30 AM Bring a Friend</p>
<p>iah" 6PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM</p> <p>Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>iah" 6PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM</p> <p>Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Service 4:30PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00AM to 8:00PM</p> <p>12 hour Prayer Vigil for Good Friday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt on the Green 11:00AM</p> 
<p>iah" 6PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM-12:00PM</p> <p>Youth Shakespeare - 4:30PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>First Quarter 2025 Congregational Meeting 10:45AM</p>

Hope is a confident expectation and trust in the promises of God and who He is. It is a firm assurance regarding things that are clear and unknown (Hebrews 11:1,7).

Hope is rooted in faith through Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Hope is the Spirit that Jesus left for us when He resurrected into heaven.

Hope is more than a wishful desire. It is a firm assurance of a future good. Hope can always be found. It is ever present in every situation. Hoping in God will never lead us into despair, because He has a plan for all of us who look to Him. He has a future that is full of hope (Proverbs 23:18). Hope produces joy and peace in believers through the power of the Spirit (Romans 12:12; 15:13).

It is more than a wish. Based on the belief that our God is faithful, hope relies on fulfilled promises. It is unseen (Romans 8:24). No matter how long our fingers are crossed, hope outlasts time and space. Hope is the ultimate survival tool.

As one of the three theological virtues, along with faith and love, hope is essential for a Christian life (Romans 15:13). Hope assures us that we can be confident in it because it's the law of God (Hebrews 11:1).

Trustworthy promises from God give us hope (Hebrews 6:18-19), and we may boast in this hope (Hebrews 3:6) and exhibit great boldness in our faith (2 Corinthians 3:12). By contrast, those who do not place their trust in God are said to be without hope (Ephesians 2:12).

In 1873 Fanny Crosby wrote of this sacred hope as she penned the hymn, Blessed Assurance. Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! These words define New Testament hope in Our Savior, Jesus.

'This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long'. Hope without Jesus is just a wish. Without faith in the Risen Christ, hope is just a desire for something to happen.

We can find rest when we confidently hope in the Lord. God promises that those who wait for him will not be disappointed (Isa 49:23). As Jeremiah proclaims that God is the hope of Israel, Paul announces that Jesus Christ is our hope (1 Tim 1:1).

Hope is a gift offered to us by the Holy Spirit. We choose to accept the power to hope which is evidence of God's love for us. It results in confidence, joy, peace, and love (Romans 5:5).

Hope is often symbolized by an anchor. It is a stronghold through our turbulent lives on earth. Hebrews 6:18-19 mentions taking refuge in God's promises by seizing the sure anchor of hope that is set before us.

Hope is like something that can stay on top of water, no matter how difficult life becomes. In other words, hope floats (Proverbs 23:18). Just like Jesus walking on

water. The Hope of Easter will carry us onward to the love of God.



We are updating our 2020 Church Directory. In the last 5 years much has changed in our church family, name changes, new addresses, new or ended land lines, new or changed cell phones or cell phone numbers. The church is usually one of those places that are often forgotten to be notified of any contact change. The church is also setting up a way to do on-line giving. We are asking you to please fill out the form below and return it to the church by April 14th or as quickly as possible. You can mail it to the church, 407 N Market St. Wooster, Ohio 44691, Bring it to church on a Sunday morning and drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office during the week. Office hours are Monday – Friday 8:30 am -4:30 pm.

Verification of Information

Name _____ Cell Phone _____
 Name _____ Cell Phone _____
 Address _____ Landline Phone _____
 _____ Email Address _____
 _____ Email Address _____

Would you be interested in On-Line Giving _____

Jesus Wins! ALWAYS!

What do we do when our expectations for life do not match the realities we face?
 Matthew 21-28 encourages overwhelmed people with the simple reminder of an iron-clad truth: Jesus wins!

The grave is empty, the King is reigning. In the darkness of whatever valley you may be walking through, the journey of Jesus' last week reminds us that the kingdom Jesus established plays by different rules. In trusting him, we have already won.



We had a wonderful response with the orders for Easter Flowers and the church is going to look beautiful. We are asking if you ordered Easter Flowers this year to please take them home with you after church on Sunday April 4th or to pick them up during the week following Easter. Letters will be sent to you as a reminder of what you ordered.



APRIL 27, 2025

**WE WILL BE HAVING OUR 1ST QUARTER
 [2025] CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE REGULAR
 CHURCH SERVICE [10:45 AM]**



Central Christian Church

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April 2025

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Please consider helping us go paperless by receiving an emailed copy of *The Messenger* or If you'd like to stop receiving a paper copy of *The Messenger* then contact the church and we'd be happy to adjust our electronic and paper mailing lists.

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If you have a prayer concern you would like to share with your family please call the church and let the office know. 330-262-4652 for the office

The Messenger is a monthly publication for the purpose of advancing the life and ministry of Central Christian Church.

Email us at jdouglas4652@gmail.com with any news to be included in *The Messenger*.