

*the*

# *Messenger*

## **Pastor's Page**

August, 2025

### Summer Reflections!

Each time I lift my head from my work to take stock of my surroundings, I am amazed and grateful (and truthfully, also a little overwhelmed)! My world is so large and so spread out! Will I be able to pay attention to it all; do all that is expected of me; and yet remain present to the inspiration of God's Spirit, I wonder?

I am reminded of my mother, who I imagined lived a much simpler life. She gave up any hopes of a career to focus on the wellbeing and safety of her family, preparing them to live in an environment that was suspicious of Christians. While she held all things together gracefully, she was also planning for a better future for herself and her family. It had to be a worrisome time for her; placing her trust in God and wondering if she was doing enough. Most Christian families then, lived in communities that shared the same vision for the future. And they all made it to the Promised Land. We couldn't have made it without our communities that ensured safety: both physical and spiritual.

What was God doing in me the whole time? I realize now he had designed me to be to be aware of my surroundings. A therapist once told me that when I first came to this country I probably arrived with some degree of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). There was nothing 'Post' about it! There were 'new' traumatic stresses to endure. But there was purpose to these, I realize now! Many of you do understand what I'm trying to say. Life is a series of new events and journeys; not always easy or enjoyable. We do what is needed without feeling fearful or sorry for ourselves and we move forward. God's Spirit goes with us, wordlessly advising and protecting us!

I remember the churches I have belonged to because they were not just Sunday Morning affairs for me: they were life-sustaining communities I needed so I could thrive. They provided me with warmth that felt like sunshine. Our natural inclination is to seek out the Sun for warmth and our sense of wellbeing. So, we look up often!

When I lift up my head to check my surroundings, it's with hope that I search to see whether my community today is on high ground, beyond immediate danger; safe and ready to thrive in new ways, always ready to move forward. We, Christians, are a people of perpetual movement. We move over to make place for more people to join us in worship. We add place settings at the table to share meals. We look up often to see if the community is doing well.

After completing my first eight months here with you I accept you as my new community with confidence. I see a stirring of the Spirit among you that assures me that we are in good hands. It isn't just up to me I realize! The Spirit has granted me the vision to see with fresh eyes your strengths and opportunities. And believe me, you have them both in abundance. There is, of course, decay and disfunction that must be remedied. But because God's Spirit is here present with you in full force, you will be compelled to see where changes are necessary and 'go to work'.

How blessed we are that the Worship Committee has captured the vision. How hopeful we are that the Elders Committee is taking their work seriously and want to know more before they apply their ministry in fresh new ways rather than defaulting tired out traditions. How lucky we are to have the funds to refresh the exterior of our beautiful historical building. We are drinking fresh water from the streams God has supplied; we are eating fresh fruits of God's good earth; and we are singing God's praises more melodiously than ever before.

I bow my head in humility and gratitude!

Pastor Merlyn

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Those Who Worship With Us:** Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle, Carol & Pat Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Pat & Wilma Chir-don, Tom Dinger, Sandy Elliott, Lucy Ewing,

Maxine Fravel, Janice Guy, Claudia Hendershot, Chris Hudson, Ann & Jerry Jones, Nancy Mackey, Bev McCoy, Nancy Mishler, Cheryl & Ken Moon, Patti Myers, Bonnie Parker, Todd & Renee Patterson, Ron & Beth Pycraft, Bobbie Randall Emma Sigler, Linda Spratt, Megan Taylor, Judy VanZile, Sue Wohlford, Jason Woodruff, Rick Yenne

**Family:** Andy S. & family (Donna Humrichouser), Don Bertch (Nancy Mackey), David (Lisa Birkes), Doug Shultz (Leta Weisner), Lexie Hinkle (Lucy Ewing), Greg & Gale Gorrell (Linda Spratt), MaryKay McCarron (Bev McCoy), Joni Morlock & family (Merri Pycraft), Max (David Bowden), The Nirode family (Helen Fravel), Elwin & Nancy Sayler (Beth Pycraft), Diana Scott (John & Amy), Dottie Snyder's sister-in-law (Dottie), Jill Spitler (the Ewings), Robert Stimpert (family), Sue Whitenack (Carol & Pat Burnison), Carol Woodruff (Jason & Trista)

**Friends:** Candace Adams (CCC family), Donna Alexander (friends), Donna Beam (Wayne Gilkey), Betsy (Bonnie Chellis), Evie (the Hudson), Arie & Carson Cable (Bev McCoy), Claire & Korben (Madalyn Moorhead), Deborah (the Hudson's), Helen Lengacher (friends), Pricilla Martin (Linda Spratt), Scott McAfee (Amy Scott), Michael (Barbara Smetzer), Liz & Richard Miller (Kelly), Misty (Misty Baker), Molly (Merri Pycraft), Nin (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), Chuck Walland (Allyson Leisy)



***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***

***A Thank You from the Family of Joan Graham:***

*We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the generous gifts which have been give in memory of our mother, Joan Graham. Your kindness and thoughtfulness during this difficult time means so much to our families. It brings comfort to know that my mother's memory touched others and that her life continues to be honored in such meaningful ways. Your gesture was not only deeply appreciated, but it also reminded us of the support and care that surrounds us.*

*Thank you again for your compassion and generosity.*

*With gratitude,*

*David Graham & Jil Dellger (Children of Joan Graham)*

**WE HAVE AN ONGOING NEED FOR SOCKS. All kinds of socks for all kinds of feet. Little feet, middle size feet, big feet. As we have found out in the past there is as big a need for adult socks as there is for kid's socks. We will ALWAYS take sock donations.**

**People sometimes identify us as "The Sock Church".**

**Your generosity is always outstanding and so appreciated by more people that you will never know. You have touched them in so many ways. We thank you in advance for all that you do**

## ***BIRTHDAYS***

Alayna Cooper	8/3	Sandy Spahr	8/3	Ben Chenevey	8/4
Rob Kastner	8/5	Tim Burnison	8/7	Sophie Cowart	8/9
Andrew Gorfi	8/9	Faith Finch	8/10	Sandy Oliver	8/11
Carol Marthey	8/12	Linda Spratt	8/16	Amber Fitzwater	8/17
Seth Bechtel	8/18	Brandi Ballentine	8/20	Pat Chirdon	8/21
Tasha Fitzwater	8/21	Kaden Zimmerer	8/21	Pat Burnison	8/22
Matt Dillon	8/24	Tom Dinger	8/25	Jacks Kaylor	8/27
Judy Van Zile	8/28	Johnny scott	8/29	Alice Williamson	8/29

## ***ANNIVERSARIES***

Curt & Christine Bunting	8/5	27 yrs	Ben & Brandi Ballentine	8/22	13 yrs
John & Jan Douglas	8/25	58 yrs	Jerry & Ann Jones	8/27	64 yrs
Fred & Jackie Acord	8/29	38 yrs			

Being a parent, grand parent or a close friend gives us the opportunity to share our children's accomplishments, Nancy Mackey recently shared with us that her Great-Grand-daughter, Brook Hershy who attends Northwestern High School, showed her lambs at this years Ohio State Fair and won the "Grand Champion Overall". Congratulations Brook!! Thank you for sharing Nancy.



We also want to recognize Ronald Bricker. Ronald, now a member of Boy Scout Troop 4066, started his scouting experience right here at CCC in Cub Pack 79. On August 1, 2025, he will receive his Badge of Honor by becoming an Eagle Scout. Earning the rank of Eagle allows a Scout to join an esteemed group of individuals committed to a Lifetime of leadership and service to their communities. Since 1912, more than two million Scouts have earned the prestigious Eagle Scout award: only a small fraction of the scouting community.



This Pavilion is empty now **BUT** on **August 10th at 10:30am** Central Christian Church will be filling it up with **FOOD, FRIENDS, MUSIC and FELLOWSHIP!**

Come join us at the **Upper Christmas Run Park** for worship at 10:30am and then we'll share some good summer food. The

church will provide the Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Buns, Bottled Water & Punch along with the plates, cups & eating utensils. We are asking you to provide the sides and desserts.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 Worship 9:30AM	4 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	5 TOPS - 10:30AM	6 Bridge 1 - 4 PM
10 Worship 10:30AM at Christmas Run Park Church Picnic	11 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	12 TOPS - 10:30AM  Finance Committee Mtg - 4:30PM	13 Bridge 1 - 4 PM
17 Worship 9:30AM	18 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	19 TOPS - 10:30AM	20 Bridge 1 - 4 PM
24 Worship 9:30AM	25 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	26 ESOL Orientation TOPS - 10:30AM SLT - 4:30PM	27 ESOL Orientation Bridge 1 - 4 PM
31 Worship 9:30AM			

# August 2025

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2  Green Leaf Restaurant - 8:30 AM Bring a Friend
	7	8	9
	14	15	16
	21	22	23
	28 ESOL Orientation Coin Club - 6:00PM	29	30

## Elder Note – August 2025

I like the depiction of August as "the Sunday of Summer."

Sunday is the end of the week, and August is the end of summer (almost). Sunday is a time for slowing down, for rest and recreation, for getting away, and for being with family, friends and nature. It is also a time for worship. And so is August. Merriam Webster's dictionary defines "august" as:

"inspiring reverence or admiration; of supreme dignity or grandeur."

August inspires reverence for the last precious remaining days of summer. You don't want to let these days slip by unsavored. They slip by because you are not savoring each moment. It's not time that moves too fast. It's your mind that moves too fast. Your mind jumps back into the past or forward to the future. Neither past nor future is real; only the present moment is. Revere the present moment as sacred.

Reverence for the present moment is a spiritual practice. All the world's religions teach us to make the most of every moment, for the opportunity each moment brings may not come again.

In some spiritual practices, being fully aware in the moment is known as "practicing the presence of God." See the presence of the Divine in all activity, whether it's washing dishes, being stuck in traffic or conversing with someone. God is present in every moment, in every activity and in every being. Don't let your mind take you away from that presence.

*To paraphrase Simon & Garfunkel in "59th Street Bridge Song", "Slow down, your mind moves too fast. You got to make the summer last." Take a slow, deep breath. Settle inward. Find your center — your Self. Based in Self, you see more clearly. The "supreme dignity and grandeur" is revealed, inside and outside, in every moment. That's waking up. That's how you live through August with no regrets and a ton of gratitude.*

Hope to see you all at the church picnic at Christmas Run. Randy



### **A 25 year Central Christian Church program has come to an end.**

Career Clothing was started in 1999 by Maxine Fravel and Pat Kennedy. One small room expanded into 3 larger rooms and a hallway. During the time that Career Clothing was in action not only did these two ladies run this program every Monday evening helping so many women with clothing needs of all kinds, but it was also used many times by the Wayne County Career Center. Young ladies from the business programs came in and were

shown how to, at that time, "dress for success" using *Classic Designs, Accessories and Styling Tips*. Clothing was donated from working women and their families throughout Wayne County and beyond. Sometimes Maxine's two daughters Kathy Leininger & Julie Gilson, would stop in to help. After Maxine and Pat's retirement in 2017 Linda Spratt and Cheryl Moon stepped in and then Trista Woodruff & Kelly Moorhead tried to keep the program running. But as always, times, fashions and traditions change. After COVID, a more relaxed presence in the workforce was accepted and 20 years of someone else's taste in clothing and styles were clearly not in touch with most of today's needs.

**We are truly thankful for the men and women who showed up on a hot and muggy Wednesday morning to clear out the remaining clothes. The clothing and other items were donated to Friendtique, Goodwill and other charitable organizations. Those wonderful people were Brad Bahl, Jan & Jim Bunting, Helen Fravel, Nancy Mishler, Bob & Bobbie Randall, Sue Wohlford, Kayla Zimmerer.**



## BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT ???

JULY IS OVER, SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING BACK UP BEFORE  
LONG --- THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST

WAYNE COUNTY FAIR SIGNS ARE GOING UP

THERE ARE ONLY 21 SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS !!!!

It isn't doom and gloom, but it is time for us to look at and remember what CCC has done in the past to support our local neighborhood school and our neighbors in general. Every year we collect school supplies to send up to the Cornerstone school. These are things that the students at Cornerstone are asked to supply. There is a wide range of choices, *you have to ask how do some of these parents afford this ?— the simple or hard answer is they can't. You know -- we don't ask pilots to pay for air-plane fuel. We don't ask our police to pay for their guns and bullets or handcuffs. And we don't ask doctors or nurses to pay for medicine or surgical equipment. But why then is it OK to ask teachers to supply, for their own classroom, supplies so students can participate and learn?* If you are interested in helping again, and you happen to see something on the list and can pick up one or two items, you can drop them off at the church Monday – Friday or after church on Sunday morning, that would be great. Last year the Corner Stone School personnel were blown away with the generosity of our congregation. We and they thank you for your consideration.

**Corner Stone School K – 4th Grades Supplies Needed** \*Back Packs \***ABSOLUTELY NONE WITH WHEELS.** \* Plastic Art Boxes-9X6 inches \*scissors \*12 inch wooden ruler (inch/cm) \*ELMER's Glue Sticks \*Bottles of White Glue \*24 count CRAYOLA crayons \*10 count CRAYOLA Classic Colored pencils \*12 count CRAYOLA Classic Colored pencils \*10 count CRAYOLA Classic Colored markers \*Packs of Colored Dry Erase markers \*Crayola Water Colors Sets \*Black SKINNY dry erase markers \*Black THICK dry erase markers \* Highlighters \*#2 Ticonderoga pre-sharpened pencils / **no mechanical pencils** \* Pencil Top erasers \* Chunky erasers \* Composition Note Books \*Composition Wide Rule note books/**no wire** \*3 ring 1 inch binders white with Clear Pocket \*Colored Cover 3 ring 1 inch binders \*3 prong folders— Red, Green, Yellow, Blue \* Multi Colored Folders with pockets \*Packs of 5 Tab dividers \*Post –It Notes \*Super Sticky Post –It notes \*Containers of Clorox Wipes \*Boxes of Plain Tissues \*Bottles of Hand Sanitizer \*Boxes of Snack Size and Sandwich Size Zip Lock Bags \*Boxes of Quart Zip Lock Bags \*Boxes of 1 Gallon Zip Lock Bags



## Central Christian Church

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August 2025

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## Periodical - Postage Paid

AUGUST 2025- VOL 98 - ISSUE 8

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POSTMASTER: Send  
address changes to  
**Central Christian Church,**  
**407 N. Market St.**  
**Wooster, OH 44691-3515**  
*The Messenger*  
Publication No. (USPS 315-620)  
Entered as second class matter, (4/10/23)  
at Wooster Post Office.  
Subscription: \$5/year,  
paid in advance  
Published monthly

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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*.