

the **Messenger**

Pastor's Page

September, 2025

Friends,

Yesterday I received a call from a good friend who was simply checking in but left me with much to think about. I'm going to refer to this friend as 'Jack' (alluding to 'Jack of all trades and master of none'!) I mean no disrespect to Jack. He is skilled in many ways and bears a willing heart. He is both a leader and a servant. He expects to be a master of none. Our chat was useful in expanding my outlook.

Jack and his family are faithful and passionate believers. They love their church, they tithe generously, and they keep up with study. So, you can see the problem...Jack believes he has got it right! He is fixed in his beliefs and is hard to move. He has fine-tuned his arguments, so one is forced to give in and throw up one's hands to preserve the friendship. Jack is in the process of looking for a new church. This is traumatic for him. He watches various Sunday morning services online; evaluates the quality of the sermon; the presence of little children (he has grandchildren); and ministries where he can offer his many and varied gifts. What he cannot find is a church that keeps Communion at its center.

He feels free to challenge me and so he pushes me to be the Minister of 'his ideal church.' The conversation we had revolved around the subject of 1) How do we grow the church? and 2) How do we draw young people back to church to ensure longevity? He has seen his church decline in number, lose children's ministry and await its imminent death. He gives them five years. He has used his imagination, every skill and talent he has, all his spare time, and has run out of ideas.

It so happens that I have just returned from a week-long seminar on Church in the Secular World, a hot topic right now in the United States that sheds light on what Jack is wrestling with. The author, Andy Root, is passionate about this subject and has written a slew of well-received books on the future of church.

The truth is: There's no simple answer! Because the church is God's domain. No one can solve this problem (we've tried). Let's ask God! Jack would argue that we can't afford to stand around and do nothing. 'Not so!' God is waiting for us to settle down and await his guidance. When we take the initiative to put into action our own plans, we are relying on something other than God (ourselves). When we become enamored with what we're doing; we place all our hopes in ourselves...and God is forgotten!

What if we humbly admitted to God that we are lost? Even when God enlivens us, we graciously commit to following God and not pushing Him aside. God will not let us fail if we trust God! Remember Abraham and Isaac?

But Jack argues! "We just need to think in new ways: outside the box!" We need to come up with doing church in ways that are meaningful to the young. We need to stay active." To him, what I propose amounts to day-dreaming!

So, good people of Central Christian Church! What do you think?

Pray first, before forming an opinion. Of the two perspectives presented in this article, where do you find hope? Maybe at a point in between, or in a blend of both. What might that look like? Pray first; then ask for God's vision to be revealed! Are we going to approach this dilemma from the standpoint of doubt and fear? Or do we place all our trust and hope in God, who will surely point us in the right direction!

Pastor Merlyn

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those Who Worship With Us: Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle, Carol & Pat Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Pat & Wilma Chirdon, 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, Bonnie Parker, Todd & Renee, Pat-terson, 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), 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), 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

BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT

Well good people!!! You have done it again.

There isn't enough room for all the "thank you's" we want to give so that everyone who donated to this very worthy cause can have their hearts filled full of our appreciation for what you all have done.

So many backpacks, crayons, paints, glue sticks, pencils, markers notebooks an SOOOO much more.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

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

Kelly Moorhead	9/1	Carol Laurich	9/4	Candace Adams	9/10
Lois Murphy	9/10	Marilyn Gustafson	9/11	Claudia Hendershot	9/12
John Fravel	9/14	Jane Stout	9/14	Jerry Jones	9/16
Ken Moon	9/16	Nancy Mackey	9/20	Ssan Flinner	9/20
Ron Pycraft	9/23	Carol Chenevey	9/26		

ANNIVERSARIES

Brent & Robin Myers	9/2 47 Yrs	Garu & Claudia Hendershot	9/6 55 Yrs
Don & Barb Morris	9/10 64 Yrs	Terry & Bonnie Chellis	9/18 60 Yrs
Jim & Carol Mills	9/20 39 Yrs	Shawn & Misty Baker	9/21 29 Yrs
Joe & Carol Chenevey	9/27 45 Yrs	Ryan & Tracy Mathys	9/27 16 Yrs

BIBLE STUDY

SEASON 5 OF THE CHOSEN starts on Wednesday Sept 17, at 6:30PM

Led By Lisa Birkes and Michele Kubilis

Join us every Wednesday evening for the next 8 weeks as we go from triumph to betrayal:

Jesus enters Jerusalem acclaimed as king and confronts corrupt temple merchants

While religious leaders plot against his growing influence he shares a final meal with his disciples.

In the shadows, Judas' treachery sets in motion events that would transform history.

The tale of sacrifice becomes humanity's most profound story.





First Sunday Carry-In lunch is on September 7, 2025

Immediately following church we'll be meeting in Fellowship Hall for "BBQ Beef" and any number of wonderful carry-in dishes. Everyone is welcome to come join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Bring a dish to share and if you can't bring a dish bring a smile and we'll share with you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 LABOR DAY	2 ESOL 9:00AM Tops - 10:30am	3 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1-4 PM
7 Worship 9:30AM	8 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	9 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM Finance Committee Mtg - 4:30PM	10 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
14 Worship 9:30AM	15 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	16 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM	17 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
21 Worship 9:30AM	22 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	23 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM SLT - 4:30PM	24 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
28 Worship 9:30AM	29 Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Off Site	30 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM	

September 2025

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>4</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM</p> <p>The Chosen Bible Story 6:30PM</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Green Leaf Restaurant - 8:30 AM Bring a Friend</p>
	<p>11</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM</p> <p>The Chosen Bible Story 6:30PM</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
	<p>18</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM</p> <p>The Chosen Bible Story 6:30PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Life Line Screening in Fellowship Hall 8:00 to 5:30PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8-10:00 Cleanse My Soul</p>
	<p>25</p> <p>ESOL 9:00AM</p> <p>Coin Club - 5:30 PM</p> <p>The Chosen Bible Story 6:30PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>

Elder Note – September 2025

If you blinked, summer is coming to a close, school buses are out, baseball is ending and football is beginning. Seasons, schedules and rhythms constantly change.

In the hustle of new schedules, it's easy to feel as though our resources—time, energy, and finances—are spread thin. Yet, as stewards of God's grace, we are called to be intentional about how we use the gifts we've been entrusted with.

Psalm 24 reminds us that "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it". This includes our personal resources. In September, consider how you can cultivate your own life's "harvest." Are there new volunteer opportunities, Bible study groups, or ministries you can support with your time?

How can we be more mindful of using our resources to support the needs of our neighbors and build up the Kingdom?

This season let's reflect on what truly matters and invest in kingdom causes. Our generosity, whether in service or financial gifts, is an expression of our gratitude for God's abundant blessings.

Make it a great day,
Randy

CLEANSE MY SOUL

Do you know someone who may need a helping hand with cleaning supplies ? Let them know that on Sept. 20th from 8-10 am *Cleans My Soul* will be giving out all types of cleaning products. Just pull up to the Central Christian Church's Buckeye Street door and we'll help you.



After many weeks of making contacts and verifying numbers, address, names and spellings, the 2025 Central Christian Church Directory is finished. If you have not received a copy and would like one please contact the church office at:

330-262-4652
or jdouglas4652@gmail.com and we'll make sure to mail you a copy.

From the Back Row:

I am going to borrow a title and a lot of words from a recently read article by Russ Ewell titled:

Starts All Over Again: A Fall Guide to Love, Learning, and Friendship

Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall, a quote from –F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*, and it is absolutely true.

The kids are starting back to school, commercials about the best buys for school supplies, new fall clothes shopping for some of the kids and parents alike. Football season is now underway, ads for pumpkin in almost everything. The color of the trees is starting to darken, getting ready to change and thrill us with the brilliant colors and doesn't the air smell just a bit different? For most of us our vacations are winding down and we are settling back to our lives.

Mr. Ewell said this is a time of hope, a moment of possibilities. It's a time of getting back to old friends and making new ones. We can forget summer failures, believe in fresh opportunities. We can take a chance to dream of what the day might become. In the fall he is fueled with the desire to learn, grow and pursue the visions in his head and heart for his life.

Back to school with God

This new season gives us inspiration about how to engage in our relationship with God. Enrolling in his classroom makes all other learning possible. **Proverbs 18:15 ERV** The spiritually wise are those who realize how much more they need to learn. For anyone who believes in God, this means always learning more and listening closely to his Word to better understand how to be close to him. Revelation 2 offers ultimate spiritual back-to-school assessment:

"I know your deeds, your tireless labor, and your patient endurance. I know you do not tolerate those who do evil. Furthermore, you have diligently tested those who claim to be emissaries, and you have found that they are not true witnesses. You have correctly found them to be false. I know you are patiently enduring and holding firm on behalf of My name. You have not become faint. However, I have this against you: **You have abandoned your first love.** Do you remember what it was like before you fell? **It's time to rethink and change your ways:** go back to how you first acted, if you do not return, I will come quickly and personally remove your lampstand from its place." **Revelation 2:2-5 Voice**

As Jesus addresses Christians in these verses, he brings forward the most important subject we can learn: loving and desiring a relationship with God. This first love is the catalyst that makes our second love possible: loving people.

Many of us know the rules but stop knowing God. In Revelation 2, Jesus describes a people who had "tireless labor," "patient endurance," and "intolerance to evil." But his concern was that they had mastered the curriculum while losing the Teacher. That's when love fades, and that autumn feeling of possibility turns into just another routine. We stop looking for ways to learn to love and settle for religious behavior. We act as though we've graduated from God's classroom.

Many Christians graduate too soon—they stop studying God and stop wrestling with Scripture. They become dull to learning because they think they've heard it all before. The moment we stop learning, we stop loving. People don't leave God and lose their faith for lack of knowing the rules. They leave because they stop learning about their first love—God

Jan



Central Christian Church

407 N. Market St.
Wooster, OH 44691-3515

September 2025

(330) 262-4652

tech@cccwooster.org

Periodical - Postage Paid

VHSWHP EHU#53580#YRO##;#0#LVXH#<#

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.

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

Church Staff

Minister

Rev. Merlyn Winters
mwinters@inbox.com

Secretary

Jan Douglas
jdouglas4652@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jennings Carpenter
cccwootreasurer@gmail.com

Accompanist

Chloe Raber

Technology and Communications Coordinator

Ryan Mathys
tech@cccwooster.org

Wedding Coordinator

Tracy Mathys

Contact Us

OFFICE HOURS

8:30– 4:30 M– F

Office phone:

330-262-4652

Fax number:

330-264-3070



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*.