

the

Messenger

OUR NEIGHBOR

A recent sermon raised the question of *Who is My Neighbor?* If I am to love God and love my neighbor as myself, how far do I have to look for someone who I can consider my neighbor?

I'm quite sure that we will think of our next-door neighbors first! Not long ago we all knew the people living next door and communicated with them on a regular basis; even if it was just to wave and shout out a friendly 'Hello!'

I'm saddened when I think of my next-door neighbors of the past (in Columbus). Some have downsized and moved away. One neighbor I felt I knew well had to be admitted to a nursing home because of the onset of Alzheimer's disease. In her more alert days she would keep me updated on all the activity that occurred on our street while I was away.

Now I have new neighbors! On one side is a Somali family and on the other a Hispanic family. One family has a better grasp of the English language and appear to have active school, work and social lives. They wave out and say Hi! The others keep a low profile. The family across the street is a Black family that have three teenage sons. I occasionally catch a glimpse of a woman who may be the mother (or an older sister). We all respect each other's boundaries and politely signal that we acknowledge and respect each other as neighbors.

I grieve that 'Neighborliness' is a lost art! Have our neighbors become those we communicate with only electronically? I can remember bonding over conversations on the front lawn; or when we Christians got ready to leave for church at about the same time on Sundays; or decorating our houses for the Christmas holidays.

I especially miss the children playing outdoors, making too much noise; the dogs barking at anything that moved; and walkers who guilted us about our negligence in the this aspect of our lives.

Take a moment to think about what 'neighborliness' has meant to you in the past and if there remains any semblance of it left in your world today.

I wonder if we refuse to *trust* others the way we once did! Have we all submitted to fear of the 'other'? What advice would Jesus have for us? What exactly has driven us apart and taken away the affection we had for those we enjoyed living with in community.

Our church is located on a street rich with neighbors. I would encourage you, the reader, to bring forward your thoughts on how we can send a signal to these beloved neighbors that we *do know they are there and we do care that they thrive*. Do they know that we can pray for them and their concerns? Do they know that we are aware of community resources that may come in useful for them in their time of need?

I invite you to join me in imagining all the possibilities. This is a relationship we need to develop for the sake of *being* better neighbors ourselves. We need our neighbors as much as they need us. So, let's get creative and take the initiative. Let's practice the love of Jesus Christ and be assured that His spirit is always with us and will guide us!

Pastor Merlyn

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS **10/25/2025**

Those Who Worship With Us: Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle, Marriann Bowden, Carol & Pat Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Wilma Chirdon, 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, Patterson, Ron & Beth Pycraft, Bob & Bobbie Randall, Linda Spratt, Megan Taylor, Judy VanZile, Sue Wohlford, Rev. Merlyn Winters, Jason Woodruff, Rick Yenne

Family: Andy S. & family (Donna Humrichouser), Don Bertch (Nancy Mackey), Doug Shultz (Leta Weisner), Roger Everett (Tammy Everett), Lexie Hinkle (Lucy Ewing), Mike, Becca & Jeff Facemire (Charles & Sandy Spahr), MaryKay McCarron (Bev McCoy), Joni Morlock & family (Merri Pycraft), Max (David Bowden), The Nirode family (Helen Fravel), Elwin & Nancy Sayler (Beth Pycraft), Mary Sayler (Beth Pycraft), Michael Scott (John & Amy), Dottie Snyder's sister-in-law (Dottie), Jill Spittler (the Ewings), Robert Stimpert (family), Ken Vizzo (Lana Vizzo), Sue Whitenack (Carol & Pat Burnison)

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), Tom Jones, (Bobbie Randall), Helen Lengacher (friends), Scott McAfee (Amy Scott), Michaael (Barbara Smetzer), Liz & Richard Miller (Kelly), Misty (Misty Baker), Molly (Merri Pycraft), Nina (Helen Fravel), Lois Oligee (Merlyn Winters), Elaine & Rick Peterson (Pat Kennedy), Barry Phillips (Jason Woodruff), Kay Pitisinger (Bonnie Chellis), Ray Plant (Cheryl Moon), 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

BIRTHDAYS

Curt Bunting	11/2	Dan Walter	11/3	Ellen Gustafson	11/4
Niveah Walter	11/8	Bonnie Adams	11/8	Gary Kobs	11/12
Bonnie Parker	11/17	John Stofer, Jr	11/17	Madalyn Moorhead	11/19
Pat Dinger	11/24	Bonnie Chellis	11/29	Tricia Pycraft	11/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff Jones and Mary Ann Jones 11/26 37 yrs



We started our campaign on the first day of Autumn (or Fall) and we are hoping to have our 2026 budget well in hand by the end of November. However, our seasons don't really change on a fixed date. They transition from one to

the other, sometimes feeling like a bumpy ride; but still signaling to us the onset of change.

I wonder if church life can be divided into distinct seasons as well.

For preaching purposes we have the Lectionary which is a very helpful tool to keep preachers on track with themes that follow the events of the Bible and give us a clearer view of how God's plan for humanity plays out.

We are currently in the season 'after Pentecost' and will remain in this season for nine more weeks. Then there will be Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost (with other related observances filling out the liturgical calendar).

One season that we churchgoers have some choice in establishing is Stewardship Season! Yes, it is a 'season' in church life and not just one day!

During Stewardship Season we examine our responsibilities as followers of Christ. We are the stewards of the church Jesus Christ came to establish for the benefit of all: for the rich and the poor. We remind ourselves of all that we have: our good lives that we've worked hard for; our families that surround us; and our abilities to survive in society. And quickly we realize we aren't all there is! Our world is filled with people who survive on much less than we have, who do their best to deny their hardship but have to admit that some help would come as a relief.

This month we will devote ourselves to Stewardship. We actually engage in stewardship all year round; but we pause in October to examine our past efforts; to adjust and refresh our ministries; and to deepen our personal commitments to the work that Jesus Christ entrusted to us and to review our church budget. By the end of October, we will be eager to 'do more,' to 'give more,' and to 'be more' as Christians who are always morphing into more Christ-like people.

So, stay tuned! Be present, be alert, and witness the Will of Christ unfold!

Pastor Merlyn and the Finance Committee

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2 Worship 9:30AM All Saints Day Recognition	3	4 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM	5 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
9 Worship 9:30AM	10	11 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM Finance Committee Mtg - 4:30PM	12 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
16 Worship 9:30AM	17	18 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM	19 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
23 Worship 9:30AM	24	25 ESOL 9:00AM TOPS - 10:30AM SLT - 4:30PM	26 ESOL 9:00AM Bridge 1 - 4 PM
30 Worship 9:30AM Hanging of the Greens Service Church Decorating			

November 2025

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST Green Leaf Restaurant - 8:30 AM Bring a Friend
	6 ESOL 9:00AM Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	7 Bridge - 1:00PM	8
	13 ESOL 9:00AM Cub Pack 79 6-7PM	14	15
	20 ESOL 9:00AM Cub Pack 79 6-7PM Coin Club - 6:00 PM	21 Bridge - 1:00PM	22
	27 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING 	28	29

Elders Letter November 2025

Dear Church Family,

As the days grow shorter and the autumn air turns crisp, we enter a season marked by gratitude. This time of year invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the countless blessings God has poured into our lives. In November, we are reminded that thankfulness is not just a holiday event but a continual posture of the heart, one that can transform our perspective even in difficult times.

The apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”. He does not say to give thanks for all circumstances, but in all of them. In a year that may have brought hardships, heartaches, or confusion, we can still find reasons for praise. We give thanks for God’s unwavering love, His constant presence, and His ultimate control over all things. No matter what we face, His mercy and grace are with us because we are His dearly loved children.

As elders, we want to express our deep gratitude for each of you. We are thankful for your dedication, your service, and your commitment to this church community. You are the vibrant pieces of a giant puzzle, each one necessary to make the whole thing complete. We are grateful for your prayers, your service, and your generous gifts that continue to support the mission of our church.

This month, we ask you to join us in a specific focus on prayer and thanksgiving. As we gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving, let us intentionally lift up our hearts in praise to God for all His goodness.

Here are a few ways you can engage in this season of gratitude:

Give thanks for what you have: Meditate on Psalm 136 and reflect on all that God has done for you and your family.

Pray for our church: Continue to pray for our church’s mission and for the leaders and ministries that serve our community.

Remember those in need: As you count your blessings, remember those who are lonely or struggling this season. We have opportunities to serve and support one another in various ways.

Reach out and connect: Take time to connect with fellow members, especially those you haven’t seen in a while. A personal word of encouragement can go a long way in strengthening our church family.

May the Lord bless you and your families this November. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming services and events, and we pray that this will be a month filled with joyful hearts and blessed peace.

Blessings, Randy



DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON ANY OF THE HOLIDAY EVENTS IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

There is so much going on in all our lives sometimes our calendars get a bit overloaded. Here are some things the church, *and we hope you*, will be involved with: If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the church office Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. If you are calling and do not get an answer, PLEASE leave a message we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



We are taking orders for the Christmas Poinsettias.

If you are interested in ordering one or more, have your order into the church on or before the November 20th deadline, please feel free to drop us a note or contact the church office at 330-262-4652. The flowers will be \$15.00 each for a 6.5 "pot (1 plant per pot). You will be able to order a RED or a JINGLE BELLS (speckled red & white) poinsettia. Please let us know if the plant is in memory, in honor or both of someone. Who the person or people is/are and who is donating the plant(s). Please make your payments to Central Christian Church.

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day but will be open on Friday November 28. This is when things really get rolling. On Sunday November 30th we'll be doing a Hanging of the Greens Service which starts our Advent season. We will be staying after the service to decorate the church for Christmas.

On December 2nd. We will be "Ring Bells for the Salvation Army, a long time tradition for Central Christian Church. We'll be at the Milltown Buehler's store out of the weather. Our hours are 9am -9pm with 1 hour shifts. If this is something you would like to do again give the church a call and we'll try and get you a time. . On Friday, December 5th from 4-7pm we will be joining the Down Town Church Walk. We'll have self guided tours of the church but are looking for people to answer question and greet our guest, live music, cookies and punch. If you have never done this you don't want to miss out on a wonder display of our downtown churches. NEXT on December 13th is our wonderful "Pictures With Santa" another longtime church event. More details on this and other events in our December Messenger.



407 N. MARKET STREET, WOOSTER, OH, 44691 | 330-262-4652



Here it is.... Your opportunity to do your Online Giving.
So easy -- Scan it to your Smart Phone and it will take you to
the online giving site for Central Chrisitan Church.
You can also find this on the front of you Sunday Bulletin.



Central Christian Church

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November 2025

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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*.