

# THE MESSENGER

## Pastor's Page December 2025

The sun shines as I write this article on a Sunday morning! When I think of October 28, the day I underwent knee replacement surgery; it all seems like a distant dream. The cloud of pain and discomfort that shrouded me has passed. I can think clearly again...I can move around without wincing. I am free finally, to be at my best. And I thank God!

As if on cue the Ohio Regional Church Office offered a workshop for ministers of the Ohio Region. At Camp Christian in Marysville, we gathered on Sat. Nov. 15; about thirty of us: to learn, discuss, and imagine how our churches can sharpen their focus on creating and strengthening communities. The timing was perfect! Because the Season of Advent is almost here: with Christmas to follow!

What better way to welcome the infant Christ into our hearts than with deep joy fueled by renewed clarity of vision for the ministries of our churches. It is my hope that we can approach the Year 2026 with deeper resolve and renewed vigor.

We at CCC Wooster have made good progress in the year 2025. We have fine-tuned some of our ministries as we continue imagining what we are meant to be in our city, and as a church called to serve its community. Let's imagine what it will feel like to be known by our neighbors. Let's imagine conversations taking place that reflect our care and concern for each other. How can we work together toward the same goals without any expectations of 'church growth.'

Let's put the 'other' first; not as a statistic, but as one of God's creation! I witnessed this happen in the way I was cared for by the women of this church while I was recovering from surgery. There was no official committee put in place to care for this pastor. In my fatigue and pain I asked Alicia Goodlive to be my communicator; to relay my condition and my needs...and she did just that with utter simplicity and grace. And soon Leta Wisner was staying overnight to make sure I would get my meds on time and would not fall. Allyson Leisy came to coach me on my physical therapy and the use of cold compresses. The Buntungs brought food as did many others. Several people drove me to and from my physical therapy appointments. Let me not forget the many loving Get Well wishes that arrived with regularity and the prayers offered for my healing. I was cared for beyond any expectation I could have had. Nothing heals like love!

We, Christians, have it in our DNA to give of ourselves more than we would ask of others. How well poised we are to do God's Will for His people who need a 'hand up'! There really is no 'them' and 'us' in God's world: we are all one family bound together in love!

So, be open to God's Spirit as it stirs in you. You might be presented with an unusual opportunity to do something new for the good of all. Pray first, then take a partner, or form a group and wait for your vision to become clear. You will not be left to struggle alone. Your vision will be revealed to you at the appropriate time. You will know what is right and necessary...and you will find yourself moving forward with confidence!

Then be the saints you were designed to be!  
Wishing You All A Blessed Christmas Season!  
Pastor Merlyn

The Significance of Christ's Birth  
God's Perfect Timing

Galatians 4:4-5 states: "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." This passage highlights the pivotal moment in history when God entered the world in human form through the birth of Jesus. The event commemorated at Christmas fulfills divine prophecy and highlights both the power and humility inherent in God's plan. Through the incarnation, Jesus opened the door for humanity to join God's eternal family.

**The Fullness of Time** The phrase "fullness of time" in Galatians 4:4 indicates that Jesus' arrival was divinely appointed, not accidental. God's timing was perfect in every respect—historically, culturally, and spiritually. The infrastructure and common language of the Roman Empire made it possible for Jesus' message to spread rapidly. Meanwhile, the world was yearning for hope and redemption, and the time prophesied by Daniel was ending. Jesus was born in Bethlehem at the exact moment God had ordained. His birth was not a matter of chance but marked the beginning of God's redemptive work. Jesus came to fulfill the Law, to redeem humanity, and to secure freedom from sin for all who believe.

**The Incarnation and Redemption** Central to the Christmas story is the Incarnation—the eternal Son of God becoming fully human. As God, Jesus possessed the authority to redeem; as man, He was able to stand in humanity's place. His mission was to liberate people from the bondage of sin and grant adoption into God's family. This privilege extends beyond mere freedom from sin and offers believers a new identity and relationship with their Creator.

**Adoption into God's Family** Christmas celebrates not only the birth of the Savior but also the adoption into God's family made possible through Christ. Paul's words in Galatians 4:5 serve as a reminder that, through Jesus, believers are welcomed as children of God. While all are God's creation, only those who trust in Jesus experience this intimate relationship. Adoption means believers are no longer strangers or slaves, but heirs to God's promises. United in Christ, believers are privileged to call God "Abba"—Father. The Holy Spirit affirms this relationship, assuring believers of their adoption and empowering them to live as God's beloved children.

**A Personal Relationship Made Possible** Christmas is a reminder that a personal relationship with God is now possible. Through Jesus' incarnation, God bridged the gap between Himself and humanity. The birth of Jesus marks the beginning of a new life for all who believe in Him. May this Christmas fill you with the joy and confidence of knowing you are God's children, heirs to His promises, and deeply loved by our Father. On behalf of all the Elders at Central Christian Church, we wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Randy



We want to thank everyone who responded to our Stewardship Pledge Campaign. If you forgot to turn your pledge card in it is never too late.

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

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS as of 11/20/2025

Those Who Worship With Us: Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle, Mariann Bowden, Carol & Pat Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Pat & 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), Dottie Snyder's sister-in-law (Dottie), Jill Spitler (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), Larry Drabenstott (Friends), Tom Jones, (Bobbie Randall), Helen Lengacher (friends), Scott McAfee (Amy Scott), Michaael (Barbara Smetzer), Misty (Misty Baker), Molly (Merri Pycraft), Nina (Helen Fravel), Sharon Oberli ( Margaret Hile), Lois Olige (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 church family or just with the pastor, please call the church and let the office know 330-262-4652 for the office.*

## ***Birthdays***

Jackie Detrow	12/2	Donna Humrichourser	12/2	Esther Hedland	12/3
Barbara Smetzer	12/9	Kathy Sparr	12/9	Charlie Kennedy	12/11
Donna Alexander	12/12	Annie Gerig	12/16	Todd Patterson	12/18
Debbie Braden	12/20	Carol Mills	12/20	Nellie Walter	12/20
Ann Jones	12/25				

## ***Anniversaries***

Charlie & Pat Kennedy	12/9 – 64 yrs	Ron & Beth Pycraft	12/11 – 49 yrs
Mike & Deb Braden	12/15 – 34 yrs	David & Carol Gray	12/21 – 40 yrs
Bob & Bobbie Randall	12/31 – 44 yrs		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1	2  ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM  Bell Ringing Salvation Army - 9 to 9	3  ESOL - 9:00 AM
7  Worship 9:30 AM  Sunday Carry-In	8	9  ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM  Finance Committee – 4:30 PM	10  ESOL - 9:00 AM
14  Worship 9:30 AM	15	16  ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM	17  ESOL - 9:00 AM
21  Worship 9:30 AM	22	23  ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM  SLT - 4:30 PM	24  ESOL - 9:00 AM  Christmas Eve Service – 6:00PM
28  Worship 9:30 AM	29	30  ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM	31  ESOL - 9:00 AM  OFFICE CLOSED – 12:00 pm

# DECEMBER 2025

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 ESOL - 9:00 AM Cub Pack - 6:00 PM	5 Downtown Church Walk - 4:00 PM	6  Mens Breakfast – 8:30AM Bring a Friend Green Leaf Restaurant
11 ESOL - 9:00 AM Cub Pack - 6:00 PM	12	13 Pictures with SANTA 1:00 PM
18 ESOL - 9:00 AM Cub Pack - 6:00 PM	19 Coin Club - 6:00 PM	20
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26	27

## WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS OUT ON ANY OF THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS

There is so much going on in all our lives sometimes we wonder how we will ever keep track on our calendars especially the month of December. 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 will get back to you as soon as we can.

We will be starting the Advent Season on November 30<sup>th</sup> with the *Hanging of the Green's* and the lighting of our 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle signifying and every Sunday after we will continue this long religious tradition of the lighting of the Advent Candles until we get to Christmas and remember the “Reason for the Season” and light the Christ Candle.



On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, in 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. If you missed doing this with the church but would like to participate, Salvation Army can always use the help. What a great family tradition to start. On Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm we will be joining the Down Town Historic Church Tour. 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 wonderful display of our historic downtown churches. Main Street Wooster will be providing a Hop On - Hop Off bus transportation for those who don’t want to walk the whole tour. NEXT on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm is our wonderful “Pictures With Santa” another longtime church event. Two floors of Christmas events,



Goodie Bags, Door Prizes, Free Books, Stuffed Animals, Cookies & Milk and of course the best part -- professional pictures with Santa and Mrs. Clauses. Everyone is welcome, enter through the back doors facing Buckeye Street.

We will be having our Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Listen to the *Carols*. Bring your family and



*Story of Christmas through Scripture* and help celebrate the birth of Christ.



Every year we sponsor a family from the Jobs and Family Service Christmas project. This year is no different. We have a young mother and her three daughters who could use some help this Christmas. Mom (Lillian) 28, Emeline age 8, Adelin age 5 and Novelin age 3.

Mom wears sz. Med Shirts and sz. 8 Pants

Emmi wears sz. 10/12 shirts and pants & would like a skateboard, clothes, sketching items and games.

Adeline wears sz. 5/ 6 in both shirts and pants. She would like a bike, dolls, and girly stuff & Bluey.

Novi wears a sz. 5T in both shirts and pants. She would also like dolls, playdough, Peppa, Bluey and girly stuff.

Items they could use in their household are Blankets, Dishes, Food, and Cleaning Items.

We know that every child wants the same things their friends get, no matter what their circumstances in life are.

If you choose to provide a gift for this family, please have it gift wrapped, tagged and back to the church by December 16th. Please remember that the only name on the package is the person who is receiving the gift. Not your name, not the church's name, not even "from a friend".



On December 7, 2025 right after church, is our First Sunday Carry-in. We will be featuring Creamed Chicken to be served over your choice of rolls or mashed potatoes. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. Bring your favorite side-dish or dessert to share with the others. If you don't have a dish come anyway to eat and share a smile and the fellowship here at Central Christian Church.



If you ordered Christmas Poinsettias this year you may take them home or pick them up after church on Dec. 28th. We will be taking down and packing away all our Christmas finery after church on January 11, 2026.



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 Christian Church.

You can also find this on the front of your Sunday Bulletin





## Central Christian Church

407 N. Market St.  
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December 2025

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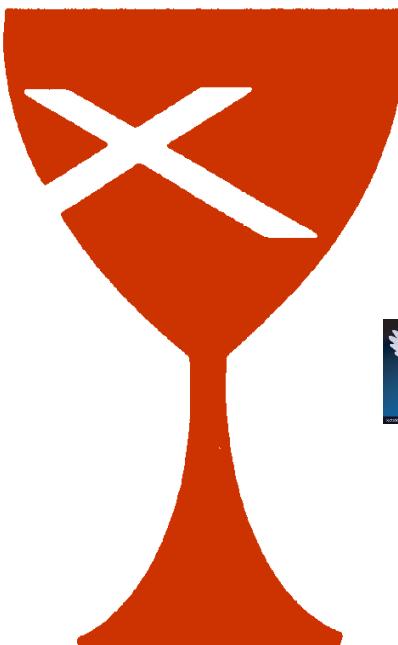
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Tracy Mathys



### Contact Us

#### OFFICE HOURS

8:30– 4:30 M– F

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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](mailto:jdouglas4652@gmail.com) with any news to be included in The Messenger.