

THE *MESSENGER*

Pastor's Page February 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I tend to be a forward-looking person. So, I try to imagine what we might look like (as a church) in the future: not too far into the future; but as far as my mind's eye will allow me.

Our past did not follow a straight line to the present. There were twists and turns; victories and defeats: but we emerged as an expression of faith for many who lived Wooster at the time. We named ourselves Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1950 and kept marching forward in confidence knowing that God was 'Keeping His Eye on us!

I wasn't born yet, as I presume was the case with many of you. My journey hasn't followed a straight line either. There were successes and failures; there were joys and sorrows: but here I am, at an intersection where we might wonder what our chemistry will produce as we dream together and plan our future onward!

In this first month of the Year 2026 we might be feeling our age and giving into the temptation to think in terms of all that we cannot do. A happier outcome might emerge from retraining ourselves to think of all that we can do!

It may be a matter of setting aside our grief for all that once was, and imagining the realistic possibilities of what God is offering us now...something that we might fail to notice!

I ask you to join me in the exercise of reaffirming our blessings and praising God for them. In this simple exercise we will list our positives and work on the negatives to neutralize or transform them into positives. Let's list our victories, small and large and in between! And let's move through the coming months of 2026 with confidence and trust! God is still 'Keeping His Eye on us!"

BE BOLD: LIST YOUR DREAM, HOPE, IDEA on the Bulletin Board outside the Sanctuary.

With Love,

Pastor Merlyn

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS as of 01/28/2026

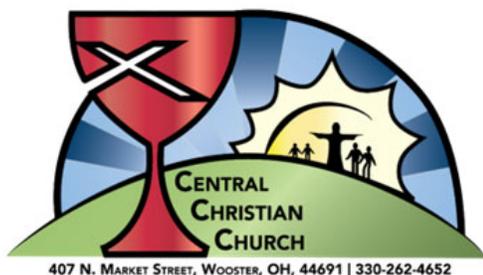
Those Who Worship With Us: Misty Baker, Gwen Biddle, Mariann Bowden, Carol & Pat Burnison, Judy Carson, Bonnie Chellis, Wilma Chirdon, Sandy Elliott, Lucy Ewing, Maxine Fravel, Janice Guy, Claudia Hendershot, Ann & Jerry Jones, Nancy Mackey, Bev McCoy, Nancy Mishler, Cheryl & Ken Moon, Bonnie Parker, Todd & Renee Patterson, Ron & Beth Pycraft, Bob & Bobbie Randall, Linda Spratt, Megan Taylor, Judy VanZile, Sue Wohlford, Rev. Merlyn Winters, Leta Wisner, Jason Woodruff, Rick Yenne

Family: Andy S. & family (Donna Humrichouser), Don Bertch (Nancy Mackey), Roger Everett (Tammy Everett), Lexie Hinkle (Lucy Ewing), 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), Madison (Sandy Spahr)

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 Olgee (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.



**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 Bulletins.**

Birthdays

Ann Jones 2/1
Clif Elliott 2/5
Pat Kennedy 2/13
Sandy Elliott 2/20
Cohen Mathys 2/27

Charles Sphar 2/2
Jody walter 2/8
Wesston Montgomery 2/19
Helen Fravel 2/21

Joy Mackey 2/4
Zack Ewing 2/12
Judy Carson 2/20
Tracy Mathys 2/22

Anniversaries

None



THE MESSENGER

Hello to all our 'Messenger' readers,

As with all business operations, churches, schools, etc. occasionally, you have to step back and evaluate the product you are putting in the mail. You must try and figure out if the person you are mailing an item to is really interested in it or considers it another piece of paper that goes into the waste can. OR is it possible that they like the item but would rather receive it online instead of in the mailbox. Those are the questions we are asking ourselves here at Central Christian Church.

While we are cleaning up our mailing output we would also like to know if you want to continue receiving 'The Messenger' in the mail or possibly want to receive it online or it's possible you don't want to keep getting it at all. We are asking you to fill out the few lines below. You can mail your answers back to the church, you can email your answers to jdouglas4652@gmail.com or even give us a call to let us know at 330-262-4652. If we don't hear from you by the end of April we will assume you aren't really interested enough in the 'Messenger' to reply and we will take your name off of the mailing list.

We hope to hear from you soon!

Your Name _____

Address _____

Yes I want to receive The Messenger _____

No I don't want to receive The Messenger _____

Switch me to the online Messenger, my email address is:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 Worship 9:30 AM Carry-in Lunch	2	3 ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS – 10:30 AM	4 ESOL – 9:00 AM Bridge – 1:00 PM
8 Worship 9:30 AM	9	10 ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM Finance Committee – 4:30PM	11 ESOL - 9:00 AM Bridge - 1PM
15 Worship 9:30 AM Fourth Quarter Congregational Meeting 11:00 AM	16	17 ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM	18 ASH WEDNESDAY ESOL - 9:00 AM Bridge - 1PM
22 Worship 9:30 AM	23	24 ESOL - 9:00 AM TOPS - 10:30 AM SLT – 4:30 PM	25 ESOL - 9:00 AM Bridge - 1PM
EVERY SUNDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY WOOSTER SHAKESPEARE			

FEBRUARY 2026

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p> <p>ESOL - 9:00 AM</p> <p>Cub Pack - 6:00 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Mens Breakfast – 8:30AM Bring a Friend Green Leaf Restaurant</p>
<p>12</p> <p>ESOL - 9:00 AM</p> <p>Cub Pack - 6:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>19</p> <p>ESOL - 9:00 AM</p> <p>Cub Pack - 6:00 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>26</p> <p>ESOL - 9:00AAM</p> <p>Cub Pack - 6:00PM</p> <p>Coin Club - 6:00PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

Elders Letter February 2026

Ash Wednesday kicks off on February 18, starting the Lenten season for the Christian Church. This year's big idea is "Turning Toward Truth."

You've probably heard things like "You've got this" or "You are enough." Our culture loves to pump us up and make us feel like we can do it all on our own. But if you're a Christian, you might notice that this way of thinking can push God out of the picture—even if we don't mean to. Honestly, we buy into self-sufficiency more than we realize, and sometimes it's just pride hiding behind nice-sounding words. The thing is, illusions can look good but actually keep us from seeing what's real. Self-sufficiency is one of those illusions—it makes us forget about God's help and presence.

Without God's Word, do you ever think about how short life really is, like a mist or fading grass (see James 4:14 and Isaiah 40:7)? Probably not—it's kind of scary! It's humbling to admit we're not as strong or independent as we'd like to think. We're made to depend on God, and we mess up a lot. But remembering how fragile life is can actually help us get closer to God.

God is behind every good thing we have and everything good we do for His kingdom. When we get that, His generosity and character really stand out. Depending on God every day brings more humility, joy, and gratitude into our lives and ministries. We don't have to pretend we're self-sufficient, because we have a Savior who's more than enough.

So, what's one thing you can do today to let go of self-sufficiency and lean into your need for God? I encourage you to reflect on this during February.

Blessings to all,
Randy



On February 1, 2026, right after church, is our First Sunday Carry-in. We will be featuring Soup & Salad. 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 to share, come anyway to eat with us and share a smile and the fellowship here at Central Christian Church



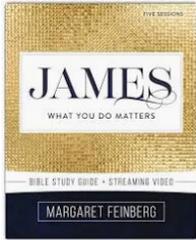
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THE YEAR 2025 IS OVER AND THE FORTH QUARTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CHURCH SERVICE. WE HOPE YOU WILL STAY AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING.

Winter is definitely back !!!

A New 5-week Bible Study

(Book of James-What You Do Matters)



On Sunday mornings @11am following church Re-starting on 2/16/26
Lisa Birks will be leading us through the Book of James- What You Do Matters.

ASH WEDNESDAY



Let today be the day you give up who you've been, for who you can become.

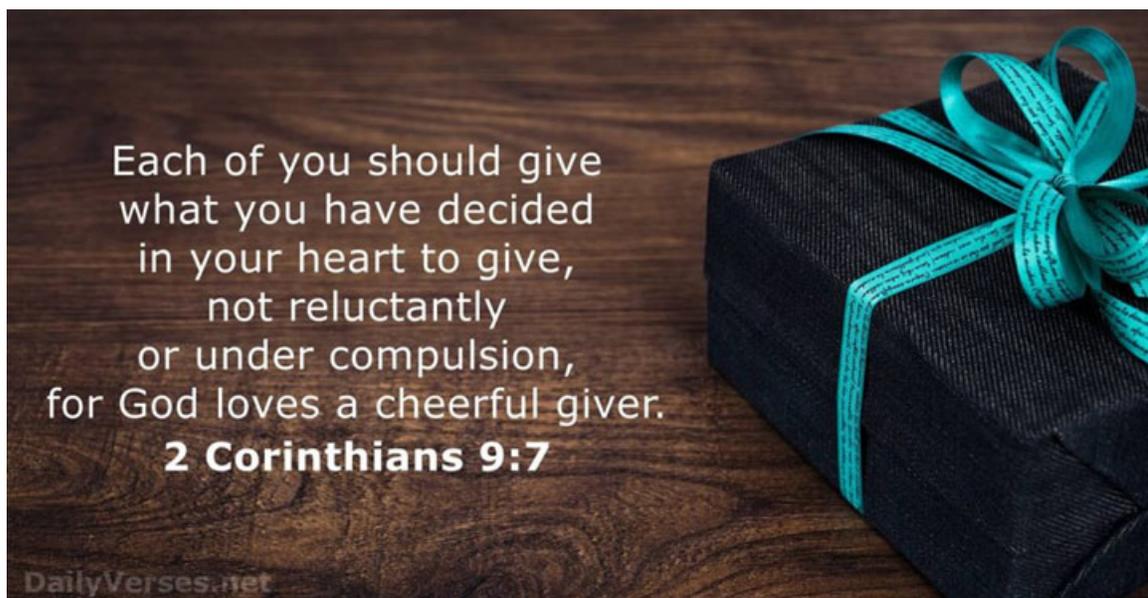
February 18, 2026 we will be hosting three opportunities for you to receive your Ashes and Blessing while never having to leave your car. You can come before work, on your lunch or after work. Watch your bulletins, online or contact the church for the exact hours.

The Fourth Quarter Giving Statements Have been mailed out. If you have not yet received yours, please contact the Church office Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

“2 Corinthians 9:7”

We thank each and everyone of you who have contributed to the livelihood of Central Christian Church.





Central Christian Church

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February 2026

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tech@cccwooster.org

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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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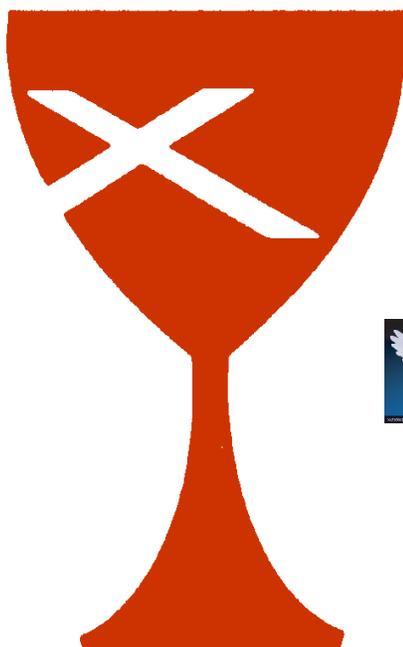
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Fax number:

330-264-3070



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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.