



Connect

Newsletter of Central Trinity UMC

“A Season of Lent”

by Pastor Jon Exman

“Lent is a sacred journey of reflection, renewal, and preparation for the joy of Easter.”



Well, if you remember right, I said at Christmas that Lent was right around the corner, and here it is! This month, as we step into the sacred season of Lent, we are invited to embark on a **40-day journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal**. Lent is a special time when we can once again push aside those distractions and focus on Jesus.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. **Ash Wednesday draws us closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of self-denial.** It's an opportunity to examine our hearts, let go of distractions, and deepen our faith in preparation for the profound mysteries ahead.

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Lent is not merely a period of solemnity; **it's a pathway that builds anticipation for the triumph of life over death.** As we approach the end of these 40 days, we enter into a special time in the church: **Holy Week.** Holy Week is a time of intense remembrance. From Palm Sunday's joyous entry into Jerusalem, through Maundy Thursday's Last Supper, and the sorrow of Good Friday's crucifixion, to the quiet vigil of Holy Saturday, **we walk with Christ in His passion.**

And then the dawn breaks on Easter Sunday! We come together on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of our faith,

proclaiming that **hope has conquered despair and eternal life is ours through Him.** Let this Lent transform us, so that we may fully rejoice in the Easter miracle.

We are so happy you are here and a part of our CT family. May God's grace guide you through this season.

Want to **Connect**
with
Pastor Exman?

☎ (740) 505-0665


✉ thexmanatct@gmail.com




Nerf Games



Family Nerf Games


Fun for ALL ages!

 Sunday, February 22

 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.


 Fellowship Hall


 Walking tacos & drinks provided
 Please bring a dessert to share.

 **We have plenty of Nerf guns and bullets for everyone!**
You are welcome to bring your own if you like.



🔥 Youth Nerf Games


For those who want a more intense Nerf war experience!

 Sunday, February 22

 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Parents and other adults are welcome to join in the fun and competition!

 Walking tacos & drinks provided
 Please let us know if you are willing to bring a dessert to share.

 **You are welcome to bring your own Nerf guns!**

 **No Nerf round bullets allowed**

Family Life

by Lesa Exman

Your go-to spot for updates, tips, and opportunities to help children and youth grow in faith.



Have you ever noticed how a single coin can make a surprising amount of noise when it hits the floor? It's small, easy to overlook—yet once it starts rattling around, everyone hears it. That image has been on my heart lately as I think about family life at Central Trinity. Sometimes the moments that seem simple—sharing food, laughing together, playing a game—are the very things God uses to make a joyful, lasting impact in our homes and in our church.

This month, Family Life is all about creating those “noisy coin” moments: opportunities for connection that ring out with laughter, conversation, and community.

We'll kick things off with our **Youth Super Bowl Party** on **Sunday, February 8, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.** This is more than football—it's a chance for our youth to gather, enjoy great food, and build friendships in a safe, welcoming environment. Even if football isn't your favorite sport, the fun and fellowship will be worth it.

Then on **Sunday, February 22**, we're bringing out the foam darts for a full day of fun! **From 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, everyone is invited to **Family Nerf Games** in the Fellowship Hall. This event is truly for all ages. We'll provide walking tacos, drinks, and plenty of Nerf guns and bullets—just bring a dessert to share and a readiness to laugh. You're welcome to bring your own Nerf gear if you'd like.

For those who want to take things up a notch, **Youth Nerf Games will follow that evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** This is the more intense Nerf experience, and parents or other adults are encouraged to jump in on the fun and friendly competition. Walking tacos and drinks will be provided, and if you're willing to bring a dessert, please let me know. (A quick reminder: bring your own guns if you like, but no Nerf round bullets for this event.)

Finally, I want to note that our **Family Life Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 11, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Family life doesn't have to be perfect to be meaningful. Like a noisy coin, small moments can make a big sound when they're shared in love. My hope is that these upcoming gatherings create space for connection, laughter, and lasting memories. I look forward to seeing you and your family at one—or all—of these events as we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship.

Want to **Connect**
with
Lesa Exman?

☎ (419) 605-6858
✉ itslesaexman@gmail.com



Year-to-Date Financial Report

by Holly Ruetz

December 2025

Total Giving to Designated Projects \$26,759

Total Expenses Designated Projects \$22,258



"Thank you for generously giving to the ministries of Central Trinity."

Here is a breakdown of what your gifts supported in December 2025."

-Holly Ruetz

Personnel: \$23,819 (Salaries & Benefits)

Administrative: \$356 (Office supplies)

Property: \$9,681 (Maintenance, Utilities, Insurance)

Outreach: \$5,032 (Apportionments sent to Conference, Yellow Pages)

Christian Education: \$2,202 (Sunday School supplies, Christmas activities)

Worship: \$1,484 (Organ tuning & service, Organ & Ignite substitutes)

Designated: \$1,651 (Church family gift boxes)

Super Bowl Sub Sunday!



To everyone who placed orders for Super Bowl Sunday, an event planned and organized by the Verla Moore Service Club, **this is a reminder that subs will be available for pick-up Sunday, February 8,** after the Ignite or Traditional Service.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy your subs! 🏈

December Attendance:
141

Budget Target Year-to-Date:
\$453,293

Year-to-Date Giving to Budget:
\$425,632

Year-to-Date Budgeted Expenses:
\$452,821

Ministry News

Winter Game Nights

Winter may still be with us, but the fun is just getting started! Begun last month and continuing through May, **join us on the third Friday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** for fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.

We'll meet at the church, 62 South 7th Street, for Dominoes and other games in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Bring a light snack to share, and enjoy an evening of laughter and community. For questions or to help, see **Jayne Dunlap** or **Patty Hockinberry**.

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith meets Monday, February 2, 6 p.m., at the church. Deb Brannon leads the program "Connected in Our Roots," based on Genesis 11:1-9. Historically, maps have been a tool to help us find our way. But they have also been a tool to shape new ways forward, showing us ways to understand our world as it is and imagine it as it could be.

Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project

Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project helps people to help themselves. We help persons who have lost jobs, senior citizens, and low- and fixed-income families. In addition to seed potatoes and tomato plants, they collect and distribute beans (pole and bush), beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, squash, turnips, watermelon—just about anything that is hardy in zone 6.

During February and March, United Women in Faith is collecting vegetable seeds to support the Gardening Project. Please place seed packages in the container in the Welcome Center.

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, 5 p.m., in the parlor to knit or crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

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Lead Pastor

Jon Exman

Children's Ministries

Lesa Exman

Director of Music

Jim McLaughlin

Chancel and Children's Choir

Ann Sims

Wesleyan and Carillon Bells

Andy Ruetz

Ignite Worship

Katlyn Border

Custodian

Dennis Dunlap

Treasurer

Holly Ruetz

Financial Secretary

Rick Mohler

Secretary

Monica Bevan

Peking Acrobats Return to Secrest Auditorium

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the Peking Acrobats perform at Secrest Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. This is the next performance in the Zanesville Concert Association's 86th world famous concert series. These amazing acrobatic performers will be accompanied by live musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments. Tickets are still available from the Zanesville Concert Association website or at the door the night of the performance.

Entering Lent Together: Ash Wednesday Worship

On Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., we will begin our Lenten journey toward Easter with an Ash Wednesday service in the church sanctuary. The service will include the imposition of ashes and special music provided by the Chancel Choir, offering a meaningful and reflective start to the Lenten season.

Gratitude

Connect is possible because of the many hours of behind-the-scenes work. Thank you to everyone who helps with proofreading, preparing, and mailing each issue—your dedication and teamwork make this important ministry possible.

Thank You for Winter Games Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Winter Games Night! Your laughter, fellowship, and friendly competition made each gathering a joy. We are grateful to all who participated, shared snacks, and helped create such a welcoming atmosphere, and we extend special thanks to Jayne Dunlap and Patty Hockinberry for their leadership. We look forward to continuing the fun together through May.



Support Alivia's Summer Mission

This summer, Alivia will serve with Cru on a month-long mission trip to Estonia, sharing the Gospel, building relationships, and growing in her faith. Scan the QR code to learn about her journey, ways to give, and how to pray. Your prayers and support make this mission possible.



Congratulations to Douglas and Darylin Best!

This **February 21**, we joyfully celebrate **Douglas and Darylin Best** as they mark **58 years of marriage**. We thank God for their enduring love, faith, and commitment to one another and to our church family. May their lives together continue to be filled with blessings, joy, and cherished memories. 🌸

Many thanks for the prayers and support extended to me during my surgery and recovery journey. I am feeling much better each day!

Jim!





Noisy Coin

Join us **every Sunday in February** during worship as we collect coins to support our Youth Ministry. Your small change can create a big impact!

How to Participate:

Bring your spare coins to Sunday worship!

Drop them in the collection for Youth Ministry!

Make some joyful noise with your coins!

Let's come together as a church family and show our support for the next generation. Every coin counts!

*Bring your coins and
make a difference!*

CT Worship

Come as yourself • Grow in Faith • Serve with Love

"First Things First"

Feb 7, 2026

Go and Make Disciples

Matthew 28:16-20,
1 Peter 5:6-11,
Mark 4:18-20,
1 Corinthians 7:35

Feb 8, 2026

Pray

Jeremiah 29:11-13,
2 Chronicles 7:14,
James 5:13-16,
Romans 8:26-28,
Romans 8:37-39



Feb 15, 2026

Forgiveness

Matthew 6:11-15,
1 John 1:5-10,
Ephesians 4:32,
Luke 6:37

Service Schedule

Ignite (Modern) 9:00 a.m.

Traditional: 10:30 a.m.



Children's worship
available each Sunday from:
8:50 to 11:30 a.m.

(Birth - Infants - 6th grade)



Handicapped Parking available
at North entrance of parking lot.

Feb 22, 2026

The Beginning

Matthew 4:12-22,
Matthew 7:7-14,
Matthew 8:23-27

Feb 18, 2026



Genesis 3:19,
Luke 9:57-62,
Mark 1:14-25

@ 1:00 p.m.

Ushers

Dave Artman
Paul Baker
Clarence Holbein
Willard Wheeler



To watch the
service!

Music and Volunteers

Music During the 10:30 a.m. Service



February 1
Chancel Choir

February 8
Chancel Choir

February 15
Carillon Bells &
Wesleyan Choir

February 22
Chancel Choir

Ash Wednesday Service
February 18
Chancel Choir



Volunteers

February 1
Ignite: Patty Bradley
KOW: Lesa Exman
Traditional: Bailey Binkley

February 8
Preschool: Amy Stanton
KOW: Lori Wyatt
Traditional: Bailey Binkley

February 15
Preschool: Katie Garrett
KOW: Amanda Smith
Traditional: Bailey Binkley

February 22
Preschool: Holly Ruetz
KOW: Lesa Exman
Traditional: Bailey Binkley



Regular at Central Trinity



9:00 a.m. Ignite Service
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Children's Choir
9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
10:30 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
6:30 p.m. CT Youth



11:00 a.m. Bible Studies



5:00 p.m. Angel Wings PSM
6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Everybody is welcome! Join us for our regular church activities, including worship services, Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, and special events. No matter where you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you here at Central Trinity UMC. We look forward to welcoming you and growing together in faith and community.



February Birthdays

This month, we joyfully celebrate the birthdays of these cherished Central Trinity family members! May the year ahead be filled with blessings, joy, and new opportunities to grow in faith and love. Be sure to wish them a happy birthday when you see them!

Douglas Best	02/02	Kody Schiele	02/10	Lily Oates	02/17
Judith Sindeldecker	02/02	Kelly Burkhart	02/11	Starrzanne Hilty	02/18
Kimberly Stanton	02/02	Eddie Fisher	02/11	Eric Fisher	02/18
Jane Laughlin	02/02	Shelly Johnson	02/11	Heather Wills	02/20
Junior Muse	02/03	Kathy McCutcheon	02/12	Haley Shaw	02/21
Emily McCutcheon	02/04	Melinda Kaiser	02/12	Thomas Algeo	02/21
Blaine Brannon	02/05	Sandra Holbein	02/13	Joseph Siddle	02/22
Hayze Hilty	02/06	Daniel Coveney	02/13	Abby Trout	02/23
Brenda Wallis	02/06	Elizabeth Hurst	02/15	Mary Ann Young	02/23
Bret Mohler	02/07	Gary Exman	02/15	Emily Fisher	02/24
Sue Loader	02/07	Kelsi Williams	02/16	Alyssa Waite	02/25
Grace McCutcheon	02/08	Becky Hancher	02/17	Xander Sims	02/25
Briana Roberts	02/08	Katie Moore	02/17	Janet Faust	02/26
Justin Stanton	02/08	Glenna Moore	02/17	Shirley Paxton	02/27
Xander Kaiser	02/09	Jack Downing	02/17	Scott Caplinger	02/27
		Bexlee Hilty	02/17		

80s and 90s+

Jane Laughlin
02/02 (83)
2650 Ash Meadows Blvd.
Zanesville, OH 43701

Junior Muse
02/03 (93)
2585 Rowan Dr
Zanesville, OH 43701

Gary Exman
02/15 (85)
1311 Kinghorn Circ E
Grove City, OH 43123

Jack Downing
02/17 (94)
4228 Elmar Dr. 405
Lauderdale by the Sea, FL 33308

Shirley Paxton
02/27 (85)
1329 Playford Ave.
Zanesville, OH 43701

We thank God for the gift of each of these lives!

"I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows
very well."



—Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)



February

Note:
80s & 90s+ in bold letters



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion Noisy Offering 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 6:30 p.m. CT Youth	2 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. UWFaith Douglas Best Jane Laughlin Judith Sindeldecker Kimberly Stanton	3 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee. Junior Muse	4 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies Emily McCutcheon	5 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Blaine Brannon	6 7:00 p.m. Civil choir Brenda Wallis Hayze Hilty	3 Bret Mohler Sue Loader
8 Noisy Offering Super Bowl Sub Pick Up 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 2:00 p.m. ZCA Meeting 6:30 p.m. YSB Party Briana Roberts Grace McCutcheon Justin Stanton	9 Xander Kaiser	10 Kody Schiele	11 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies 6:00 p.m. Family Life Eddie Fisher Kelly Burkhart Shelly Johnson	12 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Kathy McCutcheon Melinda Kaiser	13 Daniel Coveney Sandra Holbein	14 7:30 a.m. Men Breakfast 10:00 a.m. DAR
15 Noisy Offering 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service No CT Youth Elizabeth Hurst Gary Exman	16 Kelsi Williams	17 6:30 p.m. Verla Moore Service Club Becky Hancher Bexlee Hilty Glenna Moore Jack Downing Katie Moore Lily Oates	18 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies 7:00p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Eric Fisher Starrzanne Hilty 	19 10:00 a.m. Deacon Interviews 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 6:30 p.m. Winter Game Night Heather Wills	21 Haley Shaw Thomas Algeo
22 Noisy Offering 9:00 a.m. Ignite Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service 11:30 a.m. Family Nerf Games 6:30 p.m. Youth Nerf Games Joseph Siddle	23 Abby Trout Mary Ann Young	24 Emily Fisher	25 11:00 a.m. Bible Studies 6:00 p.m. Trustees Alyssa Waite Xander Sims	26 5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Janet Faust	27 3:00 p.m. Baby shower for Bailey Binkley Scott Caplinger Shirley Paxton	28 8:30 a.m. Baby shower for Bailly Binkley 

CENTRAL TRINITY
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