

CONNECT

Central Trinity Family,

A few years ago for the Lenten Season I was given a copy of **Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly. (Kelly is a Catholic Motivational Speaker from Australia. He's written many books.) Because next month begins Lent, I thought we would get an early jump on it. March 2 is Ash Wednesday. **Rediscover Jesus** has one particular chapter that I wanted to share with you. It is Chapter 27, "Deny Yourself."

Just looking at the title reminds me of many moments in high school basketball practice. Our coach would drill into us every day the principle of denying our man the basketball. I can hear it now, "Come on Exman! Deny, deny, deny! If you deny your man the ball, it means something good is about to happen for us on defense! Denial defense is special." When I see that title "Deny Yourself," it reminds of that moment but in a different way. If we deny ourselves, it results in something special.

Kelly reminds us of that with these opening statements. *"Learning to delay gratification is one of life's essential lessons. Our ability to succeed at most things in life can be measured by our ability and willingness to delay gratification. You cannot have a successful marriage, be a great parent, maintain good health, establish financial stability, or become educated unless you are willing to delay gratification. The best at anything are better than everyone else at delaying gratification and that includes the great Christian heroes, champions, and saints who fill the history books. You cannot be successful at living a Christian life if you are not willing and able to practice self-denial."*

Think of the world we live in. It is not about delay...it is about speed. Everything is done to move on to the next thing. It has lead us to a throw away society. If something isn't to your liking, drop it and move on to the next. Can't figure it out, that's ok, keep moving forward. To an extent that is good. Moving forward not being held down by the past. But what about the things that are hard and just need a little extra work? A little more time. What happened to the hard stuff? In the movie *A League of Their Own* Tom Hanks plays women's professional baseball manager Jimmy Dugan. In the end of the movie he is talking to Geena Davis' character Dottie Hinson who says that baseball "just got too hard." Jimmy's line explains what makes hard things great, "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would be able to do it. The hard ... is what makes it great."

This is the idea behind denying yourself. If it was easy, we wouldn't need The Savior. In Luke 9:23 Jesus, Our Savior says, *"If anyone wishes to follow me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* Saying no to yourself even to the little things, like an extra piece of pie, reminds us and teaches us what truly denying oneself brings. It brings on the love of Jesus. Saying no and denying yourself is in essence saying yes to love. Accepting grace means denying sin the power to take hold. As we ready ourselves for next month's Lenten Journey, why not start early with me and begin your journey of self-denial. May we all rediscover Jesus on the path to the Cross. May you welcome the chance to deny yourself and always remember ... denial of self will result in something special! It will result in rediscovering Christ! Come on and say it with me ... Deny, Deny, Deny!

Pastor Jonathan Exman



Central Trinity
United Methodist Church

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Church Staff

In Ministry with you ...

Lead Pastor

Jonathan Exman

Associate Pastor

Jon Carter

Children's Ministries

Lesa Exman

Director of Music

Jim McLaughlin

Chancel & Children's Choir

Ann Sims

Wesleyan & Carillon Bells

Andy Ruetz

Nursery Attendants

Callie Carter

Sue Loader

Administrative Assistant

Bonnie Gerda

Treasurer

Holly Ruetz

Financial Secretary

Rick Mohler

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. *Ignite* Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir

10:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. CT Students Grades 5-8

6:00 p.m. CT Students Grades 7-12

Childcare provided each Sunday 8:50 to 11:30 a.m.

Handicapped parking available at North entrance of parking lot

Office Hours

Mon. – Thu. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Closed Noon – 1 p.m.

Fri. 9 a.m. – Noon

Family Life Ministries

We are so excited for 2022!

We have met as a team and strategized ways to best serve our children and their families. Our focus is to build a foundation of faith for all ages. Every kid is different. Each child brings a variety of abilities, interest, and backgrounds to the classroom. Some children know a great deal about the Bible; others have no instruction whatsoever.

Our goal is to meet each child wherever they are. We want all our children to know that they are special, they are loved, and that they have a God who will always be there for me. My prayer for our church is that each and every one of us realize the importance of teaching our children the love of God. We have some new programs that we are excited to start soon, but in order to do that we need **you** to volunteer.

Our goal is to have enough volunteers that we can do rotations. This would give you an opportunity to serve and still worship. Let's make February not just about Valentine's Day, but let's show our children how much we love them by showing up and setting an example of what it means to serve and love our amazing God.

God Bless you all!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, February 20, 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m., parents meeting for mission trip and confirmation

Sunday, February 27, 5:30–8:00 p.m., first confirmation class dinner will be served!

Any questions, feel free to contact Lesa Exman or Jon Carter, Associate Pastor

Pre-Sermon Lowdown (Bible Study)

Will it match? Who knows! Join us Sunday mornings at 9:10 a.m. in the Strong Family room to discuss the scripture for that morning's sermon. Discussions are lively and members appreciate the insights and fellowship.

Easter Flowers

We will be taking orders for the spring flowers and lilies. The office is still waiting to hear what the price increases will be this year. Once we have prices, the order forms will be available at the Welcome Desk. Deadline for placing your order is Sunday, April 3. Please complete the order form and return it to the church office with your payment.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women meet Monday, February 7, 6 p.m. The program is A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. The 2022 theme is “Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call” and honors deaconesses and home missionaries who have said yes to the call God has placed on their lives. This year’s offering will help support and provide education and training to active deaconesses and home missionaries and candidates. Funds will also be used to provide support to retirees. 100% of the dollars given through A Prayer and Self-Denial goes directly to fund the work for which it is designated.

Since 1972, **Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project** has distributed vegetable seeds to persons and families. This ministry enables the growers to increase both the quantity and quality of their available food. The number of gardeners continues to increase in the 18-county area served in southeast Ohio.

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, the United Methodist Women is collecting vegetable seeds to support the Gardening Project. Please place seed packages in the container in the Welcome Center. Plans are being made to volunteer to sort and count seeds in early April; more information to come.

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, 5 p.m., at the church. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

Join West Ohio and Iowa conferences for the **Racial Justice Event** Conversations to Build Awareness, Saturday, February 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Videos from the East Ohio Conference Black Pastor’s Fellowship and the office of Multicultural Vitality provide a framework to begin discussions in small breakout sessions on moving toward racial justice. Register for this virtual event at westohioumw.org/racial-justice until February 18.

Lenten Study Sundays March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 4 p.m. The study text is *Tattered and Mended: The Art of Healing the Wounded Soul* by Cynthia Ruchti, a Spiritual Growth selection from the 2018 UMW Reading Program. Registration will open soon.

Music Ministry

GOOD NEWS at CT!

Looking back to December, there were many joyful events at CT that we can celebrate together as a congregation.

The Civic Chorus was able to live stream its 92nd performance of Handel’s *Messiah* to the community from our church.

An offering of \$2,378 was donated in response to the concert in the “Spirit of Handel” to Habitat of Southeastern Ohio. CT actively reached out to the community by sponsoring a float in the Zanesville Christmas parade as well as hosting a Story Book Christmas event at CT. Our church members were generous and excited to join together with this mission opportunity.

The best news came Christmas Eve with excellent attendance including children.
(4:30 service 158 , 11:00 service 91 = 249 total)

Jim McLaughlin

Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love

Mission Team

COVID continues to disrupt our ability to conduct in-person mission activities. That does not prevent us from reaching out by phone, email, or cards to those who may be facing challenging times. Isolation is a serious problem. You can make a big difference.

As of January 2021 any donations included in the church offering envelope marked for Missions have been placed in the designated fund, Missions. One requirement of Administrative Council on making the change was that the Missions Team report annually how the funds were spent. In 2021 a donation from the Missions Fund was made to Habitat for Humanity. Several members of the congregation assisted with the construction of a house for a local family. Thanks you for your continued support of local missions.

Duane Deal
Chair

Restore Our Windows - Project Update

At the Administrative Council meeting December 15, it was voted to move forward with the full project to restore all our stained-glass windows. This vote gave the Trustees the authorization to sign contracts, make the necessary deposit, and start the scheduling process with Window Creations, LLC, from Ottoville, Ohio.

The aluminum frames for the storm glass will be measured in the spring and then fabricated prior to any exterior work starting. The stained-glass restoration will probably start sometime in the summer. The exterior storm glass phase will most likely be in the fall of 2022. The scheduling at this time is somewhat fluid and, as the schedule firms up, we will keep you informed.

The total project cost is \$181,800, and to date we have pledges of \$122,595, a little more than 67% of the total project costs. This reflects a serious and heartfelt desire from the congregation to repair and restore our windows in order to maintain their structural integrity and to enhance the beauty they provide to our church setting. 67% is a great showing; however, it is not 100%. Thank you to all who have made pledges to this project, and, if you have not yet made a pledge to Restore Our Windows, please prayerfully consider this as you consider your giving for 2022–2023. We will continually update you on the overall percentage as we strive to hit 100%

REMINDER – In order for giving/monies to be properly designated, please clearly mark all giving/checks for this project RESTORE OUR WINDOWS.

A Restore Our Windows informational brochure and pledge card is available at the Welcome Center Desk or call the church office and one will be sent to you. We are happy to answer any questions you might have, please contact either Cathy Dorman at 740-674-7266 or Janice Deal at 740-891-2657.

Verla Moore Service Club

The next meeting of Verla Moore Service Club will be Tuesday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m. Our project for February will be to help the homeless shelter at First United Methodist Church on Putnam Avenue.

Because of current conditions, the Verla Moore Service Club has decided to cancel the Super Bowl Sub Sale for this year.

Thank you

To the Good Shepherd Class;
Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gift. It was a great surprise!
Thank you all for thinking of me.

With love, Melody

Thank you so much to the anonymous person for the generous gift of groceries! It has helped more than you know! We are grateful for you and our Central Trinity Family who are always thinking of others in their times of need.

Be Blessed,
Michael Border and Katlyn Thomas

*Thankful
and
blessed*

Have you lost a loved one to suicide? Survivors of Suicide Support Group

The Survivors of Suicide Loss Support group is a judgement-free, safe space for those mourning the loss of their loved one to suicide. Participants will have the opportunity to meet other survivors, share their story, and integrate their grief into their lives.

The group will meet:

The First Thursday of the month

Beginning February 3, 2022

6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Central Trinity United Methodist Church

Contact Pam Easterly (740-607-3895) for more information

Many Thanks

Warmest thanks to everyone for helping me in the office the month of January.
- Bonnie Gerdau, Admin Assistant

Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love

February 6

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

Holy Communion
"The Power of God's Voice"
"The Voice of Gladness"
Psalm 37:3–9
Chancel Choir

February 13

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

"The Power of God's Voice"
"The Voice of Creation"
Genesis 1:1–3, Psalm 19:1–6
Chancel Choir

February 20

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

"The Power of God's Voice"
"The Word"
Deuteronomy 8:1–3, Hebrews 4:12–13
Carillon Bells

February 27

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

"The Power of God's Voice"
"The Voice That Overcomes"
John 16:25–33
Children's & Wesleyan Choirs

"80 Plus Club" **Happy Birthday**

Robert Cohagen, February 3

Junior Muse, February 3

Jack Downing, February 17

Rose Vandembark, February 22

Evelyn Miller, February 24

Shirley Paxton, February 27

If we missed anyone or do not have the date right, please call the church office.



Game Night

CT Friends:

Starting in February we will have game night every 3rd Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us for fellowship, card games, and other games.

Average YTD attendance:

December worship attendance (through 01/23/2022): 119

December 2021 Financial Report

YTD Budget	\$442,795
YTD Income	\$371,694
YTD Expenses	\$418,255

February Calendar of Events is subject to change

1 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

2 Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

3 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl
 6:00 p.m. Suicide Survivors Loss Support
 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice
 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells practice
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

6 Sunday**Holy Communion**

9:00 a.m. *Ignite Service*
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
 10:30 a.m. *Worship*
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. CT Students (Grades 5–8)
 6:00 p.m. CT Students (Grades 7–12)

7 Monday

6:00 p.m. United Methodist Women
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study

8 Tuesday

7:30 p.m. Thursday Music Club

9 Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

12 Saturday

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

13 Sunday

9:00 a.m. *Ignite Service*
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
 10:30 a.m. *Worship*
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. CT Students (Grades 5–8)
 6:00 p.m. CT Students (Grades 7–12)

14 Monday

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

15 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Verla Moore Service Club

16 Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

17 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl
 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice
 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells practice
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

18 Friday**Connect Articles Deadline****19 Saturday**

6:00 p.m. Game Night

20 Sunday

9:00 a.m. *Ignite Service*
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
 10:30 a.m. *Worship*
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. CT Students (Grades 5–8)
 6:00 p.m. CT Students (Grades 7–12)

21 Monday

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

23 Wednesday

11:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Trustees

24 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl
 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir practice
 6:00 p.m. Carillon Bells practice
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice

27 Sunday

9:00 a.m. *Ignite Service*
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Wesleyan Choir
 10:30 a.m. *Worship*
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. CT Students (Grades 5–8)
 6:00 p.m. CT Students (Grades 7–12)

28 Monday

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

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United Methodist Church
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Prepared Especially For

Special Dates This Month

- February 1 Staff Meeting**
- February 6 Holy Communion**
- February 14 Valentines Day**
- February 15 Verla Moore Service Club**
- February 18 ConnecT Deadline**
- February 19 Game Night**
- February 20 Parent Meeting Mission Trip**
- February 22 Staff Meeting**
- February 27 Confirmation Class Dinner**

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

