

CONNECT

Central Trinity Family,

“Advent”

Advent is the season when we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift of Jesus. It is a time of "getting ready" for the celebration of Christmas. Unfortunately, we live in a time in which we forget the Jesus part of Christmas and we worry more about all the gifts we have to buy. Then we spend so much time having our house decorated just right and all our gifts planned out that we forget the real reason we were doing it in the first place.

It is almost like a conspiracy was taking place. A conspiracy to “buy” Christmas and forget the expectant waiting for the Christ child. Each year we get further and further from the true meaning of Advent and even worse, the true meaning of Christmas. So maybe we should start with the true meaning of Advent. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Christians finally had begun to tie Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

So here we are, just like we are every year. The time of year when focusing on Christ should be the easiest had instead become the hardest. Somehow, this had become the new normal. Everywhere you turn you see exhausted burned-out people, wandering aimlessly during the advent season not even realizing they had *missed it* – the awe-inducing, soul-satisfying mystery of the incarnation. They again had missed the “coming of the Christ child.”

What about you? Wouldn't you like to remember what the silent majesty of Christmas used to mean? Or are you content just going through the motions? This advent season let us again get ready for the coming of the Christ Child. Let us get ready to celebrate Christmas!

Pastor Jonathan Exman

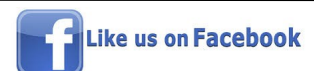


**Central Trinity
United Methodist Church**

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Zanesville OH 43701-4399 | www.centraltrinityumc.com
740-453-1210



www.facebook.com/centraltrinityumc

Church Staff

In Ministry with you ...

Lead Pastor

Jon 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 Ministry

Family Life started this fall with our Trunk or Treat event. We had over 200 members of our community come through our doors! Thank you to everyone that helped in any way. I am certain that God's love was shown to our community through each of your smiles and generosity. We ended our fall with a Baked Potato Fundraiser to help send our kids to church camp. Once again you, as a church, showed up and helped us raise \$1025. Thank you for investing in our kids and their walk with the Lord.

Upcoming FLM Events!

We are so excited for what is coming in December. We are participating in the Storybook Christmas event being hosted by Downtown Zanesville. We will have a display outside our church throughout the month of December.

December 1--We start the month off by participating in the downtown Christmas parade Wednesday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. We will decorate a float and have Ignite play Christmas Carols. We need persons who can walk along side of the float and hand out flyers and throw candy. A sign-up sheet at the welcome desk and boards is available November 21. A box near the welcome area will be available to donate candy. Please make sure the candy is individually wrapped.

December 17—We are hosting "Santa Tells the Story." This event takes groups every 15 minutes, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., through the nativity narrated by Santa. This tour has several different spots to stop within our church and ends in the sanctuary with the nativity scene and the Carillon Bells playing. We will also have hot chocolate, cookies, and other sweets. We will take family photos and give each family a Christmas ornament photo frame as our gift to them. We need several volunteers before, during, and after this event to make it successful. A sign-up sheet at the welcome desk is available November 21.

Kids Own Worship

This month we learn about the nativity story as we focus on Jesus being the greatest gift ever! On December 19, during both services, we will have a Happy Birthday Jesus party. We will celebrate with snacks, crafts, and fun games.

CT Student Ministry

CT Students will have their annual Christmas Party December 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event includes food, fellowship, and a frenzy of games! A \$25 GameStop gift card will be given to the student who brings the most visitors with them! If you are a parent of a student, I need volunteers to help with setup and to help with some of the games. If you are an adult/parent here at CT and want to help, please contact Pastor Jon Carter.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women meets Monday, December 6, 6 p.m., for dinner at Rake's Place, 2207 Linden Ave.

Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Thursdays, 5–7 p.m., in the Strong Family classroom. We will not meet December 30. All are welcome for stitching, praying, and fellowship.

Sunday, December 5, is the last day to bring hats, gloves or mittens, and scarves for the **Mitten Tree**. They go to Eastside Community Ministry and the Free Store.

Participate in the **Bakeless Cookie Walk** by donating the amount you would spend to bake cookies or to buy cookies. Make checks payable to Central Trinity United Methodist Women and drop off at the church office or send to Margaret Baker by December 15.

Women and men are invited to join the **2021 Virtual Advent Study** of Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution by Kate Zeh. The study is Sundays November 28 through December 19, 4:00 to 5:15 ET. For more information and to register, go to westohioumw.org/advent-study.



Restore Our Windows - Reminder - Pledges due by December 12th

Thanks to everyone who has already made a pledge to this project. The contract pricing is good until the end of the year, so it is necessary for all pledges to be in by December 12. We will then discuss and finalize decisions for this project. If you have any questions, informational brochures and pledge cards are available at the Welcome Center desk or one can be mailed to you by calling Cathy Dorman – 740-674-7266 or Janice Deal – 740-891-2657. We are happy to answer any questions you have about this project. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to make a **Restore Our Windows** pledge.

Thursday Music Club Concerts Update

Because of the continuing COVID-19 challenges in our community, the Annual Zanesville Handbell Festival has been cancelled for this year. Several of the handbell choirs, including Central Trinity, will post performance videos of their choirs on the Thursday Music Club Facebook during December. The Annual Handel's "Messiah" concert by the Zanesville Civic Chorus and Orchestra will be live-streamed December 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. on the Central Trinity Facebook. Later, it will be available on the CT website. Donations from this concert go to the Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio. You can make a contribution through the Muskingum County Community Foundation. You can send a donation in the "Spirit of Handel" to their office or through the MCCF website.



Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love

Music Ministry

Upcoming anthems for the Chancel Choir:

Dec. 5 *Christmas Sanctus* by Lee Dengler

Dec. 12 *Way Down in Bethlehem* by Jay Althouse

Dec. 24 *Pavane for a Silent Night*, arr. by Liebergen (11 p.m. service)

Dec. 26 Eric Shields - Special Music (Title TBD)



Please feel free to reach out to Ann Sims or Andy Ruetz if you have any questions.

Verla Moore Service Club

This year the VMSC Christmas party will be held at the church on Tuesday, December 7, at 6 p.m. Members are asked to bring a potluck style dish and a \$10 gift to exchange.

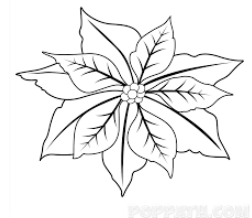


Poinsettia Orders

We are taking orders for the red and white poinsettias again this year. Because of COVID-19, we will send an order form by mail that you may fill out and mail back to the church, or drop off with your payment. You may also email (centraltrinity@sbcglobal.net) or call (740-453-1210) your order into the church office & mail your payment of \$7.50 for each poinsettia to be received no later than December 7. Be sure to specify a color choice. If no color is chosen, red will be ordered for you. Flowers will be available for pick-up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Order forms can be found at the Welcome Center.

A link can also be found on the CT website.



Israel Summer 2023

ISRAEL SUMMER 2023 – An informational meeting about traveling to Israel is schedule for December 5 after the 10:30 service in the Pairs and Spares room. Besides touring Israel, there are also plans of visiting Petra in Jordan.

Anyone who has questions should contact Brad Sims at BradSims96@gmail.com or 740-819-4141.

Christmas Mailbox

Christmas mailbox is back!

Drop off your Christmas cards between December 1 and 19.

We will not be responsible for mailing any cards that are not picked up.



Thank you

Dear CT Family,

Thank you for all of your kind words and expressions of sympathy in Paul's passing. It has been very comforting. Thank you also for your thoughts and prayers. That has also been comforting during this time.

Sincerely,

Linda Thompson
Jennifer Shields
Eric Shields

*Thankful
and
blessed*

Many Thanks

Warmest thanks to Phyllis Bradshaw, Leslie Miller, Mary Longshore, Marcie Hunter, Nancy Moose, Mary Colopy, Sandra Robe, Sue Wright, Nancy Beitzel, Beth Hurst, Lisa Cooper, Kay Stubbins, Lead Pastor Jon Exman, Lesa Exman, Associate Pastor Jon Carter, and Cathy Dorman for helping me in the office the month of November. Please call the office if I left anyone off this list.

- Bonnie Gerdau, Admin Assistant

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army needs volunteer bell ringers November 8 to December 24.

For more information or to sign up call Marsha at 740-452-8350.

Information is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.



Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love

December 5

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

Holy Communion/2nd Sunday of Advent**Advent Series: "Hope Is on the Way"**

"Hope in the Plan"
Jeremiah 29:8–15
Chancel Choir

December 12

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

Advent Series: "Hope Is on the Way"

"Filled with Hope"
Romans 15:13–19
Chancel Choir

December 19

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

Advent Series: "Hope Is on the Way"

"The Hope that Lives!"
1 Peter 1:1–7
Carillon Bells

December 24

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

Christmas Eve/Advent Series: "Hope Is on the Way"

"The Birth of Hope"
Luke 2:1–20
Children's Choir/Wesleyan Choir
Carillon Bells/Chancel Choir/Band

December 26

Message:
Scripture:
Special Music:

1st Sunday after Christmas/Advent Series: "Hope Is on the Way"

"Hope in a Name"
Philippians 2:9–11
Special Music

"80 Plus Club" Happy Birthday

Bill Miller, December 5

Phyllis Bradshaw, December 18

David Downing, December 20

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

*Happy
Birthday*

Bible Study

With the Holiday Season upon us.

There will be no Bible study in December.

Bible Study will resume in January 2022

Average YTD attendance:

Sept worship attendance
(through 11/14): 153

October 2021 Financial Report

YTD Budget	\$368,996
YTD Income	\$301,022
YTD Expenses	\$325,297

December Calendar of Events is subject to change

1 Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Parade

2 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Angel Wings Prayer Shawl

5 Sunday,**Holy Communion
CT Music Ministry presents a Special
Christmas Program in Worship**

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)
 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Party

6 Monday

6:00 p.m. United Methodist Women

7 Tuesday6:00 p.m. Verla Moore Service Club Potluck
Last Day to order Poinsettias**9 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

10 Friday **Connect Article Deadline****11 Saturday**

2:00 p.m. Messiah Rehearsal

12 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)
 6:00 p.m. Messiah Livestream

14 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

15 Wednesday6:00 p.m. Administrative Council
(Fellowship Hall)**16 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

17 Friday5:30 p.m. Storybook Christmas
Poinsettias Arrive**19 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 Youth Christmas Party
Last Day to drop off Christmas Cards

23 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

24 Friday

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Take Poinsettias home after service

26 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)

27–31**Monday–Friday**
Offices are Closed for the Holidays**30 Thursday**

Choir is Cancelled for December 30

Central Trinity
United Methodist Church
62 S Seventh St
Zanesville OH 43701-4399

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Prepared Especially For

Special Dates This Month

- December 1** Parade
- December 5** Holy Communion
Chancel Choir Party
- December 6** United Methodist Women
- December 7** Verla Moore Service Club Potluck
- December 10** ConnecT Deadline
- December 11** Messiah Rehearsal
- December 13** Messiah Live Stream
- December 14** Staff Meeting
- December 15** Administrative Council
- December 17** Storybook Christmas
- December 19** Youth Christmas Party
- December 24** Christmas Eve Service
- December 27–31** All offices closed for holidays

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

