

# CONNECT

## “The Cross”

In the coming weeks we enter Easter. Holy Week is the week before Easter Sunday. During this time the concentration of our faith focuses on our Savior’s final days. From Palm Sunday and Jesus’ triumphant entry to the Passion of Good Friday, it is truly a week of importance for us. There are many symbols of Holy Week. The one that continues to bring us to our knees is the cross. A symbol of faith. Even though the cross reminds us of the brutality of a Roman crucifixion, it is a symbol of something far greater...forgiveness. Through the grace of God, we are forgiven our sins from the cross.

From a very early time period the cross has had meaning for Christians. An early Christian author (160 c.—225 AD) named Tertullian from Carthage in the Roman province of Africa designated the body of Christian believers as *crucis religiosi* or “devotees of the cross.”

This week we begin our Lenten Series called “The Last Words.” It should not come as a surprise to anyone that Jesus’ first Last Word from the cross deals with forgiveness. Luke 23:34 gives us this word. **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** This sums us up in a nutshell. We don’t know what we are doing...but from the cross Jesus again calls us. “Forgive them Father.”

St. Jerome was one of the distinguished church fathers who helped to guide the Church in matters of faith and the Bible. He translated the Ancient Greek manuscripts into Latin to help put the Bible in the language of the people. He wanted the people to read and know the Bible. He lived in the actual town of Bethlehem for a time to get a feel of how Jesus lived during his earthly journey among us. The rich oral traditions of the church share how St. Jerome, while living in Bethlehem, had a dream that Jesus visited him. The dream was so powerful and convincing that St. Jerome rounded up all his material blessings and offered them to Jesus. He heard the Lord declare, “I do not want your possessions.” So, being a good church leader, he offered all his money to Jesus. Jesus once again declared, “I do not want your money.” Finally, in desperation, St. Jerome cried out, “Jesus, what do you want from me?” Jesus simply replied, “Give me your sins. That is what I came for—I came to take away your sin. Give me your sin.”

The gospel of Matthew announces Christ’s entrance into human history with words, found in Chapter 1:21, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The gospel of Mark declares, “For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

The Book of Revelation takes us even further back in history than the birth of Jesus, “to declare that Jesus Christ was the Lamb slain before the creation of the world for our salvation.”

We also know from the Old Testament that the prophet Isaiah spoke of one who would be “numbered with the transgressors.”

It is thought that perhaps Jesus spoke this first word as the nails were being driven into his hands and feet. To think that Jesus actually prayed for those who were performing this task is beyond my comprehension: “Father, forgive them!”

What does this have to do with us? You see “them” refers not just to those in the immediate vicinity who were rolling dice for his clothes and mocking the king of the Jews, but it also refers to you and me. What incredible sense of timing God has! Forgive them! Forgive us! Atonement given to us through Forgiveness. All this occurs through the power of the cross. A symbol of faith...a symbol of grace...symbol of forgiveness.

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**

In just a few weeks Spring will be here. The weather will become warmer, the grass will become greener, children will start to play outside, and some of us will start our yearly spring cleaning. Spring cleaning is basically removing all the things that we thought we needed but really don't. This is a good way to look at the season of Lent. Lent is just an opportunity to find the ways that we can bring ourselves closer to God. We can do that by doing a little spring cleaning of our soul. Cleaning out all the things that block us from spending more time with God and getting closer to Him.

A great way to do this as a family is to make sure your priorities are straight. As a family you can talk and pray with your children. You can teach them to let go of those things in their lives that take their focus off God. You can then encourage them to give something up for five minutes or more in order to make time for Jesus in their lives. They could give up time on their tablets, phones, television, etc.

Remember that even our youngest children can learn to spend time with Jesus. As parents you are doing a great job. We will help support you and your children this month by teaching them the importance of Lent as we travel toward the cross and resurrection of our Lord.

Lesa Exman, Children's Ministries

**Mark Your Calendars****Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser**

Date: March 13

Time: Immediately after the Traditional Service

Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Lemonade, Water

All proceeds go toward the youth mission trip.

**Confirmation Classes**

February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served.

April 24 Confirmation/Youth Sunday

Any questions, feel free to contact Lesa Exman

### United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women** meet Monday, March 7, 6 p.m. The program is about the Lenten discipline of fasting that provides practice to help us respond to God's love and grace and gives us a tool that we can use to stay in relationship with our loving creator.

Remember to bring your seed packets for **Jackson Area Ministries Gardening Project** and place them in the container in the Welcome Center. The last day for collection is Sunday, April 10. Unfortunately, Jackson Area Ministries is not allowing on-site volunteers again this year, so we will not be helping to sort seeds. We will keep this volunteer project in mind next year.

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

**West Ohio Conference Lenten Study** is 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. Weekly schedule and registration are available at [westohioumw.org/2022-lenten-study](http://westohioumw.org/2022-lenten-study).

We will discuss *Tattered and Mended: The Art of Healing the Wounded Soul* in our next **book discussion** Thursday, March 24, 5 p.m. This book is not available at the public library but can be purchased in print or eBook format.

### Ash Wednesday Service

Central Trinity Church begins its Lenten Journey toward Easter with the annual Ash Wednesday Service, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. This personal service helps us prepare for the journey. The Chancel Choir will be providing special music. Plan to attend.

### 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.

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**Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love**

## Finance and Stewardship

**Just a Reminder** — Many special projects are under way at Central Trinity in addition to funding our operating budget. As a result, what might have been year-end additional contributions to the operating budget were committed to these special projects. The church finished 2021 with expenses exceeding income. In December, the Administrative Council took a leap of faith and approved the project to restore all the stained glass windows. At that point there were pledges in hand equivalent to about 60% of the project. We are still in need of additional pledges to fund the entire project. All these items should be prayerfully considered.

**A Way to Save Taxes and Benefit Central Trinity** — If you are at the age when you must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your retirement accounts, consider the following. When the RMD is transferred to your checking account, you must claim that amount as extra income on your taxes. Because IRS has increased the standard deduction amount, many people can no longer claim charitable contributions as a deduction. How do you deal with this? If you have any part of the RMD disbursed directly to a charity, like CT, then you do not have to claim the distribution as income, thus not paying taxes on that distribution. This process not only allows you to avoid tax on the RMD but also enables you to increase your charitable contributions by the amount of tax you would have paid with no additional expense. The end result is you give the tax to a charitable organization instead of the government. Check with your financial advisor on how this is done.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Stewardship and Finance

## Easter Flowers

We are currently taking orders for the spring flowers and lilies. The greenhouse has advised a price increase but didn't have the exact cost for us as of this date. I am very sorry for the inconvenience, we are working diligently to find the total for you.

We will send an order form by mail that you may fill out and mail back to the church, or drop off to the office.

You may also email ([centraltrinity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:centraltrinity@sbcglobal.net)) your order into the church office no later than March 30. Flowers will be available for pick-up after the Easter Sunday Service.

Order forms can be found at the Welcome Center.



## Mar 13, 2022 - Daylight Savings Time



## Help by Recycling!

We are still collecting **aluminum cans** for the youth ministry. A can has been placed in the hallway beside the back entry door.

You may leave your empty **printer ink cartridges** for recycle on the counter in the church office.

**Recycle your eyeglasses, hearing aids & cell phones.** This is an ongoing project for the Duncan Falls Lion's Club, and a box has been placed in the hallway next to the parlor for your use.

**The Ronald McDonald House** pays its electric bill with money raised through recycling of pull tabs from aluminum cans. Please save your tabs and bring them into church and place in the bin in the hallway next to the parlor or give to Sandy Holbein.

## Many Thanks

Warmest thanks to everyone for helping me in the office the month of February, and a thank you to the Angel Wings Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful gift.

*Thankful  
and  
blessed*

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**Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love**

**March 2**                      **Ash Wednesday**  
 Message:                      "Dust to Dust"  
 Scripture:                     Genesis 3:19  
 Special Music:                Chancel Choir

**Series of Lenten Sermons:**

**March 6**                      **Holy Communion**  
**"The Seven Last Words"**  
 Message:                      "Father, Forgive Them"  
 Scripture:                     Luke 23:34  
 Special Music:                Chancel Choir with Charity Dueck Violinist

**March 13**                     **"The Seven Last Words"**  
 Message:                      "This Day You Will Be with Me in Paradise"  
 Scripture:                     Luke 23:43  
 Special Music:                Carillon Bells

**March 20**                    **"The Seven Last Words"**  
 Message:                      "Woman, Behold Your Son"  
 Scripture:                     John 19:26-27  
 Special Music:                Chancel Choir

**March 27**                    **"The Seven Last Words"**  
 Message:                      "Why Have You Forsaken Me"  
 Scripture:                     Mark 15:34  
 Special Music:                Children's & Wesleyan Choirs

**"80 Plus Club"**  
**Happy Birthday**

Pat Liddle, March 6

Alma Dilley, March 22

John Ball, March 23

Carmen Horn, March 28



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

**Game Night**

CT Friends:

Game night the month of March will be Friday, March 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

**Average YTD attendance:**

**January worship attendance** (through 02/20/2022): 120

**January 2022 Financial Report**

YTD Budget	\$38,431
YTD Income	\$40,039
YTD Expenses	\$30,943

**March Calendar of Events is subject to change****1 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
6:00 p.m. SPRT

**2 Wednesday**

11:00 a.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

**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

**10 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

**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)  
11:00 a.m. Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

**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  
6:00 p.m. Trustees  
7:00 p.m. Administrative Council

**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**

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

**24 Thursday**

5:00 p.m. Book Discussion  
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)  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

**28 Monday**

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

**Come as Yourself, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love**

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### Special Dates This Month

- March 1    **Staff Meeting**
- March 2    **Ash Wednesday Service**
- March 6    **Holy Communion**
- March 7    **United Methodist Women**
- March 12   **Men's Breakfast**
- March 13   **Confirmation Class**  
              **Youth Fundraiser, Spaghetti Dinner**
- March 15   **Staff Meeting**  
              **Verla Moore Service Club**
- March 16   **Trustees Meeting**  
              **Admin Council**
- March 18   **ConnecT Deadline**  
              **Game Night**
- March 24   **Book Discussion**
- March 27   **Confirmation Class**

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

