

THE WITNESS

Circleville First Church

436 East Ohio Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113
(740) 474-2250 circlevillefirstchurch.com

November 2025

Issue 312

Jay Neff, Senior Pastor (740) 804-1482
Andrew Hottinger, Associate Pastor (740) 403-3166
Andrew Byerly, Music/Worship Ministry (740) 601-7405

Kim Buchanan, Dir. Of Growth Groups (740) 701-6105
Lisa Burroughs, Director of Youth Ministry (740) 412-4149

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

November 21 & 22

Nelsonville-York High School



Shifts available on November 22

9 – 11 am
12 noon – 2 pm

*November 22--Van leaving church at 7:30 am
to work the 9 - 11 shift*

Sign up at the Welcome Center

Contact Joy Atwood for more information



Packing Night

November 12

7 pm FC Hall

FALL BACK! REMEMBER to move
your clocks back 1 hour before bed
on **November 1.**



**Election Day
November 4**



Veteran's Day- November 11



Kitchen delights

This recipe is from my daughter-in-law, **Sarah Johnson** and it's **Annie's** favorite soup.

Taco Soup

1.5 lb. ground turkey or ground beef, browned
1 can corn, undrained
1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 can diced tomatoes, undrained
1 tsp. chili powder
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
1 tsp. cumin



1 onion, diced
1 can red beans, drained & rinsed
1 bell pepper (any color), diced
1 can black beans, drained & rinsed

Brown ground turkey/beef with diced onions. Then, add taco seasoning, chili powder and cumin. Cook according to taco seasoning instructions.

If cooking on stove top: add remaining ingredients and cook on med-high heat for 20--30 minutes.

If using crock pot: add ground turkey/beef mixture to crock pot. Add remaining ingredients and cook on low for 6-8 hours. Ground turkey/beef mixture can also be made in advance and frozen, then added to crock pot with remaining ingredients.

Serve with toppings of choice: diced avocado, tortilla chips, shredded cheese, sour cream, black olives, green onions, cilantro, etc.

If cooking for a large crowd: increase to 2 diced bell peppers, 16 oz. can tomato sauce, 2 cans corn and add one additional can drained/rinsed beans of choice (e.g. pinto). Adjust taco seasoning to taste.

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

Bible study

Wednesdays at 1 pm Ferguson/Clark Hall

Calling all men... Men's Prayer Meeting

Saturdays 8 am

Hey, you guys!!!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

November 15

8 am

FC Hall

speaker: Chris Tener



Growth Group Leaders Training was held on October 4 with approximately 12 in attendance.

Thank you, Growth Group Leaders!!

Need a gift?



Candy bouquets are located in the back of the church for only \$10 each which benefits missions. Envelopes are provided for your payment and can be placed in the collection boxes. Floral sticks and cards/stickers are also provided to add to your bouquet.

Thanks to all who have donated toward this ministry.

submitted by **Cathy Marck**



Verse of the month

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."
Ephesians 5:8 NKJV

submitted by **John Adams**



Community cupboard needs



Pasta, sauce, peanut butter & jelly

a tote is located in the overflow for donations

Penny March – November 2

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

November 21 & 22

Thank you for serving our country...

Please pray for our country, our leaders and all of our military and their families as they serve but especially **Sean Baldwin, Bob Byerly, Sgt. Travis Cotton, Ryan Dean, Zachary Haddox, Trent Holbrook, Oscar Knece, Brittany Mozingo, Tim Sauers, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson.**



Pumpkin Show Parking



On Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday of Pumpkin Show, approximately \$6,300. was raised at the parking lot. Funds will benefit

Nipgen Jr High Camp, the McGuire Home & updates to FC Hall kitchen. ***Thank you to all who helped make this possible.***

Operation Christmas Child

Items of the month



Jump ropes

Clear plastic water bottles



Pencil bags



Stories from Elizabeth's Hope

Tears of Joy

Weeks ago, I did an ultrasound on a client who miscarried last year and was anxious to see how this pregnancy was developing. During her scan, we saw a gestational sac—which is where the baby would be—but there were no signs of a baby yet. Sometimes it is simply too early to see the secondary yolk sac, which nourishes the baby until the placenta takes over and too early to see the fetal pole. I measured the gestational sac and tried to reassure her that everything looked as we would expect for an early pregnancy. I explained that if we repeated the ultrasound in a couple of weeks, we would likely see more. She scheduled the follow-up appointment and then faced the hardest part: waiting.

The day finally arrived for her ultrasound. She brought her mom and the baby's father for support. She was so very nervous as she climbed onto the table, admitting that she could feel her heart racing. They all wanted this baby so much. I quickly swept the transducer across her lower belly and, almost instantly, we saw what we had been hoping for. I zoomed in and pointed out her tiny baby, exactly where the baby should be, with the unmistakable flicker of a heartbeat in the center of its chest. Tears spilled down my client's face, then her mom's, then the father's—and soon my own eyes were teary, too. Tissues were passed around the room, followed by phones being pulled from pockets to capture videos as the sound of that strong little heartbeat filled the room. We laughed through our tears, overwhelmed by joy and relief that this pregnancy looked healthy.

I printed her pictures and she proudly signed up for the Mom's Program to begin earning baby items. As they left, she smiled through happy tears of joy and whispered, *"This finally feels real."*

Kristie Steck BSN, RN

Mobile Nurse Manager at Elizabeth's Hope

"Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."
Romans 12: 1-2



Summit -- Coming in March 2026



Joellen & Frances' mission trip



In August, I was part of a work team through Samaritan's Purse to Burnsville, North Carolina. This was not my first

work team, but it was one I was blessed with and prepared for through multiple previous life-long lessons and experiences.

All I knew about Samaritan's Purse was their Christmas Shoe Box Ministry, however that is only a very small part of their ministry. I had no idea the vast expanse it has around the world through multiple ways of touching lives. In September 2024 the mountains of North Carolina experienced flooding when the aftermath of the hurricane went through. Many, many lost their homes, lives, livelihoods from the flooding that hit. Rivers, streams, creeks rose some 40 feet. The devastation left destruction that will take years to recover and rebuild.

Twenty volunteers met the week I was there and we were divided into 5 or 6 teams which went to multiple villages, towns and worked on homes. Some of these homes were totaled and needed to be rebuilt from ground up and Samaritan's Purse comes with their "orange shirt brigade" and does what they do best...be the hands and feet of Jesus. The volunteers were made up of just ordinary people that were willing to help, we served with an 80-year-old lady that loved working with gardens, plants, soil etc. and that is just what she did. She made sure that the new home she worked with had beautiful landscaping and perfect plants to remind them daily of SP and the love Jesus has for them.

I worked in a home directly across from one of the rivers that overflowed in the town of Spruce Pine. It did not destroy the outside of the home, because it was built of river rock, but the inside took a beating. By the time we left she had new windows, flooring, paint, total new kitchen, utility room, bathroom and more. New furniture and a deck came after we left. It was a blessing to be able to return this family home, of over 100 years, back to be enjoyed for many years to come.

As for me, I painted, used my drywall mudding experience, along with sanding, filling in holes, replacing soffits and did some over-all cleaning and removing of mud. Plus, anything else that needed to be taken of. The total cost for me to go, was \$30 to help out with gas for the trip and my meals down and back. Samaritan's Purse took care of everything else, I mean everything. They put us up, made sure we had plenty to eat, all supplies were provided along with ministry material, to witness to those we helped out. Their main concern was that we would be the hands and feet of Jesus and help those through their loss through sharing Jesus' love.

I would challenge you to think about when you could go and spend a week serving (ages 14 and up are welcome to serve). I

guarantee you will be blessed. I will be going again – soon.

submitted by **Joellen Byerly**



My mission trip to Yancy County, North Carolina went really well. The area was and still is in real need of help. The Brooks Family and the Cook Family were very appreciative of the help they received. All of the people who volunteered to come and serve there were very willing to do whatever was needed. We made new friends and worked very well together. We also couldn't have asked for better weather.

If you have never been on a mission trip, I hope you would give it a try. I know you will get truly blessed, I did!

submitted by **Frances Curry**

Ladies lunch



The **Ladies Lunch** will again be held at **Ohio Christian University on November 4 at 11 am.**

In October, we had 11 ladies join us for lunch, but mostly the fellowship. There are lots of food choices to pick from and the cost is a bargain. What I like is that we can stay as long as we want to enjoy each other's company.

As of now, our next lunch will be on December 2 at Ohio Christian University and January 6 (place to be announced).

Bad weather could be just around the corner, so my thoughts are if schools are closed, we should move our lunch to the next week. If you have any thoughts or questions, please let me know. Call Diana at 740-497-4042 or text at 740-851-1282

submitted by **Diana Moore**

5 things God wants you to remember in trying times:

1. You're never, ever alone.
2. Nothing takes Him by surprise.
3. When you're weak, He's strong.
4. He's the God of new beginnings.
5. His love never gives up on us.



submitted by **Nancy Johnson**





Tuesday, November 4 - Ladies Lunch 11 am at Ohio Christian University

Tuesday, November 18 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall, bring a friend and snack to share

Tuesday, December 2 - Ladies Lunch 11 am at Ohio Christian University

Thursday, December 11 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall, bring a friend and snack to share – more info to come. We will have a White Elephant gift exchange. What is a White Elephant gift? Information to come.

Tuesday, January 6 - Ladies Lunch- place to be announced

Thursday, January 22 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall, bring a friend and snack to share

Tuesday, February 17 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm in the FC Hall, bring a friend and snack to share

March 20-21 - Ladies SCD - / Am - conference held at Deer Creek –registration and cost involved – Information, brochure and forms found in Welcome Center. Let's get at least 30 ladies to attend this year, we had an awesome time last year.

Saturday, April 25 - Crossroads Ladies Conference – Joy of the Journey- registration needed, \$25.00 if early bird registration is met, T-shirts will be available.

submitted by **Joellen Byerly** and **Diana Moore**



Carson Blackford, Morgan Colbourn, Linda Howard, Tim Martindale, Ruby Miller, Sierra Myers, Tyler Myers and Troy Pennington were baptized on October 5. Congratulations!!



TRANSFORMATION

Church membership class began on September 24. This class is a 6-week class taught by Pastor Jay Neff. New members will be inducted on November 9.

Operation Christmas Child-ideas

"WOW" items and Toys: Soccer ball with pump, dolls, stuffed animals, shoes, toy cars, jump ropes and yo-yos, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries taped to them), puzzles, finger puppets, silly putty, play jewelry, plastic tools, yo-yo, small plastic musical instruments, jump rope, play-doh.



Personal care items, School supplies: toothbrushes, socks, combs, hairbrushes, band-aids, dental floss, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring books, picture books, solar calculators, sunglasses, flashlights, washcloths, small towels, lip gloss, purse, wallet, coin purse, cups, straws. **Small tools:** hammer, screwdriver, tape, pliers, gloves...small enough to fit in a shoebox.



November 12 - Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Ministry Packing Day--we may need help sorting and organizing the items to fill boxes. So – watch the bulletin for our early dates to help prepare, if needed. **Men are welcome to help too.** Questions - Contact Joellen Byerly 513-680-6012

To help out with the expense of the upcoming Ladies Retreat we will be having a **Spaghetti dinner** after Sunday services **November 23 and December 28.** The cost will be \$5.00 per plate, \$20 for families. We will also take donations. We will start out with spaghetti and change it up in December and January and... please be sure to come help us out.



CFC Kids

"The Sounding Joy", this year's Children's Christmas Program will be held on December 14. Planning and organizing by Megan Byerly. The teachers will begin practices soon.



Youth Missions Trip to Dominican Republic is scheduled for June 23-30



CFC kids' corner

CFC Kids have been restructured under the direction of **Pastor Andrew Hottinger** and **Director of Growth Groups Kim Buchanan**.



They have been planning, scheduling and searching for curriculum. A plan is in place and is running smoothly. Teachers and assistants are on a once-a-month rotating schedule.

Teachers are **Lex Dyke, Liv Dyke, Crystal Evans, Rachel Howard, Rob & Amy Roesch, Debbie Russell, Mason & Terra Spencer, Amanda Vanderpool** and **Keitha Wilbur**. Assistants are **Kay Agin, Kim Buchanan, Penny Hixenbaugh** and **Navaeh Wilbur**.

Thank you to these willing to teach Jesus to our children.

CFC Kids entered a wreath in the Pumpkin Show Arts & Crafts Show this year. The wreath lights up and each child's initials are on the pumpkin that he/she decorated.



The pumpkin wreath won a blue ribbon! Congratulations! submitted by **Tanya Patrick**



I just dropped a heavy box of berries on my foot...
Now I cranberry walk.

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Prayer service – November 30 at 6 pm

On October 12, **Waylon Myers**, son of **Tyler and Sierra** and grandson of **Greg and Dawn** was dedicated to the Lord! Congratulations!!

Follow us on Instagram
Like us on Facebook



11 -1 Daylight Savings Time Ends—set clock back 1 hour before bed



11 -2 Penny March

11 -4 Election Day—remember to vote!



11 -6 Ladies' Lunch 11 am Ohio Christian University

11 -9 Induction of New Members

11- 11 Veteran's Day

11 - 12 Operation Christmas Child Packing Night
7pm FC Hall



11 - 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 am FC Hall

11 - 18 Ladies' Night 6:30 pm FC Hall

11 - 21 & 22 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

11 - 23 Pastor Appreciation
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

11 - 27 Happy Thanksgiving! Give Thanks to the Lord for His blessings!



11 - 30 Prayer Service 6 pm



Pastor
Appreciation

November 23

Boxes will be available for cards and gifts



