

THE WITNESS

Circleville First Church

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Issue 308

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Brittany is project leader

"After being mentioned at our annual church meeting that the position had to be filled, it had been on my heart and that's when I started praying about it," stated **Brittany Graul**, who took over the Operation Christmas Child as project leader. She said that she is organizing and taking inventory of items, shopping when needed, ordering supplies such as shoeboxes, resources, etc. She will also organize packing party, fundraisers, etc.



Brittany said, "I was highly inspired Feed My Starving Children. With this ministry the children who receive these boxes around the world, are the first gift these children have ever received. These two ministries, reminds me every day of how blessed we are and what a difference as a church we can make in these children and families' lives through Christ."

She would like to see us, as a church come together to make this ministry a success and to get as many boxes out there as possible each year; to not only provide "material things", but most importantly the word of God to change these children and families' lives forever.

Beginning in 2026, Brittany plans to make the shoeboxes available to the church to fill throughout the year. She concluded, "Pray for this ministry throughout the year and for the children who will be receiving these boxes. To be willing to step up and make this as successful as possible."



Suggested items to fill shoeboxes:

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); personal care items, school supplies such as toothbrushes, socks, combs and hairbrushes, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring books, picture books, solar calculators, sunglasses, flashlights...



Welcome back Kotlinger Family!!!



A huge thank you to everyone who helped with The Shoe Box Ministry Rummage Sale, in June. We had over 40 helpers who dedicated their time in multiple ways. We raised over \$2,500 and have some select items still available for sale.

Any Santa collectors out there? We have some awesome ones still hanging around. Just see Joellen Byerly and ask about them. Again, thank you all!



Kitchen delights

This recipe is from the CFC 1981 cookbook from Myrla Lattimer

Pineapple Cream Cake

1 box Jiffy yellow cake mix
1/4 cup oil

Bake in a greased and floured 9 x 13-inch pan at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

1 pkg. (3-3/4 oz.) instant vanilla pudding
1 can (15oz.) crushed pineapple (drained)
1 8 oz. cream cheese - softened
1 pkg. Dream Whip (whipped)



Prepare pudding according to directions. Add cream cheese; beat. Refrigerate until thick. Spread over cooled cake. Cover with crushed pineapple. Spread Dream Whip and top with nuts.

NOTE: If you have a recipe that you would like to share or if you need to find a recipe for something they want to make, please let me know. I'll try to help.

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

CFC kids corner

HELP!!!! Help is needed for CFC Kids. Can you take a child to the bathroom? Can you help with snacks? How about helping with a craft? Prayerfully consider helping, even once a month will help.

You will get far more than you give. If you are willing to help, see Tanya.

submitted by **Tanya Patrick**

Operation Christmas Child
Items of the month

TOYS

to fit in a shoebox



Bouquets are located in the back of the church. The cost is \$10 apiece; the money benefits missions. Envelopes are provided for your payment and can be placed in the collection boxes. There are also floral sticks and cards/stickers you can add to your bouquet as a gift card or greeting card.



Thanks to all who have donated toward this ministry.

submitted by **Cathy Marck**



Men's Prayer Meeting

Saturdays 8 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast

July 19

8 am FC Hall

speaker: Dr. Blake Neff



Verse of the month



"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33 NLT

submitted by **John Adams**

Penny March – July 6



Jokes of the month



"It's so hot the Statue of Liberty was asked to lower her arm!"

from **Ruth Keller**



from **Tim Tener**

Have you heard the one where it was so hot and dry last summer? I saw three trees chasing a dog.

When does it rain money?
When there's a change in the weather.

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**



TRANSFORMATION



Community cupboard needs

**spaghetti, spaghetti sauce,
peanut butter, jelly**

a tote is located in the overflow for donations

End of Life Planning

Do you have children under the age of 18?

If the answer is yes, then you need a Will to state who will take care of your children should you pass prior to the child's eighteenth birthday.

Is someone authorized to make medical decisions for you in the event you can't make medical decisions for yourself?

If the answer is no, then you need a healthcare power of attorney.

End of life planning is difficult. It's hard to think about and even harder to do, but it is the right thing to do for your family. Make all the important and difficult decisions now and take the burden off your family members.

Let's get together and come up with a plan for you! There's no charge for my services – I'm only asking for donations to the McGuire Missionary House. You can reach me, **Rob Roesch** at roeschlaw@gmail.com or (614) 832-8834. Talk to you soon!

Romans 12: 1-2 "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."



**Try a Growth Group class at
9:45 am, stay where you fit in
and feel comfortable**

THANK YOU

Safety Team
Sound/Video Team

Revival

September 19-20-21



Missions trip/work team

Circleville First Church has been offered an opportunity to serve with Samaritan's Purse in Yancey County, North Carolina this summer.

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



These teams will be focused on rebuilding for individuals who have lost everything in hurricane Helene and the subsequent landslides and flooding in 2024.

Spots are available on work teams for August 24-29. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age or older. Youth, ages 14-15, must be accompanied by their parent/legal guardian and youth, ages 16-17, must be accompanied by an adult chaperone.

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Anyone interested should contact **Joy Atwood** for more details. submitted by **Joy Atwood**

Bible study

Come as you are to Bible study at **1 pm on Wednesdays in the Ferguson/Clark Hall.** So, come as you are...



Save the date

Hog Roast/Cruise-In

September 13



Sean Baldwin, Bob Byerly, Sgt. Travis Cotton, Ryan Dean, Zachary Haddox, Trent Holbrook, Oscar Knece, Brittany Mazingo, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson are serving our country. Please pray for them and their families.

Stories from Elizabeth's Hope

Planting Seeds

I was in Circleville helping out with our Mom's Program by seeing clients. One pregnant client had come in alone the first time I saw her, but the following week she had brought her daughter with her since school was out. We completed the lesson and at the end I asked if it was ok if I read the spiritual application part. The spiritual application is a brief summary of how the lesson relates to our lives and what the Bible says about it including a couple scripture verses and a prayer. The client said it was fine. Her daughter who is in 1st grade sat on the floor and looked through the baby books and examined the baby toys in the tub during the entire session including while I read the spiritual application. We finished up, they shopped in the Mom's Store, and then they left. The following week both the expectant mother and her daughter came again, and I did their lesson including the spiritual application. After the lesson was over, the mother told me that her daughter had asked her when they got home who God was. The mother said her daughter had never asked that before and it took the mother by surprise. We didn't even think the daughter was paying any attention to what was being said as she sorted through the toys and books. They now



say a short prayer each night before bedtime. Keep planting those seeds! You never know what impact your words will have, or who might be listening.

Kristie Steck, B.S.N., R.N.

Mobile Nurse Manager at Elizabeth's Hope

2025 Graduates

Madison Blackford graduated from Teays Valley High School. She will be attending Ohio State University-Wooster.

Sydnee Steck graduated from Otterbein University.



Congratulations, Ladies!!



If you have a recipe that you would like to share or if you need to find a recipe for something they want to make, please contact **Nancy Johnson**. I will try to help.



The story behind the song

On a rainy September 13, 1814, British warships sent a downpour of shells and rockets onto Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, relentlessly pounding the American fort for 25 hours. The bombardment, known as the Battle of Baltimore, came only weeks after the British had attacked Washington, D.C., burning the Capitol, the Treasury and the President's house. It was another chapter in the ongoing War of 1812.



A week earlier, Francis Scott Key, a 35-year-old American lawyer, had boarded the flagship of the British fleet on the Chesapeake Bay in hopes of persuading the British to release a friend who had recently been arrested. Key's

tactics were successful, but because he and his companions had gained knowledge of the impending attack on Baltimore, the British did not let them go. They allowed the Americans to return to their own vessel but continued guarding them. Under their scrutiny, Key watched on September 13 as the barrage of Fort McHenry began eight miles away.

"It seemed as though mother earth had opened and was vomiting shot and shell in a sheet of fire and brimstone," Key wrote later. But when darkness arrived, Key saw only red erupting in the night sky. Given the scale of the attack, he was certain the British would win. The hours passed slowly, but in the clearing smoke of "the dawn's early light" on September 14, he saw the American flag—not the British Union Jack—flying over the fort, announcing an American victory.

Key put his thoughts on paper while still on board the ship, setting his words to the tune of a popular English song. His brother-in-law, commander of a militia at Fort McHenry, read Key's work and had it distributed under the name "Defense of Fort McHenry." The Baltimore Patriot newspaper soon printed it, and within weeks, Key's poem, now called "The Star-Spangled Banner," appeared in print across the country, immortalizing his words—and forever naming the flag it celebrated.



Lyrics:

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.



O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

submitted by **Mark Agin**

JOY (just older youth)

July (Date TBA) JOY Night at Nipgen

**August 15
Tecumseh!**

Outdoor Drama -



Baby/child dedication

Matthew 19:14 "Then Jesus said, 'Leave the children alone, and don't try to keep them from coming to Me, because the kingdom of heaven is made up of people like this.'"

Wyatt and Layla, children of **Sean and Lori Sanders** and **Sullivan and Scarlett**, children of **Ben and Megan Bailey** were dedicated to the Lord on June 22. Congratulations!!



To all of the Growth Group teachers

Kim Buchanan

Tanya Patrick

Keitha Wilbur

Kim Peters

Worship Team



HELP! Teachers are needed for Sunday School classes. Please pray about how you can help in this ministry.

Kim Buchanan, Director of Growth Groups



Dinner with friends

How many of you like to eat? How many of you would like to get to know our church family better?

If your answer was "yes" to these questions...

We would love for you to sign up for Dinner with Friends

You will meet 1 time a month at a home, bring a dish and meet new friends or get to know others better.

We did this in the past and it was very successful. Please sign up and give it a try.

Joellen Byerly will let you know where to go and your host family will get with you as to the time and date.

Time and dates are very flexible according to your group.



submitted by **Joellen Byerly**



7 – 4 **Happy Independence Day!!**

7 – 6 **Getting Started Class** begins **Penny March**

7 – 8 **Ladies' Lunch** 11 am at Mexican El Palomar

7 – 15 **Ladies Night** 6:30 pm FC Hall

7 – 19 **Men's Prayer Breakfast** 8 am FC Hall
speaker: Dr. Blake Neff

7 – 19 to 27 **Nipgen Camp Meeting**



"Faith is not like gasoline that runs out as you use it, BUT faith is like a muscle which grows stronger as you exercise it".

"Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand".

"NOTHING WITH GOD IS ACCIDENTAL."

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**

Ladies, what is coming up next?

June activity was held at Ohio Christian University and well attended. We filled up 4 rows and had the largest group at the Annual Ladies ECL Dessert/Concert/Speaker event. **Wow!**



Everyone had a great time, the music was great and the speaker was a real firecracker. We will go again next year, so put it on your calendar. It is always the Friday kick off at Mount of Praise Camp Meeting.

Upcoming events:

Tuesday, July 8 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - Mexican El Palomar (in Wal- Mart strip) ****Notice date change**

Tuesday, July 15 – Ladies Night at 6:30 pm - FC Hall

Tuesday, August 5 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - Zanzi's

Tuesday, August 19 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm - FC Hall

Tuesday, September 2 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - OCU

Thursday, September 18 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm - FC Hall

Getting started class

The "Getting Started" Class, taught by Pastor Jay Neff is geared towards all that are new to Circleville First Church or for those just starting your walk in faith will begin on **July 6** at 9:45 am.

