

# THE WITNESS

## Circleville First Church

436 East Ohio Street  
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October 2026

Issue 323

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### Touch-a-Truck & Hog Roast



October 4

2 – 5 pm

Church parking lot



Fire trucks, police vehicles, sheriff vehicles, wreckers, county trucks, Ohio State Patrol vehicles & more...

Free event for the community

Food & fun for the whole family

For Information contact Tyler Myers or Greg Myers

#### Items Needed:

BBQ sauce, buns & drinks

Sign-up sheet at Welcome Desk



On August 29 at a car show in New Holland, Ohio, **Waylon Myers** took the DJ's Choice Award for his car!

**Congratulations!!**

### Circleville Pumpkin Show

October 21 - 24

Bible Study - Wednesday, October 21 at 1 pm---DISMISSED



### Trunk 'n Treat

October 31

5:30 pm

### Your help is needed Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Friday, November 20 & Saturday, November 21

Nelsonville High School  
2 Buckeye Drive, Nelsonville, Ohio

Sign-up at the Welcome Center  
Contact Joy Atwood for questions



## Stories from Elizabeth's Hope

### Unmistakably God

A mother brought her daughter to me after the young woman discovered she was unexpectedly pregnant. She wanted an ultrasound to see how far along she was. As I began the scan, I could see a baby measuring eight weeks along with a strong, steady heartbeat.

I printed a few ultrasound pictures and offered them to her. She abruptly said, "Take it out of me. I don't want the pictures." She quickly left the exam room without further discussion.

About ten minutes later, she came back. She was tearful and apologized saying, "I'm sorry. God doesn't make mistakes. I would like the ultrasound pictures." I gave her the pictures, she quietly looked at them while her mother stood quietly beside her.

She didn't say much more, but I could see that something had changed. Sometimes we don't need to have the right words. We just need to be there. This was one of those moments that reminded me that God can meet us right where we are.

**Jeremiah 1:5** — "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Long before she walked into that room, God already knew her. And in that moment, I was reminded once again that nothing is outside of His hands.

Blessings,  
**Kristie Steck BSN, RN**  
Mobile Nurse Manager  
740.656.3396 [nurse@ehprc.org](mailto:nurse@ehprc.org)

## Thank you for your service!!

**Isaac Bennett, Ryan Dean, Cameron Kilbarger and Tanner Wilson** are serving our country. Please pray for them and their families.



## We want you! Men's Prayer Meeting

Saturdays 8 am

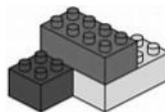
## Bible study

Wednesdays at 1 pm      Ferguson/Clark Hall

## Operation Christmas Child

### Items for October

## TOYS, TOY CARS BUILDING BLOCKS/LEGO SETS



**Reminder:** Shoeboxes are available year-round. Please contact Brittany Graul for a box(es) and details.

## Verse of the month



"But I do not consider my life worth anything to myself, so that I may finish my task and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace."

Acts 20:24 NET

submitted by **John Adams**

## Ladies Nights

**Ladies Nights** on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall: October 29, November 12 & December 10. **Bring a snack to share and a friend.** More details coming.

## Community cupboard needs

## Ramen Noodles



a tote is located in the overflow for donations

## JOY (just older youth)

**October 10**      **Bob Evans Farm Festival** – Cost: \$5 each  
leave church at 8:30 am

**November 14**      **Thanksgiving/Christmas Carry-In** 4 – 7 pm

**December 6**      **Guardian Concert** 2 pm  
Leave church – Lunch before concert

## Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack

Founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. The process is as follows: donations are given by people to fund the meal ingredients. Volunteers hand-pack the meals. Meals are then donated to partner organizations around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!

The organization's founder, Richard Proudfit, had traveled to Honduras after a 1974 hurricane and witnessed the survivors' misery. In 1987, he assembled scientists from General Mills, Cargill and other companies to create a food product that provided all the nutritional requirements to sustain the famished. The group created a winning formula of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and chicken flavoring--plus vitamins and minerals—that is still used today.

In July 2015, a team of 13 from Circleville First Church traveled to Titanyen, Haiti with Healing Haiti. At the site of the mass grave from the January 2010 earthquake, the male members of the team handed out MannaPack meals to the Haitians who had come out of their homes in the mountains to receive the meals. These meals were so precious and needed by this community that there were outbreaks of arguments and squabbles over getting the meals.

We have had many opportunities over the past several years to serve at MobilePack events. The next event will be held on **Friday, November 20 & Saturday, November 21** at Nelsonville High School in Nelsonville, Ohio (approximately 50 miles from Circleville). Sign up at the Welcome Center.

submitted by **Joy Atwood**



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are available

We want you!

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

October 17

8 am FC Hall

speaker: Blake Neff



## Touch-a-Truck

### Hog Roast

October 4

#### Items Needed:

BBQ sauce, hamburger buns and drinks

Sign-up at the Welcome Desk

## Jokes of the month



sent from Tim Tener

these were sent from Tim Tener:

My house is haunted by a ghost chicken.  
It's a poultrygeist.

A fowl spirit.  
I'm going to call an eggsorcist.

I used to work at a blanket factory...but it folded.

My doctor told me I was going deaf...  
The news was hard for me to hear.

When does a joke become a dad joke?  
When it becomes apparent.

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**



## Kid Power Offering – October 4

"Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; Who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." **Isaiah 56:2**

# Operation Christmas Child

"It seems unlikely that sharing the love of Jesus Christ with children all around the world can be done through a shoebox. However, each year, Samaritan's Purse reaches millions of impoverished children with shoeboxes filled with basic necessities, toys and love."



-taken from The Power of a Shoe Box by  
Pastor Jonathan Morgan, The Advocate  
(March/April 2016)

## What is Operation Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of the international relief organization, Samaritan's Purse. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

## Who started Operation Christmas Child?

The program was started in the United Kingdom in 1990 by Dave and Jill Cooke. Three years after this beginning, the Wales-based shoebox gift project merged in a partnership with Samaritan's Purse, allowing us to share 20 years of expertise in relief and aid work with the project, and expand the reach of the shoebox gifts to more than 28,000 children that year. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 135 million children in more than 150 countries and territories.

## Why shoebox gifts?

Shoebox gifts are a way to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



## What happens after my shoebox gift is delivered?

Our local ministry partners distribute your shoeboxes to children in their communities. After receiving shoebox gifts, many boys and girls are invited to enroll in The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson discipleship program. Through the program, our local ministry partners are able to establish long-term, caring relationships with children and families by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

Taken from [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

## What to put in the shoebox?

Include **toys** that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), dolls, stuffed animals, etc. Also **school**

**supplies** such as pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. You can include **non-liquid hygiene items** like toothbrushes, dental floss, combs, washcloths, etc.

**Accessories and crafts** such as T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), hair bows, finger puppets, etc. **Other items** such as tools, hammers, nails, screwdrivers, nuts, bolts, screws, soccer ball & air pump (must deflate).

**Please Do Not Include:** food, candy, gum, toothpaste, bar soap, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, wearable traditional camouflage items, seeds, organic matter, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosols, matches, fire starters, saws or razor blades.



The things children ask for the most are washcloths, soap and school supplies, believe it or not.

*National Collection Week - November 16-23*

## Sorting/Packing Party date – November – TBA

submitted by **Brittany Graul**

Mark your calendars!

**October 6 - Ladies Lunch** - 11 am at  
Ohio Christian University



**October 29 – Ladies Night** - CANCELLED  
due to Trunk 'n Treat (same week) and Joellen will be  
on Samaritan Purse work team

**November 3 - Ladies Lunch** - at 11 am at Ohio Christian  
University

**November 12 - Ladies Night** - 6:30 pm in the FC Hall, bring a  
friend and snack to share

**December 1 - Ladies Lunch** – 11 am Ohio Christian University

**December 10** - Details to come

\*\*\*If you are interested in taking over the **Ladies Lunch ministry**, please let Joellen Byerly know. Diana is no longer able to do this ministry at this time. Any help is appreciated.

*Hey, get connected to our church...  
Get involved with a Growth Group class at 9:45 am*

## Kitchen delights

### Pumpkin Cake

originally submitted by **Marilyn Hatfield**

4 eggs  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
2 cups flour  
2 tsp. soda  
2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice  
dash of salt  
1 small can of pumpkin



Mix together all ingredients. Bake in a greased bundt pan at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes. Cool.

### Icing

1 - 3 oz. cream cheese, softened  
1 stick melted butter  
1 lb. confectioners' sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all ingredients together. Spread on cake. (Sprinkle with chopped walnuts, if desired)

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**



The last Sunday of each month, the **ECL** will be hosting **Fundraising Lunches** immediately after morning service. Cost is \$5 per person/ \$20 for family. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations are always appreciated. These funds will help pay at least \$75 for each lady wanting to attend the March retreat.



*Where else can you eat for \$5?*



**10 – 4 Touch-a-Truck/Hog Roast** 2- 5 pm parking lot

**10 – 6 Ladies Lunch** 11 am at Ohio Christian University

**10 – 10 JOY – Bob Evans Farm Festival**  
leaving church at 8:30 am



**10 – 12 Columbus Day**



**10 – 21 to 10 – 24 CIRCLEVILLE PUMPKIN SHOW**

**10 – 21 Bible Study** at 1 pm – DISMISSED

**10 – 25 ECL Fundraiser Lunch** – following morning worship service—Menu: variety of soups

**10 – 29 Ladies Night** -- CANCELLED

**10 – 31 Trunk 'n Treat** 5:30 pm



**Fundraising Lunch: October 25** will be having a variety of soups. Make sure to come – it will be warm and comforting and the fellowship is always great.

Follow us on Instagram  
Like us on Facebook

### Operation Christmas Child

Sorting/packing party dates in November



Ladies interested in the **March Retreat**, please let **Joellen Byerly** know your interest. I do not have any details yet, but hopefully soon. As soon as I have it, you will too. I do

know the speaker is Burnett Brown and Amber Kasper is the song evangelist, (same as last year). The dates are **March 12 and 13, 2027** at the Deer Creek Lodge.

## SABBATH

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas (back in the day when there was such a thing) just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station.

Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

submitted by **Jerry Parish**

## Church Extension

*A word from the Director...*

It is truly a joy to connect with you. God is doing great things in our denomination. Reports are coming in from our churches about baptisms, new church plants and evangelistic events. This is an exciting time to be a part of the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. God has called us to be a Great Commission Movement and our pastors and people are responding. I trust that you will take time to explore this new update called the Great Commission Connection. It is filled with the latest news from Evangelism and Extension as God is building His Church in our day.

In the Power of One,  
David Dean, Director of Evangelism & Extension



## Church of the Month



Freedom Ministries, Sabina, Ohio

Once a strong and healthy congregation, this church experienced years of decline and eventually closed. For a time, only an empty building remained-but God was not finished with His ministry in Sabina.

Through the leadership of Rev. Gary Heimbach and Pastor Dan Bennett, a vision emerged to reopen the church as a satellite

campus Freedom Ministries Church. On Easter Sunday 2026, Pastor Jessica Fout-Conley welcomed the community back to worship.

Church Extension and Freedom Ministries of Frankfort supplied financial support and workers to restore the building. Today it reverberates again with praise, love, connection and new life.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for Pastor Jessica Fout-Conley and Freedom Ministries Church of Sabina. Ask God to draw people to Christ, strengthen the congregation, provide workers and resources and establish this renewed church as a strong Great Commission presence in its community.

### The Mission of the Church: The Great Commission

*"The Church was never to be a place of retreat from the world, but a force of transformation within it. From the beginning God's design for His people was not survival, comfort or maintenance, but mission. The Church exists not merely to gather believers, but to reach the lost, make disciples, transform communities and expand the kingdom of God. At the heart of this calling stands the Great Commission."*

-The Great Commission Strategic Action Plan

### Prayer Requests

- \*Pastor English in Brazil-celebrating their first anniversary as a church
- \*The Hispanic Church in New Orleans-strength through severe trials
- \*All Church Extension Projects-That God will make them faithful and fruitful
- \*New Sponsored Churches-That God will provide vision
- \*Renewed Churches-That God will provide workers & resources
- \*Church Planting Conference-October 19-20 at OCU

### Praise Points

\*Since Easter of 2026 we have opened 4 new churches. Brookside Espanol, Redeemed Community Church, River of Blessings II and our Church Extension Church of the Month...Freedom Ministries of Sabina, Ohio.

\*The Church Extension Department received over \$107,000 from all sources including a marvelous Great Commission Offering for Church Extension.

\*Many of our churches are seeing people come to Christ and are baptizing new believers.

submitted by **Cathy Marck, Church Extension President**

