



The **CROSSFIRE**

Monthly newsletter for Church of the Cross, Toledo, Ohio



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SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

- Communion Sunday, March 5
- Daylight Savings Time, Mar. 12
- Food Pantry Dates, Mar. 14 & 28
- 55 & Over Luncheon, March 15
- Ugly Quilts, March 18
- Hands of Tabitha, Mar. 11
- Creation Mtg., Mar. 27
- Lenten Bible Study, Wednesdays @6PM



MONDAY, MARCH 20



SUNDAY, MARCH 12

PASTOR'S PAGE

March 2023

I can't Believe that Spring is Almost Here!

One of the things I love about March is that this is the month that we officially transition from winter to spring. Even though Northwest Ohio can experience snow as late as April, we see a significant leaning towards beautiful weather in March and April each year. During the season of Lent, we often look at our spiritual life through the lenses of Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus' closest friends were intimately aware of the battle between the spirit and the flesh. While on the mountain praying, Jesus said to them, ⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41, NIV) Lent is a season of transition. Some of the tools we use to strengthen our spirit and, in turn, weaken our flesh, are prayer, contemplation, fasting, and community worship. Our prayer for each person at Church of the Cross, is that we would transition more into a life of faith that strengthens our spirit as we look intently at Jesus' finished work on the Cross.

This month, on Sunday mornings, we will continue our work in a series from the book of Luke, titled, "Jesus in the Wild." For those of you following along with our Sermon Sunday School series facilitated by Keith and Kathy Lewis, please see the chart below for your review. If we choose, all of us can add a little extra study to our daily lives before the worship services, too.

Date	Theme	Sermon Title	Scripture
Wednesday, March 1	Jesus in the Wild	LESSONS ON CALLING FOR LIFE IN THE WORLD	Luke 4:1-14
Sunday, March 5	Jesus in the Wild	IDENTITY, BELOVEDNESS, AND PURPOSE	Luke 4:1, 1 John 4:15-19
Wednesday, March 8	Jesus in the Wild	IDENTITY, BELOVEDNESS, AND PURPOSE	Luke 4:1, 1 John 4:15-19
Sunday, March 12	Jesus in the Wild	FACING DOWN THE IF'S IN OUR LIVES	Luke 4:3, 7, 9
Wednesday, March 15	Jesus in the Wild	FACING DOWN THE IF'S IN OUR LIVES	Luke 4:3, 7, 9
Sunday, March 19	Jesus in the Wild	THE POWER OF "IT IS WRITTEN"	Luke 4:4, 8, 12
Wednesday, March 22	Jesus in the Wild	THE POWER OF "IT IS WRITTEN"	Luke 4:4, 8, 12
Sunday, March 26	Jesus in the Wild	BE STRONG THROUGH THE STRUGGLE	Ephesians 6:10-18
Wednesday, March 29	Jesus in the Wild	BE STRONG THROUGH THE STRUGGLE	Ephesians 6:10-18

As we enter this season of Lent, please take time to reflect, fast, and pray...as individuals, with your family, and with your church family. This is also a season of rejoicing as we continue to pray for our Confirmation class of students and New Members class of adults as they take their next faithful step in their journey with Jesus. Please consider joining in Sunday school and worship on Sunday mornings, Youth Group on Sunday nights at 6:30 PM, and participating in our Lenten Study that is happening on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM in the Gathering Space!

Thank you for your faithfulness and your willingness to engage with us at Church of the Cross. Whether you are worshipping with us in person or worshipping with us via YouTube or Facebook, we are so thankful for you! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the office at 419.382.6722 or stop by to make an appointment to catch up.

Blessings,

Pastor Joel

MARCH PRAYER

MARCH 2023

Living Water

Lord, You are my Heavenly Father. You sought me out when I was dead in my sins. Your free gift of salvation pours living water into my weary soul. It becomes in me a spring of eternal life that flows out of me to others who need Your forgiveness. I pray that in all things I may learn to listen to Your voice and be guided by Your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jeremiah 2:13;
John 4:4-14, 7:37-39;
Revelation 21:6, 22:17



Mar 1	Andrea Dubler
Mar 1	Katie Metz
Mar 4	Ray Sudheimer
Mar 5	Andrea Rulason
Mar 7	Susan Breymaier
Mar 7	Luanne Falk
Mar 9	Darlene (Dolly) Ryan
Mar 9	Vicki Scribner
Mar 11	Lori Klohn
Mar 12	Patricia Leffel
Mar 14	Joshua Warner
Mar 16	Timmy Cox
Mar 17	Tom Harris
Mar 17	Warren Leow
Mar 18	David Olin
Mar 21	Molly McDonagh
Mar 21	Jordan Rietzke
Mar 25	John McDonagh
Mar 25	Scott Zaborowski
Mar 26	Jonah Taylor
Mar 28	Luke Breymaier
Mar 28	Judith Strole
Mar 29	Laura Huber
Mar 29	Matthew Solether
Mar 29	Laura Stevens
Mar 31	Margie Moore

Upcoming Lenten & Easter Services & Activities:**Palm Sunday, April 2**

Membership & Confirmation Sunday
Worship@10:30AM

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6:30PM

Dinner & Choir Cantata
(Song of Shadows)



Easter Egg Hunt, April 8
10:00 AM

Easter Sunday, April 9
Easter Morning Worship
10:30AM



Wedding Anniversary			
Mar 3	Ray and Marge Sudheimer (16)		

NURSERY, CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Children & Family Ministry Newsletter March 2023

NURSERY NEWS

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES ROOM: Infants up to 2 years old
Staffed? No, this is a room for parents to bring their little ones who may need a break from the service (to be fed, to play, etc)

Will I miss the service? No- The service is live-streamed

TODDLER/PRESCHOOL MINISTRY: 2 yr olds through Pre-K
Staffed? Yes-there will be a paid caregiver and volunteers
Curriculum: "Simply Loved"



What is Kid's Worship? It's a way for our kids to receive an age-appropriate and interactive Bible lesson, learn Bible basics, learn Scripture, sing songs, make friends, win prizes and more!

Who is it for? K-5th graders

When is It? After the Children's Message (during 10:30am church service)

How Does it Work? Parents-Check-in their kids before going into the Sanctuary for Worship. The check-in is located outside the Sanctuary doors, to the left. Kids will start in the Sanctuary with their families, at the beginning of the Worship Service, and will participate in Worship until after the Children's Message. They will be released down to the KidZone after the Children's Message. Kids will need to be picked up promptly after the service down in the KidZone.

Worship Bags?

Are available for kids to use during their time in the Sanctuary! Located right by the Kid's Worship Check-In!

BIBLE BUCKS

Kids can earn Bible Bucks and then go shopping when the Bible bucks store is open!

Ways to Earn Bible Bucks:

Fill out Bulletins/Papers in Worship Bags: 2 per paper

Attend Kid's Worship: 3 Bible Bucks each time

Bible Buddy Memory Verse: 5 per memorized verse

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAKING PALM CROSSES w/ HANDS OF TABITHA: Saturday, April 1st @10am in the KidZone!



PALM PARADE: Sunday, April 2nd @ 10:30am. Kids: Arrive by 10:20am and we will process into the service, waving palm branches, to celebrate Jesus entering Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week.

SHARING PALM CROSSES: Sun, April 2nd at the end of the service-our kids will hand out the palm crosses that they helped make the day before...



FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT:

Saturday, April 8th at 10:00am

For Kids Ages 0-14 years old
(through 8th grade)!

EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY NEEDED!

When? March 5th-March 19th

What is Needed? All kinds of individually wrapped candy! (**MUST BE ABLE TO FIT IN A REGULAR SIZED PLASTIC EASTER EGG**)

*Candy can be placed in the container out in the Welcome Area! Thank you for your help!

MISSION SPOTLIGHT



Mission's Moment Partner

On Sunday, March 19 we welcome Janelle Metzger from Water for Ishmael. Throughout the month please pray for the Janelle and her family, the center, all persons served by and serving at Water for Ishmael. Website for more <https://waterforishmael.org/>

55 & OVER LUNCHEON



The March 55 & Over Luncheon will be on Wed. March 15 at 11:30 AM at the Church. We will have box lunches from Le Petit Gourmet. Cost is \$10.50 and you will have a choice of sandwich Sign up at the adult ministry corner or on the connect card.

Creation meeting - *Did Jesus Really Rise From the Dead?*

Creation Meeting: Monday evening March 27 at 7 PM in the Gathering Area. The apostle Paul describes the resurrection of Christ as central to the Christian faith in 1 Corinthians 15. Without the bodily resurrection of our Lord, "our faith is futile and we are still in our sins" (1 Cor. 15:17) and "we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19). But many skeptics of Christianity say Jesus did not rise from the dead.

How can Christians counter these claims? Is there evidence that Jesus did indeed rise on the third day? Equip yourself to defend the truth and historicity of the bodily resurrection of our Lord in this powerful presentation. Tim Chaffee is the content manager for the Attractions Division of Answers In Genesis. An apologist with a passion for training young peo-

ple, he speaks regularly at the Creation Museum. Camps, schools, and churches, and has authored numerous books.

PRAISE TO OUR GOD FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS

“But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; My cry to him reached his ears.” Psalm 18:6 (NLT)

- Praise the Lord for the newborn baby boy's life whose mother initially wanted abortion but changed her mind
- Praise God for a grandson born in January
- Praise be to God for the son who survived a severe stroke and is in rehab
- Thanks be to God for the son who is now home from the hospital
- Thanks is given to God for the participation in making the ugly quilts and for the two recipients of the quilts
- Praise to God for the three persons whose surgeries went well
- Praise to God is given for the sister whose heart cath showed no blockages



Send your prayer requests to prayer@cotcumc.com, on the Sunday connect card or call the church office at 419-382-6722

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN BIBLE STUDY @6pm

The study begins Wed. March 1 at 6:00 PM and will run for 6 weeks until April 5. We are studying “Jesus in the Wild” a forty day journey into the heart of one of most unusual and often most misunderstood stories in the Gospel accounts. The study will be led by Pastor Joel and a few other church leaders. The cost for the book is \$15 or a free-will offering. Sign up for the study at the Adult Ministry Corner or the connect card so we may know how many books to order.

Church Staff *In Ministry with you...*

- **Joel Schutte, Pastor** jschutte@cotcumc.com; **Lisa Gleason, Administrative Assistant** office@cotcumc.com;
- **Kristin Miklovic, Children's & Family Coordinator**; kristinm@cotcumc.com; **Lisa Wagoner, Creative Arts Admin.** lisaw@cotcumc.com; **Yvette Stephens, Praise Team Coordinator** ystephens@cotcumc.com;
- **Charles Brown, Keyboardist**; **Aaron Keaster, Bell Choir Director** (contact the office); **Mark Sarkan, Choir/Ensemble Director**; mark@sarkan.com; **Tita Wood, Custodian**; **Chris Allen, Tech Mgr.**, tech@cotcumc.com; **Trevor Schutte, Tech Assistant**
- **Lindsey Speegle, Sammi Hidalgo & Juliet Corron, Nursery Care**
- **Josh Yeager, Youth & Family Coordinator**

CROSSOVER YOUTH GROUP



Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Bible Study** on "Genesis" will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM beginning March 19.
- **Youth Group** Sunday evenings, 6:30-8:30 PM
- **Summer Mission Trip** - June 4-9, YouthWorks - Nashville Tennessee. **Grades 8-12**; Cost \$500 - Register with Dorianne Cox at 419-367-2298 to get paperwork filled out.
- ♦ **Wed. Night Youth Bible Study** -All youth are invited to join us on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 pm for a Youth Co-ed Bible running until May 17th in the Youth Zone. The study will be led by Scott Zaborowski.

Save the Date!

Women's Retreat '23

APRIL 28 & April 29

(6:30PM)

(9:00 AM)

@Church of the Cross

Guest Speaker: **MARY MICHEL**

Sign up on the Connect Card or at the Adult Ministry Corner

Sign-ups begin on Sunday, March 5th.

UGLY QUILTS

Ugly Quilts will meet on Saturday, March 18 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. If you can tie knots or sew straight lines you can help make an Ugly Quilt sleep sack to keep a homeless person warm. A light lunch will be served. For more information or to RSVP please contact Kathy Lewis at 419-872-7541.



VOLUNTEER MINISTRY SCHEDULE – March 2023

March 1 - March 31, 2023

Sunday, March 5, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Communion Server	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center	Communion Preparer
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Cindy Seiple Christy Zaborowski Dick Zaborowski	Sharon Thomasson (Front Door) Doris Coutcher (Side Door)	Jon Klohn (1) Lori Klohn (1) Don White (2) Betsy White (2) Sara Norris (3) Jim Norris (3) Carl Warner (4) Vicki Warner (4)	Betsy White Don White	Jan Albright	Vicki Warner	Sylvia Arnold

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Brian Rietzke Julie Zaborowski Scott Zaborowski	Beth Snyder (Front Door) Scott Cottrell (Side Door)	Warren Leow	Bill Krody	Doris Metz

Sunday, March 19, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Jeff Breymaier Terry Michel Karol Zsarnay	Chris Steiner (Front Door) Ann Steiner (Side Door)	Beve Schaefer	Carole Sarkan	Sara Heckler Jeff Heckler

Sunday, March 26, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Brad Cox Jim Norris Wally Siler	Jennifer Strole (Front Door) Doris Metz (Side Door)	Vicki Scribner	Toby Heitman	Gratta Lohr Jennie Sparks

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY SCHEDULE - APRIL 2023

Volunteer Ministry Schedule
April 1 - April 30

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Communion Server	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center	Communion Preparer
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Jennifer Strole Jon Strole, Jr. Jon Strole, Sr.	Doris Coutcher (Front Door) Sharon Thomasson (Side Door)	Jodi McClain (1) Cindy Seiple (1) Karen Leow (2) Warren Leow (2) Candace Rietzke (3) Brian Rietzke (3) Ray Sudheimer (4) Marge Sudheimer (4)	Jim Norris Sara Norris	Carole Sarkan	Julie Zaborowski Scott Zaborowski	Lynn Siler

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Juliet Corron Rich Corron Dave Zimmerman	Beth Snyder (Front Door) Scott Cottrell (Side Door)	Christy Zaborowski Dick Zaborowski	Diane Gianino	Jennifer Strole

Sunday, April 16, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Cindy Seiple Christy Zaborowski Dick Zaborowski	Marcy Mackey (Front Door) Bill Krody (Side Door)	Betsy White Don White	Jaynee Gallis	Doris Metz

Sunday, April 23, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Brian Rietzke Julie Zaborowski Scott Zaborowski	Nancy Krody (Front Door) Ginny Hasselschwert (Side Door)	Ann Steiner Chris Steiner	Sharon Dubler	Sara Heckler Jeff Heckler

Sunday, April 30, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Jeff Breymaier Terry Michel Karol Zsarnay	Brad Cox (Front Door) Lori Ungerer (Side Door)	Vicki Scribner	Susan Breymaier	Gratta Lohr Jennie Sparks

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY SCHEDULE - May

Volunteer Ministry Schedule May 1 - May 31

Sunday, May 7, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Communion Server	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center	Communion Preparer
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Brad Cox Jim Norris Wally Siler	Scott Cottrell (Front Door) Sharon Thomasson (Side Door)	Marge Sudheimer (1) Ray Sudheimer (1) Fred Schaefer (2) Beve Schaefer (2) Kathy Lewis (3) Keith Lewis (3) Patti Yockey (4) Don Yockey (4)	Warren Leow	Jayne Gallis	Doris Metz	Dinah Henderson

Sunday, May 14, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Jennifer Strole Jon Strole, Jr. Jon Strole, Sr.	Marcy Mackey (Front Door) Beth Snyder (Side Door)	Beve Schaefer	Sharon Dubler	Jeff Heckler Sara Heckler

Sunday, May 21, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Juliet Corron Rich Corron Dave Zimmerman	Lori Ungerer (Front Door) Ginny Hasselschwert (Side Door)	Vicki Scribner	Jan Albright	Gratta Lohr Jennie Sparks

Sunday, May 28, 10:30 AM

	Usher	Greeter	Prayer Team	Scripture Reader	Welcome Center
Sunday, 10:30 AM	Cindy Seiple Christy Zaborowski Dick Zaborowski	Doris Metz (Front Door) Nancy Krody (Side Door)	Jim Norris Sara Norris	Toby Hetman	Larry Hicks Marge Hicks

FINANCES AT A GLANCE JANUARY 2023 & YEAR TO DATE

	General Fund				
	Month	YTD			
Budgeted (Expenses)	35,680	35,680			
Actual Receipts	39,315	39,315			
Actual Expenses	(25,013)	(25,013)			
Surplus/(Deficit)	14,302	14,302			
	Building/ Capital Impr Fund				
Beginning Balance		56,789			
Received/Adjustments		1,377			
Expenses/Adjustments		(585)			
Ending Balance		57,580			
	Faith Promise Receipts				
Promised	MTD	YTD			

Ways to Give to COTC:

- On Sunday in the donation box.
- Debit or credit card or checking account transaction through our website, at www.cotcumc.com Click on the link that says "**donate now**," for electronic giving. Also, we have forms available if you would rather fill out the form and have one of our church treasurers complete the transaction for you.

We thank all those who give generously to the mission and ministry of COTC!

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

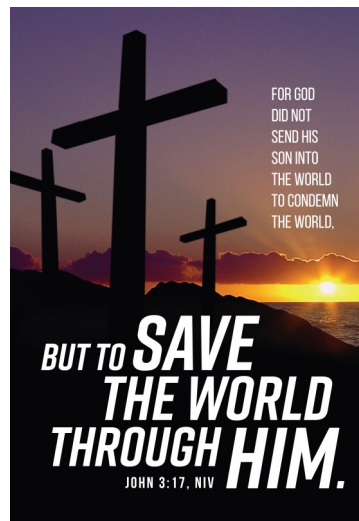


CONGREGATIONAL NOTES



Thank you so much for the use of your church on Saturday. Without the warm and safe area for us to go things would have been much more difficult for us. Ray is a stronghold in our chapter and community.

Deb Pressley,
The Red Cross,



It's still winter ... but
spring is near. It's
Lent ... but we're
pointed toward Easter.
Keep us hopeful,
Lord

Church of the Cross, UM
1750 Eastgate Rd.
Toledo, OH 43614

**Address Service
Requested**

Prepared Especially For:

The Crossfire

1750 Eastgate Rd.
Toledo, OH 43614

Phone: 419-382-6722
Fax: 419-382-8712
Email: office@cotcumc.com

Church of the Cross

We're on the Web!
www.cotcumc.com



Join us on Sundays!

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:00 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Blended Worship

Community Food Pantry
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday
3:00 - 5:00 PM

Prayer Chain: prayer@cotcumc.com or call the
church office at 419-382-6722
M-TH 8:30am-4:30pm