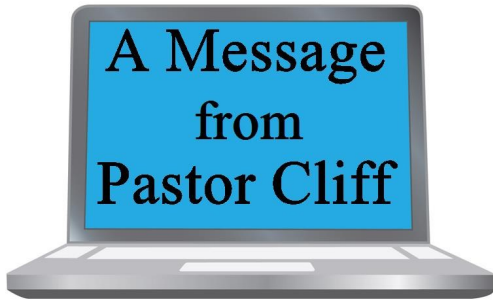




C THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

Spring 2025



Words Matter

I've been an ordained pastor for almost two decades. In some napkin math, considering some of those years were as an associate who preached once a month, I estimate I've preached over 800 sermons, or talked for 13,000 minutes, which by estimates comes to 1.95 millions words. I have always taken great care in the selection of those words. I understand the gravity that comes with putting on the robe and stole and reading from Scripture and then bringing forth a sermon.

Likewise, when I am in meetings and Bible Study and in an official capacity as Pastor, I know my words have weight because of the calling I have taken. I have always tried my best to choose words carefully and do my best to work to make certain they do not do damage or exacerbate a difficult situation. I also know that there are times I have done this better than other times.

When discussing issues in the world, it is a delicate balance. I don't want to claim that my way of seeing a particular political viewpoint is the "Christian view", for the reality is many Christians have many different views. I will acknowledge that not all people in religious authority are willing to refrain from making such claims. It is also the case that we live in a world where we can be challenged more directly in social media by those we will disagree with and find out that many who are close to us might not see eye-to-eye with us on every issue as comments are expressed and memes shared.

The one challenge I wrestle with the most is am I sharing what I'm sharing for the purpose of doing good or to make myself feel good? Is this about sharing ideas or spiking the ball and claiming victory? Is this about expressing our joy or reveling in other's tears? I can assure you that those who make their livings through social and broadcast media care not one bit about what effects using their platforms and what we can say on them will have on our interpersonal relationships. We will never get a warning box that says, "This meme could legitimately hurt the feelings of your extended family." before you hit send. There will never be a reminder that "What you are excitedly posting about directly affects someone else you might know's job and their ability to take care of their family."

But there are some suggestions in Scripture: ***"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"***. -Galatians 6:2

Many of our siblings in Christ are going through a lot. Don't pour salt on a wound to score cheap likes online. If you wouldn't invite someone to have a real conversation, maybe firing comments back and forth isn't the best idea. We must love one another enough to consider what words we use.

Financial Summary - Through February 2025			
	Budgeted YTD	Actual YTD	16.7% YTD
INCOME			
Loose	\$333	\$40	2.0%
Pledges	29,633	26,753	15.0
Use of Building	250	350	23.3
Presby Foundation	464	888	31.9
Other (non-pledged giving)	3,333	3,222	16.1
Transfer from Endowment	6,333	0	0.0
TOTAL INCOME	\$40,346	\$31,253	12.9%
EXPENSES			
Administrative	\$3,081	\$3,525	17.7%
Maintenance	6,002	7,223	20.1
Mission	1,323	0	0.0
Program	2,217	460	3.5
Pastoral Expenses	15,835	15,602	16.4
Staff Salaries	12,920	11,127	14.4
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$41,378	\$37,937	15.2%
NET BALANCE	-\$1,032	-\$6,684	



Our two Central sisters who moved to Florida love to hear news from Ohio, and their addresses and phone numbers are still in our church directory. Georgetta (Jett) Sergent lives just a few doors from Geneva (Genny) Hayman in a retirement community. That close location made it possible to have meals together and helped them to make it through the pandemic.

Jett is recuperating from a broken hip, but back in her own apartment. Genny had 20-some nieces and nephews come to Jacksonville to help her celebrate her 100th birthday on February 4. They both miss their Central friends and would love to hear from you.

Two of the four special Presbyterian offerings are received in the spring. “One Great Hour of Sharing” is received during Lent and Easter Sunday and the “Pentecost Offering” will be received May 4 through Pentecost Sunday, June 8. Please read on for more information on these two denominational offerings.



We will receive the ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** offering through Easter Sunday, April 20. This special denominational offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. For over 75 years, your gifts and those of fellow Presbyterians have connected us in God’s healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Currently, ***OGHS*** supports projects in over 100 countries around the globe.

If you need another ***OGHS*** offering envelope, additional ones can be found next to the bulletins on Sunday morning.



Gifts to the ***Pentecost Offering*** provide nurture and hope to young members of God’s family. Central Church keeps 40% of the offering to use for ministries that serve children at risk while the remaining 60% is used by the General Assembly for ministries with youth and young adults (25%), young adult volunteer opportunities (25%) and child advocacy (10%). In the past, Central’s share has been used to fund youth mission trips, and for the last few years, it has been donated to the annual Dayton CROP Walk held each October.



- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13 - worship at 10:00 AM, beginning in the Fellowship Hall with a continental breakfast at 9:30 AM and then processing to the Sanctuary.
- Maundy Thursday, April 17 - worship at 7:00 PM; the Last Supper will be commemorated.
- Easter Sunday, April 20 - celebration of our Lord’s resurrection at 10:00 AM; Communion will be celebrated.



March

1 - Chris Ulm 5 - Mary Swafford 9 - Morgan Espelage
 10 - Linda Moorhead 16 - Joe Espelage 23 - Marsha Dues 28 - McKenna Bilancia

April

3 - Leslie Bailey, Steve Bilancia, Leslie Ekin, Karla Gilman, Bill Vercimak 5 - Janet Myers
 7 - Rod Bluhm 9 - Beulah Armstrong, Betty Ennis 10 - Carol Walker 13 - Tamra Gengler
 17 - Annabelle Alverson 28 - Ameer Espelage, Sue Labatzky 29 - Barb Ricketts

May

3 - Collin Troxell 4 - Wanda Bundy 6 - Brad Miller, Hayden Troxell 11 - Kenzie Bilancia
 12 - Joey Gengler 15 - Gary Neeley 27 - Del Bower 29 - Marlene Murray
 31 - Andrew Evans

June

1 - Haley Espelage, Stephanie Leonhardt 4 - Andy Wilson 5 - Wanda Gilbert
 8 - Alex Reams 9 - Courtney Hemmelgarn Windsor 13 - Gloria Iselaiye
 15 - Mary Arnett 17 - Diane Dutton 20 - Billy Walker
 23 - Eloise Alverson, Benjamin McCabe 24 - Cindy Miller 25 - Sandy Ayers, Jim Brown

*If you have a spring birthday and are not listed above,
 then we do not have your birth date on file - please contact Karen in the church office
 to update your membership file.*

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4699 LAMME ROAD

DAYTON OH 45439-3099

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Cliff Haddox (revncliffie@gmail.com)

Clerk of Session: Sarah Alverson

Board of Deacons Moderator: Karla Gilman

Director of Music: Adam Kluck (adam@centralpreschurch.com)

Organist: Alan Gagnon

Treasurers: Bill Awsumb and Brian Miller

Custodian: Steve Bilancia

Church Secretary / Bookkeeper: Karen Mitchell (karen@centralpreschurch.com)

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Church Office Phone Number: (937) 298-2864, Ext. 0

Church Email: cpcoffice@centralpreschurch.com

Church Website: www.centralpreschurch.com

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Christian Education: 11:15 AM (Sept. to May)

Monday Evening Zoom Bible Study: 6:00 PM

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

...to **glorify** God through



**WORSHIPING
LOVING
TEACHING
MINISTERING**

that **Christ** may be made
known...

