



THE CHIMES

April 2025

Volume Number 4

Published 11 Months 2025

Christ United Methodist Church
470 East Broadway Street
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**Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love**

E-Mail: secretary@cumcalliance.org

Web Page: www.cumcalliance.org



THE CHIMES

April 2025

VISION STATEMENT

The people of Christ United Methodist Church will;

- COURAGEOUSLY REACH OUT AND WELCOME
- PASSIONATELY WORSHIP AND PRAY
- INTENTIONALLY NURTURE AND ENCOURAGE
- LOVINGLY SHARE AND SERVE.

MISSION STATEMENT

**OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 28:19-20) AND TO SERVE
GOD BY SHARING COMPASSION, HOPE, AND LOVE.**

Where is Your Place of Restoration?

Where is your place of retreat?

When you worked hard, poured your strength and emotions into your workweek or into your family, and you feel emotionally run down, at the end of yourself, and have nothing left to give, where do you go?

We may do this at various levels. At the end of the day, we might play video games, mindlessly watch television, do crafts, bury ourselves in hobbies, paint, make videos for TikTok or other social media, go ride our bicycles, walk the dog, run, go to the gym, or any number of other things. Some of these things just distract us or allow us to unwind and get our heads back in the right place. In a previous church I felt a lot of stress and started running three days each week. It was amazing how my stress melted as the miles passed beneath my feet. I am certain that I could not have been as productive at church if I could not have taken that hour to reset myself mentally and emotionally.

But occasionally, we need a little more.

Occasionally, watching television, doing crafts, or exercising for an hour a day isn't enough to restore us to the person that we want to be. Despite our daily efforts to de-stress, the baggage that life piles on us seems to accumulate, and when it does, we start to get irritable, impatient, tired, and emotionally drained.

What then?

What do you do to fix that? Where is your source of restoration?

Many of us find that on vacation. We leave home and retreat to our happy place, or our safe place. Maybe that is to the house where we grew up, or to a rental on the shore, a place where we can be ourselves, dig our toes into the sand, and put the worries and the stress of our daily lives out of our minds. For me, that place is usually outdoors. We go hiking in the forest, sit on a porch in the mountains, ride our bikes down a tree lined trail, or kayak across calm water, and my heart, mind, and soul begin to heal. For me, doing these things draws me towards our creator, reminds me of his peace and the magnificence of God's creation.

But while you and I might occasionally need this, you don't need to go on vacation to find a place of retreat and restoration all the time. Most of the time we just need a small reminder to remember the big picture. That's one of the things that we do during Lent and Easter, and the visual reminders that we see during the season of Spring. During Lent, we remember the reasons that we need forgiveness and God's help to move toward perfection. At Easter, we remember the gift of forgiveness, redemption, and restoration that Jesus offers us. And throughout the season of Spring, we witness the blossoming of spring flowers, the return of the leaves to the trees, and the apparent resurrection of the land from the death of winter.

As we attend worship, Lent, Easter, and Spring become touchpoints of renewal and restoration for our spirits and our souls and draw us closer to God and to one another. Our attendance in worship is a way for us to keep our focus on who we want to be, and who we will become through God's transforming power.

I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Pastor John

Staff Appreciation – all the time – but especially on April 6!

Dear Church Family,

As we reflect on the many blessings within our congregation, we are reminded of the incredible team that works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our church going. This month, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated church staff.

From organizing impactful worship services to maintaining our facilities with care, our staff members pour their time, energy, and hearts into every task. They are the smiling faces that greet us on Sunday mornings, the compassionate voices that offer comfort in times of need, and the diligent hands that ensure our ministries run smoothly.

To our pastoral team, administrative staff, custodians, and everyone in between — thank you. Your commitment to serving God and His people is evident in everything you do. Through your efforts, you embody the love of Christ and make our church a place where all feel welcome and valued.

We encourage everyone to take a moment this week to personally thank a staff member. A kind word, a note of appreciation, or a simple prayer of blessing can go a long way in showing how much they are cherished. Please join us on April 6 after church for a luncheon in their honor!

May God continue to bless and strengthen each of you as you serve with faithfulness and joy.

With heartfelt thanks,

Staff Parish Relations Committee



UWF Basement Sale At Christ United Methodist Church

**470 E. Broadway (North Door)
Corner Freedom & Broadway**

**Friday, May 2nd, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 3rd, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

\$3.00 a bag for most items on Saturday ~ FREE TABLE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATE:



United
Women
in Faith

April 1 (7PM) – UNIT MEETING, Dussel Room

****Program also offered via Zoom****

Program: Alliance Salvation Army Update: *“Doing the Most Good”*

Greeters/Hostesses: M & M Circle

Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

If you’d like to “Zoom in,” contact Nancy Prueter at prueter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.

GOOD TO KNOW:

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone that prepared and purchased the **MEATLOAF MEALS** in March! The money collected helps support the needs of women and children in our community.

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone that helped with the planning, preparation, and execution of the **CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT MEETING** in March. There were 45 women present from across our district and we raised over \$200 for the special speaker “Protestant Family Services” and over \$200 for our own Blessing Bag Project. From the Fellowship to the Food, it was a wonderful meeting!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUNDAY

April 27th, Theme: “Love in Action”

*If you are interested in being an usher in April, please contact Jamie Greiner

SPRING BASEMENT SALE

Friday, May 2 & Saturday, May 3

Setup is Thursday, May 1. Won’t you please volunteer to help with this worthwhile project?

The deadline to bring your donated items will be Wednesday, April 30.

We have plenty of storage space so feel free to bring your donations early.

As always, we ask for items that are clean and in good repair.

MAY UNIT MEETING

May 6, 7PM, Dussel Room

Program: “Accessories ‘R’ Us,” presented by Susie Buckel Circle

Hostesses/Greeters: Susie Buckel Circle

United Women in Faith always welcomes guests and new members.

Please call Jamie Greiner at (412) 601-4275 or any Executive Board Officer, if interested.

The Unit meets on most 1st Tuesdays at 7pm in the Dussel Room

❖ **Peg Williams Circle** meets at 1:00pm on 3rd Mondays at Copeland Oaks, Williamsburg Lounge

❖ **M & M Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Mondays in the Dussel Room

❖ **May Smyth Circle** meets at 10:30am on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room

❖ **Susie Buckel Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room

TRUSTEE'S EXPENDITURES FROM FUNDS - YEAR 2024

EXPENDITURES FROM ENDOWMENT FUNDS - 2024

<u>Mahan Fund</u> - Quarterly Support to Church	\$ 4,000.00	
Payroll Support	\$ 3,400.00	
Additional Support for Church	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 47,400.00
<u>Living Stewardship Fund</u> - Quarterly Earnings to Church		21,986.35
<u>UMW-Goldrick Fund</u> -UMW Requests for Funds		36,000.00
<u>Living Memorial Scholarship</u> - Loan Requests		6,000.00
<u>Misc. Memorials</u> - New Chimes	9,254.82	
Sheet Music and Music Stands	3,352.18	
Bell Repairs	4,000.00	16,607.00
<u>Boy Scouts Troop 50 Fund</u> - Insurance for Trailer	206.00	
Funds for Equipment & Financial Assistance	6,000.00	6,206.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES FROM ENDOWMENT FUNDS</u>		<u>\$ 134,199.35</u>

EXPENDITURES FROM TRUSTEES UNDESIGNATED FUND

Elevator Repairs, Service, Maintenance & Certification	\$ 2,589.00	
Boiler Repairs, Service, Maintenance & Certification	1,196.00	
Fire Prevention: Security, Service, Maintenance & Certification	1,675.25	
Snow Plowing, Salting of Walks & Parking Lots	1,496.00	
Lawn Mowing & Landscaping	1,600.00	
Church Plumbing	1,605.50	
Church Insurance	24,899.25	
Security System	1,825.05	
Trustees Quarterly Support to Church	4,000.00	
Funeral Dinner Reimbursement	201.66	
Miscellaneous Church Expenses	5,302.69	
New North Doors	8,326.00	
West Door Automatic Opener	3,285.00	
New Water Fountain	1,740.79	
Postage Stamps	73.00	
4th Floor Leak and Bell Repairs	20,360.50	\$ 80,175.69

Tuesday Night Neighborhood Dinner Expenses

Aid Pest Control	858.00	\$ 858.00
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Parsonage Expenses

Property Taxes	\$ 2,762.96	
Plumbing	352.00	
Lawn Care	1,395.01	
Snow Removal	50.00	
New Furnace & AC	5,900.00	
Miscellaneous	971.67	\$ 12,289.64

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FROM TRUSTEES UNDESIGNATED

\$ 92,465.33

GRAND TOTAL: EXPENDITURES FROM ENDOWMENT FUNDS & TRUSTEES UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

\$ 226,664.68



Don't Forget to Order Your Easter Lily by April 6.

CHIMES DEADLINE: The deadline for the May 2025 issue of *The Chimes* is Tuesday, April 22nd. Articles may be placed in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or emailed to secretary@cumcalliance.org

May is also the month when the baby bottles appear to collect donations for the Pregnancy Center.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR APRIL

Thank you to everyone who serves and participates in our worship services.
Doing God's work, you are a reflection of Christ's heart!

USHERS - Team #4

United Women in Faith

LITURGISTS

6 Rhys Sampson
13 Victor Lee
20 Jim Greiner
27 Pat Helsel

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

6 Peg Rodefer
13 Nancy Prueter
20 Kathy Stroia
27 Karen Locke

SANCTUARY GREETERS

6 Bill Sol
13 Patti Travis
20 Ellen Sol
27 Jill Greiner

TELLERS

6 Mark Locke & Bruce Helsel
13 Donna Essick & Jill Greiner
20 Jim Greiner & Nancy Prueter
27 Bill Prueter & Dick Diser

VISITATION MEMBERS**

6 Dan Gard, Canton
13 Lynn Goldrick, Sebring
20 Mary Louise Ford, Sebring
27 June Luca, Alliance

*** If you would like their complete address,
please contact the Church Office*

From the Education Committee, thank you to all our Volunteers for April.
Below are the dates for this month for the school age and toddler room volunteers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**

6 Cindi Martin & Karen Locke
13 Cindi Martin & Sheila Gard
20 Cindi Martin & Cathy and Jack Morris
27 Cindy Winner & Lucinda Feess

*** any conflicts, please contact Cindi Martin*

TODDLER ROOM – SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 AM)

27 Nancy Prueter & Ruth Eva Williams

TODDLER ROOM – CHURCH SERVICE (10:00 AM)

27 Pat Stone & Karen Locke

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Kathy Stroia	17 Connie Pyers
3 Kim Handy	18 Cynthia Carlin
7 Daniel Hisey	25 Cindi Martin
8 Kathy Brown	29 Sheila Gard
9 Leslie Austin	30 Jill Greiner
13 Annie Blood	

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

15 Jim & Jill Greiner

EASTER

April 13 th	PALM SUNDAY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH with PASTOR JOHN 1141 W. BEECH STREET	10:15 A.M. 6:00 P.M.
April 17 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 P.M.
April 18 th	GOOD FRIDAY: PORTRAYAL OF PETER'S DENIAL WELLSPRING BIBLE CHURCH 304 N. ROCKHILL	7:00 P.M.
April 19 th	EASTER VIGIL	8:00 P.M.
April 20 th	SONRISE SERVICE EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE	8:00 A.M. 10:15 A.M.

LENTEN WEEKLY DEVOTIONS 2025



Again, this year, Pastor Chris Martin will offer 30-minute Lenten devotions each Thursday evening during Lent. The devotions will be accessible via ZOOM, beginning at 7 PM and concluding at 7:30 PM each week. Participants are asked to access the link five to seven minutes before 7 PM so we can begin promptly at 7 PM. Each devotion will include a Call to Worship, an Opening Prayer, a Scripture Lesson, and a brief Meditation recalling some aspect of the Passion of Jesus.

REMAINING 2025 LENTEN SERIES

April 3, 2025 – *Recalling the Significance of Good Friday*

April 10, 2025 – *Recalling the Significance of the Easter Vigil*

ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES 2025 LENTEN SERVICES

The Alliance of Churches invites you to attend the remaining community Lenten services with many area churches participating. **Theme: CHARACTERS AT THE CROSS**

Week 5: Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m.

Host: Beechwood Methodist Church, 3450 Beechwood Avenue

Speaker: Pastor Rich Hall (Wellspring Bible Church)

Week 6: Palm Sunday, April 13, 6 p.m.

Host: First Christian Church, 1141 W. Beech Street

Speaker: **Pastor John Partridge** (Christ UMC)



While there is no community Good Friday service this year, the congregation of the Wellspring Bible Church invites you to their outdoor campfire featuring a portrayal of Simon Peter's denial of Christ at 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 18, at 304 N. Rockhill Avenue.

Church School Activities Through Lent and Easter

The Education Committee has planned several special activities for Lent and Easter Seasons in Church.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, all children are invited to participate in the Procession of the Palms at the opening of the Palm Sunday service. **Rehearsal for this procession will begin at 9:45 AM that day. Please have your child(ren) meet with Miss Cindi and the other church school teachers in the elementary class room in the education wing of the church for practice at that time.**

Once the children have processed, they will return to sit with their parents.

Easter Egg Hunt

The second annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held directly after the Easter Breakfast hosted by the Friendship II Class on Easter Sunday, April 20th. All items for the hunt will be supplied by the Education Committee. **This year, the Egg Hunt will be held in the three children's classrooms on the second floor. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children.**

Easter Egg Hunt Supplies Request

The Education Committee is asking the congregation for **donations of snack size candy bars and individually packaged snacks for the Easter Egg Hunt.** The eggs themselves have already been secured, and **the need is for snacks that will fit into the eggs. This will ensure that the snacks will not be a size or shape that would be a choking hazard.**

There will be a box for donations of these items in the lounge area.

Thank You!

A Great Easter Story

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the Congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

PINE TREE CROSSES

The pine tree knows when it is Easter!!! Are you familiar with this wonderful truthful story???

The pine tree starts their new growth in the weeks before Easter. If you will look at the tops of the Pine Tree two weeks before that, you will see the yellow shoots. As the days get closer to Easter Sunday, the tallest shoot will branch off and form a cross by the time Easter Sunday comes around, you will see that most of the pine trees will have small yellow crosses on all of the tallest shoots.

When I first heard this, many years ago, I doubted the story, so I had to prove it!!! While driving around, I'd stop and look, and I couldn't believe my eyes!!! It was a week before Easter, and you could see all of the trees with the tall yellow shoots stretching to Heaven!!! The tallest ones shone in the sunlight like rows of tiny golden crosses. I am now a BELIEVER!!! (Found in Betty Jo Blevin's dad's Bible after he passed away in September, 2023.)

ALLELUIA

Have you ever noticed that the word "Alleluia" isn't spoken during Lent. The word "alleluia" originates from the Hebrew phrase "Hallelu Yah." which means "Praise the Lord" or "Praise Yahweh". It is meant to be an expression of deep joy, gratitude and reverence directed toward God.

Throughout history, "Alleluia" has been used in hymns, prayers and liturgies (fancy church word for structured or formal rituals used during worship) as a way to exalt God's glory, celebrate His victory over sin and death through Christ's resurrection. Somewhere in the 5th century, the practice of refraining from saying "Alleluia" during Lent took hold. It helps emphasize how we are supposed to be reflective and repentant during Lent. Then when "Alleluia" returns on Easter Sunday (for example "Alleluia Christ is Risen!") it resonates with renewed power and joy at Christ's resurrection.

This practice is especially found within the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant denominations. But that doesn't mean it's not something each of us can't pray upon and decide if we want to include in our own Lenten practices!

BLESSING BAG UPDATE

Thank you for your Blessing Bag Donations. We will be doing more bags in April. We can use ladies' deodorants, toothpaste, men's & ladies' socks, small water bottles and cosmetic bags.

Jean & Carolyn

Noisy Can Offering

The "Noisy Can" Offering is rescheduled for April to April 27th (the 4th Sunday). Please plan to adjust your giving for this one month.

This collection supports the Salvation Army and the Alliance of Churches efforts to provide food for local people in need.

Christian Outreach Committee of CUMC

Church Women of the Alliance Area

Church Women of the Alliance Area will gather on Friday, April 4th at 1 P.M. at SMHA--the Simpson Building, located at 130 East Simpson, which is a couple blocks north of the Mount Union square. Mayor Andrew Grove will be the speaker for the program.

Acknowledgement!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped find the information and provided articles for this Chimes! I take full responsibility for any mistakes, oversights, or inaccuracies that may remain. Any errors are entirely my own. Sara

East Ohio Camps Open Houses



JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE IF YOU WANT THE CHANCE TO TOUR THE SITES, TALK TO THE STAFF, AND SEE WHAT IS BEING OFFERED FOR 2025.

ASBURY

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 FROM 2:00-5:00 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE AND SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

WANAKE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 FROM 2:00-6:00 p.m.
RESURRECTION EGG HUNT & CAMP PREVIEW DAY

ALDERSGATE

SUNDAY, MAY 4 FROM 2:00-5:00 p.m.
OPEN HOUSE AND SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

CAN'T MAKE THESE DATES? CONTACT THE CAMP DIRECTLY TO SCHEDULE YOUR PERSONAL VISIT.

FIND ALL YOU NEED TO
REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.EASTOHIOCAMPS.ORG
OR CONTACT US FOR A
BROCHURE OR QUESTIONS!

CAMPS@ECCUMC.COM
(330) 499-3972 EXT. 139 OR 120

CAMP ASBURY
INFO@CAMPASBURY.ORG
(330) 569-3171

WANAKE CAMP
& RETREAT CENTER
INFO@CAMPWANAKE.ORG
(330) 756-2333

CAMP ALDERSGATE
INFO@CAMPALDERSGATE.ORG
(330) 627-4369

APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00p Comm. Dinner 7p UWF Unit Mtg	2 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	3	4	6
6 5 th Sunday in Lent Staff Appreciation Luncheon!	7 6:30p Boy Scouts	8 5:00p Comm. Dinner 5:30p SPRC	9 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	10	11 	12
13 Palm Sunday	14 6:30p Boy Scouts	15 10:30a May Smyth Circle 5:00p Comm. Dinner 7p Susie Buckel Circle	16 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	17 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service	18 7:00p Good Friday Portrayal of Peter's Denial Wellspring Bible Church	19 8:00p Easter Vigil
20 8:00a Sunrise Service 9:00a Fellowship Breakfast 9:00a Easter Egg Hunt 10:15 Worship Service	21 1p Peg Williams Circle 6:30p Boy Scouts 7p M&M Circle	22 5:00p Comm. Dinner 6:30p Trustees	23 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	24	25	26 
27 2 nd Sunday of Easter UWIF Service  Noisy Can Offering	28 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p UWF Exec Board	29 5:00p Comm. Dinner	30 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:15p Brass Choir 6:45p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	1 UWF Basement Sale Set-Up	2 9:00a – 4:00p UWF Basement Sale	3 9:00a – 12:00p UWF Basement Sale