

# Crosswinds

Church of the Cross

May 2024



Dear COTC,

Ordinary Season is the longest season in the Christian calendar. It is represented by the color green without a Christian holiday focus. Ordinary Season is a time when we are called to explore the scripture which we don't read every year and learn lessons from them.

This season normally gets a less than enthusiastic tone. Everyone is always excited to enter Advent with the anticipation of Christmas, Lent with Easter on its way, or even to celebrate Pentecost. There are few who can find such excitement in Ordinary Season. Now, I can understand how green may become repetitive and we may want to change the front of the sanctuary a bit or even go without a color. It's understandable how the lack of a holiday leads to less excitement. However, I want us to reflect on the value there is in Ordinary Season.

As a pastor, if you learn no other rule in seminary and trainings, it's that you have to preach on the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve and the resurrection of our Lord on Easter. You get 50 other days to preach on any scripture you want, but those two are constant. I bring this up because it also reflects our scripture reading. We read about the birth of Christ and the events leading up to and shortly after in Advent. We focus on the gospels, death, and resurrection of Christ in Lent. We read about Pentecost in Acts 2. However, there are so many scriptures, even whole books of the Bible, that we do not center on a specific holiday

Ordinary Season is a long season between holidays when we are invited to read those scriptures we don't read with the holidays, like the ones we tend to overlook or jump past to get to the ones we know and like. This summer, I invite you to choose one book of the Bible, one you haven't read before or are not very familiar with, and work on reading that over the summer. If you read the whole thing in June, I invite you to read it again in July and August.

This summer let us, as a congregation, work to read one book of the Bible outside the scripture we are familiar with. Choose a short or long book of the Bible and delve into it. Let us hear from the Word of God in a fresh, new way. Amen.

## CONTACT US

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Rev. Tom Shaw, Shut-in Minister  
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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

June/July articles need to be submitted by May 21  
ALL submissions need to be emailed to [cotcumc@gmail.com](mailto:cotcumc@gmail.com)  
Please assist the editor by e-mailing your information (or ask a friend/spouse to assist you.) Thank You



**May 5**

Guest Speaker  
Rev. Randy Weaver

~

**May 12**

**Mother's Day**

*Beauty, Courage, and  
Intelligence*

Esther 1:12-18

Esther 5:1-8

~

**May 19**

**Pentecost Sunday**

*The New Covenant*

Acts 2:1-13

Exodus 20:1-21

~

**May 26**

**Memorial Day Sunday**

*The Lord is Against*

*All Injustice*

Judges 1:27-36

Judges 2:10-19



**Birthdays  
This Month**

**MAY**

- 6 Scott Marshall
- 8 Jesse Jolliff
- 9 Bill Fagert  
Teresa Arnold
- 17 Hunter Mullet
- 18 Gayle Schultz
- 20 George Andrew Mullet
- 22 Randy Dye
- 30 Margaret Park

**Vote**

**Sunday May 19 after church**

After morning worship we will have a 15-minute presentation about the boiler issue, pass out the ballot, and allow for questions and answers. We will then vote.

Voting will be done by a paper ballot and counted by 3 people.



**Come Celebrate  
Margaret Park!**

**Saturday, May 25**

**2-4 PM**

**The Avenue**

**1700 E Smithville Western**

Look for signs for entry into the building— not through the main lobby area



- Covenant May 7 7PM
- Trustees May 14 7PM
- One Board May 21 7PM

**International**

TMS Global

CAMO

**Local**

People to People

The Salvation Army

Pregnancy Care Center

CCHO

Wayne United Chaplains



**Pray for Missions**

## Back to Basics Evangelism

Evangelism, at its heart is the proclamation of the gospel. It is the work we do to fulfill the call "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matt 28: 19)" We are called to evangelism by God. We are called to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.

We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, like Jesus Christ. However, we sometimes get caught up in trying to make disciple for Jesus, that we forget to make disciples like Jesus. As you read the gospels you will see that Jesus not only taught and proclaimed the gospels, Jesus always worked and healed people. Jesus did not stay in one spot and waited for people to come to him, but instead traveled, and went to where people were. Jesus not only told people to study God and follow God, but Jesus also walked with people as they grew in their relationship with God. Jesus knew, and showed us, that it is when we make relationships with others, and through those relationships, that we are able to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Many individuals and churches get caught up in evangelism by word alone. They often think that people should and will come to them and that is when they will make disciples. When they do go out into the world, they often tell people about Jesus, hand out a bible or handout a different reading material that points to the bible. While none of these are bad, it is a problem if that is all we do. We as individuals, and as a church, are called to make disciples like and for Jesus. We are called to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. So, we are called to go out of the church, to where people are. We are called to heal and help people where they are, like Jesus. Our actions and care should be part how we share the gospel. We are called to walk with others, on their faith journey, so that we can be there when they need help. We are called to proclaim the gospel, not just for Jesus, but like Jesus.

Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel. It is how we share the love of God with our neighbors. We are called to do so in word and deed, like Jesus did. This month, let us take a moment to pause and reflect:

- How are we sharing Christ as individuals and as the church?
- How are we bearing fruit for the Holy Spirit?
- How are we making disciples of Jesus Christ?

Amen,  
Pastor James

### **Please pray for our Shut-ins. These are mailing addresses...**

#### **Lucy Darling**

Danbury, 939 Portage Rd., Wooster

#### **Melissa Davis**

931 Albern Dr., Wooster

#### **Bob & Carol Denning**

2452 Barrington Way Unit 407, Wooster

#### **Carolyn Enderle**

2373 Canterbury Lane, Wooster

#### **Nancy Miller**

West View Apt 17, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd., Wooster

#### **Jenny Millin**

3055 Bayberry Cove, Wooster

#### **Marilyn Munn**

12730 Cottonwood Lane, North Royalton, OH 44133

#### **Jo Anne Page**

Wayne Co Care Ctr. Room 122 876 S Geyers Chapel, Wooster

#### **Margaret Park**

The Avenue Rm 222 1700 E Smithville Western Rd., Wooster

#### **Judy Ratzel**

The Inn @Ashland Woods 1050 Dauch Dr, Ashland, OH 44805

#### **Maxine Shelley**

Brookdale Room 311 1615 Cleveland Rd., Wooster

#### **Corlene Snyder**

14458 Fladt Rd., Marysville, OH 43040

## MISSION HIGHLIGHT

*“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message,  
so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..”  
Colossians 4:3*

For sixteen years, “John”, currently serving in part of the former USSR, has been a beacon of hope. As a teacher he has opportunities to interact with both students and colleagues outside of the classroom. As he invests in students’ lives through time and mentoring, doors are open for him to share the Good News and make an impact on their spiritual journeys.

“John” wears many hats. In addition to his teaching position, he is involved in several areas with the local fellowship including home groups and English clubs. In these gatherings he is seeing nationals read and study the Word for the first time. One woman was comforted in her health struggles by the account of the miraculous healing of the bleeding woman.

In recent years his focus has been expanding to men in their twenties and thirties. Due to the demands of family and careers, it is difficult for the men to find time in their schedules to meet. “John” is using his hobby of furniture recycling into an avenue to share the Good News. He plans to develop workshops in DIY projects and basic home repair for young men with the hope of creating a partnership with some men from the fellowship. This would enable other men to lead the workshops and foster connections with local believers as well as share the Good News with others.

Training is needed for new cross-cultural workers (CCWs) and “John” has stepped up as a facilitator in his sending organization to fill this role. He is being trained in debriefing and coaching skills to be used both with CCWs and in the local fellowship. Many local people need help dealing with complex problems in a way that is grounded in the Word. Few are willing to seek professional help, so as a foreigner, he becomes a default counselor. This is another platform that allows him to share the Good News and walk along others through their difficult circumstances.

Please pray for him in the following ways:

- Pray for open doors to share the Good News
- Pray for participants in the home group and English club he leads. Some are hearing about Him for the first time and others believe in Him, but not his Lordship.
- Pray that the enemy’s tactics would be thwarted. Many use the excuse of family and/ or work to not seek Him.
- 2 Chronicles 25:2 says “He did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart.” Pray that his heart and actions will always line up with His desire and he would be pleasing to Him.

A note from “John”

Thank you! I am deeply grateful for the unwavering support and prayers of the COTC over the years! Your partnership has been instrumental in bringing the Good News to the people here.

# Covenant Corner

## June Collection for CCHO

Colored pencils 24 pk  
Elmer's glue sticks  
Scissors  
Sidewalk chalk  
Crochet hooks  
Dry-erase markers  
Play dough  
Jump ropes



Thank you to all who donated and/or served to make the Rummage Sale a success. The following was raised for missions:

Rummage: \$1,368.29

Food: \$545

Thank you for your generosity on Blanket Sunday. \$660 was given to the CWS blanket fund. That will provide 66 blankets for people in need!

Between the 6 services offered during Lent, we were able to raise \$2,088 for O Huddle.

### Upcoming Mission Projects

**August** CAMO Dental Supplies

**Sept/ Nov** Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

**December** Homeless Bags

Items: soap, washcloth, wipes, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, gloves, hats, scarves

As you see items in the stores, you can purchase things ahead of time.

# VBS Coming Soon!



AREA UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
**2024**  
**OLYMPIC GAMES:  
RUN FOR THE CROWN**  
1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**1**  
Friday-Saturday | June 7-8  
Friday: 6-8:30p includes dinner  
Saturday: 10a-3p includes lunch

**2**  
Smithville United Methodist Church  
243 N. Milton St.  
Smithville, OH | (330) 669-2371

**3**  
Use this link  
to register:



VBS REGISTRATION



VBS will be making pet beds for  
**ONE OF A KIND PETS**  
Please donate by June 2:  
Clean stain-free pillowcases  
Old clothes/ cloths (any con-  
dition)

\*\*Please assure all donations do NOT  
have a smell as the items will be used for  
pet beds.

Also we need 1-2 people with sewing  
machines to sew pillowcases shut.



"For as the soil makes the sprout come  
up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so  
the Sovereign LORD will make right-  
eousness and praise spring up before all  
nations."

Isaiah 61:11