



*Church of
the Cross*

CHURCH OF THE CROSS
NEWSLETTER
JULY 2025

CROSSWINDS

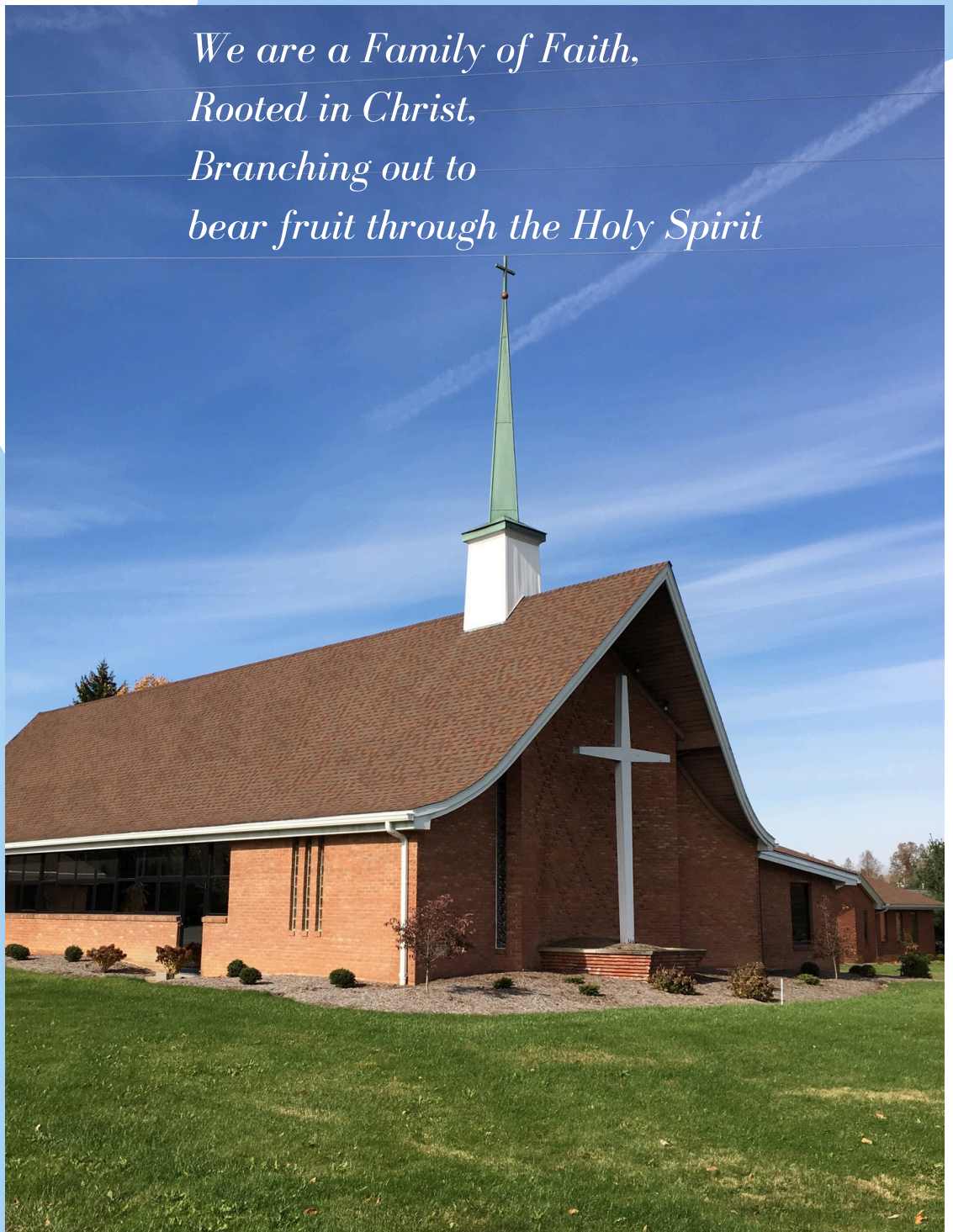
*We are a Family of Faith,
Rooted in Christ,
Branching out to
bear fruit through the Holy Spirit*

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Wooster, OH 44691

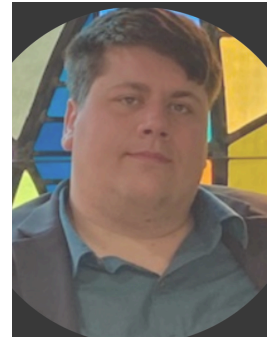
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from the desk of **PASTOR JAMES**



Dear Church of the Cross UMC,

I pray all is well with you!

As we enter the second half of 2025, I wanted to ask the question what makes us healthy? What makes us healthy as individuals? As a church? and as the body of Christ? Through the next 6 months, I want to explore with us our ideas of being healthy for God.

During one of the counseling courses I took in seminary, Dr. Price taught us that our health can be understood in 5 parts. All of these parts interact and overlap and knowing these five parts can be helpful. If we wish to be truly healthy as individuals and as a church, we must work to be healthy:

- 1.) Physically (Physical/body)
- 2.) Mentally (Mental/brain)
- 3.) Emotionally (Emotions/heart)
- 4.) Volitionally (Volition/will)
- 5.) Spiritually (Spiritual/soul)

Many times, I find myself reflecting on Romans 12 where Paul reminds us of our call to be a living sacrifice. This call is one of the hardest in the gospels as it calls us to live out our lives for Christ, often sacrificing what we want, for what God wants. Part of being a living sacrifice is being as healthy as we can be, so that we can do what we can for Christ.

Over the next 5 months we will explore each of the 5, where we see them in scripture, and how they can help us be a living sacrifice. This month and throughout the summer, I ask us to reflect which one is holding us back currently. Then after we explore all 5, I will ask the same again. The hope is that as we explore these, we can become healthier for Christ and work towards being a healthier Body of Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor James

Month Events



Meetings:

Covenant: July 1 @ 7 PM
One Board: June 15 @ 7 PM

Food, Fun & Fellowship:

July 5
July 19

Dear Church of the Cross UMC,

On Saturday June 14, 2025, I had the joy of being fully ordained. I want to thank you all for helping me on this journey. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, it has been a journey, as it is for all. I give thanks for your support, encouragement, and help as I worked on ordination. I want to thank all of you that were able to make the service that Saturday. It was a joy and a blessing to see you all gathered at that service. I thank all who were able to attend the meal on Sunday, June 22. I was overjoyed to be blessed by such an outpouring of support. I give thanks for all the cards of congratulations I received!

I give thanks to Church of the Cross UMC. You all blessed me with a gift card to Ohio State Parks. This gift is extremely thoughtful and shows care and thought! I will feel so blessed as I use it on a vacation in the coming year. You all were so thoughtful to know how I like to get away and enjoy a cabin. This was a truly thoughtful and blessed gift! Thank You for all the support, love, and joy you have blessed me with so far. I look forward to continuing as your pastor as we continue to journey together!

Thank You,
Pastor James



**Pastor James' Ordination
June 14, 2025
Photo Gallery**

sermon CORNER

July 6

Psalm 63:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

“Getting the Call”

Sometimes God calls us in the middle of our “ordinary” everyday lives and gives us the “extraordinary” opportunity to start a new journey with him.

July 13

Psalm 91

John 15:1-17

“Getting Real”

Having a real, authentic relationship with Jesus is central to our faith as Christians. Do we really devote ourselves to connecting with God and knowing Christ?

July 20

Psalm 86:1-17

Luke 11:1-13

“Getting Connected”

Prayer is one of the most important things we can do to stay connected to our Creator.

It is through prayer that we have a personal connection with God and come to know Him more intimately. We see Jesus lean into a life of prayer to stay in communion with the Father- what can we learn from looking at the prayer life of Jesus?

July 27

Psalm 100

Philippians 2:1-11

“Getting to Serve”

When Jesus came into this world, he came as a servant. As disciples of Christ, we should have a servant’s heart.

I want to begin by thanking each of you for the kind, warm, and loving welcome you have given me and my family. It is such a joy for me to begin this time of ministry with you, and I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us together! I cannot wait to get to know each of you, and to hear your stories! I know that new beginnings are not always easy; however, they can be filled with hope, new opportunities, and they offer us reminders that God is moving and working through both what “was” and what “will be.”

Although our time together is just getting underway, I am looking forward to being on this journey of faith and life with you. It is a beautiful thing to connect with one another. It is also a gift to know that we are part of a church family that deeply and sincerely loves one another, encourages each other, challenges each other to grow in our relationship with Christ, and that also seeks together how best to share the Gospel with the world around us.

In the book of Luke, when Jesus meets Matthew the tax collector, Jesus says to him, “Follow me and be my disciple” (5:27b). Matthew responds to Jesus by getting up, leaving everything and following Jesus. That, my sisters and brothers, is our highest calling as disciples of Christ; to go when and where Jesus calls us as we follow him. As one of your Pastors, it is one of my greatest joys to faithfully follow Jesus WITH you! What an honor it is to be called children of God – to be the body of Christ – to be led by the Holy Spirit....together!

Pastor Aimee

Pastor Aimee

Mon- 10am-noon at COTC and 1-3pm at SUMC

Tues- Work (noon-1:30 lunch/check-in with Pastor James)

Weds- 10am-noon at Apple Creek and 1-3pm at Moreland,

Thurs- Day Off

Fri- Day off

Sat- Errand/Event

Sun- Preaching/Event

Pastor James

Mon- Day off

Tues- Work (noon-1:30 lunch/check-in with Pastor Aimee)

Weds- 10am-noon at Moreland and 1-3pm at Apple Creek

Thurs- 10am-noon at COTC and 1-3pm at SUMC

Fri- Work

Sat- Errand/event

Sun- Preaching/event

**Covenant Team (June)**

The distribution of hygiene items at Trinity church went well.

Bookmarks and DQ gift cards were given to the graduates of Liberty Prep. Ice cream and cake were served to approximately 150 in attendance.

Our church provided ice cream and graduation decorations. The Baccalaureate luncheon was well received. Fifty to sixty attended.

In September the Bishop will be visiting Wooster churches. He will spend about 1 hour at our church.

The One Board and Trustees did not meet in June.



A little get together to check in with kiddos. Moving up to 3rd grade, 7th grade, Freshman and Junior. Good time to catch up. We have band members, football player, bowlers, soon to be wrestlers (girl's wrestling). They are all special kids who we had the privilege to mentor on Wednesday nights and share the Word of God. Hopefully we were able to plant some seeds. Good times reminiscing. Please keep this group of students in prayer throughout the summer.



It isn't often that a large group of people can keep a secret, but the Church of the Cross congregation proved it can be done. We planned a surprise party for Sue Parris' 75th birthday on June 1st and she didn't know anything about it (until late Saturday night, May 31st haha).

The scouts prepared pulled pork for sandwiches and macaroni and cheese. Janet Borton baked and decorated cupcakes, forming the "75" on the table. The congregation provided several side dishes. There was more than enough food for the 100+ people who helped Sue celebrate her special day.



Happy Birthday

JULY

- 3 Betty Underwood
- 6 Angel Hutchison
- 24 Christy Tolbert
- Joann Carpenter
- 28 Jennifer Parris





Dear COTC,

On June 23-25 (Mon-Wed), we were blessed to all join in on VBS. Church of the Cross UMC, Oak Chapel UMC, New Pittsburg UMC, Smithville UMC, and Wooster UMC, were able to come together and provide a wonderful and heartfelt Vacation Bible School! Over the course of 3 days, we saw 29 kids (averaging 25 a day), 19 adult volunteers, and 11 youth volunteers. We started off every evening with a wonderful dinner! We then went to opening worship followed by break out sessions of crafts, games, story (scripture), and science. On Tuesday night we stuffed and sewed 29 bears to donate to the Wooster Fire Department. These stuffed bears will be used by the fire fighters and first responders to give to youth they meet during a call as a way to provide even a little comfort during a hard time.

The Theme this year was "On the Road." While on the road we learned about Sarah and Abraham and learned that God goes with you wherever you go. We heard how Jesus met Zacchaeus on the road, called him down from the tree, and Jesus invited him to dinner. We learned that sometimes showing a little kindness, like inviting someone to dinner, can make a world of difference. On the third day we heard how Paul was on the road a lot as he proclaimed the gospel. We looked at how Paul would often go to places he didn't know and find himself in a new city. When Paul got to Corinth he didn't know anybody, but he met Priscilla and Aquilla. By working with them he was able to make friends. We learned that God can be with us as we make new friends!

We were blessed to learn how God is with us on the road of life! We are blessed to have so many volunteers and so much support! We give thanks to the congregations, volunteers, and leaders that helped make this meaningful VBS happen!

Contact us:

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 Church website: cotcwooster.com

Charline Engle, Administrative Assistant
 Janet Borton, Director of Music/ Organist
 Rev. Tom Shaw, Shut-in Minister
 Teresa Arnold, Custodian



Missions

International
 TMS Global
 CAMO

Local
 People to People
 Salvation Army
 CCHO
 Pregnancy Care Center
 Wayne United Chaplains

