



*Church of
the Cross*

CHURCH OF THE CROSS
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2026

CROSSWINDS

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



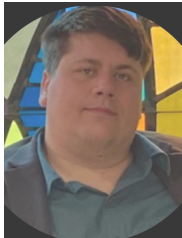
5100 Cleveland Road
Wooster, OH 44691

(330)345-6472

cotcumc@gmail.com

www.cotcwooster.com

from the desk of
PASTOR JAMES



Dear Church of the Cross,

For the months of March, April, and May, I will be heading back to the core of our belief. I will be exploring the trinity in these newsletters. Of course, there is no way I can provide a full or filled out explanation in a newsletter. These articles will be more a few thoughts and reflections I have and by no means all encompassing. For the month of April, as we celebrate Easter, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on Sunday April 5, I will be reflecting on Jesus.

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, the Son of God, Son of Man, Christ the Messiah, our Lord and Savior. I have found that Jesus is also the easiest of the trinity for people to connect with. That is one of the reasons God came down incarnate. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. While we don't fully understand what that means as we can never fully understand the divine, we do tend to understand and connect with Jesus as human easier than God or the Holy Spirit.

Jesus walked, talked, and lived much like any human does. In a different time, and fully divine, but that is what helps us to connect. Jesus' greatest teachings are not just in his lectures, sermons, and parables. Jesus' greatest teachings are in how he lived out his faith. God came down, as Christ, to be an example for us to follow; one that we could connect with and live towards. Jesus did not just tell us what to do through lecturing, preaching, and teaching through parables. He showed us what to do. Jesus lived out ministry throughout his life and through his death.

In April, we celebrate Easter. It is the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. On April 3 we celebrate Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and Sunday April 5 the resurrection. Christ's sacrifice for our salvation is pivotal to our faith. And we can not allow it to overshadow the resurrection. Whether we say it or just build our theology on it, we sometimes get so focused on the crucifixion that we forget what the resurrection means.

We start looking for that moment when we can be a sacrifice like Jesus. Or perhaps we focus on the crucifixion and get caught up in asking why of the crucifixion, death, and pain, that we miss the mercy and salvation poured out. We miss the mercy, salvation and love poured out. We miss the glory in the resurrection and that Christ always knew the resurrection was going to happen. Jesus Christ chose, out of love for us, to show us just how far God is willing to go to be in relationship with us.

In April, let us work to reflect, nurture, and grow our relationship with Jesus Christ. Let's study the parables, sermons, and teachings of Jesus and all they reveal. Let us make choices and do the work it takes so that we may live a life like Christ. Let us grow our relations with Jesus Christ, as we remember how loved we are by Jesus. Amen.

from the desk of
PASTOR AIMEE



Psalm 90:12 says,
"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."

My dad told me, just before Aidan was born, that once you have kids, time seems to just fly by and years are gone in the blink of an eye. I didn't know how right he was until – well - until it happened! In our home, we are currently getting ready for spring break with Grace who is already a second grader!! It is a joy to watch her experience life and watch how she tackles things. These years of my life are flying by... just like dad said they would. Everything feels like it is in going in fast forward. Tim, my stepson is 28, Aidan, our other son, is almost 20 and Grace is already 7! It feels like Aidan just finished preschool and yet here we are heading into adulthood. This is a time of change and transition – of excitement and even a little sadness. Change is hard. Transitions are not always comfortable...but growth brings about changes. It all has happened lightning fast!

I think that is what Psalm 90:12 is trying to teach us. Life happens fast and we cannot afford to waste it. We need to have the knowledge of the fact that life is fleeting and the wisdom to know how to spend the little time we are given here in pursuit of things of eternal significance. When this life is over, what would you want others to say was your main contribution to their lives? What could your family say about you? Or your friends? Or your church? Or your community? Most importantly, what would God be able to say about you?

Here is what I hope for all of us my friends...I hope that when others look at our lives, they see a people of deep compassion. A people that can see past the façade of another person to care for and minister to the heart of the hurting and broken of the world. I hope that others will see in us a people that are more concerned with filling the empty stomachs of the hungry than filling our own bank accounts. I hope they will see a people that believe in the power of prayer and that walk unafraid where God is leading because we TRULY KNOW that God will do what He says He will do. I pray that we will love the least among us, care for the orphans and widows, visit the lonely, pray for the sick, seek out the lost and fight for what God says is worth fighting for until we take our last breath this side of Heaven. I hope that we take the command of Christ to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" so seriously that we give all we have and all that we are to that calling. I pray that when others look back on the mark that we leave, that that mark will cry out the unconditional love of Christ for them and the world.

Our time here is not so long...it is filled with challenges and joys...heartaches and triumphs. But for all of us, it happens fast. One day we are putting together toddler beds and going to Kindergarten orientation and the next we are watching our own children doing the same for their family. Life is brief...may God give us the wisdom to serve Him joyfully, faithfully, and without reservation for every beautiful minute of this wonderful, crazy fast adventure called life!

sermon CORNER



April 5 Pastor Aimee

Easter Sunday

"Leaving Too Early"

John 20:1-23

April 12

Guest Preacher

April 19 Pastor Aimee

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus!"

John 15:11-17 and John 21:1-14

April 26 Pastor James

"You Too Are Forgiven"

John 18:15-18, 25-27 and John 21:15-17



March 12 Bishop Jung's visit

Covenant Team

We packed 45 sack lunches for the Liberty Prep students as they leave for their Spring Break. Many of these students appreciate the extra food to supplement their needs.

They included:

- A Mac/Cheese Single
- Peanut Butter/Jelly sandwich
- Veggies and Dip
- Apple
- Cookies – Granola Bars
- Chex Mix and Chips

Preaching Schedule for
Pastor Aimee and Pastor James

April 5-19

Pastor Aimee- SUMC/ COTC

Pastor James- AC/Moreland

April 26

Pastor James- SUMC/ COTC

Pastor Aimee- AC/Moreland

Meetings

Meetings:

Covenant: April 7

One Board: April 21



Food, Fun & Fellowship:

April 11 and 18

Wayne United Chaplain Ministries

"When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:38-40

Thank you for continuing to serve the least of these by supporting Wayne United Chaplain Ministries. Due to givers like this church, the ministry was able to come within \$10 of income verses expenses in 2025! Your financial giving and prayer support continue to impact inmates and their families in our community.



HOLY WEEK

SCHEDULE

PASTOR JAMES
Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 PM
Church of the Cross

Good Friday, April 3, 7 PM
Smithville UMC

PASTOR AIMEE
Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 PM
Moreland UMC

Good Friday, April 3, 7 PM
Oak Chapel Cantata

**Easter Services
Sunday, April 5**

Pastor James
Apple Creek & Moreland

Pastor Aimee
COTC & Smithville

Blessings and Hope 2026

Blessing – divine gift or benefit, God's grace, filled with joy and purpose.

Hope – optimistic state of mind or feeling – positive outcome.

You, my church, family and friends, became the blessings and hope to hundreds of persons in Honduras this year by your extravagant giving. These are the people who consider the smallest of blessings as hope for a medical procedure, food for malnutrition, a chance to see a doctor for a potentially life changing surgery, the gift of sight etc. You see, these are the gifts that we take for granted every day. We are able to see a physician, most of the time can provide adequate food for our children, have a warm home and clothing. For some these are gifts they only dream of.

I, personally, had the privilege to work with the Dental Brigade for 5 days. We traveled many miles to eliminate pain and suffering to those not able to afford a dentist- a child that can resume school without pain or an adult that would never, otherwise, be seen in a dental chair. In the US we have access to alternative services.

My second week was assisting, Raina, the Kindergarten teacher employed by CAMO for 20 years. (20 students) She is the most dedicated teacher I have ever known. Her goal is to send her students out of her class with as much knowledge and skills as she can. Seeing the children eager to learn and please Professor Raina is refreshing. The adjoining Kindergarten class is a government class of 30 children. Some of these children are considered preschool. Stephanie, a young lady, in her first year of teaching was overwhelmed. She was allotted one mother as an aide. While we were there (they'd only been in session about 5 weeks), she came into our class in tears. She had been let go. (The new president of the country is a dictator.) He is eliminating anything that the previous president had put in place. During our class time she was already gone. Praise God for Raina who can stand strong and is not threatened. Raina was gifted \$100 for school supplies.

For the second year I had the privilege to return to the Hogar de Ancianos (nursing home). My friend and I call them our "elder orphans", discarded or abandoned elderly. We so enjoy doing activities with them. (balloons, bubbles, balls, pool noodles, hoola hoops) The joy we see and the blessings we receive with those simple items is indescribable. They were gifted \$300 for food and incidentals.

Hogar de Ninos San Antonio orphanage for girls, ages 5-18, was gifted \$300 plus purchased 50 t-shirts and dozens of socks. I visited there twice this time.

Visiting San Jose orphanage, infants -5 years old, was a new experience for me. These children have been abandoned and literally discarded- found in a river in a box, buried in the mud, found in a toilet with both legs broken. I saw these beautiful children who are now thriving and cared for by the sisters of Charity (Mother Theresa's organization). \$600 was gifted for medicine and as needed.

Food for Healing (food & supplements for the severe malnourished) \$1,500

Women's Domestic Violence Shelter built by CAMO (only one in Western Honduras) \$1,000

Your BLESSINGS through your support has been the HOPE of MANY!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART,

Cindy Mullet



Happy Birthday

April

- 1 Jean Gagner
- 4 Mike Shaw
- 5 Beverly Shaw
- 6 Sally Turpin
- 7 Jean Hannen
- 10 Ron Borton
- 11 Lauren Stalnaker
- 15 Steve Carpenter
Amy Jolliff
- 19 Robert Denning
- 21 Elaine Arzt
- 24 Patti Johnson

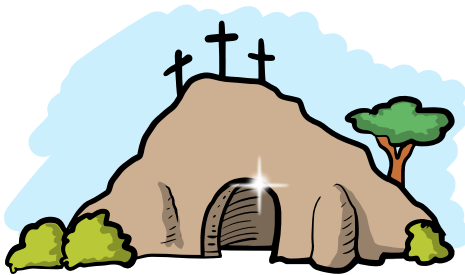


THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped make the Rummage Sale a success. A total of \$2,176 was raised for the Mission Fund.

Ministries at Liberty Preparatory High School

Baccalaureate - Thursday, May 21
Graduation - Thursday, May 28



He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Invite someone to join you
for Easter Sunday worship!

Contact us:

Church office: 330-345-6472, cotcumc@gmail.com
Pastor James: jlance12@bu.edu
Pastor Aimee: aimeejohare@gmail.com
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

