

THE COMMUNICATOR

April 12, 2026

**Belonging to Jesus from
the Bleachers**



**STRENGTH TRAINING
WEEK 1**

Sunday, April 12, 2026

9:00 am Service

**Prelude – Wayfarin’ Stranger - Dr. Kim
Acolytes: Hayden /Harper Rettkowski**

Welcome/Announcements

Because He Lives – UMH 364 vs. all

Call to Worship/Opening Prayer – Kara Rettkowski

On Eagle’s Wings – UMH 143

Children’s Message – Brooke Summers

He Hideth My Soul in the Haven of Rest – Victory Ringers

John 15: 1-11 – Kara Rettkowski

“Strength Training” – Rev. Marie Smith

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

As the Deer – FWS 2025

Offering

Offertory: Gimme That Old Time Religion – Dr. Kim

Glory Be to the Father – UMH 70

We Are the Church – UMH 558 vs. 1,2,4

Benediction

Postlude – I’ve Got Peace Like a River - Dr. Kim

Belonging to Jesus from the Bleachers

Rev Marie Smith

April 12, 2026

We are supposed to be in a relationship with Jesus that is built on connections and transformation.

Misunderstandings in Faith:

1. If we say the sinner's prayer we have an instant connection to Jesus.
2. If we are simply a good person, do good things, that will connect us to Jesus.

John 15: 5-7 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. "

Jesus is not interested in lukewarm followers.

He wants to attach to us like Velcro.

We must do a little pruning in our lives...

We have 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week.

This deep, abiding connection, is one that is cultivated and transformative, we take that relationship with us.

Jesus gave us the church as a tool to live out the kingdom of God...

We, the church, are a tool that the farmer uses.

Action Steps:

1. Share this video with someone.
2. Take the questions for your kids and teens with you about the Bible lesson.
3. Pray together as a family, team or small group.
4. What do you need to prune in your life, to make this happen?

**Belonging to Jesus from
the Bleachers**

Questions for the Car
Ride:

1. What needs pruning in our house?
2. What do you spend the most time doing?
3. Jesus wants us to be connected to him, what ways are you connecting to him?

**Ways to
connect:**

- Read John 15: 1-11 biblegateway.com
- Start each day with prayer (use the prayer list)
- End each day with prayer
- Look for God's answers.

**Sunday, April 12, 2026
10:30 am Service**

**Welcome – Levi Graf
Greeting**

***Great Are You Lord
King Of My Heart
Our God***

**Announcements
Offering**

John 15: 1-11

“Strength Training” – Rev. Marie Smith

Lighting of Candles

***Forever*
Benediction**

Altar flowers are in memory of Dale Cline from the Cline Family.

White Rose on the altar is in memory of Dale Cline.

<https://www.wellmanfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/dale-cline#:~:text=www.wellmanfuneralhomes.com>

Pedestal flowers are in honor of our witnesses to our wedding, April 14th from Patty Manson.

Prayer & Praise List for April 09, 2026

Doug Sweazy	Scott Arnet
Melissa Matz	Carrie Purk
Jo Shappard	Dave Mahaffey
Larry Bond	Donnie & Eve Tate
Oceannia	Steven Saxton
Alison Bashore	Richie, Eric, Chase, Debbie, Bob, Tom,

**Skyler Kelly – praise, new born
Liam Hazel – praise, new born**

**Reeser Family – Passing of Sam Reeser
Scott Family – Passing of Doug Scott
Arledge & Grace Families – Passing of Gene Grace
Cline Family – Passing of Dale Cline**



Summer will be here before we know it! Camp is open to children who are in grades 1-12. The dates for camp are June 14-19th. Anyone interested in their child attending this year needs to **confirm by Sunday, April 19th**, please contact Katie Skidmore. Katie.skidmore@circlevillecumc.org

VBS Announcement

2026 Downtown Roundtown VBS

“ROME – Paul and the Underground Church”

Circleville Presbyterian Church

June 1- 4, 2026

5:30- 7:30 pm (Dinner in Campbell Hall 4:45-5:30 pm)

Ages 3 – Grade 4

Volunteers are needed to lead elementary Bible lessons, music, crafts, games, serve food and assist with preschool and drama.

If you would like to volunteer with VBS this year, please message Katie Skidmore at katie.skidmore@circlevillecumc.org

SPRING AND SUMMER SPRUCE UP!

COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP

- RAKING LEAVES/GRASS
- CLEANING UP BRUSH
- TRIMMING BUSHES/HEDGES
- ORGANIZING GARDEN SHED
- SPREADING MULCH
- WEEDING GARDEN
- AND MORE!

CALL 740-731-2064 TO BOOK A DATE!

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME, AND ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP THIS SUMMER

• 740-731-2064

Hymn Devotion: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (UMH 302)

Happy Easter Season! We are now living in the light of the resurrected Christ. Alleluia! Let us look at the hymn that celebrates each Easter morning in our worship every year. Here are the words to this triumphant hymn, as found in our hymnal. They are written in paragraph form. Take a moment to read each verse slowly and deliberately and let the meaning sink in:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing ye heav'ns, and earth reply, Alleluia! (let everyone and everything rejoice in this day!)

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia! (death could not hold him!)

Lives again our glorious king, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia! Once he died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia! (Jesus died for our salvation and the grave had no power!)*

Soar we now, where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross—the grave—the skies, Alleluia! (Now we live like Jesus, following him wherever he needs us to go, no matter the cost.)

Hail the Lord of earth and Heaven, Alleluia! Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia! Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia! Hail the resurrection Thou, Alleluia! (We worship God and given him praise for his power!)

King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, Alleluia! Everlasting life is this, Alleluia! Thee to know, Thy power to prove, Alleluia! Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia! (Because we now have everlasting life, we sing praise of our love for Christ.)



This well-known hymn was written by the great hymnist and founder of the Methodist church, Charles Wesley, in 1739. Our hymnal contains just 6 of the many verses written (or added over the years) for this song. Charles was responsible for up to 8,000 hymns, many of which can be found in our hymnal today. Favorites such as “Jesus Lover of My Soul”, “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”, “A Charge to Keep I Have”, and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, are just a few.

Devotional Moments - Ponder the following questions and write notes as you reflect on the answers:

As you look back over the words of this hymn, which verse (or verses) do you connect with most? What about that verse is speaking to you?

How does this hymn (or verse) make you feel more connected to God? Does the power of God reveal itself to you in one verse more than another?

Does the message of this hymn move you into spiritual or physical action? Do you want to dive deeper into the meaning or to do something because of this song?

Who else do you know who needs to be uplifted by the message in this song? Who will you share it with?

If you are comfortable sharing your thoughts with us, please email these responses to Alice Chester at: alice.chester@circlevillemc.org and we will share them with the congregation.



Calling all Singers!

Come join us for the annual choir festival on April 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church. Area church choirs and local community choirs join together to sing under the direction of Dione Bennett from OCU. The day starts at 9:00am with a light breakfast, followed by a large group masterclass/rehearsal with Dione at 9:45. We break for lunch at the Presbyterian church, one last rehearsal and then finish with a free concert at 2:00pm, featuring the mass choir, OCU Chorale, Men's Barbershop Chorus and others. I have copies of the group songs if you are interested in joining us. Please contact Alice Chester at alice.chester@circlevillemc.org to get the music.

Victory Ringers in Service:

On March 18, members of the Victory Ringers bell choir served the meal at the Community Kitchen. Look how much fun we had!





COMING UP NEXT...

Circleville Farmer's Market

The market is located on Watt Street by Joy house with vendors occupying the grassy knoll area of the church property. The market will be held 5 to 8 PM on the third Thursday April- Oct.

Celebrate the Arts

This year's performers include StudioOne, ArtsAround gallery, Roundtown players, and Chance to Dance.

All performances and displays will be in various places inside the church. We will have a welcome tent outside at Door A. The celebration will be from 10 AM to 1 PM. We are in need of volunteers station throughout the building and at the welcome tent.

Please contact Wendi Lowell@
wendilowell@gmail.com