



Community Cornerstone

Fall 2026

OVERFLOW WITH GRACE PRESENT JESUS MAKE NEW DISCIPLES

339 Meyer Ave, Riverside, Ohio 45431 Phone: 937-253-5169

Email: communitymc_riverside@gmail.com

Sunday Worship 10:30am Facebook: Community Methodist Church Riverside Website: communitymc_riverside.com

WE ARE MORE THAN A BUILDING

What if our church building burned to the ground? Would we rebuild? Is there anything about God, you and me, and our life together that would make it worth it? What are your answers to these questions?

So, why are we here as Community? We are doing a lot with kids, teens, and people with emotional, mental, and substance issues. Yet, the world is also “keeping busy” doing good things for challenged people. What makes us different? Just look around you at Community. People are changed and still changing. Those who we served in the past are now significantly healed up and serving. Many of us who have served for years are not the same people we were even a year ago. We've changed. Thank God!

Take a look within your own self as part of Community. God is seeking to increasingly purify and transform your heart along with all of our hearts! More than a few of us are healing, settling, and overcoming old hurts habits, and hang-ups! ***What's bringing this on?*** It's not simply coming from processes, programs, and doing “good things” --although these contribute. This all stems from the Lord Jesus Christ and your heart. When you open your heart to Him and let him work on your life, Community thrives.

If the building burned down today, you and I would rebuild because our hearts are opening more to our Head, the Lord Jesus. He is leading us as His Body forward into a new season of His transforming work on the hearts of those around us. ...open wide your hearts also. 2 Corinthians 6:13

Therefore, open your heart! Go to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Read through the newsletter. Give your heart to him anew. Make him your #1 priority. Pray, and invest your heart, body, and treasure in Community as He leads.

Be Jesus Loved and thrive in Community!
Fritz

...give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let the be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Romans 12:1NLT

Annual Yard Sale Bringing Community Together

We are getting closer and closer to our to our **Community Yard Sale on September 26 from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** We are excited to see everyone come together for another great day of fellowship and community.

If you are donating items for the yard sale, please contact **Ellen in the office**, and she will let you know where to place your donations. If you would like to participate but need help signing up, please get with me 937-416-8227. If you are able to sign up on your own, you can scan the QR code or use the registration link <https://forms.gle/qWNBD89erS5Ca5ss5>. Registration is **free for members of the church and community.** For others, there is a **\$10 fee.** If you need to rent a table, tables will also be available for **\$10**

each. You can keep the proceeds from your table sales.

We will have a **goodie basket full of contributions from community businesses** that will be raffled off toward

the end of the yard sale. There is no cost for raffle tickets. Everyone entering the yard sale will receive **one free ticket** for a chance to win. We will also have fun activities available for the kids.

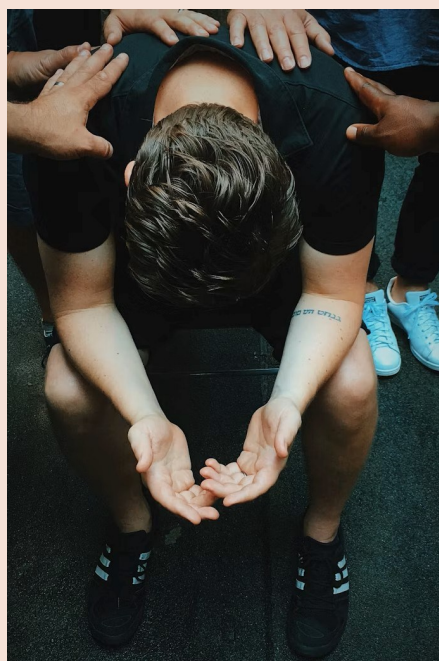
And yes, there will be **FOOD!** Pulled pork and other food will be served by **James and others from Whole Truth Ministries.**

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone, spending time together, and continuing to build relationships within our church and community. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate, volunteer, pray, serve, and support outreach. God continues to provide, and we are excited to see what He does next!

Amanda Wing

Hisgraceisenough2019@gmail.com





The Pursuit Retreat Pursuing God Building Brotherhood

This is a retreat for men sponsored by various men's groups and sober living organizations in the area, including Jeff Sorrell's Champions of Change.

According to Jeff:

We are working on the registration process and

hopefully it will be ready very soon.

It will take place at Camp Chatauqua 10550 Camp Trail, Miamisburg, OH 45342, Friday, October 16th with Check-in beginning at 5:00 p.m. It will end on Saturday, October 17th at 4:00 p.m.

The cost is \$100.00 per man which includes lodging, meals, snacks & drinks as well as all events and activities.

Please contact Pastor Fritz for more information: frmerkes@gmail.com/937-245-4007



The carry-in for August seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. The tacos were a change in pace and were well-received. I am hoping to have more carry-ins that are not "what we always or normally do," maybe with themes for the season. We will finish out 2026 with carry-ins in October and December. **Sally and her family will bless us with her delicious lunches on September 13th and November 8th.**

There are several open dates to provide/serve a snack, just provide the snack, or to help serve the snack. I appreciate all that help in the kitchen, the after service snacks and for all the food donated.

I will not be at church on September 20th and October 11th. Taunya and Donna will be doing the after service snack. If you would like to help them on that day, I am sure they would greatly appreciate it. 1 Peter 4:10-12

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen 1 Peter 4:10-12

Blessings,
Rhonda

MEMBERSHIP?

Your WELCOME/MEMBERSHIP CLASS:

A class for potential new members to understand and get more involved with the Lord, life, and mission of Community Church.

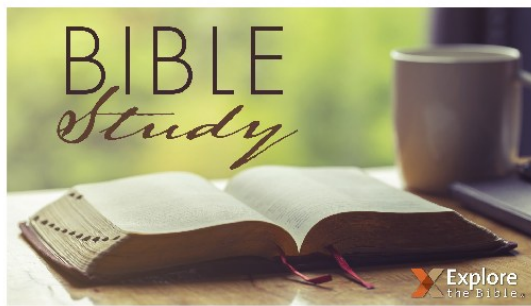
Membership is a way of publicly stating your commitment to the Lord, mission, and team of Community Methodist Church Riverside.

If you have been with Community for at least 3 months, trusted in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and are interested in being a part of the team, please contact Pastor Fritz directly.

-- 8 Sessions with a group.

-- Read a Membership pamphlet available on the Resource Tables throughout the church facility.

If you are interested in membership, please see Pastor Fritz.



Come join us Thursday mornings at 10:00am as we study together the Psalms

We have been enjoying our study of the Psalms. This is a great time to ask questions as we glean the truth of God's word.

Together, we partner with God, to navigate everyday life. All are welcome.

Every Thursday 10am, in the library
Charlotte Boyle

Invest your heart in your Lord Jesus as #1 in 2027!

Consider what He has already done to change hearts and lives through Community and you. *Do you believe He can do this through us in 2027?*

Then, put your pledge for 2027 where your heart is:

☐ Pledge 10% of your income for 2027. Jesus Himself said, "You should tithe (meaning 10%), yes, but do not neglect the more important things (justice, mercy, and faith)." Matthew 23: 23 NLT

☐ Take a faithful step toward tithing 10% for 2027. If you're not giving, please pledge to give in 2027. If you're giving 5%, prayerfully consider pledging 10%.

Starting in October, you will be more formally invited to pledge for 2027. Then, **on CONSECRATION SUNDAY**, November 8, *through our pledges, we will dedicate our hearts and ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ as #1 in 2027.*

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT



Right: Tommy Lauber interviews Whole Truth's James Wing about the Drop-In Center. Below: Community Church tours Drop-In Center.



Men's Drop-In Center Changing Lives

The much-needed Men's Drop In Center 1804 E. Third St Unit B Dayton, Ohio is creating a soft place to fall for over 300 men since its opening three and a half months ago. In addition to the drop-ins, 19 men are in treatment now because of this important center in East Dayton.



Hope Restored

CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY AT 6:30PM

Led by Charlotte @
Community Methodist Church Riverside
339 Meyer Ave Riverside, OH

Sept 13 & 20; Oct 4 & 18; Nov 1 & 15

Fellowship Sharing Gifts Prayer

We are looking forward to you joining us. What a great way to process this season, and to look forward to the next.

Galatians 6:2

"Carry each other's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ."

Every other Sunday at 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall.



September

9/05 Elizabeth Bellitt
 9/05 Troy Kehl
 9/09 Billy Hibbs
 9/09 Cindy Miller
 9/09 Rodney Brown
 9/10 Kenneth Huffman
 9/14 Olivia Kehl
 9/14 James Evans
 9/16 Charlotte Boyle
 9/16 Robert Dinsmore
 9/16 Emily Kinzig
 9/16 David Rose
 9/17 Destiny McPherson
 9/22 Cathy Hughes
 9/25 Marsha Hiatt
 9/26 Lloyd Lynch (102)
 9/26 Theresa Smith
 9/27 Linda Ebright
 9/27 Sherry McPherson
 9/30 Stephanie Hodge
 9/30 Nita Renfro

October

10/07 Fritz Merkes
 10/08 Jaye Jones
 10/12 Cheryl French
 10/12 Matt Spencer
 10/15 Brenda Smith
 10/26 Phyllis Burgess
 10/27 Karen Yaworski
 10/27 Ed Miller
 10/29 Ruby Cox

November

11/03 Belva Rockwell
 11/03 Taunya Jacobs
 11/04 Abby Holt
 11/05 Nicholas McPherson
 11/05 Judith Mosoka
 11/06 Tawney Boyle
 11/06 Sally Borba



9/01 Bob & Norma Jean Luneke
9/04 David & Ebby Hale
9/14 Bruce & Anna Boggs
9/27 Nick & Ellie Gusman
10/06 Ken & Linda Ebright
10/08 Greg Robinson & Lana Ping

Community Church Unplugged and friends attended a Dayton Dragons Game this summer. The tickets were donated and everyone had a great time on a beautiful summer night!



UNPLUGGED

It's Back to School for UNPLUGGED

Summer is quickly winding down and the start of school year for Unplugged is quickly coming!

The target date of

Unplugged school year is September 29th. This year we will have a few newer kids joining the group that graduated from the Whiz Kids ministry which is exciting!

Friday night events for the following months are September 18, October 16, November 13 and December 11. These Friday night events have been a great way to integrate the younger kids with the rest of the group so that the school year is a little easier for the younger kids.

Please pray for the kids as they start the school year at their respective schools and that they have a good start to their school year. Also, please pray for the youth leaders as we meet and plan for the next few months of Unplugged and that we allow God to lead us in His plan and not ours. Thanks!

Blessings, Bill

COOKIES

For KAIROS
Prison
Ministry

Fresh Baked Cookies Needed



Hello,

It is that time again this year for Kairos prison ministry to visit the residents of Lebanon Correctional Facility. We will be inside the facility October 1st-October 4th and would appreciate any agape love that people can share including posters, placemats and of course cookies!

If you can contribute cookies to this ministry, about 20 dozen are needed. I will need them before the end of Wednesday, September 30. Please call me about specifics, including ingredient limitations.

We also need paper products and people to sponsor a meal for a resident of the facility during the weekend. If you can help out with any of this with cookies or donations, please reach out to me.

As always, the love and generosity of this Community Family is appreciated.

Blessings,
Mario Ybarbo 937-609-7822



"LIFEWISE" FOR KEMP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS

In January 2027, Lifewise plans to start a "release time" program with full parental permission for Kemp School. Kemp is located and serves a part of our surrounding neighborhood that we have not reached.

On our end, this would basically involve providing a room in the church once a week for the morning and very early afternoon. Although Lifewise handles all the logistics, we are invited to provide **volunteers, transportation help, and financial support.** Plus, we can recommend people to serve as paid teachers.

Although these are invitations and not obligations, let's pray and be faithful to God. Let's not miss this God given opportunity to join Jesus and let the little children come unto Him and us! Please Pray! For more information:

- **Kemp Elementary 1923 Gondert Ave Dayton, Ohio** Kemp website dps.k12.oh.us/kemp-elementary/about/.
- **Lifewise Website (how to apply)** Lifewise.org/daytoncityoh.

Community Prayer Calendar September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Our World, State, City, and Churches	2 Leadership of the Church	3 James W. White, Friend of the Church	4 Isolation for Family and Friends	5 Pat and Charlotte, Holy Ministers		
6 Foster Fritz and Cheri	7 Sister and Sister Maria P. Family Concerns	8 Church Outreach and Bible Study Groups	9 Prayers for Family and Friends	10 Prayer with Addictions	11 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	12 Rhonda M. for Mom
13 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	14 Tavia K. Cousin's Health	15 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	16 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	17 Bill and Marsha, Health Issues	18 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	19 Marilyn V. Work Safety
20 Foster Fritz and Cheri	21 Tavia K. Cousin's Health	22 Parents and Families with Children	23 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	24 Mike W. Suburban for His Wife	25 Elin's Sister, Sisterhood	26 Family Reconciliation or Reconciliation
27 Steve Hoke Lay Minister	28 Sharon M. Friend, Sister, Sisterhood	29 Prayers for Mark and Janet Crech	30 Reminders: If someone has someone pray: God's will be done. Jesus Christ with you. For salvation. Health 26:34 John 14:17			

Therefore... Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Community Prayer Calendar September 2026

Also, these didn't make the calendar but please pray for friends of Sharon Minter:

Brian W: Liver Transplant
Steve Huntsman: Cancer/Infusions
Ronnie: Leukemia

Calendars are available in the office & Resource Tables

October requests due 9/26



Celebrate Recovery Praying & Staying on the Right Path

We are here every Thursday evening to work through our own hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Not everyone that attends is working on recovery from drugs or alcohol. We are here for ANY of those things that keep us from our best relationship with Jesus and other people. Those things that keep us from living our best life here and now.

Come join us, even if you think that you don't have anything to work through then come support us and the newcomers to learn to overcome addiction, co-dependency, grief, life and all that it has handed us. **Come out and join us for dinner at 6, large group at 6:45, and small group (men with men and women with women).** Come worship with us and support others.....who knows.....maybe God wants to work through something with you that you aren't even aware of.

We pray a lot and have full prayer lists every week.....maybe you are simply called to be a prayer warrior for our group.

I pray blessings over all of you who read this and I pray that all of you have an open heart.

If you are unable to attend PLEASE feel free to pray for the participants as well as the lead team (Taunya, Rhonda, Tavia, Steve H, Steve N, Mario). We all need prayer!

—Taunya J.



**Communion
the First
Thursday of
Every Month**

DENIAL
POWERLESS
HOPE
SANITY
TURN
ACTION
SPONSOR
MORAL
INVENTORY
SPIRITUAL INVENTORY PART 1
SPIRITUAL INVENTORY PART 2
CONFESS ADMIT
READY VICTORY
AMENDS
FORGIVENESS
GRACE
CROSSROADS
DAILY INVENTORY
RELAPSE
GRATITUDE
GIVE
SEVEN
REASONS
WE GET
STUCK

FINANCE STATEMENT As of June 30, 2026

(July & August will be available later)

Receipts	\$86,898.53
Debits	\$87,705.23
Deficit	\$806.71



Giving -
communityumciversonside.com

Give online with QR code
Or in person with cash/check (Community Methodist Church) Thank you for being faithful!



Whiz Kids: One Hour, Once a Week, a Lifetime of Difference

If you didn't already know...Whiz Kids is a ministry of Community Church with a simple but powerful mission: helping children grow through literacy, mentoring, and the steady encouragement of caring adults. Meeting at Church, the program pairs students with a caring adult who spend time reading, building skills, and forming positive relationships that can make a lasting difference.



The heart of Whiz Kids is Jesus, and being His hands and feet through one-on-one support. Many children need more than classroom instruction; they need someone who will sit beside them, listen

patiently, celebrate progress, and remind them that they are capable and loved. Volunteers do not need to be professional educators. If you can read, encourage, and show up consistently, you can help a child gain confidence and hope.

There are several ways you can support this ministry. Some may feel

called to mentor a student during the school year, from 5-6 p.m., starting on October 13th. Others may help with snacks, transportation, setup, cleanup, or behind-the-scenes support. Everyone can pray for the children, families, volunteers, and leaders who make the program possible.



Here are some key dates and important information: **ALL THOSE ON THE WHIZ KIDS TEAM MUST BE BACKGROUND CHECKED AND COMPLETE AN ONLINE**



SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING.

This is not optional. Our insurance requires it. We have a responsibility to protect the children that God has entrusted to us. (cont'd top of next column)



WHIZ KIDS: ONE HOUR, ONCE A WEEK (CONT'D)

Child Protection and Tutor/Mentor Training:

Tuesday, September 29 and Tuesday, October 6, from 5-7 p.m.

The trainings will be identical, with the Child Protection training first, followed by the tutor/mentor training.



Everyone involved with Whiz Kids must attend the first section of the training, which should end at about 5:30. The rest of the training those two days will focus on what to do during the mentoring hour.

As stated earlier, **Whiz Kids starts on October 13th, and ends on April 27th, 2027.**

Join us in offering a safe, welcoming place where students can learn, be supported, and experience the love of Jesus through a faithful team!



In Jesus,
Claire



WHIZKIDS AFTERSCHOOL

at Community Church Riverside

Learning. Faith. Friendship. Fun.



339 Meyer Ave, 45431

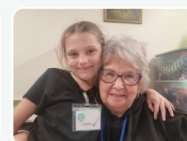


What is WhizKids?

A Christian afterschool program on Tuesdays, primarily for Mad River Elementary students.

Each Tuesday includes:

- Bible stories
- Life application of Biblical principles
- Fun games
- Crafts with a purpose
- One-on-one tutoring in reading



INTERESTED? CHECK US OUT!

daytonwhizkids.org

or call Community Church at 937-253-5169



COMMUNITY OUTREACH!

We are so grateful for **The Point** and their generous donations toward our food supplies. Because of their support, our food needs are now **sponsored through March! Praise God!** Their generosity is helping us continue serving our community and making sure we have food available for outreach.



Over the last six months, we have served **more than 900 meals**, and we have had the opportunity to pray with about **three-fourths of the people we served**. That has been such a blessing.

The Fall Outreach schedule is:
October 24 12:00-4:00pm.

Come join us on a Saturday. You will be blessed. Thank you to everyone who continues to donate, volunteer, pray, serve, and support outreach. God continues to provide, and we are excited to see what He does next!

Amanda Wing
Hisgraceisenough2019@gmail.com

DOORS, FLOORS & PARKING LOT Facility Updates

Doors by the Playground:

When we got those doors replaced, we didn't get them finished on the inside. That just wasn't included in the estimate. We asked and God delivered! **A few weeks ago, Nathan, a visitor with Logan, saw the message asking for help on getting it finished. He looked at it and said, "I can do this!"** As you can see he got it done and it looks great. He didn't charge us anything. If you need help with plumbing and HVAC and small handy-man jobs he is one to call. Ellen has his contact info if you need it.



Before

After

Complimentary Carpet Cleaning:

On the subject of gifts, **Sean Collins and his family have been consistently cleaning our carpets, free of charge.** A gift that keeps on giving. He made it clear from the beginning that he wasn't cleaning the carpets for anything other than a gift from his family to a church



that truly serves the community. But, after asking his permission, we are happy to let you know he has his own carpet cleaning business. Just give him a call if you want to throw some business his way: 937-434-0902.

Parking Lot and concrete work outside the front door:

The area outside the front door has been a problem for a while. **That concrete work will start next Tuesday September 8.** At the same time, to prepare the parking lot to be paved, the same company will build a concrete pad for the dumpster which has temporarily been moved to the grassy area by the bonfires.

The parking lot work will begin Thursday October 1. Please be watching for signs regarding all this work.

If you have any questions please contact a Board member or call or email the office.

Thank you,
Robb French

BONFIRE
Nights

12 SEPT
10 OCT

7:30 PM

PRAYER | FOOD | FUN

Get ready for an unforgettable Bonfire Night! Gather your friends and family for a cozy evening filled with fun, food and the warmth and fellowship of a crackling fire.

Community Methodist Church
339 Meyer Ave
Riverside, Oh 45431

Our bonfires have also been a wonderful time of fellowship, laughter, conversation, and of course, s'mores!

Our Fall Bonfires will be **September 12 and October 10 at 7:30 p.m. on the church grounds.** We would love for you to join us!

This is a great place to bring friends and family



for a night out together that fits your budget. We will have hot dogs to roast and special S'more treats for you to try. If you have a lawn chair, bring it! **Come on down!**

MESSAGES & Special Dates

9/6: "HONOR & LOVE THE OTHER"

- Communion
- Invitations To Serve: Whiz Kids, Unplugged, KICS, Spark, and Lifewise.

9/11-14: Fritz & Claire at Freedom in Christ Gathering.

9/12: BONFIRE! At Community. 7:30 p.m.

9/13: "GOD AT WORK!" Message: Amanda Wing

- 2nd Sunday Offering Celebrate Recovery.
- **SPECIAL LUNCH:** Served by Sally & Family
6:30 p.m. Hope Restored

9/18: 5:30-8 p.m.. Friday Night Youth Event

9/19: Trotwood Food Outreach 9:30-11:30 a.m.

9/20: "TOGETHER FAITHFUL"

To Love & Honor The Other. *Series: "Jesus Teamwork!"* Fritz & Tommy

MEMBERSHIP/Welcome Class begins 9/20 12:30 p.m. On Consecration Sunday (11/8), Candidates Come Into Membership.

9/26. ALL CHURCH YARD SALE



COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
RIVERSIDE, OHIO

Connecting Faith, Family & Community

YARD SALE

GREAT FINDS. Great Prices.

JOIN US!
September 26th
10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ALL VENDORS MUST SIGN UP BELOW!
Use the Google Link or QR Code to Register

Let us coconsider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. — Hebrews 10:24

9/27: OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10:30 a.m. at Community (under the tent in the church field)
6:30 p.m. Hope Restored

9/29: UNPLUGGED (Middle School) BEGINS
10/3: Clean Up Day

10/8: THE SPARK (Spinning Hills Middle school) BEGINS

10/4: "REALIZE." Be Self Aware. Series: "Jesus Teamwork!" Fritz & Tommy.

- Communion

MESSAGES & Special Dates (cont'd)

10/6: WHIZ KIDS (Elementary) BEGINS

10/8: THE SPARK (Spinning Hills Middle school) BEGINS

10/10: BONFIRE! At Community 7:30 p.m.

10/11: "TRUTH IN LOVE"

Communicate. Do Not Isolate Or Dominate. Listen Rightly. *Series: "Jesus Teamwork!"*

- 2nd Sunday Offering: Whiz Kids.
6:30 p.m. Hope Restored

10/13: Whiz Kids Begins

10/16: 5:30-8 p.m.. Friday Night Youth Event

10/16-17: MEN'S RETREAT

10/17: Trotwood Food Outreach 9:30-11:30 a.m.

10/18: "EXPECT RIGHTLY"

Stop Mind Reading. *Series: "Jesus Teamwork!"* Fritz & Tommy.

10/24: Outreach to Shelters and Streets (Noon).

10/25: "OH YES! Not, "Oh No."

See A Crisis or Conflict as a God Opportune Moment. *Series: "Jesus Teamwork!"* Fritz & Tommy
6:30 p.m. Hope Restored

11/1: "GET REAL"

Readily Admit. Readily Forgive. Go To, Not Gab About. Graciously Confront. *Series: "Jesus Teamwork!"*

- Communion

11/2: 7 p.m. Cincinnati Circuit. Service with Dan Gildner.

11/8: CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Committing all that we are and all that we have to God.

- **Blessing our pledged offerings for 2027**

- New Members.
- Lunch, Sally & Family.
- Thanksgiving Offering Begins: Sidewalk Soldiers
6:30 p.m. Hope Restored

