



# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

I turn 40 this year.  
I never meant for this to happen.  
There were warning signs, like when football players your age start retiring.  
Younger people start coming up with words and hobbies that you honestly cannot understand.  
Music you listened to as a teenager is now "classic" rock.  
Your definition of old shifts to the point that someone turning 40 is "just a kid".

This used to really bother me; there are so many benefits to being young and our culture never talks of aging as a good thing. Is gray hair a crown on the head of the aged, or something to be concealed as much as possible? There is a single word that has changed my feelings about the aging process: wisdom

Job 12:12  
Wisdom is with the aged,  
and understanding in length of days.

I wasn't an idiot at age 25, but when I think about the lessons I've learned over the last 15 years in ministry, I can say with confidence that I didn't know a thing. I'm pretty sure in another 15 years I'll have the same perspective of age 40. For now I am content to celebrate the experience that comes with age and appreciate being young enough to not know my doctors on a first name basis.

## UPCOMING

### MEN'S BREAKFAST | Saturday, Jan. 3

For all men - 7:30am in the gym for great food & fellowship!

### KEENAGER'S BREAKFAST | Tuesday, Jan. 6

All senior retirees meet for breakfast at Bob Evans in Eaton @ 9am.

### NURSING HOME MINISTRY | Sunday, Jan. 11

All are invited to join us as we worship with those at Maple Gardens Nursing Home (515 S. Maple St., Eaton) at 2pm.

### YOUTH FUNDRAISER BRUNCH

On Sunday, January 18th, the youth group will be hosting a brunch! Plan to stay right after service and we will serve you brunch before you go home! Donations are welcome and appreciated, as our students are working to head to the International Youth Convention (IYC) in Cincinnati this summer. Thank you church, for all your love and support!!

### WOW SMALL GROUP | Widows or Widowers

Happy New Year! Saturday, January 24th at noon meet in our church's commons area for carry-in lunch. Bring food to share & your own drink. We'll enjoy different group games together. Contact Shirley Clark (937.733.2628) with questions/comments.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up to give blood on Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 7:30am - 1:30pm in the church gym. Sign up on the church website or a [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com).

### FAMILY PAINT & CREATE NIGHT

Come hang out with us on Friday January 30, 2026 from 6-8p in the gym. Drinks, pizza, a canvas, and paints will be provided for each person. Plan to bring snacks and desserts to share! It will be a super fun night of fellowship for families of all ages! Sign up in the commons so that we can be sure to have supplies for everyone!

\*This is not led by a person. You get to create your very own unique piece!

### SWEETHEART DINNER

Coming up soon - our annual Sweetheart dinner on Saturday, February 7th @ 6pm! Menu to be announced. Our students will start taking reservations soon!

### YOUTH DINNERS

If you are interested in providing dinner for the youth group on Wednesday nights, there is a sign up sheet in the Commons or to make a donation to go toward dinner, please see Allie! Thank you!!

### 2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements will be emailed in the next few weeks to everyone for whom we have an email address. If we do not have one on file, your statement will be sent by mail. If you would like a printed copy in addition to the emailed version, please contact the church office at 937-456-4681 or email Karen at [office@e1cog.com](mailto:office@e1cog.com).

\*\*\* If you have a Breeze account, you can also view your giving record there at any time.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT KIDS

Plan to join us January 7, 2026 as we resume our Wednesday night schedule from 6:30p-7:30p. Our Wednesday night program is for kids ages 3 (must be potty trained) - 6th grade.

Our January study will be on Job. People often say, "It's about the journey, not the destination," when their travel plans don't work out how they expected. This phrase couldn't have been more true for Job, who went through a shocking journey. In this 4-week series, kids will hear from Job's story as he learned to navigate loss and trust God's itinerary every step of the way. Through the story of Job's perseverance and faithfulness, kids will learn that God is with them no matter what they go through, they can show God's love in small ways, God is bigger than they could ever understand, and they can trust God will make everything right.



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## NURSERY & CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULES

Be on the lookout for volunteer schedules to be in your mailbox! If you have not indicated that you would like to help in these areas we'd love to get you connected! See Tania, text or email! Thank you to all who serve our children in ministry! You are seen and SO appreciated!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

We meet every Wednesday from 6-7:30p, where we share a meal, worship, play games and go through a lesson together. Bring your Bible, a friend and an open heart for Jesus.

## SMALL GROUPS

Guys & girl's Bible study (7th - 12th grade) at 6pm every Sunday for dinner and fellowship. Bring your Bible, appetite & a friend!

- Guys meet at Donald & Sarah Hays' house (6664 Paddock Rd., Eaton)
- Girls meet at Tania Minton's house (320 Lutheran Dr., Eaton).

## BOWLING NIGHT

Make sure you're here to go bowling with us! On Wednesday, January 14th, we are heading to 40 Bowl in Richmond for a night of some friendly competition and bonding. Meet at the church at 6pm, bring some cash and friends, and be ready to have fun! See you then!

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, January 18th, the youth will be hosting a brunch! Plan to stay right after service and we will serve you brunch before you go home! Donations are welcome and appreciated, as our students are working to head to the International Youth Convention (IYC) in Cincinnati this summer. Thank you church, for all your love and support!! Youth - plan to work this fundraiser for your IYC account!

## YOUTH MEALS

There is a new sign-up sheet in the Commons if you would like to donate a meal or money toward dinner for our students before Bible Study on Wednesday nights. Thank you SO much in advance!

## COMMUNITY

### LOVE PACKAGES

Love Packages need donations of Christian materials to send overseas. See container in Commons for list of what they need.

### HIT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

<https://hitfoundation.org/resource-newsletter>. Use this link to access a newsletter listing all the available resources to help individuals in the county.

### FOOD BANK

The food bank is in need of canned vegetables. Please put donations in the container in the commons or go to Walmart.com/sparkgood and search for "The Common Good" and you can see their needs and have items shipped directly to them

## DECEMBER GIVING/ATTENDANCE:

	AM Attn.	Offering	Bldg/Reno Fund	Faith Promise
Dec. Online		\$6,846.00	\$90.00	\$402.00
12/7/25	164	4141.00	63.00	252.00
12/14/25	No service due to weather			
12/21/25	204	9154.00	375.00	630.00
12/28/25	180	6971.00	124.00	563.00

Average Weekly Offering: \$ 6,778.00

Average Weekly Offering Needed 2025: \$7,949