



January 4 through January 10, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it (1 Corinthians 12:27). Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

I've had these two verses in my head for weeks – the challenge was deciding when to share them. The first is warm, comforting, and encouraging – the second, a bit more troublesome. The Body of Christ called Ohio Church is made up of many diverse members, each connected to the other through Christ. You are living witnesses to the grace and strength that comes only through faith and life in Christ. I am convinced you will come out of this transition stronger.

But what of the second verse? Peter calls Satan the Devil – here are other names found in Scripture:

- **The Serpent:** Specifically “the ancient serpent,” identifying him as the Deceiver in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3; Revelation 12:9).
- **The Dragon:** Used in the Book of Revelation to depict his fierce and destructive nature.
- **The Tempter:** Highlighting his role in enticing humans to sin (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thess 3:5).
- **The Evil One:** Often used by Jesus and the apostles (Matthew 13:19; 1 John 5:19).
- **The Father of Lies:** Describing his nature as the originator of deceit (John 8:44).
- **The God or Ruler of this Age (or World):** Reflecting his temporary influence over human systems (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4).
- **Prince of the Power of the Air:** Indicating his spiritual influence (Ephesians 2:2).

Some sobering and terrifying facts about Satan:

- He is stronger than us
- We are weaker than him
- Our natural desire (thanks to the legacy of inherited sin) is to succumb to him
- He wants to destroy us, our families, and the Ohio UP Church

Again, OUPC is the Body of Christ, with Christ as its Head. Do you think Satan is going to stand by and let you reach your God-ordained destiny? *My friends, Satan is scared of Ohio Church*, and will do everything he can stop us! His goal is to have us worry, falter, lose strength, give up, even *blow up*!

With that in mind, let me offer a better way to consider our battle...

- With Christ, we are stronger than Satan
- With Christ, Satan is weakened, powerless, and defeated
- With Christ (a miracle happens!), our desire is to be strong and follow Christ

As we face the New Year, us keep our eyes on Christ, but also let us remember the battle we face. Let us remain steadfast as we face our powerful enemy, the Devil. With Christ, we will be victorious.

My best wishes to you and yours in the New Year, and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim



Worship
• Sunday School for children 3yr.-6th grade is during worship after the children’s chat • Adult Sunday School is at 9am starting again on January 4 with a study on the Holy Spirit • 150 were in church on Christmas Eve • 61 in church on December 28
Congregational Care
• Story Time continues on Wednesdays at 9:30 or 10:30am • Installation and ordination of Elders and Deacons will be on January 11 • Communion is on January 11
Mission
Operations
• Property committee meeting on January 5 at 6:30pm • Finance Committee meeting on January 5 at 6pm

If you are able to help with the snow removal from the sidewalks, please contact Charles Hendrick

The Deacons are requesting donations for our food pantry. Any donations are appreciated but we are running low on health and beauty products – Shampoo, toothpaste, soap and deodorant. Donations can be placed in the bin at the back of the church

We are looking for individuals who are interested in providing special music on the Sundays that the choir doesn’t sing. If interested, sign up on the form outside the choir room.



Church FAMILY —PRAYER LIST—



- Chistina Palmer–Danielle will begin radiation for 6 weeks
- Jen Davis–Joy for music before service on Christmas Eve. Thanks to Chris and Shirley, Skye, Andrew and Sharon
- Dawn Psik–Her sister Susan completed 6 rounds of chemo. Thank you for prayers! Dawn has a routine appointment with an oncologist
- Diane Gennaro–Daughter's boyfriend, Anthony, went to ER with an abscessed tooth. He has an IV and they are running tests
- Lynn Smith–Her mail carrier had surgery for breast cancer. Now they have found a spot on her lung.
- Diane Gennaro–Jack went to oncologist on Tuesday for a routine follow up.



Bob Keller 01/06	Camden Hoth 01/17	Simon Hunsberger 01/21	Jacob Cagnon 01/23
Eric Nan 1/12	Belinda Notte 01/20	Rich Kerlin 01/22	Megan Hunsberger 01/25
Sara Allen 01/16	Kevin Smith 01/21	David Kocher 01/22	