

AKRON OHIO STAKE NEWSLETTER



February 2026



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BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Unit C
Brecksville, OH 44141
440-526-4057

HOURS: Wednesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
A food storage list is available at
www.providentliving.org.



FEBRUARY

1 Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults

MARCH

5 Temple and Family History
Leadership Instruction
5 – 7 RootsTech
7 Family Discovery Day
8 Worldwide Relief Society
Devotional
21 Stake Single Adults: Game Night –
Massillon Building
22 4th Annual Stake Easter Program –
Akron Building
29 Palm Sunday
29 – Apr 5 Holy Week
April 4-5 General Conference

[Click here for Akron Stake Calendar](#)

To submit Stake or Area events to the Newsletter Calendar please contact LeAnn Snyder leann.snyder@outlook.com

[Single Adult Facebook Page Link](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE STAKE

HAPPINESS
President Tony Wen
Stake Presidency First Counselor

Given its supreme effect on us, happiness boasts many powerful features. For one, it moves us. Like it did Abraham who, seeking greater righteousness and happiness, moved away from his problematic homeland. The Prodigal Son, likewise, moved to a far country, only this time it was from a comfortable living. Even one of the groups in the Tree of Life vision who reached the Tree and tasted of the fruit—they also moved. Happiness, or the lack of it, real or perceived, moves us, knowingly and unknowingly, not just physically and emotionally, but spiritually.

That leads to another peculiarity about happiness, it being so powerful a mover. The adversary, who wants the opposite of happiness for us—if he’s cunning, and he is, all that he needs to do to get us wandering down paths of unhappiness and misery is to obscure that one thing called happiness. If the prize is an apple, all he needs to do is to get us to believe that it looks like a kumquat. The most sought-for thing in the world then becomes the most evasive thing. Conveniently, the designer of the mist of darkness needs no elaborate scheme, only to cloud happiness.

The concept of lesser and greater happinesses is like chocolate pie vs. chocolate pie with ice cream, a stroll in a local park vs. a visit to Grand Canyon, developing an enduring career vs. developing eternal beings. It’s like self-care is good but do we feel something more caring for a stranger in need? It’s like the world bestowing praise on us is wonderful, but how might that compare with the Savior speaking peace to us? Of course, good pleasure and good fun are good and needed. And it’s not an either-or choice. But little happinesses that are easy to get, especially those accompanied by a little dose of dopamine—they can condition us to keep getting them easily so that, over time, we feel no need for the greater happinesses. Not that we’re constantly chasing, but I found out that the lesser happinesses have the power to displace and even replace the greater happinesses. No wonder the ancient defined wisdom as choosing a greater happiness over a smaller one.

To illustrate my next point, imagine sometime in the future there are some “emotionally-aware” machines and A.I. agents

that can help us find happiness around us and experience it right away. But wait, those machines are here already. The world must have never been happier, that is, if I speak sarcastically or against data. Their algorithms are actually very good at hunting for and creating the next moment of H. But because the next moment of happiness is after all just a moment, it can only hold so much. It only has room for happinesses that are lesser or even hollow or fraudulent. Forget about the large items like truth, goodness, beauty. On the contrary, Nephi’s model, as found in 2 Nephi 5:27, “we lived after the manner of happiness,” offers so much more capacity and durability. To me, the manner of happiness is like a framework built on the principles of happiness and built for the natural growth of happiness, independent of what the moments bring. It’s living the way I ought and living the rest optionally. The manner of happiness is structural, whereas the moment of happiness is really accidental. Here must be a mindbender to the world: we can live after the manner of happiness and feel unhappy from time to time. Here must also be a heresy to them: happy-unhappy in this sense is not the most important thing in the world. Nephi’s tumultuous life, and many others’, bear that out. Of course, here’s also our vulnerability, if we can be swayed by the world that, because we’re unhappy at the moment, we should move and get happiness somewhere else.

We need to know that unhappiness, like happiness, moves us, only it seems to move us more frantically. Happiness is of course where the unhappy wants to move to, but in haste, he’s likely to find something less; in scrambling, he may only be able to get other or worse unhappinesses. Thus we see a connection between unhappiness and downward spirals. Be wary of the power of unhappiness. When unhappy, look to a resilient place of happiness for support. Those living after the manner of happiness know where those places are. When unhappy, do not look to lower places of unhappiness for relief. This may be a key thing to remember as we accost addiction and develop dependable discipleship.

Excerpts from his November 2025 Stake Conference Talk

EASTER CONCERT – March 22, 2026

Planning is underway, and the Stake is excited for our 4th Annual Easter Concert. The concert will take place at the Akron Building and will feature performers from the Stake. Our Stake Choir will also be performing. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to celebrate the Easter Season with you!



Missionary Moments

M. DAVID PERKINS – UTAH OREM MISSION

With Elder Perkins serving in Utah, his recent areas cover an entire stake or two. Most of the work is teaching in part-member homes and rendering service. Recently a mother posted on FB seeing two missionaries running across the road to help push a vehicle through the intersection. After they were done, the mother along with her daughter invited these elders into a bakery and bought them a treat. She posted “Elder Marsh and Elder Perkins were delightful, and you could feel their sweetness, kindness and their love to God and all those around them.” With so many members of the church in Utah and many of them who have or had missionaries serve missions, they are all so eager to help, support and serve the missionaries there. The members have been a great blessing to Elder Perkins as he serves there in Utah.



If you know of someone serving and want them put in our Missionary Moments, please click the link below. We want to share their stories with everyone!

We want to highlight your missionary!
[Click here to get your missionary in the Stake Newsletter!](#)

Cleveland Temple Updates



[CLICK HERE](#)
TO SEE THE
PROGRESS!



*2026 WILL
BE HERE
BEFORE WE
KNOW IT!*

[COLUMBUS](#)



[PITTSBURGH](#)



UNTIL THEN VISIT

Click on city name to visit temple webpages.

****New Distribution Service location open in Cranberry, PA ****	
2771 Rochester Road Cranberry Township, PA 16066 (878) 236-4038 (Located inside the Cranberry Stake Center at the Southwest Corner. Enter the doors facing the Temple.)	Monday – Closed
	Tuesday – Wednesday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
	Thursday – Friday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
	Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
	Sunday Closed

MINISTERING MOMENTS

Our stake would like to focus on the blessings that come through ministering by sharing uplifting experiences. You are invited to participate by sharing ways that you have been impacted and blessed by ministering.

Both ministering and being ministered to. These submissions will be printed in future Stake newsletters. All submissions will be printed anonymously.

Please focus your thoughts on how your experience has brought you closer to our Savior Jesus Christ and minister as He did.

To submit your experience.

[Click here](#)



Healing Through the Savior

The Addiction Recovery Program



Recovery Meetings
Meet Weekly on Zoom

Sundays at 3:00 pm

[Click HERE for more information](#)

[Click HERE to find additional meetings](#)

Spouse and Family Support Group
Meets Weekly on Zoom

Tuesdays at 8:00 pm

[Click HERE for more information](#)

[Click HERE to find additional meetings](#)



JUST SERVE CORNER

MEDINA – CUPS CAFÉ SERVICE -- Amara and Taryn Miller, of Medina Ward, took the opportunity of



the Christmas holiday to volunteer at Cups Cafe, a gathering place that provides meals for adults and youngsters in need. The following is a message that Amara shared with us.

“When I volunteered at Cups Cafe, I had the opportunity to help serve people who were struggling financially and needed a little extra help. Even though I only completed about two short hours of service, I

could clearly see how meaningful the experience was and how much of an impact it had on so many different people. Through simple actions like serving food and offering kindness, I was able to help make their day a little easier. By doing this service project, I was also given the chance to meet new people, hear their personal stories, and learn more about the challenges they were facing in their lives. This experience helped me better understand the importance of compassion and how even a small amount of time can make a difference.”



- Amara Miller, Medina Ward

CHURCH TO DELIVER 250 LOADS OF FOOD -- To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, the Church is sending 250 truckloads of food donations to food banks around the country. Each truck will carry up to 40,000 pounds of food supplies. These goods are produced by the Church and funded by Church member donations. (see [Church donates 250 truckloads of food for food banks across the U.S. – Church News](#)).



****Still need to try out the Activity Sharing?***



If you haven't already tried it... Please check it out!

Enter an activity on the calendar and it will AUTOMATICALLY show up on your website!

FOR A QUICK OVERVIEW



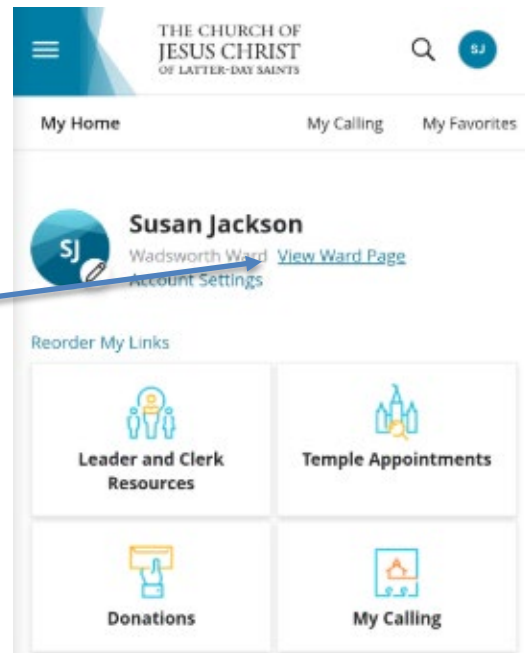
What if I can't find the link to my WARD PAGE?

1. Log in to www.churchofjesuschrist.org

You will find your name and a link to your Ward Page. (It doesn't work on the app....yet)

2. Google it. Seriously, that is one of the suggested options.
3. Have a QR Code made for the link and put it in Ward Bulletins, Sunday Programs, etc.

OR CLICK BELOW



AKRON WARD	MEDINA WARD
ASHLAND WARD	NEW PORTAGE WARD
CANTON WARD	WADSWORTH WARD
MASSILLON WARD	WOOSTER WARD

Click on your ward link to access your ward webpage!

If your calling offers you the option to submit items to the ward/stake calendar and you want to learn more ...



February, 2026

Announced 2026 Churchwide Broadcasts



Here are the announced dates for 2026. Make sure to mark your calendars for these special broadcasts/events:

- **February 1** – Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- **March 5** – Temple and Family History Leadership Instruction
- **March 5 – 7** – RootsTech
- **March 7** – Family Discovery Day
- **March 8** – Worldwide Relief Society Devotional
- **March 10** – Caring For Those in Need: 2025 Annual Report
- **March 29** – Palm Sunday
- **March 29 – April 5** – Holy Week
- **April 4 & 5** – Easter Weekend General Conference
- **May 3** – Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- **May 24** – Video for Children
- **Jun 11 & 12** – Religious Educators Conference Broadcast
- **September 14** – Video for Children
- **October 3 & 4** – General Conference
- **November 1** – Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- **December 6** – First Presidency’s Christmas Devotional
- **December 20** – Sacrament Meeting Only

2026 Stake Dates to Note:

- **March 1** – Stake Choir Rehearsal – Massillon
- **March 8** – Stake Choir Rehearsal - Medina
- **March 15** – Stake Choir Rehearsal - Akron
- **March 21** – Stake Single Adult Game Night
- **March 22** – 4th Annual Easter Program – Akron Chapel
- **March 29** – Fast Sunday
- **May 2 & 3** – Stake Conference
- **May 3** – Single Adult Lunch after Stake Conference
- **June 6** – Picnic/Bonfire/Service for Single Adults at Columbia Woods Park in Norton
- **June 10 – 12** – Young Men Camp
- **June 29 & 30** – Youth Conference
- **July 14 – 18** – Young Women Camp
- **August 15** – Primary Valiant Activity
- **August 16** – Single Adult Fireside in Akron Building with Cleveland Temple President
- **September 26** – Cleveland Temple Trip
- **October 10** – Relief Society Activity
- **October 11** – Fast Sunday
- **November 7 & 8** – Stake Conference
- **November 8** – Single Adult Lunch after Stake Conference
- **December 31** – Single Adult New Year’s Eve Party

