

# AKRON OHIO STAKE NEWSLETTER

May 2026



To submit Stake or Area events to the Newsletter Calendar please contact LeAnn Snyder [leann.snyder@outlook.com](mailto:leann.snyder@outlook.com)

[Single Adult Facebook Page Link](#)



## MAY

- 2-3 Stake Conference
- 3 Single Adult Lunch after Conference
- 3 Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults
- 17 Fast Sunday
- 24 Video for Children

## JUNE

- 6 Single Adult Picnic/Bonfire/Service
- 10-12 Young Men Camp
- 11 & 12 Religious Educators Conference Broadcast
- 14 Akron 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch Ward Conference
- 18 Cleveland Temple Open House Begins -- goes through July 3
- 29 & 30 Youth Conference

## JULY

- 3 Last day of the Cleveland Temple Open House
- 5 Fast Sunday
- 14 - 18 Young Women Camp

[Click here for Akron Stake Calendar](#)

## 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](http://www.providentliving.org)



## MESSAGE FROM THE STAKE

### Where Your Heart Is *Relief Society President Sue Squire*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was baptized in this stake about sixty years ago in a building somewhere in Akron, before the Akron building was built. The missionaries taught our family, and I listened to them. I knew what they were teaching was true, and I clung to that over the years. So remember that little 9-year-old is listening to your teaching and her heart has been touched. My family became inactive almost immediately, so I was not at church much.

We had home teachers over the years, and when I could finally get myself to church, I started attending. I wish that I could apologize to a dear sister who tried to visit at our home in Lodi one time when I was about 19. I remember looking through the window on a winter day where she stood on our porch with her little ones. I did not answer the door because I was embarrassed by our home. She probably would not have minded.

But, within a few months of that I did start attending church and I have not stopped since then. I would like to teach a lesson I have learned from The Sermon on the Mount which contains some of the Savior's most direct and tender teachings about discipleship. It is not just instruction — it is invitation. And there is so much to learn from it.

Of all the verses in that sermon, one has settled deeply in my heart: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." — Matthew 6:21

Just before this, the Savior teaches:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."

This teaching is simple — but it is searching.

The Lord is not merely asking what we possess.

He is asking: *What do you treasure?*

Because wherever our treasure is — that is where our heart will live,

A treasure is not always something obviously worldly. Often, it is something good that has quietly become central.

A treasure is:

- What we think about most.
- What we worry about most.
- What we invest time protecting.
- What we feel we cannot lose.

Sometimes it is security.

Sometimes reputation.

Sometimes control.

Sometimes comfort.

Sometimes even being needed.

As women — and as leaders — it is possible to treasure being capable, dependable, or indispensable. Those are good qualities. But if we are not careful, our hearts can become tethered to them.

The Savior lovingly asks us to examine where our heart is anchored.

I once heard a story about a woman whose home had been damaged in a sudden fire. Thankfully, everyone in the family was safe, but much of what they owned was gone.

In the days that followed, friends and neighbors came to help them sort through what remained. As they sifted through the ashes, someone gently asked her what she missed most.

She paused for a moment and then said something very simple. She said, "Most of the things we lost were just things. What I'm most grateful for is what we didn't lose."

She looked over at her children and her husband and said, "We still have each other. We still have our faith. We still have the gospel." Later she explained that the experience had clarified something for her. She said that

when everything else was stripped away, she realized where her real treasure had been all along.

It had never been the house or the belongings.

Her treasure was her family.

Her covenants.

Her relationship with the Savior.

This verse is not only a warning — it is a promise.

He does not say, “Your heart determines your treasure.”

He says, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” If we choose to treasure heavenly things, our hearts will follow.

If we treasure:

- Covenants,
- The companionship of the Spirit,
- The quiet work of ministering,
- The sacrament,
- The Savior Himself —

Our hearts begin to feel lighter. More secure. Less frantic. Because heavenly treasure does not rust. It does not shift. It cannot be taken from us.

Just a few verses later, the Savior adds:

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God...”

This is not a command to do more.

It is an invitation to center differently.

To seek first does not mean we neglect our responsibilities. It means we decide what sits at the core.

I have watched faithful women in this stake quietly treasure eternal things. They serve without recognition.

They forgive quietly. They show up consistently. They pray when no one sees.

Their lives are not free from difficulty. But there is a steadiness about them. Their hearts are anchored somewhere secure.

There have been times in my life when I have realized my treasure had drifted. Perhaps I was treasuring approval. Or outcomes. Or having things go according to plan. And when those things felt threatened, my heart felt anxious.

That anxiety was often the clue. It revealed what I had been treasuring. Each time, the Savior has gently invited me to re-anchor. To place my treasure back in Him. When I do, the anxiety softens. Not because circumstances change immediately — but because my heart has shifted location.

The Savior is not trying to deprive us of joy. He is teaching us where lasting joy is found.

If we treasure Him:

- We become less shaken by criticism.
- Less discouraged by comparison.
- Less fearful about the future.

Our hearts follow what we choose to value.

So perhaps the quiet question for each of us today is:

*Where is my treasure?*

And if we find it has drifted — we can move it.

That is the beauty of agency. We can choose again.

Perhaps the Savior knew that if our treasure stayed in things that could be lost, our hearts would always feel a little fragile. But if our treasure is placed in Him — in covenants, in faith, in the quiet work of discipleship — then even when life is uncertain, our hearts can remain steady.

The Savior’s invitation is not to have less in life.

It is to place our hearts somewhere that cannot be taken from us.

I am grateful that Jesus Christ teaches us not only *how to live*, but also *what truly matters*.

I have come to know that when we place our treasure in Him — through our covenants, through daily turning to Him, and through simple acts of faith — our hearts begin to change. Things that once felt overwhelming begin to matter a little less, and the things that matter most become clearer.

I know that Jesus Christ is the only treasure that will never fade, never rust, and never be taken from us. As we seek first His kingdom, our hearts will follow, and we will discover a peace that the world cannot give.

Susan Squire



## Around The Stake

### RELIEF SOCIETY SISTERS PLAN GATHERING IN CONJUNCTION WITH U.S. NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Stake is organizing a special day for every woman in the Church. On Saturday, May 30, 2026, the Sisters will gather together to participate in the USNE Area Regional Conference of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The event will take place in New York City, NY, but local sisters who are unable to travel to NYC are encouraged to join with others in our area in the Medina building. The gathered sisters will watch the broadcast together. The sisters are welcome to bring their own lunch or go out to lunch during the conference break.

Registration begins at 9:00 am and runs until 9:29 am. The Broadcast will begin promptly at 9:30 am.

We hope that all sisters will join in this special event and learn about becoming better disciples of Jesus Christ.

**ONWARD, EVER ONWARD**  
USNE Area Regional Conference  
of the Relief Society of  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Saturday, May 30, 2026**  
At the Medina Building  
9:30am - 3:30pm

Registration 9:00-9:29 am  
Broadcast Begins promptly at 9:30

Bring a sack lunch or eat out.  
Water will be provided.

### SINGLE ADULTS TO GATHER FOR LUNCH AFTER STAKE CONFERENCE

All Single Adults are invited to a special luncheon after the Sunday session of Stake Conference. Elder Haynie, one of our visiting General Authorities will also be in attendance at the luncheon. He will lead a discussion and may take questions. Please let Sister Juhasz know if you are planning to attend. Also, if you have a question that you would like to ask, please include it with your email.

**Stake Singles Lunch**

Sunday May 3, 2026  
12 pm  
Copley High School

Join us for a lunch and conversation with Elder Allen D. Haynie!!

Please RSVP to  
Sister Barb Juhasz at  
330-208-6291

May, 2026

## Cleveland Temple Updates

We are excited about the dates for the Cleveland Temple Open House. There is a facebook page you can also follow. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the page.



CLEVELAND OHIO  
**TEMPLE**  
OPENHOUSE

**SAVE THE DATE**  
June 18 through July 3, 2026

Watch for details for volunteer opportunities to serve during the Open House.

### Cleveland Temple Open House and Dedication Dates

Public Open House – **June 18 – July 3, 2026**

Dedication – **Sunday, August 16, 2026 @ 10:00 am**

For more information, please see the following link:  
[Cleveland Ohio Temple Open House and Dedication Dates](#)

We encourage everyone to make sure you also like and share on

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BEbN6MJgA/>

### UNTIL THEN .... VISIT

Click on city name to visit temple webpages.

#### [COLUMBUS](#)



#### [PITTSBURGH](#)



Know of someone you'd like to have join you during the Open House? **Make sure to get one of the 300 pass-along cards available from each Ward available to you!**

There are UNLIMITED digital invitations... make sure to check out the Facebook page (see the left column) for the information.

***SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!***

# JUST SERVE CORNER

## “Go, and do thou likewise.” – Luke 10:37

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United State 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. The Akron Ohio Stake is proud to be one of the stakes selected to receive a food truck to donate to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in July. What a blessing and honor for our Stake to be part of this special celebration!



Brother Stan Oda and a couple of other members of our stake served at the food packing event hosted by the St. Francis Xavier Parish in Medina. There were more than 400 volunteers there. Young and old all served in different ways. Within two shifts in one day, they were able to pack more than 60,000 packs of food to be sent to people in need in many other countries.



### GIVING MACHINE UPDATE....

Last winter, the church placed two Giving Machines at the Beachwood Place Mall. Among the recipient organizations were two of our local charities: Creative Living



Unlimited of Medina, which supports individuals with disabilities, and Lorain County Safe Harbour in Elyria, which strives to provide tools to both survivors and loved ones affected by domestic violence. Last month, Sister Susan Jackson, who was in charge of the Giving Machine in our area, along with leaders of the Akron and Cleveland Stakes, presented checks from the Giving Machine to these two awesome organizations. Some of the Creative Living Unlimited employees also joined in presenting the checks. Checks were also presented to Joseph House –



Refugee Center and Shepherd's House – Homeless Shelter.

**The machines raised just over \$63,000.** A Huge thank you for the generous support of our members and the greater Cleveland area.



May, 2026

## Missionary Moments

Hello Akron Stake!

We are so excited for the great momentum in missionary work going on in the Akron stake as well as throughout the entire Ohio Columbus Mission. We are currently 229 missionaries strong, including young proselyting missionaries, young service missionaries, senior missionaries, and of course all of you! This is the work of the Lord and we have seen so many miracles as the hastening of the work rolls on!

One area of emphasis that we believe could provide each member of the stake additional powerful opportunities to share the gospel is to create a groundswell of members being more willing and open to inviting people on a regular bases to attend our worship services on Sunday, including Sacrament meeting.

“Visitors Welcome” is the inscription on our buildings. We would love to have each member feel this on their heart, along with a great desire to show that visitors truly are welcome to Jesus Christ’s church by inviting their friends, family members, neighbors, and even strangers to come and participate. Experience shows that people are not offended when we invite them to church — many in fact are flattered that we care enough to do so, whether they accept the invitation or not. Remember this — we succeed when we invite!

In your stake, we are working with President Coburn to create a type of pass-a-long card for each unit in the stake. The pass along card will have the name, time and location of your ward or branch as well as a QR code that will link directly to your ward’s website on [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org) including a calendar of upcoming events, more background information about the Church and our beliefs, and even provide a map to help them navigate to church on their device. Our hope is that we can become the most welcoming church goers in the world.

Why are we so focused on increasing the invitations to come to Sunday worship services not only from missionaries, but from members? When someone comes to church that is invited by a member, 20% of those friends will eventually get baptized! This is even higher than when missionaries invite people to church (8.5% of new friends get baptized that the missionaries meet who come to church that first week).

Why the miraculous success among member invitations to church? There may be many reasons, but certainly one of the greatest factors is that new friends that come to church gain an instant friend in the congregation. People are not only looking for a church with correct doctrine, but are looking for a welcoming church community and want to feel loved, included and cared for. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and certainly in the Akron stake, we have the saints that can do all of these things for our new friends.

We invite you and your family to prayerfully consider how you can be more open to inviting more people to church that you come across from day to day. As we do so, the work of the gathering of Israel will expand in ways we have not yet seen. As Joseph Smith said, "After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel.”

Sincerely,  
President and Sister Brockbank  
Ohio Columbus Mission

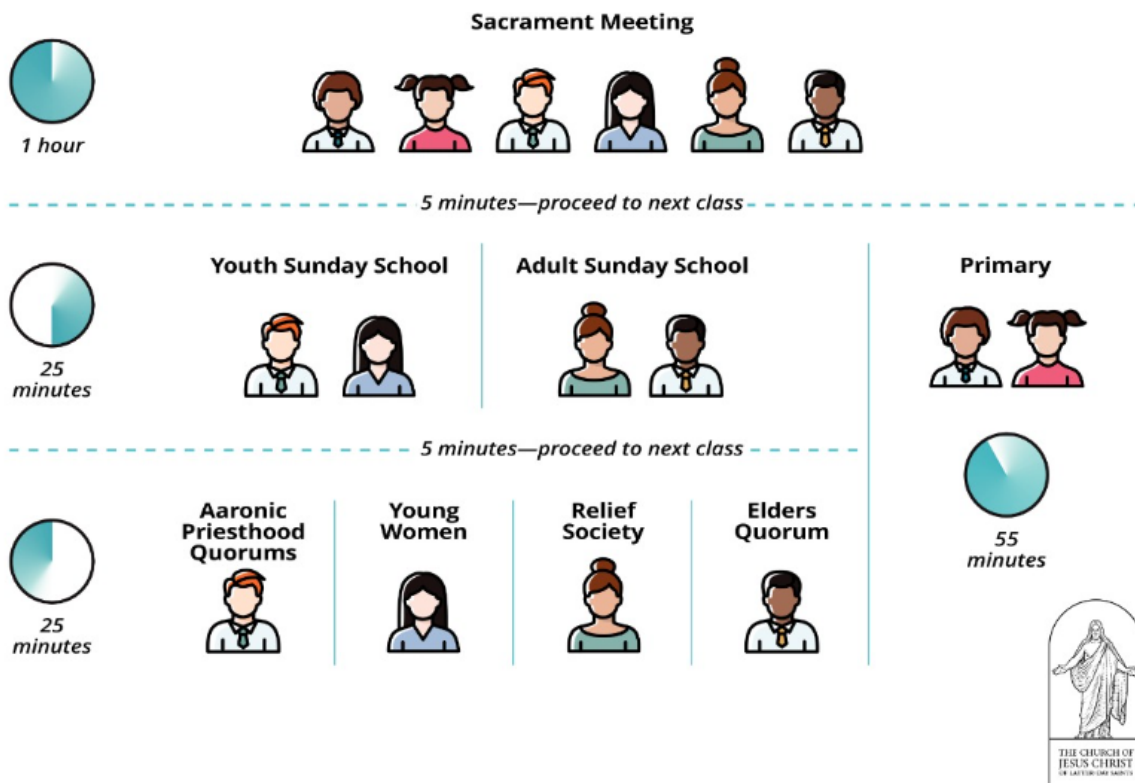
## Beginning September 6, 2026...

“In advance of the upcoming general conference leadership session (April 2, 2026), The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced upcoming adjustments to the Sunday class meeting schedule to support members in their efforts to be lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. The adjustments will strengthen gospel learning in homes and congregations throughout the world. [See the official letter from the First Presidency.](#)

"In January 2019, the Church implemented a two-hour Sunday schedule to provide individuals and families with increased opportunities for home-centered gospel study. Members across the world have embraced these changes with faith and enthusiasm. Additional adjustments will be introduced to further enhance learning, fellowship, and worship."

Please see the following link for more details: [Changes to the Sunday Meeting Schedule](#)

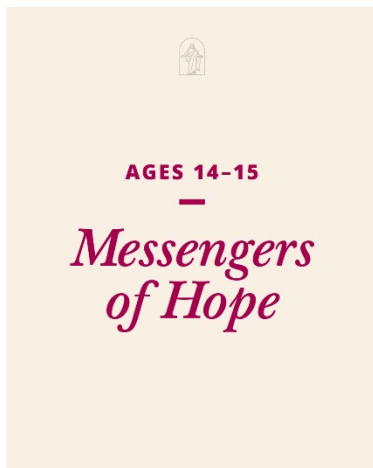
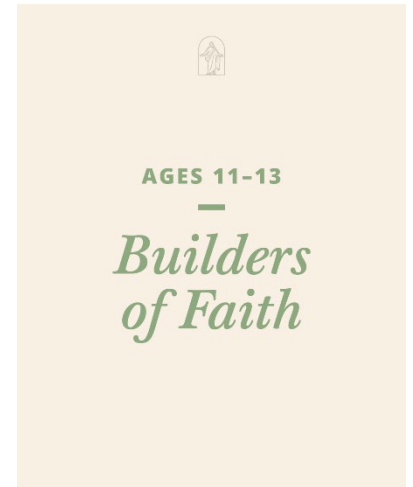
### CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE





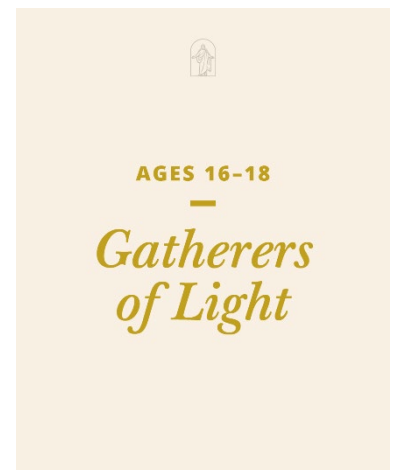
The First Presidency announced changes to the age-group names for young women. The purpose of the new names is to “help young women understand their divine place in God’s work, to represent their spiritual dignity as His beloved daughters, and to highlight their progression.”

**Builders of Faith** (young women turning 12 or 13)  
A Builder of Faith helps build God’s kingdom through her faith in Christ, steadfast witness, and actions that uplift and encourage others (see [Ephesians 2:20](#)).



**Messengers of Hope** (young women turning 14 or 15)  
A Messenger of Hope carries Christ’s message of hope to the weary, speaking peace, sharing comfort, and lifting hearts through the power of the Spirit (see [Mosiah 18:8–9](#)).

**Gatherers of Light** (young women turning 16 or older)  
A Gatherer of Light trusts divine guidance and draws strength from covenants as she seeks, gathers, and reflects God’s light (see [Doctrine and Covenants 50:24](#)).





# 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](#)



## Announced 2026 Churchwide Broadcasts



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

- **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:

- **May 2 & 3** – Stake Conference
- **May 3** – Single Adult Lunch after Stake Conference
- **May 17** – Fast Sunday
- **June 6** – Picnic/Bonfire/Service for Single Adults at Columbia Woods Park in Norton
- **June 10 – 12** – Young Men Camp
- **June 14** – Akron 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch Conference
- **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 13** – Stake General Priesthood Meeting (6:30 pm)
- **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