



Volume 96 No. 7

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

August 12, 2026

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From the Plow to the Pulpit!



Pastor John W. Williams and a Lifetime of Answering God's Call

Sacred Ground

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

We are the only racial group within the United States ever forbidden by law to read and write.

- Alice Childress



HBCU campuses are not buildings. They are monuments of defiance on consecrated ground. The price paid for them was not tuition but the blood and sacrifice of a people who were beaten and sometimes killed for daring to learn.

The sons and daughters of formerly enslaved people sold chickens and eggs and cobbled together their nickels, dimes, and quarters to build the schools before they had proper roofs, books, desks, or enough food to eat. White mobs burned those schools because they knew that Black education threatened the entire architecture of white supremacy.

Central State University has stood on that sacred ground for 139 years. On September 26 and 27, its president is coming to Toledo to ask this community to help it keep standing.

What Central State Is

Founded in 1887, Central State University is Ohio's only public HBCU and its only public 1890 Land-Grant Institution — two hours from Toledo. For nearly 140 years, it has done what the broader higher education system has often refused to do: open its doors to Black students, prepare them for leadership, and send them back into the world equipped to serve. That legacy lives in the professionals who walked through those doors when other doors were closed.

Morakinyo A.O. Kuti, PhD, Central State's 10th president, will speak to Toledo's community on Sunday, September 27 at Third Baptist Church. He is arriving under financial pressure and a community's determination to keep sacred ground sacred.

The Honest Story

Let's keep it real about what CSU Day also is. Central State was placed under fiscal watch by the Ohio Department of Higher Education in 2024. Like most HBCUs, CSU was never given the philanthropic cushion or political protection that predominantly white institutions received.

A national higher education expert put the challenge plainly: "Central State faces a triple burden — a regional public institution in a state where most of its natural student market has historically traveled to southern states to matriculate, competing in a national HBCU market while there are simply fewer Black young people to recruit than a generation ago." The state told Central State plainly: your Ohio enrollment numbers are not high enough. Toledo is part of the answer.

Within the past 30 days, the Ohio legislature allocated \$25 million to Cen-

tral State as part of its financial recovery — confirmed by State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson and State Representative Elgin Rogers. That a conservative legislature recognized its obligation to Ohio's only public HBCU is significant. But money without students is an institution without a future. Toledo has a role to play in making that investment count.



Morakinyo A. O. Kuti, PhD

What Is Under Attack

The pressure on Central State is not only financial. DEI programs are being dismantled across the country. Ohio's Senate Bill 1 bans diversity efforts, regulates classroom discussion and directly puts diversity scholarships at Central State at risk. The Department of Education is under threat of elimination. History is being erased from school curricula — the same history that explains why HBCUs exist and why they matter. And the school-to-prison pipeline keeps routing Black youth away from campuses and into cells. Black students are suspended and expelled at rates far exceeding their white peers, more likely to encounter law enforcement in their schools than counselors, and less likely to complete a four-year degree — not because of ability, but because the systems meant to support them have been systematically underfunded and undermined.

The same forces that burned Black schools in 1865 are defunding them in 2026. The names have changed. The intention has not.

Why Central State, Why Now

At the University of Toledo or Bowling Green, a Black student is often just a number that gets lost in the shuffle. Central State offers faculty who look like you, who share your lived experiences, and who know how to look out for you in ways other institutions cannot — and increasingly will not.

The expert was direct: If students don't enroll, institutions close. The programs cut first are the ones serving people who look like us. There is a historical preservation component here. And the literature is clear — when students have faculty and staff who share their lived experiences, they are more likely to graduate.

Central State is two hours away. You don't have to go to Howard or Spelman or Florida A&M to get an HBCU education. Ohio has one. It needs Toledo. And Toledo needs it.

Come

CSU Day is September 26 and 27 at Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood, Toledo. On Saturday, students and families receive on-the-spot admissions guidance, scholarship and financial aid information, and direct conversations with Central State representatives. The presidential address is Sunday afternoon, September 27.

Our ancestors sold chickens and scraped together their nickels, dimes, and quarters to build these schools. The least we can do is show up on a Saturday morning in September — and bring somebody with us.

As Robert Smith put it: "There is no greater investment our community can make than embracing the future of our young people through education."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

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What's Going On? See Below!

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

Well, for those who are both addicted and repulsed by the constant blaring of "news" from the national media outlets, one certain thing is that, "there is a whole lot going on" and a lot of it is alarming and confusing.

One glaring example is the double mindedness of Dear Leader who, in one, will say that he will decapitate Iran the next day and then, days pass and nothing happens. Of course, this is good thing for the Iranians since who wants to bombed back into the Stone Age as Trump has repeatedly threatened?



Or take our confused Secretary of Health and Human Services, RFK, Jr., who, not being a medical doctor, acts like one on television spouting gibberish of which he is totally clueless and is disconcerting to worried parents about the real status of vaccinations...just before the new school year starts.

Take also for example, the duplicitous acts of Jeanine Pirro who in her legal position poured cold water on Trump's continuing proclamations that the damage to the Reflecting Pool was obviously caused by vandals!

Now, Pirro has been called into the White House for a sit down spanking because she refused to sign off on a spurious legal case against a now innocent person who did not commit any damage to the pool.

That change of course by Pirro sent Trump's blood pressure past 180/20 because now he has no credible backup for his outright lying about what caused the damage to the pool. We now know that it was shoddy workmanship done by one of his no bid contract buddies!

And who cannot champion the recent court of appeals decision that said that Trump's tearing down of the famed East Wing was without proper authorization. But yet, Trump doing his best imitation of a spoiled second grader said the ballroom was needed for national security!

Since when is dining on lobster tails and dancing a Mozart Waltz remotely tied into national security? The gaslighting that this corrupt administra-

tion serves up to the American public is enough for you to hum the famous Marvin Gaye tune, "What's Going On!"

Tariffs anyone? Now that billions of dollars in illegally gotten tariff money has been quietly refunded to the affected corporations, will you see a dime of that money in a form of a check to you or a price reduction at the cash register?

You will see it when pigs fly!

As Stevie Wonder could see, Trump is desperate to get out of this Iran imbroglio that he caused when he allowed Bibi Netanyahu to butter him up and thus lead him by a nose hook to take on Iran.

Now, with the midterms breathing down his neck, Trump is seeking any favorable press that shows him a winner in this self-created mess. Won't happen. Too many have seen how irrational Trump is and the clowns that surround him are too feckless to say that he is over his head. Imagine if Trump, ever jealous of Barack Obama's intellect, style, class and maturity, were to have left in place the working and successful JCPOA that Obama had with Iran. No war, no tariffs, no worldwide misery and the Straits of Hormuz operating as normal.

What will be a sea change shift in money and power will be if the Democrats can get their fractious act together and win just the House, since the House controls the power of the purse and subpoena powers to ferret out the corruption of Trump and family and put checks and balances on the sordid likes of Blanche, Steven Miller and ICE agents running amok.

Now, none of the above will be achievable until and unless complacent people get off the couch and register to vote. Make sure that you are still on the voters rolls and you know the precinct at which you vote.

Smoke signals coming from the voter suppressing White House indicates that Trump plans a full frontal assault on voting rights and his plan is to suppress the vote so that he is not answerable to a Democratic controlled House.

With a Democratically-controlled House, the Epstein Files will be front and center for full release and if so, be ready for some "shockers" to see who is in those files and what they did and did what to whom.

I believe that a full release of those highly incriminating files will have grand juries being overwhelmed with potential prosecutions/indictments including Dear Leader and some of his fat-cat millionaire friends.

So, buckle up buttercup...! The roller coaster is leaving the station.

Contact Lafe Tolliver @ lafe5x@gmail.com

Community Calendar

August 15

Toledo Black Men's Wellness Day: Scott High School; 7 am to noon; Organized by the African American Male Wellness Agency (AAMWA), this free community event is part of a national initiative to promote health equity, prevention, and wellness for Black men and their families

Movie Day at The BIBLE WAY Toledo: 2 pm; Kent Branch Library; A free movie, discussion of important topics such as spiritual health, mental health;

August 16

Toledo NAACP Youth Council meeting: 3:00pm @ Sanger Branch Library

August 18

Toledo NAACP August meeting: 5:00 PM
Location: 3450 W. Central Ave., Suite 374

August 22

Sisters 4 Unity Fourth Annual Communities Against Gun Violence March & Unity Day; Smith Park; March begins at 10 am; Bringing together survivors, families, residents, elected officials, community organizations, resource agencies and other partners for a day of remembrance, healing, connection, resources and community unity

Indiana Avenue MBC: Senior Day: 11 am to 2 pm; A panel discussion "What I wish I knew Before I Got Older" and back by popular demand "Church Family Feud".

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Democrats Need to Talk More About the Economic Crisis Facing Black Men and Boys

By Kevin Harris

Guest Column

Democrats aspire to be the party of working people. But if they want that message to resonate with one of their most loyal constituencies, they need to speak more directly—and more consistently—about the specific economic challenges confronting Black men and boys.



A new report from the Virginia State University John Mercer Langston Institute for African American Political Leadership provides a sobering reminder of why. The Economic State of Black Men and Boys in the United States, authored by Dr. Wes Bellamy, establishes what its authors intend to be an annual national benchmark measuring education, employment, earnings, wealth, and economic mobility. Its findings are difficult to ignore. Black men's enrollment at historically Black colleges and universities has fallen to just 26 percent. Black men continue to experience some of the nation's highest unemployment among major racial and ethnic groups.

And Black men earn roughly 77 cents for every dollar earned by White men.

Yet Black men rarely receive sustained attention in national political messaging from either political party, most notably Democrats.

Democrats often frame economic inequality through broad discussions of the working class. And too often Democrats operate as though Black voters are not equally apart of the working class as white voters in the South and Midwest.

The party does not always recognize broad language can sometimes obscure the unique barriers facing Black men and boys. A Black man hearing about “economic opportunity for everyone” may not hear an acknowledgment of the distinct obstacles documented in reports like this one.

That doesn't mean Democrats should abandon a universal economic agenda. It means Democrats must recognize targeted problems deserve targeted attention.

Imagine Democrats talking as frequently about increasing Black male college completion as they do about student debt. Imagine campaign platforms specifically highlighting the need to reduce persistently higher unemployment among Black men, expand apprenticeships and workforce training, strengthen pathways into high-paying skilled trades, and support entrepreneurship in underserved communities. Imagine party leaders regularly discussing why young Black men are disappearing from college campuses and filling up prisons and what policies could reverse that trend.

There is also a political reality Democrats cannot afford to ignore as well. Black women remain the party's most reliable voting bloc, consistently turning out at higher rates than Black men and supporting Democratic candidates by overwhelming margins. Women overall have voted at higher rates than men in every presidential election since 1980, and that pattern extends to Black voters. In the 2024 election, exit polling found that Black women continued to support the Democratic ticket at higher rates than Black men, while at the same time Republicans made measurable gains among Black men. Democrats cannot win elections with erosion among Black men. The party is strongest by boosting Black male turnout to match Black women.

Democrats shouldn't abandon Black men or assume their concerns mirror those of every other Democratic constituency. If economic data show Black men lagging in college enrollment, employment, wages, and wealth accumulation, Democrats should address those challenges directly—not because of electoral strategy alone, but because they represent real barriers to opportunity. Speaking candidly about these issues, offering measurable solutions, and treating Black men's economic mobility as a national priority would strengthen both public policy and the party's ability to win elections.

Black men remain a cornerstone of the Democratic coalition, but their support cannot be taken for granted. Many Black men have expressed frustration that conversations about race often overlook their economic concerns. Addressing those concerns directly is not about dividing white and Black constituencies or creating competition among coalitions that Democrats equally need to win. It is about recognizing that effective policymaking begins by honestly identifying who faces which challenges and that winning elections requires coalition building.

The report itself offers evidence-based recommendations to improve educational opportunity, workforce participation, and long-term economic success for Black men. That kind of research should become a more prominent focus of the national policy conversation as well as Democratic messaging.

Stated more bluntly: Democrats should work as hard for Black male votes as they do to win “working class white” voters in the South and Midwest.

Kevin Harris is a Democratic strategist who has advised over 100 campaigns and ballot measures, including the past five presidential elections, served in the Obama Administration, as a cabinet member for two big city mayors and Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus.

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From the Plow to the Pulpit: John W. Williams and a Lifetime of Answering God's Call

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

At 82 years old, **John W. Williams, DMin**, has no plans to stop. Not while there is still work to do.

Not while there are people who need a word of encouragement, young people who need guidance, families who need prayer, and generations still waiting to hear what God can do with a life surrendered to His purpose.

A Calling, Not an Accomplishment

For 47 years, Williams has stood behind the same pulpit at **Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church**. Along the way, God entrusted him with two more congregations, **New Zion Baptist Church** in Buffalo and **Memorial Baptist Church**, about 10 minutes away from New Zion.

He doesn't describe the journey as an accomplishment.

He describes it as an assignment.

"It's an opportunity to share the Word of God with the people of God," Williams testifies. "For these 47 and a half years, the Lord has allowed me to stand in one pulpit. I'm grateful for that."

That gratitude runs through everything he does.

Williams grew up on a farm in Holland Grove, Arkansas, a community that had a population of about 761 when he was growing up. His mother came from a family of 14 children, seven sisters and seven brothers.

Work was not something his family discussed as a virtue.

They lived it.

His mother rose at 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast. By 6, when there was enough daylight to see the cotton, the children were in the fields.

"Hard work is good for the spirit," Williams says.

His father was a preacher, and Sundays belonged to church. Sunday school. Morning worship. Home for a meal. Back to church by 5 p.m.

And there was a rule at the family table: nobody ate until everyone was there and the blessing had been prayed.

Those lessons followed Williams into adulthood.

From the Classroom to the Pulpit

Williams became a schoolteacher in Indianapolis before God moved him "out of the classroom into the pulpit."

The transition was not a departure from teaching. In many ways, it was an expansion of it.

John Williams, DMin, understands preaching as teaching, leadership as service and ministry as something that requires knowing why you were called.

"I didn't want to major in my mind and have a minor in my major," he reflects. "I knew that God had called me to preach."

That clarity has carried him through nearly five decades.

His guiding Scripture has been John 9:4: "**I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**"

He has taken those words seriously.

Williams has served his congregations across hundreds of miles. New Zion is more than 300 miles from Eastern Star, yet the distance never became an excuse. His churches gather together three or four times a year, building fellowship across geographic lines.

Recently, 14 couples renewed their marriage vows during one of those gatherings.

For Williams, ministry is not simply standing behind a pulpit on Sunday morning. It is cultivating relationships until strangers become family and church members become generations.

"You only pastor with permission," he explains. "People have to give you permission to be their leader, be their pastor, be the watchman of their soul."

There is humility in that statement.

He does not claim ownership of the people God gave him. He considers himself a steward.

When the Assignment Gets Hard

His own life has required stewardship.

Williams has survived two strokes. He spent more than 30 days in the hospital and more than a year in rehabilitation. He returned with 98 percent of his ability to function.

Then he kept preaching.

He still travels regularly, sometimes flying every other week. He has spent 35 years serving in Buffalo, New York, and says that in all those years, he has only had to miss one trip because of weather.

"The Lord has blessed me with an automobile, trains that run daily, airplanes that fly to destinations and what have you," he notes. "So if you

...continued on page 12



Pastor John W. Williams, DMin

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We've Prayed. Now What?

By Carla Thomas

Truth Contributor

We are living in perilous times. I honestly can't remember a time on this earth when we weren't; however, every time something bad happens, the same declaration for more prayer is made.

Another shooting. Pray. Another family struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Pray. Another child lost to violence. Pray.

Prayer is beautiful and necessary. It gives us strength and hope. It centers us when the world feels like it is falling apart. It's understood why people turn to prayer when they are scared, hurting, angry or simply don't know what else to do.

But what I'm trying to understand is this: When there is a call for more prayer after a tragedy, what are we expecting prayer to do? Are we praying for comfort and peace to help us through what has happened, or are we praying for something to actually change? And if we are praying for change, what are we expecting that change to look like, and how do we expect it to happen?

Black people have been praying for a long time, and yet the world around us seems to be getting progressively worse. Here we are in 2026, and Black people are still being lynched, as in, found hanging from trees. Black people across this country are still being harassed and killed by police. We still have the police called on us for simply existing in spaces where someone decides we don't belong. And now, we are watching pieces of our history being erased.



Carla Thomas

At the same time, our own communities continue to struggle with violence, poverty, a lack of resources and opportunities, and the effects of generations of neglect.

We've prayed through slavery, Jim Crow, poverty, discrimination, violence and loss.

We, as a people, stay praying.

It's so easy to say, "I'm praying for you" or "We need to pray more." But prayer isn't supposed to be the end of our responsibility. It should be preparation for the action that comes after.

God works through us, as us. That is my belief. We are His hands, feet, eyes, ears and mouth in this world.

When we say, "Pray for our city," are we also going to show up at city council meetings? Are we willing to hold our city leaders accountable?

When we are praying for God to feed the hungry, are we willing to buy the food?

When we pray for God to comfort the hurting, are we willing to sit beside them?

When we pray for justice, are we willing to speak up when something is wrong?

We keep praying, "God, fix this," when maybe our prayer should be, "God, what can I do to fix this?"

If it's important enough that we need to ask for prayer, then it's definitely important enough for us to take action. Prayer without a corresponding action is an excuse to do nothing.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. understood that prayer and action had to go together. In his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, King made it clear that we can't just sit around waiting for things to get better. He was a minister. He was a man of faith. But he also understood that change requires people willing to do the work. He called those people "coworkers with God."

King prayed, but then he marched. He preached, but then he organized. His belief in God did not excuse him from confronting injustice. It compelled him to confront it.

And he wasn't just calling out individuals. He was calling out the church, too.

Are our churches just talking and praying about what people are going through, or are they actually showing up and doing something about it?

That question isn't just for churches, but nonprofits, community organizations, government, elected officials, and every one of us.

It is easy to say, "we need to pray for our community." It is harder to walk into that community, listen to the people who live there and commit ourselves to doing something about what they are facing.

Prayer is supposed to give us the strength and courage to do the work, especially when the work is hard. But prayer can't take the place of our responsibility to do something.

When we say, "I'm praying for you" or "We need to pray," maybe we should start adding, "Now what can I do?"

Prayer and action are not an "either/or." They work together.

Jesus didn't just pray. He acted. He fed, healed and served the people. And His ultimate act was laying down His life.

So pray without ceasing, but after you pray, listen. The answer to prayer is never going to be a miracle falling from the sky. Ever. It's going to be an assignment.

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Local Officials Call for Renewed Federal Investment in Clean Vehicles

The Truth Staff

The federal electric vehicle (EV) tax credits (part of the Biden administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act) – which offered up to \$7,500 for new EVs and \$4,000 for used EVs expired for all purchases and deliveries completed after September 30, 2025. They are no longer available for current vehicle purchases.

With gas prices averaging almost \$4.00 a gallon, local county and city Officials joined clean transportation advocates in calling for greater federal investment in clean vehicles to promote the freedom to drive.

Last Tuesday, August 4, the officials and advocates gathered at One Government Center to spotlight how clean cars, electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrids can strengthen Ohio's economy, national security and energy independence. The event was part of the national Freedom to Drive summer event series focused on clean transportation and how it can deliver cost savings, jobs and cleaner air to communities across the country. The speakers emphasized the need for federal officials to support funding for future investments and highlighted how continued federal investments in clean transportation can reduce consumer costs, boost security and improve the public health.

Toledo area residents are eager for relief from this unnecessary financial burden, the speakers also pointed out. More fuel efficient cars coupled with hybrid and electric vehicles represent a strategic leap towards a more affordable transportation while bolstering American energy independence and resilience.

Speakers highlighted how Lucas County residents need federal elected officials to stand up for freedom to drive by supporting the country's clean transportation system and the industries that support it, including how such a system is beneficial for Ohio residents.

"Clean cars, hybrids and electric vehicles (EVs) save consumers money, lower transportation costs and are crucial to Ohio's economic development," said Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki. "The Trump war continues to escalate and that is hurting our Lucas County residents."

"We must continue to move Toledo toward clean transportation and advanced energy infrastructures," said Toledo City Councilmember Nick Komives. "As it is crucial to minimizing pollution and protecting residents from asthma and



Benjamin Pushka, Councilman Nick Komives, LC Commissioner Lisa Sobecki

respiratory risks," Komives said that manufacturing electric vehicles results in "good paying jobs for skilled workers right here in Toledo."

"Sustainability and EVs go hand and hand," said Benjamin Pushka, sustainability coordinator for Board of Lucas County Commissioners. "By supporting clean transportation we are also giving resources that help Lucas communities thrive. That's why we need our federal elected officials to support greater investments in clean transportation to ensure a more affordable future."

The City of Toledo has been converting to electric for its fleet of vehicles over the last several years. So far this year the city has purchased 15 electric vehicles for that fleet, said Komives.

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Breaking the Glass Networking Event

The Truth Staff

The second Breaking the Glass Networking Event of 2026 was held on Wednesday evening, August 5, at TolHouse as several dozen minority business owners were given the opportunity to network, to introduce themselves to other business owners they might not have previous known and to celebrate the accomplishments of some notable individuals.

The event, hosted by contractor Blair Johnson, was first held in 2018 but had lapsed during the pandemic. The revival of the event proved to be exciting, and informative, for the attendees.

Johnson opened the evening by handing out sheets filled with questions in the form of bingo cards. Those in attendance were encouraged to speak with others in the room and gain the answers to questions on the bingo sheet such as: find someone who started a business; find someone in a different industry than you; find someone who works with youth; find someone who works in media or marketing.

As Johnson described the evening, "it is an opportunity to connect my peers to my peers."

Then came the introduction of the evening's honorees in a ceremony facilitated by La'Shardae Scott, EdD, who was the recipient of June's Breaking the Barrier Award. This month's honorees were: Somica Alex-



Blair Johnson, Ebony Carter, Le'Quan McKitric, Angela Hansard, Somica Alexander, La'Shardae Scott, EdD



Ebony Carter



Somica Alexander and Angela Hansard



La'Shardae Scott, EdD

ander, Ebony Carter, Angela Hansard and LeQuan McKitric.

Alexander is a financial consultant and legacy planner and the founder of Smart Minds Smart Moves, LLC. She provides financial fundamentals workshops, debt management, repairing credit, asset protection and legacy planning services.

Carter has just recently resigned her position as the vice president for the Minority Business Assistance Center where her efforts to support the growth and sustainability of small, minority and disadvantaged businesses has been hailed.

Hansard is the owner of Lavish Me Spa offering an array of services geared toward wellness and aesthetics – IV vitamin therapy, vitamin IM shots, medical weight loss, advanced skincare, body waxing, body contouring, post-op care and more.

McKitric is a licensed HRC/HVAC contractor, an entrepreneur whose strategic vision is turning challenges into opportunities.

Toni Battle Gaines, one of the co-founders of the Black Wall Street Community Development (The Juice 97.3; The Truth; Pursuit magazine, KpK Unlimited), a group that also works with Black business owners, also spoke, emphasizing the need for collaboration and cooperation between minority businesses and groups.

The evening ended with a raffle and more informal networking.

The Breaking the Glass events will continue on a periodic basis. For information contact 567-218-1498 or BreakingTheGlass@gmail.com.



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ELEMENTARY

Toledo Public Schools strives to provide elementary school students with a strong educational foundation that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

- Students go to state-of-the-art schools that are in their neighborhood
- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students have access to the latest technology
- TPS offers a variety of classes including music, art and gym
- TPS provides free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school



Thursday, August 20 - Elementary School Open Houses - 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 13, and Friday, August 14
Staff Professional Development; no students

Monday, August 24 - First Day of School for students in 1st through 8th grades

Monday, August 24, through Tuesday, September 1
Preschool and Kindergarten students will have staggered starts (families will be notified about what day their students will start)

Tuesday, September 1
The first day for ALL Preschool and Kindergarten students

HIGH SCHOOL

Toledo Public Schools strives to ensure high school students are college and career ready when they graduate. Students have access to an array of college prep classes and career tech focused-programs to prepare them for the future.

- Our highly trained, caring teachers support their students and guide them toward academic success
- Students attend state-of-the-art schools and have access to the latest technology and online classes
- TPS offers free transportation to students who live more than one mile from their home school
- With more than 30 career technology programs, students can begin preparing for a career path
- TPS offers music, art and gym classes, along with numerous extra-curricular activities and sports

First Day of School - If your student attends one of our magnet high schools, please check with the school to confirm the first day of classes as they sometimes follow a different schedule

Monday, August 24 - First Day of School for freshmen

Tuesday, August 25 - First Day of School for sophomores

Wednesday, August 26 - First Day of School for juniors and seniors

High School Open Houses - Will be held during the first two weeks of school. Each school will announce the details of their event.



Lourdes University Files for Chapter 11 Protection to Support Orderly Wind Down

Special to The Truth

Filing will provide a structured process for resolving the University's remaining obligations and distributing available assets

Lourdes University this week filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. The filing is intended to support an orderly wind down of the University's operations, the settlement of its remaining affairs and the disposition of its assets.

The Lourdes University Board of Trustees voted unanimously, to authorize the filing after consultation with University administrators, financial and legal advisors and other professionals.

"This was a difficult but necessary decision," said Jonnie Hodges, chair of the Lourdes University Board of Trustees. "The Board has worked carefully and deliberately to evaluate the University's financial position and the alternatives available to us. We determined that Chapter 11 provides the most responsible and equitable process for Lourdes University, its creditors and other interested parties."

The Chapter 11 process will allow Lourdes University to submit a Plan of Liquidation to the Bankruptcy Court for approval. The plan is expected to be funded through the sale of available assets, with proceeds distributed according to the priorities established by the Bankruptcy Code.

The filing is not expected to affect the employment of the remaining staff members who are assisting with the wind down of University operations. Lourdes University also remains accredited by the Higher Learning

Commission, and its degree-granting authority will remain in place at least through Summer 2026.

The University's previously approved teach out activities and efforts to help former students continue and complete their academic programs will also continue.

"Our priority remains completing this process with integrity, transparency and respect for the students, employees, alumni, creditors and community members who have been part of Lourdes University," said Sister Nancy Linenkugel, OSF, DM, president of Lourdes University. "We are deeply grateful to the employees who have remained with the University during this transition and to everyone who has supported Lourdes throughout its history."

The bankruptcy process is designed to ensure that similarly situated creditors are treated fairly and that no creditor receives preferential treatment outside the priorities established under federal law.

The University's real estate disposition process will also continue through SVN Ascension Realty Toledo, the national real estate brokerage firm retained by the Board of Trustees.

The Lourdes University campus is owned and maintained by the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio. Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions are available at Lourdes.edu/closure.

Eastern Star Missionary Church... continued from page 16

Pastor Williams has been the senior pastor of Eastern Star since 1979 (for 47 years). Under his leadership, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, souls have been won to Christ, broken homes have been mended, hope restored and the spirit of brotherly love prevails and is pervasive among the membership and in the community.

Anniversary chairperson Ret Lane, who has been a member since 1989, revealed why she has been a dedicated member of the church for so long. "I look forward to a church where there is sound doctrine and sound teaching. We don't believe in gimmicks and tricks... We believe in what the Bible says. We have a pastor who just teaches what the Bible says," she said.

"His main thing is teaching on family, and to me, that's what we need to hear more of. If we can get the family in order all of this mess that we have going on outside probably wouldn't exist - and that's what he believes. He's more traditional," she continued.

"Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church is a family-oriented environment. We are heavy on fellowship. The pastor encourages that more than anything. We think that the more you fellowship together, the closer that you actually become. So we've been able to form a very close, tight knit bond... It's a good place if you're looking for a place to worship. We are down to earth. None of us here are perfect," she concluded.

Friday night the celebration started with a worship service with a message from Dr. Williams and followed with dinner in The C.T. Rucker Fellowship Hall. Saturday, a Free Community Picnic included food, children's games, prizes, vendors, entertainment and fellowship for all ages.

Sunday morning the message was given by guest preacher Rev. Caleb Bell, Pastor of New Cedar Grove Church (Buffalo, NY) and the weekend concluded with a special marriage vow renewal ceremony where 14 couples, with marriages ranging from six months to 55 years, renewed their wedding vows in the sanctuary. The couples received marriage certificates and concluded with a reception in the fellowship hall.

The Anniversary Committee included John W. Williams (pastor), Sis. Ret Lane (chair), Bro. Darnell Smith (co-chair) and Sis. Evelyn Ruffin (secretary).

Eastern Star was organized August 1961 at 1313 Washington Street by the late Rev. C.T. Rucker, who served faithfully for three years until the Lord called him from labor to reward. Former pastors were Rev. David L. Hudson 1964-1967; Rev. John C. Holley 1967-1971; and Rev. A. Charles Ware 1972-1978. John W. Williams, DMin, became the fifth pastor in February 1979 and God is working a mighty work through him. Under his leadership many souls have been saved, homes have been mended.

An Educational Building was erected in 1986 and is now the foundation on which the new sanctuary stands. The new edifice was built in 1977 with seating capacity of 500 and the church marched into the new sanctuary on November 17, 1997, in addition a new parsonage was built.

Sunday School has grown to over 150 persons in attendance as well as Prayer Meeting and Bible Study each Wednesday. And above all, the spirit of brotherly love is evident throughout the Church family. The out-reach ministry includes a radio and social media broadcast and a nursing home was adopted in April 2009. As of 2026, the church currently owns over 70 pieces of property in the surrounding neighborhood.

To learn more about Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church visit Pastor John W. Williams Facebook page.

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Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Amy Acton Rallies Supporters at Meet and Greet in Toledo

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

On Tuesday, August 4, Ohio Democratic nominee, Dr. Amy Acton visited the Steelworkers Local 1-346 Union Hall in Toledo for a meet-and-greet. Dr. Acton spoke to hundreds of supporters about her plans to build a brighter future for Ohio through policies to lower costs for Ohio families, end corruption in the Statehouse and fully fund public schools.

Introductions were given by Schuyler Beckwith, Lucas County Democratic Party chair; Kevin Dalton, president of the Toledo Federation of Teachers; Ohio State Senator Paula Hicks Hudson and Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

"We have seen that she sees politics as service, not performance," said Beckwith of Dr. Acton. "She will help us build a brighter future for Ohioans."

"We have a champion in the room," remarked Senator Hicks-Hudson. "We have someone that we know based on her past action, is the predicate and predictor of future success for the state of Ohio... The last time we had a Democratic governor was a long time ago, and since that time, the state of Ohio has been on decline. We now have a have a fighter who is fierce, who understands what it means to have a government that is by and for the people," stated Hicks-Hudson.

"[Acton] talks about what is right, what is good, what is truthful. And that's something that we are missing today in government. I serve in the Senate, and I know how important it is to have a balance in government, because right now, there is no balance. So the things that are happening to us, and they lie and tell us that it's for us, we know that it isn't true. But we do know that in Dr. Atkins, that when she speaks, she's going to speak the truth. She's not going to sugarcoat it. She's going to be very clinical. She's going to be very clear about what that message is for all of Ohioans," continued Senator Hicks-Hudson.

"My opponent keeps saying he plans to double down on policies that will bankrupt our schools and hold all of our kids back. As governor, I'll be working right alongside all of our educators to create the 21st century education that all of our kids deserve," said Dr. Amy Acton, Democratic Candidate for Governor. "We're going to fight back against the cost of corruption that we are all paying for in Ohio. This is my promise. We're gonna make it all cost less... We're going to be telling Mr. Ramaswamy in no uncertain terms, you cannot buy this state, you cannot buy Ohio, and you can't buy us!" stated Dr. Acton.

Dr. Acton is currently in what is projected to be a close race for Ohio governor against Republican nominee Vivek Ramaswamy.

Growing up in Youngstown, in a family who'd worked in the steel mills, Amy Acton faced a difficult childhood. She overcame periods of abuse, hunger, and neglect, and even wound up living in a tent in the middle of winter. That challenging upbringing molded the values and determination that have shaped a career dedicated to lifting others.

From working as a waitress to delivering newspapers, Amy worked her way out of poverty and put herself through college and medical school to become a doctor. She ex-

... continued on page 12



Dr. Amy Acton



State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson



Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz



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WE ARE A FULL SERVICE BUSINESS

Plow to the Pulpit...continued from page 5

want to do something, God has already made the way. You just have to be willing to go and do it."

That is the voice of a man who has spent his life refusing to confuse obstacles with stop signs.

His faith is equally practical when he talks about young ministers.

"Know that you've been called by God, sent by God, and make sure you find out your assignment," Williams says.

Then he offers his simplest counsel: "You've got to love God, love His Word, love His people and then enjoy what you're doing."

And when church leadership becomes difficult?

"Don't fight people in your church," he cautions. "Love them. Pray for them. God will bless you."

Passing the Faith Forward

His vision for the future extends beyond his own ministry.

Williams worries about young people growing up without the family structures and spiritual foundations that shaped him. He remembers family meals, church every Sunday, parents teaching children how to work, how to conduct themselves and how to care for one another.

Times have changed.

But Williams insists the Word has not.

"The Word of God is the same as it was yesterday, today and forevermore," he emphasizes.

That conviction is why he believes every generation has a responsibility to teach the next.

Psalm 145 calls believers to make God's works known "from one generation to another." Williams wants to see that happen, not merely through sermons, but through lives lived as examples.

His message is ultimately about legacy.

Not fame.

Not buildings.

Not titles.

Faith handed down. Wisdom shared. A young person is shown the path before they have to find it alone.

Williams often returns to Joshua 1:8, reminding believers to keep God's Word close, meditate on it and live by it.

Then he says something that may be the summary of his entire life:

"I don't want to do anything else other than preach and teach and tell people about what is required of us as human beings."

From the Plow to the Pulpit

From the cotton fields of Arkansas to the classroom, from the classroom to the pulpit, from illness back to ministry,

Dr. John W. Williams has continued to work the assignment God gave him.

That journey will soon live beyond the pulpit and the memories of those who have walked alongside him. In March 2026, Williams authored *From the Plow to the Pulpit*, a forthcoming book that traces the road from his humble beginnings on an Arkansas farm to a lifetime devoted to preaching, teaching and serving God's people.

The title is more than a name on a book cover. It captures the arc of a life shaped by hard work, faith and purpose. The hands that once worked the cotton fields would eventually hold the Bible, and the lessons learned before sunrise on an Arkansas farm would become lessons carried into the pulpit for generations.

His book offers another way for Williams' testimony to reach beyond the congregations he has served: a written reminder that sometimes the seeds planted in childhood take decades to reveal just how much they were meant to grow.

Still Working the Works

Perhaps that is the greatest lesson of 47½ years.

A calling does not always make the road easy.

Sometimes it simply makes you willing to keep walking it.

As Williams looks toward whatever God has prepared, he remains grateful for the journey behind him and willing for the journey ahead.

"I've been young, but now I'm old," he says, echoing Psalm 37. "I've never seen the righteous forsaken."

Then, with the quiet confidence of someone who has lived what he preaches, he added:

"I'm just grateful."

After nearly five decades of ministry, that may be the most powerful testimony of all.

Follow Pastor John W. Williams on Facebook for live messages, weekly sermons, ministry updates, and highlights from his 47 years of service.



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Amy Acton...continued from page 11

perienced firsthand what so many Ohio families face today—working harder than ever and still feeling like they're falling behind.

After medical school, she began a lifelong focus on children's health.

Her first assignment was a pediatrics residency tackling the horrific consequences of the crack cocaine epidemic in children. She then began a residency at Children's Hospital and Ohio State University, where she trained in pediatrics and preventive medicine. There, she created the first-ever residency rotation in child advocacy and gained a master's degree in public health.

Dr. Acton emerged as a community leader for children's health as the Director of Project L.O.V.E., a partnership between Columbus area hospitals and community stakeholders focused on preventive health for Columbus-area children. She also joined the faculty at Ohio State University, where she became an award-winning professor of maternal and child health and global public health.

Dr. Acton later joined the Columbus Foundation, where she led on a wide variety of community health issues, from youth homelessness to women's health.

What's Happening This Week in Toledo

Tuesday, August 11

Pickleball Clinic: Jermain Park

Jermain Park, 3650 Monroe St. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Each two-week session is \$20 per person. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Must be 18 or older to register.

Movie Night in the Park

Bennett Park, 4974 Bennett Road | 7-10 p.m.

Featuring: Migration rated PG

Wednesday, August 12

Let's Get Moving: Morning Walks

Woodlawn, Willys, and Liberty Park (Meet at 1502 Central Ave) | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Fresh Start: Toledo Water and Sewer Outreach Event

East Toledo Family Center, 1020 Varland Ave. | 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Fresh Start is a limited-time program for residential customers with a past-due balance as of June 1. Pay what you can — up to 50% of your past-due balance — and we will erase the same amount from your balance. 2. Any remaining balance can go on an interest-free payment plan for up to 24 months. 3. Customers already enrolled in a payment are still eligible, but will need to cancel their existing plan first.

Thursday, August 13

Levitt BLOC Toledo Music Series

Danny Thomas Park, 2151 Broadway St, 6-8pm

Featuring: Los Aztecas and the opener is El Corazon

Let's Get Moving: Evening Walks

Fox Glove Park, 4415 Willis Blvd | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Pickleball Clinic: Jermain Park

Jermain Park, 3650 Monroe St. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Each two-week session is \$20 per person. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Must be 18 or older to register.

Movie Night in the Park Jamie Farr Park, 2140 N. Summit St. | 7-10 p.m.

Featuring: Jurassic World Rebirth rated PG-13.

Friday, August 14

Party in the Park

Promenade Park, 400 Water St. | 6 - 10 p.m.

Featuring: Toledo Jeep Fest: Garth Brooks Tribute with Ashley Martin Band

Glass City JazzFest

Toledo Zoo Amphitheater, 2700 Broadway St | 6 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:00pm)

The Toledo Jazz Festival is here! We're celebrating great music, talented performers, and the incredible energy that comes when our community comes together.

Saturday, August 15

Clean Toledo Recycling Event

Ravine Park II, 1600 Front St. | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Acceptable items include up to 10 tires on or off the rim (\$0.50 each), paint, paper, cardboard, sticks, branches, leaves and grass clippings, electronics, non-food Styrofoam, scrap metal, bulky items such as air conditioners, refrigerators and large appliances, and household hazardous waste.

Glass City JazzFest

Glass City Metropark Pavilion | 1 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Toledo Jazz Festival is here! We're celebrating great music, talented performers, and the incredible energy that comes when our community comes together — bring your lawn chairs!

Ottawa Park Concert Series

Ottawa Park Amphitheater, 2205 Kenwood Blvd. | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Featuring: The Bradberries

Discover local talent every Saturday from June through August! Shows start at 6 p.m. at the Ottawa Park Amphitheater.

The Sojourner's Truth

A MOMENT OF TRUTH

THE
LOCAL
THREAD

wgte
Public Media

A Moment of Truth will explore some of the issues that are so critical in the lives of the residents of Toledo's African American community. The Sojourner's Truth has spent a quarter of a century speaking with and listening to those in our community who make a such a difference in our lives.

Join us now on WGTE 91 FM on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. as our hosts — Asia Nail, Stacy Fowler, Ricky Tyus and Alexandria Leatherberry — hold conversations with community members and examine how all of us can learn and benefit from those who are blazing paths for us in a number of critical areas such as community activism, business, health and travel.



Asia Nail,
The Truth Reporter

Ricky Tyus
of Tyus Tours and Travel

Stacy Fowler,
Publisher, Pursuit Magazine

Alexandria Leatherberry,
The Truth Reporter

CLASSIFIEDS

Page 15

August 12, 2026

CITY SEEKS TOLEDO'S NEXT CLASS OF LEADERS FOR 2026 ENGAGE TOLEDO AMBASSADOR ACADEMY

Are you the person your neighbors turn to when they have questions, ideas or concerns? Are you already involved in your community, or are you looking for an opportunity to take on a greater role? The City of Toledo is inviting residents to apply for the 2026 Engage Toledo Ambassador Academy (<https://toledo.oh.gov/engage-toledo/ambassador-academy>) .

Whether you participate in a neighborhood association, serve on a block watch, volunteer with a community organization, or simply want to better understand how your city works, the Ambassador Academy provides residents with the knowledge, connections and tools to become more engaged in their communities.

Over 11 weeks, participants will meet with City leaders and staff, tour City facilities and learn how city services, programs and decisions affect Toledo residents. Sessions will cover neighborhood initiatives, public safety with Toledo Police and Fire & Rescue, infrastructure, finance and budgeting, water and utilities, economic development, housing strategy, communications and customer service, and an evening with Mayor Kapszukiewicz.

The academy runs from Sept. 3 through Nov. 12, with sessions held Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Participants must attend at least eight of the 10 sessions to graduate. The final session will include a graduation ceremony recognizing participants for completing the academy.

Since its launch in 2017, the Engage Toledo Ambassador Academy has connected residents with city departments and leaders while helping create stronger partnerships between neighborhoods and local government. Space is limited, and the program has consistently drawn more applicants than available spots.

Applications will be accepted from Aug. 10 through Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

Residents interested in learning more about their city and becoming a stronger resource for their neighborhoods are encouraged to apply here. (<https://toledo.oh.gov/engage-toledo/ambassador-academy>)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) THURGOOD MARSHALL SENIOR HOUSING LLC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK (CMAR)

Thurgood Marshall Senior Housing LLC & Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for a **Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) – Thurgood Marshall Senior Apartments**. Received in accordance with law until **August 05, 2026, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 covered contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES RFP26-R006

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Affordable Assisted Living Government Relations Services in accordance with RFP26-R006**. Received in accordance with law until **July 06, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



Central State University will host **CSU Day in Toledo** on **September 26-27, 2026**, at **Third Baptist Church, 402 Pinewood Ave., Toledo**. Students and families from Northwest Ohio are invited to meet with university representatives, learn about admissions, scholarships, financial aid, academic programs, and student life.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING DIRECTOR

The Padua Center is seeking an After School Tutoring Director, the Nia Program. The successful applicant will have experience in an educational field as either a teacher or classroom aide. The main responsibilities of the Director are to provide tutoring and educational enrichment to about 15 elementary school children from 2:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday, beginning September 8, 2026 and will continue until the end of the school year. Volunteer helpers are available. Transportation and meals are managed by other employees. Pay range is \$17-\$20 an hour. Approximately 12 hours a week.

Please submit resume to thepaduacenter@gmail.com

For more information call: The Padua Center, 419 241 6465

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

The City of Toledo Office of Community Services is now accepting applications for its new Youth Employment Initiative, a pilot workforce development program that will provide paid employment opportunities and career readiness training for young adults ages 16 to 24.

The initiative is designed to help participants gain valuable work experience, build professional skills, and prepare for long-term career success. Through this pilot program, only 20 youth will be selected to participate, offering individualized support and hands-on learning opportunities.

By providing paid work experience, career coaching, and professional development, we are helping young people build the skills and confidence they need to succeed while creating a stronger talent pipeline for our community.

Participants selected for the program will receive:

- * Paid work experience with local employers and City of Toledo departments
- * Workforce readiness and career development training
- * One-on-one career coaching and mentorship
- * Financial literacy and life skills workshops
- * Transportation assistance for eligible participants
- * Connections to college, career training, apprenticeships, and future employment opportunities

To be eligible, applicants must:

- * Be between the ages of 16 and 24
- * Be a resident of the City of Toledo
- * Meet program income eligibility requirements
- * Demonstrate a willingness to learn, work, and grow professionally

While all eligible City of Toledo residents ages 16 to 24 are encouraged to apply, priority consideration will be given to youth who reside within the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs), including the Junction, Englewood, and Old South End neighborhoods.

Applications are now being accepted through Friday, August 28, 2026, at 5 p.m. Because this is a pilot program, space is limited to 20 participants. Interested applicants apply here! (<https://forms.office.com/r/CDm8muDfbg>)

Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 65th Church Anniversary

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church commemorated 65 years with a spirit-fill weekend celebration from July 31- August 2. The three days featured a worship service Friday, free Community Picnic Saturday, Sunday morning worship service and a special wedding vow renewal ceremony Sunday evening. The theme for the milestone was "We've Come this Far by Faith" (Hebrews 11:1).

For 65 years, God has blessed the church to stand as a beacon of hope, faith, love, and service in the Toledo community. Through worship, outreach, preaching, teaching and community support, the Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church, located at 2102 Mulberry Street, remained committed to lifting the name of Jesus and serving the needs of God's people.

The weekend of events were a time a fellowship for the community as well as the three churches under the shepherding of Pastor John W. Williams: The Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church (Toledo, OH), New Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Buffalo, NY) and the Memorial Missionary Baptist Church (Buffalo, NY). Members of his church traveled both locally and from New York for the celebrations.

... continued on page 10



Committee Members Darnell Smith (co-chair), Pastor John W. Williams (pastor), Ret Lane (chairperson), Evelyn Ruffin (secretary)



The Eastern Star Heritage Table



Couples renew vows at ceremony



Wedding renewal certificate



Williams Labor of Love Custom Designs



Fourteen couples renew vows

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



**TARTA is hiring
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