



Volume 97 No. 6

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

October 7, 2026



A Ridiculous Blessing: A Free Gas Giveaway!

Bishop Marjorie Holt and Bethesda Christian Center Provided a Little Help

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Congress and The Congregation Prayer Breakfast

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

On Saturday, September 26, Congress came to Toledo to celebrate achievements and to urge the congregation to use their influence in the community to ensure that voters continue to support the local congresswoman.

Northwest Ohio's Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur was joined by Cleveland Congresswoman Joyce Beatty and a host of local church leaders and supporters. The breakfast was termed a morning of prayer, fellowship, listening and constructive conversation.

Rev. Calvin Burney served as the master of ceremonies for the morning event; Councilman Rev. John Hobbs, III, recognized the elected officials; Rev. David Young spoke about the church's historic role in civic life, Shaun Strong introduced the "Follow Me Campaign" and Rev. John Jones introduced Congresswoman Beatty.

And Congresswoman Beatty lit the room up. Several hundred attendees listened as Beatty touted the knowledge, the wisdom, the experience, the leadership of her colleague, Kaptur, as well as the depth of Kaptur's feelings for Toledo and, particularly, those feelings for the city's African American community.

"Marcy Kaptur has never bragged about herself," said Beatty. "She talks about you, she talks about the richness of the Black community, she talks about the history of the churches ... there is something wrong if you can't vote for Marcy Kaptur."

Kaptur, as Beatty noted, is the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee, the committee that handles all the financial decisions for the House. If Democrats take control of the House in these midterm elections, Kaptur will chair that committee.

"She is a true public servant who knows every line item in the federal budget, especially funding allocations," said Beatty. "There is no other member in the United States Congress that does what Marcy Kaptur does."

Kaptur's knowledge and experience is exactly what Republicans have feared all these years, said Beatty. "They have gerrymandered this district all the way to Indiana, they want to get rid of her."

Urging those in the audience to work for Kaptur's benefit in this election, Beatty noted how important that work will be. "Marcy Kaptur can win this election, but she can't win without you. You wake people up, get them out to vote. Go out to vote and fight for Marcy Kaptur."

During her address to the audience, Kaptur recounted her days as an urban planner in Washington during the Carter Administration and how that experience has shaped so much of her career, dealing with the physical structures – buildings, waterways, land, roadways – that can impact the lives of her constituents in so many different ways.

Fresh water concerns, for example, throughout the nation, particularly in the western part of the nation, points out for Kaptur how residents of the upper Midwest are so blessed – so far – and need to maintain those blessings.

"What we have is so precious, we need to protect it," Kaptur said. But we need so much more, she added. More parks, for example. More solar energy to preserve the natural resources.

Kaptur also assailed the current administration for its labor practices. "They are trying to take away any decent living got the working men and women," she said of the hardships created by the recent deregulation agenda, employer-friendly moves and trend to reduce collective bargaining rights for federal workers.

The prayer breakfast concluded with closing remarks by Shaun Strong, who leads the Black Leadership Table of Kaptur's campaign, and a call to action by Rev. Burney. "Souls to the Polls" will happen in area churches on Sunday, November 1.

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Congresswoman Joyce Beatty



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur



Toledo Urban FCU's Suzette Cowell; Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Bishop Pat McKinstry of the Worship Center

The Clock is on the Ballot

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

The Truth Contributor

If we promise as public officials, we must deliver.

- Barbara Jordan



Ohio ended Golden Week in 2014, the one-week period when voters could register and vote in a single trip. A federal judge called that cut illegal, citing evidence that Black voters had used that week at several times the rate of white voters, but the Sixth Circuit reversed him and described what remained as "a generous early voting schedule."

Ohio promises easy voting, but the question is whether the schedule delivers.

Vote early in Lucas County today, and you go to the back door of a county building on West Sylvania Avenue, the county's only early-voting site. For the first three weeks, it's open only on weekdays, eight to five.

Defenders point out that Ohio offers 22 days of in-person early voting and that anyone can vote by mail, though a mail ballot has to be requested by October 27 and reach the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Still, the window has shrunk from 35 days in 2008 to 27 this year.

Somebody chose those reduced hours, and that somebody's job is on your ballot.

Who Sets the Clock

The Secretary of State sets the schedule that every county must follow, and the Lucas County Board of Elections can't change it. The legislature wrote the rules, including ending early voting on the Monday before Election Day.

This year the Secretary of State's job is open, and every seat in the Ohio House and half the Senate are up.

Easy for Whom?

The Census Bureau asked registered voters why they sat out the 2022 midterms. The most common answer, at 26.5 percent, was a work or school schedule conflict. Eight to five costs the people who work and those who must watch kids or wait for a ride. The only Sunday available for early voting is November 1, from 1 to 5 p.m.

For example, take a home health aide who rides the bus and clocks out at five. For the first three weeks, the early-vote site closes at the hour she leaves work, and evening hours don't start until October 26.

The Margin

About one in five Black Ohioans voted early in 2008 and 2012, compared with fewer than one in ten white Ohioans, according to the Census survey figures presented in court.

This year the races are tight. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur won two years ago by 2,382 votes, and the latest Times/Siena poll has for U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown up three points in the Senate race, inside the margin of error.

When a few thousand votes can settle a race, how hard the door is to open stops being a side issue. A congressional seat, a Senate seat, Toledo's school levy will get settled by whoever shows up.

So, vote early. Make sure you bring your ID and bring someone who doesn't have a ride. Church vans know the way to Sylvania Avenue, and

...continued on page 4



**✓ VOTE FOR
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Ohio Senate District 11

**Starting October 6, 2026 at Early Vote until
Election Day November 3, 2026**

PROVEN LEADERSHIP!

Paid For by Friends of Paula Hicks-Hudson

Generations of Faith: Honoring a Legacy and Welcoming One of Its Own Home

Special to The Truth

Braden United Methodist Church will celebrate its 118th Homecoming weekend October 9-11, 2026 with a Legacy Gala and its annual Homecoming Sunday worship service.

On Friday, October 9 from 6 to 9 PM, we'll gather to celebrate leadership, laity and legacy by featuring guest speakers, Audrey Johnson of the Unbounded Artists Development Community, and Kathy Moore, the Director of Lay Servant Ministries for the West Ohio Conference.

The UADC is a nonprofit organization that provides support, resources, and opportunities for artists of color to connect with one another, and with the community in various art forms and Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership training program that equips people to serve in the churches and in the community – building up the body of Christ.

The gala will also honor the last three surviving members of the Allen family's third generation. Morell Fonfield (95), Ruby Hill (93), and Shirley Kynard (92) represent members who stayed, served and worshipped at Braden for nearly a century. Described as keepers of the family history, by their family, they are also historians of the church, where their faithfulness will be honored.

The gala will be held at Braden United Methodist Church, Friday, October 9, from 6-9 pm. Tickets are \$35 in advance or at the door. Just as the church will celebrate the generations that have laid the foundation to remain for 118 years, its celebratory theme is "The Doors Are Open!" and a son, raised in Toledo and spiritually formed in Braden UMC, will return home as the guest speaker for Sunday's Homecoming service.

J.C. "Jimmy" Matthews was a young man playing basketball for Bowsher High School who after graduating in 1986, earned a full basketball scholarship to Northern Kentucky University, where he studied political science before continuing on to law school. A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Matthews would go on to build a career spanning law, labor relations, corporate leadership and ministry in Dallas, Texas.

While he has spent decades in leadership roles in labor and employment relations, he currently serves as Director of Labor Relations in the Legal



Jimmy Matthews, DMin

Department at Southwest Airlines.

For a congregation celebrating 118 years of ministry in Toledo, there may be no more fitting picture of homecoming: opening the doors to the community while welcoming home one of its own.

Family, former members, friends, colleagues and alumni are invited to reconnect with Jimmy and the church that raised him Sunday October 11, at 10:30 AM. The church is located at 4725 Dorr Street where Rev. Ernest P. Ologo is the pastor.

Perryman... continued from page 3

Sunday's doors open at one o'clock on November 1.

Then take your time with the ballot, all the way down. The Secretary of State and the legislature — the offices that set these rules — are on it.

The clock is on the ballot. Don't skip that part.

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdlperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

Community Calendar

October 5

Early Voting Starts

October 10

Grace Community Center Harvest Festival: Celebration of Family Fun and Faith; 1 to 5 pm

Walls Memorial Chapel AME Zion Church Health Fair: Life saving information; 11 am to 3 pm: 313-882-2693

October 18

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

October 20

Toledo NAACP report of the Nominating Committee and election of the Supervisory Committee; 5:00 pm; 3450 W. Central Ave, Suite 374

October 22

Scalp to Strand & Beyond: Hair and skin wellness discussion with Dr. Hope Mitchell; Noon to 1 pm; Perrysburg: 419-872-4673

November 17

Toledo NAACP election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our election voting platform. Voting from 3 pm to 7 pm.

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Nmon Ford Returns to *Aida*, the Opera That Started It All

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

For **Nmon Ford**, stepping into the role of **Amonasro** in *Aida* is not simply another stop on an extraordinary career.

It is personal.

The Panamanian-American baritone, composer and librettist is making his **Toledo Opera** company debut this October in Giuseppe Verdi's beloved masterpiece. He will portray Amonasro, the King of Ethiopia and father of Aida, at the historic **Valentine Theatre on Oct. 16 and 18**.

And there is something almost poetic about Ford returning to *Aida* in Toledo.

Long before the international stages, the demanding roles and the creative projects that now stretch well beyond traditional opera, *Aida* was the work that pulled him toward opera in the first place.

"I have a special place in my heart for this opera and this role," Ford says.

He means it.

The Moment Opera Got His Attention

Music found Ford early. He began playing piano at just three years old, later exploring other instruments and eventually turning his attention to composing.

Then he heard Leontyne Price.

Ford watched a recording of Price's final operatic performance at the Metropolitan Opera, a production of *Aida*. What he heard was unlike anything he had experienced before.

The voices. The orchestra. The sheer size of it.

He remembers hearing the singers reach extraordinary high notes and then watching the music explode into the Act II finale, with the chorus, orchestra and famous brass fanfare all coming together.

"It was so exciting," Ford remembers. "I said, I gotta look into this."

So he did.

His local library became part of his education. He found opera recordings and piano-vocal scores and began studying them on his own.

Ford already had an advantage. He could play the music and he understood many of the languages. His father spoke Spanish, and his mother spoke some French while he was growing up. He later encountered Latin in school.

That background helped Ford develop an ear for different languages and the rhythms within them, while opening him to music beyond his immediate world.

More Than a King

In *Aida*, Ford becomes Amonasro, a powerful king whose most complicated title may simply be "Dad."

The opera places him inside a war between Egypt and Ethiopia, but Ford sees the story as something much more intimate.

"*Aida* is huge in the sense that it's a war epic," he explains. "It's literally two giant nations fighting each other. But it's intimate in the sense that what drives all of this stuff is a love triangle."

And then there is Amonasro.

He is a king. He is a father. He has a country depending on him, and he has a daughter he loves.

Those loyalties do not always point in the same direction.

"And I'm the dad, so I have a way of making things a little more complicated," Ford says with a laugh.

That little bit of humor says something about Ford's approach. He understands the grandeur of *Aida*, but he also sees the people underneath all those magnificent costumes and powerful voices.

That is where the story becomes relatable.

Why *Aida* Still Speaks to Us

Some stories simply refuse to get old.

Ford recently talked about that with **Linda Brovsky, the production's director**. They discussed why stories created generations ago can still connect with modern audiences.

His answer comes down to something simple.

The best stories are built on emotions people recognize.

He points to *Romeo and Juliet*. Change the names, the setting or the culture, and the basic conflict remains. People fall in love. Families disagree. Choices have consequences.

Aida works the same way.

The setting may be ancient Egypt. The costumes may be grand. Verdi's score may fill the theater with sound.

But the emotions are familiar.

Love can make people brave. Loyalty can make people reckless. And sometimes the people we love most are the very people who complicate our lives.

Come for the Music. Stay for the Feeling.

For anyone who has never experienced opera, Ford believes *Aida* is a particularly welcoming place to start.

There is no shortage of spectacle.

Verdi gives audiences soaring melodies, a powerful chorus, a full orchestra and the unmistakable sound of the Triumphal March.

But Ford says the experience goes deeper than the music.

"There is a type of catharsis," he says.

After sitting through all the emotion, the shouting, the tenderness and the soaring voices, something happens to the audience.

"Sometimes you feel like you leave a piece of yourself behind in the auditorium," Ford explains.

That may be one of opera's greatest gifts.

For a few hours, someone else carries the drama.

You simply sit there and let it wash over you.

Toledo Opera's production, directed by Brovsky and conducted by Adam Turner, brings Ford together with an accomplished cast that includes soprano Mary Elizabeth Williams as Aida and tenor Brendan Boyle as Radamès. Lau-

...continued on page 10



Nmon Ford

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We're working for you!

The Seventh Annual Harvest Festival Coming Soon

Special to The Truth

Grace Community Center (GCC) will host its seventh Annual Harvest Festival with a weekend of special events on Oct. 9, 10 and 11, marking 57 years of dedicated, mission-driven service to our community, according to GCC Executive Director Elaine Tait-Page.

The mission of Grace Community Center is to foster the health and wellbeing of children, adults, and seniors through programs that promote food security, health parity, education, career-readiness, and quality senior living.

The core event of the weekend takes place on Sat., Oct. 10, from 1–5 p.m., and features **Family Fun, Food, and a Celebration of our Shared Future**. This event is free and open to the public.

The Harvest Festival began as a community celebration of GCC's successes and sustained efforts to meet the unique needs of Toledo's children, seniors, and families, "especially through promoting the health benefits of growing and consuming fruits and Vegetables," according to Nathan McCain, GCC Transformation Officer. "GCC's gardens are built on simple truth: fresh, whole foods are the foundation of long, healthy lives," McCain continued. As chronic illnesses rise, GCC is growing and sharing nutrient-rich produce that supports real wellbeing, he said. During this Harvest Festival, McCain invites the community to explore the GCC Urban Garden and see how fresh, natural foods can support longer, healthier lives for families across our community.

This year, the festival expands to include an opening reception. **Stories of Impact: An Evening Honoring Our Shared Community Impact**, is a private event on Oct. 9th recognizing resilience, leadership, and the contributions of GCC families and supporters across Greater Toledo. The evening will highlight stories of impact and recognize partner organizations whose leadership and support empower GCC's work.

A new feature, A Celebration of Faith & Family, will take place on Sun., Oct. 11, from 3–6 p.m. and is also free and open to the public.

"This inspirational fellowship is a time to celebrate our spiritual foundation, to acknowledge the legacy of founding director Betty Amison-Lewis, and to welcome congregations from all denominations to join us in fellowship, unity,



and shared purpose," according to Director Tait-Page.

Fundraising initiatives essential to sustaining GCC's outreach services will be highlighted throughout the weekend. Board Chairman Bryce Harbaugh noted that targeted appeals, donor packets, and other special efforts will be blended throughout the festival to support the continued growth and impact of GCC's programs.

"GCC continues to fulfill its mission because of the dedicated work of our board, staff, volunteers, and the ongoing support of diverse individuals, groups, and community partners," explained Elaine Tait-Page.

GCC mission partners include United Church of Christ congregations, United Way of Greater Toledo, the City of Toledo, the Lucas County Commissioners, Greater Toledo Community Foundation, the John Jr. Foundation, MLM Charitable Foundation, The Andersons, Inc., The Toledo Rotary Club, Toledo Museum of Art, Mercy Health, ProMedica, the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio, Connecting Kids to Meals, Harbor Behavioral Health, Pathways Inc., PathStone, Toledo Grows, Ohio State University Extension, Foster



... continued on page 7

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A Partnership with a Purpose: A Toledo Covenant with Central State University

By Fletcher Word

The Truth Editor

The Toledo community re-affirmed its partnership, its covenant, with Central State University on Sunday, September 27 during a celebration at Third Baptist Church, attended by a number of community leaders and residents and the president of Central State University, Morakinyo A.O. Kuti, PhD.

Local faith leaders had previously come together on August 20, at Third Baptist to sign a Covenant Supporting Excellence in Education. Specifically, the faith leaders acknowledged the historical importance of Ohio's only public historically Black college or university – Central State University – and the critical importance that particular institution has had for the local community over the decades.

On Sunday, September 27, that faith community was joined by Kuti, along with Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson, Dione Sommerville, PhD, president of Owens Community College and Romulus Durant, EdD, superintendent of Toledo Public Schools, along with a variety of musical artists, to ensure that the commitment of the Toledo community for the continued success of Central State was still in place.

"It is a need for education that we cry out for," said Kapszukiewicz during his remarks. "Education is our only chance of building that more perfect union. We need to embrace education in all forms."

Central State University is Ohio's only public historically black college or university and is facing funding issues from state and federal sources. So, the push is on to increase the student body and, in the case of Toledo, encourage students here to take a look at the HBCU.

Toledo desperately needs to get youngsters focused on college education. As the mayor noted, about 30 percent of adults in Ohio have a college degree, but only about 16 percent of Toledo residents have a degree and the percentage of Black Toledo adults with college degrees is less than 10 percent.

"We have a mission," said Hicks-Hudson, following the mayor's remarks. "We cannot wait for the state or federal government to cure our problems." A graduate herself of an HBCU, (Spelman College) Hicks-Hudson knows well enough the advantages of such institutions.

"You are able to learn in an environment where the value of who you are is never in question," she said of that experience. "And the return on investment is immeasurable."

Sommerville spoke of the benefits for a community and its residents of having a variety of educational institutions enabling many to "share the value of education that we do at Owens Community College."

Sommerville noted that "education is transformational" and that "there is no simple pathway to education" but that it "requires everyone working together ... it requires us to listen to people in the communities we serve" and determine if "we are removing the barriers."

Through the variety of high schools offering college classes, community colleges, four-year institutions, HBCUs, graduate schools, Sommerville stated that the various opportunities "help students find their unique path to success in education."

Durant echoed the belief that HBCU's "bring opportunity." He spoke of the desire to build a bridge particularly between Scott High School and Central State University.

"Dr. Kuti, you have our commitment, we are going to make this happen,"

Harvest Festival... continued from page 6

Grandparents/Senior Centers Inc., YMCA, and Girl Scouts of Western Ohio.

"We are so proud that the title Sponsor for the 7th Annual Harvest Festival is The Lucas County Commission," Tait-Page noted, adding "additional support is being provided by the Grace Board of Directors, Friendly Missionary Baptist Church, and The Sojourner's Truth."

Betty Amison-Lewis, age 83, founder and former executive director of Grace Community Center 43 years, passed away on June 11, 2026.

"We remain deeply grateful for her decades of leadership and service," shared Harbaugh, GCC Board Chairman. Amison-Lewis received special recognition in 2019 during GCC's 50th anniversary celebration, and she will be greatly missed, he said.

All Harvest Festival events will take place at Grace Community Center, 406 W. Delaware

Avenue in Toledo, OH (43610). For questions or more information, please call (419) 248-2467.



Morakinyo A.O. Kuti, PhD



Vocalist Ikpemesi Ogundare



Presentation of the Covenant to Morakinto Kuti



Romulus Durant, EdD; Dione Sommerville, PhD; State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson

said Durant.

Kuti's message was also focused on the need to enhance the Toledo/CSU partnership for the benefit of both the educational institution and the Toledo community.

"We provide Toledo students what they need to succeed based solely on their

... continued on page 8

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Top Ladies of Distinction Welcome New Ladies and Reactivated Ladies

The Truth Staff

The Top Ladies of Distinction Toledo Chapter welcomed three new Ladies and three reactivated Ladies on Saturday, September 26, at Georgio's Restaurant. The new and reactivated members are committed to the Top Ladies' mission of "Serving Youth and Adults."

The Induction Ceremony attendees were welcomed by Lady Wanda Terrell-Galloway, chapter president. Lady Mary McKinley-Reed, Area V Induction chair, introduced the Area V Director and guests and Lady Clara Petty, membership chair, introduced the new Ladies and the Reactivated Ladies.

This year's New Ladies are Marcia Dinkins, Aarona McMullen and La'Shardae Scott, DSW.



Top Lords of Distinction



Toledo Chapter Top Ladies of Distinction officers with New and Reactivated Ladies

The Reactivated Ladies are Anita Bass, Gwendolyn Brown and Pathy Davis,

Lady Marcia Quinn, membership co-chair, introduced the Top Ladies and Lords and Lady Clara Brank, chaplain, blessed the food.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD), is a 501(c)3 organization, under the leadership of the National President and CEO, Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, the 15th national president and CEO of the humanitarian and educational organization. TLOD declares that the purpose of the organization shall be to advance the standards, ideals and general welfare of the community through service by encouraging, promoting and extending activities that will be conducive to the betterment and ultimate welfare of people.

Top Ladies of Distinction have over 125 Chapters across the United States and currently with a membership of over 7,500 and approximately 3,500 Teens. The Mission of TLOD is to enhance and enrich the lives of youth and adults through national programs, projects and partners.

To learn more about Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. (TLOD) visit www.tlodinc.org.



New and Reactivated Ladies with Chapter President Wanda Terrell-Galloway (5th from left)



New Ladies Marcia Dinkins, Aarona McMullen, La'Shardae Scott, DSW

Toledo Covenant... continued from page 7

work," he said. "It's not just about education, it's about improving lives in the communities where we live ... from Toledo to Central State University and back to Toledo, it's a pipeline for Toledo to Central State and back to Toledo."

The community discussion was highlighted by a number of outstanding musical selections. Attendees were greeted upon arrival by Damon Coleman, associate principal cellist at the Toledo Symphony. Several selections were presented by the My5tery Music Youth Choral and by soloist Ikpemesi Ogundare.

The covenant between the Toledo community and Central State University is led by the African American Legacy Project. The initiative, focused on the theme "Experience the HBCU Difference," was created to explore new pathways for students to discover, prepare for and pursue higher education at Central State University.

November 3rd Election

► **MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**
Last Day to Register to Vote

► **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**
Early In-person Voting Begins

@ 3737 W Sylvania Avenue, Suite 121, Entrance B
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Absentee Ballots

► **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27**
Last Day to Request Mail-in Ballots

► **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**
Last Day for the Board of Elections to Receive Mail-in Ballots

Questions?

► Find the answers @ voteohio.gov

- Sample Ballot
- ID Requirements
- Absentee Ballot Tracking
- Polling location
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- Voter Registration Status

A MESSAGE FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ERIKA WHITE

Voting is a fundamental right and responsibility that empowers you to have a say in the direction of our community. As your State Representative, I am asking you to please **make your voice heard by voting.** Make a plan to vote in Ohio's November 3rd general election!



Representative Erika White
Ohio House District 41

rep41@ohiohouse.gov
(614) 466-1731



Bethesda Christian Center, A Ridiculous Blessing: FREE GAS GIVEAWAY

Special To The Truth

By The Congregants of Bethesda Christian Center

On Sunday, September 27, at the time when most were on their way "to church", Bethesda Christian Center members were on their way "from church."

This obviously was an anomaly for an expected not so "Mega Church" according to the standards as to what MEGA means, particularly as it relates to church. While many were astonished as to what was truly going on with people who are traditionally vested in Sunday morning attire, it soon became evident that some of the people who were noticed and known in the community, were appearing to look different in a kind of gear uncommon to many of us on Sunday morning.

We didn't dress UP, we dressed DOWN.

It became evident that the Marathon Gas Station at 541 N. Reynolds Rd. @ Nebraska, had simply become juxtaposed to show a very different picture of what an average day there would look like; but it was Sunday morning.

However, to many, it didn't take long to realize that something unusual was happening. A FREE GAS GIVEAWAY gave way to the many cars that noticed that a long line behind the Marathon Station had a pattern and a purpose established where drivers would pull up to the next pump open after they had received their offered opportunity to get gas at no cost to them.

While Bethesda Christian Center has spent some time revisiting its Mission, it was noticeably relevant that one thing was missing from the Mission. It was the presence of feel good things and, might we be transparent, the absence of little reaching OUT that is needed to make a significant difference in the lives of families who face constant struggles, especially during this time of uncertainty and INSOLVENCY.

The shift has prompted us to focus more on empty tables than dressed up titles. As the tumultuous turn of events continues to arise almost hourly, where the average family faces not just challenges but life-changing circumstances, there is an obvious need to realign priorities to attempt to help meet basic needs. This is what Bethesda Christian Center realized.

Any amount of reaching out would place some credence to what the MISSION OF THE CHURCH SHOULD BE about. This small act of a FREE GAS GIVEAWAY through that of caring, sharing and valuing relationships with people who ought to matter to us, can only bring smiles, along with attention to the reality, that churches ought not to have loaded bank accounts without the thought to the needs of the people who are often the ones to load them.

me disclaim this right now, Bethesda does not have a loaded bank account, yet, lol. However, the more we gather, the more we'll give away. Here's a thought though: Could it be possible that loaded bank accounts place more focus on what's In the house vs. what's Outside of the house?

Bethesda Christian Center is realigning our priorities. We vow to reach not just the lost but the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, the downtrodden, the hurt, the helpless needing help, the youth needing to but challenged to stay young, the isolated needing a friend, the ones lacking adequate clothes, and so much more that's possible to just "help".

And as we continued to smile and pump, we were able to provide gasoline for 60 drivers, 60 families and households, 60 automobiles who would be able to get to important destinations that possibly took them from point A to point B and with the help of caring people at Bethesda Christian Center congregation, possibly point C.

A special thanks to Marathon Gas Station, Owner Hassan and Staff, we appreciate you. Even during this time, the gas was lessened by 10 cents which allowed us to give a bit more.

Continue to pray for us at Bethesda, we are vowing to do more. And as

we elevate our MISSION, we are elevating our THINKING. Please feel free to join us any Tuesday at 6 PM, Sunday at 11 AM and anytime in between.

We have a Food Pantry, Clothing wears, Prayer Center, Leadership Training and much more, helping to elevate the quality of life for our families. We're located at 5967 Telegraph Rd., Toledo, Oh. 43612. Reach us at FB Bethesda Toledo. Bishop Marjorie Holt, Ph. D., Sr. Servant.



Judge Myron

Duhart

FOR SIXTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS



Paid for by the committee to Elect Judge C. Myron Duhart.



The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church Fashion Show

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church held a Fashion Show Fundraiser Saturday, September 12, in anticipation of their Annual Women's Day celebration. The sold-out event featured 20-plus church members showing off their best looks with mistress of ceremonies Valerie Simmons-Walston, ThD.



Pre-Women's Day Fashion Show
Chair Beverly Robinson and
Co-Chair



First Lady Brittany
Foster



Church members model
outfits on catwalk



"We just wanted to do something different to honor the women of Indiana, because they are so classy and fashionable," remarked Lisa Guthrie, 2026 Women's Day chairperson. "But we also wanted to take an opportunity to raise money for our church, because we serve the community at such a large capacity. We just wanted to honor the women of Toledo and especially Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church."

Guests enjoyed a fashion show, fellowship and light refreshments. The event was spearheaded by Women's Day Fashion Show Chair Beverly Robinson and Co-Chair Sharon Jones.

The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church celebrated their Annual Women's Day Sunday, September 20. The theme was "StrongHER Together" with a scripture focus from Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. The speaker was Sister Wanda Bates. The Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church plans to hold the fashion show

Nmon Ford...continued from page 5

ren Decker portrays Amneris, while Grammy Award-winning bass-baritone Mark S. Doss takes on Ramfis. Toledo Opera's resident artists will also join the production.

The opera will be sung in Italian with English captions.



Returning as a Different Man

Ford gave a highly praised performance as Amonasro with the San Jose Symphony in June 2000. The role became one of his signature performances, one he has revisited with multiple companies throughout his career.

But Ford's career has continued to grow far beyond a single role.

According to Toledo Opera, he has taken on increasingly challenging dramatic repertoire, most recently appearing as Le Spectre in Thomas' Hamlet with the Cincinnati Symphony, Sharpless in Madama Butterfly with Cincinnati Opera and Detroit Opera, and Jesus in Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Atlanta Symphony. He has also performed with major opera and concert organizations around the world, including Lincoln Center, Salzburg's Grosses Festspielhaus and the Metropolitan Opera.

Now he returns to Amonasro with all of that experience behind him.

A lot happens in 26 years.

You grow. You change. You experience things you could never have imagined when you first sang the role.

That is what makes returning to Aida meaningful for him now.

"There's the relationship with this new version of me," Ford says. "And then there's the relationship I've always had with the opera itself."

And somewhere in the space between those two things is this Toledo performance.

The music has not changed.

The story has not changed.

But Ford has.

He will walk onto the Valentine Theatre stage carrying everything that has happened since the last time he wore Amonasro's shoes. Every city. Every performance. Every creative risk. Every lesson.

And he hopes audiences will feel that difference.

"I hope I can translate that experience to the audience," he says.

A Creative Life Without a Box

Even while returning to one of opera's most celebrated works, Ford is already looking toward what comes next.

His creative world has expanded into composing, producing, film and immersive experiences. He is now entering a new artistic chapter as the composer, librettist and title-role performer of *House of Orfeus*, which is slated for Lincoln Center in an upcoming season, with additional Young Vic dates to be announced.

It sounds like a lot.

For Ford, it sounds like Tuesday.

His philosophy is simple: When an opportunity appears, say yes and figure out the rest afterward.

"If the idea comes up, say yes and figure it out 15 minutes after you say yes," he says.

That willingness to explore may explain why his career refuses to fit neatly into one category.

... continued on page 11

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Eczema: The Truth Behind the Itch: A Personal Invitation from Dr. Mitchell

By Hope Mitchell, MD

The Truth Health Contributor

Each month, I share practical information on the hair and skin concerns affecting adults and children in our community. This month, I'm taking that conversation beyond the page.



Join me at Mitchell Dermatology in Perrysburg on October 22 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. for Scalp to Strand & Beyond, a free live Hair and Skin Wellness discussion featuring Chelsea Amadi, Wellness Cosmetologist + Lotionician, and Joycelyn Dumfeh, PA-C.

We will discuss hair and scalp care, hair loss, eczema, psoriasis, hyperpigmentation, hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) and other concerns we see most often. We will also discuss available treatment options and what to consider when making informed decisions about your care.

To reserve your seat, call 419.872.HOPE (4673) or visit Mitchellderm.com

Eczema often follows a frustrating pattern. Your skin improves, the itching settles down, and then another flare begins. Understanding what is driving those flares is an important part of treatment.

Also known as atopic dermatitis, eczema is more than dry skin. It is a chronic inflammatory skin condition that can cause itching, dryness, irritation, cracking, and changes in skin color. Flares can be triggered by weather changes, stress, sweating, fragrances, certain skin care products, fabrics, and environmental irritants.

How eczema appears on the skin can also vary. In darker skin tones, inflammation may appear brown, purple, gray, or darker than the surrounding skin rather than the redness many people associate with eczema. These differences can sometimes make the condition more difficult to recognize.

Scratching may provide temporary relief from the itch, but it can further damage the skin barrier, increase inflammation, and trigger even more itching. This is known as the itch scratch cycle, and breaking that cycle is an important part of treatment.

Your daily skin care routine also plays an important role in controlling eczema. I encourage

patients to use gentle, fragrance free skin care products and moisturize regularly to help protect the skin barrier. Applying moisturizer after bathing, while your skin is still slightly damp, can help retain moisture.

I also encourage you to pay attention to when your eczema flares. Did the weather change? Were you sweating more? Did you start using a new skin care product, fragrance, detergent, or fabric? Was your stress level higher than usual? Recognizing patterns can help identify your triggers.

If your eczema comes and goes, take photographs when your skin is flaring and keep them on your phone in a file to show your dermatologist. Your skin may look very different by the time of your appointment, and those photographs can provide useful information.

Many people assume eczema is something they simply have to live with or that moisturizer is the only treatment available. While moisturizing is an important part of eczema care, treatment may also include topical medications, phototherapy, oral medications, or newer prescription targeted therapies, depending on the severity and location of your eczema.

The goal is not simply to stop the itching. It is to control inflammation, protect your skin barrier, reduce future flares, and improve your quality of life.

If you are experiencing persistent itching, recurring rashes, cracked or painful skin, or flares that interfere with your daily life, do not ignore the symptoms. A board-certified dermatologist can help identify what may be triggering your eczema and recommend the most appropriate treatment for your skin.

Dr. Hope Mitchell

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Nmon Ford...continued from page 10

Opera is part of the story.

It just isn't the whole story.

And perhaps that is exactly why his return to Aida feels so fitting.

The opera that first made Ford curious about the possibilities of his own voice is now bringing him to Toledo, where he will step into the role of a father, a king and a man caught between love and duty.

For Ford, it is a return.

For Toledo audiences, it is an opportunity to hear a remarkable artist bring a very old story to life with a very present-day heart.

Toledo Opera presents Aida on Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. at the historic Valentine Theatre. For tickets, the full cast and production details, visit the Toledo Opera.

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More Than a Halloween Decoration

By Patrice Powers-Barker, OSU Extension, Lucas County

The Truth Contributor

While large pumpkins might be carved into jack-o-lanterns, canned pumpkin is a healthy and easy ingredient for a variety of recipes! It is not uncommon for pumpkins to be in sweet recipes, but it is a good savory ingredient. It can also be an economical option to add some extra vegetables to the menu. Just remember, these recipes are for canned pumpkin puree, which is not the same as pumpkin pie filling which has added sugar and spices. Make sure to read the label when purchasing at the grocery store.

- Health advantages of pumpkin include:
- Rich in vitamin A to help with eye and skin health.
- Great source of potassium, important to heart health.
- Great source of Vitamin C to boost the immune system.
- Good source of fiber.

Canned pumpkin can be added to pastas, baked goods, smoothies, soups, par-faits and fruit dip. For an easy, creamy pumpkin dip, add one 15-ounce can of pumpkin to one cup of low-fat vanilla yogurt. Add 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, mix well and use as a dip for sliced fruit such as apples or pears.

This **Pumpkin Pasta with Toasted Walnuts and Spinach** recipe is from North Carolina Co-operative Extension. This 20-minute creamy pumpkin pasta with toasted walnuts and spinach dish is flavorful and nutritious and serves 4 with only 388 calories per serving.

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces pasta
- 1 tablespoon Olive oil
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1 cup canned pure pumpkin puree
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste

2 tablespoons half and half

- 1 cup vegetable broth
- pinch ground nutmeg
- Fresh cracked black pepper and salt to taste
- 2 cups fresh baby spinach, heaping
- ¼ cup chopped toasted walnuts
- Parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. Cook the pasta according to package instructions. Drain and set aside but keep it warm.
2. While the pasta cooks, bring a large skillet to medium heat and add the olive oil and minced garlic. Cook just until fragrant.
3. Whisk in the tomato paste, pumpkin, and half and half until smooth.
4. Add the vegetable broth, nutmeg, salt and pepper.
5. Stir until combined. Cook on low about 5 minutes.
6. Add the spinach. Cook until it lightly wilts.
7. Stir in pasta and toss to coat. Sprinkle with walnuts and Parmesan cheese and serve.
8. Warm up with **Pumpkin Soup** recipe from the Iowa State University Extension

Ingredients:

- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin
- ½ c. vegetable broth
- 2 tsp. curry powder
- 1 tsp. brown sugar
- ½ tsp. dried oregano
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp. red pepper flakes
- 1 c. buttermilk
- Fresh cilantro, optional

Directions:

In a saucepan, add all ingredients except buttermilk and cilantro. Bring to a simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in buttermilk. Garnish with fresh cilantro, if desired.

For dessert, this **Chocolate Surprise Cupcakes** recipe is from Spend Smart, Eat Smart.

Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 1 box (15.25 ounces) chocolate cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces) apple juice
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Spray muffin tins with cooking spray or add a liner to tins. Combine the pumpkin, cake mix, eggs, and apple juice in a large mixing bowl. Beat batter well. Fill muffin tins 2/3 full of batter. Sprinkle walnuts on top. Bake according to package directions for cupcakes (about 20 minutes). Cupcakes are done when a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Let cool on rack for 5-10 minutes. Remove from tin.

The advantage of canned pumpkin is that it is ready to add to your recipe! If you are at the farm market and have the opportunity to purchase a baking pumpkin or pie pumpkin, it's easy to roast your own. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut a pie pumpkin in half, scoop out the seeds and place cut side down on a baking sheet. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes. The pumpkin is ready when the outer skin can be pierced with a fork. Let the pumpkin cook for 10 minutes. Scoop out the flesh with a spoon, and puree it in a food processor or blender. You can store pumpkin puree in the refrigerator up to five days or freeze it. One advantage of baking your own pumpkin over the canned version is that you can also roast the seeds.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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October 7, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2184-Request for Proposals for Centralized Record Storage** for the Lucas County Clerk of Courts Records Center, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal. To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit: https://eieb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?prcBuld=300000007278812&_adf.ctrlstate=l5ps8sau3_1&_af_rLoop=7126760101772357&_afrWindow-Mode=0&_afrWindowid=avudlxmca&_afrFS=16&_afrMT=screen&_afrMFW=1920&_afrMFH=932&_afrMFDW=1920&_afrMFDH=1080&_afrMFC=8&_afrMFCI=0&_afrMFM=0&_afrMFR=96&_afrMFG=0&_afrMFS=0&_afrMFO=0

Prior to 2:00 P.M. (local time), September 15, 2026 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.
Lisa A. Sobecki – President
Pete Gerken – Commissioner
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

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

CSU DAY IN TOLEDO

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.

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT

Several to choose from in the heart of the Warren Sherman area – corner of Franklin and Bancroft and close to the Wayman Palmer YMCA. Contact 419-509-0492 for more information

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www.TheTruthToledo.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FULL UNIT TURN, TURNKEY MAKE-READY, AND COMPREHENSIVE UNIT READINESS SERVICES RFP26-R004

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Full Unit Turn, Turnkey Make-Ready, and Comprehensive Unit Readiness Services in accordance with RFP26-R004**. Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 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.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL UNIT TRADE, MAKE-READY, AND BUNDLED CORRECTIVE SERVICES RFP26-R005

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Residential Unit Trade, Make-Ready, and Bundled Corrective Services in accordance with RFP26-R005**. Received in accordance with law until **October 19, 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.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES – ALL AMPS COMMUNITIES AND SCATTERED SITES RFP26-R007

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive proposals for **Snow Removal Services – All AMPS Communities and Scattered Sites in accordance with RFP26-R007**. Received in accordance with law until **October 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9452 (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.





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Toledo Museum of Art's Block Party

The Truth Staff

The Toledo Museum of Art held its annual Block Party on Saturday, September 26, and the party was bigger than ever.

This year's event featured art making with both Outreach and with Bowe Family Center on the Glass Pavilion Lawn; a Sensory Friendly Area in the Krebs Courtyard; DJ

Stevie Chanel on the Monroe Street Terrace; Amelia Airharts on the Monroe Street Terrace and Art in the Sky Drone on the Monroe Street Terrace.

Visitors to the free outdoor event were also able to sample the wares of a number of food trucks.

There were any number of highlights during the exciting afternoon and evening but two events stand out in particular. El Corazon de Mexico Ballet Folklorico dancers performed on the Terrace as a combination of different age groups performed. Very young dancers, teenaged dancers and adult couples entertained the crowd with several dozen musical numbers.

Then came the presentation of the "Key to the Museum" to Jason Daniels.

Adam Levine, the Museum CEO, presented the Key and explained the reasons that Daniels was this year's honoree.

He described Daniels as a consultant to TMA and "a passionate advocate." Quoting South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, Levine said: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that over-



TMA's Adam Levine presents Key to the Museum to Jason Daniels



whelm the world."

Levine said of Daniels and his efforts at the Museum and in the community: "It's about doing good and doing right bit by bit."

"None of us arrives anywhere alone," said Daniels as he accepted the Key to the Museum. He praised those at the Museum and in the arts in general for their contributions to society. "Through their works, they help us to see possibilities before we can see it for ourselves," he said.

Judge Myron Duhart Leads Discussion

By Paul Hubbard

Guest Column

Judge Myron Duhart, who is running for reelection to an Ohio Appeals Court seat, led a discussion with his Toledo Boule fraternity brothers on why it's important for Black people and people in general to vote.

The discussion was held at a breakfast gathering at the Toledo Country Club on River Road. The first part of the discussion was the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution which is the right to vote. We also discussed the dismantling of the 14th amendment which is giving US Citizenship to anyone born in the United States.

The conversation then went to the small number of Black judges on the different Ohio Appeals Courts. We need Black judges on the Appeals Courts to



Judge Myron Duhart

hear cases that may not have had a fair hearing in the lower courts.

Judge Duhart is a Democrat, but he supports the two-party system in the US because this represents checks and balances in order for the country to function in the way it should. The Democrats check the Republicans and the Republican check the Democrats.

We not only discussed why Black people should be motivated to vote. We also discussed the fact that Black people in high positions should deliver service and opportunities to the Black community at a higher and more resourceful level.

Many Black people in high positions are afraid to deliver to our Black community because they are afraid of Trump and his policies, especially some of our Black corporate people. Many Black people in highly placed positions

are there for self-serving instead of serving our community.

Judge Duhart and Judge Alan McConnell, who was in attendance, and others spoke about attending events and churches and how the white politician/leaders get recognition first; then the Black politician/leaders get recognized afterwards.

The breakfast discussion ended with a discussion about the Black sororities and fraternities that should have more events where we invite our young people and young adults to talk about politics and why voting matters.

• CEO of Black Star Network



Saturday, October 24, 2026
Doors open at 5 pm.
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