



CENTRAL FOCUS RETREAT

October 5–7, 2026
Maumee Bay, Ohio

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In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.

Acts 1:1,2

WELCOME

From Executive Director Tim Sprankle

As a child I fell in love with stories. I especially liked book series and movie sequels — Hardy Boys, Redwall, Indiana Jones, Star Wars — where new adventures continued to unfold. Good stories draw us in. They captivate us. We get lost in their plots.

Early in my discipleship to Jesus, I learned the Gospels had a sequel. Acts picked up where Luke's Gospel left off. What Jesus started, His first followers continued. He healed; they healed. He preached good news; they preached good news. He suffered; they suffered.

By the power of God's Spirit, the early church expanded Jesus' work. From Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, they bore witness to Jesus (Acts 1:8). They testified, discerned, prayed, collaborated, and endured hardship. And the church multiplied.

That story continues today. It will be our focus throughout this retreat. Until Christ gathers His church, we are His witnesses. May we press on without hindrance.

ACTS

The Story Continues

THE THEME

Followers of Jesus continue His mission. We are His witnesses, expanding on His work by the Spirit, through prayer, and amid suffering. During our Focus Retreat sessions, we will reflect on these themes from the book of Acts as we see how the story that began with the early church continues through us today. We will discuss the power of testimony, spiritual discernment, and Gospel partnership. We'll dedicate extensive time to prayer, Bible study, and honest conversation. Our time together will reassure us of the good work Christ does through us.

SCHEDULE

Daily Activities

MONDAY

- 4:00 p.m. Check in
- 4:45 p.m. Session One: Testimony
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Session Two: Discernment
- 8:30 p.m. Optional Late Night Hangout

TUESDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Optional Brainwriting Lab
- 10:30 a.m. Session Three: Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Free Time
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner Off-Site
- 7:00 p.m. Session Four: Teamwork
- 9:00 p.m. Optional Late Night Hangout

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Session Five: Endurance
- 11:00 a.m. Dismissal

In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13,14

READING & PRAYER

Read, Reflect, & Look for Markers of Spiritual Maturity

ADVANCE READING

Acts Ephesians 1:14–22 Luke 11:1–13

PRAYER PROMPTS

MONDAY EVENING | Colossians 4:2–4

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

TUESDAY MORNING | Inspired by Matthew 11:28–30 & John 14–17

Lord Jesus, help us slow down, be still, and abide with you. We are weary workers whom You have invited to rest. We are Your siblings, servants, and friends whom You have given your Spirit. Teach us Your gentle and lowly way of serving others. Strengthen our resolve to work together for Your Father's glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING | Colossians 1:11,12

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all His glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to His people, who live in the light.

RESOURCES

Next Steps

ADDITIONAL READING AND LISTENING

While the Bible is our ultimate authority and source of truth, there are a lot of other resources we can utilize in our pursuit of fulfilling the Great Commission. Below is a list of books and podcasts curated and recommended by Tim Sprankle.

To Understand What Makes Testimony a Powerful Practice

Watch/listen to Grace Story Podcast interview with Tim Sprankle (Episode 86) or read *Saying is Believing* by Amanda Drury.

For Opposing Approaches to Discerning God's Will

Read *Just Do Something* by Kevin DeYoung and *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton.

To Develop a More Disciplined Prayer Life

Read and apply principles from *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller or *Lead with Prayer* by Peter Greer or 4 Ways of Solitude bookmark.

To Understand the “Genius” You Bring to Your Team

Take the Working Genenius assessment (\$25; WorkingGenius.com) and discuss with your teammates.

To Build an Enduring Faith

Watch/listen to Carey Nieuwhof's interview with Gordon MacDonald, “The View from 80” or read his book *The Resilient Life*.

SESSION QUESTIONS

Dig Deeper

SESSION ONE

What makes testimony powerful? What are the limits to testimony? Where can you LOCATE God at work in your life?

SESSION TWO

How did people discern God's voice in the Old Testament? How did they discern His voice in the early church? What does your discernment process look like? What safeguards keep you from misinterpreting God's will?

SESSION THREE

What are the main obstacles to your prayer life? How has your practice of prayer changed over the years? How does corporate prayer factor into your prayer life? In what ways would you like to grow in prayer?

SESSION FOUR

How does teamwork factor into your leadership and ministry? What strengths and weaknesses do you bring to your team? How has God used teamwork to multiply your impact?

SESSION FIVE

How has your faith and leadership changed in the past 5 years? What challenges has God helped you overcome in that timeframe? What challenges are you currently facing that could lead to resentment, burnout, or despair? Who can help you navigate these challenges?



AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Nine-Hole Scramble Sponsored
by Inspire (bring clubs)
Disc Golf (bring discs)
Board Games (bring games)
Pickleball (bring paddles)
Beach/walking trails

LATE NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Watch Playoff Baseball
Board Games
Card Games
Indoor Campfire & S'mores

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Water's Edge Restaurant
The Oregon Inn
El Sol Azteca Mexican Restaurant
Tony Packo's Restaurant
PizzaPapalis

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Marblehead Lighthouse
Maumee Bay State Park
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
Point Place Lighthouse

Optional Brainwriting Lab — Tuesday from 9:30–10:30 a.m.

What would it look like to foster a culture of movement among Charis Fellowship churches? What is God already doing that we should **celebrate**? What has he done in the past we should **commemorate**? How can we better **collaborate** with other leaders, sister churches, and national ministry partners? What should we **catalyze**? In this hour we will use a brainwriting exercise to dream together about our common mission.



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FELLOWSHIP**
Truth · Relationship · Mission