



# Central Baptist Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

## Up Front



“God is at work in this church!”

As we closed the books on 2016, I heard that phrase, or some variation of it, from many of you. In retrospect 2016, was a year where we as a church took steps in faith to lean forward into some uncertain territory.

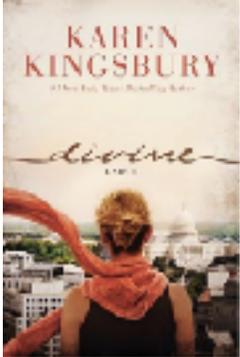
After an intentional year of discerning God’s leading, we took the step of uniting our downtown worship services and altering our schedule in effort to create space for all generations to worship God together. We are learning a great deal as we plan, receive feedback, and continually evaluate and modify how we seek to worship God together. Beginning in the season of Lent, a newly formed Creative Worship Team will begin investing energy into leading us in worship through a variety of creative worship elements.

Last year, our Finance and Property Area volunteers began work in moving toward a plan to raise money to meet current and future property needs as our buildings are both in the neighborhood of 50 years old. With the help of the ABC-GRR and the work of John Grisham, this effort turned into what we now know as Miracle Sunday. At the onset, I had high hopes that \$150,000 might be raised to address needs. With the Miracle Sunday Team’s push we set our goal at \$316,690 and to date you have given and pledged \$400,058. I’m honestly in awe at the generosity of this church family, every time I write or say that number I pinch myself a little.

As a church, God has used you in a variety of ways to shine his light and demonstrate his love in the world...cont. on page 2

- **Feb 3rd-CH/Children’s Church Event**
- **Feb 5th - Souperbowl Of Caring**
- **Feb 13th - LCT / Finance**
- **Feb 13th - Lincoln’s Bday  
CBC / CH Closed**
- **Looking ahead:**
- **March 1st - Ash Wednesday**

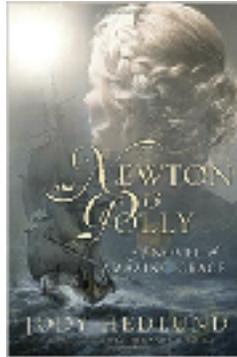
## *Divine* by Karen Kingsbury



The powerful story of Mary Madison, inspired by the life of Mary Magdalene, is filled with tragedy until caring people reach out to her and guide her to safety and to faith in God. Mary, in turn, spends her life opening shelters for battered women and becomes a strong advocate for abused women.

*Divine* is a picture of how one life, exposed to the worst of the human condition, can be transformed.

## *Newton & Polly: A Novel of Amazing Grace*



John Newton, now remembered as the author of the world's most famous hymn. In the mid-eighteenth century, as England and France stand on the brink of war, John Newton is a young sailor wandering aimlessly through life. His only duty is to report to his ship and avoid disgracing his father—until the night he hears Polly Catlett's enchanting voice, caroling.

In this story of the lives of John Newton and Polly Catlett, author Jody Hedlund skillfully weaves together the history, romance, and Christian faith that inspired the world's best-loved hymn.

## Up Front Continued

You have made sure that Graham Elementary students have a library to get them excited about reading each week, mentored Graham students through Compass, given youth in downtown and New Berlin comfortable and fun environments to learn how to grow as disciples of Jesus, provided meals to Contact Ministries and to foster families through the James Project, you have supported missionaries in beautiful ways, you fed the city on Thanksgiving, and made sure parents of Graham students could bring joy to their children on Christmas. This list really only scratches the service, you have invested an incredible amount of energy this year in furthering God's Kingdom!

“God is at work in this church!” and we recognize there is work to be done. “For greater things have yet to come and greater things are still to be done in this city!”

As we move into 2017, I'm excited and dreaming about the ways we can learn together and develop new skills as a church family that will help us to do the work God is calling us too. I'm extremely grateful to be able to partner with you in this mission.

Your Partner in Mission, Josh



[National Marriage Week USA](#) is the week leading up to Valentine's Day – February 7-14. What will you and your loved one do to celebrate? Check out their [Marriage Tips](#) page for ideas, such as having a "Memory Lane Great Date," or taking the challenge to "Eat, Talk, and Play " together. National Marriage Week USA is part of an international collaborative campaign in 10 countries to strengthen individual marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a culture that fosters strong marriages.

During National Marriage Week, the price of the [Couple Checkup](#) assessment, developed by PREPARE/ENRICH, is typically reduced from \$35.00 to \$19.95. Any couple can take this nationally renowned assessment, which will generate a report for you about your relationship. This is a productive way to have a conversation and move forward with growth and change to strengthen your marriage.

The Marriage Tips page also includes information from [Family Dynamics Institute](#) on Communication and Attention, such as these essential components of a healthy marriage:

1. Consistent communication and romantic gestures that are maintained with both partners' needs understood and considered
2. Understanding and accepting one another's faults
3. Remaining supportive through efforts to learn from mistakes, rather than belittling or focusing on the negative
4. Respecting each other's habits, hobbies, desires, etc.
5. Understanding and encouraging the independence necessary at times to grow as individuals as well as a couple

The key to a great marriage is being intentional about showing your love on a daily basis. I like this quote from Family Dynamic Institute, "It is often said that 'a marriage takes a lot of work.' Perhaps it is better said in this way, '*a marriage needs a lot of attention*.'" That sounds a lot more empowering! The quote goes on to say, "The attention that two people give each other while falling in love should never really go away. While certainly the needs and demands of family and life are incorporated into a married couple's relationship, why would anyone replace the attention they gave to the love of their life with attention to other things? And besides, it's fun!"

What will you do to show your spouse love today?  
I trust you will have fun while doing it!

All best,  
Stephani Cave, LCPC  
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Love and friendship is a theme often related to the month of February. As we celebrate Valentine's day we will reflect and focus on the one who first loved us. How amazing his love is! Our focus bible verse for the month will be 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us." The definition of love is unlimited and means something different to everyone. This month we asked our preschoolers what love is.

Please enjoy their answers below.

### 3's and 4's- Shooting Stars

- Shreyansh-** Audrey  
**Juniper-** my mom  
**Cora-** Joy  
**Ava-** I make a heart  
**Ryleigh-** Me and my sister playing in my playroom  
**Audrey-** When I get to be a mermaid  
**Claire-** when I am cold  
**Brendan-** Having a stinky garbage truck toy  
**Lillian-** it is this big, very big (opens arms very wide)  
**Isaiah-** when someone hugs me  
**Ellie-** It means I love you.  
**Eliza-** Loving your mom, dad and sister because they always protect and look out for me.

### 4's and 5's- Rainbows

- Harper-** When I get a hug or kiss  
**Bijoux -** When someone gives you a hug or kiss  
**Oliver-** When you have hot food  
**Tommy-** letting people come to my birthday  
**Hunter-** My friend, Isaiah  
**India-** When they tuck me into bed  
**Bentley-** My birthday  
**Kieran-** Loving my teacher, Miss Rachael  
**Olivia-** you like each other  
**Max-** My mom and dad give me food  
**Liam-** When they buy me presents  
**County-** When you love one another, that is my family motto  
**Greyson-** When someone loves you, then you make them a card.  
 Oh and food.

Our staff has been keeping busy, as they maintain required training and qualifications. Last month staff finished their first aid and food handler license training. In the next few months staff will be completing more trainings on curriculum, as we implement new curriculum into the classrooms. Everyone is very excited for the opportunity for growth in our program. We are invested in approving the quality of care we provide for the Children House families.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/02	Dave Law
02/04	Adeline Wells
02/06	Dane Holmes
02/06	Ruth Lee
02/08	Joleen Welch
02/09	Ann Wells
02/16	Dan Holland
02/19	Mary Sharp
02/22	Sheila Fite
02/22	Carter Hanson
02/22	Sheila Hodel
02/22	Virginia Langford
02/22	Kathleen Yazell-Smith
02/23	Mary Kirschner
02/26	Pat Miles
02/27	Phil Richardson
02/28	Carol Volle

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

*We have no listings for February Anniversaries.*

## Our Condolences

Our hearts and prayers go out to the following families who lost loved ones during the month of December and January. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers following this difficult time.

- Jane Acres in the death of her sister
- Phyllis Hudspeth in the death of her bother in law
- Judith Anderson in the death of her husband Don

*But we do not want you to be uninformed about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as others do who have no hope.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13*

Are you wondering if your relationship might need a tune up? Take the [Relationship Maintenance Survey](#) to find out. For monthly couples, individual, and family tips, please sign up for our [e-newsletter](#). For daily relationship tips, follow us on [facebook](#). For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit our website at [www.connectedpairs.com](http://www.connectedpairs.com), stop by, call, or email me in the counseling office. I look forward to talking with you soon.

We are looking for volunteers to help shelve and check out books for the Graham Elementary library on Thursdays and Fridays. If you are interested please contact Barb Mckean at (217)652-9916 or [mckean\\_b@msn.com](mailto:mckean_b@msn.com)

## **Kumler Food Pantry**

As the winter weather continues, please remember those in Springfield that without your help will go hungry. For the month of February consider picking up an extra jar of peanut butter or a box of cereal and bring it to the Serve the World Center for the Kumler Food Pantry. They serve many clients that are food insecure and the need is always great. Remember too that all nonperishable food is welcome.

## **Valentine Member Care Bags-February**

This year we will be collecting items to include in gift bags for Valentine's Day for special members of our church family. These members may be elderly, lonely, ill, or just need a special "you are loved" from our church. Suggested items include: chapstick, small Kleenex packets, pens, note cards, puzzle books, mugs, Valentine decorations, candy, hand lotions, etc. Please place your donations in the box at the Serve the World Center by Sunday, February 5. We will pack the bags at the Wednesday night dinner on February 8 and target delivery for Saturday, February 11. If you can help deliver these gifts please let the church office know.

A special thanks from the James Project to CBC for their recent donations!

## Children's House Spotlight Staff:

Loretta Pimpton celebrates her second work year with us here at Children's House. Miss Loretta can be found each and every day caring for the infants in the Baby Bunny room. She is a proud mom of two and enjoys spending as much time with her family as she cans. We are so grateful for Miss Loretta and look forward to celebrating many more years with her.

Beginning in February, Central will be joining several other churches in a Faith Coalition for the Common Good initiative called Sacred Conversations on Race. The program was designed to support congregations as they broach the difficult, but necessary conversations centered on racial tensions. With a community in need of understanding, healing and great systemic change, these conversations are very important. The hope is that these discussions will make it easier to understand the plight of others, have your stories heard and begin to work together for an undivided community. There will be four meetings in total.

The opening session is February 26th at Central from 4 to 6:30 PM. All congregations will convene together to worship and reflect. There will be a gathering in March and April (dates to be determined) for our church to participate in facilitated conversation. On April, 30th all churches will convene together again to worship, reflect, and plan action steps.

We hope you will you plan to participate in this opportunity for us to learn and gain new skills that will help us be better neighbors in our city. If you have any questions, contact Josh.

The Graham Christmas Gift Mart held on December 10th was a beautiful day of supporting Graham families! An incredible group of 40 volunteers from the church and school came together to help parents and family members shop for and wrap Christmas presents for Graham students. This was made possible through your generous support in buying presents and donating money to purchase items!

In all we created space for parents and family members to shop for 129 children!

A special thanks to Sharon Smith who did all the shopping with donated funds and found many great items that children are enjoying right now!

This year our youth group traveled to Wisconsin for our annual SKWIM Trip. Students, leaders, and adults were able to ski and swim during the our 3 days stay in Green Lake, Wisconsin. We had a group of 12 students and leaders join with 130 more students from other churches and ministries at Green Lake Conference Center where we were also led in worship with the CBC Worship Band and led in teaching sessions by Ben Wakefield from Indianapolis, IN

# What's Happening

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## Monthly

### AB Men's Breakfast

1st & 3rd Saturday; 8 am; (Merriam Hall)

### Hegarty Circle

2nd Monday; 9:30 am; (Weber Lounge)

### Beth Long Circle (New Berlin)

3rd Thursday evening; various locations

### Newsletter

All submissions must be made by the 15th of every month

### Girl Scouts

1st & 3rd Tuesday; 6 pm; (New Berlin)

## Weekly

### SUNDAY

9:15a Sunday School (Downtown)

10:15a Fellowship Time (Downtown)

10:45a Worship Service (Downtown)

9:30a Worship Service (New Berlin)

10:30a Sunday School (New Berlin)

6:00p Youth (New Berlin)

Meet bi-weekly

### TUESDAY

3:00p Compass

### WEDNESDAY

4:45p Wednesday Night Dinner

6:45p Choir Practice

### THURSDAY

7:00p Worship Team Rehearsal

All events at Springfield location unless otherwise noted.

### Feb 3rd

#### CH and Children's Church Winter Picnic

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Merriam Hall

Dinner Provided

### Feb 13th

#### Finance / LCT Meeting

5:30 pm / 6:30 pm

### Feb 13th

#### Lincoln's Birthday

CBC Offices / Children's House Closed

### March 1st

#### Ash Wednesday Service

Merriam Hall

501 South Fourth  
Springfield, IL 62701

