

Central Baptist *Church*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH |
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017/2018

Up Front

Our Bible reading the past couple of weeks brought Jeff and I to chapter 2 of the book of 2 Thessalonians and we found it spoke to both of us, similarly and differently at the same time. As is so often the case, God's word spoke to me in the places my heart has been troubled this season. I share it with you as we enter the season of advent.

This fall has been full of news that weighs down on us. It seems that one disaster followed another whether it was hurricanes or forest fires or earthquakes. Globally, the stories of the Rohingya in Burma fleeing as they are persecuted, war torn Syria, nuclear armed North Korea have dominated the news. In the US mass shootings, one as a church gathered to worship, reminders of our systems of racism and the uncovering of sexual harassment in many levels of our culture are just a few of many stories that break our hearts and remind us of the brokenness of our world. It is overwhelming and we wonder how can this all be made right?

Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians 2 describe some of the wickedness present and celebrated in the world before the 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Much of it seems as familiar today as it may have seemed to the first hearers of this letter. We have seen several cycles of this since Paul wrote these words. Then Paul comes to verse 8 where he says:

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

I was reminded again, that the heavy lifting of making things right is not done by human will or intellect or power but by the coming of the resurrected Jesus Christ who overthrows evil, not through military strength but by the words his mouth and the magnificent glory of his appearing where no evil is able to exist. Peace returned to my soul to be reminded of the perfect power of Jesus Christ whose goodness and grace and love and justice is far far stronger than all the wickedness in all the world...page 2

Church Events

- **12/9-Graham Christmas Mart**
- **12/11-LCT**
- **12/13-Children's House Christmas Program**
- **12/24-Christmas Eve**
- **12/25-26 CBC Offices Closed for Christmas**
- **12/31-New Year's Eve**
- **1/1-New Year's-CBC Closed**
- **1/8-LCT**
- **1/12-1/15-SKWIM**

Off The Shelf



Living the Proverbs: Insight for the Daily Grind (2012).

The author takes readers on an insightful journey through Proverbs, helping them discover wisdom desperately needed to

survive

life's daily grind. We all have those days - when small problems become crises, when little temptations become big choices, when we don't know who to trust or where to turn. The book of Proverbs, written by the wisest man who ever lived, offers revolutionary wisdom for troublesome times. This remarkably down-to-earth study explores such pressing themes as how to handle difficult people, what to do when temptation comes, knowing who to trust, how to handle finances, and even wisdom on marriage



Stress Fractures: Biblical Splints for Everyday Pressures (1990).

The author brings God's perspective into your daily life and offers relief from the stress that injures the mind, the heart, and the spirit.

These books may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library.

Check-out a Christmas Book or Movie for the Month of December: There are approximately 200 Christmas books for all ages in the Baum Library. They are located in the southwest corner of the room. The movies are located in the Video Section behind the Librarian's Table.

During this month, you may keep these Christmas books and movies until January 1, 2018 rather than the normal 2 weeks.

Up Front Cont.

As we enter the advent season we light candles and sing songs and lift prayers of hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. While we look back to the birth we look forward with the same anticipation of the second coming when all that is wrong will be made right again. We don't anticipate and wait passively, we remember we are one with Jesus Christ and called to carry on his work until he comes.

As we hope and as we celebrate this season I encourage to first make time to root yourself in your relationship with Jesus Christ and then seek ways to be a demonstration of the goodness and grace and love and justice of Jesus Christ in your neighborhood, our community, the mall, the dinner table, the school Christmas program, your checking account and all the places your thoughts and your feet take you this season. I encourage you with the same words Paul used to encourage the Thessalonians as he concludes these remarks in chapter 2:

16 *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*

Grace and Peace,
Mary Ellen

Merry Christmas from the Counseling Corner!

The holidays are supposed to be a time filled with joy; however, the stress that comes along with the holidays can sometimes impact your relationship in a negative way. One important thing to do in your relationship is to talk to your partner about each of your expectations for the holiday season. Understanding what is important to your partner and learning to negotiate about holiday activities can help you to reduce conflict during the holiday season. It is also important to set priorities and put your marriage and family first during the holiday season.

The article “How Couples Can Beat Holiday Stress” from Cornerstone Marriage and Family Ministries talks about the ideas of discussing expectations and setting priorities and also gives other tips to help strengthen your relationship during the holidays. My favorite tip is to schedule a date night in December. In the article, Roy says if you can't find time to schedule one, then maybe you are over-committed. That's something to think about all year long. To read the article [click here](#).

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

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A Special Thanks

To my wonderful friends at Central,

I can't tell you how much it means to me and my girls that you love and support us. I need to thank every person that prayed for us over the years. I want to thank those who have prayed for our safety while traveling to Boston and back and for those who mentored my girls from young girls to present day. I want to thank you for every hug given to us.

You are a blessing to our lives,

Tsige Gerre Medhun
Sarah and Sophia

Birthdays And Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/08 Tricia Allen
12/09 Anne Tankersley
12/12 Rachel Crain
12/14 David Dalbey
12/16 Barbara Burris
12/16 Jennifer Hanson-Russell
12/16 Helen Richardson
12/17 Ralph Billings
12/18 Jim Lear
12/20 Colleen Pinto
12/23 Jim Nelson
12/24 Jerry Phillips
12/26 Jerry Fite
12/27 Heather Southwell
12/29 Gregg Harwood
12/29 Paul Thompson
12/29 Stephanie Beal
12/30 Selden Bernauer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/03 Phil & Debbie Maxwell
12/22 Herman & Evelyn Nagel
12/24 Fred and Suzanne Stericker
12/27 Mike and Kiersten Large

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

01/01 Roy Beal
01/01 Ruth Todd
01/01 Esther Crotchett
01/01 Carolyn Ferrel
01/02 Kathy Cooke
01/03 Diane Martin
01/06 Ethan Alt
01/07 Carol Matheson
01/10 Betsy Dunbar
01/13 Mae Moore
01/17 Sue Filler
01/17 Josh Sabo
01/18 Sarah Ashebir
01/18 Sophia Ashebir
01/18 Tony Crain
01/18 Craig Martin
01/19 Mary Alice Barnes
01/21 Pam Corey
01/21 Dave Matheson
01/21 Doug Meyer
01/21 Judy Thompson
01/23 Gail Stivers
01/30 Willow Smith
01/31 Kay Summers-Orr

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01/01 Dave & Carol Matheson
01/03 Brett & Pat Miles
01/27 Jim & Sue Filler

Around CBC

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, stop by, call, or email me in the counseling office. I look forward to talking with you soon.

KUMLER FOOD PANTRY-- DECEMBER

As the holidays approach let us remember the food insecure of our city and pick up an extra jar of peanut butter or box of cereal and bring it to the Serve the World Center for Kumler Food Pantry. A jar of peanut butter or a box of cereal doesn't seem like much but added together with what others bring it can make a big difference in the life of someone in our city.



Graham Christmas Mart

We are now accepting donations for our Graham Christmas Mart, which will be on December 9. Please feel free to donate new toys, books, clothes, money, etc. Please contact Sharon Smith with any question.

SKWIM

On January 12-15, we will be taking our students to Wisconsin for SKWIM. This weekend will be full of skiing, swimming, and spending time in worship. Sign ups have begun for our youth from 6th-12th grade. If you have any questions, or would like to sign up please contact Katie, Mason, or Josh.



Christmas Schedule

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will have church in Sunday school at both locations that morning, following our regular schedule. On Christmas Eve night, we will have our Christmas Eve Service at our downtown location at 7pm. CBC offices will be closed on Christmas Day and the day after Christmas.

Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers and supporters who helped make Feast of Plenty happen on Thanksgiving Day. Because of you, we were able to serve 803 meals!

To those who planned the event, helped purchase food, cooked the food, decorated the space, delivered meals, served the food, served our guests, and prayed for the event...THANK YOU. It was a beautiful day and a perfect way to celebrate Thanksgiving.

New Year's Eve

Join us Sunday, December 31st for a special Sunday morning of worship! We will be combining both our 9:30 AM New Berlin and our 10:45 AM Downtown Springfield worship services and worshipping together at 9:30 AM in Merriam Hall Downtown. This unique time of worship will include breakfast and a fun, conversational time of worship around tables that will conclude by 11 AM. Due to combining both locations there will be no service in New Berlin on the 31st and our normal schedule will resume January 7th.

Donations

All end of the year donations need to be turned in by noon on December 29 to be counted for the 2017 tax year. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen.

Children's House Christmas Program

On December 13 at 6:15pm the Children's House is having their annual Christmas Program! Feel free to join them in celebrating this Christmas season!

What's Happening

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)

5:00p Youth (New Berlin) Meet bi-weekly

TUESDAY

3:00p Compass

WEDNESDAY

4:45p Wednesday Night Dinner (1st and 3rd)

6:30p Choir Practice

THURSDAY

7:00p Worship Team Rehearsal

All events at Springfield location unless otherwise noted.

12/9-Graham Christmas Mart

10am-Merriam Hall

12/11-/LCT Meeting

5:30-Weber Lounge

12/13-Children's House Christmas Program

6:15-Merriam Hall

12/24-Christmas Eve Services

9:30am-New Berlin

10:45am-Downtown

7pm-Downtown

12/25 and 12/26-CBC Offices Closed for Christmas

12/31-New Year's Eve Service

1/1-New Year's Day-CBC Offices Closed

1/8-LCT Meeting

5:30pm-Weber Lounge

1/12-1/15-SKWIM

Our Condolences

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

- The friends and family of Garnett Briggs

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.

1st Thessalonians 4:13

Visitor's Info and FAQ

We are one church in **two locations**, with campuses in Springfield and New Berlin, IL. Together, we are a church family loving God, loving people, and serving the world in Jesus' name. All are welcome to worship with us. We gather each Sunday to love God in worship at our Springfield Campus ([located at 501 South 4th Street, Springfield, IL](#)) at 10:45am and at our New Berlin Campus ([located at 600 W Birch Street, New Berlin, IL](#)) at 9:30am. When you visit our church you are our guest. Our members and regular worshipers participate in a financial offering during the worship services, but this is not expected of our guests.

Our desire is to be a church that helps people know and experience God in a meaningful way. If there is anything that we can do to help you on your life and faith journey, please let us know.



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cbcchurchfamily.org

Office Hours - Monday
through Friday
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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Children's House –
<http://www.childrenshouse.org>

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