



NEWS

UP FRONT

Easter

When I was a child I remember the excitement of Easter. Among other things, it included an Easter basket with a gift and maybe some M&Ms, a new dress and white shoes to go with it to wear to church on Easter morning when I sang “Up from the grave He arose!” with all the gusto I could give it. But I also have a distinct memory from several of the Saturdays before Easter as I reflected that Jesus was in the grave that day. It was a fleeting attempt to connect to the sadness and the hopelessness that was experienced by his disciples and close friends who were living in the reality of his death but not yet realizing the resurrection that was about to change everything.

We live through many of these kinds of seasons in our own lives and in the life of the church. Times when death seems closer than life. Times when hope is difficult to grasp. Times when what we yearn for and pray for and work for seems likely to fall apart around us. It is in these seasons the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is most powerfully relevant.

Whether we are new in our walk with Jesus Christ or have been following him for years, there are places where the reality of the resurrection of Christ can sink deeper and deeper into the faith we profess each week. Anywhere along our walk we may find we have labored and hoped too long in the strength of our own resources. We become weary, we find ourselves in a mess we don’t know how to clean up, and fear clutches at our heart. It is then we need to stop and turn our eyes to the power of the resurrection which reminds us that God loves us and the God who loves us also has the power raise the dead.

Wherever you find yourself this season, I encourage you to take time to pause and reflect on how things are going. Are you full of faith or are you weary? Are you trusting God or are you fearful? Open up some space in your days to simply lay these things before God trusting him to do something beautiful with them. Join us on Easter Sunday and experience the excitement of Easter as we celebrate again that the God who loves us is the same God who raises the dead. And that changes everything.

Together in Christ,

Mary Ellen

COMING UP

- 4/3 Wednesday Night Dinner
- 4/6 Men’s Breakfast
- 4/7 Downtown Youth
- 4/9 Finance Team
- 4/9 Leadership Coordination Team
- 4/14 NB Youth
- 4/18 Maundy Thursday
- 4/20 Men’s Breakfast
- 4/21 Easter Sunday
- 4/28 NB Youth

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KUMLER & LOAMI FOOD PANTRIES

Spring is in the air and the food insecure of Springfield and Loami could use our help with some non-food personal items. For the month of April we are suggesting bringing personal care products such as soap, toothpaste, & deodorant to the Serve the World Centers where your donations will be taken to the Kumler and Loami food pantries. Remember that we always need nonperishable food as well.

A College Age bible study, led by Mason Wickham, meets weekly on Thursdays at various locations. See Mason for details or email him at mason@cbcchurchfamily.org

4/1 - The Worship Development team meets in Weber Lounge.

4/3 – Wednesday Night Dinners take place in Merriam Hall. Email your reservations to ann@cbcchurchfamily.org or call the church office.

4/6 & 4/20 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30am.

4/7 - Springfield Youth Group meets after worship from 12 - 2 p.m. There will be no Youth Group on Easter Sunday.

4/8 - Hegarty Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in Weber Lounge

4/14 & 4/28 - New Berlin Youth Group meet at 5 p.m.

4/9 - The Finance Team meets at 5:30 p.m.

4/9 - The Leadership Coordination Team meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

4/14 - Our Palm Sunday worship service will be a special walk through the final week of Jesus' life in preparation for Easter.

4/18 - Maundy Thursday service is at 7 p.m. downtown.

4/21 - Easter Sunday worship takes place at the regular times at both locations.

Outreach in 2019...We Really Need Your Help!

This year, we really want to increase our outreach efforts both in New Berlin and in Springfield. The Outreach Team has prepared an aggressive plan for this year and we can really use your help! If you would like to learn how you can help in New Berlin, please contact George Tankersley and in Springfield, please contact Larry Aldag. Let's really work hard this year to bring others to know the true love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A Note Regarding Downtown Worship Formation Team

The Worship Formation team has begun their work in earnest. This team will be assisting our worship leader and pastors in preparing the worship experiences. The influence of this team will first be seen in our April services. Melissa Gibson has lead our services throughout March, and in April we will also be asking for your thoughtful feedback on your worship experience. Look for a feedback form next to the feedback box in the Serve the World Center. Know that we covet your prayers that our work will help us reveal powerful and unifying worship experiences that shape us into Christlikeness. ~Leigh Steiner, Josh Sabo, Mary Ellen Sharp

APRIL 2019

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Amanda Jackson

4/2 Lindsey Harwood

4/3 Phil Maxwell

4/4 Abbie Mizeur

4/8 Nancy Langford

4/8 Olivia Crain

4/10 Barb Reynolds

4/11 Flo Fry

4/11 Kiersten Torbeck Large

4/11 Scott Russell

4/14 Malcolm McKean

4/16 Phil Palsen

4/17 Jennifer Logan

4/17 Josh Beal

4/17 Leigh Steiner

4/21 Connie Honey

4/25 Matt Milner

4/25 Jim Newbanks

4/26 Lucia Hill

4/28 Brooks Steiner

4/30 Tsige Gerre-Medhin

ANNIVERSARIES

4/7 Jan and Gene Sherrow

4/10 Jim and Jeanne Newbanks

Did we miss someone? Please let me know at ann@cbcchurchfamily.org

NOTES

Sound problems are a frequently identified issue in church worship services (including ours!). There are many reasons for this including architectural design, poor equipment, & operator error. Additionally each of us hear sound in a different way.....what is fine for one is too loud for another, or what is inaudible to one is blasting too loud for another. We know this to be true because, from feedback, we often receive the EXACT OPPOSITE feedback for a single service.

The Worship team has begun to address this challenge. We are first engaging an expert sound design person to evaluate our sanctuary for its architectural challenges, to review our equipment and give us guidance on what equipment we need to purchase to improve our sound, and to provide sound technician training where helpful. We will keep you informed as we move along this road. PLEASE be PATIENT as we work through these very complicated issues. There are no easy fixes to make sure that sound works for everyone....but we are seriously working on this.

In the interim, one thing that many churches has done is provide ear plugs for the congregation to use if the sound is too loud for your hearing. Beginning this week you will find a basket of ear plugs at the entrances which you can use to help baffle sound if this is a challenge for you. ~Your Worship Team

On March 12th, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders at Graham Elementary began taking the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. This is a 5-section assessment in which each section takes between 60 and 90 minutes; the results of which are used to assign our school's ranking on the State Report Card. This is a very hard and intensive, high-stakes assessment. With the help of some incentives and snacks, we felt as if a good majority of the kids tried hard each day and we hope to see that effort reflected when we get the scores back this summer or fall. Thank you Central Baptist for your help with providing snacks to each student before they took the test and the notes of encouragement sent from the Adult Sunday school classes. You impact our student in so many ways and we appreciate all that you do for the kids at Graham. Thanks, ~Steven J. Miller, Principal

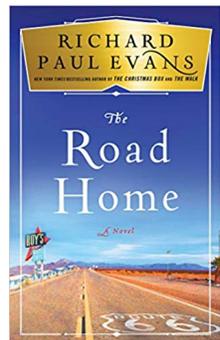
Thanks to Ruth Ficke and Joleen Welch who put together the snack packs. And thanks to the Adult Sunday School classes who wrote notes of encouragement to the students. Some of the Graham students have written thank you notes to CBC. A few of the notes will be printed in the May issue of the CBN. ~ Barbara McKean

OFF THE SHELF

The Road Home by Richard Paul Evans will be available May 7

The Road Home is the third and final book in the *Broken Road* trilogy. It is the story of Charles James, a Chicago celebrity and pitchman who, after losing everything of true value in his life, (and narrowly escaping death—everyone thinks he's dead) decides to rethink his choices as he walks the length of Route 66. It is a love story as well, as he seeks to somehow regain the one woman who really loved him, Monica his ex-wife. The first two books in the trilogy are ***The Broken Road (Book 1)*** and ***The Forgotten Road (Book 2)***.

This book may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library after May 7. Books 1 and 2 are already on the New Book Rack.



Long Live the Bookworm!

According to a study mentioned in the January/February 2017 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, findings from a Yale Study suggests that one benefit of reading books is longer life. In the study readers had a 23-month longevity advantage over nonreaders. Reading books is keeping your brain sharp, which is helping you live longer.

A NOTE FROM CHILDREN'S HOUSE

April will not only bring a few spring showers but also many fun activities. Classrooms will be exploring the element of rain and all of its wonder. Of course we can not forget about Earth Day. Classrooms will be engaged with books and activities to help celebrate this day. Easter will be the main focus for Christian living this month, as Pastor Josh will help us learn more about Easter during this month's chapel.



Every April we celebrate the Week of the Young Child (April 8th-12th). Throughout this week we honor early childhood development. We are excited to celebrate our young learners with five fun-filled themed days. "Hooked on Books" will serve as the main theme for this literacy driven spirit week. Each themed day includes activities, songs, special dress-up days, and even snacks focused on the book of the day. All week there will be special guest readers at the center to help us celebrate. We will close the week with Family Friday. Families will be invited to join us for an ice cream social.

Judy

Children's House Director

A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Not all relationships are healthy. According to an article by the staff of HealthPrep, there are five signs of a healthy relationship. The first is that both are equals. This involves compromising and responding to each other's input. Next, is that each have mutual respect. This means appreciating each other's values and choices. Respect is a vital part of a loving relationship. Thirdly, is having open and honest communication. This is the fuel that drives the relationship. Many a relationship has failed when communication is lacking. Fourth, each should be supportive of the other's goals. Dreams for the future need to be shared and appreciated by both. Day to day goals should also be discussed and respected. The last sign of a healthy relationship is the couple is responsible and accountable. They come through for each other. They can expect support from each other. To read the full article, click [here](#).

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

ConnectEdPAIRS

217-972-4851

stephani@cbcchurchfamily.org

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.