



NEWS

UP FRONT

One of the most fascinating aspects of Jesus making “his dwelling among us” as we celebrate at Christmas is the way his moving into our neighborhood was marked by vulnerability. We often run from and protect ourselves from threats of vulnerability, often for good reason, but as we consider the life of Jesus it is amazing to see the ways his openness to being vulnerable created opportunities for people to partner in God’s mission to redeem the world.

Often in our scriptures of focus during Advent, it is not Jesus offering hospitality, helping others in need, or serving the stranger but instead it is Jesus who is in need. We see a connection to this reality in our day when, in response to events in our world, people refer to Jesus as homeless or as a refugee and wonder where Jesus would be in the middle of the brokenness of our world. Without question, Jesus identified with and had a special concern for those considered to be the “least of these.” Jesus did not run from vulnerability instead he moved toward it with an openness, grace, and humility that has left a tangible mark on our world. As people holding on to the gift of grace this is incredibly good news for us!

This Advent season, we are going to focus on how the vulnerability of openness, grace, and humility create space for us to welcome God into our lives in a fresh way. In this season, we remind ourselves that God is with us, God is working, and that gift of God’s love is the greatest gift the world has known.

Your Partner in Mission,

Josh

COMING UP

12/8 Graham Christmas Mart

12/10 Leadership Coordination Team

12/12 Wednesday Night Dinner

12/12 Children’s House Program

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

12/24 Church office closed

12/25 Church office closed

12/30 Combined Worship Service

1/1 Church office closed

1/16 Quarterly Business Meeting

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Wednesday Prayer Group meets every week in Mary's office from 12:30 - 1:30pm. Mary Ellen leads this group with thoughts and prayers from various books. Come pray with us!

12/3 - Hegarty Circle meets in Weber Lounge.

12/12 - Wednesday Night Dinner takes place in Merriam Hall from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Make your reservations by noon Tuesday, 217-523-3639, or email ann@cbcchurchfamily.org. Note the new dates.

12/1 & 12/15 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30am.

12/2 & 12/16 - Springfield Youth Group meets after worship from 12 - 2 p.m.

12/9, 12/23, 12/30 - New Berlin Youth Group meets from 5-7 p.m.

12/10 - Leadership Coordinating meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

12/24 - The Christmas Eve service takes place at 7pm.

12/24 & 12/25 - Church Office closed for Christmas

12/30 - A Combined Worship service with New Berlin and Springfield will take place at 9:30am in Merriam Hall downtown. (There will be no worship service at New Berlin). This unique time of worship will include breakfast around tables with conversation and prayer. Come join us as we anticipate the New Year.

1/2 & 1/16 - Wednesday Night Dinners return to their regular schedule of the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 4:45pm. Make your reservations by noon the Tuesday before the meal by calling Ann at the church office or emailing ann@cbcchurchfamily.org.

1/2 - 5 - Youth Passion College Trip

1/5 & 1/19 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30am.

1/6 & 1/20 - Downtown Youth meet after worship.

1/13 & 1/27 New Berlin Youth meet from 5-7pm.

1/14 - Hegarty Circle meets in Weber Lounge.

1/14 - The Leadership Coordination Team meets in Weber Lounge at 6:30pm. Note: date may change.

1/16 - The Quarterly Business Meeting takes place in Merriam Hall at 6pm.

1/18 - 21 - SKWIM: Youth will be attending a worship conference and ski trip in Green Lake, WI.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide each member of the church along their spiritual journey. Envelopes are in the pews and checks should be made to Central Baptist Church with RMMO in the memo. Thank you for your generous gifts.

Dec/Jan 2018-19

BIRTHDAYS

12/8 Tricia Allen

12/9 Anne Tankersley

12/12 Rachel Crain

12/14 David Dalbey

12/16 Helen Richardson

12/17 Ralph Billings

12/18 Jim Lear

12/21 Luke Brandenburg

12/23 Jim Nelson

12/24 Jerry Phillips

12/26 Jerry Fite

12/27 Heather Southwell

12/29 Paul Thompson

12/29 Stephanie Beal

12/29 Gregg Harwood

12/30 Selden Bernauer

1/1 Carolyn Ferrel

1/1 Esther Crotchett

1/1 Roy Beal

1/2 Kathy Cooke

1/6 Ethan Alt

1/7 Carol Matheson

1/10 Betsy Dunbar

1/13 Mae Moore

1/17 Josh Sabo

1/17 Sue Filler

1/18 Craig Martin

1/18 Sophia Ashebir

1/18 Sarah Ashebir

1/18 Tony Crain

1/19 Mary Alice Barnes

1/21 Judy Thompson

1/21 Doug Meyer

1/21 Pam Corey

1/21 Dave Mathson

1/25 Scott Darrow

1/30 Willow Smith

1/31 Kay Summers-Orr

KUMLER & LOAMI FOOD PANTRIES

For the months of December and January when the weather is usually cold and wintry take a few moments to remember the food insecure of our city and pick up an extra can or two or three of soup, chili, or stew for the Kumler food pantry. Just drop them off at the Serve the World Center and we will make certain that they are brought to Kumler. Reach out in Christ's name to those in our city who are hungry and in need.

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Stefanie Munos on her baptism November 18.
- Congratulations to Luke Brandenburg, Carson Lynch, Jack Reynolds, Judson Sabo, and Marty Saint on being dedicated to the Lord November 18.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped plan and prepare food for the potluck after Luke's dedication. We are so thankful for the way this church has loved and ministered to us since joining in 2013, and we are especially grateful and blessed for the ways you have invested in the lives of our boys, Bo and Luke. It is evident how loved they are when we walk into this church. Thank you for taking the time and effort to bless us again with your words of encouragement and acts of service.

~Jamie, Melissa, Bo, & Luke Brandenburg

WASHINGTON STREET MISSION & HY-VEE

On November 9-10, CBC partnered with the Washington Street Mission at the HyVee store to solicit shoppers to purchase items needed and used every day at the Mission, such as coffee, napkins, laundry detergent, etc. CBC used its promotional display, along with passing out CBC brochures as did the Washington Street Mission. More than 900 items were purchased by shoppers and donated to the Mission. A special thanks to the following...Pastor Josh for doing a very early radio interview, the following people who volunteered and/or helped to deliver the items to the Mission: David Ficke, Nora Ficke, Nora's friend Griffin, Nancy Wilkinson, John Martin, Judith Anderson, Stephanie Miller, Garvice Saunders, George Tankersley, Caland Wilson, Sheila Zeiger, Dulci Harms, Taylor Kinkade, Brenda Thornburgh, Kay Summers-Orr and all who supported this effort.

GRAHAM - COMPASS AT WESTMINSTER

The Compass program for Graham students is a partnership between Compass for Kids, Central, and Westminster Presbyterian. The program is held each Tuesday from 3 to 6:30 PM. Volunteers can serve for a portion of that time in a variety of different roles. To find out more information email Molly Berendt at molly@compass4kids.org.

FEAST OF PLENTY THANKSGIVING DAY MEAL

We are incredibly grateful for the many volunteers and supporters who helped make Feast of Plenty happen on Thanksgiving Day. Because of you, we were able to serve 850 meals. For all those who planned, purchased food, cooked, decorated, delivered, and served, we thank you. Your prayers and support were a blessing. It was a beautiful day and a perfect way to spend Thanksgiving.

ANNIVERSARIES

12/3 Phil & Debbie Maxwell
12/20 Paul & Melissa Gibson
12/22 Herman & Evelyn Nagel
12/24 Fred & Suzanne
Stericker
12/27 Mike & Kiersten Large
1/1 Dave & Carol Matheson
1/3 Brett & Pat Miles
1/27 Jim & Sue Filler

NEWS AND NOTES continued..

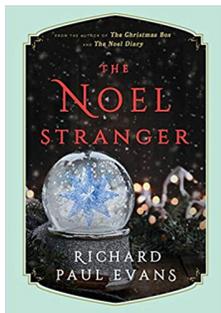
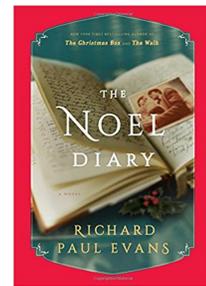
Thank you for the blessing we were given Sunday, November 18, when Sharon Smith and Melissa Brandenburg accompanied each other on the organ and piano with "Come Ye Thankful People Come". We were also treated to a brass duet by Willow and Gideon Smith. The service was completed with the dedication of five little boys. ~Judith Anderson

OFF THE SHELF

Two Richard Paul Evans Books From the Noel Collection

The Noel Diary (2017). Bestselling author Jacob Churcher hasn't been home for almost twenty years—not since his mentally ill mother kicked him out of the house when he was just sixteen. When a lawyer calls, days before Christmas, to inform him that his estranged mother has passed away and left her house to him, Jacob returns not just to settle the estate but to try and reconcile with the past and the pain and abuse he experienced as a child. Also, maybe cleaning out her house will be slightly less depressing than spending the holidays alone, watching re-runs of Christmas classics.

But as it turns out, the house holds more than just difficult memories, Jacob's mother had become a hoarder and he must excavate through two decades worth of clutter. As Jacob digs through the detritus, like an archaeologist, he uncovers many puzzling items including a diary left by someone named Noel, a young woman he has no recollection of, who stayed with Jacob's family during her pregnancy. That's not the only echo from the past. Jacob has an unexpected visitor, Rachel, a woman looking for the mother who put her up for adoption thirty years before. United by their quest to make sense of the past and rewrite their futures, Jacob and Rachel begin a search for Noel. Along the way they find more than they possibly imagined, including grace, forgiveness and a chance at love.



The Noel Stranger (2018). Maggie Walther feels like her world is imploding. Publicly humiliated after her husband, a local councilman, is arrested for bigamy, and her subsequent divorce, she has isolated herself from the world. When her only friend insists that Maggie climb out of her hole, and embrace the season to get her out of her funk, Maggie decides to put up a Christmas tree and heads off to buy one—albeit reluctantly. She is immediately taken by Andrew, the kind, handsome man who owns the Christmas tree lot and delivers her tree. She soon learns that Andrew is single and new to her city

and, like her, he is also starting his life anew.

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

Jim Filler, on behalf of the Volunteer Library Team

The Graham Christmas Gift Mart is an opportunity for our church to partner with Graham Elementary in a way that empowers the families this Christmas season. Parents purchase a voucher at the school for \$5 and then come to Central to shop for their children on Saturday, December 8th from 10 to noon. The \$5 goes to Graham to support parent opportunities to select gifts for their children, wrap them, and bring joy to Graham children on Christmas morning.

We need your help to make this year another successful event! Would you consider helping in either or both of the following ways:

- GIVE - Would you consider making a monetary gift to help cover the cost of gifts? Make checks payable to Central Baptist with Graham Christmas Mart in the memo.
- SERVE - We are in need of volunteers on December 8th to help greet people, host our guests, help wrap gifts, work on crafts with kids, and help with the shopping process. If you are interested in serving you can email josh@cbcccchurchfamily.org or sign up on the sheet in the Serve the World center. Thank you for helping us Serve the World this Christmas season!

A NOTE FROM CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Children's House has been very busy this season. In October our DCFS licensing rep was here and we completed our yearly visit. The visit went extremely well and our rep commented on the quality of program we have and how she could feel the love by the staff in the building. Also in October we hosted Fall parties with a great parent turnout.

Staff completed re-certification in both CPR and First Aid. Sudden infant death training and re-certification was also completed.

In November our center worked together on a service project that was inspired by the season of Thanksgiving and Kindness Day (November 13th). Throughout the week we served our community by themed-based act of kindness.

Although Fall has kept us busy, we will not be slowing down in December. Classrooms will be going on several Christmas related field trips and many fun events are planned. Most importantly we will use this time to celebrate and learn about the birth of Jesus. Our center will host "Seven Days of Service", a week-long event in which each day is inspired by the spirit of giving.

On December 12 at 6:15pm, Children's House is having their annual Christmas program! Please join us in celebrating the Christmas season!

The entire staff of Children's House wishes you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Judy Vlach, Director

A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Couples Article

Do you ever feel so pressured to give your family the “perfect” holiday that you become impatient with your spouse and children? Kristen Manieri reminds us that connection, togetherness, gratitude, and giving are more important than having the most decorated house on the block or a ton of spectacularly wrapped presents under the superbly decorated tree. Ms. Manieri encourages us to allow good enough to be the new perfect. In her blog, “How to Stay Connected as a Couple Through the Holidays,” she suggests creating contentment through carving out white space where nothing is scheduled, tuning into moments of turning toward one another, slowing down, and taking responsibility to be available in day-to-day life. For additional tips and to read the entire article, click [here](#).

All the best,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

ConnectEdPAIRS

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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.

Note:

All contributions need to be turned in to the church office by noon on December 31 and dated 2018 to be counted for the 2018 tax year.