



NEWS

UP FRONT

Each Advent season, I love to focus on *The Message* version of John 1:14:

"The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish."

I love the sense of closeness this conveys as we think about Jesus moving into the neighborhood. It leads me to think about the sort of neighbor Jesus would be and more challenging than that, the sort of neighbor Jesus calls us to be. Jesus didn't just move into the neighborhood; through those who will take their life and follow him, he's still moving into neighborhoods all over the world.

The gospel of John describes this dynamic as light entering the world that darkness can not extinguish. We could all use a little more light. The light of Jesus is "generous inside and out" and, as the NIV says, full of "grace and truth." We're called to be light.

This season provides opportunity after opportunity for us to be "generous inside and out" and full of "grace and truth." As we move around within our neighborhoods this Advent season, may you and I celebrate the light that has overcome darkness by living as the light of the world!

Your Partner in Mission,

Josh Sabo

COMING UP

12/10 Leadership
Coordinating Team
12/14 Graham Christmas
Mart
12/18 Wednesday Night
Dinner and Children's House
Christmas Program
12/24 Christmas Eve Service
at Springfield & New Berlin
12/24 CBC/CH Offices
closed for Christmas Eve
12/25 CBC/CH Offices
closed for Christmas
12/29 Combined Worship
Service at Springfield
1/1/20 CBC/CH Offices
closed for New Year's Day
1/15 Quarterly Business
Meeting

WHAT'S HAPPENING

KUMLER & LOAMI FOOD PANTRIES

For the next two months the focus for the food pantry will be fruits and vegetables. As you know we rotate the types of items requested but that does not limit your opportunities to help out the food insecure in our area. Any and all non perishable items are needed and appreciated. So whatever strikes your fancy or wallet when you are shopping pick up something extra and bring it to the Serve the World Centers for the Kumler and Loami food pantries. Jesus commissioned us to feed the hungry and this is one way to honor Him.

Fellowship Opportunity at the Springfield Campus

The Member Care committee would like to invite those interested to meet in the Welcome Center following worship on the **SECOND Sunday** of each month and have lunch at designated restaurants in groups of 6-8. Everyone will pay for their own meal; but it is a chance to develop relationships over food. The past couple of months' lunches have been a resounding success!

12/10 - The Leadership Coordination Team will meet in Weber Lounge at 6:30 p.m.

12/18 - 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.

12/18 - The Children's House Christmas program starts in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will follow in Merriam Hall.

12/7 & 20 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30am. All men of the church are invited!

12/8 & 12/22 - Springfield Youth Group meets after worship

12/8 & 30 - New Berlin Youth Group meets from 5-7 p.m.

12/24 - The traditional Christmas Eve service of worship takes place at 7pm. at the Springfield campus and a quiet, intimate service of scripture and singing takes place at 11:30 p.m. at the New Berlin campus.

12/24 & 12/25 - the Church Office and Children's House are closed for Christmas holidays.

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.

1/15 - Wednesday Night dinners continue. Note: There will be no WND on January 1 as the church is closed for New Year's Day.

12/30-1/3 - The Youth Passion College Trip

1/4 & 1/18 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30am. All men are invited to this breakfast and time of fellowship.

1/5 - Downtown Youth meet after worship.

1/12 & 26 - New Berlin Youth meet from 5-7pm.

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

1/15 - The Quarterly Business Meeting takes place in Merriam Hall at 6pm.

1/17-20 - SKWIM: Youth will be attending a worship conference and ski trip in Green Lake, WI.

BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Jennifer Kramer

12/8 Tricia Allen

12/9 Anne Tankersley

12/12 Rachel Crain

12/12 Scott Nichols

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

1/3 Diane Martin

1/6 Ethan Alt

1/7 Carol Matheson

1/8 Colby Willhite

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

Please make sure your 2019 pledges are dated for 2019 and are in the church office by December 31. Thank you!

Our Condolences

To those who lost loved ones in November:

- the family and friends of Elaine Turkcan, who died November 5.
- the family and friends of Ken Crotchett, who died November 19.

Thank You Note

Dear CBC Family,

We would like to extend our gratitude to our CBC family who journeyed with us, supporting and loving Mom. A special thanks to Mary Ellen for Mom's beautiful "Celebration of Life" and to Josh for recording the service allowing family who were unable to attend be a part of Mom's service. The piano music and men's quartet were perfect. We so appreciate all the hands that worked to prepare a wonderful meal and those who served us around the tables. Family is the greatest blessing and you all have been ours! *The family of Elaine Turkcan*

Anniversaries

12/3 Phil & Debbie Maxwell
12/22 Herman & Evelyn Nagel
12/24 Fred & Suzanne Stericker
12/27 Mike & Kiersten Large
12/29 Paul & Melissa Gibson
1/1 Dave & Carol Matheson
1/3 Brett & Pat Miles
1/27 Jim & Sue Filler

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

Feast of Plenty Thanksgiving Meal

We are incredibly grateful for the many volunteers and supporters who helped make Feast of Plenty happen on Thanksgiving Day. For all those who planned, donated items, purchased food, cooked, decorated, visited with guests, cleaned, 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.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering is a personal offering during the month of December 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!

A Note on Church Finance

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Second Corinthians 7 that God loves a cheerful giver. Giving is actually a relational decision. In the process of making giving decisions we really establish our agreement with God about stewardship. As we decide to give, we constantly affirm how much we value our relationship to God as His children. And as God's stewards, giving decisions are simply a matter of thinking through how He wants us to allocate His money.

The church's Finance Team reviewed the October Financial Report at our monthly meeting and as it contained both good news and bad news, we decided to communicate our concern. The good news is that for the church's 2019 budget of over \$525,000, we have received \$11,228 more than we've spent year-to-date through the month of October. Also, our pastors have done an excellent job of controlling our expenses this year. The bad news is that the month of October was a month with one of the lowest monthly receipts for offerings and pledges in the past few years. Given that our local ministries budget is over \$525,000.00, we are concerned that we may end the year "cutting it very close" to budget.

As we enter the holiday season, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in your past giving and ask you to continue to remember the church as you make your giving decisions. ~Your
CBC Finance Team, Ross Hodel - Treasurer

GRAHAM CHRISTMAS MART

Dec/Jan 2019-20

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 14 from 10 a.m. 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 14 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@cbccchurchfamily.org or sign up on the sheet in the Serve the World center. Thank you for helping us Serve the World this Christmas season!

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.

A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Couples Article

Merry Christmas!

With all the hustle and bustle of the season, your marriage can take the back burner. Writing for the Gottman Institute blog, Ellie Lisista shares Dr. Gottman's "5 Tips for Filling Your Holiday Season with Romance," based on Gottman's research of what makes love last.

1. Give Love
2. Nurture Appreciation
3. Stay Emotionally Connected
4. Make Memories
5. Create Traditions

For additional details, and to read the entire article, click [here](#).

Best wishes for the happiest of new years.

Stephani Cave, LCPC

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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.

A NOTE FROM CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Dec/Jan 2019-20

Christmas is a very special season that we enjoy celebrating here at Children's House. As the anticipation of this month grows, we will continue to focus on the birth of Jesus. The Pre-K program will attend chapel this month with the Christmas story being the main focus.



On December 18th Children's House will host the annual Christmas program, beginning at 6:15 in the sanctuary. Families have been invited to join Wednesday night dinner prior to the program. This is always a great opportunity for Children families and CBC members to meet and greet one and another. We are very grateful for the Wednesday night cook team and their assistance with this evening.

Completion of the playground continues to move forward, weather permitting. A very special thank you to Scott Kinkade. We are very grateful for his assistance with this project. Children's House would also like to send a very big thank you to all the church members who assisted with the removal of the old playground. Even rain could not stop us.

Judy Vlach,

Director Children's House

OFF THE SHELF

Red Glove Series: Four Christmas Novellas from Karen Kingsbury

Book 1: Gideon's Gift (2002, 160 pages)

Book 2: Maggie's Miracle (2003, 167 pages)

Book 3: Sarah's Song (2004, 157 pages)

Book 4: Hannah's Hope (2005, 176 pages)



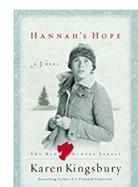
These books have an Amazon Rating of 4.6-4.8 out of 5. Readers have loved the idea of the red gloves. Red for Christmas, red for a heart full of love and hope and Christmas miracles. At the end of each book are several Red Glove projects that the reader may perform that relates to the events in the stories. 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, 2020 rather than the normal 2 weeks.



Time to Check-out a Devotional Book: The new year is fast approaching and now would be an excellent time to check-out a Devotional book to use in 2020. These books are located in Section 6. Daily devotional books may be kept for the entire year.



Jim Filler

On behalf of the Volunteer Library Team