



NEWS

UP FRONT

Greetings church family!

Well, what a tremendous fall we have had as a church body. This year we grew in the Feast of Plenty ministry and, Lord willing, we were able to serve 1,150 people this Thanksgiving. Wow! That is up nearly 30% from last year. There were so many people who made this possible and I want to offer a heartfelt thank you. This was a wonderful picture of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Another moment to celebrate was having the Good family come and share their ministry with us during the service. They are a truly amazing couple and the Lord is doing great things in Hungary. They offered a wonderful sermon and it was nice to see so many people embrace them after the service. Additionally, that same Sunday we had several people stay and help with the hanging of the greens. It was a nice moment and I am thankful to all who stayed and helped set up.

On December 1st at 6:00 pm we will have a Christmas Fellowship in Merriam Hall. There will be cider and cookies and we will have a few prizes for our Christmas trivia section. It is good to be together as a church family and spend time connecting with one another. No agenda, no business to conduct— just fellowship. I am praying this is a time of laughter, joy and encouragement. (Who knows, you might see Tony the Elf show up!)

Additionally, we will be having a RMO giving this December. This is a time to honor those retired missionaries and pastors who have served the church so well. There will be another note from John Grisham in the back of this newsletter on this matter, but I want to encourage you to think about giving to this important initiative.

Lastly, please note that we will have two services on Christmas eve as it falls on a Sunday. We will have a morning service at 10:45 and then the Christmas by candlelight service at 6:00 pm. Someone asked me why we were having a morning service that day. It is a good, honest, and sincere question. Three years ago, the entire world shut down and for two years we were unable to host Christmas services— I remember that feeling. I am betting you do to. So, if ever there is an opportunity to hold a service on a Sunday morning, I want to make sure it happens!

There is a great spirit in the church and I am so excited for what God is doing in this community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tony

COMING UP

12/1 Christmas Fellowship 6 P.M.
 12/2 & 12/16 Men's Breakfast 8 A.M
 12/9 Graham Christmas Mart 9:00-1:00
 12/12 LCT Meeting Weber Lounge 6:30 P.M
 12/24 & 12/25 Children's House and CBC offices closed for Christmas

Church Office
 8-5, M-F
 Children's House
 7:30-5, M-F

WHAT'S HAPPENING

December, 2023

Kumler & New Berlin Food Pantries

Do you help feed the food insecure of Springfield? When you go to the grocery store pick up an extra can or even a few extra cans of non perishable food and put them in the Serve the World Center and they will be taken to Kumler Food Pantry. It's not hard to do! Soup, peanut butter, vegetables, cereal will all make a difference to someone who is hungry.

Wednesday Night Dinner Shelter Meals

We provide meals for Contact Ministries through MealTrain. Instructions are on the Meal Train web site. Type this link into your browser to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/yoog5m> or call the church office and Ann will sign you up.

Dates to Remember

12/1 Join us in **Merriam Hall at 6 P.M** for our **Christmas**

Fellowship. We will have carols, trivia, Christmas cookies, and Cider.

12/2 & 12/16 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall for food and fellowship. All men of the church are invited.

12/9 Graham Christmas mart takes place in Merriam Hall from 9-1

12/12 Leadership Coordination Team meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

12/24 & 12/25 Children's House and Central Baptist Church offices are closed for Christmas.

News and Notes

Retired Minister and Missionaries Offering 2023

If it is December at Central Baptist Church then it is also the month for the Retired Minister and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)..

In preparation for the offering this year we are reminded that Good has been shared in many settings by American Baptist pastors, missionaries, leaders, and their widowed spouses.

The focus of the Retired Minister and Missionaries offering is two parts. First, the offering makes possible emergency assistance grants to those who have served and who are now in retirement and have financial needs. These financial concerns might include health care, utilities, transportation or other personal care needs. At the same time, those without financial needs are remembered and blessed by a " Thank You" from the offering. Through the offering, Good comes back to those who have served, perhaps as assistance, or perhaps as a Thank you.

Offering envelopes are available in the Worship Center Pews and also on the counter in the Serve the World Center.

In your giving Good will come
John Wm Grisham

BIRTHDAYS

12/9 Anne Tankersley

12/12 Scott Nichols

12/16 Helen Richardson

12/17 Ralph Billings

12/23 Jim Nelson

12/24 Jerry Phillips

12/29 Stephanie Beal

12/29 Gregg Harwood

ANNIVERSARIES

Fred and Suzanne Stericker 12/24

If we missed anyone, let us know at
Rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org

The Graham Christmas Gift Mart is an opportunity for our church to partner with the staff of 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 9 from 9-1. The \$5 goes to Graham to support their family engagement programming and the parents get the opportunity 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 the following ways:

- GIVE: We have had volunteers shopping for deals all year and the store is already better stocked than it has ever been. Would you consider making a monetary gift to help cover the cost of gifts?

-We are in need of scotch tape rolls and Large lawn and leaf trash bags.

-**Volunteer:** Volunteers will be needed beginning December 2 to help turn Merriam Hall into a Christmas store. Young people with strong backs would be especially appreciated. We need to get everything out of storage, set up tables, and hang signs from the ceiling. Please contact Sharon Smith at 217-416-8047 if you can help with setup.

Thank you for helping us Serve the World this Christmas season!

FOP NEWS

Thank you! We did it again. It amazes me each year as I watch the Feast of Plenty ministry in action. It is a beautiful thing to see the varied gifts and caring hearts that generously work together through the planning process to the actual cooking and serving of a Thanksgiving meal to the Springfield Community. Together through prayer, financial gifts, and many volunteer hours we fed around 1150 people on Thanksgiving Day. We delivered nearly 1000 meals to homes and organizations, and an additional 150 meals were either carried out or shared as we dined around tables in Merriam Hall. An additional 62 meals were carried out. You may have prayed for the ministry, supported it financially, provided a dessert, pulled roasters out of storage, greeted guests and volunteers, answered the phone, cooked, carried boxes to cars, delivered a meal or cleaned up on Thanksgiving day. Every single way you offered a gift was important and worked together for good and allowed us to feed people in our community this Thanksgiving.

Thank you!

Gratefully,

The FOP planning team of Denise Perry, Larry Aldag, Paula Harwood, Gregg Harwood, Randy Wells and Mary Sharp.

Children's House News

Do you hear what I hear? I hear the sweet sound of children preparing for the annual Children's House Christmas program. The classrooms have been preparing for the past for weeks for their special night on December 13th in the sanctuary beginning at 6:00p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and cookies will be served afterwards.

Hallways and classrooms are beginning to look a lot like Christmas, as the spirit of Christmas is stirring throughout the center. Throughout the month we will be discovering the story of baby Jesus. Our journey will begin with Mary and Jesus and their visit from the angel Gabriel. Together we will continue through the story and join the shepherds coming to visit. The monthly bible verse will be Luke 2:10.

Together we will celebrate the spirit of the Christmas season with seven days of service. For each day of the week, we will assign and participate in an area of service and spread kindness throughout community.

Sunday- Help someone who is wrapping gifts

Monday- Treat someone in your community

Tuesday- Thank a community helper

Wednesday- Make a joyful noise- we will be caroling

Thursday- Give a high-five, handshake, word of encouragement, complement

Friday- Donate to local charity (we will be collecting for Washington Street Mission)

Last month the Pre-K program attended two chapels in the sanctuary. Our second devotion focused on Psalm 118:6 "I will not be afraid because the Lord is with me!" . The preschoolers talked about how farmers use scarecrows to protect their crops. We talked about things they find scary. Just as scarecrows protect the crops- God protects us. He can scare away anything that bothers us. God is our protector. This month our chapels will focus on the birth of Jesus and the nativity.

FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Relationship Article

4 Strong Signs That a Relationship Can Last. John and Julie Gottman are experts in the relationship field. In this article, they share what research has shown them to be signs that a relationship is bound to last.

They are:

1. Fondness, affection, affirmation. The couple expresses positive affection either verbally or non-verbally.
2. We-ness versus separateness. The couple emphasizes their togetherness and unity.
3. Expansiveness versus withdrawal. The couple talks enthusiastically about their relationship.
4. Glorifying the struggle. The couple expresses pride that they have survived difficult times.

To find out more about these four signs, click here.

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

ConnectEdPAIRS

217-972-4851

Donna Givens, RN LCPC

618-973-5072

For more information about relationships, follow ConnectEdPAIRS on FaceBook. For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit the website at www.connectedpairs.com, call, or email the counseling office.

