



# NEWS

## UP FRONT

Dear church family,

Each Thanksgiving, our church comes together to host one of our most cherished outreach initiatives, **The Feast of Plenty**, a community meal that reminds us that God’s table is always open and overflowing with love.

Last year, through your generosity, we served **1,500 meals** with the help of **123 amazing volunteers**. This year, as conversations about **food insecurity** grows nationwide, we anticipate serving even more families and neighbors in need. Rachael has already been flooded with emails and calls requesting meals.

We need **all hands and hearts** this Thanksgiving! Whether you can serve, donate, or simply help spread the word, every effort makes a difference. We are blessed to have the **Junior Blues hockey team** joining us as volunteers on Thanksgiving morning.

Please pick up a **brochure** and help us **share about this project** in your neighborhood, workplace, and online. The more we share, the more we can serve.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...”

— *Matthew 25:35*

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”

— *Proverbs 22:9*

Let’s continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus this Thanksgiving — setting a table where everyone belongs and everyone is fed.

Church, I am **marked with great hope** about our future because I see the Spirit of Christ alive in you. Your compassion, your faith, and your willingness to serve make this community a light in dark times. May we continue to share the abundance of God’s love with every person we meet.

Deep Peace,  
Pastor Tony Stang

## COMING UP

**11/1** Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

**11/5** Connecting Women, 10 a.m., Weber Lounge.

**11/11** CBC is closed for Veteran’s Day.

**11/15** Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

**11/27** Feast of Plenty, Merriam Hall

**11/27 & 11/28** CBC is closed for Thanksgiving

**11/30** Hanging of the Greens In the Sanctuary

### Church Office Hours

8-2:30 T-F

\*The Church office is closed on Mondays.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Kumler Food Pantry

Food prices are going up and up! Think of those in our city who just can't afford to feed their family and government agencies can't help anymore. Please pick up an extra can or two of nonperishable food for these people and we will get it to the Kumler Food Pantry. A can of tuna, soup and Mac and Cheese will help a lot. There is also a very big need for peanut butter.

### Wednesday Night Dinner Shelter Meals

We provide meals for Contact Ministries through MealTrain. Instructions are on the MealTrain web site. Type this link into your browser to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/yoo5gm> or call the church office at (217) 523-3639 and Rachael will sign you up.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Connecting Women

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated to the Welcome Home Basket Initiative. Thanks to your kindness, we collected 35 boxes of house hold items for individuals transitioning into new homes. Your generosity truly makes a difference and helps create a warm welcome for those starting a new chapter.

### Feast Of Plenty

The frost is on the mums, the pumpkins and all the fall decorations and we are moving full speed into Thanksgiving and our Feast of Plenty Thanksgiving Day meal for the community. As in past years, we will be providing meals for delivery, carry out and for those who want to dine with us in Merriam Hall from 12:30-2:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving day. It could not happen without a multitude of volunteers. We hope you will be one of them.

Chef Denise Perry has volunteered again this year to cook. Volunteers are needed to serve food, pack boxes, donate commercially prepared desserts, greet visitors, deliver meals, help set up and provide additional help wherever needed. Many volunteers make this an annual tradition and spend their holiday helping others in the name of the Christ and His love. However, if you can't be here that day, there are needs ahead of the holiday. There is a sign up sheet on the Serve the World Center to volunteer in any of these vital areas. Financial gifts are also gratefully received. To help in any way or if you have questions, please call Rachael at 217-523-3639 or email the church at [office@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:office@cbcchurchfamily.org)

### Hanging of the greens

On Sunday, November 30, we will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas following the 10:45 worship service. We will have pizza for lunch. Please join us!

## BIRTHDAYS

11/3 Evelyn Nagel  
11/3 Lindsay Stang  
11/3 Emily Sharp  
11/5 Garvice Saunders  
11/6 Fred Stericker  
11/12 Nancy Wilkinson  
11/8 Betty Darrow  
11/18 Dick McDaniel  
11/23 Bruce Hays  
11/24 Sharon Ahrens  
11/29 Lillian Bernauer

## ANNIVERSARIES

11/17 Brad and Sheila Zeiger  
11/25 Greg and Paula Seifert  
11/28 Scott and Betty Darrow

If we missed anyone, let us know at [rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org)

## **NEWS AND NOTES (Cont)**

### **Graham School Christmas Mart**

The 10th annual Graham School Christmas Mart will be held in Merriam Hall on December 13 this year. In case you don't know about the Mart, here is a quick synopsis.

The Christmas Mart is basically a store set up for one day for parents of Graham School to select gifts for their children for Christmas. (We have an inventory worth about \$40,000, but we don't spend that much). Items are purchased throughout the year at clearance sales and stored at the church until the big day. (Monetary donations are always welcome).

The parents purchase a \$5.00 voucher at the school which allows them to shop. That money stays with the school for special projects. They bring the voucher to the church at a specific time and a personal shopper helps them choose a gift from four categories: A Want (toy), a Wear (clothes, coat), a NEED (pajamas, blankets, gloves, etc.) and READ (book). Parents are given wrapping paper and bows to take the gifts home with them. For some parents, this is the only way they can obtain gifts for their children. We serve about 200 children from Graham and when the Mart is done, items that are left are distributed to other worthy organizations.

This is our way of blessing the families of Graham Elementary School. Remember in Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, whatever you do to these my brothers you do unto me.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Many volunteers are needed to make Graham Christmas Mart happen.

On Saturday, December 6, after the Men's Breakfast is over, Merriam Hall needs to be transformed into a "department store". Chairs need to be folded up and tables need to be set up around the room. Hundreds of items need to be removed from storage and brought into Merriam Hall. Strong people are encouraged to show up!

On the day of the Mart, there are many positions you can volunteer to fill. Most of the teachers at Graham help on this day - some of them have been doing it for 9 years. Some Central members have also been volunteering for 9 years.

Volunteers are needed for the following positions: Personal shopper, merchandise restocked, parking lot attendant, carry-out help and hospitality. Volunteers will be needed from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can work the entire time or an hour or two.

If you have helped in the past and are familiar with the routine, please sign up for the position you have filled before. If you haven't volunteered, we can teach you in about 10 minutes.

There is a sign up sheet in the welcome center, or you can call Sharon Smith at 217-416-8047.

## CONNECTED PAIRS

### 7 Ways to Strengthen a Relationship

In this Psychology Today article, Amy Morin states that the best way to strengthen a relationship is to focus on becoming a better partner and by developing habits that will cultivate long lasting love.

Some ways to do this are:

1. Keep a photo of your loved one nearby. Studies show that looking at the picture periodically throughout the day increases commitment.
2. Remind your partner why you continue to choose him or her. It's important to affirm your commitment regularly.

To read more of these ways to strengthen your relationship, click [here](#).

Blessings,

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For more information about relationships, follow ConnectEdPAIRS on FaceBook. For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit the website at [www.connectedpairs.com](http://www.connectedpairs.com), call, or email

