



October 2026

# NEWS

## UP FRONT

Dear Saints,

It is good to write to you as we begin October.

I truly cannot believe we are already here. Somehow September came and went, and the cooler temperatures are certainly letting us know that fall has arrived. There is something about this time of year that invites us to slow down, pay attention, and give thanks.

And that is where I want to begin this month.

I am deeply thankful for this church.

Last spring, we took a risk together. We voted as a church family to try something different, something that would allow us to meet people right where they are and create a space where they could experience community, a good meal, and the story of Jesus.

And then, in September, we actually brought Dinner Church to life.

I meet people in our community all the time who are genuinely surprised that our church would try something so innovative. And honestly, I think that is exciting. We are making a little splash in our community simply by being willing to step outside of what is familiar and step out in faith.

That takes courage. And it takes a church family willing to say, "Let's see what God might do."

Jesus reminds us, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." — Luke 12:32

We have now had two weeks of Dinner Church, and both weeks have been very different while also being remarkably the same.

The first week, we had just a handful of people from the community join us. The second week, that number tripled.

## COMING UP

**10/3** Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

**10/7** Connecting Women, 10 a.m., Weber Lounge

**10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 &**

**10/29** Come to the Table, 6 p.m., James Kitchen. A free meal and a Jesus story

**10/17** Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

## Church Office Hours

8:00-2:30 T-F

\*The Church office is closed on Mondays.

## UPFRONT (cont...)\_\_\_

But as exciting as those numbers are, I keep coming back to something much more important.

People were seen.

People were safe.

People were welcomed.

And people heard a story about Jesus

In fact, one of the people who came to Dinner Church joined us for worship this past Sunday.

Saints, that is worth celebrating.

We don't know exactly what God will do with Dinner Church. We don't know who will come next week or what stories people will bring with them. We don't know where every conversation will lead.

But we do know this:

God is already at work.

So keep praying.

Pray for the people who walk through our doors. Pray for the people who are still deciding whether they can trust us. Pray for those who have been hurt by the church. Pray for those who have never found a place where they felt like they belonged.

And pray that in all we do, people encounter the love of Jesus.

Paul wrote, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." — 1 Corinthians 3:6

That feels like a good word for us right now.

We plant.

We water.

We set the table.

We welcome people.

We listen to their stories.

We tell the story of Jesus.

And then we trust God with the growth.

Thank you, Central Baptist, for being willing to take this journey together. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, your willingness to serve, and your willingness to try something new.

I am grateful to be your pastor.

I will see you Sunday.

With love,

Pastor Tony

## BIRTHDAYS

10/8 Lynde Hays

10/11 Patti Meyer

10/11 Reg Mills

10/15 Yettie Agbesola

10/21 Steve Sheffield

10/22 Mike Large

10/23 John Martin

10/29 Debbie Aldag

## ANNIVERSARIES

10/9 Tom and Nancy Langford

10/10 Mike and Arkeitha May

10/19 Dave and Ruth Ficke

10/22 Jason and Jenna Cox

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Kumler Food Pantry

We are all experiencing rising costs in our daily lives. Think of those in our community who live on the margins of supplying food for their families. Please open your heart and a bit of your wallet to help the food insecure - every little bit helps. Place a can of soup, tuna, vegetables, boxes of Mac and cheese or any other choice in the Serve the World Center and we will get your donation to the food pantry at Kumler Methodist Church.

### 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

### Thank You!!

My church family is so incredible! "Thank you so much" to everyone who prayed for me and contacted me during my issue with my second lung cancer earlier this year. My lung cancer is gone... due in large part to your prayers! Thank you so much of your love and support! I feel truly blessed.

Larry Aldag

### Graham Library - Volunteers Needed

Graham School library got off to a great start in September. For anyone not aware of our presence at the school, the church "adopted" Graham Elementary School more than a decade ago and we provide a much needed service in operating and staffing the school library. The school district eliminated elementary librarians in their budget many years ago, so volunteers are the only way these students have access to a library to check out books. We have 11 volunteers from Central, plus others from the community, who help with this program.

When Jim Walker (a long time member of Central and a library volunteer) died last year, his family requested all memorials be given to Graham Library. Because of that (and other donations from church members), we have been able to purchase many new books. If a student asks for a particular book and we don't have it, we have the funds available to purchase it.

Last year, we received thank you notes from many of the older students. Many notes thanks us for getting them books they asked for. But the phrase most repeated in these notes was "Thank you for being kind". My favorites was, "You are old, but you are special"!

We have developed a program for the kindergarten and first grade classes where we read a book to them before they check one out for themselves. We try to have one reader for 3 students. This is not a quiet reading time. It gets quite noisy reading aloud. We can use more help on Tuesdays, either from 9 to 10 a.m. or 1:40 to 2:00 p.m. If you would like to read to children for a short amount of time, once a week, and if you can "sprinkle kindness like confetti", please contact Sharon Smith at (217)416-8047 for more details.

## NEWS AND NOTES (cont...)

### Graham Christmas Mart - Volunteers needed

The Graham School Christmas Mart will be held at the church on Saturday morning, December 12. For anyone new to the church, the Christmas Mart is a “store” that is set up in Merriam Hall for the parents of Graham School students. They may shop for a want, wear, need and read for their children. In many cases, this is the only way parents can provide Christmas gifts. These items are purchased throughout the year and stored until the BIG DAY. We will be able to serve over 200 kids this year.

Setup for the Mart begins right after the Men’s Breakfast on December 5. So please take notice, we will need every able bodied person to help move items from storage to Merriam Hall that morning. Volunteers will be needed all morning to begin sorting merchandises and setting up displays. This event happens in just two months, so please mark your calendars and join in this worthwhile cause. Many volunteers will also be needed on December 12. The biggest requirement is to show love and kindness to our shoppers. A signup sheet will be available in the Welcome Center in November.

If you have any questions, call Sharon Smith at (217)416-8047.

### World Mission Offering

You are invited to give generously to the World Mission Offering during the month of October. Your offering will support the ministry of American Baptist International Ministries in many places in the world. Central has set a goal of \$6,000.

Each Sunday in October, the worship bulletin will invite you to join in giving to the World Mission Offering. The worship bulletin will also encourage you to remember in prayer a Global Servant couple that has recently attended worship at Central and spoken to Central. For more information you are encouraged to visit the International Ministries website at [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org) for biographies and journals from all IM Global Servants. Information is also available and on display at the Serve the World center located near the church offices. You may use the WMO envelopes located in the pews. Please make checks out to Central Baptist Church with WMO in the memo line office.



## NEWS AND NOTES (cont...)

### **Trunk or Treat!**

#### **An opportunity to show love to our neighbors**

Trunk or Treat is a wonderful opportunity for us, as a congregation, to show love and kindness to our neighbors. You can be as involved as your schedule allows. Even if you don't have much extra time, we still need your help! Central Baptist Church is coordinating with First Lady M.K. Pritzker's staff to host Trunk or Treat as part of the Governor's Trick or Treat event at the Governor's Mansion. This year's event will be held on October 24th.

#### **How Can You Help?**

### **Volunteer to Decorate Your Trunk**

We are blessed to already have several members of our congregation who have volunteered to decorate their vehicles again this year, but we need two or three more! This is your chance to get creative and use your imagination to make your trunk spectacular. And you get to dress up, too!

Make it a whole-family project if you'd like. Decorate your trunk, dress up together, and have fun sharing the love of our church with the community!

### **Help Organize Candy and Other Items**

Organization takes place **a few days before the event** and is generally done during several two-hour sessions. This job is especially important. We need to be organized and prepared because there simply isn't enough time to get everything ready on the day of the event. If you have a couple of hours to spare, your help would be greatly appreciated!

### **Donate Candy**

As Pastor Tony said, "Good candy, not parade candy!"

And David summed up what good candy means to him with one simple answer: "Kit Kats." 

It takes a LOT of candy to make this event possible! According to the First Lady's staff, approximately 850–900 children are expected to attend the Governor's Trick or Treat this year. That means each vehicle needs to have approximately 850–900 pieces of candy to hand out to the children. As you can imagine, candy donations are greatly appreciated!

Thank you for considering how you can help make this special event a success. Whether you decorate a trunk, help organize, donate candy, or simply lend a hand where needed, every contribution makes a difference. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Rachael.

Thank you for helping us show our community the love of Christ! 

## Connected Pairs

### 10 Traits of a Healthy Relationship

In this article, Gregory L. Jantz, PhD talks about what is needed for a healthy relationship - what you need from other and what you must contribute.

Dr. Jantz' key points in this article are:

- A healthy relationship thrives when each person brings something unique and special to it.
- The bedrocks of a healthy relationship are trust, honesty, and authenticity.
- Healthy relationships exist when value is placed on who you are together and who you are individually.

Dr. Jantz lists ten traits that he believes are sure signs of strength and security in a relationship. Some of these traits are:

1. Authenticity. This means being who you truly are and being real in any occasion.
2. Respect. Respect confers to dignity, honor, and high worth to the recipient.

For the other eight traits read [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](http://www.connectedpairs.com), call, or email the counseling office.