



NEWS

UP FRONT

The Power of Easter

When I was a child I remember the excitement of Easter. Among other things, it included an Easter basket with a gift and some M&M's, and a new dress and shoes to wear to church on Easter morning when I sang "Up from the grave He arose!" with all the gusto I could give it. But I also have a distinct memory from several of the Saturdays before Easter as I reflected that Jesus was in the grave that day. It was a simple attempt to connect to the sadness and the hopelessness that was experienced by his disciples and those who were living in the reality of his death but not yet realizing the resurrection that was about to change everything.

We live through many of these kinds of seasons in our own lives and in the life of the church. Times when death seems closer than life. Times when hope is difficult to grasp. Times when what we yearn for and pray for and work for, seems likely to fall apart around us. It is in these seasons the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is most powerfully relevant.

Whether we are new in our walk with Jesus Christ or have been following him for years, there are places where the reality of the resurrection of Christ can sink deeper and deeper into the faith we profess each week. Anywhere along our walk we may find we have labored and hoped too long in the strength of our own resources. We become weary, we find ourselves in a mess we don't know how to clean up, we find fear clutching at our heart. It is then we need to stop and turn our eyes to the power of the resurrection which reminds us that God loves us and the God who loves us also has the power to raise the dead.

Wherever you find yourself this season, I encourage you to take time to pause and reflect on how things are going. Are you full of faith or are you weary? Are you trusting God or are you fearful? Open up some space in your days to simply lay these things before God trusting him to do something beautiful with them. As we linger in the excitement of Easter, celebrate again that the God who loves us is the same God who raises the dead. And that changes everything.

Together in Christ,
Mary Ellen

COMING UP

- 4/6 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall
- 4/9 Leadership Coordination, 6:30 p.m, Weber Lounge.
- 4/17 Quarterly Business Meeting 6 p.m, Merriam Hall
- 4/20 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m, Merriam Hall

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

What's Happening

April 2024

Kumler & New Berlin Food Pantries

Have you had the opportunity to help the food insecure of Springfield? Our church has made it simple and easy for you to help "feed the poor" of our community. Pick up some nonperishable food such as peanut butter, cereal, canned vegetables and bring them to church and put the items in the Serve the World center and we will do the rest!

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/yoo5gm> or call the church office at (217)523-3639 and Rachael will sign you up.

Dates to Remember

4/6 & 4/20 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m in Merriam Hall for food and fellowship. All men of the church are invited.

4/9 Leadership Coordination Team meets at 6:30 p.m in Weber Lounge.

4/17 The Quarterly Business Meeting will be at 6:00 p.m in Merriam Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES

Attention Women of Central Baptist Church

On Thursday, May 2, the American Baptist Women of Area 2 will be conducting their Spring Rally at Central Baptist Church, 600 W. Birch Street, New Berlin, and you are invited to participate. Starting at 9:30 AM there will be Coffee and Conversation. The program will begin at 10:00 A.M. Jared Brown, the Associate Director of Administration and Community Relations of Washington Street Mission will be the guest speaker. If you wish to bring a donation for the Mission, bags of sugar would be appreciated. Following the business meeting a salad luncheon will be held. Please bring a salad to share. The salad dish can be an appetizer, a main course or a dessert. If you have any questions, please contact Rachael at (217) 523-3639

BIRTHDAYS

4/3 Phil Maxwell

4/4 Jason Cox

4/8 Nancy Langford

4/14 Malcolm McKean

4/16 Phillip Palsen

4/17 Jennifer Logan

4/17 Leigh Steiner

4/25 Jim Newbanks

4/30 Tsige Gerre-Medhin

ANNIVERSARIES

4/10 Bruce and Lynde Hays

4/10 Jim and Jeanne
Newbanks

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

American Baptist

Women's
MINISTRIES



Higher Education Financial Aide Form

Are you a high school senior planning to continue your education at a college or university? Or are you currently enrolled and planning to continue pursuing your degree? Central does have a higher education fund for qualifying students. To receive an application, please contact Rachael at the church office at (217)523-3639. Please return the application to the Church office by June 1, 2024.

NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Relationship Article

I'm a Couples Therapist - These Are the 9 Most Effective Changes People Can Make in Counseling

As noted in the title, this article is written by a couples therapist by the name of Reta Faye Walker, PhD. She lists what she believes are the nine ways couples can make therapy work for them. Some of the list is:

1. Accept the fact that therapy works. Therapists have the education and experience to help you.
2. Trust your therapist. Carl Rogers believed the relationship between the therapist and client is the most important part of therapy.
3. Be honest, but never hurtful. Telling the truth releases inner tension.

To read more about this, click [here](#).

Blessings,
Stephani Cave, LCPC
ConnectEdPAIRS
217-972-4851

Donna Givens, RN LCPC
618-973-5072
Independent Practitioners

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.

Off The Shelf

Sharing Too Much: Musings from an Unlikely Life by Richard Paul Evans

The #1 New York Times bestselling author and “king of Christmas fiction” (The New York Times) delivers a charming and inspirational collection of personal essays. Before he was the #1 New York Times bestselling author of holiday classics such as *The Christmas Box*, Richard Paul Evans was a young boy being raised by a suicidal mother and dealing with relentless bullying. He could not fathom what the future held for him. Now, in this intimate and heartfelt collection of personal essays, Evans shares his moving journey from childhood to beloved author. With his signature “seasoned finesse” (Booklist), he offers the insightful lessons he’s learned and engaging advice about everything from marriage to parenthood and even facing near-death experiences. This is a charming essay collection that is the perfect gift all year round. (2024, 272 pages, 4.8 out of 5 Amazon rating). This book may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library.

Jim Filler

On behalf of the Volunteer Library Team

