



# NEWS

## UP FRONT

Greetings church family!

A lot has happened since January and I would like to take a moment to call your attention to a few things that have happened (and things that will happen in the near future):

1. As we move into the next season of life here at Central, it is important that we take the time to refine and clarify who we are as a church and who we hope to become. This Weill help us say “yes” to the right next steps and “no” to the ones that might not fit our cultural DNA. On February 21 at 6 P.M in Merriam Hall, we will hold our first Sacred Conversation discussion about the core values we hold as a church. This is a time where we, the congregation, will come together and pray, discuss, and clarify the central values that make our church so special. Our values will be shaped by these discussions.

I recognize that many will not be able to make these meetings dues to travel schedules or various matters. If you are unable to make it, I will create and online questionnaire that you can fill out to help shape the congregational conversation. However, if you are in town and able to join us, I want to ask you to make every effort to attend this meeting.

2. Secondly, last year we held and Ash Wednesday service and it was a very meaningful service. We will hold this service again on February 14 at 6 P.M. This is a very sacred time and I want to encourage you to join us that Wednesday evening. Also, please consider inviting a friend or family member to this service as it will be a very moving time.

Also, starting on February 18, we are starting a new sermon series entitled: “MorsTurpissima Crucis”- which is a Latin phrase the early church fathers used to describe “the utterly vile death of Christ on the cross”. Jesus made seven last statements on the cross and we will examine each of those during Lent and on Easter. I am praying for God to move powerfully in these next weeks and I hope you will join me in that prayer.

## COMING UP

- 2/3 Men’s Breakfast, 8am, Merriam Hall
- 2/13 Leadership Coordination, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/17 Men’s Breakfast, 8am, Merriam Hall
- 2/19 CBC and Children’s House closed for President’s Day
- 2/21 Sacred Conversation on Core Values.

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Church Office  
8-5, M-F  
Children’s House

## UPFRONT cont...

3. In January I defended my doctoral thesis successfully and I have earned the title of “Dr. Joseph Stang”. I passed, but my project still needs some revisions– but I PASSED! It has been a great three years of formation and on Saturday March 9 at 9:30 am– I will take some time to share about what I studied. I hope you will join me in Merriam Hall that day for a light breakfast and time of celebration!

4. Lastly, I have been in ongoing discussions with Beth Maxwell and she will continue her sabbatical throughout the month of February. She came over to our house and ate dinner with me and Lindsay (and the family); and, we came to the joint decision that one more month would be profitable for her. She is a valued member of the team and we are thankful for her. In lieu of her absence, Emily Wheeler will direct the choir one Sunday in February during Beth’s sabbatical. Please continue to pray for Beth during this time of rest and restoration. There is a lot going on at Central and for that, we are thankful! Many blessings to each of you!

Grace and peace,  
Dr. Tony Stang

## What’s Happening

### 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 Nigh 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 and Rachael will sign you up.

### Dates to Remember

**2/3 & 2/17 Men’s Breakfast** meets at 8 a.m in Merriam Hall for food and fellowship. All men of the church are invited.

**2/13 Leadership Coordination Team** meets at 6:30 p.m in Weber Lounge.

**2/19 Children’s House and CBC offices** are closed for President’s Day.

**2/21 Sacred Conversation about Core Values** at 6 p.m in Merriam Hall.

### Our Condolences

- To the family and friends of Rick Wilson who died on January 8.

February 2024

### BIRTHDAYS

2/8 Joleen Welch

2/9 Ann Wells

2/16 Dan Holland

2/18 Adeline Wells

2/19 Mary Ellen

2/22 Sheila Hodel

2/22 Kathleen Smith

2/23 Mary Kirschner

2/27 Cathy Watson

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Through Zoom Meet and Greet some Global Servants

On Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 12 PM CST, the American Baptist Women's Ministry of the Great Rivers Region will be hosting an online Virtual presentation. The following Global Servants will be interviewed: Taku and Katie, Tim and Kathy Rice, Jeff and Annie Dieselberg, Brian and Lynette Smith, Diliris and Moises Carrion-Joseph, and Kristy Engel. We invite you to join in and hear these wonderful Missionaries share their stories.

You may use the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460698417?pwd=VIU3N0RpM0dWWTIEbXp5QkZUZy9Kdz09>

Or use these codes: Meeting ID: 834 6069 8417 Passcode: 198247

If you have any questions or need assistance setting up your Zoom connection, contact Barbara McKean at 217-652-9916 or email her at [mckean\\_b@msn.com](mailto:mckean_b@msn.com)

## NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

### Relationship Article

#### How to Handle Valentine's Day in a New Relationship

Valentine's Day is in a few weeks, and it can be awkward when you are just starting a relationship. In this article, Klare Heston shares some tips for this very thing. Some of the tips are:

1. Ignore it if it's too soon. If you have only been out a couple of times, it might seem you are rushing things.
2. Talk to your new crush. Talk to your new person about keeping it low key since you're new to the relationship. You could suggest cards or going out to eat.
3. Try a cute card. You probably won't want to buy a mushy card, but you might find one that has a cute message, such as "you're sweet."

To find out a lot about this, 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 the counseling office.

## Off The Shelf

### The Walk Series by Richard Paul Evan

These books were featured in the August 2019 CBN.

What would you do if you lost everything - your job, your home, and the love of your life all at the same time? When it happens to Seattle ad executive Alan Christoffersen, he's tempted by his darkest thoughts. Instead, he decided to take a walk. But not any ordinary walk. Taking with him only the barest of essentials, Alan leaves behind all that he's known and heads for the farthest point on his map: Key West Florida. The people he encounters along the way, and the lessons they share with him, will save his life, and inspire yours. A life changing journey, both physical and spiritual. The Walk series is an unforgettable bestselling set of books about one man's search for hope.

The books in the series are as follows: The Walk (1), Miles to Go (2), The Road to Grace (3), A step of Faith (4), and Walking on Water (5).

When Richard Paul Evans wrote the #1 best seller, *The Christmas Box*, he never intended on becoming an internationally known author. *The Christmas Box* was written as an expression of love for his (then) two daughters. In 1993, Evans reproduced 20 copies of the final story and gave them to his closest relatives and friends as Christmas presents. In the month following, these 20 copies were passed around more than 160 times, and soon word spread so widely that bookstores began calling his home with orders for it. His quiet story of parental love and true meaning of Christmas made history when it became simultaneously the #1 hardcover and paperback book in the nation.

These books may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library.

Jim Filler

On behalf of the Volunteer Library Team.

