



August 2026

NEWS

UP FRONT

As summer begins to give way to fall, there is always a sense of new beginnings at Central Baptist Church. The rhythms of vacations and long evenings slowly become the rhythms of worship, learning, service, and community once again. Fall has always been one of our favorite seasons because it reminds us that God is continually inviting us into something new.

This year, one of the most exciting ways we are responding to that invitation is through a new ministry called Come to the Table.

Earlier this year, our congregation voted to launch this new initiative, and over the past several months our leadership has been praying, planning, and dreaming about what it could become. Come to the Table is inspired by a movement called Dinner Church, a ministry that began through Fresh Expressions and has spread to churches across the country. Several congregations here in our own region have embraced this model and have discovered that something beautiful happens when people gather around a meal, build genuine relationships, and encounter the story of Jesus together.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus seemed to do some of his most important ministry around a table. He shared meals with friends and strangers, welcomed people who felt forgotten, asked difficult questions, listened to people's stories, and offered grace before judgment. The table was never simply about food. It was about belonging.

That is the vision behind Come to the Table.

Our hope is to create a place where people who might never attend a traditional Sunday morning worship service can experience authentic Christian community. Around a shared meal, we will listen to one another, tell the story of Jesus, ask honest questions, and discover together what it means to follow Christ. We believe that hospitality is one of the most powerful ways to share the Gospel, and that a simple invitation to dinner can become the beginning of a transformed life.

Over the next several weeks you will hear more about Come to the Table and discover opportunities to pray, participate, invite friends, and serve. Before we ever welcome our first guests, we want to begin by asking God to bless this ministry and prepare our hearts for the people He is already drawing to Himself.

COMING UP

8/5 Connecting Women, 10 a.m, Weber Lounge

8/14 Come to the Table prayer gathering, 12 p.m, Weber Lounge

8/15 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)...

I hope you will join me in praying for this new chapter in the life of Central Baptist Church. Pray for those who are searching for hope. Pray for those who feel disconnected from church but long for community. Pray that every seat around the table becomes a place where people experience the love of Christ.

As we enter this new season together, I am grateful for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your willingness to embrace new ways of sharing the timeless good news of Jesus. I cannot wait to see what God will do.

Upcoming Opportunities

- Prayer Gathering – Friday, August 14 at 12:00 p.m. in Weber Lounge
Everyone is invited to gather with us as we pray over the Come to the Table ministry. Before any plans are carried out, we want to seek God's blessing together. Whether you plan to volunteer or simply want to support this ministry through prayer, we would love to have you join us around the table.
- Come to the Table Preview Meal – Thursday, August 20
Everyone is invited to attend a special preview meal to experience what Come to the Table will look and feel like. This evening will give our church family the opportunity to see the location, experience the rhythm of the gathering, and catch the vision for how God may use this ministry to reach new people in our community. We hope you'll join us as we take this exciting first step together.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Tony Stang

BIRTHDAYS

8/3 Erica Palsen
8/5 Larry Aldag
8/6 Brenda Thornburgh
8/10 Jeff Sharp
8/10 Joe Hill
8/14 Ross Hodel
8/14 Sally Smith
8/17 Barbara McKean
8/17 Dela Phillips
8/18 Virginia Heinzl
8/22 Marjorie Clinton

ANNIVERSARIES

8/30 Doug and Linda Meyer
8/30 Jeff and Mary Sharp
8/31 John and Syl Grisham

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Growing Need for Food Pantry Support - Including Vegan and Gluten-Free Foods

Food pantries play an essential role in helping families and individuals facing difficult financial circumstances. Rising grocery prices, unexpected medical bills, job loss, and fixed incomes continue to place strain on many households in our communities. For some, visiting a food pantry is no longer an occasional need but an ongoing source of support.

While donations of canned goods, pasta, soups, and boxed meals remain extremely important, there is an increasing need for food items that meet special dietary requirements — especially vegan and gluten-free foods.

For individuals with celiac disease or severe gluten intolerance, gluten-free food is not a preference but a medical necessity. Without access to appropriate foods, they may face serious health complications. Unfortunately, gluten-free products are often significantly more expensive than standard grocery items, making them difficult for struggling families to afford.

Likewise, some individuals rely on vegan foods because of health conditions, food allergies, religious practices, or personal convictions. Many pantry shelves are stocked with foods containing meat, dairy, or eggs, leaving limited options for those who cannot eat them.

Helpful donations may include:

- Gluten-free pasta and cereals
- Gluten-free flour and baking mixes
- Rice and quinoa
- Canned beans and lentils
- Nut butters
- Shelf-stable plant-based milk
- Vegan soups and chili
- Gluten-free crackers and snacks
- Oatmeal labeled gluten-free

Even small donations can make a meaningful difference. By remembering those with dietary restrictions, we help ensure that everyone has access not just to food, but to food they can safely eat.

Supporting local food pantries is one-way communities can care for neighbors in practical and compassionate ways. As needs continue to grow, thoughtful giving becomes more important than ever.

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

What Is Central Baptist's Archives?

The Central Baptist Church Archives is our church's memory. It preserves the efforts of those who have worked to change, improve and minister in the church and it is able to track the progress of our church.

We keep records of all business meetings, Sunday bulletins, Newsletters, Sunday School classes, Congregational directories, pictures of when they were building the church, membership, pastors and records that date back to the 1880's and much more!

Preservation, proper care and storage are key to preserving the documents of our church. There is an expense for items such as acid-free storage containers, labels, file folders and pens. There is a line item in our yearly budget that helps with that.

Every year, we get calls from relatives of past members doing some genealogy work looking for dates of joining the church or marriages.

Anyone is welcome to visit or research the Archives. Please call Rachael in the church office if you are interested.

Joleen Welch
Anne Tankersley

A Note From George Tankersley

Anne and I would like to thank everyone who helped volunteer during the Levitt Amp Series. This year seemed to be the largest year yet and we were able to serve many people. Thank you again to everyone who helped make it possible

George and Anne Tankersley

Connected Pairs

8 Signs Someone Truly Feels Emotionally Safe With You

In this article for Psychology Today, Duygu Balan, LPCC shares eight signs that show someone feels emotionally safe with you. Here are a few of those signs:

1. They let you see their less polished side. They no longer feel the need to put their best foot forward.
2. They aren't afraid to disagree with you. They feel the relationship will not be threatened if their opinion differs from yours.

If you want to read more of these signs of emotional safety, read [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, call, or email the counseling off