



# NEWS

## UP FRONT

November draws our attention to Thanksgiving. We know Thanksgiving is going to be a different kind of celebration for many this year. There is no Feast of Plenty meal in Merriam Hall with meals to deliver and serve. Travel to family is more challenging and we are advised to avoid large gatherings. In addition to all the other challenges and anxieties of this season, we may be tempted to think there is not much to be thankful for this year.

Yet 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us: give thanks in all circumstance; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Several years ago I encountered a story that illustrates this better than anything I have encountered before or since. In her book, *The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom relates an incident that taught her to be thankful for things we normally would not be thankful for. She and her sister, Betsy, prisoners of the Nazis, had just been transferred to the worst prison camp they had seen yet, Ravensbrück. Upon entering the barracks, they found them extremely overcrowded and infested with fleas. Their Scripture reading from their smuggled Bible that morning in 1 Thessalonians had reminded them to rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances. Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie at first flatly refused to give thanks for the fleas, but Betsy persisted. Corrie finally agreed to somehow thank God for even the fleas. During the months spent at that camp, they were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings in their barrack without guard interference. Several months later, they learned that the guards would not enter the barracks because of the fleas.

Thanksgiving is not only about giving thanks for the good things we are experiencing in life, or even finding things to be thankful for in the hard seasons of life. Thankful living is about the attitude and in our hearts that allows us to thank God for those things that do not appear to be worthy of thanks at all – perhaps they are like fleas – something we would rather ask God to remove. When we are thankful for even these things we are trusting God is working out his perfect purposes and using them for blessing for us or others in our midst.

My encouragement for you this season is to look around you and give thanks for the good things and the hard things going on right now recognizing even fleas sometimes serve God's purposes for our lives.

Have a thankful Thanksgiving this year.

Together in Christ,

*Mary Ellen*

During the next few weeks, we would love to hear a sentence or two from you about what you are thankful for this Thanksgiving season. Write down your thoughts on the index cards available in the pews on Sunday, or email your thoughts to [mason@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:mason@cbcchurchfamily.org). We are compiling anonymous quotes to use in a video during worship on Sunday, November 22. Please send us your thankful ideas by November 15!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Local Food Pantries

Imagine not having enough food in the house to feed yourself or your family. That is the plight of the food insecure. Covid is still with us and many of our neighbors are unemployed or working reduced hours. You can help by donating to the Central Illinois Food Bank, Kumler Food Pantry, Loami Food Pantry, or by dropping off some canned goods at the pop-up mini food pantry in the parking lot of Graham School. Every bit helps and remember our Lord's command to feed the poor.

**Please note** that the Loami food pantry hours have changed. Beginning November 11 and 25, the Pantry will be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 6 pm - 8 pm. They will be open from 3pm - 5pm on the other Wednesdays. This will be the schedule until further notice. There is an ongoing need for canned vegetables.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Wednesday Night Dinner Meals for Contact Ministries

We will continue the Meal Train for Contact Ministries on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month until further notice. Instructions are on the Meal Train web site. Type this link into your browser to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/yoog5m> or call the church office and Ann will sign you up. If you can order or make meals but cannot deliver them, contact Ann in the church office and we will find someone who can deliver the meals.

### A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH MODERATOR

As part of the pastoral search process, the Lead Pastor Search Team will be conducting questioning/listening sessions with the members of the church. You have already received an email or letter with the information and questions you need to participate. We are doing these sessions to come together as one group and one body to discover what each member's vision is for the future of Central in Springfield and New Berlin. After hearing what each of you have to say from the conversations, the Search Team will compile all the information obtained from the members and put them together to describe our church's ministry goals and vision to pastoral candidates and to determine the skills that we will need from our new pastor. Please prayerfully consider the questions and your answers and we will speak with you soon. ~John Martin

### CAMP OCOMOGO, COSTA RICA

The Camp is much like our Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. It does not have a lake, but it does have lots of lush green grass, trees, hills and plenty of room for those using the camp to play. There is a dining hall/meeting area, a campfire area, a playground and of course they have cabins with bunk beds. The American Baptist Women of the Great Rivers Region are working to raise \$15,000 to place a permanent cover over the basketball court so it can be used rain or shine. It will also give them protection from the sun so they will have space for break out groups and Bible studies. This has been a long-term goal of the Baptist Federation of Costa Rica and our giving will help them put this project in place. We all know that God does wonderful things in the lives of those that attend camp. Please prayerfully consider giving to this project. If you are able to help us, please send your check, made out to Central Baptist Church to the church office. Write "Camp Ocomogo" in the memo line. We will be collecting money thru the end of December. Thank you. Sheila Fite



November 2020

## COMING UP

You may access the online worship page at the church website:

[www.cbcchurchfamily.org](http://www.cbcchurchfamily.org)

Church & Children's House  
Office Hours  
8-5, M-F

The Church and CH Offices  
will be closed Nov. 11 for  
Veteran's Day  
and  
Nov. 26 & 27  
for Thanksgiving.

## HOW WE STAY CONNECTED

### Our Condolences

to those who lost loved ones in October:

- Reg and Judi Mills, whose son Ted died October 19.
- Rex Thomas, whose wife Betty died October 29.

### Supporting God's Work through Central

We encourage you to continue your faithful support of Central's ministry in these days. Offerings can be mailed to Central's office (501 S. 4th St Springfield, IL 62701) or you can make an online offering to Local Ministry, Fellowship Fund, or the World Mission Offering at this URL:

<https://cbcchurchfamily.churchcenter.com/giving/>

### The World Mission Offering UPDATE

During the month of October Central Baptist Church has utilized story and video about American Baptist International Ministries. We have been reminded that the October offering in support of the Mission of IM has been a part of the life of our church since 1950. In hearing and seeing the stories and reports, we have been invited to further participate in the Ministries of IM. We have responded by giving generously. As of October 30, 2020 the total of our WMO offering is \$2,720. A final total from all sources will be provided later. Thank you for your generous donations!

### Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes

The Children's Ministry at Springfield and New Berlin campuses are collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Empty shoeboxes will be in the East Narthex in the Springfield church and at the New Berlin church. They can be picked up on Sunday or any day during the week. Fill a box with items designated for a boy or a girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14, pick a larger "wow" gift, and fill the rest with other fun, hygienic, or school items. You may insert a personal note or photo and don't forget to pray for whoever receives your gift! Bring your filled box back to the either church no later than November 14 please! Thank you!

### Pandemic Team Update

The Pandemic Transition Team of Central Baptist Church has been meeting monthly to discuss the goal of safely meet for worship services and other meetings in Springfield and New Berlin. If you are interested in participating in any of the following Adult Sunday School classes via Zoom, please contact one of the following people.

- Doby Class, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM each Sunday: contact Reg Mills or Phyllis Hudspeth. They are using *The Wired Word* subscription service which sends out a new lesson every week based on the Bible and some current event in the news.
- A combined Zimmerman and Builders Class, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM each Sunday: Contact Barbara McKean, Brenda Thornburgh, or Dick McDaniel. They use a standard curriculum by *Next Sunday Resources*. There are extra study guides in the church office if you are interested in viewing the material.
- Keep it Alive, (9:15 AM - 9:55) each Sunday: Contact Larry Aldag. They will continue to view and discuss the Andy Stanley video series.

The Men's prayer breakfast has continued to periodically meet for discussion and fellowship. Check with Larry Aldag or George Tankersley if you are interested in participating in these periodic Saturday events. The CBC children's program has participated in opportunities for connecting which each other under the leadership and loving guidance of Ruth Ficke and Sheila Zeiger. ~Barbara McKean, Team Leader

November 2020

## BIRTHDAYS

11/3 Evelyn Nagel  
11/3 Emily Sharp  
11/6 Fred Stericker  
11/8 Betty Darrow  
11/12 Nancy Wilkinson  
11/14 Marilyn Winn  
11/18 Dick McDaniel  
11/22 Chloe Allen  
11/29 Wade Ballenger  
11/29 Lillian Bernauer

## ANNIVERSARIES

11/5 Erika & Phil Palsen  
11/11 Scott & Natalie Nichols  
11/17 Sheila & Brady Zeiger  
11/25 Greg & Paula Seifert  
11/28 Betty & Scott Darrow

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

## Thanksgiving Feast of Plenty Update

November 2020

For many years Central Baptist Church has hosted the Feast of Plenty meal downtown from our kitchen on Thanksgiving day. With the help of volunteers from the church and from the community we have provided hundreds of meals and hospitality to those who may not be able to prepare or have a warm turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. However this year, because of Covid and public health safety guidelines, Central is unable to safely use our kitchen or accommodate volunteers to prepare the Feast of Plenty meal like we had done in the past. The church still wanted to do something to provide Thanksgiving meals to the community and our neighbors. Because of the Covid crisis there will be many people in the neighborhoods surrounding Central with food insecurity and many people needing meals because there are fewer public places open this Thanksgiving to provide them.

A Feast of Plenty planning team met together and found that there was going to be a need for meals in our neighborhood for the Salvation Army warming center, Helping Hands, Contact Ministries, and the families at Graham School. The number of meals needed to meet this supply is around 270. The planning team has contacted a local caterer and they will be able to safely prepare for us, in their kitchen, a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner and deliver those 270 meals to the shelters. The caterer will also deliver meals to the church, where families from Graham school can drive by and pick them up. We will also provide some meals to church members.

Because of having to cater the meals from an outside company, there is an additional cost that is over what was budgeted for the Feast of Plenty last year. If you have volunteered before with the Feast of Plenty, then a great way you can serve this year is to contribute financially to cover the cost of the catered meals. You can send in your financial gifts to the church office, 501 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Springfield, IL 62701 with "FOP" in the Memo, by mailing in or dropping by your Thanksgiving offering envelopes, or you may go to the Feast of Plenty [online giving page](#) and contribute there.

We also need a few volunteers at the church on Thanksgiving Day to help distribute meals to Graham families. If you are able to help on Thanksgiving Day, contact the church office. Thank you for all that you do to support Central Baptist, its ministries, and the needs of our brothers and sisters in our community. ~John Martin, Church Moderator

## Graham Christmas Mart

The Christmas Mart of 2020 will be different than past years due to Covid 19. It will be held on **December 12**, in Merriam Hall, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (assuming more restrictions for Illinois are not put in place in the coming months due to COVID). Graham parents will still be able to select a want, a wear, a need and a read from the Mart, but there will be no children's area and no gift wrapping this year. We will send wrapping paper home with the parents and this is where we can use your help. We do have quite a bit of wrapping paper, but could use more, preferably a package of several rolls. We can also use more bows to give the parents.

We have expanded the shopping time to 5 hours. The parents will purchase vouchers in 20 minute increments and there will only be 4 shoppers during each period. Our goal is to keep contact down to a minimum to keep everyone safe. For that reason, we will operate with a minimum group of volunteers. Normally we have to work around the Feast of Plenty and about 30 people work frantically the night before to set up the Mart. This year we can't have 30 people working together, but we have plenty of time to set up since all other activities are cancelled. In spite of Covid rules, we still hope to make this an enjoyable shopping experience for Graham parents.

All of the gift items were purchased in January and February, but we do need donations to pay for these items. You may send a check to the church and mark it for Graham Christmas Mart. ~Thank you. Sharon Smith, Coordinator

## A NOTE FROM CHILDREN'S HOUSE

November 2020

Children's House staff would like to sincerely thank the members of Central Baptist Church for their time and gifts that were provided to us last month. We certainly were taken by surprise and could feel the love! Your gift of the meal and card left Children's House staff feeling loved, supported, and grateful for your prayers and continued support. Staff have continued to share with me their stories on how this gift arrived at the time that they needed it the most. Many have expressed that they felt so special and valued. Another staff member shared how she felt so joyous and lifted in a season that has been personally challenging. Thank you, Larry Aldag, for always thinking of Children's House. We would also like to thank Cristy Saint, Sharon Smith, and Sheila Zeiger for making everyone feel so special during the meal and for their dedication to every detail from the menu to the homemade cards. It is certainly our pleasure to serve in this ministry and share God's love with our youngest learners.



As we enter into November, Children's House continues to maintain COVID-19 guidelines and protocols. Our staff are maintaining sanitation policies, practicing proper mask use, and are helping children manage the social emotional landscape of the pandemic. Teachers have created songs and activities to help children understand the "new" world around them and to help facilitate the feelings that go with it. Classroom schedules have been altered and classroom time looks a little different. While things have certainly changed, we have not stopped providing quality care and have just altered how we approach some things. At this time, we are still welcoming and exiting families through a welcome station at the Portico entrance. All children and staff are screened during drop-off and temperatures are taken. We will continue to monitor all the changing guidelines and adapt to them as needed.

*Judy Vlach,*  
Children's House Director

## A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Happy November! Happy Thanksgiving! As we consider our blessings this month, let us not forget to be grateful for all the ways we can be intimate with our partner, including financial intimacy. Craig Ford, writing for Bible Money Matters, contributed "Ten Ways to Improve Financial Intimacy in Marriage."

1. Pray for guidance and wisdom
2. Be partners
3. Define goals
4. Combine it
5. Distribute responsibilities
6. Budget jointly and meet regularly
7. Work at removing financial pressure
8. Agree on some guiding principles
9. Seek outside help
10. Put the needs of your spouse above your own

When we conducted the Prepare-Enrich couples group and date night program years ago at CBC, the month we discussed finances had some of the liveliest discussions. Which of the ten methods are easiest or hardest for you personally or as a couple? To read the entire article, click [here](#).

Be well,

*Stephani Cave,* LCPC

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For monthly couples, individual, and family tips, please sign up for my [e-newsletter](#). For daily tips, follow ConnectEdPAIRS on [facebook](#). For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit my website at [www.connectedpairs.com](http://www.connectedpairs.com), stop by, call, or email me in the counseling office. I look forward to talking with you soon.