



NEWS

UP FRONT

Greeting Church family!

I am marked with great excitement as we begin the fall. I write about the fall and we just endured a tremendous heat wave. The crisp air of the fall season cannot come here soon enough.

I would like to take a moment and write to you about where I see God at work in our church. It is important we take the time to name some of the great things going on at Central.

First, I believe it is nothing short of a gift from God that Tiffany Williams has joined our church as the worship leader for this season. She brings an energy and sense of professionalism to our team. She loves people; all kinds of music; and has a heart for the downtown community.

One of the other great marks of her time with us is that she has a passion for choral music. She will begin working with the choir to bring us some songs we have sung in the past, but also some songs we have not yet heard. Like many of us, she has a heart for all kinds of music and to see others in the church be involved in these efforts.

(Her presence has led to the kids clapping in the service and “getting into the music”. It has been a joy to see the kids worship under her leadership.)

Secondly, there has been some really outstanding and meaningful work being done with our Sacred Conversations initiative. A small cohort of people that represented a large swatch of people and interests in our church were asked to be a part of some preliminary investigation work for our next congregational meeting. This group was tasked to interview people inside of the church and outside of the church about various aspects of church and faith. (If you were not asked, there will definitely be time for your input at the next meeting. Our intention is to make sure everyone is heard.)

Leigh Steiner, our current moderator, has been leading this initiative and I believe the church is profiting from her wise, seasoned and forward - thinking leadership. However, our meetings do reveal that there is a significant number of people outside of the church that are looking for a safe, healthy, and thoughtful church.

Thirdly, there has been an uptick of guests on Sunday mornings, particularly guests from the downtown area. It has been a joy to see this occur and I know we will do a phenomenal job at welcoming them as they join us each week.

This fall, my prayer is that “joy” is the tone and tenor of our church.

In Christ,
Pastor Tony

COMING UP

9/2 CBC is closed for Labor Day

9/7 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall.

9/10 Leadership Coordination, 6:30 p.m, Weber Lounge.

9/21 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall.

Church Office
8-5, M-F

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler & New Berlin Food Pantries

Reach out to the food insecure of our community. They may be a neighbor, someone who lives across town, someone who is having a difficult time. It matters that they and their family are hungry and it matters that Jesus fed the hungry. Pick up a can or three, maybe it's even on sale this week, and drop it off at the Serve the World Center and it will get to the Kumler Food Pantry.

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.

Dates to Remember

9/2 Central Baptist Church will be closed for Labor Day

9/7 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

9/10 Leadership Coordination Team meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

9/21 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES

Mission Notes

One Great Hour of Sharing - 2024

Members of the Central Springfield family are very generous. A total of \$3,118 has been contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (OGHS) in July 2024. If inclined, there is still time for you to round that total up! Your offerings will be distributed by the American Baptist World Relief committee to projects in the United States and other places in the world. If at all possible, the funds are distributed to American Baptist Mission Agencies and to Baptist Partners such as the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

World Mission Offering - 2024.

The World Mission Offering (WMO) is an October tradition of long standing at Central Springfield. Generous offerings to the WMO in support of American Baptist International Ministries (IM) have been given annually since 1950. The work of IM is near to the heart of the members of Central Springfield. Last year, in 2023, the Offering total was \$4,290. You can find WMO information online and you will soon receive information about the 2024 Offering in worship bulletins and the Church newsletter.

Ukraine Relief - Update

At the very end of the Pandemic in 2022, Central Springfield gathered a very generous and impactful one time offering for relief in Ukraine totaling \$4,640. Your offerings were forwarded by International Ministries to Baptist partner relief agencies including the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). If your heart is calling you again do something for Ukraine, you can do so by indicating on your check to the church that your offering is for Ukraine Relief, or you can go to the American Baptist International Ministries Website and make a direct electronic offering.

BIRTHDAYS

9/6 Tom Langford

9/6 Quinton Stang

9/10 Judith Anderson

9/14 Marty Saint

9/15 Robert Lewis

9/25 Julie Spradlin

9/25 Ben Stang

9/27 Donna Stolleis

ANNIVERSARIES

9/3 Bill and Sharon Smith

9/19 Jim and Donna Stolleis

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

News and Notes (cont)

Reminder:

Commitment Sunday this year will be September 8. Those who wish to do so will be invited to complete and present their 2025 Giving Estimate cards in an act of worship and dedication. This will begin the process of creating the budget for the year 2025. The budget will be voted on at the October Annual Business Meeting.

Dear Church Family,

My heart is full of gratitude for all the ways you showered me with love and well wishes as I embarked on retirement. I have been overwhelmed by your generosity. You shared so many kind words and generous gifts. The gemstone necklace is exquisite and I have enjoyed wearing it and remembering all of you. My enjoyment of ooey gooey butter bars is not a secret and I am enjoying them. The love gift was so generous and deeply appreciated. I miss all of you very much and you continue in my prayers. May the spirit of Christ dwell deeply in all you do and lead Central to new and beautiful opportunities in the seasons ahead!

Love in Christ,
Mary Ellen Sharp

Connected Pairs

9 Things Everyone Should Understand About Love

Marriage counselor Randi Gunther, PhD states that “love must be protected to survive and nurtured to thrive.” She also said that she wants to share how love behaves.

Some of the things she says about love:

1. Enhances all emotions. It opens the floodgates to emotions you may have suppressed.
2. Waxes and wanes. It is not consistent or predictable.
3. Is Stress Responsive. Stress steals all resources.
4. Creates oxytocin, which is a chemical that can be produced by hugs. She describes it as a “love potion.”
5. Responds to Nostalgia and Dreams and Romantic Moments. Couples can intentionally bring back moments when they were close.
6. Is Fragile When Ignored. It cannot be taken for granted.
7. Is Hard to Heal When It Breaks. Beware of “too little, too late.”
8. Thrives on Humor, on Joy, and Hope. Love is not always meant to be serious or heavy.
9. Is Very Susceptible to Outside Influences. Love cannot be contained within a bubble.

To read more about nurturing love, 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 office.