



THE HAPPENINGS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, JC

FEB

FROM YOUR PASTOR

For a while now, one of our Sunday School rooms has had some signs posted on the walls that say, "Be Unoffendable". You have to look closely to read them because the words are arranged in an unusual way. I hope whoever designed them isn't offended by my saying that. How ironic would that be?

I mention those signs because I think they're great! They're wonderful reminders of how we should conduct ourselves not only in church but everywhere and always. Just imagine how very, very different our easily offended, cancel-culture society would look if everyone decided not to take offense over anything. I'd like to live in an environment like that, wouldn't you?

Note that there is a difference between being "offended" and being upset or displeased. Certain things or behaviors can naturally upset, displease, or even anger us without us choosing to take offense over them. To take offense involves an element of moral outrage that we feel justified in nurturing. We think of it as righteous indignation, but too often it is just self-righteous indignation, originating from a need to think of ourselves as morally superior to someone else. In the end, it only ends up hurting and diminishing us. Perhaps that's part of the reason Jesus teaches us to "turn the other cheek" (Matthew 5:39).

I just discovered and ordered a copy of a book entitled, *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better*, by Brant Hansen. It's a Christian book published under the Thomas Nelson imprint. According to its advertising copy, Hansen maintains

that our own (not God's) "righteous anger" is a myth, but that it is the number one problem in societies today. He says giving up your "right" to be offended can be one of the most freeing, healthy, simplifying, relaxing, refreshing, stress-relieving, encouraging things you can do. I agree; it takes a lot of mental and emotional energy to be offended all the time.

Hansen also asks a penetrating question: "What if Christians were the most unoffendable people on the planet?" If we were, do you suppose more people would be *attracted* to Christianity rather than put off by it? I believe they would, without question. Not only would we Christians help ourselves and our churches by being unoffendable, we would also do a far better job of showing Christ to a world that seems to grow increasingly angry and outraged by the day. As I write this, there have been multiple mass shootings in the news; not accounting for mental illness, I assure you that each shooter did what he did because he was offended over something.

Let's challenge ourselves to staunchly resist temptations to be offended, even when someone *intends* to offend us. It *is* a choice, after all. We are never forced to take offense, and refusing to do so enhances our own well-being. It's also a better witness for Christ, the Lord we profess to serve.

Yours in Christ's service,

UPCOMING CHURCHWIDE EVENTS

SUPER SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 12 | 6:00 PM - HALFTIME

FREE PIZZA, SALAD, & DRINKS

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAMEDAY DESSERT

ON MISSION IN GUATEMALA
TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD
JUNE 3-10

NEXT VOLUNTEER MEETING:
 FEBRUARY 19 | 4 PM

ETSU
FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

E vs **C**

FEBRUARY 22 | 6:30 PM

WORSHIP & MUSIC EVENTS

Worship every Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 26, 4:00 PM | Piano Concert | Esther Park

Dr. Park is a former piano professor at ETSU, now a professor at Columbus State University in Georgia. She is a marvelous pianist and an exemplary Christian lady.

Sunday, March 26, 4:00 PM | Gospels and Spirituals Concert with Carson Peters

CBC Choir and Orchestra with the Science Hill High School Chorus

Friday, April 7, 7:00 PM | Good Friday service: Tenebrae and Walk to the Tomb

Sunday, April 9, 8:30 and 11:00 AM | EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, April 30 | ONE Combined Worship Service at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM | Piano Concert | Samson Tarpheh

Samson is back to play for us again and to raise awareness of ANAM, the Agape National Academy of Music in Monrovia, Liberia. This is one of the many mission projects we help to fund.

Sunday, May 7, 4:00 PM | Worship and Praise Concert featuring all of our music groups at Central

EASTER is the highlight of the year for Christians. Use all of these events as opportunities to invite your friends and introduce them to the church where they come to know the reason for the season!

Looking forward to all God has in store,



CONGREGATIONAL CARE, OUTREACH, & SENIOR ADULTS

[SIGN UP NOW!](#)

Brochures are available to provide general information for **VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY (VIM)** and **VOLUNTEERS ON MISSIONS (VOM)**. Our **VIM/VOM TEAMS** offer many different opportunities throughout the year. Please look over these mission opportunities and pray about your involvement in any of these areas.

Shine on,



WAYS TO CONNECT

- ⇒ 1. FILL OUT A VIM/VOM CARD AND PLACE IT IN THE VIM/VOM DROP BOX AT THE CONNECTION CENTRAL DESK OR USE ONE OF THE IPAD KIOSKS.
- ⇒ 2. GO TO CBCJC.ORG AND REGISTER.
- ⇒ 3. CALL THE CONTACT PERSON FOR THE TEAM YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL
GENE AT 423-232-2364.



ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION

Love is in the air! February is the month that we focus on love and the ones we love. Give thanks for those God has allowed us to love. And, while we are at it, let's demonstrate our love for God by sharing his love with others.

We can share God's love through Bible study. Here at CBC, you can experience great Bible study through Sunday morning small groups (Sunday School), Wednesday Small Groups, and DNA Groups. There is a place for you in Sunday school. You can easily plug into an existing Wednesday night group. We will happily make room for you in a DNA Group or a Central Hospitality Group. Visit any of the kiosks or go online to cbcjc.org to get connected to Bible study opportunities.

Perhaps you seek to share God's love through serving those who have experienced a disaster. Good news! If you feel called to Disaster Relief (DR) Ministry, why not register for the DR Regional Training, March 31-April 1, at Indian Springs Baptist Church in Kingsport. This is an introduction to disaster relief and will qualify you to specialize in one of many areas of DR. Call the church office for details.

I do hope that you have received your Family Information Update form in the mail. Please complete it as soon as possible and return it to the church office. We will soon be migrating to a new CHMS (church software program) and want to have your correct information. Thank you for being a part of the family @ CBC!

Carry on!

PRESCHOOL & KIDS MINISTRY

As we ramp up with a new year, we're excited about all the opportunities to invest in relationships with God, one another, and the world - right here at CBC! Whether you want to serve continuously in one of our ministry areas, or get involved with one of our special events, we would love to help you find ways to use your spiritual gifts. Be sure to check out the VIM/VOM brochure to find out more, including the needs of specific

ministry areas and the appropriate minister to contact. As we look to the future vision of our church, I'm reminded of Paul's words to the church of Corinth: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it"* (1 Corinthians 12:27). My prayer for this year is that each of us would find the way that God is calling us to be part of the body of Christ here at Central.

STUDENT & COLLEGE NEWS

STUDENTS	
CENTRAL	
FEB	4th Family Hike Tweetsie Trail - 9-12pm
	10th Underground Overload Student Center + Q Leap - 7-12am
	12th Super Sunday Student Center - 6pm-Halftime
MAR	4th Family Hike Martin's Creek Falls - 9-12pm
	24th-26th HBA Student Conference Ridgecrest Retreat Center
	31st Clue Mystery Night Student Center - 6-11pm
APR	1st Family Hike Laurel Falls - 9-12pm
	28th-29th Student Leaders Retreat Roan Mountain
MAY	6th Family Hike Roan Mountain Trail - 9-12pm
	20th Summer Kickoff Pond Place 9-4pm

INTRODUCING THE NEW STUDENT AND COLLEGE ASSOCIATE



Hey everyone! My name is Joshua Adams and I am very happy that God has called me here to serve and be a part of the work He's doing at Central Baptist Church. I grew up in Oklahoma City and am currently a 22 year old senior at ETSU majoring in Finance. In the future, I hope to use this degree as an outlet for ministry both in the US and abroad. In addition to working with Brandon and the student ministry, I serve as the Vice President and lead the

Men's Ministry at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on campus. In my free time I am an avid hiker and enjoy reading, playing music, and spending time with my friends. I look forward to getting to know you all better in the coming weeks and months. God bless you all!

- Josh Adams

THE GATHERING



The Gathering

INTRODUCING THE NEW "THE GATHERING" LEADER

Hello everyone! I'm Ethan Njezic and I have the wonderful opportunity to lead The Gathering service in worship. I am 22 years old and I'm in my last semester of classes at Liberty studying Applied Ministry. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Allison, and we are expecting a little one! I am so very excited to be joining in on what God is doing here at Central Baptist and I can't wait to get to know y'all.

- Ethan Njezic



PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Did you set yourself goals or establish resolutions for 2023? Have you kept them? It was once said that resolutions are a to-do list for the first week in January. Many times, we do not follow through on our goals and resolutions. It is important to focus on ways we can improve in our Christian walk.

Good health is very important as it affects our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Physically, it can be improved through better nutrition and exercise. Spiritually, it can be improved through prayer, Bible study and a closer relationship with our Lord. There is a connection between our physical and spiritual health, "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul" (3 John 1:2).

Focus on your resolutions. Pray specifically and often. Take your health goals a day at a time and don't be discouraged or give up if you have a bad day. Instead, start anew and remember to pray for guidance and strength.

Sometimes we need to get ourselves out of the worry phase. Worry is a conversation we have with ourselves about things we cannot change. Prayer is a conversation we have with God about things He can change.

The Parish Nurse Program is here to assist our church family to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit. Caring for others is an expression of God's love for us.

- Louann O'Dell, DNP, RN, Parish Nurse

SNOW POLICY

Schedules may occasionally be affected by wintry conditions. In the event of snow, a decision to cancel or postpone scheduled activities will be made at least 2 hours before the activity. Alerts will be sent via churchwide email and posted at cbcjc.org.

OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFO

Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
CLOSED FOR LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

300 N Roan Street
Johnson City, TN 37601

phone: 423-926-7121

email: hello@cbcjc.org

website: cbcjc.org

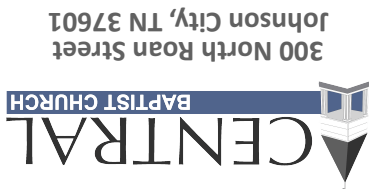
PASTORS

Dr. Tommy Hood, Senior Pastor
Tony Martin, Worship Pastor
Gene Elliott, Congregational Care, Outreach, & Senior Adult Pastor
Dr. Michael Davis, Administration & Education Pastor
Brandon Salyer, Student & College Pastor
Helen Kern, Preschool & Kids Pastor

ON CALL ASSISTANCE

If you have an emergency on the weekend or after hours during the week, call the church number 423-926-7121 and select 8 to contact the on-call pastor.

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