



CEFC Quarterly Newsletter

September 2026

This is the first of what will be a quarterly church newsletter to keep you informed of what is happening in and through our church. Luke paints a beautiful picture of what can occur in the life of a church when folks are yielded to the work of the Holy Spirit in and through them:

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:43-47 NLT

The Spirit is working in us and through us. We see evidence of His presence in so many ways:

What's Happening Now

Awana

Awana fills a unique ministry niche in our church. It functions as an outreach to our community, a discipling and equipping ministry for our kiddos, and as an opportunity to serve for our adults. This past year we had 40 families represented with 71 children spanning ages 3 years old to



12th grade. On-line registration for the coming school year began in August. Please pray for volunteers to serve on a Harvest Fair committee or to serve as coordinator for the Awana store. These positions do not require weekly Awana attendance. They are for specific special nights only. [Contact: Carol Taylor](#)

MomCo (Mom Community)

MomCo is a ministry that encourages and equips moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders, in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church.

CEFC's MomCo group continues to be a wonderful place for moms to find community, encouragement, and spiritual growth. They have had 10 different moms attend. They enjoy fellowship, meaningful discussions, prayer, and opportunities to build lasting friendships.

They strive to make MomCo a safe place to openly share what's on their hearts and to know they are there to support each other. The moms who attend are thankful for the continued support of our church family and look forward to welcoming even more moms in the months ahead. [Contact: Jennifer Moser](#)



Food Pantry

Our food pantry is held on the third Saturday of each month and continues to provide food for between 40 and 50 families representing between 74 and 144 people. If you would like to help feed hungry people in our community, you would be welcome to serve.

[Contact: Mark and Dale Tripp](#)

Vacation Bible School

Could you feel the excitement? It was probably Illumination Station, our 2026 Vacation Bible School. It was our first VBS in several years. 20-25 kiddos along with 20 volunteers had a wonderful week of singing, hearing stories from the Bible, and playing games. The week was filled with laughter and fun. Kids came who heard the gospel for the first time. Plan on being part of the excitement next year! **Contact:** [Amber Beiling](#)



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Fellowship

Currently, 10 people attend our new Adult Bible Fellowship that builds session by session and is designed to deepen people's understanding of the richness of the Scriptures. Folks are learning how to search the Bible to develop a broad understanding. They are learning together how to use bible study tools so they can understand God's word and apply it to their lives. **Contact:** [Pat Seyford](#)

Sister Chix

Sister Chix is a ministry for women who have experienced the loss of a husband either through death or divorce. They meet once a month and have been meeting together since December 31, 2013.

Currently the group consists of 21 ladies of various ages and at various stages of grief. Some are from the community who heard about the ministry from friends. Their mission is to support each other through love, acts of service, emotional support, sharing meals, celebrating birthdays, devotional time and prayer, and encouraging each other to fully trust and depend on the Lord for all their needs.

Contact: [Jillian Stone](#) and [Donna White](#).





Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry exists to make blankets and shawls for those who are hospitalized or under extended care. Shawls and blankets have been distributed to area hospitals and homes. Anyone who wishes to join and bless others with a gift of prayer in the form of a shawl or a lap blanket would be welcome as would folks who prefer to work from home. [Contact: Lisa Krouse](#)

What's Coming Up

Finance Team

After several years serving in the role of treasurer, Donna White is looking to transition out of the position in the coming months. We thank her for her faithful service. She would like to have a replacement in place before the end of our fiscal year so she can train them. This position is crucial for the financial stewardship of our church. It must be filled. Please pray for God to raise up her replacement. If you might be interested in exploring serving as treasurer, see one of the elders.

We are also looking for a few more folks to count the offering on Sunday mornings. This involves serving on a team that rotates one Sunday a month. If interested see an elder.

Budget

As of the end of June 2026, the giving numbers are as follows:

Giving for 4-1-25 through 7-31-25 was \$81,940.90

Giving for 4-1-26 through 7-31-26 was \$99,962.25

Spending 4-1-25 to 7-31-25 was 79,163.20

Spending 4-1-26 to 7-31-26 was 103,337.18

Balance in General Fund as of 8/11/26 is \$16,640.29

Balance in Cemetery Fund as of 8/11/26 is \$9,799.05

As you can see, giving is up, but so are our expenses. The increase in expenses is attributable to more ministries being accomplished and inflationary pressure on things like insurance, utilities, and building upkeep.

Please pray God would continue to provide and about how He might want to use you to accomplish that. As always, we are grateful for the generosity of our church family.

Facilities

The facilities team has been meeting on a regular basis and is in the process of evaluating the facility and proposing a priority list of things to be done. They are also evaluating some of the current providers to discern if we can save money in any areas.

Meals and Kitchen Crew

We are so grateful for those in our church who have provided meals for funerals, Thanksgiving, Easter brunch, and family fellowship. In days past, the kitchen was staffed by a committed group of folks who would coordinate providing meals for important events in the life of the church.

As that group of faithful people begins to transition, the elders are in a season of prayer to determine what meals and staffing the kitchen will look like going forward.

Mark and Dale Tripp have coordinated many of the events that include food. These include our family fellowships, Thanksgiving, and the Easter brunch. This will be their last year of kitchen coordination. As a result, we are seeking folks to coordinate food for:

- Easter Brunch
- Thanksgiving Supper
- Funerals
- Coordination of the kitchen

There are plenty of folks willing to provide food, what we are looking for is a person to coordinate in each of these areas.

Elder Selection 2026

The Elders are currently praying through potential elders for 2027. We have already begun the process of asking men to pray about the possibility. Please be in prayer for this process. If you know of a man that you would like us to prayerfully consider, contact one of the Elders.

Thoughts from a First Time Visitor

On a recent Sunday, I chatted with and later received an email from a first-time visitor who shared the following thoughts with me. I thought this would encourage you.

My wife Bonnie and I visited for the first time today, and honestly, from the moment we pulled into the parking lot, we felt welcomed. We hadn't even made it through the doors before we met a sweet older gentleman who made us feel right at home. From there, it seemed like everywhere we turned, someone was saying hello, introducing themselves, or simply making us feel like they were genuinely glad we were there. Even the little welcome gift was such a nice personal touch. The worship was wonderful.

Please pass along our thanks to your church family and worship team for making a couple of visitors feel a whole lot less like visitors. Thank you again for a wonderful morning and, most importantly, for faithfully opening God's Word.

They also shared with me that they had been watching on-line for several weeks before they attended. Keep up the good work, Saints!!

Final Thoughts

We will continue in our sermon series in the Gospel of Mark called, "Learning to Follow". On the docket is a series from the Book of Jonah called "Running on Empty" and a series from James called "Wisdom for an Unwise World".

Long term planning includes a series about the beginning (Genesis); a series on the end (Revelation); and a series on what happened in between (Luke /Acts). A topical series on the unseen realm is also in the works that will include the spiritual powers behind AI and social media.

Finally, a series on what we believe and why (doctrine), why we do what we do (practice) are also on the design table.

It should encourage us that what the Holy Spirit did in the book of Acts was accomplished through a church that began with about 120 people. God works through the small to accomplish the big.

And so, I close this letter with a blessing that has been spoken over God's people for thousands of years:

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 NLT

Pastor Eric for the Elder Board