



**From the Heart of Youth Ministry**

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# U<sup>th</sup> Beat

## From a Youth Pastor's (and Pastor's) Heart: The Blessing of Pastor's Day at Central

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**Recent and Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays**

Send a card, write a note, and thank God for their lives!

- October 16—Caitlyn Yoder, OMC
- October 24—Jaylan Snowden, WINGS

Even though we get information ahead of time, and I had already sent in my RSVP weeks before, I'm still always excited (and appreciative of the reminder) when I get my first invitation card from a Central Christian student:

*"Dear Pastor Tara,*

*We, at Central Christian School, are inviting our pastors to visit. Would you please come see what school is like for me? I hope you can come for Pastors Day. Love, Leah Otto"*

This was my second year to be a part of this special day to come spend a day with Orrville Mennonite students who attend Central. Since I'm already familiar with the school, I skipped the tours and headed straight for a classroom—kindergarten, my favorite—and got to read Drew's picture about bean soup, and admire Amos' skills with scissors. After a chapel specifically geared to bless the pastors, I sang with the 6th grade girls in choir, watched the 6th grade boys play Frisbee in gym class, and took a survey of favorite lunch picks for the day (our kids overwhelmingly preferred soft tacos, and chocolate milk). After lunch I got to watch Julie and Sam make rainbow-colored art, and Natalie, Leah, and Josh showed me their math prowess. You don't think about how many students we really have at Central until you try to connect with every one of them in different classrooms with different schedules in one day! It truly is a blessing for a school like Central to place so much value on the connection between the church and the school, and to give pastors the opportunity to connect with students from their church in a very meaningful way.

~Pastor Tara

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First of all, Pastor's day at Central is really cool because, who doesn't want to hear, "Hey Bill! Come sit with me!!!" Mostly, I enjoyed Pastor's Day because it gave me a chance to be in the world of our students who attend there, at least for a few minutes. Just about all of the students were thrilled to share about how their day works and to let me into their world. I grunted with Han and Jordan, I learned what I preached about the day before from Nathan Otto, got schooled in math and the different ways it is taught in the first and second grade classroom from Sam Otto, found out about all the different classroom jobs from Anthony Immel, and my wallet is still spinning from how much milk 6th grade boys can drink. I still revel in all of the hugs and smiles and welcome the children gave me. The whole day was a blessing. ~Pastor Bill

# The “BreakAway Builders” Take on Two Woodworking Service Projects

Knowing that we were going to have a LOT of boys in BreakAway this year, we wanted to plan a service project that would really get them involved in a hands-on way with using things they get excited about—like power tools! We also wanted it to be something relevant to them. So the first project idea that came to mind was that our church needs a bike rack—with our jr. high boys being some of the people who most often leave bikes lying scattered all over the lawn.



Above, Seth and Doug working on stage one—sanding the boards.



Right, Jeff helps Jonah screw a frame together,

In order to fund our bike-rack project (which will start construction in two weeks), and other service projects in the future, we decided to build a little extra something fun—Corn hole game sets! These sets will be available for silent auction bids on Sunday, November 1st, during the fall fellowship meal hosted by Footprints (more details coming soon!). So if your family has been coveting your own Corn hole boards and bags, or you know a family you'd like to gift them to, come check them out and make your bid!



Above, Bill instructs Sean and Alex in attaching the board. Right, Diane and Emily sew corn bags.



## 2nd Multi-Church Youth Gathering Finds Success: By Losing All the Youth and Leaders (in a Corn Maze!)

Okay, actually the only ones who REALLY were “lost” in the maze were Tara and Chelsea, and a couple from another youth group—everyone else seemed to make it through without *too* much trouble. But the Ramseyer Farms Corn Maze and other activities did prove to be an effective way to get lots of youth from all different churches and schools to show up in the same place, and have fun interacting in a variety of ways. For this event, Footprints youth were joined by youth groups from Martin’s, Pleasant View, Chestnut Ridge, Oak Grove, Smithville, and Sonnenberg Mennonite churches, and had the opportunity to participate in the Mystery Maze, spud slingers, petting zoo, pedal go-cart track, corn slide, hayride, and campfire with marshmallow roasting.

Youth take off around the track at the pedal go-carts.

