



UP FRONT

Dear Church Family,

As we step into a new year, may we be marked by hope—hope for the ministry year ahead, hope as we continue reaching people, and hope as we grow in loving God together.

As we begin the year, there are a few important things to keep on our radar:

Vision & Planning Meeting – January 11

We will be gathering for a vision and planning meeting led by Leigh Steiner. This will be a meaningful time to remember and celebrate the good work God has done among us this past year, and to prayerfully reflect on where God may be leading us in the year ahead. We hope you will make plans to be part of this important conversation.

Youth Trip to SKWIM

We are excited to share that 17 students will be attending SKWIM this year—one of the largest youth groups we've had in recent years. We are grateful for this opportunity and are praying that it will be a deeply rewarding and formative experience for each of them.

Beginning in February and continuing through March, Josh Sabo will be leading a study after church focused on the homeless situation here in Springfield. Perhaps like never before, this conversation feels especially relevant. The dynamics of our city are rapidly changing, and with those changes come complex questions, real tensions, and deeply human stories. As followers of Christ, we are called not to look away, but to lean in with wisdom, compassion, and truth.

This study will invite us to reflect together on important questions:

What might a Christian response and mindset look like in this moment?

How do we name truth honestly while remaining deeply loving?

How do justice, mercy, and humility shape the way we engage our neighbors and our city?

This will not be a space for easy answers, but a place for thoughtful conversation, prayerful listening, and faithful discernment as we seek to follow Jesus in our time and place.

As always, let us be found praying—for our city, for our church, and for the work God is doing in and through us.

Amen.

Grace and peace,
Tony Stang

COMING UP

1/3 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.,
Merriam Hall

1/11 Vision and planning
meeting, Merriam Hall

1/16 Youth trip to SKWIM

1/17 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m.,
Merriam Hall

1/19 Central Baptist Church
will be closed in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr's
Birthday.

Church Office Hours

8-2:30 T-F

*The Church office is closed
on Mondays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler Food Pantry

As we welcome in the new year, please take a moment or two to remember the food insecure of our community. There are many in our community including children who have no idea where their next meal will come from. Please help out and bring some non-perishable food items to the Serve the World Center and it will be taken 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.

NEWS AND NOTES

Thank you to those who went caroling to our shut-ins. Your music and kindness lifted their spirits and reminded them they are not forgotten. Carolers were June Chapelle, Carys Fritz, Lucia Hill, Dick McDaniel, Sally Smith, Sharon Smith, Tiffany Williams and Joleen Welch.

BIRTHDAYS

1/7 Carol Matheson
1/17 Sue Filler
1/18 Tony Crain
1/21 Doug Meyer
1/21 Dave Matheson
1/25 Scott Darrow
1/28 Tony Stang
1/30 Willow Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

1/1 Dave and Carol Matheson
1/27 Jim and Sue Filler

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



CONNECTED PAIRS

15 New Year's Resolutions for Couples to Start the New Year Right

In this article from The Knot, Hayley Folk says that not only can we set individual resolutions for 2026, but also ones as a couple. Folk gives us some resolutions for those in a relationship. Some examples are:

1. Save a set amount of money. Save for something you both want as a couple.
2. Set check ins. Resolve to take time each Sunday to discuss feelings or issues that came up the past week.

To read more of these resolutions, click [here](#).

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

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