



NEWS

UP FRONT

A new year, with great hope.

I thank God for our church and for all the wonderful saints who make up this congregation. As we move fully into the New Year, it already feels like winter has made its presence known. We have experienced several ice and snowstorms, and while I have appreciated the rest and slower pace they can bring, I deeply missed gathering together as saints for worship.

Also, we made it back successfully from SKWIM. I am thankful for all the volunteers who helped make that trip possible. God was at work during this time.

A few important things to keep in mind as we look ahead to the coming months.

First, we will continue our exploration of the Gospel of John during Sunday morning worship. John tells us that he has written his gospel "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God." As we journey through this book together, I encourage you to be prayerful about family members and friends you might invite to hear this good news. The Scriptures bear witness to a God who is faithful and true.

Second, we are entering the season of the high holy days. Easter will be here before we know it. On Palm Sunday this year, we will gather for a Seder meal led by Rabbi Kanter. The meal will take place at 5:00 p.m., and more details will be soon be shared. I hope you will make plans to join us for this meaningful evening.

Lastly, the issue of live streaming worship will be on my radar this spring. We have entered into an agreement with a tech consultant who will help us move toward streaming our services on Facebook. This will be an important tool as we seek new ways to reach others with the love of Christ.

As we close, please know that I am holding you and our congregation in prayer. I truly believe our best days are ahead of us, and together we will faithfully walk into them. Our world feels chaotic and fractured, but the hope of Christ has the power to bind humanity together once more. We will continue to be a people who unite others by standing for justice, love, and faith.

God bless you,
Pastor Tony

COMING UP

2/1 Quarterly Business Meeting in Sanctuary after service.

2/4 Connecting Women, 10:00 a.m., Weber Lounge

2/7 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

2/21 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m., Merriam Hall

Church Office Hours

8-2:30 T-F

*The Church office is closed on Mondays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler Food Pantry

Thank you for remembering the food insecure in Springfield. There are many ways in our city to help out and one of them is to bring non-perishable food or hygiene products to the Serve the World Center in our church and we will deliver them to Kumler Food Pantry. So pick up a can or three, or some body soap and toothpaste when you are at the store and bring it in next Sunday.

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

A Note from Lucia Hill

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Vision Planning Luncheon: Joleen Welch, Paula and Gregg Harwood and George Tankersley.

A Note from Larry and Becky Stanton

We would like to offer our sincere thanks for the incredibly generous donation to the White Cross Project. It gives us such great joy to know we will be able to pay for the Students' language exams in May and continue with other expenses that arise for our school. Your partnership is so valuable to us. We thank God for you!

BIRTHDAYS

2/8 Joleen Welch
2/9 Ann Wells
2/14 Brent Meyer
2/16 Dan Holland
2/19 Mary Ellen Sharp
2/22 Sheila Hodel

ANNIVERSARIES

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



NEWS AND NOTES (Cont)

Dear Central Baptist Church,

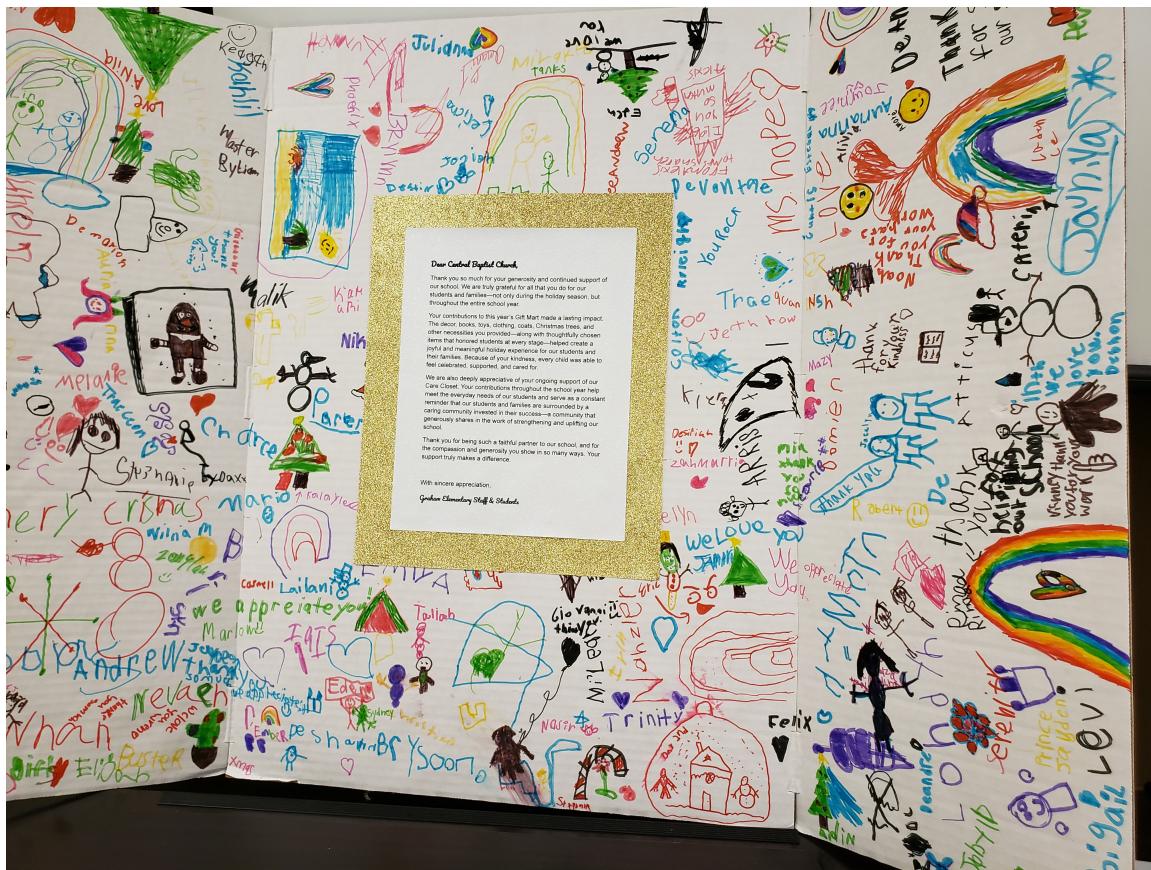
Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support of our school. We are truly grateful for all that you do for our students and families - not only during the holiday season, but throughout the entire school year.

Your contributions to this year's Gift Mart made a lasting impact. The decor, books, toys, clothing, coats, Christmas trees, and other necessities you provided - along with thoughtfully chosen items that honored students at every stage - helped create a joyful and meaningful holiday experience for our students and their families. Because of your kindness, every child was able to feel celebrated, supported, and cared for.

We are also deeply appreciative of your ongoing support of our Care Closet. Your contributions throughout the school year help meet the everyday needs of our students and serve as a constant reminder that our students and families are surrounded by a caring community invested in their success - a community that generously shares in the work of strengthening and uplifting our school.

Thank you for being such a faithful partner to our school, and for the compassion and generosity you show in so many ways. Your support truly makes a difference.

With sincere appreciation,
Graham Elementary Staff and Students



CONNECTED PAIRS

The Truth about love: Breaking Misconceptions and Redefining Love

What better time to examine love than the month of February, the month synonymous with love? In this article, Michelle P. Maidenber, PhD, MPH, LCSW-R, CGP looks at love myths and what love really is.

Some of the misconceptions she includes are:

1. Attention isn't love, True love is built on consistency and depth, not temporary validation.
2. Bare minimum isn't effort. Effort means actively working on the relationship, not just and occasional text.

To read more of the truth about love, click [here](#).

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

ConnectEdPAIRS

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Donna Givens, RN LCPC

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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.

