



NEWS

UP FRONT

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe, but it is 2025!

A lot happened in our church in 2024. For a church that has traditionally been prone to stability and kept 'change' at arms length; this past year was quite the year. There were some truly wonderful events that took place (Tiffany's arrival, baptizing 3 people, an increase in Sunday morning attendance); but, it would be inauthentic to not acknowledge that there were also some events that caused deep lament.

But, isn't that life? There are always ups and downs; zigs and zags. The same is true in the life of a church. Even when we read the accounts of the early church in the New Testament, there were moments of celebration and times of hardship and trials. We need a faith that can handle both things; a lived-faith for real life.

I wanted to bring to your attention a few housekeeping items:

1. Daniel Walden has recently joined our ministry team (part time). He is partnering with the church in the area of graphic design and branding. He will help us think through redesigning our bulletin, our newsletter and other special projects along the way. It has been an absolute joy working with Daniel over the past few months and I am beyond excited for this new chapter.
2. As Leigh Steiner mentioned in the last newsletter; the church voted at the October business meeting to suspend the operational polity of the Leadership Coordination Team to transition to an Administrative Leadership Team model for the next six months. Essentially, we noticed how well the process went for the ad-hoc team that made the recommendation for the closure of Children's House, and imagined what that would be like on a church wide scale for us to move the needle forward for our church. To be explicitly clear, the decision to close the daycare is not what I am highlighting (that was a very difficult decision); rather, it is the process, mechanics and rhythms of the group that are being *highlighted*. There was teamwork, clear communication, broad ranging ideas, and candid discussion.

COMING UP

1/4 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m,
Merriam Hall

1/8 Connecting Women, 10
a.m, Weber Lounge

1/15 Quarterly Business
Meeting, 6 p.m, Merriam Hall

1/18 Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m,
Merriam Hall.

1/20 Central Baptist Church is
closed for Martin Luther King's
Birthday.

Church Office
8-5, M-F

Upfront (cont)

3. John Grisham came up with some excellent verbiage for our church for the next 5 years. In 2030 we will transition to becoming a 3rd Century Church. Very few churches make into the 3rd century of their history and we need to organize, pray and tirelessly work together during these next five years to ensure that we can step into the next century of our church's history. This is exciting, but also noteworthy!

Lindsay and I will be gone the next two Sundays as we head back to Texas to tend to our family affairs. We will miss you all.

Deep peace,
Dr. Tony Stang

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler Food Pantry

There was a wonderful collection of nonperishable food in November for the Kumler Food Pantry but please, don't stop now! The food insecure of Springfield are still there and still needy. We can help them! Please continue to bring a can or box of nonperishable food to the Serve the World center at church and it will be taken to Kumler.

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.

Dates to Remember

1/4 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

1/8 Connecting Women meets at 10 a.m. in Weber Lounge.

1/15 Quarterly Business Meeting meets at 6 p.m. in Merriam Hall

1/18 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

1/20 Central Baptist Church is closed in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Roy Beal

1/1 Carolyn Ferrel

1/2 Kathy Cooke

1/6 Ethan Alt

1/7 Carol Matheson

1/10 Betsy Dunbar

1/13 Mae Moore

1/17 Sue Filler

1/18 Tony Crain

1/21 Dave Matheson

1/21 Doug Meyer

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



NEWS AND NOTES

Mark your calendars for this event sponsored by Central Baptist Church.



Connected pairs

The Simple Formula That Keeps Couples Happy

In this article, Alice Rosati quotes from a John Gottman study. The study was about using positive remarks to resolve arguments more quickly. Simple interactions that can help couples appreciate each other, even during periods of disagreement were also listed in the article.

Some of these are:

1. Showing interest. Show your partner you are listening by asking follow-up questions.
2. Expressing affection. This lets your partner know you are going to work it out together.
3. Focusing on common ground. Emphasizing points you do agree on will help you resolve things faster.

To read more about keeping happy, even during times of disagreement, read [here](#).

Blessings,
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