

**Wade Allen**

Lead Pastor

**David McEuen**

Pastor of Family & Worship

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

**Ron Fields**

Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

## Season of CELEBRATIONS

**Wade Allen**

Lead Pastor

### Community Group Schedule

The Fall Session of community group studies has come to an end. I hope that these times of prayer, fellowship and study have deepened your relationships with one another, as well as strengthened your relationship with the Lord.

We will be pausing our community group meetings until the week of January 8th, but we want to encourage you to find a time this month to get together—maybe for a Christmas party or maybe just a time of prayer. The holidays are often a very difficult time for people. Please do not neglect staying in touch with your group!

### Sunday Evenings in December

One of the reasons for taking a break from our regularly scheduled community groups is to allow us to schedule other special events this month. We'll kick off our "Sunday Evenings in December" with decorating our facility for the season. Come join us at 6:00 PM on December 4 to help "Deck the Halls."

The following Sunday evening, December 11 at 6:00 PM, we will be celebrating one of the ordinances of the church—the Lord's Supper. We only do this a few times each year, so we don't want you to miss this special opportunity for worship and remembering the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

On Sunday afternoon/evening, December 18 at 4:00 PM, we will come together to go caroling among some of the homes of church members and their families. If you can believe Buddy, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! We hope you'll join us for this fun time.

### Birthday Gifts for Jesus

We will once again give you the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birthday by giving Him gifts, but we are planning for this to happen during the morning worship services on December 18 & 25.

### Christmas Eve Worship Celebration

We are so excited about this year's plans for the Christmas Eve service. We want to encourage you to start your Christmas festivities with a time of worship. If you have been able to attend in previous years, you know that this is one of the best times of worship all year long!

Christmas Eve is also one of the best times of the year to invite your friends and your family members to join you for worship. What better gift could you possibly give them than introducing them to the One who gives the gift of salvation freely to all who believe? Make plans now to be here with those you love!

### Holiday Sunday Schedules

This year, both Christmas and New Year's Day holidays fall on Sundays. Realizing that many of you will have family get togethers on those days, we will be adjusting our schedule to only have a time of worship at 10:30 am each Sunday. We hope to see you then!

# PRAYING for One Another

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

Merry Christmas church family! I hope that this letter finds you well and in good spirits. In Wade's sermon this last week, he spoke about having an accountability partner. It gave me an idea for the month of December. I think that we should each have a "Prayer Partner."

I want to take a moment and make a quick differentiation between an accountability partner and a prayer partner. An accountability partner is not something to go into lightly. This person needs to be of the same sex as you. This person needs to have a strong, personal walk with Jesus. And lastly, this person needs to be someone you can trust—trust that they will pray for you, trust them to hold you accountable for your sins and trust that they will not share any personal information with others.

That's a description of an accountability partner, but I want to challenge you to start out by having a prayer partner.

What I'd like to do this month, for all who'd like to participate, is give you an opportunity to be someone's prayer partner. I will put a box out for you to put your name in, and I will match your name with the name of another one of our participating church members. The goal is for everyone to pray for the person or persons whose name you receive. Let's be actively praying for one another this month!

In 1 Samuel 12:23, Samuel made it clear that the best way to promote the Lord's work in the lives and hearts of others was to pray for them. That is still true today! Merry Christmas, and please be praying for one another!

# Pause to CELEBRATE

**David McEuen**

Pastor of Family and Worship

I want to take a moment to say thank you for all your encouragement and support over the last few months. From the cards and gifts of appreciation to lending me to Cardin Baptist Church to serve at a revival with my Dad and brother to your very generous support for the Burns-McEuen mission trip to Uganda, I want to say, "THANK YOU!" Your kindness and generosity have blessed me greatly.



Christmas time is here! Decorations are going up, Chick-fil-A's peppermint milkshake is back, and my radio keeps telling me all Mariah Carey wants for Christmas is you. It really is the most wonderful time of the year!

Though all of these things are fun, they're not my favorite part of this season. No, my favorite part continues to be the pause. When we as believers stop rushing for just a minute to gather with our families and rejoice over one of the greatest moments in all of human history—the birth of Jesus Christ. It was in that moment that God the Son set aside the glory of Heaven and wrapped Himself in humanity for the sole purpose of redeeming His people from the curse of sin. That is something worth celebrating!

As you begin making plans for Christmas with your family, I want to encourage you to make plans to pause to celebrate Jesus with your church family as well. One of the times that you can do that is at our annual Christmas Eve Service, December 24 at 5:00pm. It has always been a special time of worship and we do our very best to make sure you are out by 6:00pm to have the rest of the evening to spend with your family!

# SEASONS of Change

**Ron Fields**

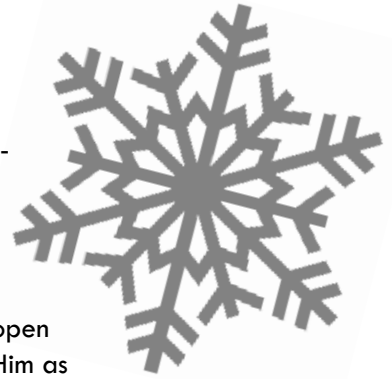
Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

We are making adjustments these days. We survived the changeover from daylight to standard time. We are still adjusting to changes in health. It seems like Norma and I are swapping back and forth with colds and maybe even more serious. And the weather!

Lovely, beautiful Fall weather! The leaves changing colors then falling and now disposing of them. Suddenly it seems, it gets cold! I am bringing wood from my stacks to keep in the dry on the porch. It makes it easy to grab a stick and put it on the fire.

With cold weather El and I are not so much a threat to the crappie population in Beaver Lake.

Some of us may need some adjustment in spiritual disciplines. We look for a Word from God as we read the Bible daily. We open our hearts up to Him as we seek Him in prayer. We are encouraged to live as lights in a dark world as we encourage one another. Community groups have become real lifelines as we face the difficult struggles of daily living.



Weather and health may cause some to avoid braving the elements to attend worship services. Present or absent you are always in our thoughts and prayers.

## Christmas Eve Worship Celebration

**December 24 - 5:00 PM**

**Join us as we celebrate the  
Christ of Christmas!**

*(Continued from "CELEBRATE" on p. 2)*

If you'd like to take a more proactive role in the service this year, I want to invite you to consider joining a choral ensemble that we will feature in a few songs. We're only a few short weeks away so if this interests you, contact me as soon as possible and I will provide you with more information on rehearsal times.

I'm so thankful for another opportunity to pause and glorify the Lord with you this season and celebrate the coming of Jesus.



*Mark Your Calendars*  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



- Dec 1** **Christian Seniors**
- Dec 3** **Uganda Mission Trip  
Garage Sale**
- Dec 3 & 4** **Home for Christmas Concert**  
Singing Men of Arkansas—3:00 PM
- Dec 4** **Decorating for Christmas**  
6:00 PM
- Dec 11** **The Lord's Supper**  
6:00 PM
- Dec 18** **Birthday Gifts for Jesus**  
During the Morning Worship Service
- Dec 18** **Christmas Caroling**  
4:00 PM
- Dec 21** **Club 267 & TSM Canceled for  
Christmas Break**
- Dec 24** **Christmas Eve Service**  
5:00 PM
- Dec 25** **Christmas Worship Service**  
10:30 AM
- Dec 25** **Birthday Gifts for Jesus**  
During the Morning Worship Service
- Dec 28** **Club 267 & TSM Canceled for  
Christmas Break**
- Dec 31** **New Year's Eve Party**  
7:00-12:00 PM
- Jan 1** **Morning Worship Service Only**  
10:30 AM
- Jan 4** **Club 267 & TSM Canceled for  
Christmas Break**
- Jan 5** **Christian Seniors**
- Jan 8** **Community Groups Resume**
- Jan 11** **Club 267 & TSM Resume**
- Feb 3-18** **Uganda Short-term Mission Trip**



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