

THE DRAWBRIDGE

C A S T L E W O O D B A P T I S T C H U R C H

GLORIFYING GOD BY MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE
DISCIPLES

scripture/ prayer / discipleship / community / ministry



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WELCOME TO CASTLEWOOD



And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

Welcome to Castlewood Baptist Church!

Castlewood has a long and rich history of ministry in Vallejo, Northern California, and around the world. I believe that God has continued to sustain this rich ministry history and that we are experiencing a new glorious chapter in the life of Castlewood.

I hope that you will join us on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM as we worship the one true God together! We have been watching God glorify Himself and transform lives. I look forward to meeting you.

Blessings,
Pastor John

*May the Lord Bless you and
your family as you follow Him!*

The Armstrongs



NEW YEARS

REFLECTING ON 2024

*We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks, For Your name is near; Men declare Your wondrous works.
-Psalm 75:1-*



As we enter a new year we want to take a moment and reflect back at the wonderful and mighty works that we have seen and experienced from God at Castlewood.

First, we want to thank God for our largest VBS over the last four years! Not only was it our largest, but we also staffed it with out a mission team this year! Over 40 kids heard the Gospel, were taught the difference between the truth of God's word and what the world says is true.

Take a moment and thank God for our children and youth ministries and ask Him to grow the truth planted in the hearts of our children and youth. Pray also for wisdom and endurance for those who work in these ministries.

One of the most exciting things in the life of a church is seeing God transform dead souls to life.

This year we saw four people born again and five baptisms. Their stories stir up joy and amazement at the way that God works.

For example Samantha and Alexandria were brought to Castlewood by a prompting of the Holy Spirit one day. As a result they also started bringing Isaac.

God saved all three through His word and for His glory!

Pray not only for those who have been saved through the ministry of Castlewood, but for those whom God will save through the ministry of Castlewood.



Isaac S., Samantha S., & Alexandria V.
after their baptism in September 2024



Christmas Eve Service 2024

Finally, we ended our Christmas series with our 2024 Christmas Eve service. It was a sweet time of singing praises to God through various Christmas Hymns, followed by a short reminder that Christ is the light of the world.

We have as our mission to shine the light and hope of the gospel in this dark and hopeless world.

Pray that God would bring many more to faith in Christ through our obedience to His command to make disciples. Pray that those who are presently saved would strive to grow in their faith and obedience to God's word and mission.

God has done this and so much more in 2024. What did you see/experience in 2024 that you can thank God for?

Many ancient cities were centers of culture, politics, and commerce, and their influence can still be felt today. Whether you are writing a research paper, a historical novel, or simply reflecting on the past, it is essential to approach ancient cities with respect and humility.

VISION FOR 2025

"JESUS DIDN'T JUST SAVE US FROM SIN; HE SAVED US FOR SOMETHING."

-ROBBY GALLATY, REPLICATE-

What does God have in store for you and Castlewood in 2025? God has been impressing on me and leading me to lead Castlewood towards a few different things in 2025. Those things are:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Missions
- 3) Discipleship
- 4) Ministry

I have included in this publication articles on our core values which will unpack more how we will address prayer, discipleship and ministry in 2025.

In regards to missions I believe God is leading us to be more missional and mission minded.



What this initially looks like at Castlewood is the creation of the Missions Offering. You can see on the next page the Goal and the different Missions it will support.

A Couple of quick points about the missions offering:

1. These are not budgeted items.
2. We will be emphasizing the Missions offering every month.
3. If everyone who gave in 2024 gave \$80 per month we would easily make our goal.

2 Challenges to start 2025:

#1 Start Giving Joyfully, Sacrificially and Generously as an act of Worship to God.

#2 Consider giving above and beyond monthly to the Missions Offering.



2025 Mission Offering Goal

\$27,550



WHAT DOES THE MISSIONS OFFERING SUPPORT?

- #1 Castlewood Missions, Evangelism, & Outreach
\$7,753.75
- #2 Cooperative Program (SBC/CSBC)
\$3,443.75
- #3 Redwood Empire Baptist Association
\$3,443.75
- #4 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (NAMB)
\$3,857.00
- #5 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (IMB)
\$3,857.00
- #6 Church Plants
\$1,377.50
- #7 Alpha Clinic
\$1,200.00
- #8 Gateway Seminary (GS)
\$1,308.63
- #9 California Baptist University (CBU)
\$1,308.62

This goal is one that will stretch our church. It is a goal that will require us to rely on God in order to see it achieved. God is able and not limited by our limitations. Please consider giving to our Missions Offering this year and pray that God would multiple the impact of these dollars beyond the amount given. For His Glory, Forever!



KINGDOM KIDS



*BUILDING THE KINGDOM,
STARTING AT HOME*



WOW! That was fast!

2024 was such an amazing year for our Kingdom Kids! Our kids ministry is family focused, and discipleship driven, putting gospel and theological truth at the center of everything we do! This year we learned and reviewed approximately 52 memory verses and Catechism questions, studied North American and international missionaries, learned about truth at Breaker Rock Beach, packed shoe boxes, sang Christmas Carols and traveled "Back to the Manger" in the HO 2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator!

Our prayer for 2025 is that each child would continue to grow in the grace and admonition of the Lord, and that our families would be strengthened in the word and encouraged to do the hard work of godly parenting. I would like to extend a special thank-you to our wonderful Kingdom Kids Teachers and Volunteers! It takes a small army of dedicated workers to make Sunday School, Wednesday Night Discipleship classes, Choir, and Vacation Bible School happen, and we have some of the very best there is! So, Thank-You! Thank you church family for your continued love and support of our Kids and families!

-Olivia

Psalm 78:3-4

3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

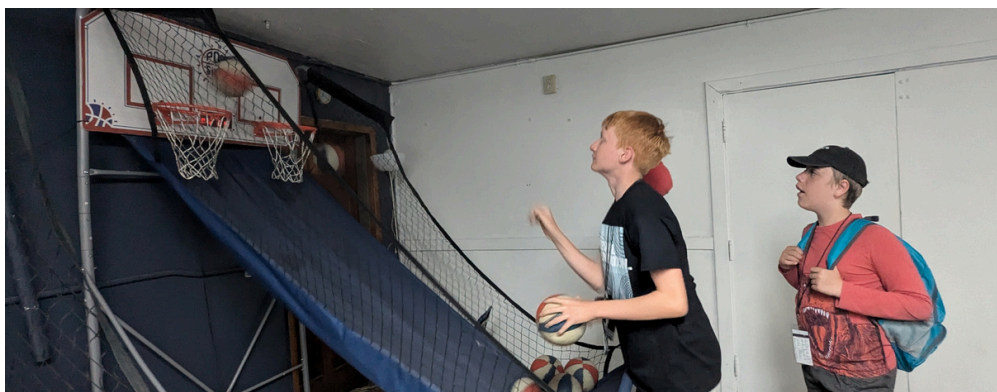
4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.



FORGED

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the approval of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

-1 Peter 1:6-7 NASB-



2024 had been a foundational year for Castlewood as it signified the return of a dedicated youth ministry and the beginning of Forged Youth Ministry. While our numbers are small the heart of the students is big. Throughout the 2024 year the youth have gotten to learn about God and his word on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, doing their best to memorize scripture and learning about the various names of God.

Some of the biggest highlights that the youth did this year was going to Fuge Summer Camps, Forged took a group of 5 youth to camp this past year and they had a blast learning about God and participating in various activities all throughout camp. Be sure to contact Austin Tran if you or your youth are interested in going to camp!

-Austin-

*This year please pray for our youth to grow in their relationship, knowledge, and obedience to Christ.
Pray also that the Lord would provide opportunities for our students to share their faith.
Pray for those who work with our students.*



KINGDOM WOMEN



PRAYER. DISCIPLESHIP. MISSIONS.



The Women of Castlewood are known for their service. This past year the church body reaped the benefit, once again, of many hours and many hands of woman serving their King. Whether it was making crafts with kids at VBS, serving Choir Carolers hot cocoa and warm hospitality, or loving their families day in and day out: They SERVE.

Our prayer for 2025 is that the women of

Castlewood would grow in truth and virtue. That they would fight their battles on their knees in prayer, poised to strike with the sword of the Spirit, shielded by faith with songs of rejoicing pouring from their lips.

Do not grow weary in doing well, Sisters! Every ordinary, seemingly mundane task is an act of worship to the King of Glory!

- Olivia

*"Who is this King of Glory?
the Lord Strong and Mighty!
The Lord mighty in battle ...
He is The King of Glory!"
-Ps. 24:8*



IRONWORKS

Iron Sharpens Iron, So one Man Sharpens another.
-Proverbs 27:17-



In 2024 our men have been working through *Disciplines of a godly man* by Kent Hughes. This year the men also assembled our invite bags for Christmas. Not only did they pack the bags, but they prayed in pairs over each person/family that would receive the bags.

In 2025 our men will continue working through *Disciplines of a godly man* at our monthly Men's breakfasts. This year our men will be looking to launch a Trail Life troop to train our young men on how to be godly men.

Additionally, our men's ministry is going to be intentional about equipping our men to serve in the church and disciple others.

The more we expose our lives to the white-hot sun of His righteous life (for, say, five, ten, fifteen, thirty minutes, or an hour a day), the more His image will be burned into our character — His love, His compassion, His truth, His integrity, His humility

-Kent Hughes, Disciplines of a Godly Man-



CORE VALUE: PRAYER

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
-Hebrews 4:16-

There are numerous passages in the Bible that command and model for us, prayer. This is one of the reasons why prayer is one of our core values. Prayer is the spiritual discipline by which we communicate with the one true God. It is through prayer that we do battle with anxiety as Paul tells us in Philippians “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God.” We are told to “...pray without ceasing” in 1 Thessalonians and Ephesians. Prayer is an important part of confession and repentance. And it is through prayer and God’s word (Bible) that we are able to discern what God’s will is. As a church that desires to do God’s will, we must not only prioritize the Word, we must also prioritize prayer.

This is something that God has been impressing on my over the last couple of years. So in 2025 this is how we are going to prioritize praying together as a church:

#1 Continue to have a portion of our worship service dedicated to prayer. And including the Prayer Gram in the Sermon Notes.

#2 Starting January 12th we will have Praise & Prayer @ 5-6pm on Sundays. During this time we will sing a couple of songs and then spend the majority of time in prayer. There will be a prayer guide each week, with prayer prompts. This event will eventually transition into Home Groups where we will have a Home group every day of the week, praying for our church, among other things. People will sign-up for Host and to join one of the groups. If you would like to Host a group (13 week commitment) be looking for information, coming in February. The idea is joining in unity to pray together with our brothers and sisters in Christ and to bathe our church in prayer. Asking God to lead, bless and build His church.

#3 Re-Launching our prayer team! This year we are going to assemble and train people to serve on our prayer team. This team is going to be responsible for praying for events, praying regularly for our church privately, praying for and following up with the church wide prayer list, gathering together to pray...etc. Basically this team is going to help keep our church praying through example and encouragement.

Every great movement of God started with prayer! I believe that God wants to do a great movement here at Castlewood, for His Glory and to make great His Name! I hope you will join me (Pastor John) in prayer this year. Both privately and corporately as a church together. Will you commit to praying that God would reclaim His glory here in this community that surrounds our church. Will you commit to praying how He wants you to participate and engage with His will for Castlewood and for yourself. I am excited to see how the Lord will answer our prayers this year and hope that you too are looking with joyful anticipation for the ways that God is going to move in 2025.



CORE VALUE: DISCIPLESHIP

“JESUS DIDN'T JUST SAVE US FROM SIN; HE SAVED US FOR SOMETHING.”
-ROBBY GALLATY, REPLICATE-

Discipleship is another one of our Core Values. Why? Simply because it is the mission our savior gave to us and the means by which His people are to grow in their sanctification and produce more worship on this earth. I once read a quote attributed to John Piper which said “Missions exists because worship does not.” What he means is that as long as there are people not worshipping Jesus then there is a need for missions.

Missions and Evangelism are parts of discipleship. Look at the verses below, Jesus commands His people to “Make disciples of all nations”. How do we accomplish this task of disciple-making? Going (Missions and Evangelism), Baptizing, and Teaching (Discipleship). Disciple-making involves all three.

Earlier in this publication I talked about the Missions Offering. This is one step towards moving us to be a church that is “Going” to the nations, taking with us the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Once someone has declared their loyal to the King of Kings through the transforming and life giving work of the Holy Spirit in their life they declare publicly through believer’s baptism that they have devoted their life to following Christ. And at Castlewood at this time we connect them with someone to carryout the last step of making a disciple, “teaching” them how to obey Christ.

Over the last month, as of the writing of this article, God has been leading and providing clarity on what discipleship is supposed to look like at Castlewood. One of the objectives is helping people to realize what Robby Gallaty so simply stated in his book *Replicate* “Jesus didn’t just save us from sin; He saved us for something.” If Jesus only saved us from our sins then there would be no reason for us to remain here on earth. However, Jesus does save us for something. I believe in part that something is Making Disciples who Make Disciples.

So what does this look like in 2025 at Castlewood Baptist Church. The short answer is I am still working that out with the Lord. But one thing I do know is that we are going to be more intentional about moving people along from one stage to the next. One goal I have for 2025 is that at least 50% of our members will be ready to take a new believer through our Discipleship pathway. Leading those new believers to becoming disciplers themselves.

Regardless of the details that will be forth coming, I hope that you realize that your salvation was not a finish line, but rather the starting line. That Jesus has indeed saved you for something, and my hope is that you will discover that something this year!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



CORE VALUE: MINISTRY

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.
-Ephesians 4:11-12-

God intends His church to work. There is no bench on God's team. Everyone is a starter. Certainly there are differing roles in the body of Christ, and not everyone's ministry is going to look the same. We will also find ourselves in different seasons in life where in one season we can do much and in another we must do less. However, this does not slow down the work of God as He has equipped His church to carry one another's burdens.

Over the last six months or so I have been examining our congregation and trying to envision each member's ministry at Castlewood. So in 2025 I will begin approaching and training people to do the work of ministry and using their spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ (the church).

I would encourage you to begin thinking about the various talents that the Lord has given to you, and the different spiritual gifts He has equipped you with (don't worry if you can't think of them I will help you).

Doing the work of ministry is not an optional thing when it comes to being a part of the body of Christ/a Christian. Just like discipleship and disciple-making is not optional. My (pastor John) role is to equip you to do that work.

Discipleship and this will go hand in hand because part of being equipped to do the work of ministry is by living an obedient life that is producing the fruit of the Spirit. We have many opportunities and needs to serve at Castlewood. For example you can serve:










- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Stewardship Team
- Personnel Team
- Welcome Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Grief Share Ministry
- Food Truck Ministry

Those are just a few options and there are more. My goal is to help you find how God has created and gifted you to serve and to equip you to do just that in 2025.

2025

January

Sign-up online @ castlewoodbaptist.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HOLIDAY	2	3 	4
5 Grief & Share 	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12 Grief & Share 	13 	14	15	16	17	18 
19 Grief & Share 	20 HOLIDAY	21	22	23	24	25
26 Grief & Share 	27 	28	29	30	31	

January Events

Wednesday 1st: Holiday, Office Closed
No Wednesday Activities

Friday 3rd: First Fridays (Youth) @ 6-9 PM

Sunday 5th: Grief Share @ 3-5 PM
Camp Meeting (Youth) 12:30 PM

Monday 6th: Food Truck @ 2-3 PM

Sunday 12th: Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 13th: Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM

Saturday 18th: Men's Breakfast @ 9 AM

Sunday 19th: Sanctity of Life Sunday
Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 20th: Holiday, Office Closed

Sunday 26th: Grief Share @ 3-5 PM
Monday 27th: Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM
















Regular Activities

Sundays: Bible Study @ 9:45 AM
Worship Service @ 11 AM
Church Praise & Pray @ 5 PM
Wednesdays: Adult Bible Study 12 PM
Bible Study All Ages 6 PM

2025

February

Sign-up online @ castlewoodbaptist.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
  2	 3	4	5	6	 7	8
  9	 10	11	12	 13	14	 15
  16	HOLIDAY	18	19	20	21	22
  23	 24	25	26	27	 28	

February Events

- Sunday 2nd:** Church Fellowship
Grief Share 3-5 PM
- Monday 3rd:** Food Truck
- Friday 7th:** First Friday (Youth) 6-9 PM
- Sunday 9th:** Grief Share @ 3-5 PM
- Monday 10th:** Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM
- Thursday 13th:** Parents Night Out @ 4:30-9 PM
- Saturday 15th:** Men's Breakfast 9AM
- Sunday 16th:** Grief Share @ 3-5 PM
- Monday 17th:** Holiday, Office Closed
- Sunday 23rd:** Grief Share @ 3-5 PM
- Monday 24th:** Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM

Friday 28th: Young @ Heart 10-11:30 AM














Regular Activities

- Sundays:** Bible Study @ 9:45 AM
Worship Service @ 11 AM
Church Praise & Pray @ 5 PM
- Wednesdays:** Adult Bible Study 12 PM
Bible Study All Ages 6 PM

2025

March

Sign-up online @ castlewoodbaptist.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
 2 Grief Share®	 3 FOOD BANK of Contra Costa & Solano	4	5	6	 7 FORCED STUDENT MINISTRY	8
Grief Share® 9 	10 	11	12	13	14	15  IRONWORKS PROVERBS 27:17 "CASTLEWOOD" MEN'S MINISTRY
Grief Share® 16 	17  FOOD BANK of Contra Costa & Solano	18	19	20	21	22
Grief Share® 23 	24 	25	26	27	28	29
 30 Grief Share® 	31 					

March Events

Sunday 2nd: Church Fellowship

Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 3rd: Food Truck @ 2-3 PM

Friday 7th: First Friday (Youth) @ 6-9 PM

Sunday 9th: Daylight Savings - Spring Forward

Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 10th: Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM

Saturday 15th: Men's Breakfast 9 AM

Sunday 16th: Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 17th: Food Truck @ 2-3 PM

Sunday 23rd: Grief Share @ 3-5 PM

Monday 24th: Kid's Wheel Day 3-4:30 PM

Sunday 30th: 1st Quarter Business Mtg

Grief Share 3-5 PM

Monday 31st: March for Life @ State Capitol

Regular Activities

Sundays: Bible Study @ 9:45 AM

Worship Service @ 11 AM

Church Praise & Pray @ 5 PM

Wednesdays: Adult Bible Study 12 PM

Bible Study All Ages 6 PM



Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

1st Howard Sun (B)
15th Ray Metzger (B)
17th Ray Brown (B)
17th Tim & Duwandlyn Knight - 24 years (A)
19th Joseph Onedera (B)
19th Minnie Bourland (B)

February

3rd Jean Johnson (B)
6th Pat Wilson (B)
9th Erika Johnson (B)
10th Lori Maher (B)
10th Russ Hennings (B)
11th Diane Balthus (B)
13th Lettie Smigiel (B)
14th Cicilia Ilo (B)
20th Malcolm Maher (B)
23rd Karen Anne McCann (B)
23rd Nyana Brown (B)

March

1st Vianna Williams (B)
6th Shant'e Scott (B)
20th Lindsay Doriot (B)
31st Jonathan Hennings (B)

Staff Anniversaries

January

1st - Pastor John (4 Years)
10th - Austin Tran (1 Year)

February

1st - Olivia Armstrong (4 Years)

Castlewood Baptist Church ↘

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

BIBLE STUDY – SUNDAYS @ 9:45 AM

WORSHIP – SUNDAYS @ 11:00 AM

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – WEDNESDAYS @ 12:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES – WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 PM



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 9–5 PM

TUESDAY, THURSDAY BY APPOINTMENT

PASTORS

DR. JOHN ARMSTRONG JR.

MINISTRY STAFF

OLIVIA ARMSTRONG

MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF

NYANA BROWN

AUSTIN TRAN

DEACONS

STEVE JOHNSON

CONTACT US

WEBSITE

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APP

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