



# BRIDGES

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - December 2018

## “A Light Shines in the Darkness”

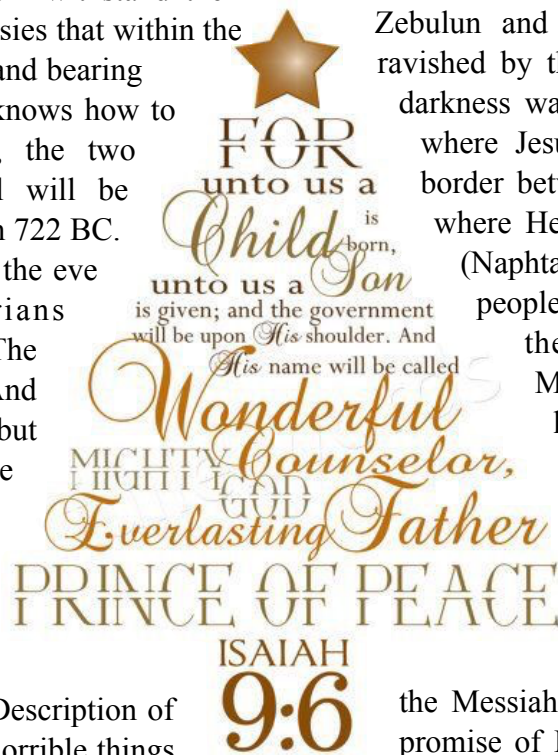
In the year 722 BC the Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to the Assyrians. It is hard to locate the exact moment Israel falls in the book of Isaiah. In Isaiah 7, we read about how Peka (the King of Israel) and Rezin (the King of Syria) attack Jerusalem. Judah and Jerusalem withstand the attack, after which Isaiah prophesies that within the time from a woman conceiving and bearing a son to the time that that son knows how to refuse evil and choose good, the two kingdoms of Syria and Israel will be destroyed. They are destroyed in 722 BC. Isaiah 8 seems to be written on the eve of battle, with the Assyrians approaching Israel (Samaria). The last verse of chapter 8 reads “And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness ((Isaiah 8:22).”

What would you expect to read next in Isaiah? Description of the siege and then battle? The horrible things that the Assyrians do? Maybe a prayer of grief and lamentation for the fall of Israel and the destruction of 10 tribes? These expectations are reasonable expectations, but if you turn to chapter 9 you see not oracles of grief, but rather a promised future. Isaiah 9 starts out by saying - “1 *But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone..., 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his*

*name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!”*

At a time of great “distress, darkness, gloom and anguish” a promise is given of a great light. The promise is of a child born who will be the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali were areas especially ravished by the Assyrians. It was where the darkness was the darkest. It is also the land where Jesus grew up (Nazareth is on the border between Zebulun and Naphtali) and where He did the majority of His ministry (Naphtali). Indeed, blessed are the people of Zebulun and Naphtali, for it is they who witnessed Jesus, the Mighty God who loved, taught, healed, forgave and redeemed.

The great promise of Isaiah 9 came at a time of the deepest despair and darkness. Historically, this promise pointed to and was fulfilled by the Messiah, Jesus our Lord. Yet this great promise of Isaiah 9 is not only a promise of the past already fulfilled, it is also a promise of the present in how God works in your life. You may be in a place of great “distress, darkness, gloom and anguish” thinking that the Lord has forgotten you. He has not. In fact, it is in that place – your own land of Zebulun and Naphtali - that the Lord will appear loving, healing, forgiving and redeeming. His light shall shine into your darkness bringing you peace as you trust in Him. As you celebrate Christmas this year, see the fulfillment of scripture as the everyday presence of God stepping into your life for His Glory.



**Immanuel – God is with us!!**  
Pastor Trent

**December Birthdays**

- 1 - Craig Black  
Maura Campbell  
Dick Meredith
- 2 - Bob Adams  
Eleanore Beckett  
Mary Brown
- 3 - Reid Frye  
Silas Jordan  
Katelyn Mann  
Trena Wise
- 5 - Alexis Emerson
- 6 - Christie Jeffrey
- 7 - Dee Mount  
Mary Wilkes
- 8 - Sharon Joy  
Alan Mannon  
Sam McClure
- 10 - Minnie Harris
- 13 - David McMellon
- 14 - Adam Jeffrey  
Major Simms
- 16 - Ryan McGuffin
- 17 - Tim Haney  
Toni Madden  
David Watkins
- 18 - Ellen Walker
- 19 - Mason Elam  
Nate Jones  
Marshall Summers
- 23 - Roy Maynor
- 24 - Brenda Carman
- 25 - Rebecca Hampton  
Katelyn Hannan
- 27 - Jeannie Harlow  
Barbara Pauley  
Don Walker
- 30 - Kevin Blake  
Adria Fox  
Michelle Morgan
- 31 - Mark Kessinger



**Happy Anniversary**

Jeremiah & Carla Cruz	Dec. 1
D.W. & Sharine Walker	Dec. 2
Norm & Fern Allred	Dec. 6
Kyle & Jo Ann Cook	Dec. 7
Jim & Dorothy Castleberry	Dec. 14
Jack & Glenna Hendrick	Dec. 17
Joe & Toni Collins	Dec. 19
Audy & Laura Perry	Dec. 19
Bob & JoAnna Smith	Dec. 19 (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Jim & Jenny Benson	Dec. 21
Cam & Mary Brown	Dec. 24 (25 <sup>th</sup> )
Robert & Paula Paden	Dec. 26
John & Laura Bishop	Dec. 27 (10 <sup>th</sup> )
Walter & Marion Sansom	Dec. 29
Jim & Nancy McSweeney	Dec. 30
Josiah & Ashley Wise	Dec. 30
Chris & Kerry Fizer	Dec. 31

Judy's Shawls  
**No meetings in December, January or February.**  
 Next scheduled meeting in March 2019

**Men's Fellowship**  
 Thursday, December 6  
 6:30pm  
 Hosted by Robin Crouch  
 7002 Country Club Drive  




It was the first Thanksgiving and Christmas after my father's death some 34 years ago now and I remember it like it was yesterday. The empty seat at the table and another voice reading the Christmas story on Christmas Eve to the family. Those memories are still alive and the holidays are not the same. God, though, is faithful and has filled those holidays with other joys called children, grandchildren, family and friends. I am who I am today in large part because of the foundation of faith laid in me by my father and I now get to lay that foundation of faith in others.

The magic of the holidays is often missing for those suffering grief and loss. Bright lights with the sounds of music do not always lift heavy hearts. We invite you to a service of HOPE on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. Some call this service "A Blue Christmas" others call it "The Longest Night" but here at New Baptist we call it "Hope for the Holidays." If you are experiencing the loneliness and sadness of loss, you are not alone. Please join us in this service honoring and remembering our losses in an atmosphere of faith, hope, and love; where prayers, music, quiet moments of reflection and a message of hope will comfort and uplift you. It is our prayer that you will leave with your spirit renewed experiencing anew the most joyful news ever announced, "A Savior is born..."

This is an opportunity for you to bring a friend who is grieving and walk with them on their journey. Your friendship and this service might just be the best gift they receive this year.

Pastor Robin



Deadline for information for the January 2019 issue of *Bridges* is **Wednesday, Dec. 19!**

## New Baptist Church in Mission December 2018



### Mission Reports:

**Fall Festival:** Thanks to everyone who helped make Fall Festival 2018 successful. We welcomed over 700 guests into our church and with our over 100 volunteers we had a packed house. That means that over 700 people heard the story of Christ from creation to the resurrection. Over 700 people interacted with our smiling church members during games, inflatables, face-painting and food servers. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way! We couldn't do it without everyone! During registration, our guests were asked if there was anything they were needing prayer for. We have information cards for those that answered yes. If you are willing to commit to pray for one of our guests over the next year, please see Myra Lydick.

**Marcum Terrace:** A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at Marcum Terrace Thanksgiving Dinner last week. It was blessing for everyone involved. The children enjoyed playing games and receiving coats, hats and gloves. The adults won prizes as well. Everyone was greeted with a smile and served a warm dinner. We have so much to be thankful for and it is a joy to serve others!

**MU Thanksgiving Dinner:** On November 20, a few NBC members teamed up with Pea Ridge Baptist Church members to donate desserts for Marshall University students who were not able to go home for break and the MU evening staff. Dinner was served at the Campus Christian Center and served over 200 individuals. Thanks to everyone who made desserts!



**Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:** As a church we collected 219 shoeboxes!!! Fifty of those were made by our AWANA students. What a privilege it is to watch all ages become involved in missions! These are more than just a shoebox. It is giving the gospel to children all over the world.



**Food Pantry:** In the month of September our food pantry was able to serve 263 families totaling 598 people (199 children, 303 adults, 96 seniors) and 36 homeless. They were also able to distribute 7 hygiene kits. In addition, 240 backpacks went to students at Highlawn Elementary.

### Service Opportunities:

**BCM Alongsiders Ministry:** There are many members of BCM looking for someone to adopt them during their college years. They simply want to connect with a fellow believer in our city. You do not have to have deep theological discussions with them. You simply need to share life with a college student who wants to grow in his/her faith. If you are interested in volunteering to be paired with a student, please see Courtney Powers for more details.

### Giving Opportunities:

Do you have difficulty thinking of gift ideas for everyone at Christmas? Let me introduce you to some alternate gift ideas that make a lasting impact. Instead of going to your local store to hopefully be inspired get them a gift that makes a drastic impact to families across the globe. World Vision, Samaritan's Purse and Heifer International are a few ministries that provide these alternatives. Each ministry has their own to paying for schooling for a child to providing clean water by buying a well. For example, you can purchase a pig, which can provide up to 16 piglets a year that can then be eaten or sold for profit and the manure boosts crop productivity. Heifer International has a Passing on the Gift agreement that a family that receives an animal will then pass on one offspring to another family in need. These truly are gifts that keep on giving. Here is an excerpt from the Heifer International gift catalog that sums up these gifts as a whole.

"Dear Friend and Partner, There's a reason why people the world over call this The Most Important Christmas Catalog in the World: These gifts change lives. They change the lives of a

**Missions Continued**

family in need who receives the livestock your gift helps us provide. For the first time in their lives, they will know the dignity of self-reliance. They will be able to put food on the table and earn income for clean water, medicine, school and better homes. They are gifts that will change the life of your gift recipient. Together, you can share the experience of helping a family transform their future and make a difference in the world. And they are gifts that will change your life by creating an unbreakable bond with a family half a world away who will be forever grateful for the trust you are about to place in them. So this year, show your friends, family or co-workers just how much you care by giving them one of these great Christmas gifts from Heifer International – the most important gifts in the world.”

For more information visit these websites:  
[www.heifer.org/catalog](http://www.heifer.org/catalog) [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) then click on the link for Christmas gift catalog.



<https://donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give/gift-catalog>

If your loved one enjoys jewelry, another option is BeadforLife. BeadforLife creates jewelry from “recycled paper by Ugandan women working to lift their families out of poverty. BeadforLife is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting poverty by creating opportunities for sustainable income.” Visit their website [www.beadforlife.org/shop/](http://www.beadforlife.org/shop/) for more information.



Let this Christmas be a time a not only giving gifts but also changing the world.



**Christmas Baskets**

The Stella Fuller Foundation has provided New Baptist (8th year in a row) with their Christmas Food Basket grant of \$3,000. Our goal is to pack approximately 145 baskets. These baskets are given to families that are identified and referred through Information and Referral and will be distributed through the Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 18.



**Floors Galore**, 801 Washington Avenue, Huntington, is showing their spirit of generosity during this holiday season by hosting a 3-week food drive at their store. All donations will benefit the New Baptist Church Food Pantry. If you get a chance, be sure to thank these fine people for thinking of our food pantry and wanting to help.

**Prayer Concerns**

(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)

prayer concern list.)



**Church Family and Friends:** Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Susan Arthur, Caren Blake, Hannah Caserta, Jim & Dorothy Castleberry, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Marion Davis, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Kenny Eggleston, Holley & Joyce Faulkner, Tracy Foster, Phyllis Gould, Patty Green, Doris Halcombe, John Hall, Minnie Harris, Bill Herrold, David High, John Hovey, Linda Hutchinson, Scott Jackson, Allison Sheils Kays, Virginia Lawrence, Jenka Lockwood, Betty Maynor, Lois Merritt, Linda Miller, Mary Coughenour Murphy, Warren Napier, Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Tom Pauley, Bill & Paula Peyton, Jack Rickman, Walter Sansom, Dale Shao, Charlie Shorey, Major & Lynnette Simms, Bonnie & Keith Simpkins, Bob Smith, Dave Smith, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jim Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, David Stevenson, Judy Swann, Sandy Taylor, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Emma Wagner, Carol Walls, Dave Watkins, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Ed Yeager

Pray also for our pastors and our church; the community around us; unsaved loved ones; our military personnel; our government leaders; our country



It's that most wonderful time of the year! There is so much happening in the Family Life Ministries of New Baptist this month! Before I bombard you with the schedule of opportunities to take advantage of, I want to encourage you (as this month has such a tendency to be cluttered with events, activities, and obligations) take some time to look, listen, and enjoy God who has come to us, Emmanuel! In our hustle and bustle, God comes to change our story to peace and joy. Settle into an advent calendar or devotion with your family. This year Carmen and I are using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *God*

*is in the Manger* for our personal devotion time and our family will do *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, by Ann Voskamp with our Jesse Tree around dinner time. These small moments open our eyes to big encounters with our God who is present at Christmas and all through the year.

Starting November 25, youth will have special activities like karaoke, minute to win it games, and a gingerbread-building contest on Sunday nights, starting at 6pm. On Wednesday's we will not do PODS, but will meet as a large group to look at the Christmas Story in scripture. We will not have church on Sunday night December 23, but will have a Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24. This is always a special night in our church year. Additionally, there will be no services on Dec. 26. On Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 the youth will be selling S'mores and hot chocolate at Heritage Farm's Christmas Village to support upcoming mission trips and projects. All of our youth and their families are encouraged to participate; we will have an organizational meeting on Nov. 25 at 5:30pm. On December 9, the Kids will give their Christmas program during the morning service and the adults will share theirs on December 16. The youth will be doing a broomball night with other area churches on December 28 and then on December 30 we will have a multigenerational church event for the evening service.

Wow! So much going on, but each of these opportunities are a chance for us to shift gears, open our eyes and experience the wonder of this wonderful season where God has come to us! If you have questions or if I can support you in any way, don't hesitate to reach out!

In Christ,

Lee<><



**Harper Haney** was selected as Cabell Midland High School's Student of the Month for the junior class by the Rotary Club of Barboursville. She is the daughter of **Tim and Kristi Haney** and granddaughter of **Jim and Nancy McSweeney**. Harper was honored at the Club's weekly luncheon at the Guyan Country Club on November 14.



*Kurt Kaiser Passes Away, But His Music Will Pass It On*

Composer Kurt Kaiser, whose songs "Pass it On" and "Oh How He Loves You and Me" became staples at Christian camp sing-alongs and youth revivals, died Monday, Nov. 12. The 83-year-old musician wrote more than 300 copyrighted tunes, released over a dozen albums of his own, and accompanied George Beverley Shea on piano during Billy Graham's crusades.

During his career, he worked with many popular singers ranging from Mahalia Jackson to Wayne Newton. Kaiser and Ralph Carmichael—known as the father of contemporary Christian music—brought a pop sensibility to worship music for the sake of evangelism. Together, they "convinced evangelicals and fundamentalists that Christian pop music could draw youth to outreach events and revivals," including through their 1969 musical "Tell It Like It Is," which sold half a million copies worldwide. Kaiser was in awe of how popular his music had become. He once shared how struck he was to hear "Pass It On" being sung at the Cotton Bowl one year, and remarked "Isn't it amazing what will happen when you allow God to use your gifts?"

"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."

—Author unknown

**Why Give Back to God? (reprinted from article by Community Christian Church)**

Giving our tithes and offerings reflects a grateful heart that wants to give back to God a portion of what He has given us; in reality, what is already His. This is our opportunity to show God that He is first in our lives. The Bible says, the purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives (Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB). Tithing is a reminder that God is the supplier of everything we have. It is also God's personal invitation to an outpouring of his blessing in your life.

**Four reasons to give back to God**

- **Giving is a Reflection of the Heart:**

*Matthew 6:20-21 "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

What's the most important thing to you? We see the way our culture encourages us to store up treasures on earth and exalts materialism to the point where debt has become acceptable. We can probably even recognize that truth by looking at our own checkbooks. As Christ-followers, however, we are called to free ourselves from the bondage of debt so that our resources are available for His purposes.

- **Giving is a Reflection of Priorities:**

Long before tithing was a practice of the Israelite people, Cain and Abel, the 2nd generation of the human race, brought an offering to the Lord. Abel brought the "firstborn of his flock," while Cain brought "some of the fruits of the soil." The Lord blessed Abel's offering, but rejected Cain's. God wants to be first in our lives.

*Deuteronomy 26:1-2 "When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land and present them to the LORD your God." (NIV)*

- **Giving is a Privilege:**

The 1st Century church modeled for us what it means to give generously and joyfully so that more and more people could find their way back to God.

*2 Corinthians 8:2-4 "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." (NIV)*

- **Giving is a Blessing:**

God uses the tithe as an investment where everyone involved gets a return. If we are blessed beyond our needs, it is not for the purpose of living more lavishly but to bless others. The church and the kingdom are blessed, and yet God's nature is to also bless the giver.

*Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" (NIV)*

**Vulnerable love**

God throws open the door of this world — and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because he wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that he came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch him? So fragile that we could break him? So vulnerable that his bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death.

—Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*



**Senior Adult Fellowship  
December 13, 2018 Meeting**  
**This is the SECOND THURSDAY  
of the month**



**Program: Huntington High School  
Chamber Choir**

Catered by The Scrumptious Company

Menu: Salad, Baked Potato Bar with Sour Cream, Cheese, Broccoli, Caramelized Onions, Baco's and Mushrooms, Pot of Chili and Dessert

Donations accepted to help cover the cost.

When I was talking to Santa Claus and discussing my Christmas Wish List with him, he told me to remind all of the members of the Senior Adult Fellowship that the Huntington High School Chamber Choir would be returning to our fellowship luncheon this month and that these students would be providing another "fantabulous" program.

The Chamber Choir is an advanced choral ensemble comprised of ninth through twelfth grade students. The singers must audition and be selected based upon their musical ability and poise, among other things, to be a member of this select group. The Choir performs a variety of music from all periods of history. Special emphasis is placed on acappella singing and music by master composers. The choir sings throughout the year and performs for numerous church groups and civic organizations, as well as presenting concerts at the school.

The choir is **directed by David Chenoweth** who received a Bachelor's Degree and Master's degree in Music from Marshall. He has directed the Musical Arts Guild of Huntington numerous times and is a charter member of the "Renaissance Singers". He also serves as the Music Director at Highlawn Presbyterian Church.

Invite a friend and come on out and help us kickoff the Christmas Season and enjoy some "Music of the Season". It will be a memorable program and you will be blessed by the talents of the singers and the way they present the music for your enjoyment.

**Roy Maynor**

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please contact Roy Maynor, 304-633-0013, or Pat Baisden in the church office, 304-523-3355, by Sunday, December 9.

**Now that's news**

In 1809, with Napoleon sweeping through Austria, the world was in such upheaval that nobody paid much attention to baby news. Yet during that year, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Darwin, Alfred Tennyson, Edgar Allen Poe and William Gladstone were born.

Although the attention was on an Austrian battlefield, "history was actually being shaped in the cradles of England and America," writes Charles Swindoll. "Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of the Savior."

—Adapted from *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*



**From the staff at New Baptist Church**  
**We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**  
**As we celebrate this season, let us remember the most precious gift we can receive**  
**is the wondrous gift of salvation.**



# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Choir Rehearsal – 9am – 12:30pm
2 Morning Worship – 11am Evening Service – Pastor Trent	3 Mission Board Meeting – 6:30pm	4 Food Pantry Team Meeting – 9:30am	5 Evening Service – Pastor Robin	6	7	8 Children's Christmas Program Practice – 10am
9 Children's Christmas Program – 11am Evening Service – Pastor Trent	10 Firearm Enthusiasts Club – 6:30pm	11	12 Evening Service – Pastor Robin Finance Bd. Meeting – 7:30pm	13 Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon - Noon	14 Tri-State Youth Orchestra Christmas Concert – 7:00pm	15 Choir Cantata Rehearsal – 9:00am Bykota Christmas Party - Noon
16 Christmas Cantata – 11am Worship Evening Service – Pastor Trent	17	18	19 Business Meeting – 6:30pm	20	21 Hope For the Holidays Service – 6:30pm	22
23 Morning Worship – 11am NO EVENING SERVICES	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:30pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26 NO EVENING SERVICES	27	28	29
30 Morning Worship – 11am Multigenerational Evening Service – 6:30pm	31					





**New Baptist Church**

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**Office Hours:**

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
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NEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

**Christmas Season 2018 at New Baptist Church**

**Children's Christmas Program**

*"Great Big Story"*

Sunday, December 9 11:00am



**New Baptist Church  
Sanctuary Choir**

presents

*"There is Peace in the World  
Tonight"*

Sunday, December 16 – 11:00am

**HOPE**

*for the  
Holidays*

Friday, December 21 – 6:30pm

Worship With Us  
*Christmas Eve*

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Service*



6:30pm

**Service Hours:**

**Sunday**

9:30 Radio Bible Class  
9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Morning Worship  
Kid's Church/Nursery  
4:45 Choir Practice  
6:00 Awana (Sept. – May)  
Youth  
6:30 Evening Service

**Wednesday**

6:30 Prayer Meeting/Bible  
Study  
Children's Choir  
Youth Pods

\*Please check weekly bulletin for  
special services or changes in  
regular schedule.