

BRIDGES

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - December 2019

Perfect Timing

One of the basic human skills that I lack is tempo. I can't keep the beat. It utterly ruined my music career (along with not being able to sing). Even in very simply songs when people clap along the clapping part is very hard for me.

For some reason, I do not have good This causes me to think timing. about Romans 5:6 – where it talks about God's perfect timing. It reads - "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." When I study history and see all of the various moving parts that culminate in a simple birth at a simple manger in a verv simple town (Bethlehem), I am struck at how perfect God's timing The moment in history that is Jesus was born was the perfect moment. It was at a time when the world was at great peace,

allowing communications and travel to happen across massive distances upon the Roman roads. There was a language (Greek) that opened up not only the Hebraic scriptures but allowed people to think and talk about God with words and ideas that had taken 400 years to craft. Jerusalem itself was in its golden moment. The temple would never be more grand, the crowds so large and the world in such need for a savior. It was the right time, the perfect time, for God to step into this world - born of a woman and laid in a lowly manger. Not only is God's timing perfect in terms of the right moment in history, it is also perfect within the lives of people.

The Book of Luke begins with a story of a priest named Zechariah who enters into the temple only to find an angel already there waiting to speak to him. After the initial shock and fear the Angel tells Zechariah that he will be the father of John the Baptist. This is all found in Luke 1:5-25. Notice

God's perfect timing in vs 13 which reads "But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." Do you see it? The perfect timing is this – Zechariah and Elizabeth have been praying

for a child and God weaves their prayer for a child into His purposes It is absolutely and plans. amazing. Yes, God is sovereign, and yes, in His providence all things work towards His purposes and glory - but He is such an amazing God with perfect timing that He is somehow able to weave our lives and our prayers into His purposes. He answers our prayers not in isolation to His purposes, but in concert with them. That is amazing timing and it gives me great comfort.

You may have made some bad decisions in your life leading to not just a few mistakes and bigger messes. Some think that their mistakes or sins have messed God up and thrown Him off His timing like a heckler at a golf game. If this is you, and you think that somehow you have made such a mess of your life that God can no longer use you for His purposes – go back and read Romans 5:6 again. "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly." Even our sins and weakness do not throw off His timing, but rather by His amazing grace we are told; "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)." That is perfect timing.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Trent



December Birthdays

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



Special prayers for

Mason Estep as he heads
for Navy Boot Camp on
December 10.

Happy Anniversary

Jeremiah & Carla Cruz	Dec. 1
Norm & Fern Allred	Dec. 6
Kyle & Jo Ann Cook	Dec. 7
Jack & Glenna Hendrick	Dec. 17
Joe & Toni Collins	Dec. 19 (55th)
Audy & Laura Perry	Dec. 19
Bob & JoAnna Smith	Dec. 19
Jim & Jenny Benson	Dec. 21
Cam & Mary Brown	Dec. 24
Robert & Paula Paden	Dec. 26
John & Laura Bishop	Dec. 27
Walter & Marion Sansom	Dec. 29
Jim & Nancy McSweeney	Dec. 30
Josiah & Ashley Wise	Dec. 30
Chris & Kerry Fizer	Dec. 31



PRAYER SHAWLMINISTRY

Judy's Shawls will meet on Monday, December 2, 4:00pm in the Bykota Room. Please note the time change to 4:00pm!! Hope to see you there.



Deadline for information for the January 2020 issue of *Bridges* is **Sunday**, **Dec. 22**.



Join us Sunday, December 8, 11:00am, as we take a tour to Bethlehem as the Children's Choir presents, "Good News Ahead...The Signs of Christmas" and hear all the signs of Christmas and the precious gift of God's love for us.

The children are asked to wear Christmas/church clothes for the program.

Our dress rehearsal is Saturday, December 7, at 10:00am sharp. Upon arrival, please sign your child in with a contact phone number. Rehearsal is followed by our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party in the Children's Church Room. At this time the kids will celebrate our Savior, have pizza and fixings, and redeem their hard-earned tickets for prizes...your child is very precious to us and dress rehearsal is very important for your child to feel comfortable and confident in his/her performance. You may pick up your child at 12:30pm in the front entryway of the church.

Many children have speaking parts and scripts have been sent home. Please help your child with memorization, volume, and using expression.

Thank you for your dedication and faithfulness in sending your child to us. We pray that all families stay healthy this season. And, that you receive a blessing or two as we all take a tour in "Good News Ahead...The Signs of Christmas."

John and Kim Stinespring Brian and Amy Kelly





We are approaching one of my favorite seasons of the year. I get giddy about Christmas, but at the same time, it seems like "hustle and bustle" seems to replace "holly and jolly" as we run from place to place between Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of my favorite songs during Advent is called "Prepare a Place" by Michael W. Smith. The verse says "Prepare your heart while you're waiting, Prepare your heart for the coming One, Set time aside and be quiet,

While you wait for the coming One." How do you prepare for Jesus? How are you going to set time aside and be quiet this season?

Advent is for preparation. Sure we prepare for Christmas by decorating, baking, buying and wrapping presents, making travel plans, etc. but this is a season for preparing our hearts. Our family has found a richness in the midst of the Advent season as we have made space each day to do an advent devotion together. We have done a variety of things, lighting candles, coloring ornaments, or praying together. We have really enjoyed Ann Voskamp's Unwrapping the Greatest Gift with a Jesse Tree. In addition to this, I have rewritten Phyllis Tickle's Divine Hours into a kid friendly version with scriptures from the International Children's Bible. If you'd like a copy of these, you can email leeboso@gmail.com. Carmen and I try to get a devotional that we read together. We've enjoyed some from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Paul David Tripp, and are trying Unwrapping the Names of Jesus by Asheritah Ciuciu this year.

All of this to say, there are tools galore that help slow down, wait, and direct our hearts toward Jesus, not only the baby in the manger, but our Savior who will return again. In John Mark Comer's book *Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* he says "the average iPhone user touches his or her phone 2,617 times a day...What would my life be like if God touched my mind as frequently as I touch my phone?" As we slow down and open our lives to the touch and the presence of Emmanuel, God with us, we can experience love, joy, peace, and hope through the power of God, who sent his Son so that we could enjoy him throughout this season and all year long. I encourage you to check out some of these resources and look forward to hearing how you encounter our Savior throughout this season! Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! Praying for you and your family as you seek the heart of God!

Pastor Lee <><

A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR: (Karen Daily)

What a blessed time of year it is in our church, in our choir and in our hearts! No other season can compare to the Advent Season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The choir will be singing "King of Love" on December 15th in the morning worship service. All the hard work and dedication of all the choir members, the musicians, the sound and visual media techs cannot be thanked enough. It takes all hands-on deck to make this presentation possible. Each person has been a blessing to work with throughout the year but most especially during this time of year when everyone is so very busy. New Baptist is incredibly blessed with a plethora of talent. They give and give without expecting anything in return; just simply continue to do their best to give honor, glory and praise to our King for He is worthy! We hope you are inspired by this musical and come to worship Him with us for He is truly the King of Love!



"More light than we can learn, more wealth than we can treasure, more love than we can earn, more peace than we can measure, because one Child is born."

—Author unknown

"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

—C.S. Lewis

What is the best news you ever received: Birth of a child or grandchild; benign or cancer free; promotion and a raise; or you're hired. I am sure we could give many varied answers but the Bible says this about the best news ever

but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone! The Savior--yes, the Messiah, the Lord--has been born tonight in Bethlehem! Luke 2:10-11 (TLB)

The Good News of the Gospel is the coming of the Savior. The joyful news is that the Savior came for each of us. Now that is news worth sharing.

I want to highlight some opportunities you have during the Christmas season to share this news with a friend, neighbor, co-worker, schoolmate or family member who does not know the Lord.

- **Sunday Morning worship services** that include the Christmas Musicals by the children and adult choirs and messages by Pastor Trent
- The Senior Adult Luncheon on December 12 (note the change from the third Thursday to the second) that will feature the Huntington High School Chamber Choir. You need to make a reservation for this by calling the church office (304-523-3355) and all are invited.
- The Hope for the Holidays service. Some call it the Longest Night or Blue Christmas on Saturday December 21 at 6:00 pm. There has been some confusion about the purpose of this service so let me clear that confusion. It is NOT a sad or morbid service but rather one where we recognize God's presence in the midst of our loss. This service acknowledges that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God. For me it is has special significance this year. This is the first Christmas I will be celebrating without my mom being present. Even though her dementia took her from us a few years ago the loss I feel since her death in October is real and this service is a way to remember her this Christmas. Some of you have also experienced loss of some sort in the past year or years and simply want to acknowledge that before the Lord. I hope you will join us as we call on God's presence and love and peace together.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion**. Bring your family as we celebrate the birth of the Savior. This is one of the most meaningful services of the year.

December is a busy month so make your plans now to celebrate the "most joyful news ever announced" with your church family and friends.

Praver Concerns

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

FASTER KOSIN

Church Family and Friends:

Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Jenny Benson, Tom & Laura Blake, Ed Bowling, Dorothy Castleberry, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Lisa Daniels, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Kenneth Fetty, Tracy Foster, Phyllis Gould, Patty Green, Doris Halcombe, Ripley Haney, Minnie Harris, Bill Herrold, David High, Anna Holstein, John Hovey, Linda Hutchinson, Scott Jackson, Derek & Megan Justice, Virginia Lawrence, Judson Maverick Maynard, Roy Maynor, Sam McClure, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Mary Coughenour Murphy, Jane Napier, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Jerry Powers, Nina Rakes, Jack Rickman, John Rowe, Amy Sacre, Marion Sansom, Major & Lynnette Simms, Keith & Bonnie Simpkins, Jim Spurlock, Linda Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Anne Streeter, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Sandy Taylor, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Dave Watkins, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Trena Wise, Kimm Withers and family

Additional Prayer Items: our church, our community, our military personnel, our government leaders, our country, unsaved loved ones



To the beautiful ladies of New Baptist Church:

May you have the most blessed Advent season and Christmas ever! As Mary held and cared for her baby Yeshua, may we hold Him, our Savior, closely in our hearts. May our eyes be enlightened with the glorious light of His Presence as we take in the majesty of the season. And may our lives be that Light, Blessing, and Glory to our world! Bible study sessions will begin again in January--dates to be announced. Both "Jonah" and "What Love Is" will be offered again, along with a yet-to-be named study for our younger moms group.

Until then, enjoy time with family and friends as you concentrate on the Greatest Gift of All--Emmanuel, God With Us!

For Good, Dolores Adkins



Awana News

Our regular AWANA programing will take place December 1, 8, and 15th. Remember to dress as your favorite Bible character on the 15th.

With Christmas just around the corner, please remember to bring all your NEW and GENTLY used toys and games to AWANA so Mrs. Joyce Mannon can help parents and grandparents give a gift that a child may not be able to receive when they pick up their **Christmas food boxes**.

Items to consider donating--

New toys and games gently used toys and games coats mittens, gloves, hats crayons, coloring books socks new underwear of all sizes





We are remembering those in our community this AWANA year. Remember not everyone's refrigerator looks the same. Please donate what is laid on your heart--any monetary (\$5-\$10 per month can help fill a backpack for a child)

DONATIONS --

cans of chicken noodle soup with the pull-ring ravioli or spaghetti-os with the pull rings macaroni and cheese cups or bowls breakfast bars, granola bars, pop-tarts Nabs or crackers gummi snacks individual pudding cups, fruit cups, applesauce cups individual bags of chips, pretzels, cheese-its, Ritz bitz



Items need to be able to be opened by a child and cooked using a microwave and not a stove.

In His Service, Debbie Harman

"I Can be A Missionary Right at Home"

In the past AWANA years we have packed Operation Christmas Child boxes. This year we are going to work inside our Community and help with **Backpacks for children at Highlawn Elementary School**. In preparation, AWANA directors read the story *Maddi's Fridge* by Lois Brandt. The story is about two friends whose refrigerators look quite different on the inside. The girls are best friends and don't want their relationship to be different because they live differently at home. One girl gives help and the other accepts the gift of help. We have to allow others to serve us sometimes and not always be the one that gives, just like the family of Christ!

Some statistics to remember: The Food Pantry, Backpack Helpers--

- * serve 130 students a week
- * estimates are about \$6 per backpack per child (\$780 a week) for the typical Friday evening to Sunday evening weekend until they return to school
- * that is for a 4 week-end month-- \$3,120.
- * supplies are those that are easily opened by a child, individual cans or bowls, and can by heated in the microwave. A detailed list is located in this Newsletter.

Can you help, with a donation or supplies? Please pray about it and if you should have an idea of how we can best serve our neighbors, please talk to **Joyce Mannon, Teresa Foster, Pat Baisden, or Debbie Harman**.

Thank you so much! AWANA Clubbers

Senior Adult Fellowship

December 12, 2019 Meeting (Second Thursday this 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

\$6 minimum donation

The **Huntington High 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.

We invite you to join us that day and help us kickoff the Christmas Season by enjoying some "Music of the Season." This will be a great program and you will be blessed by the talents of these singers.

Roy Maynor

This is our last program for the 2019 year. We are looking forward to 2020 and gathering together for more fellowship luncheons then. Programs will resume in April of 2020. From all of us who work together to organize these senior adult fellowship luncheons, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God fill you with peace, joy, love and hope during this holiday season.





What's going on with the Children?

Every Sunday, we have Sunday School starting at 10am. We have lots of classes and are blessed with some really great friendships! We just started a new curriculum from D6 based on the teachings of Deuteronomy 6. The curriculum starts with Sunday School and offers the second-hour teachers a digital support library for the Church hour. Every Sunday, our Children's Program has these goals in mind to enrich your Christian teaching practices at home-- a Story from the Bible, praying with your child, playing with friends, and lots of laughter, giggles, and love, and crafts and games.

Do you want to help?

CAN I SAY "Yes!! to Nursery--"

I love cuddles
I don't mind tears
I love giggles
I can read a book
I can give and bottle and don't mind burping
I can change a diaper

CAN I SAY "Yes!! to Toddlers--"

I can listen
I love stories
I love giggles
I don't mind tears

I can read a book, do a puzzle, color, work with play-doh

I can help with potty-time and praise the goal or the attempt

I can praise kindness to friends
I can help a child pray or pray for them

CAN I SAY "Yes!! to Pre-K--"

I can listen

I can answer questions

I can listen to their stories--they are the best! I can read a book, work a puzzle, color, work

with play-doh

I can help with following directions I can praise kindness to friends

I love giggles, and stories, and looking at boo-boo stickers and hearing about what's happening at your

nouse

I can help a child pray or pray for them

CAN I SAY "Yes!! to Grades 1st through 5th--"

I can listen

I can answer questions I can show God's Word I can show God's Love

I can help with following directions I can reinforce kindness and praise

I can be a friend I can listen to stories I can ask questions

I can help a child pray or pray for them

If this sounds like something you can do--please, reach out to Debbie Harman or Pastor Lee.



Do you have a talent God has blessed you with that would be a blessing to share with us? We would love to know about it!

The evening service on Sunday, December 29th will be a time of praise and sharing. This talent can be in the form of musical talent but it certainly does NOT have to be. It can be a reading of your favorite poem, an interpretive dance, story-telling, a short drama interpretation, painting, woodworking, juggling, photography, joke telling, etc. All you have to do is turn-in the sheet with the information to Karen Dailey by December 20th and she will make up the schedule for the night. Look for the "Share Your Talent" forms at the Welcome Center. We are looking forward to ALL forms of talent on this special night.

Why Give Back to God? (reprinted from article by Community Christian Church) (I shared this in last year's newsletter but I felt it was worth sharing again.)

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)

Trustee Notes:

This is the season for lots of activities at New Baptist Church – plays, cantatas, class Christmas dinners, luncheons, private events, etc. Please remember to clean up and put everything back where it was immediately after your event. It is not right for one group to have their fun and leave a mess for the next group. The best standard to use is – leave the church better than you found it.

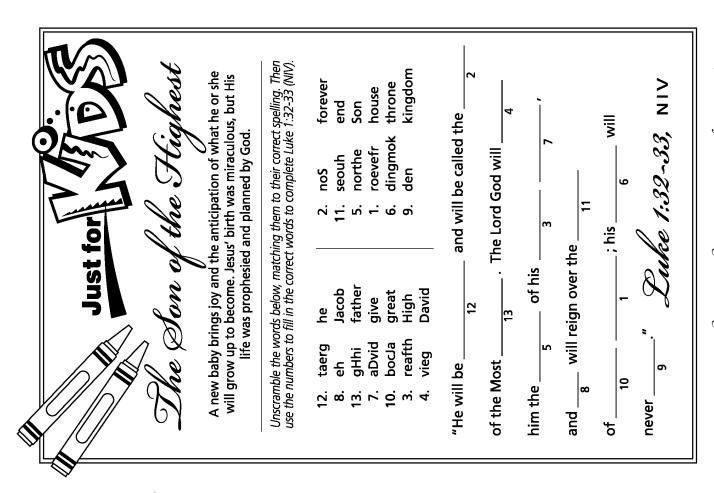
Also as you are driving on the church parking lot and St. Mary's parking lot – please remember to **SLOW down**.

Charitable Giving while Shopping

For those of you who regularly shop on Amazon you can also use your shopping to help benefit New Baptist ministries. All users have to do is to visit **smile.amazon.com** (amazon.com and Amazon mobile app purchases do not apply) to earn 0.5 percent of their eligible purchases for their favorite nonprofit or cause.

AmazonSmile is very simple to use—all you need is an Amazon account. On your first visit to the site, you will be asked to log in to your Amazon account with existing username and password (you do not need a separate account for AmazonSmile). You can then choose New Baptist Church as the charity you wish to support. During future visits to the site, AmazonSmile will remember your charity and apply eligible purchases towards your total contribution.

If you plan on doing any Christmas shopping online with Amazon and like the idea of a percentage of your purchases coming back to the church as charitable giving you might want to try this out.



Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High



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.

New Baptist Church

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Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman (trente@me.com)

Rev. Lee Boso (leeboso@gmail.com)

Rev. Robin Crouch (rlcrouch1948@gmail.com)

Service Hours:

Sunday

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

Evening Service

Wednesday

6:30

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

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



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH 610 28TH STREET HUNTINGTON WV 25702

Christmas Season 2019 at New Baptist Church

Children's Christmas Program

"Good News Ahead...The Signs of Christmas"

Sunday, December 8

11:00am



King of Love

Sunday, December 15 - 11:00am



Saturday, December 21 - 6:00pm

