



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - December 2020*

## **The Best Give Exchange Ever**

The year 2020 will be remembered as a year of great distress. Here is a list of some of the things that have happened during this year in the United States.

- The Covid-19 pandemic has nearly shut down the country, kept people isolated in their homes, and has killed 260,000 people to date in the USA.
- The sitting president is impeached by the House and acquitted by the Senate.
- March 9 of this year suffered the worst single-day drop in the history of the stock market.
- The Black Lives Matter protests that were sometimes hijacked by people intent to do violence.
- Murder hornets arrive in the United States.
- West coast wildfires that burned millions of acres and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.
- The death of a supreme court justice (Ruth Baber Ginsburg).
- A presidential election that ended with a contested result.

On top of these national events, there have been many private tragedies in people's lives. People have suffered sickness, lost family members, and become unemployed. It is no wonder that some cities have measured 70% increases in suicides this past year.

I share these very discouraging events as a way of reminding you that this is the type of world that Jesus was born into. No matter how beautiful paintings may make the ancient world look, the people then were like people of today. They, too, suffered depression, anxiety, fear, and the constant threat of sickness or loss. They, too, suffered under competing political claims and unexpected earthquakes, fires, and floods. They, too, longed for a better world.



This longing for a better world and recognizing that God fulfills this longing through Christ is a large part of what makes Christmas meaningful to me.

Celebrating the Christmas season is not a momentary escape or distraction from the hurt and pain of this world but is a reminder of God stepping into the hurt and pain of this world. Christmas is where I am reminded that God remembers His children (He remembers you) and fulfills the promises of His faithful love. Christmas is the reminder that there is

no hurt, pain, humiliation, distress, or agony that we may experience that our God does not also share. The Lord did not just enter our world; He entered our suffering and grief. This is what the Bible tells us in Isaiah 53:4, "*Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.*" We (you) are not alone; God has come into our world to carry our griefs!

Thus, here is a spiritual exercise that I would like you to practice this season. Just as you purchase and wrap gifts for those you love, think of giving God a

gift. What do you have that God wants you to give to Him? He wants you to give Him your griefs and sorrows. In prayer, picture yourself taking whatever hurt and pain you have and then place it in a box and hand it to Jesus. "*Here, Lord, are the burdens I carry.*" Jesus will take this "gift" from you. Not only will He take it, but He will also, in turn, give you a gift. He gives you the gifts of joy everlasting, life eternal, the forgiveness of sins, and His Spirit poured out upon you. This is the best gift exchange you will ever experience; exchange gifts with Jesus this season. Do not hoard your grief or worry but give it to Him and enjoy His gifts in return.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Trent Eastman

**December Birthdays**



- 1 - Craig Black  
Maura Campbell  
Dick Meredith
- 2 - Bob Adams  
Eleanore Beckett
- 3 - Reid Frye  
Silas Jordan  
Katelyn Mann  
Trena Wise
- 5 - Alexis Emerson
- 6 - Christie Jeffrey
- 7 - Dee Mount  
Tressa Pennington  
Mary Wilkes
- 8 - Alan Mannon  
Sam McClure
- 10 - Minnie Harris
- 13 - Roy Ellis  
David McMellon
- 14 - Adam Jeffrey  
Major Simms
- 15 - Annie Stewart
- 16 - Ryan McGuffin  
Luke Vanover
- 17 - Tim Haney  
Toni Madden  
David Watkins
- 19 - Mason Elam  
Marshall Summers
- 20 - Jeff Fetty  
Art McCallister
- 23 - Roy Maynor (90<sup>th</sup>)
- 24 - Brenda Carman
- 25 - Rebecca Hampton  
Katelyn Hannan
- 27 - Jeannie Harlow  
Barbara Pauley
- 30 - Kevin Blake  
Michelle Morgan
- 31 - Mark Kessinger

**Happy Anniversary**

Jeremiah & Carla Cruz	Dec. 1 (10 <sup>th</sup> )
Norm & Fern Allred	Dec. 6
Kyle & Jo Ann Cook	Dec. 7
Jack & Glenna Hendrick	Dec. 19 (45 <sup>th</sup> )
Joe & Toni Collins	Dec. 19
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 (35 <sup>th</sup> )
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 (5 <sup>th</sup> )



Total Number of Boxes Collected  
**81**



Deadline for information for the January 2021 issue of Bridges is **Wednesday, Dec. 23.**



**Parents and Guardians of Children PreK-5th Grades**

The children of New Baptist Church will present a short Christmas special, "Happy Birthday, Jesus" on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, during the 11:00am service.

All children, PreK-5th grades are invited to join us in learning one song with 4 speaking parts. If you want your child to participate please let us know. Each child/family will receive a practice CD and lyrics sheet to be used at home to practice. Please let us know if you need the CD and paper.

In December we will practice our song, as a group, during the last 5-10 minutes of Children's Church.

The children are asked to wear festive clothing for December 20th. We look forward to working with your child and praising God with our song.

John and Kim Stinespring  
Brian and Amy Kelly



Choir Members – if you have music at home that needs to be returned to the church, please do so. We are trying to make sure we have all the copies of choir anthems that we are supposed to have.

"The giving of gifts is not something [people] invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of his Son."  
—Robert Flatt

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."  
—Corrie ten Boom

**Matthew 4:16** says “the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned”



What great hope is couched in this verse. Imagine the deep longing for light if you are surrounded by darkness. This promise from the Old Testament provided hope for the dawning life of the Messiah who would come after seasons of great trial. Sound familiar?

If you're like me, this year has been rough as we have dealt with fears, anxieties, unknowns, and constant changes. That phrase “looking for light at the end of the tunnel” seems so timely. This promise from the Old Testament that Matthew writes is realized in Jesus gives us hope that even through dark seasons of life, God does not leave us alone and without hope.

Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for Christmas, the birth of Jesus. In years past I have written about slowing down in the hustle and bustle, but this year I wonder if our hearts can't stand some hope, some intentional focus on the love, joy, peace, and light that shines through the savior born in Bethlehem. As we mourn that many traditions may not happen or will be vastly different this year, we also have the opportunity to build new habits and be intentional with where we and our families focus during Advent.

In an effort to get a jump on Advent, I have started reading “Joy to the World” by Spurgeon. This devotion is simple and short, but breathes life into our current situation. There are many resources available for individual and personal study, but whatever you do, I want to encourage you to intentionally look for the light, because He has come!

If you go to [www.newbaptistchurch.com/familylife](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com/familylife), you will find a list of advent resources that are either free or inexpensive that you can use with your family no matter what season you may be in. My prayer is that you will be filled with hope, joy, love, and peace this season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior, the Light of the world!

Pastor Lee <><



### Notes from the Choir Director, Karen Dailey

To say Advent season is special is quite the understatement. There is a sense of wonderment and awe as we prepare our homes and hearts for the upcoming celebration of Christ's birth. Throughout this time, if you focus on the words of all the Christmas carols being sung you will find that many are proclaiming the gospel. A lot of the traditional carols we sing today date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and are rich with scriptural truths. I have enjoyed reading the history of these hymns. They often began as poems then later were set to tunes that were familiar at the time. People like Martin Luther (*Away in a Manger*), Charles Wesley (*Hark the Herald, Angels Sing*), Isaac Watts (*Joy to the World*), James Montgomery (*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*) found a way to bring Christmas hymns to the masses making them the people's carols. Additionally, many of today's Christmas hymns are also full of gospel truths. We just need to focus on the words to hear the meaning behind them. This year, our traditional Christmas cantata will be replaced by various family groups or individuals sharing a plethora of both traditional and contemporary Christmas hymns along with the scriptures that tie them all together telling the true story of Christmas. It is our sincere desire that Christ will be glorified through the program on December 13<sup>th</sup> and that all hearing the program will be blessed by it. We will share with both services on that Sunday morning and the 11 o'clock service will be live streamed on New Baptist Facebook page. May you each be blessed by the sounds of the season as you reflect on God's promises fulfilled in Christ's birth.





Family traditions around the holidays are the foundation of many memories. For me, we gathered with my dad’s brothers and their families at my grandparents on Christmas Eve. First in our activities was my grandfather reading the Christmas story from Luke’s gospel. When my grandparents died, we lost our gathering place and things changed. My parents began to host Christmas Eve, but some family did not travel to come. We still began the evening with the reading of the Christmas story, only now it was my dad who read.

It was the first Christmas after my father’s death, some 36 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, even though the holidays are not the same. For years now we have attended a Christmas Eve service at church and then gathered after Christmas as family. 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.

2020 has brought its own challenges and continues to affect how we gather and interact with each other. Add to that the suffering that comes from grief and loss and it is no wonder the magic of the holidays is missing for many people this year. Bright lights with the sounds of music do not always lift heavy hearts. We invite you to a [service of HOPE on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm](#). 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 would like a time of quiet reflection, prayer and focusing your thoughts on the Savior who was born then join us in this service honoring and remembering our losses in an atmosphere of faith, hope, and love. Because of covid the service will be different this year, scaled back some. We will continue to use the safety protocols already in place for our in-person meetings. 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 invite 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.

New Baptist Church Treasurer’s Report  
For the 10 - month period ended: 10/31/2020

<u>General Fund</u>	
Offerings	\$ 517,271.10
Expenditures:	
Ministry Salaries	\$ 266,735.66
Church Home	105,956.44
Ministry Programs	29,411.26
Missions Ministry	<u>51,596.27</u> (453,699.63)
Ministry Surplus	\$ 63,571.47
Capital Improvements Fund Transfer	<u>(25,000.00)</u>
Net Increase - General Fund	\$ 38,571.47
<u>Food Pantry</u>	
Receipts:	
General Fund Budget Transfer	\$ 15,000.00
Designated Offerings	37,536.33
Memorial Gifts	465.00
Stella Fuller - Christmas Baskets	<u>3,000.00</u> \$ 56,001.33
Food Purchases	\$ 13,173.06
Supplies, etc.	<u>50.00</u> (13,223.06)
Net Increase - Food Pantry Account	\$ 42,778.27

**New Baptist Church Mission News**



Just wanted to take a moment and say thank you for continuing to be a generous church. 2020 was a very different year for us as a mission board. There were events that we typically do that were not able to do, however, you all continued to give and allow us to be a blessing. Even with less mission lunches we were still able to support Pastor Dasnis as we have in the past. The Food pantry has increased their work and has continued providing lunches for kids on the weekends. We were able to provide candy for Highlawn Elementary’s drive through trunk or treat. With our end of the year spend down we were able to make up what we usually give to a New Beginning through their baby bottle drive. We were also able to give to Lily’s Place since we could not support the motorcycle rodeo this year.

All this to say ministry and missions still exists in the face of a pandemic. Thank you for stepping up and continuing to give!!!



**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.)

**Church Family and Friends:**

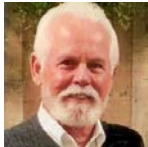
**Church Family and Friends:** Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Jenny Benson, Dean & Cookie Caldwell, Mary Clifton, Pam Cole, Jack Cook, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Tessie Deuser, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Toni Gygi, Doris Halcombe, Minnie Harris, Anna Holstein, John & Linda Hovey, Sandy James, Pete Jones, Bill Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Joseph Leggott, Joyce Mannon, Roy Maynor, Dick Meredith, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Charlie Morris, Grace Napier, Carol Newlon, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Ginger Poteete, Carolyn Powers, Vicki Rickard, Carol Richardson, Walter & Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark & Jo Ellen Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Bret Woodall

**Additional Prayer Items:**

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| our pastors            | all affected by the Covid-19 crisis |
| our community          | unsaved loved ones                  |
| our military personnel | our government leaders              |
| our country            |                                     |

**Death in the Church Family**

**Jerry Wayne Powers**, 71, of Proctorville, OH, passed away Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Jerry was a 1967 graduate of Huntington East High School. After high school he worked as an auto mechanic for several car dealerships in the Tri-State Area. In 1978, Jerry went to work for AEP's Gavin Power Plant in Cheshire OH. He retired from this job in 2010 after 32 years of service. Jerry was loved by all and was a friend to all. He was a former member of First Baptist Church of Proctorville and had attended New Baptist for several years. Jerry is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lena; two sons and daughter-in-laws, Darin and Tammy Powers, and Jay and Rebecca Powers. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Courtney, Madison, Brooke, and A.J.; four sisters, three brothers and a host of friends.



**OCTOBER**  
**FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

	<i>YTD</i>	
<b>FAMILIES SERVED: 337</b>		<b>3114</b>
<b>INDIVIDUALS: 880</b>		<b>8530</b>
<i>INCLUDES</i>		
CHILDREN: 238		2383
SENIORS: 198		1825
HOMELESS: 32		203
<b>HYGIENE KITS: 0</b>		<b>921</b>
<b>FOOD PACKS: 150</b>		<b>1520</b>

*Thanks for your support*

**Food Pantry News:**

Thank you, thank you, thank you. It has been a rough year but even during a pandemic year and increasing number of clients we consider ourselves blessed. Why?

God is faithful –

- Monetary donations from church members and others have continued
- Donations of food from church members and outside sources
- Facing Hunger Food Bank has been a great help with food (commodities and trade mitigation) provided by government programs
- Food Pantry volunteers have remained healthy and faithfully report to the food pantry each week.
- We feel the prayers of those who pray for us as we volunteer and for our clients seeking help

So thank you so much. We continue to covet your prayers and your support. Although we have been blessed with an abundance of this free food from the Food Bank we have also been told that the amounts we have been getting will soon be greatly reduced.

**Items Needed this month: Tote bags, cake mixes, soups, stews**

***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)*



The **Smith family** has been in the news lately. First, **Bob Smith** was featured in a Herald-Dispatch article after being named to the Huntington Wall of Fame last month. Then daughter **Sherri Smith**, Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Marshall University, was featured in an article in the autumn issue of Marshall Magazine discussing how students and faculty are dealing with the many changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Finally, **Bob** was seen in the opening and closing parts of the Marshall University television production *A Change of Seasons* honoring the 75 Marshall football team members as well as coaches, townspeople, and airplane personnel who perished in the November 14, 1970, tragic crash of the plane carrying the returning team and friends. **Grover Tadlock** was the Chief Photographer for the production.

**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](https://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.

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Join us on **Christmas Eve** to give thanks to God and celebrate the birth of our Lord. This year we will be offering **three different services**. The **first service (5:30 PM)** will be a family service geared towards families with young children. The **second service (6:30 PM)** will be a traditional Christmas Eve communion service using battery-powered tea lights for our candlelight. The **third service (9:30 PM)** will be a time of guided prayer as we give thanks for the Faithfulness and Love of our God and pray boldly for the coming year. This service will also be a communion service using battery-powered tea lights in place of our traditional candles.

To prepare for each service and ensure that we are following Covid guidelines, we request that you **register for the service that you will be attending**.

To register, go to [www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com) and click on the **Christmas Eve Service Registration** link. Select the number of family members attending beside the service you will attend.

You can also access the registration by scanning the **CONNECT** code with a smart phone and clicking **EVENTS** at the top right. Follow the links to select the number of family members attending your service of choice. Don't forget to add your contact information.

**If you are unable to register online, you can contact the church office to register.**

More than ever, this Christmas is a time to be reminded of the Faith, Hope, Love, and Peace found in Jesus Christ. We look forward to celebrating Christmas Eve with you.



**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**

610 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington WV 25702

**Office Hours:**

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
**Tuesday thru Friday**

**Phone:**

304-523-3355

**Fax:**

304-523-3399

**E-mail:**

[newbaptist2008@gmail.com](mailto:newbaptist2008@gmail.com)

**On the Web:**

[www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com)

**Pastors:**

Rev. Trent Eastman  
([trente@me.com](mailto:trente@me.com))

Rev. Lee Boso  
([leeboso@gmail.com](mailto:leeboso@gmail.com))

Rev. Robin Crouch  
([rlcrouch1948@gmail.com](mailto:rlcrouch1948@gmail.com))

**Service Hours:**

**Sunday**

**9am Worship Service**

- Traditional Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

**\*11am Worship Service**

- Praise & Worship Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

\*The 11am service is also live  
streamed on FaceBook  
([@NewBaptistChurchWV](https://www.facebook.com/NewBaptistChurchWV))

**Wednesday**

6pm

Pastor's Devotion on  
Facebook Live

NBC Food Pantry  
Tuesdays 10am-4pm

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

*Christmas Season 2020*



**Thursday, December 24**

**5:30pm**

Family Service - geared towards families with  
young children

**6:30pm**

Traditional Christmas Eve  
Communion Service

**9:30pm**

A Service of Guided Prayer and Communion

To prepare for these services and follow covid guidelines,  
please register online ([www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com)) or by  
calling the church office to let us know which service you  
will be attending.

