



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - December 2023*

## *An Invitation to Celebrate Advent*



The Gospel of John begins by telling us that God made this world through His Word and that “all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:3).” But then John says something rather shocking, he says that though “the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him (John 1:10). This is shocking because it seems right and logical that we (all people) who are made by God should see and recognize him. Yet we (people) don’t. People are blind to God, blind to his work, blind to his presence, blind to his love and grace, blind to his purposes, and blind to His Glory. Thus, John rightly says in John 1:5, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

What causes spiritual blindness? What causes people to be blind to the marvelous presence of the Lord? Thinking about this question, I came up with a list of the things that cause spiritual blindness. Here is my list -

- **Impatience** – Blindness caused by not trusting or depending upon the Lord’s timing.
- **Personal Agendas** – Blindness caused by focusing on one’s own will be done, not God’s will.

- **False Expectations** – Blindness caused by expecting God to be a certain way or do only certain things. False expectations are the small boxes that people try to fit God into.
- **Distractions** – Blindness caused by life’s many distractions that push God out from being seen or heard.
- **Ignorance** – Blindness caused by the lack of knowing the basic truths about God.
- **Sin and the Hardness of Heart** – Blindness caused by a heart and soul that either cannot or does not want to see or hear God.

The Christmas Advent Season is a reminder that the light of God enters our darkness and dwells with us even today. That we, like John, can see “His glory, glory as the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).”

I invite you to join us at New Baptist Church this Advent season as we push back against the darkness and spiritual blindness and look to His glory. Each week, we will focus on one of the causes of spiritual blindness and shine God’s light on it.

Through the Christmas Story of Scripture, we will see why –

- *God is worth waiting for,*
- *His will is better than ours,*
- *The wisdom of God is marvelous,*
- *His Work in us and for us can be trusted*
- *Knowing and following Jesus is our greatest Joy.*

I invite you to come and be a part of our celebration of the birth of our Savior and, more importantly, to walk in His light, beholding His glory and enjoying His presence.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Trent Eastman

**December Birthdays**

- 1 - Maura Campbell
- 2 - Bob Adams  
Eleanore Beckett  
Mike Null
- 3 - Reid Frye  
Katelyn Mann  
Trena Wise
- 4 - Max Traube
- 5 - Alexis Emerson
- 6 - Christie Jeffrey
- 7 - Dee Mount  
Tressa Pennington
- 8 - Ethan Dierdorff  
Alan Mannon  
Sam McClure
- 9 - Joe Browning
- 10 - Charlene Dover
- 13 - Roy Ellis  
David McMellon
- 14 - Major Simms
- 15 - Annie Stewart  
Cyndi Taylor
- 16 - Ryan McGuffin  
Chris Townson
- 17 - Tim Haney  
Daenerys Harper (1<sup>st</sup>)  
Toni Madden  
David Watkins
- 18 - Benjamin Withers
- 19 - Mason Elam  
Marshall Summers
- 20 - Art McCallister
- 22 - Evan Day  
Joni Ely
- 23 - Roy Maynor  
Jenna Traube
- 24 - Brenda Carman
- 25 - Rebecca Hampton  
Katelyn Hannan
- 27 - Jeannie Harlow
- 30 - Kevin Blake  
Michelle Morgan
- 31 - Mark Kessinger



**Happy Anniversary**

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jeremiah & Carla Cruz  | Dec. 1                      |
| Kyle & Jo Ann Cook     | Dec. 7                      |
| Joe & Toni Collins     | Dec. 19                     |
| Jack & Glenna Hendrick | Dec. 19                     |
| Audy & Laura Perry     | Dec. 19                     |
| Bob & JoAnna Smith     | Dec. 19                     |
| Jim & Jenny Benson     | Dec. 21                     |
| Robert & Paula Paden   | Dec. 26                     |
| John & Laura Bishop    | Dec. 27 (15 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| Mark & Kathleen Napier | Dec. 29                     |
| Jim & Nancy McSweeney  | Dec. 30                     |
| Josiah & Ashley Wise   | Dec. 30                     |



Well, Ladies, we are nearing the end of another year. Christmas will be here and gone before we blink our eyes. Take some time (in all your hustle and bustle) to bask in the goodness of the Lord in giving us the greatest of gifts--His Son! Reflect on the truth and sureness of His wondrous love! Be in awe of the miracle of His grace and mercy in this Perfect Plan that gives us LIFE!

These words from "O Holy Night" ring true in our hearts...

"The weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!"



Fall Bible studies will be wrapping up this month, if they haven't already. THANK YOU once again to each leader and participant! The power of God's Word reaches us where we are, and I know each of you was blessed and revived in spirit. We will begin again in late January or early February, so if you have suggestions for our winter/spring classes, please contact me or your small group leader.



Our theme from Proverbs 31:25 gives words of wisdom to carry us through the remainder of this year of 2023..."She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future."

Have a blessed Christmas and remember that God loves a cheerful giver!



For Good,  
Dolores Adkins



From Mark & Carla Booth -

Many, many thanks to those who bought apple butter and or donated to the BCM and CRU Mission Trip Fund. We still have apple butter for sale! \$6/pint. Would make great Christmas gifts!!





Thanksgiving and Christmas are two of my favorite times of the year. For Followers of Jesus, it is a time to create traditions that remind us of and point us to the Savior who was born. My earliest memories of these days are of family gatherings and huge meals. As a child I loved these times but did not realize the traditions that were being set into place for my life.

At Thanksgiving before we ate there was a time of saying what we were thankful for. It set the tone for the whole meal. Bethany and Justin and the boys, each evening before giving thanks for the meal, say something they are thankful for. Being thankful demonstrates faith and trust in the God who provides for us.

About 20 years ago I deep fried my first turkey for Thanksgiving. Our gatherings are smaller now than in my childhood, but some in our family do not like turkey but love the deep-fried turkey. It is now a tradition I cannot quit and still be invited to the Thanksgiving gathering 😊. My parents and grandparents instilled in me the truth that Thanksgiving (giving thanks) is the only proper prelude for celebrating the birth of the Savior.

At Christmas we would gather with family at my grandparents on Christmas Eve. Again, a huge meal was prepared and then before we opened presents from our aunts and uncles my grandfather gathered us all together as he read the Christmas story from Luke’s gospel.

Grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles have since died. The children have grown and moved away and it becomes harder and harder to get everyone together. It is now a smaller gathering with my sister’s family and some cousins and friends. Although not as large as years past the focus remains on Christ and the celebration is still sweet.

What traditions are you establishing with your family? You are establishing traditions in the minds of your children - make sure they are the ones you really do want to establish. Whatever your traditions are; wherever you celebrate them; be sure you center them on Christ.

It is so easy to get caught up in the rush of Christmas that we forget to be thankful and to focus on the meaning and purpose of the season. Remember it is Jesus' birthday that we celebrate and that the angel declared to us the "greatest news ever announced, and it's for everyone. The Savior, yes the Messiah, the Lord is born tonight in Bethlehem."

I look forward to sharing this season with my church family.

**Music Notes from Choir Director, Karen Dailey**



During this special time of year, it is our prayer to help weave together the spirit of the season with musical harmony. The songs we will be presenting in our annual Christmas cantata and for the month of December are a beautiful mix of old and new conveying the birth of our Lord, the Messiah, our Savior. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be joined by the Awana Children’s Choir and other special singers and instrumentalists from New Baptist. We are blessed to have this collection of talented people delivering and reinforcing a sense of community that serves as a poignant reminder of the spiritual dimensions of Christmas. The sound and audio team are also a HUGE part

of this team effort, and it cannot be said often enough how much their talent and time are appreciated. This year our cantata is called “God Is with Us” and will be presented during the morning worship. We want God to be glorified in all that is said, sung and played and that you, as a church body will be uplifted and reminded of Christ’s presence in our daily lives.



Prelude schedule for December:

12/ 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Larry Sumpter
12/ 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Booth
12/ 17 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Skaggs
12/ 24 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa Daniels
12/ 31 <sup>st</sup>	Kathleen Napier





We all know everyone's refrigerator does not look the same. With this in mind our food pantry continues to put together 100 food backpacks for students in need at Highlawn Elementary.

These suggested items are great for food backpacks -

- 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 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.

The Food Pantry is collecting items that can be used during the Christmas Box giveaway as "extras."

- Gloves
- Toboggans
- Gently used toys
- Gently used stuffed animals

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Please wait until after we have the Christmas Bazaar on December 2 to bring in any of these items.

**Reverse Advent Calendar** – what a wonderful tradition to do with your family. The idea is simple and lets your family reflect on giving instead of receiving. Pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag and fill it with food donations for your local food pantry – **one item for every day in December**. At the end of December (or before) our food pantry would be very happy to take in the donated food items.

**You can include some of the most requested food donations such as:**

- Canned vegetables
- Applesauce – jars, pouches or individual cups
- Canned fruit
- Instant potatoes
- Canned soup
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Biscuit or baking mixes, particularly those that require only water
- Boxed meals that require only water



**Christmas Food Boxes**

The Stella Fuller Foundation and New Baptist Church Food Pantry have partnered again this year to help provide Christmas food boxes to those in need. Our goal is to pack approximately 150 boxes which will be given to families that are identified and referred through Information and Referral. Boxes will be packed on Sunday, Dec. 17 and distributed on Monday, December 18.



Deadline for information for the January 2024 issue of *Bridges* is **Wednesday, Dec. 20.**

Financial donations to the Food Pantry are always appreciated and allow us to purchase foods we try to keep on hand to distribute to our clients. Thank you for your support.





**New Baptist Church**

**Saturday, Dec. 3**

**10am – 3pm**

Please join us for our Annual Church Bazaar at New Baptist Church. A great selection of local artisans on hand for some wonderful Christmas presents for your loved ones....or yourself!



Bring your little ones to see Santa starting at noon!

ANDREW PETERSON PRESENTS  
**BEHOLD the LAMB of GOD**

SAVE THE DATE

**DECEMBER 13 | 7:00 p.m.**  
KEITH-ALBEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
HUNTINGTON, WV

**ANDREW PETERSON**  
*Featuring*  
The Arcadian Wild, Jess Ray, and Skye Peterson

Join storied Nashville singer-songwriter and author Andrew Peterson as he presents the Advent song cycle Behold the Lamb of God: The True Tall Tale of the Coming of Christ. Now in its 20th year, the concert brings the singing and playing of Peterson's original folk-roots infused rendition of the Christmas story as it is foreshadowed in the Old Testament and brought to bear in the New.

HOST SPONSOR: COVENANT SCHOOL

tickets at: [Andrew-Peterson.com/tour](http://Andrew-Peterson.com/tour)

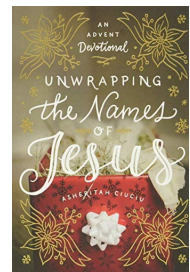


What are you doing to prepare your family for Christmas? Your answer may be mapping out the many programs, parties, and activities that will vie for your family's time this month, making lists for food and presents, hitting the mall, or scrolling online stores for the best deals to stretch you bucks and fill everyone's stocking. This next month can be overwhelming and stressful for families!

What if I changed my question a bit, what are you doing to prepare your family to meet Jesus? I don't want to offer a bunch of quick fixes that automatically answer that question, but what I would like to suggest is that we ponder that. During the next month, how can you and your family think about those who were ready to receive the gift of Christ born in Bethlehem and what about those who missed him?

Many of those who received Jesus in the Gospels were actively seeking God and his promises, they gathered around God's Word and responded with obedience. Their hearts were prepared to meet God in His perfect time!

During this season we as a church are offering devotion books that can be read alone or as a family on a daily basis. I'd encourage your family to pick one up and set aside 10-15 minutes every day to seek God together. Check out [www.newbaptistchurch.com/family-life](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com/family-life) for a number of Advent resources for families with kids of all ages. There is a link to family discussion cards to use around your table. Also, our family has used *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift* by Ann Voskamp for many years and it is something we all love and need reminded of often.



My prayer for you is that these are not a burden, but a joy for you and your family as you make space, prepare your hearts, and seek God this Christmas season!

Pastor Lee Boso



My heart is overflowing with gratitude! Together the young and old, individuals and families packed **555 boxes** filled with love, joy, hope and the gospel. **Your generosity also covered the suggested donation for shipping/processing costs.** Then over 30 people of all ages helped during collection week, November 13-20, to receive boxes that others in our

community had packed. There were transformational conversations that took place during the week as we prayed not only for the children who would receive the boxes, but also for those who brought us their boxes. One person’s father had suffered a stroke. Another person shared with us that her son had suddenly died two days before. There were stories as to how God had worked as they packed boxes and how the “loaves and fishes” had multiplied during the process. **Glen Dailey used his trailer to transport 182 cartons filled with 2,715 shoeboxes from our community to Hurricane where the trailers were waiting to take them to one of the eight processing centers.**

**Fourteen** of our congregation will be going to the Charlotte processing center in December. They will work with other volunteers to inspect each box for inappropriate items such as liquids or candies, sort by gender and age, scan bar codes for tracking purposes and put them in the cartons to be transported to the “ends of the earth”. Every effort is made to maintain the integrity of the boxes that you and I packed.

I am convinced that **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** is a ministry that is making a tremendous impact around the world. I am also convinced that the only way we can increase the number of children who receive boxes is for our church to collect items throughout the year. So, I am committed to share reports of the impact of OCC and encourage you to tell us if you hear the destination of your box.

Black Friday deals and after Christmas sales allow us to shop for 2024. The red tote is back underneath the Mission Bulletin Board in our worship center. We can store the items at the church for the 2024 packing party. **A new Facebook group, New Baptist Shoebox Ministry, has been created for the purpose of sharing ideas, shopping bargains and encouragement with each other.** Shopping bargains will be posted in this group rather than the New Baptist Church Community group. Let me know if you want to be part of the group and you can share your findings too.

As we celebrate the birth of the Savior, I am challenged to share that news with those who have not yet heard. Operation Christmas Child is doing that!

Becky Crouch



Live Nativity presented by Word of Light Community Church (Culloden)

Free Cookies & Hot Chocolate  
**First Friday & Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2.**  
 Friday – 6:30pm-9:00pm  
 Saturday – 6:00pm-9:00pm  
 Valley Park, Hurricane

**REFIT® with Steph & Carla**

December Classes  
 Monday - 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
 5:30pm

New Baptist Church –  
 Fellowship Hall

Check out our Facebook page for updates and class information!



**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:** Karen Pruitt Adams, Paula Adkins, Jim & Jenny Benson, Cookie Caldwell, Pam Cole, Joe & Toni Collins, Kyle & Jo Ann Cook, Steve Cook, Sandy Crutchfield, Lisa Daniels, Randall Davidson, Oleta Dolen, Joe & Pam Fannin, Sally Flanders, Tracy & Teresa Foster, Beverly Gartin, Karen Gillispie, Doris Halcombe, Joni Hill, John & Linda Hovey, Becky Huff, Darlene Humphreys, Sandy James, Brenda Jameson, Ron Jarvis, Pete & Anita Jones, Virgil Kelly, Joyce Kinder, Judy Lantz, Bill & Debbie Lapole, Joseph Leggott, Bobby & Joyce Mannon, Roy Maynor, Jim McSweeney, Alan Meek, Pat Meredith, Lois Merritt, Marvin & Valerie Moore, Spencer Moore, Charlie Morris, Gary Norris, Bob & Paula Paden, Carolyn Powers, Lena Powers, Carol Richardson, Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Bob & Jo Anna Smith, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jean Spurlock, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond Spurlock, David Stevenson, Dick & Annie Stewart, Judy Swann, Grover & Sheri Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Faith Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Sharon Wimmer

**Additional Prayer Items:**

- our pastors
- our community
- our military personnel
- unsaved loved ones
- our government leaders
- our country

**December Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon**

December 14, 2023 Noon

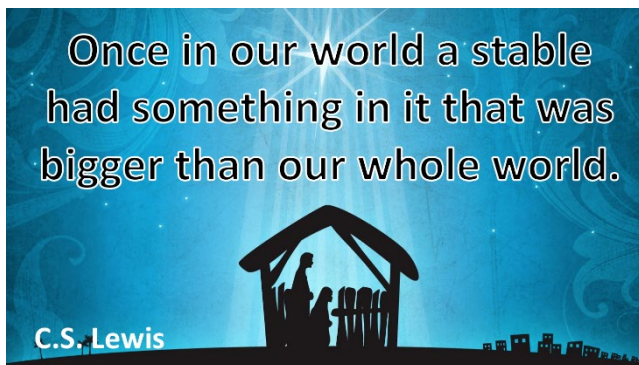
**“Breakfast with Santa”**

**Program – Nichols Elementary Choir**

This will be a great time of fellowship and fun as we eat and then listen to some great music.

Suggested donation of \$10 to cover cost of meal.

Please **sign up by Thursday, December 7.**



**From the staff at New Baptist Church**

*This Christmas, may you find comfort and joy in the message of hope and salvation that the Christ Child brings. Have a blessed holiday season.*





## 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

### 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

- 9:30 Radio Bible Class
- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages
- \*11:00 Morning Worship  
Kid's Church/Nursery

\*Service is also live streamed on  
Facebook  
([@NewBaptistChurchWV](https://www.facebook.com/NewBaptistChurchWV))

#### Wednesday

- 6:00 Awana  
Youth
- 6:30 Prayer Meeting/Bible  
Study

### NBC Food Pantry Hours

Tuesdays 10am – 2pm

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

## Christmas Season 2023 at New Baptist Church

Sunday,  
December 17  
11am

Christmas Cantata

*"God is with Us"*



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00pm

