

BRIDGES

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - February 2024

The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

I am still struggling to wrap my mind around the fact that the year is now 2024. Not only am I still writing the wrong date on documents, but I also remember being 40 years younger and thinking 2024 was so far away. Yet here we are, the year 2024, and there are so many things that cause me to be grateful to be alive in this present age. We live in an age of technological marvels that impact everyday life. Our

cars are durable and long-lasting, advances in medicine have come a long way to prolong life, there are massive amounts of information, music, and movies are at our fingertips through our phones and home devices, shopping can be done from the sofa, grocery stores are always full of food, and the temperature of nearly every building I am in is comfortable. None of this was true 40 years ago (except for maybe the grocery stores. And I admit that my view of cars is based upon having to drive a Ford Pinto around that time). Due to various advancements in technology and manufacturing, our everyday lives have changed for the better over these past 40 years, and for that, I give thanks.

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

(Matthew 7:13-14)

give thanks.

Yet, other things have also changed, leaving me discouraged. Something has happened to our culture; wisdom has become lost, and people's faith has grown cold. Our world has become more secular, with more and more people living their lives absent any sense of the divine. People's sense of purpose, meaning, and significance have become self-created products to be bought and sold on various forms of social media, and a general malaise has been set into our culture, causing it to feel rudderless.

It is because of these cultural changes that the words of Jesus are even more pertinent to this present age. Jesus came preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven being at hand, calling us to enter that Kingdom. He says this in Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance is stepping away from not just sin and wrongdoing but also from living and viewing this world through the eyes of our secular age. Repentance is turning towards

the Kingdom and walking the road to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

In his teaching, known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus describes what it looks like to walk the road that leads to life. There, he describes what it looks like to live as a citizen of Heaven, a person who is salt and light in this world and walks on His road of life. From the start of the year to Easter, we are studying this sermon of Jesus. During the month of February, our study will cover Matthew 5:38 through Matthew 6:34. In this section of the sermon. Jesus talks about how we, as Kingdom citizens, relate to those who are our enemies and to those in need. Jesus also speaks to our everyday fears and anxieties and teaches us how to pray.

Not only do I invite you to join us on our Sunday mornings as we remind ourselves of our King's call upon our lives, but I urge you to do so because of the radical secular nature of the world we live in; it is even more critical that we, being people of the King, live according to the Kingdom.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Trent Eastman

FEBRUARY Birthdaus

- 1 Debbie Harman
- 2 Gwen Caldwell Chris Chaney Curt Mann Terry Smith
- 4 Tyler Hampton Ripley Riley
- 5 Gary Norris
 Ezra Sisson
 Peter Sisson
 Amy Smith
 Kathleen Stoner
 Taryn Wilson
- 8 Jeremiah Cruz
- 9 Carrie Brown Ally Roy
- 10 Suzanne McCallister
- 11 Kelli CrabtreeLeigh FryeDebbie Weston
- 13 Mary MacClellan
- 14 Marion Sansom
- 15 Carol Arkell
- 16 Charles Bonecutter C.R. Brown
- 17 Clara Crabtree Nathan Welch
- 18 Gavin Blake
 Braelynn Fannin
 Zooey Roy
 Darrell Walden
- 19 Kim Day Charlene Kendall
- 20 Brianna Salyers
- 21 Roger Barcus Greg Creasy
- 22 Jim Benson Myra Lydick Paula Omer
- 23 Karen Dailey
- 25 Dolores Adkins Ezra Brumfield Lisa Caviani
- 26 Madden Casto Jim Daniels Sarah Miller Susan Skaggs
- 27 Jean Spurlock
- 28 Janice Mann Betsy Wilson

Anniversaries

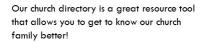
Ron & Lisa Caviani	2/6
Ronnie & Lanna Waugh	2/10
Bret & Pam Woodall	2/14
Fred & Linda Cummings	2/16
Travis & Roberta Noble	2/16
Justin & Bethany Cox	2/19
John & Pat Baisden	2/22



Wednesday, February 21, 2024







Simply go to the App Store, search for Instant Church Directory and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.







Did you read through the Bible in 2023?

If so, we want to know.

Please contact the church office so we can add you to the list of all who read the Bible last year.

Are you receiving the monthly newsletter via email?

If not, and you would like to have it emailed to you, please contact the church office (304.523.3355, ext.2). If email is not your preferred method of delivery for the newsletter, it can be picked up at the Welcome Center each month or we can send you one through regular mail.





Exciting things are happening with the youth group as we roll into 2024 strong! We are encouraging students and leaders to read through the 1-year Bible plan and are

teaching a series on "Words from the Bible" to help understand the words that seem to show up in the Bible that are less familiar elsewhere. February 23-25, we will be attending Senior High Convention in Shinnston, WV. We are excited to announce that we will be going to Letcher Co. Kentucky for our summer mission trip, June 10-15. You will be hearing more about that in future months as we prepare and raise funds for the trip.

February 14 is Ash Wednesday (it's also Valentine's Day), but this starts the season of Lent. This is a great season to personally practice giving up something so that you can spend intentional time or focus on God. While this is very important for us to practice individually, it is a great time to help teach our kids about habits of fasting (giving up something, not necessarily food, but possibly a period of time away from a screen), prayer, scripture reading memorization, or reflecting on God. If you'd like to explore this more, I'd love to walk with you and your family as you explore new rhythms and reminders that help us walk with God and become people who do what God is calling us to.

Lee<><



Blood Pressure Clinic 4th Sunday of each month

before church (10:30-10:45) at the tables on the **WildSide**

after church til 12:15 in the Bykota Classroom

*If you are medically trained and would like to help in the screenings, please contact **Melanie Hall** (304.360.7517).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE – Becky Crouch, Coordinator

WASHCLOTHS, TOOTHBRUSHES, HAIRBRUSHES & COMBS can provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. That is the mission of Operation Christmas Child. It is a church-to-church ministry. Our church packs shoeboxes so that church leaders in other parts of the world can introduce children to Jesus in needy and unreached areas that you and I will never visit.

This past year, ministry partners discovered a nameless, poverty-stricken village populated with families that were displaced by war. Most live in wooden huts without running water or electricity, and they have no access to medical care. Their children do not attend school. They are also wary of outsiders and don't easily trust anyone.

The ministry partners prayed and were overjoyed when the village elders agreed to let the team bring in Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. The children, who had never received a gift before were thrilled with their presents and listened intently when the Gospel was shared. They were so taken with the story of Jesus that they were eager to participate in The Greatest Journey discipleship course. Many gave their lives to the Lord!

There are more children who need to hear the gospel. That is why we are praying to pack 1,000 boxes in 2024. Each box is a gospel opportunity.

How can you participate?

- Pray for those who are distributing the boxes from 2023 and ask God how you can be involved in 2024.
- Donate washcloths, toothbrushes, hairbrushes & combs through February. Let's have 1,000 of each by February 29.
- Continue to watch for sale items. Check after Valentine's Day for stuffed animals.
- Can you sew or crochet? Several are using the winter months to make stuffed animals. If you need a pattern, see me or Becky Davis.
- Used t-shirts can be made into jump ropes or drawstring bags.
 Bring any t-shirts and place in the red tub by the Mission bulletin board in the sanctuary or volunteer to make the ropes or drawstring bags.



Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me. Mark 9:37





Notes from Choir Director, Karen Dailey

February brings thoughts of love with the secular celebration of Valentine's Day. As followers of Christ, we think of the greatest gift of love to man-kind God gave to us, His beloved Son. We get all strength and love through him and because of him. He is the perfect example of love and yet, one might not feel loveable or loved due to the circumstances, trials, or heartaches one is going through. I am reminded of the song "Day by Day", a traditional, and classic hymn by Karolina Sandell-Berg of Sweden. She penned the words of this hymn in 1865 from her own personal tragic loss. The song talks about the daily strength the Lord provides for His struggling children. If you need strength for a particular trial, take the words from this wonderful hymn that has stood the test of time into the day with you, and claim the incredible promises God has given:

Day by day and with each passing moment, Strength I find to meet my trials here. Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear. He whose heart is kind beyond all measure, give unto each day what He deems best. Lovingly, it's part of pain and pleasure, Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day the Lord Himself is near me with a special mercy for each hour, All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me, He whose name is Counselor and Power. The protection of His child and treasure, is a charge that on Himself He laid, 'As your days, your strength shall be in measure,' This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation, so to trust Your promises, O Lord, That I lose not faith's sweet consolation, Offered me within Your holy Word. Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting, e'er to take, as from a Father's hand, One by one, the days, the moments fleeting, Till I reach the promised land.

Please consider joining our choir family in singing praises to the One who loves us the most, the best and the longest. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. As we begin preparation for our Easter cantata on March 24th, we will also be having rehearsals from 5 - 6 pm on Sunday evenings. May we always lift our hearts in thankfulness and praise!



Trustees' Tidbits

To all groups using the church building:

Please remember if you schedule an event at the church you are responsible for clean-up following the event. This means that you will need to -

- put things back as they were,
- take out garbage,
- wipe off tables and chairs,
- sweep and
- mop.

With many events going on each week it is important to leave things clean and ready for the next event coming along.

Valentine's Day jokes for animal lovers

What did one sheep say to the other? I love ewe!

And how did the other sheep respond? You're not so baaa-d yourself.

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day? They are very scent-imental creatures.

What did the enamored deer say? I'm very fawn-ed of you!

What question did the penguin ask on February 14? Waddle I do without you?

What do you call two birds in love? Tweethearts!

What did one bee say to the other? I love bee-ing with you, honey!









February News from Dolores Adkins, Women's Ministry Leader

FEBRUARY! And it's Leap Year so we get an extra day! I always wish I'd been born on Leap Day (missed it by 4 days), because it's such a novelty day! Anyway, enjoy this "extra-long" month full of Valentines, Ash Wednesday, and...Leap Day!

BIBLE STUDY groups are ready to go this month! Christie Eastman's Wednesday evening group has already started, but is open for anyone to join in at any time. They are expounding on Pastor Trent Eastman's Sunday sermons with discussion questions based on his text and teaching. Lisa Riley (Wednesday evening) and Suzanne McCallister (Thursday morning) are leading "God of Freedom" in the book of Exodus. Barbara Meek and Gail Kelly have a Wednesday morning group studying "The Faithful". Evening groups meet at 6:30 and morning groups at 9:30. There is also a remote learning group, led by Katelyn Mann and Lacie Casto, doing "Brave and Beautiful", which meets once a month on Sunday after the morning service. If you're not already signed up and/or involved in one of these small groups, please contact me (304.521.5129) or any of

In a recent Wednesday night service, Pastor Trent taught a lesson on Proverbs 31. He mentioned that one of his favorite verses is verse 25! Since it's our theme verse for the year, I hope YOU also have found these words dear to your heart: "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."

MISSING DVD set!

these leaders for information.

"God of Creation" by Jen Wilkin If you borrowed it, we're glad you found it helpful! However, we have others who would love to use it in their studies. Please bring it to the church office ASAP! No questions asked or explanations needed!

NOTE: All DVD sets are available for use at home. We just ask that you fill out a form in the office before taking them out of the building!

Ladies,

For Good...
Dolores





Join us on **Monday evenings**, 5:30pm, for some fun exercise and social distancing fellowship.

Doors open about 5:15ish. We start dancing at 5:30pm and workout for 50 minutes. We follow with a short devotion and prayer time.

This exercise experience is for all levels of fitness. Class is led by Stephanie Spencer and Carla Booth.

If you have other questions we have a Facebook page

304.544.1467 Stephanie Spencer 304.617.7289 Carla Booth

> For more on ReFit, check out this site: https://refitrev.com/

Food Pantry Needs

Personal hygiene kits are something we regularly give out to our food pantry clients. If you would like to help by purchasing supplies, here are some of the items we need. Monetary gifts are also very much appreciated.



Small Towel

Bar Soap Deodorant Comb Toothpaste Shampoo Wash Cloth

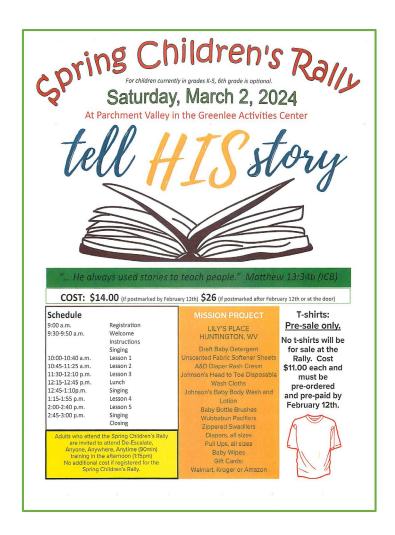






Greg Creasy was pictured on the front page of a recent Herald-Dispatch edition as he displayed a copy of "The St. Mary's Story," a new publication that chronicles

the history of the St. Mary's Medical Center written by James E. Casto. The book was written to celebrate the hospital's 100th anniversary of the hospital. Greg is director of spiritual care and mission at the hospital. He is the son of former Beverly Hills Baptist Pastor, Keith Creasy.





I remember a song from my college days, it was titled, "Desert Pete" and it told the story of a man in the desert looking for water. Charles R. Swindoll, in *Living Above the Level of Mediocrity* recounts the legend the song is based on. This legend is a great parable for us as we continue in the current preaching series on becoming a disciple called DiscipleWalk. Let's take a lesson from the legend.

Legend has it that a man was lost in the desert, just dying for a drink of water. He stumbled upon an old shack—a ramshackled, windowless, roofless, weatherbeaten old shack. He looked about this place and found a little shade from the heat of the desert sun. As he glanced around he saw a pump about fifteen feet away—an old, rusty water pump. He stumbled over to it, grabbed the handle, and began to pump up and down, up and down. Nothing came out.

Disappointed, he staggered back. He noticed off to the side an old jug. He looked at it, wiped away the dirt and dust, and read a message that said, "You have to prime the pump with all the water in this jug, my friend. P.S.: Be sure you fill the jug again before you leave."

He popped the cork out of the jug and sure enough, it was almost full of water! Suddenly, he was faced with a decision. If he drank the water, he could live. Ah, but if he poured all the water in the old rusty pump, maybe it would yield fresh, cool water from down deep in the well, all the water he wanted.

He studied the possibility of both options. What should he do, pour it into the old pump and take a chance on fresh, cool water or drink what was in the old jug and ignore its message? Should he waste all the water on the hopes of those flimsy instructions written, no telling, how long ago?

Reluctantly he poured all the water into the pump. Then he grabbed the handle and began to pump, squeak, squeak, squeak. Still nothing came out! Squeak, squeak. A little bit began to dribble out, then a small stream, and finally it gushed! To his relief fresh, cool water poured out of the rusty pump. Eagerly, he filled the jug and drank from it. He filled it another time and once again drank its refreshing contents.

Then he filled the jug for the next traveler. He filled it to the top, popped the cork back on, and added this little note: "Believe me, it really works. You have to give it all away before you can get anything back."

The chorus of the song said, "You've got to prime the pump, you must have faith and believe, you've got to give of yourself before you're worthy to receive."

At New Baptist we want to Know Christ; Grow in His Word and Be a Blessing wherever He places us. We want you to do and experience all of that in your life but in order to do so, "You've got to prime the pump...".

I invite you to prime your pump with us each week as we worship, learn and serve together.



God-Shaped Hole (from Church ArtPro)



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

OPEN MIC/KARAOKE COFFEEHOUSE NITE



FREE FRESH ROASTED COFFEE AND SNACKS

New Baptist Church

610 28th Street Turn right at Speedway on 5th Ave

Sign up begins at 6:30pm Music starts at 6:30pm

FRIDAY FEB. 23 6:00PM – 9PM

The coffeehouse is a Whole Church Event.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this open mic night.

Please bring something sweet or savory for all to enjoy while we enjoy the talent and Pastor Trent's famous coffees.



Speaker: Bryan Marvel Worship: Kyle Huffman

\$40/person (register by Feb. 9)

Register at wvbc.org/ministries/youth

A Note from the Deacons - Phil Holmes, Chair

The Deacons and the Food Pantry have collaborated for several years to provide a Christmas Fruit Basket to families who are experiencing hardships. This Christmas, we encouraged each Deacon to tailor their gift to the family's needs while keeping the Fruit Basket as the baseline gift. My records of what the Deacons provided for those families was: 15 Fruit Baskets, 2 Fruit and Nuts boxes, 2 Gift boxes, 1 Gift Bag, and 1 Poinsettia. Also, three families were provided with a delivered Christmas Dinner funded by their Sunday School Class.

I want to thank our Deacons and those Sunday School classes for taking the time to participate in that effort.



Tickets are available in the church office.

2023 Records of Contributions

Available in the church office. If you would prefer to have yours emailed or mailed directly to you, please contact Pat in the church office (304.523.3355 ext. 2).



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, 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, Ron & Barbara Jarvis, Peggy Jeffrey, Pete & Anita Jones, Virgil Kelly, Joyce Kinder, Judy Lantz, Bill & Debbie Lapole, Joseph Leggott, Bobby & Joyce Mannon, Vicky Marcum, Roy Maynor, Jim McSweeney, Kathy Meadows, Alan Meek, Pat Meredith, Lois Merritt, Marvin & Valerie Moore, Spencer Moore, Charlie Morris, Gary Norris, Bob & Paula Paden, Carolyn Powers, Carol Richardson, Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jean Spurlock, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond Spurlock, Dick & Annie Stewart, Judy Swann, Marilyn Thompson, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Sharon Wimmer

Additional Prayer Items:

our pastorsunsaved loved onesour communityour government leadersour military personnelour country

Death in the Church Family



David Stevenson, 70, of Proctorville OH, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2023. After graduating from high school in 1971, David served four years in the US Air Force. He received a Bachelor's Degree in business while working for the USPS where he retired after 26 years. He was a charter member of New Baptist Church, where he attended faithfully. David was preceded

in death by his mother, Pearl Morrison Stevenson and his father, William Earl Stevenson. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Brenda Gale Stevenson; two daughters and their husbands, Jessica and Dr. Erick Willis and Dr. Kara and Travis Smith; four grandchildren – Evan and Abby Willis and Kennedy and Abram Smith; several nephews and cousins as well as many friends.

Plan now for summer camp at Cowen.



Camp Cowen 2024

APRIL 5-7	Women's Camp	JUNE 30-JULY 6	Junior 2 (grades 5-6)
APRIL 19-20	Senior Day (2024 graduates)	JULY 7-13	Junior High 2 (grades 7-9)
MAY 10-11	Summer Kickoff (grades 6-12)	JULY 14-20	High School 2 (grades 9-'24 grads)
JUNE 7-9	Younger Midler (grades 2-4)	JULY 26-29	Family Camp
JUNE 9-15	Junior High 1 (grades 7-9)	JULY 30-AUG. 2	Older Midler (grades 3-5)
JUNE 16-22	Junior 1 (grades 5-6)	AUG. 2-4	AB Men and Boys Camp
JUNE 23-29	High School 1 (grades 9-'24 grads)	AUG. 9-10	Camp Global

Other Dates

MARCH 1	MARCH 15-16	APRIL 19
Staff Applications Due	Staff Interviews	Wear Your Camp Shirt Day
APRIL 21	APRIL 26-27	JUNE 3-6
Cowen Sunday	AB Men's Work Party	Young Leader Training

New Baptist Church

610 28th Street Huntington WV 25702

Office Hours:

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

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304-523-3355

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On the Web:

www.newbaptistchurch.com

Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman (trente@me.com)

Rev. Lee Boso (leeboso@gmail.com)

Rev. Robin Crouch (rlcrouch1948@gmail.com)



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH 610 28TH STREET **HUNTINGTON WV 25702**

Service Hours:

Sunday

9:30 Radio Bible Class 9:45 Sunday School for all

*11:00 Morning Worship Kid's Church/Nursery

*Service is also live streamed on Facebook (@NewBaptistChurchWV)

Wednesday

6:00 Awana Youth

Prayer Meeting/Bible 6:30 Study

> **NBC Food Pantry** Hours Tuesdays 10am - 2pm

