



BRIDGES

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - January 2021

Every year I feel a bit of a letdown after Christmas Day. This feeling of a letdown is not because of some unmet expectation regarding Christmas or the various moments of festive celebration, but because the Christmas season is over. It feels a bit like having to get off a fantastic carnival ride. Imagine yourself going to an amusement park that is packed with people. One particular ride is so unique, fun, thrilling, and entertaining that the line for it seems to stretch for miles. Yet, because you want to experience this ride, you get in line for it. Then, after a very long wait, you finally arrive at the front, get buckled into your seat, and off you go on the ride. The ride is so excellent that it is worth the wait, except that it is not all that long of a ride. After just a few minutes of ups and downs and quick turns, your ride is over, and you must then disembark and exit. You enjoyed the ride but wished it could have been longer. This is kind of how I feel about the Christmas season. Advent itself is the waiting in line. For a month, we wait and prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Finally, after a month of advent candles and Christmas music, we step into the Christmas “ride” on Christmas Eve (which was very limited in 2020), and then into Christmas morning as we celebrate with family and open gifts. It is a wonderful, joyful season. But soon, after just a few days, the tree and lights begin to come down, and we exit the ride and return to life as usual. But what if the joy does not need to end? What if Christmas Eve and the days that follow are just the beginning of this incredible ride of joy and wonder, not its culmination? Yes, I know,

most of us would go nearly insane if we had to listen to Christmas music year-round, and that the pine needles on the Christmas trees would begin to drop at a rapid rate. I am not arguing for the keeping up of Christmas decorations. Instead, I am talking about the heart’s experience of joy and the expectation of wonder not to end.

When the angel tells the shepherds in Luke 2:10, “behold, I bring you good news of great joy,” I do not think that the joy of the Savior’s birth was meant to be contained in a season. I believe that it was and is a joy meant to be lived every day, a joy that is grateful, celebrative, and happy—a joy that rejoices in all things, even trials. A joy that enjoys and delights in all that is honorable, just, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise. A type of joy that is deep, durable, and does not disappear or reappear depending upon a season. A kind of joy that has as its source the Savior, Christ the Lord.

The Christian life is not a season, or an event, or a quick ride in a moment of need. The Christian life is a life that is lived and experienced every day. It is lived in the wonder of what God has done for us in Christ. If you, like me, want to continue the joy we experience at Christmas time, hang onto the wonder of Jesus' birth, His life lived, and the meaning of His death. Worship and be in awe of Him.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Trent Eastman



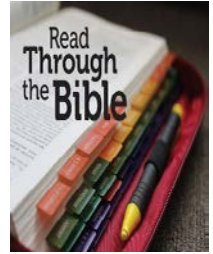


- 1 - Marie Carter
Justin Cox
- 3 - Shane Lloyd
Walter Sansom
- 5 - Larry Sumpter
- 6 - Carol Richardson
- 7 - Lori Watkins
- 9 - Audy Perry
- 10 - Caren Blake
Christa Terry
- 12 - Zachary Noble
Barbara Lynn Spurlock
- 13 - Addison Marcum
Sandy White
- 14 - Mary Baker
- 16 - Betty Stombock
- 17 - Coralie Adkins
Aiden Blake
Allen Davis
- 18 - Emily Morgan
- 22 - Elizabeth Kelly
- 23 - David Kendrick
- 24 - Carolyn Powers
Molly Simpson
- 25 - Alison Bishop
- 26 - Harper Haney
- 27 - Evan Arkell
Lisa Ghiz
Courtney Powers
Susan Stephens
Jessica Willis
- 28 - Brooke Estep
- 29 - Debbie Justice
- 30 - David Stevenson
- 31 - Mason Estep
Patsy Stephenson



Sunday, January 24, 2021

Join with us in reading through the Bible each year. Spend time daily with God. Learn to listen for that still, small voice. Get to know the one who loves you more than you will ever know.



From the Board of Finance

CARES Act (Tax Law Change)

The **CARES Act**, which became law in March 2020, included a new tax deduction for individuals:

1. Who made cash donations in 2020 to public charities (such as New Baptist Church), and
2. Who do not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes.

This deduction reduces the donor’s adjusted gross income and taxable income. It is limited to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 married joint returns).



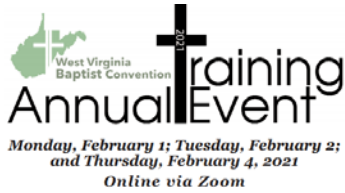
“2021” sounds really good to most of us as we try to leave the struggles of 2020 behind! My aunt used to sing a song titled “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow” and the chorus goes like this: “Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.” We really have no idea what we may face in this new year – but we can trust the One who holds all of our tomorrows and who loves us more than we can ever imagine. His GRACE is sufficient for whatever we face. He knows our past and our future, and He wants us to live TODAY for Him. Trust Him every day of this new year!

Winter Bible studies are in the works and should begin around the first part of February. Henriella Perry, who led “Life Changing Prayer” this fall says we need to offer this study again! If you didn’t take it before, please consider taking it in February. Other studies will be announced and signups will begin sometime this month, unless the situation with Covid19 worsens. Please check the church Facebook page during January for any news and updates. Remember that we are savoring the GRACE of our Lord this year as He gives us all that we need! “Be strengthened by the GRACE that is in Christ Jesus.” – 2 Timothy 2:1

*For Good,
Dolores Adkins*



- John & Lisa Ghiz Jan. 4
- Dick & Annie Stewart Jan. 6
- Bob & Brenda Carman Jan. 13
- Trevor & Caitlin Wilson Jan. 18
- E. A. & Sandra Dowling Jan. 23 (50th)
- David & Katelyn Hannan Jan. 27



Every year, the Annual Training Event is one of our largest events. Traditionally held at Parchment Valley, it contains various workshops designed for church leaders and officers. However, in 2021, this event will take place online via Zoom at no cost. This presents a great opportunity for individuals and churches to participate and receive training for the ever-changing landscape.

This year's workshops include:

- The Benefits and How To's of Online Giving
- Global Missions in 2021 and Beyond
- Discipleship at Home
- Biblical Intentional Grandparenting
- An Introduction to Phygital: Reach and Engage (Part 1)
- Phygital: Church Planting and Microchurches (Part 2)
- Treasurers and Financial Secretaries
- Deacons
- Trustees
- Clerks



This year's event will take place over the course of three evenings (February 1st, 2nd and 4th). Registration for these workshops will open on January 4th.

Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon News

[No Meetings Planned for January, February & March](#)

Until the covid situation is under control, we have no plans for senior luncheons. We miss you, we love you and we pray that you will stay safe.



Need a new tradition to begin the new year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils. Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member. Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

Feeling bored?

A young boy complained to his father that most of the church hymns were boring to him. They were too far behind the times, with tiresome tunes and meaningless words. The father put an end to the complaining by saying, "If you think you can write better hymns, then why don't you?"

The boy went to his room and wrote his first hymn. The year was 1690 and the teenager was Isaac Watts. "Joy to the World" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" are among the nearly 350 hymns he wrote.

He also wrote "How Long, O Lord, Shall I Complain."

Evidently, just long enough to write his first hymn.



The following are new members voted on at the December 2020 business meeting.

- Dean & Gwen (Cookie) Caldwell**
Jimi Lawson
Cheryl Lawson
Amy Lawson

Walk With God

As a parent one of my greatest joys is to see my daughters following Jesus and with their husbands encouraging their children to follow Jesus, too. I have had the honor of baptizing my daughters and that was exciting. One of the greatest honors of my life was to be invited to baptize one of our granddaughters and now on Sunday, January 3, I will have the honor of baptizing my grandson. I am beyond excited.

As I thought about the legacy I want to leave with my children and grandchildren, it is that they would "Walk With God". I remember reading a devotion once that addressed this thought. Most of us are anxious to put 2020 in the rear view mirror and pray that 2021 will be much better. With that in mind consider these thoughts:

Hand in Hand with God in 2021

George VI of England had the kingship thrust upon him when his brother, King Edward VIII, left the monarchy to marry a divorcee. King George then carried out his duties faithfully until his death in 1952.

King George VI in his first New Year's address following his brother's abdication shared the following and in light of the pandemic it is quite a word for us today.

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.' So I went forth, and, finding the hand of God, strode gladly into the night, and He led me toward the hills and the breaking of the dawn in the lone east."

Along those lines, here is a short devotional titled "Walk With God."

"Tell me about Great Grandpa Enoch again, Papa," young Noah might have said. "Did God really take him away?" "Yes," Lamech assured his son. "He walked with God every day. He loved the Lord and taught his children and grandchildren to love God as well." Noah nodded. "Go on," he said. "Well, one day Grandpa Enoch said to me, 'Lamech, be sure to tell my great grandchildren to walk with God. I won't get a chance to tell them myself.' He was thinking of you, Noah, even before you were born." "And then what happened, Papa?" Noah liked hearing this part. "Then he said he was going to meet with God as he usually did in the evening. We watched him go. He was there, and then he was not. God took him." "Do you think God will take you, Papa, or me?" Noah wanted to know. "Walk with God, my son. That is enough. God will take us home; how and when are of no concern. Walk with God."

It is my prayer that you will "Walk With God" every day in the coming year. I look forward to serving the Lord with you and making a difference for God's kingdom in 2021.



Looking for things to do:

- Want to help with plarn mats? contact Sandy Pemberton at 304-654-7254
- Crocheting shawls, scarves, hats, etc. - contact Becky Huff at 304-634-1448
- See anything around church that needs repaired, painted etc. and want to help – contact John Baisden at 304-972-9050
- Reaching out to others – feel free to call or send notes of encouragement



Are you new to New Baptist?

Have you been here a while (even a long time) and want to put names with faces of your fellow worshippers?

We encourage you to use our online church photo directory. You do not have to be a member of the church **BUT** you do need to have your information in the directory in order to be able to access it on your mobile phone or computer.

Once you download the app and create your secure password, your directory will be ready to use.
 One of the great features of instant church directory is the availability for families to submit changes to their information or to even change out their family picture.
 If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office.

Resources for building good spiritual habits in 2021

As 2020 comes to a close, many of us are ready to wish it good riddance, others aren't so optimistic about 2021, but one thing is for sure. This journey has not been without some good. Sure, there is lots to lament, but as we get to the end of this year, I think about the extra time that we have had at home with our kids. We as a family have been able to grapple together through difficult news stories, process losses and sadness, and built new habits in the spaces where we may have been sprinting to and fro before.

A recurring theme that has shown up this year has been joy in suffering. As we have read the stories of scripture, we are reminded that we are not the first generation to suffer; we are not the first people to feel lonely. In the midst of famines, wars, enslavement, bitterness, and sorrow, the Word of God repeats that God is faithful, God has not left his people, and the God who saved Israel from Egypt is the God who fulfilled His promises to Abraham and Sarah and is the same God who brought Jesus to life after the crucifixion. We are assured that that same power that resurrected Jesus gives us life today. It is because we are constantly reminded of the faithfulness of God to rescue and be present in the most trying of situations that we can experience that same joy today in our difficulties.

Through 2020, our family enjoyed a number of tools that I would like to offer to you:

- Youversion Bible App - Carmen and I used "The Bible Recap" 1 year plan, and as we have journeyed through Advent with the youth and young adults we have enjoyed "BibleProject Advent Reflections". I have also used the verse of the day stories for a quick encouragement and devotional reading. For teens and tweens, there are kids reading plans they can share with friends, when isolation is setting in, a great social alternative is reading scripture together.
- Phyllis Tickle Divine Hours for regular prayer. You can get these daily prayers for free online at annarborvineyard.org. I have worked to translate these into more kid friendly language, send me a message if you would like a copy.
- Every Moment Holy - prayer book. Offering scripturally ground prayers for the moments you might not readily think about praying for. I particularly liked their prayers for the first cup of coffee and for a student starting a school day. You can get some of their prayers for free or order at everymomentholy.com.
- The NLT One Year Bible. Actual scripture with some devotional thoughts with some redactions to make it readable for a preteen.
- The One Year Children's Bible is great for younger kids. Whether you read it together or they read it themselves, this covers the whole of scripture in a format (and with pictures) that kids can grasp.
- Finally, the D6 app you can get at www.newbaptistchurch.com/family-life gives great application to the lessons kids are learning in Sunday School each week, plus we love the discussion questions at dinner.

None of this is to heap guilt or a feeling of not doing enough, and we don't use all of these things at once, just want to offer tools that we have found helpful to connect with each other and with God to find joy through this season. These habits we build now in the lives of our children will remind them of God's faithfulness throughout their lifetime and prayerfully will span generations.

Let us rejoice! A savior has been born and through Him we can experience new life, not just in 2021, but every day as we walk with Jesus. I'm praying for you and am available anytime you have questions or even suggestions about resources you've found helpful to your family!

In Christ, Pastor Lee

Waiting until God is heard

We're often taught that prayer is speaking to God. And of course, that's part of it. It's good to pray for the well-being and needs of others — even Jesus prayed for his disciples. It's okay to pray for our own growth in faith and love. It's a wonderful, powerful thing, modeled especially by the Psalmists, to give God thanks and praise. And God welcomes our cries of pain and sorrow, offering the Spirit's help when words fail us (Romans 8:26).

But through the ages, many deeply faithful followers of Christ have practiced contemplative prayer, centering prayer and other forms of stillness before God. Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) expressed it this way: "To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard."

End of the year letter from Pastor Dasni

Dear Friends and Supporters,
 This year has been a difficult year for all of us because of the challenges of Covid-19. After more than five years of ministry in Ft. Liberte as the Senior Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church, we can say "to God be the glory for what He has done for us through you."

The objective of writing this letter is to express our gratefulness to you, friends, for being a strong support to us when we have needed it the most. No words could better describe what your friendship has meant to us over the months.

In a country like Haiti, it is difficult to do ministry because of poverty and instability. It is hard for the church to fully take care of ministers and their families. Therefore, my wife and I are incredibly grateful because of your monthly support. We wanted to let you all know how your support has meant the world to us. We have nothing but love for you. Words can't really express how much it makes our hearts glow.

What does your help mean to us? Your support helps us stay full-time in ministry. We are able to help those who are really in need whenever they come to ask for something. It is wonderful to have friends like you who are always there for us when we need you the most. Sherlie, Jamie and I want you to know that we cherish your friendship and your support.

Thank you for giving us these reasons, and a million more, to be so thankful during this Christmas season. We hope you know how dear to our hearts you will always be. Thank you for teaching us the true meaning of love and fellowship. May God bless you and your family.

Merry Christmas 2020 and Happy New Year 2021. May God protect you against Covid-19.



2020 Christmas Food Box Giveaway
 The NBC Food Pantry was happy to join with the Stella Fuller Foundation and provide 150 Christmas Food Boxes for families in need.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY REPORT	
FAMILIES SERVED:	<i>YTD</i> 3861
INDIVIDUALS:	1087 10,511
<i>INCLUDES</i>	
CHILDREN:	276 2659
SENIORS:	236 2271
HOMELESS:	33 256
HYGIENE KITS:	126 1047
FOOD PACKS:	0 1670

Thanks for your support

Thank you to all the dedicated Food Pantry volunteers – you work hard each week to make sure those in need get food. The light of Christ shines through you.





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, Dolores Adkins, Nancy 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, Pat Meredith, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Charlie Morris, Grace Napier, Carol Newlon, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Randy Pennington, Ginger Poteete, Carolyn Powers, Lena 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
- our community
- our military personnel
- our country
- all affected by the Covid-19 crisis
- unsaved loved ones
- our government leaders

Death in the Church Family

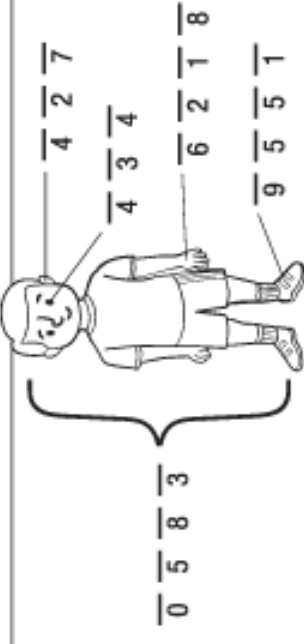
Dick Meredith, 90, husband of Pat Meredith, passed away Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Dick was a long-time member of 20th St. Baptist and a charter member of New Baptist Church. Dick was retired from Owens Illinois. He is survived by a daughter, Pam (Bret) Woodall; granddaughters, Brittany (A. J.) Kinch, Bethany (Eddie) Adkins; great grandchildren, twins Harper and Drew Kinch. Dick was dearly loved by his family and friends and will be sorely missed.



WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God’s purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part’s number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the ²⁰_____ should say, "Because I am not a ¹⁷_____, I do not belong to the ¹⁶_____." ... And if the ¹³_____ should say, "Because I am not an ¹¹_____, I do not belong to the ¹⁶_____," it would not for that reason stop being part of the ¹⁶_____. If the whole ¹⁶_____ were an ¹¹_____, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole ¹⁸_____ were an ¹³_____, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one ¹⁸_____.

1 R O R I N T H I A N S 1 2 : 1 5 - 1 7 , 2 0 , N I V

Answer: body – 16, eye – 11, ear – 13, hand – 17, foot – 20



New Baptist Church

610 28th 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

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)

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 28TH STREET
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

A New Year is God's Gift

*In the Joyful Moments
Thank Him*

*In the Busy Moments
Bless Him*

*In the Trying Moments
Trust Him*

*In the Quiet Moments
Praise Him*

