

The First Baptist Church

42 Hart Avenue, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201

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Pastor: ... Rev. Jay Teodoro ... Office Phone 304-472-4789 ...

e-mail: jayteodoro44@gmail.com ... Cell Phone ... 304-993-0713

Home phone ... 304-460-2765

Church Office 304-472-4789

Those who help us worship: Amanda Teodoro (Sound and Projection). Barbara Hamilton, Mary Ellen Davidson and Cynthia Parker (Piano). Cynthia Parker (Music Committee Chairman)

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Morning Worship10:45 a.m.

The Buckhannon Baptist is sponsored by the Deacon Board, and is compiled, typed and

edited by John L. Puffenbarger. **The deadline for articles is the 20th of the month.**



Nothing much?

In 1925, the New York World celebrated the birthday of Abraham Lincoln with a cartoon which has become something of a classic. Two Kentucky farmers are pictured, talking over a picket fence. One asks, "Anything new happen lately?"

The other responds, "Nothing much. A new baby was born over at Tom Lincoln's place, but nothing much ever happens around here."

I'm sure there were folks who said the same thing in Bethlehem that night. I can picture them, can't you? Standing on the corner, just outside the inn. "Anything new happen around here?"

"Naw, nothing important. Just a baby born down in the stable. Nothing much ever happens around here."

What's in a name?

Jesus is such a special name that it's found some 909 times in the books of the New Testament. What does the name Jesus mean?

It means Jehovah saves. Jehovah is an ancient Jewish name that refers to God. Christians believe that God saves us through Christ.

It's important to know that Jesus' last name was not Christ. He was Jesus, son of Joseph, whom we believe was the Christ (the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah). He was Jesus the Christ.

Messiah

Church decorations

On Saturday, December 2, several members of our congregation will be helping to decorate the church for Christmas. We call the event the "Hanging of the Greens." Pine or fir branches, holly, pine cones, candles, colorful ribbons and a nativity scene are used for decorations. We often place a tree with Chrismons on it in the choir loft.

The custom of displaying a Nativity scene in the church dates from the early 1600s. The tradition started in Germany.

It is thought that the first live Nativity scene — in which live animals and people representing shepherds and wise men gathered at an outdoor manger — began with St. Francis of Assisi around the year 1220.

Boxing Day

Boxing Day is a national Bank Holiday in England, a day to spend with family and friends and to eat up all the leftovers of Christmas Day. The origins of the day, however, are steeped in history and tradition.



Boxing Day, which falls on December 26 or the first weekday after Christmas, is an English holiday. Here are some interesting and fun facts about boxing day:

1. Boxing Day is called boxing day because it was the day the family opened the box for the poor.
2. The Christmas Box was often made of clay or wood and was where people placed gifts.
3. During the age of exploration, a Christmas Box would be placed on a ship for good luck. A priest would often place it there, and crewmen would drop money in it to ensure a safe return. If the ship returned safely, the priest would take the box and distribute the contents to the poor.
4. Every church in England had an alms box which was where folks placed money for the poor. The box was opened on Dec. 26 and the contents were distributed to the poor of the parish.
5. The tradition still continues today. Many people give small tokens to local workers. Kids also collect things in boxes to be given to the local poor.

Adopt-A-Family Weekly Food List

The Deacon and Deaconess Boards are once again sponsoring the Adopt-a-Family program this Christmas season. Food collection will conclude on December 16, 2018. This outreach program helps many families in need at Christmas time. Your generous donations will be appreciated.

If you know of a family in need call the church office at 304-472-4789, Hallie Hurst at 304-642-5430 or Don Shingleton at 304-472-1106.

When donating money for this project, please place your money in an envelope and designate it: Adopt-A-Family program. (Checks may be made to the "First Baptist Fellowship Fund".)

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|---------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 2 | 1 box of oil or 1 can of shortening |
| Sunday, December 9 | 1 box of cake mix and 1 can of frosting |
| Sunday, December 16 | \$5.00 donation for perishables and a bag of candy |

From a church bulletin:

That’s a very talented evergreen!



Great hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, all he had to do was simply say there was no room in the inn.

The kindhearted boy wanted to be more gracious than that, so he tried to take the sting out of the situation. “We are really crowded tonight. I don’t have room for you in the hotel,” he said. “But come inside for some milk and cookies.”



Focus on the ABWM

News release from the American Baptist Convention, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: The American Baptist Women’s Ministries announces the 2018-2019 Mission Focus, Domestic Violence. This critical topic has impact upon women, men, and children across all demographics, in all communities, and in all congregations.



ABWM

Thirty percent of women globally experience intimate partner violence. Nearly 75 percent of Americans personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence. AB Women’s Ministries emphasizes that a women’s ministry and a congregation could be a powerful place of safety, healing, and recovery for those experiencing or having experienced domestic violence.

Concerning violence

Rev. Dr. C. Jeff Woods, acting general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, shared the words below following recent violent and hate-filled crimes:

Unfortunately, the country has been filled with violence yet again. The consequences of hate are tragic, atrocious, and repulsive. Though the frequency of such news can tempt us toward desensitization, we must remember that the pain of such tragedy is always pronounced and prolonged for those directly involved as well as disturbing and fear-inducing for others.

I urge you to pray for and to encourage those whom you lead to pray for the families of the innocent victims and police officers who rushed to help and all of those affected by the horrible act of violence in October at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh’s Squirrel Hill. I also encourage you to pray for those affected by other forms of attempted violence.

Acts of violence aimed at those who are perceived of being different or thinking differently are difficult to understand and frustratingly problematic to reduce. But, we must continue to model the love of Jesus as Christians.

As American Baptists we must continue to create space for dialogue through our Mission Summit Conversations, Baptist Talk, Civil Discourse, Space for Grace, and other forms and emphases of respectful conversation.

From Pastor Jay

"Isn't there anyone out there who can tell me what Christmas is all about?" Maybe all of us can visualize the character sharing that quote in all his desperation. Then, his and our friend with the blanket responds, "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you. Lights, please..." Thank you, Linus. It certainly feels like December. Christmas will be here before we know it. I have two pictures that would have been formatted so much better by our fearless editor, John. But, hopefully you can see them. Both give us a window into Charlie Brown's question.



These pictures are of our Middle School Students at Jr. High Convention in Oak Hill, WV; you also see on the next page the Operation Christmas Child team loading up the truck and then taking to Bowden, WV and then to North Carolina, and then to many places internationally. They are one day apart, but they are little windows that can help us focus on this wonderful season. I hope we can also see them as motivation as we go about our daily lives.

We truly had a great weekend. The six of us partnered with our brother and youth pastor, Bryson Morlan and their group of kids from Vienna Baptist Church. Along with a greater gathering of over 150 students, from all over the state, we laughed, played, worshipped, and heard from pastor and evangelist, Brian Burgess. From information shared about this dynamic communicator, "Brian has an amazing story of Christ transforming him from a rebellious teenager into a man who is passionate about God." Our students were really challenged from God's Word in *2 Peter 1:3*, *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence."*

I was blown away by his topic and message, because that verse has been on my mind and heart for much of this year. We've even talked about it in our newsletter, Bible Study, and Sunday worship. But, most importantly, the greatest part of our weekend was that our students were also transformed by God and the power of His Holy Spirit. God really convicted the hearts of our young people. Decisions to know and follow Jesus Christ were made. Four of our kids stood up when Brian gave an invitation to know and follow Jesus. All of us stood up at the end to commit to being a change-maker, and truly serve and make a difference for our Savior, knowing his divine power works within us.

Every year since we have been at First Baptist, and years before that, during November, our church serves as the Operation Christmas Child station for hundreds of shoeboxes, 793 to be exact and 11,197 for our region, and to then be delivered to a child who receives more than a present, they receive the opportunity to respond to the gift of the gospel.



This season means so much to all of us, we are reminded of loved ones, memories, and even heartbreak. And yet, we recognize this time as one of ultimate giving. Jesus is the gift as well as the giver. He gave us his life so that we might have both eternal life and abundant life. Mark 10:45, *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* May we receive this precious gift of Jesus himself, and spend our lives giving ourselves away, serving and sharing Jesus' love, so that others may see him and know him. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Buckhannon First Baptist Church web-page:
firstbaptistbuckhannon.net



The Buckhannon First Baptist Church is seeking applicants for a **paid** part-time Youth and Family Worker to minister within the Church and the Upshur County Community.

A four year degree and experience in ministry is preferred. Please send your resume to Pastor Jay Teodoro, 42 Hart Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201.

**Broad Run Baptist Church:
214 years old and still active**

Early Broad Run
Baptist Church →



One of the most important churches ever established in the area from the standpoint of its influence over the future development of the religious life of the people of northwestern Virginia was the Broad Run Baptist church which formed in 1805.

Elder John Carney, an itinerant Baptist preacher from the Buckhannon valley, came to Duck creek, now in Harrison county, about four miles north of Broad Run, in 1804, and began a series of meetings among the New Jersey settlers who had lately emigrated there.

As his monthly visits continued considerable interest was awakened in religion. Settlers who had been good Baptists in New Jersey again felt the impulses of faith. A meeting was called for the purpose of considering the wisdom of forming a Baptist church.

On February 5, 1805, the people of the community met in a private home in the presence of an advisory council. The meeting is said to have been "one of great solemnity and glorified by the conscious presence of the Holy Spirit."

The name of the church was taken from a church which was located about 200 miles away in New Baltimore, Fauquier County, Virginia which was organized in 1762.

The influence of Broad Run church in the religious development of northwestern Virginia was tremendous. From Broad Run Baptist preachers went from the mountains to the Ohio river, riding on horseback through trackless forests, preaching to small groups in the homes of the settlers, baptizing converts, and forming new churches.

The Broad Run Baptist Association, which was formed as a result of their labors, embraced at its inception about half the territory now included in the state of West Virginia. The great number of Baptist churches scattered over the northern part of the state attests the success of their endeavors.

The Broad Run Baptist Church continues to be active. A Fall Fest is held at the church annually. The church supports an on-site Care and Share facility which is a community outreach ministry that provides free clothing and school supplies. The church deacon board offers communion to members who are shut-ins or in a nursing home.

The information above is from
Edward C. Smith's book,
A History of Lewis County, West Virginia

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering
Extending our hands to our neighbors

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Paul instructs the Philippians to have the same mindset as Jesus when relating to others, and he details just how humble Jesus was. Jesus is, himself, a spectacular picture of humble obedience to God; placing our needs as broken humanity (to be saved), above his own divinity.

God became like us in the flesh. This is the wonder of both his birth (Christmas) and his sacrifice (Easter). Selfish ambition is defined as elevating oneself by rank, fame or power without lacking consideration for others.

Our humility prompts us to serve others. It leads us to give our own personal interests a lower priority than the concerns and needs of others — what the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** is all about. Consider other people's well - being ahead of your own.

The emphasis of this Scripture is on others not ourselves. It is "being the hands and feet of Christ" personified. In a culture of selfishness and ambition, this Scripture teaches the virtues of empathy as exemplified by Christ and taught by St. Paul. Those who put others first exhibit Christ-like character through love and humility.



True Christian leadership is not reflected in position or advancement, but through the mind and heart of service and being a servant. We are truly blessed by what we can do for others. We do not elevate ourselves above others but willingly sacrifice in order to love them. When all believers act this way, we are of one mind and everyone is cared for.

At First Baptist, we will receive the RMMO during the month of December. Our goal is \$1,000. We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

Cathy Vance,
Missions Chairman

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

If you wish to place a poinsettia in the church for Christmas, please give this order to Hallie Hurst by Sunday, December 16th. The cost is \$18.55 which includes tax. Feola's Flowers will bill direct.



Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

"In Honor of" _____

"In Memory of" _____

Quantity _____ Total Cost \$ _____

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes delivered

The shoeboxes and cartons have been delivered to Charlotte, North Carolina and the Sunday school classroom/Assembly room is back to normal. We are thankful to all who delivered packed boxes, furnished supplies and helped to pack Shoeboxes.



A great big thanks to the Monday loading crew and Mr. David Sheppard loaning his delivery truck. Thanks to Cathy and Jim Vance for coordinating the project. Congratulations also to First Baptist Church for collecting and packing the Shoeboxes. 793 boxes were collected at the FBC drop off site and 11,197 boxes were collected in our area.

Live to give

In Acts 20:35, Paul quotes Jesus that *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Interestingly, that's the only recorded statement of Jesus that's not found in one of the four gospels.)

At Christmas and throughout the year, the blessings of giving are profound and lasting. Poet Maya Angelou says, *"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."*

Finding meaning in a crazy world

I have often thought that because of all the modern conveniences we have in today's world, we sometimes overlook people in need. And often if we are criticized for things that we do to help others, we tend to withdraw into a shell and stop being active in the church.

All of us should care for others regardless of the belligerent attitude we sometimes encounter when trying to serve others. We should ask ourselves, *"Are there people we ignore ... or would rather not help?"*

Do we ignore people because of the way they dress, or talk, or look? I find it rude when I get ignored. For instance, have you ever been talking to someone and in the middle of a sentence they look away and begin talking to someone who just came into the room?

God created us to have companionship with other people. Jesus doesn't exclude anyone from his love and neither should we. Jesus said we should love all people and help them. We can't give up on them or ignore them or write them off.

In Matthew 25, verse 40, when he was teaching his friends about loving and serving others Jesus included these words, *"What are you doing more than others?"*

- Christians do what is required ... and then some.
- We shouldn't overlook small opportunities to do good.
- We shouldn't worry about limitations.
- We shouldn't hesitate to help others.
- We shouldn't exclude anyone anywhere.

We shouldn't forget that when we serve others in need we're doing what Jesus wants us to do.

—JLP

Be a volunteer

Volunteering not only helps the people we serve. It also has surprising benefits for the volunteer. Serving others builds social and relational skills, increases self-confidence, boosts physical health and can even ease chronic pain and heart disease.

So do yourself (and others) some good by following Jesus' example of serving.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 - Paul Marteney
- 10 - James Vance II
- 11 - Ramona Marteney
- 12 - Janet Newman
- 13 - Servy Arredondo
- 17 - Amanda Teodoro
- 18 - Jordan Vance, Kole Bragg,
Sarah Teodoro
- 23 - Andi Hinkle



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 - Willie and Cynthia Parker

If you want to have your birthday or anniversary listed, please give your name and the dates to John Puffenbarger or Amanda Teodoro.

Dates to Remember

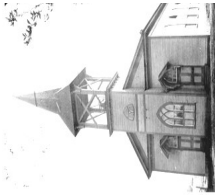
- [] **Saturday, December 1 - 9:30 a.m.** - Hanging of the Greens. Volunteers welcome.
- [] **Sunday, December 2** - First Sunday of Advent.
- [] **Sunday, December 2 - Noon** - Children’s Choir/Play Practice and Lunch.
- [] **Wednesday, December 5** - The Widows For Christ will be meeting at the 88 Restaurant at 11:30am. Bring a gift for the gift exchange, price limit \$15. Point of contact for more information is Bonnie Cartier, 304-472-9079.
- [] **Sunday, December 9 - Noon** - Children’s Choir/Play Practice and Lunch.
- [] **Sunday, December 9 - 3:00 p.m.** - American Baptist Women’s Ministries Christmas Party.
- [] **Tuesday, December 11 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** - The Community Outreach Dinner. The dinner is free and everyone is welcome. Desserts are always needed for the dinner.
- [] **Sunday, December 16** - Children’s Christmas Program during the Morning Worship Service. Annual Children’s Christmas Party following the service.
- [] **Saturday, December 22** - Adopt-a-Family pick up and delivery.
- [] **Monday, December 24 - 7:00 p.m.** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion.
- [] **Friday, December 28** - Covered dish after Christmas Party at the home of Don and Judy Nestor, 35 Lincoln Way, Buckhannon.
- [] **Christmas Caroling** - Day and time to be announced
- [] **Men’s Fellowship Breakfasts** - To be announced.



Dedicated in 1911

The Buckhannon Baptist

The First Baptist Church - 232 Years of Worship



@ 1852
(Organized in 1786)

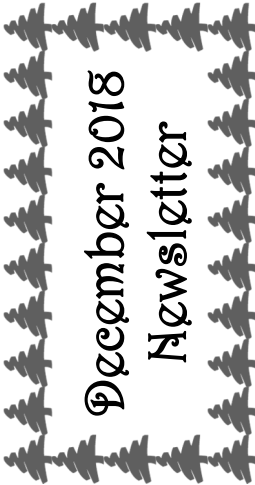
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Rev. Jay Teodoro

Buckhannon, WV

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