

The First Baptist Church

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

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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)



Have a Blessed Christmas

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00 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.**

The perfect decoration

Holly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus' life and death.



Holly's pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ's blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.

The perfect gift

Do you have stress about finding just the right gift for everyone on your Christmas list? Does it make the season more of a hassle than a joy?

Pastor Mike Slaughter reminds us that Christmas isn't about perfect presents for people - as if it were their birthday - or ours. Christmas is about the perfect presence of Immanuel, God with us, through the birth of Jesus. It's his birthday, after all!

In "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday", Slaughter writes, *"How funny that it can be so hard to find gifts that will please certain family members or friends - the people who seem to have everything - and yet it is so clear what the Lord of lords and King of kings wants for his birthday. God wants you - your time, your talent and your treasure - used in service to others."*

Christmas gifts

During the Christmas season I like to watch the movie "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

It tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of "Christmas Past", "Present" and "Yet to Come."

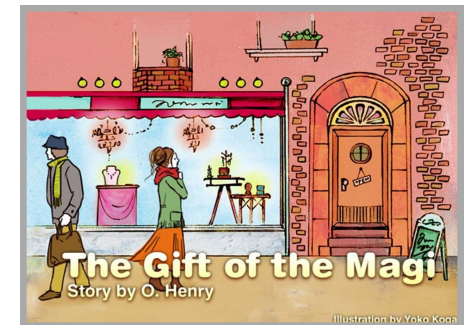


After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man. He begins to give gifts to his nephew and his family.

To really convey love to the receiver a gift must cost the giver something. And that means not only money. The more time and effort and thought a person gives to choosing a gift, the more love it conveys.

The principle of giving is seen in the famous short story entitled, "The Gift of the Magi" by O'Henry. Remember it?

The story is about a young couple who are so poor that they cannot afford to buy each other gifts for Christmas. But they each sacrifice something so they can purchase a gift their spouse needs.



The husband sells his most precious possession - his pocket watch - and uses the money to buy a beautiful comb for his wife's lovely long hair.

But, unbeknownst to him, she cuts and sells her lovely hair to a wig maker and uses the money to buy a beautiful watch chain for her husband's pocket watch. They both sacrificed so they could give a special gift to each other.

Well, when God gave us His only Son, He broke the record when it comes to sacrificial giving. No one has ever paid more for a gift than God did when He gave His only Son to pay our sin's debt.

As 1 John 2:2 says: Jesus is – *"the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins for the whole world."* That's why when we worship this Christmas Eve, we will be remembering that greatest of all sacrifices through the observance of the Lord's Supper. We invite everyone to join us on Christmas Eve.

- JLP

Adopt-A-Family Weekly Food List

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. Sunday, December 8 is the cut-off day for submitting names of families. The food will be distributed on December 21.

- Sunday, December 1 1 bottle of oil and one family size can of soup.
- Sunday, December 8 1 box of cake mix and 1 can of frosting
- Sunday, December 15 \$5.00 donation for perishables and a bag of candy

Operation Christmas Child

Several local churches have been sharing God’s love with children all over the world through the Operation Christmas Child project. Donations of packed shoeboxes were turned in at our church, Tallmansville Baptist and Wayside Southern Baptist Church. Cathy and Jim Vance were the coordinators at First Baptist.

The shoeboxes were packed into large boxes and were loaded on a truck at our church on Monday, November 24. The truck delivered the boxes to the distribution and collection church at Bowen, West Virginia, and then were transported to a Operation Christmas Child processing location in North Carolina.

A few members of the FBC congregation are shown below holding the sign that was posted outside the church during the drop off week.



Dear Friends,

As Christians, we are called to honor one another with the love of Christ as found in the scripture from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV) which teaches, *"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."*

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** remembers those who play a vital role providing guidance and inspiration to their congregation and community.

Your donation to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering makes it possible to provide emergency assistance in times of crisis and to send an annual "Thank You" check to those who are eligible.

Through your generosity in 2018, RMMO provided *"Thank You"* checks to more than 3,497 recipients. Our goal at First Baptist is \$500.

Opal Marsh
Missions Chairman

Special music program

Cyril and Felicia Johnston will be presenting their Christmas program, "Tell the Wondrous Story" at Buckhannon First Baptist Church, on Sunday, December 8 at the 10:45 Morning Worship Service.

This joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus will include traditional, Appalachian, and new songs, including some of their own composition.

Some will be sung with the accompanied of keyboard, cello and Appalachian dulcimer, some will be without accompaniment.

Come, enjoy and be blessed. Invite your friends and neighbors. Make this a part of your Christmas preparations and celebration this year.



Cyril and Felicia Johnston

From Pastor Jay



Brock getting Damien on stage.

We had a great weekend. Our hearts and bellies are full. We spent our time in Charleston at Oakwood Baptist Church, along with 150+ students, for the Junior High Convention. We sat near and on the front row, being amazed and having our minds blown by evangelist and illusionist, Brock Gill. On Saturday, Brock had everyone in the audience participate in a card trick. We shuffled, traded, ripped our four cards, sat on a card we ripped, shuffled again...I can't explain what we did, but I ended up and matched the card that I had sat on. And so did almost everyone else.

I realize that didn't make much sense, but whatever he made us do worked! We certainly got our fill and enjoyment out of Brock's tricks. However, there was so much more. As I reflect on his four individual sessions, there is a lot of material to digest. But, to summarize, Brock left us with these main messages: You are loved. Grow a hunger for and eat from God's

Word. Drink from the living water that will never run out. The work is done.

You are loved. This is the news we continually need to receive. Brock shared the pain of childhood and growing up and would share about his loneliness. He would often cut himself and continually thought about taking his life. He heard and received the good news of the gospel. He experienced the love of Jesus and received His love given on the cross. The work of Christ and that act of love, Brock expressed, "was gruesome and voluntary." We are loved to the point of Jesus loving us and willingly dying for us.

Take from God's Word. All over the world people are hungering and dying for God's Word. He shared of scripture messages sent in helium balloons from North to South Korea. He talked about the conversion of Christian Hosoi, a famous skateboarder who was transformed by the Word in prison. He spoke of an Afghan soldier who fought against the Taliban. This former Muslim would find Jesus in a smuggled Bible. He escaped the country, would attend seminary, and then go back into Muslim nations to proclaim Jesus.

We were challenged to read the Word that is living, active, that cuts us to our core and souls (Hebrews 4:12). We were given a challenge to read John's gospel in three weeks. He gave all of us a sobering reminder of how generations of people in the United States are missing the power of God's Word. People are hungering and dying for the Word all over the world while we miss that the Bible is alive, active, and powerful.

Drink from the Living Water that will never run out. I hope you know from where I share this. The woman who had five failed marriages, went to the well during the hot part of the day, to avoid being seen, would encounter the source that would quench

hers, and our thirst. Brock had three containers on little tables. He placed a bucket in the middle. When we thought every drop was poured out, the urn like containers kept refilling with water! Now, I didn't see any invisible spickets or hoses, but those big containers kept replenishing! What an incredible image of Jesus. Everything that the world offers will always run out and run dry. Jesus can and will continue filling us.

The work is done. Brock and his wife were doing their shows in the Ukraine. They loved on and shared the gospel with a waitress who was serving them. She expressed that God has many faces and that all roads lead to heaven. She expressed that good deeds and good works get us there to heaven. But what Brock shared was the opposite. It's not what we do as religious works, it is what Jesus has already accomplished for us on the cross. He finished the work. We are to accept this and believe. These are wonderful thoughts to reflect on during this Advent season. For God so loved...



Enjoying a selfie with 'Popcorn Olaf' after Frozen 2 during free time!

To read *The Buckhannon Baptist* newsletter online, news of upcoming events, and more, visit the Buckhannon First Baptist Church web-page at firstbaptistbuckhannon.net

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

If you wish to place a poinsettia in the church for Christmas, please give this order to Hallie Hurst by **Wed., December 18th**. 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 \$ _____

Perfect as is

"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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 - Willie & Cynthia Parker

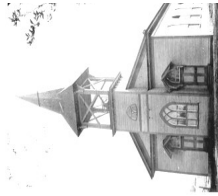
Don't Forget!

- [] **Sunday, December 1** - An Ecumenical Worship/Prayer Service titled "Waiting in Hope". Hosted by the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Everyone is welcome.
- [] **Wednesday, December 5 - 11:30 a.m.** - The Widows for Christ will meet.
- [] **Sunday, December 8 - 10:45 a.m.** - Special musical program during the Morning Worship Service by Cyril and Felicia Johnston.
- [] **Sunday, December 8, 3:00p.m.** - The American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at the church.
- [] **Sunday, December 8** - Cut-off date for submitting names for Adopt-A-Family.
- [] **Sunday, December 1, 8 and 15** - Dates for practice for the Children's Christmas Program. The practices will begin immediately following the Morning Worship Service and lunch will be provided.
- [] **Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.** - Mid-Week Bible Study.
- [] **Tuesday, December 10 - 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** - The Community Outreach Dinner. The dinner is free and everyone is welcome. (Desserts are always needed.)
- [] **Saturday, December 21** - Adopt-A-Family food boxes will be distributed.
- [] **Sunday, December 22** - The Children's Christmas program and party.
- [] **Tuesday, December 24 - 7:00 p.m.** - Christmas Eve Service and Communion.
- [] **Wednesday, December 25** - Christmas Day.
- [] **Wednesday evenings - 6:00 to 7:30 p. m.** - The United Youth will meet at the Christian Alliance Church.
- [] **Men's breakfast meetings** - To be announced.
- To be announced - Early January** - Deadline for submitting Annual Reports.
- To be announced** - Church Council and Church Business Meeting.
- To be announced** - Installation of church officers.



***The
Buckhannon Baptist***

The First Baptist Church - 233 Years of Worship



@ 1852
(Organized in 1786)

The First Baptist Church

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
South Florida Street at Hart Avenue
42 Hart Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Address Service Requested

Rev. Jay Teodoro

Buckhannon, WV



TO: