

The First Baptist Church

42 Hart Avenue, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201

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

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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.

Morning Worship10:45 a.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study 10:30 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.**

Promote peace

During this New Year, here's how to live at peace with others: Pray for them. Erase all negative thoughts about them. Ask them for forgiveness if you've wronged them. Carefully evaluate your own motives. Emphasize love, rather than hate.

Tracks

The New Year lies before us like a spotless track of snow. Let us be careful how we tread on it, for every step will show.

Snowbound

Being snowbound can be a treat. Being snowbound is cozy. Everybody is home (a rare circumstance in this busy world) and nothing is planned.

It's a good time to sleep in, bake bread, start a Monopoly game, make soup, play records, or play music. We can pop corn, sit by the fire place, read a good book, take a nap, write Christmas "thank you" cards, make scrapbooks, or have pillow fights.

We can read the Bible, study next Sunday's Sunday school lesson, and make plans for the coming year. The list of things to do is endless.



Children's Christmas Program photo gallery



Sarah - Angel
We welcome Mary's boy



Lucas - Shepherd
The angel's message is great



Jasmine - Mary
Imagine me, the mother of Jesus



Baylee - Narrator

As we celebrate our Lord's birthday
And hustle for presents to trade,
Remember the first present, always,
Should go to the Bethlehem Babe.
YOU are what our Lord wants for His birthday.

Don't refuse Him this cherished request,
For we give what is wanted at Christmas
To the ones that our hearts love the best.

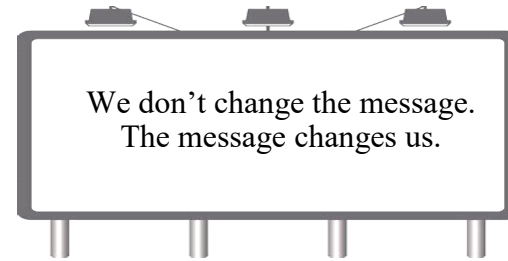


Kellan - Wise Man
I came to worship him



Kellian Wolvertson

Church Signs



Stubborn mule

A stranger looked on as a farmer struggled with a stubborn mule. *"You could sure save yourself a lot of work by saying 'Gee' and 'Haw' to that mule instead of pulling on the lines,"* he advised.

"I reckon you're right," the farmer replied, *"but this mule kicked me five years ago and I ain't spoke to him since."*



In his attempt to get back at the mule, the farmer was actually creating a miserable situation for himself. That's exactly the way it is when we hold grudges against people for some wrong they have committed against us.

By holding on to our hurt and looking for a chance to get even, we are actually giving them control over our behavior. Grudge-nursing, according to medical experts, can lead to health problems such as irrational behavior and stomach ulcers.

The Bible tells us a better way – give up the grudge, forgive the offender, and move on with our lives. (Mark 11:25 and Colossians 3:13.)

A new page

When a New Year dawns you might hear a voice that says, *"Here is a fresh, unspoiled opportunity! Here is a clean page of the book, and even though some of the earlier pages have been marred by smudges and mistakes which you are sorry about, here is this page, untouched and spotless."*

"The New Year is waiting for the story you will write on it in the coming months. All the past is finished and forgiven."

250 years old

The Simpson Creek Baptist Church in Bridgeport was formed in 1770. It is recognized as the oldest Baptist Church in West Virginia by the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The first formal records of the church are dated 1774.



The three next in order are Forks of Cheat, 1775; Buckhannon, 1780 and West Fork, 1780.

The photo shows the large rock that is placed where the Simpson Creek Meeting House (Church) was located. The rock is a few hundred feet from the entrance of the Bridgeport Cemetery. The cemetery is located near Oliverio's Restaurant.

Editor's note: Below is the inscription on the stone (my underlining and bold font).

Baptist Meeting House

The first building known as the Baptist Meeting House stood on this site. The church was organized about 1770 by Rev. John Sutton and five constituent members. Rev. James Sutton served as pastor for a short period. Rev. John Corbly served as pastor 1780-81; later his family was killed by the Indians.

Rev. Edward was sent to **Buckhannon** to preach. This led to the organization of a church there in 1780. In a meeting of the church in 1787 a woman was tried for **witchcraft**. In 1807 Rev. Jess H. Goss became a pastor and served nearly thirty years. The pastors that followed were J. W. Toofborough, John Denham, Phingas Wells. A.J. Garret, M. Maddox. J. Wrightman, R. Holden.

Oliverio's Restaurant is located next to the highway behind the trees.



Location of the large rock that identifies where the first Baptist Church west of the Allegheny Mountains was located (in Bridgeport, West Virginia).

From Pastor Jay

We enter into a new year. We enter into a new decade. I would be interested in taking a poll whether or not anyone cares. I care. At the end of the month, I have a newsletter deadline that thankfully I've been able to meet. Our tireless editor, Mr. John P., might disagree. But, 2020 is a new year with a significant nod to vision. Do you see it? Vision of looking ahead, looking toward the future. But, let's look back at 2019.

We prayed together. We prayed for Shawn, our brother in Christ who is at home with the Lord. We prayed for the people and needs of our church. I know we often pray for the outcomes we might hope for and expect, but sometimes God does not answer in the way we want. I hope we discover the true purpose of prayer is not to receive something, but to grow in greater relationship with God. Ultimately that is the best prize we receive.

He shares in **Isaiah 55, 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.** I have often expressed that I don't understand or even like God's timing. We read John 11 and Jesus raising Lazarus and discover the underlying motive; it is for God's glory. But, we still may not see on this side of heaven.

We baptized some wonderful people. This is such a blessing to see new life in Christ and to see people live for Christ. This continues to be the best gift to see. I'm also glad that Eddie was able to see this before his passing. We are smaller in number with youth, but there continue to be life giving reminders of God working through our students. Jacob was able to go through a program called Youth Leadership Core. We had great trips to both our Senior and Junior High Conventions. A few of us even experienced the growth and excitement of Camp Cowen. The Christmas season and their gifts to baby Jesus was wonderful to see.

The guys built a kitchen. Men and women transformed a kitchen! During the summer, our friends removed a lot of stuff, moved in a whole lot of stuff, painted, gutted, rewired, retiled, measured, re-piped, I think you know where I've gone with this. Thank you to all who contributed and thank you for serving in this way. This was certainly a tremendous labor of love.

I'm thankful of our Bible Studies helping us know God, growing us together, provoking, challenging, and possibly frustrating us. Believe it or not, these are really good things! We spent a short season looking at the Alongsider, helping us look at walking with someone in discipleship. In the Fall, we did a series called Letters to the Church. Another highlight of mine was a discipleship conference in late August. Sponsored by our convention, Dane Allphin instructed all of us to grow deeper in the Word. In my lifetime, Dane has been a mentor leading me to grow in Christ.

Pastor Jay, continued

We experienced Disney. If you see or photo timelines, you'll know that June is very full of Florida. We were so thankful to have this time together, to have time away, to grow, eat a lot, laugh, and play as a family. This was such a memorable time for us and we are very grateful.

Isaiah 55 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Anything which Isaiah writes can give us pause. God has a purpose behind all things, working toward our good and most importantly toward His glory. Finally, I will also share that we really grew as a church family this year. I hope you have seen this in action. I hope you have experienced this for yourself. Amanda and I would say we have seen it, felt it, and know the love and support you continually give to us and our kids. Thank you for walking with us in 2019. We look with open eyes and serve with open hands expecting God to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine in 2020.

Buckhannon First Baptist Church web-page:
firstbaptistbuckhannon.net

The New Year

The celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

A good way to start off the New Year is by looking back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.



Love

I have always enjoyed watching the movie Fiddler on the Roof. It was based on the 1964 musical about an Orthodox Jewish family. The family was trying to deal with cultural change.

One of the best songs in the musical was a duet by the main character, Tevye, and his wife, Golde. They were watching their daughters marry for love, and they thought about their own arranged marriage.

"Do you love me?" Tevye sings. Golde thought about the many things she's done for or with him during 25 years together. She had cooked, cleaned, experienced hardships and raised a family. After thinking about all of that, she decided, *"If that's not love, what is?"*

Throughout his ministry, Jesus frequently spoke about love, and when he did he often meant "serve." He suggested that love is action. Sometimes we feel loving; sometimes not. But Jesus calls us always to act lovingly. And in the end, serving is the best way to show our love.

During this New Year, let us use our gifts and talents to serve our Lord anyway we can.

JLP

"Luci"

Worldwide, more than 1 billion people lack access to electricity; another 1.5 billion have irregular access. One new tool that's literally brightening lives is an inflatable, waterproof, solar-powered lantern.

With 10 tiny LED lights, "Luci" can shine about 15 square feet of light for up to 24 hours on a full charge. Yet the lantern weighs just 4 ounces, so it's easy to transport.

Though this versatile lantern has many uses, inventor Jason Alan Snyder is especially excited about its potential to help people living in darkness. For each \$10 donation at mpowerd.com, one Luci lantern is sent for disaster relief and humanitarian aid.

Little lights — whether solar-powered or Jesus-powered — make a big impact in our dark world.



A "Luci" Light

First Baptist Church Officers for 2020

Moderator	Don Nestor
Church Clerk	Cynthia Parker
Financial Secretary	Don Nestor
Assistant Financial Secretary	Sandy Peck
Treasurer	Willie Parker
Assistant Treasurer	Don Nestor
Board of Deacons	Don Shingleton (2020), John Puffenbarger (2020), Ransom Hackett (2021), David Norment (2021).
Board of Deaconesses	Mary Ellen Davidson (2020), Wanda Light (2020), Joanne Rozelle (2021), Nancy Hackett (2021), Amanda Teodoro (2022), Sally Anne Veith (2022),
Board of Christian Education	Mary Ellen Davidson (Chairman 2022), Opal Marsh, Missions (2020), Jacob Teodoro, Children (2020), Jacob Teodoro, Youth (2021) Cynthia Parker (Leadership, 2021), Joanne Rozelle, Adult (2021).
Board of Trustees	Steve Lee (2020), Tom Peck (2021), Dick Curry (2022).
Budget and Finance	Don Nestor (Chairman), Sandy Leggett, Willie Parker.
Auditing Committee	Judy Nestor, Arrendondo.
Music Committee	Barbara Hamilton, Cynthia Parker, Hallie Hurst.
Hospitality Committee	Hallie Hurst (2021), Mary Ellen Davidson (2021). Jim & Cathy Vance (2022).
Sunday School Superintendent	Amanda Teodoro
Assistant Sunday School Superintendent	Judy Nestor
Sunday School Secretary	Amanda Teodoro

Members of the Nominating Committee for 2019 were: Marcia Lee, Amanda Norment, Mary Ellen Davidson.

Children's Program photo gallery



The Children's Chorus

Front row l-r: Sarah Teodoro, Lucas Murray, Kayleigh Zirkle.

Back row l-r: Kellian Wolverton, Baylee Hurst, Jasmine Zirkle.

The Children's program: "Gifts for Baby Jesus".

One by one each child stepped forward and placed a gift at the foot of the manger, then said some short lines to "Baby Jesus." Then they stepped aside and the chorus sang a Christmas song. Afterwards another child stepped forward.

The chorus director was Nancy Hackett and the pianist was Cynthia Parker.



Sam Teodoro played the prelude to the Children's program

Thank you

We want to thank the members and friends of the church for their generous donations to several outreach projects during the month of December. The projects included:

- ✓ Adopt-a-Family (We adopted 12 families),
- ✓ Gifts to some residents at the Holbrook nursing home,
- ✓ Gift to the pastor,
- ✓ Poinsettias in remembrance of friends and family members,
- ✓ Shoebox ministry. Our church donated 110 boxes. FBC served as the area donation point and 954 were collected. 13,039 boxes were collected throughout the region.
- ✓ The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (We exceeded our goal of \$500 in December),
- ✓ and Fruit baskets.



*West Virginia Baptist Convention
2019 Annual Training Event
February 1 2020
at the Parchment Valley Conference Center
Theme: "Training for the Kingdom!"*

Join us for a day of worship, workshops and fellowship as we better learn to serve Christ and our church!

The cost will be \$20.00 per person for the day, including lunch. If you bring eight from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost. You may register as an individual/couple or as a church group.

Registration Deadline: Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, January 17, 2020 and include money for all attendees registered. After January 17, the fee is \$30.00 per person and lunch is not included.

Please see Pastor Jay for registration forms and more information.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Miriam Grace Boward Norment who passed away on November 2019 in Los Osos, California. She was 94. She was the mother of Dave Norment.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 - Jan Arredondo
4 - Destiny Nestor
7 - Sharece Moffett Teter
10 - Angie Morgan Stewart
11 - Noah Curry
13 - Jerry Leigh, Servando Arredondo
17 - Clifford Newman
18 - Catherine Harper
19 - Betsy Vance, Christy Vance Dunovant
29 - Nancy Marks

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Servy and Jan Arredondo

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



Don't Forget!

[] **Saturday, January 4 - 9:30 a.m.** - We will take down and put away the Christmas decorations. We will appreciate your help and assistance.

[] **Sunday January 5** - The Lord's Supper will be observed and Church Officers will be installed.

[] **Tuesday, January 8 - 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.

[] **Tuesday, January 14 - 6:30 p.m.** - Church Council.

[] **Monday, January 20 - 7:00 p. m.** - Deacon Board Meeting.

[] **Tuesday, January 28 - 7:00 p.m.** - Church Business Meeting.

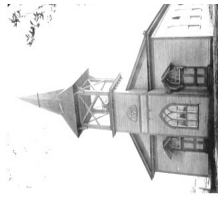
[] **Note: The Widow's for Christ** will not meet in January or February due to weather conditions.

[] **Note: The American Baptist Women's Ministries** will not meet in January or February due to weather conditions.

[] **Annual Reports:** The end of the year reports for boards and committees are due by **Sunday, January 12, 2020**. Place then in the Church Clerk mail slot or send an email to: buckhannonbaptist@outlook.com



Dedicated in 1911



@ 1852
(Organized in 1786)

The Buckhannon Baptist

The First Baptist Church - 234 Years of Worship

The First Baptist Church

Rev. Jay Teodoro

Buckhannon, WV

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

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January 2020 Newsletter

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