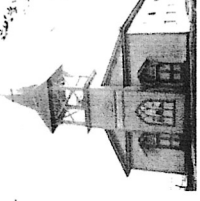


Dedicated in 1911

The Buckhannon Baptist



@ 1814
(Organized in 1786)

The First Baptist Church - 236 Years of Worship

The First Baptist Church

Rev. Cyril Johnston, Interim Pastor

Buckhannon, WV

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

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The First Baptist Church

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E-mail: BuckhannonBaptist@outlook.com

Web-page: firstbaptistbuckhannon.net

Interim Pastor: ... Rev. Cyril Johnston ... Office Phone 304-472-4789 ...
e-mail: lifecoachcyril@gmail.com. Cell phone: 304-613-2870

Interim Secretary: Nancy Hackett. Church Office 304-472-4789

Youth Director: Christine Dunaway. Cell Phone: 434-660-8955

Those who help us worship: Barbara Hamilton, Mary Ellen Davidson and
Cynthia Parker (Plano). Cynthia Parker (Music Committee Chairman)

*May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be
blessed.*

Happy New Year

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. (*Cancelled for now*) Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship10:45 a.m. (*Doors open at 10:00*) (*Watch e-mail for Bible Study messages*)

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 New Year

According to historians, 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. Some denominations still mark Christ's circumcision on New Year's.

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.

Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

A vow for the new year

Making plans for your life in the New Year? When a person considers how everything seems to have a purpose in nature, it makes sense to believe that each of us has a purpose as well.

On the other hand, if all of creation seems to have just happened without any reason, then this means our minds and spirits must have no reason or purpose as well.

Christians believe that God brought everything into existence. Therefore, life can only make sense when we vow to seek what the Creator has in mind for us.

Youth News



This year started off a little rocky due to Covid flare ups and the church closing as a result; but we still managed to give out Valentine goody bags, and Easter baskets to our kids.

Upon reopening in April, we hosted our first ever Compassion Sunday focused on child sponsorship. As a church we "adopted" German from Columbia. Our sponsorship ensures his physical food and medical care, education opportunity, and spiritual growth under Compassion International. Other church members sponsored an additional 5 children!

In May we presented our 3 high school graduates with engraved Bibles. In June we held a "Nintendo Nostalgia" themed gaming night with multiple TVs and Game Consoles for everyone to play. It was a big hit and we had a good turn-out. We also had board games, music, and snacks!

July through September sadly were not very active due to yet another Covid closure and my knee injury and subsequent surgery/recovery. In October, we distributed candy goody bags and participated with Chapel Hill UMC in their Trunk or Treat outreach. I decorated my Jeep with an "Aloha/Beach" theme and handed out candy and chips.

In November we held our first ever "Paint N Praise" night. All ages came out to paint canvases, listen to music, and fellowship. We had a great showing and fun was had by all. I was amazed at the creativity of our youth and young at heart!

As the year wrapped up, on Saturday, December 18, we blessed our kids with presents and had a cookie decorating/ornament making event. All ages came out and it was a good time with hot cocoa and Christmas tunes!

Then we presented a very short and simple rendition of "Charlie Brown Christmas" during the worship service on Sunday, December 19 . I'm excited about the coming new year, and hope to be introducing something new for our Senior High youth!

Stay connected with FBC to learn more about what our youth are doing. God bless you all this New Year!

Happy New Year,
Christine Dunaway,
FBC Youth Director

ABWM, USA

At the beginning of 2021, **American Baptist Women's Ministries** (ABWM) launched new programming to engage young women and girls in worship and leadership development and to live passion-filled Christ-centered lives.



ABWM took our ministry to new heights through our free *Let the Walls Fall Down* webinars, domestic violence certification workshops, young adult women events, community prayers, and Women and Girls Day.

This year we blessed several nursing homes with bookmarks, puzzles, cards, beaded bracelets, and small packets of useful items from our *Women and Girls Day* community service project.

As we approach the New Year, let us continue to count on God, prepare inwardly, and share actions of grace and generosity. Let us stay united in ABWM's mission, vision, purpose, and core values.

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain
Executive Director

Notice - To all *Boards and Committees* from Cynthia Parker, church clerk:

It is time for year-end reports to be written and submitted to the church clerk for our yearly Annual Report.

Please have all reports turned in to Cynthia Parker by January 15. You may email reports to cparker641@aol.com or put them in the clerk's mailbox in the assembly room.

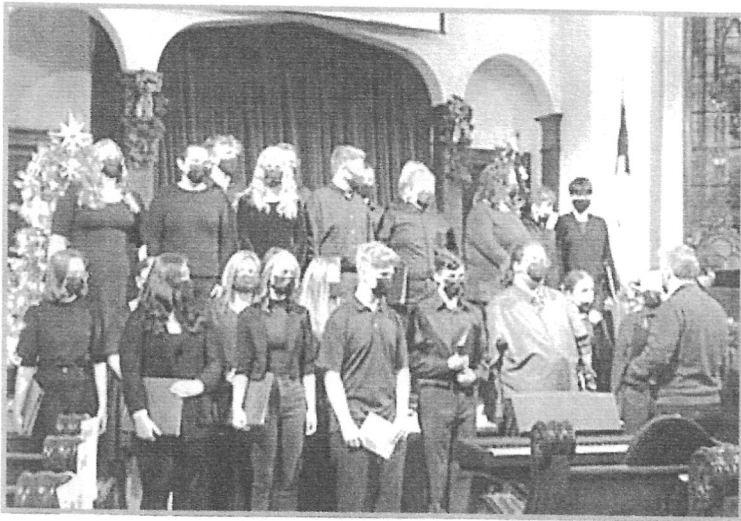
Our most valuable book

About 1450, Johann Gutenberg - the German who invented the movable type printing press - was the first person to print the entire Bible. He made 200 copies, but only 48 copies of the Gutenberg Bible exist today.

We can only imagine how pleased and surprised the innovative Johann would be to know about the new technology that makes the Bible available to everyone.

The Buckhannon Baptist - January 2022

The Sights and Sounds of Christmas at First Baptist



The Buckhannon-Upshur High School *Soundwaves* presented a concert at First Baptist on Wednesday evening, December 8.

The concert was a fund raiser for their upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial.

Jeremy Smallridge is the director of the group.

Good Tidings We Bring

A musical celebration of the Good News of Jesus' Birth

Program

"The Magnificat"

Traditional as remembered from Cyril's childhood church in Ireland

"In The Stillness of the Night"

by Cyril, cello part by Felicia

"Jesus, Born in Bethlea"

Folk Song from Virginia & Kentucky

"Brightest and Best"

Southern Appalachian Folk Song

"Who Comes This Night"

Words: Sally Stevens, Music: Dave Grusin

"Manger Lullaby"

by Cyril Johnston, arr. by John Carter-
cello part by Felicia

"Wonder"

by Cyril Johnston, cello by Felicia

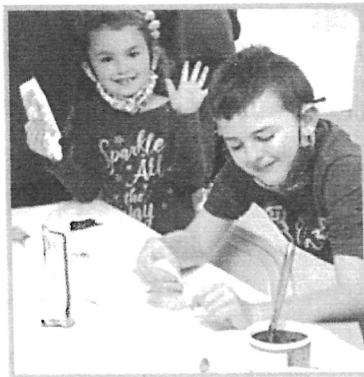
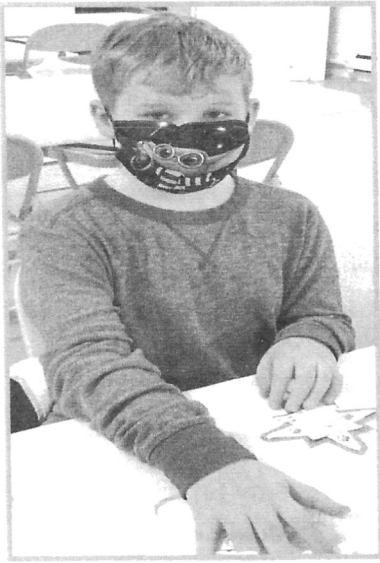
"Sing Alleluia"

by Cyril, cello part by Felicia

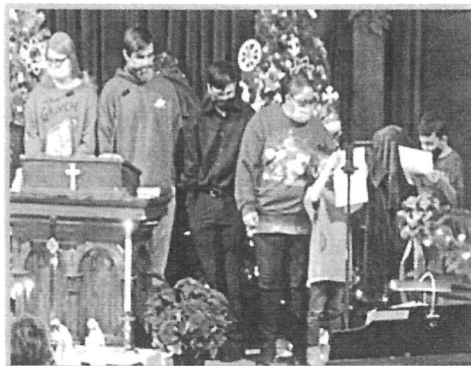


Pastor Cyril & Felicia perform
Good Tidings We Bring
on Sunday, December 12

Cookie Decorating
& Ornament Making.
Saturday, December 18.



The Youth presented a "Peanuts Charlie Brown Christmas" on Sunday, December 19.



The choir sang
"There's a Song in the Air" on Sunday, December 19.



○ Holy Night!
 The stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious
 morn!



Fall on your knees
 Oh hear the angel voices
 Oh night divine
 Oh night when Christ was born
 Oh night, O Holy night, Oh night divine

O Holy Night is famous for being the first Christmas song ever played live over the radio. In 1906 Reginald Fessenden (a former employee and lab technician for Thomas Edison) transmitted a short broadcast from the Brant Rock radio tower. Printed above is the 1st of 3 verses.



Poinsettias
 were placed in the
 sanctuary for Christmas
 by the following:



- Twyla Barlow: In Memory of Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Barlow and John H. Barlow
- Dick Curry: In Memory of Mildred Curry
- Sandy and Tom Leggett: In Memory of Travis Shingleton
- Don Nestor: In Memory of Vernor and Earldine Gerrard, Clinton and Mabel Nestor
- John Puffenbarger: In memory of Betty Puffenbarger
- Sally Anne Veith: In Memory of Eddie Veith
- John Will: In Memory of Flo Thornhill and Joanne Will
- Lori Newman Dew: In Honor of Dave and Amanda Norment
- Opal and John Marsh: In Honor of their children

The Day After Christmas

'Twas the day after Christmas and all through the town
The ones who weren't Christians were feeling let down.
The stockings weren't hung by the chimney anymore,
And boxes and wrapping covered the floor.

The kitchen was covered from floor to ceiling
With enough dirty dishes to set Mother reeling
The children were whining over what they didn't get
And rather than sharing, they were throwing a fit!

The malls were bustling with post Christmas shoppers
Searching for bargains on racks and in hoppers.
The salesmen looked haggard, the shoppers looked worse
As credit cards flew out of wallet and purse.

There were no joyful sounds of carolers singing,
And the only bells that was heard, were registers ringing.
The scene was altogether too grim,
For all the people who didn't know Him.

If only this unhappy crowd could know
That the Spirit of Christmas isn't tied with a bow
And stacked in piles underneath the tree,
He lives forever in you and in me.

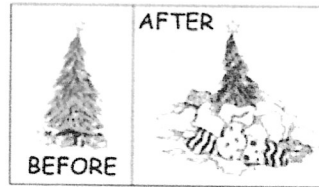
He didn't start in presents piled up in a sleigh,
He started with Christ being born in the hay.
The perfect gift was from our Father above.
He was sent to us sinners to show us His love.

He came without wrapping or boxes or strings,
No glitter or glamour or other vain things.
He came with a promise of hope for all men,
That even in death, we'd have life again.



➤ *The next face you encounter that is covered with strife,
Introduce them to Jesus and change their whole life.
Teach them that Christmas is a daily thing,
That comes from personally knowing the King.*

Author unknown



From Pastor Cyril

It hardly seems possible that this is my second Christmas/New Year season as your Interim Pastor. Life and ministry during this whole time has been dominated by the pandemic, bringing uncertainty and change.

As if being without a full-time pastor weren't enough, the pandemic has kept us on edge, never able to know from month to month what to expect. Our worship has gone back and forth between in-person and remote. We long to be together but are afraid we might get infected. However, God's presence and love has remained constant.

Thanks to advanced giving, the foresight of the leadership, and hard work of many, we have purchased and installed sophisticated equipment that allows us to establish an on-line presence. Amanda and Dave Norment, Scarlet Schaub and Ray Berger have learned how to use it and each Sunday we are reaching far beyond our building.

We now minister to many whom we do not see and to those in our own church family who are not yet comfortable with being in the sanctuary. (*By the way, we need some more people trained and willing to take a turn at the sound board and cameras.*)

As we greet the new year, I encourage you to do several things:

➤ *Come to worship.* Facebook and YouTube are wonderful but there is really no substitute for being together with the church family. We will continue to require masks and social distancing as long as this pandemic dictates.

➤ *Reach out and serve.* Where God shows you the need, be his representative. Where appropriate, brag on your church. We're not without our flaws and problems, but we are a family that cares for each other. We provide a place where the gospel is heard and people can meet Jesus.

➤ *Pray for your pulpit committee.* Pray that God will lead them to the person He has chosen. I love being your Interim Pastor, but the church needs a person who has more energy than I have, is more focused on the future than I am able to be, and whose prime ministry is First Baptist Church.

➤ *Continue to support your church* with your presence, your money, and your prayers.

We enter the New Year knowing that the God who has been with us in 2021 will be with us in 2022.

In Jesus' Love,
Cyril

A blessed resolution for 2022

It seems to me that some people don't take making New Year's resolutions seriously anymore. I think there is a value of making resolutions for the coming year. It reminds us that there areas within our lives we can improve.

Making resolutions reminds us that we have the freedom to choose what we want to become. However, I know from experience that it's much easier to make New Year's resolutions than to keep them.

If things are going well in our lives, we should thank God, but we should never get to the place when things are going so well that we can ignore Jesus and stop going to church.

We're not the Creator, we are the people God created. We need to remember each day to thank God for our blessings.

As we begin this year, we have the freedom to choose what we'll do with our lives. The year will be a good year depending upon our resolutions and the choices we make. It can be a blessed year if we choose to follow Jesus more during 2022.

— JLP

Flight 2022 Instructions

"Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022. This is your pilot speaking. We are preparing to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position.

"All self-destructive devices including pity, anger, selfishness, pride and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away.

"Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayer will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

"Baggage will not be allowed on this flight. God, our control tower manager, has cleared us for take-off. Our destination is Greatness!

"The crew wishes you a New Year filled with new Hope, new Joy, and new Beginnings. Have a Blessed New Year!"



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

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 editor John Puffenbarger..



Hitch your wagon to a star

Editor's Note: The beginning of a New Year is the time for New Year's resolutions. It seems to me that people make resolutions about money, fitness, diets, and technology. Good New Year's resolutions, like any goals, give us a chance to obtain results that are sometimes beyond us. "Hitching our wagon to a star" helps us to reach goals that we might think are beyond our reach.

Life is not always easy. Even simple commitments can be difficult when dealing with every day affairs. We should make good reasonable goals to improve our lives. As we think about making goals we should consider setting goals that will help us not only in our physical life ... but also in our spiritual life.

The joy of a new year

Editor's Note: Every year at the end of December, I think most of us begin to think about the many possibilities for themselves in the New Year ahead. Whether we've resolved to read more, eat healthier, keep a journal, take up a new hobby, pray more, study the Bible more, become more active in the church ... we have access to resources and tips that promise to make our goals easier and within reach.

A good resolution for many Christians is to become more faithful followers of Jesus in 2022. We should resolve to give the Lord our gifts, talents, careers, money, time, health, thoughts, marriages, kids, aspirations, words, deeds, dreams, motives – in fact - everything.