

Blood River Baptist Association  
 Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions  
 P.O. Box 18, 47 Aurora Hwy.  
 Hardin, KY 42048-0018  
 270-437-4203/Fax: 270-437-4228

### Mark's Memo:

As I write this article, I just finished an interview with Mark Maynard of Kentucky Today, who had reached out to me after I was selected as the AMS/DOM of the year by my peers at our KBC annual meeting earlier this week.

While it is always an honor to be recognized for the work one does, I certainly realize that without Christ, I can do nothing. Furthermore, my time in organized sports taught me that any time an individual receives an award, there are many others on the team who were instrumental in their success. So, I want to express my appreciation to my wife Kristin, the pastors, mission board members, and the churches of Blood River Baptist Association Churches, as well as our association staff for the privilege of serving the LORD and you as your Director of Missions. May our LORD continue to be glorified and His Kingdom increased through our feeble efforts.

As we enter the Christmas Season, we are once again offering Advent Devotions to you as you spiritually prepare yourself for the celebration of our Savior's birth. These devotions can be found beginning December 3 at our website, [www.bloodriverassoc.org](http://www.bloodriverassoc.org) or on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069067884136>. I appreciate those who have volunteered to write these devotions and for Bro. Austin Chapman's help to make them available on our website, etc.

It is my prayer that you and your family will have a blessed and Merry Christmas!!!!

Serving Him Together,  
 Bro. Mark E. Sickling

### prayer requests

**ISRAEL**  
 Our Leaders      Sister Churches      Our Youth  
 Our Country      Our Schools      The Sick  
 The Lost      Each Other      Missionaries



## Christmas

### WORD SEARCH

SANTA	E D F R D E M T U R P L Y T R
GINGERBREAD	Q P A Z E V T I H N K T J E A
ELF	A A E E K E X U R O S J T O G
FROSTY	Q S B D R F D U R O Z N D I Y
HOLIDAY	I E C C N B W N R K I L F G X
BELL	P L T R H I R F I W E T A R O
CAROLS	E D Q C O R T E G E S Y R D O
WINTER	X N M H I O I R G N R C X S N
TREE	Q A K T O F G S E N G O Q C U
FAMILY	B C X S V L A E T E I F S A F
REINDEER	T X C A T G I M A M H G L R L
JOY	R L U H R O A D I O A Y E O E
SCROOGE	K X H I T L C F A L Z S I L G
CHRISTMAS	H D N Z G A L K L Y Y D G S N
ANGEL	B C E W Q J E E I P O F H A A
CANDLES	H L F F J F T R B N A E G N V
STOCKINGS	V Z L Y R I A P W D G V Z T E
WREATH	E E Z R G G N Q G Z B S U A Y
GRINCH	
SLEIGH	
TURKEY	
GIFTS	

### Bags of Hope Pantry list for DECEMBER

- Altona--spaghetti sauce (no glass jars) & canned tomatoes
- Bethel--beef stew & canned potatoes
- Bethlehem--saltine crackers & indiv wrapped cookies for kids
- Briensburg--spaghetti noodles & chili
- Cherry Corner--chili & bars of soap
- Elva--pancake syrup & jiffy corn muffin mix
- Flint--black eyed peas & canned tomatoes
- Gilbertsville--beef stew & canned potatoes
- Grace--cereal & jiffy corn muffin mix
- Hamlet--saltine crackers & vienna sausage
- Hazel--spam & spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)
- Holly Hills--spam & black eyed peas
- Kirksey--chili & canned white beans
- Lakeview--spaghetti noodles & indiv wrapped pnb crackers
- Ledbetter--oats & vienna sausage
- Locust Grove-- ravioli & canned potatoes
- Memorial-- oats & chili
- New Bethel--black eyed peas & peanut butter
- New Harmony--canned tomatoes & vienna sausage
- New Zion--cereal & jiffy corn muffin mix
- Northside--spam & bars of soap
- Oak Grove-- ravioli and instant potatoes
- Olive--pancake syrup & vienna sausage
- Owens Chapel--chili & indiv wrapped pnb crackers
- Pleasant Hope--saltine crackers & canned tomatoes
- Salem--black eyed peas & bars of soap
- Sinking Springs--canned tomatoes & instant potatoes
- Spring Creek--chili & canned tomatoes
- Sugar Creek--black eyed peas & bars of soap
- Union Ridge--beef stew & indiv wrapped cookies for kids
- West fork--beef stew & canned carrots

### Bags of Hope Ministry

In October we were able to help **357** families, **77** of those were new. We gave out **3,372** food items, **287** bread, and **150** personal hygiene items. We were able to share the Gospel with **20** people.

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry, without your support we could not do this ministry.

Remember the volunteers in prayer.

Thank you and God Bless.

### Bags of Hope

Hours for Food & Clothing: Monday & Thursday 1 - 4 p.m.  
 Food donations can still be donated at the Association Office  
 Monday- Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 p.m. if more convenient.  
 Phone: 270-252-9266



**Attention: Change in hours at Bags of Hope effective 11/2/2023.**

**OPEN 1 - 4 p.m. Monday & Thursday**

**Newsletter deadline for January 2023 is December 8th**  
 EMAIL US AT:  
[bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org](mailto:bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org)  
 Remember to limit your words to 175 & have your information in by the 20th of each month.



Pastor's/Board Members/Wives  
 Christmas Dinner  
 December 14 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Northside Baptist Church  
 884 Radio Road  
 Almo KY  
 You must RSVP by 12/11/23  
 Call 270-437-4203



# Blood River Review

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December, 2023

1st	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
3rd - 9th		Week of Prayer for IMB & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
8th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
13th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
14th	6:30 p.m.	Executive Board Mtg/Christmas Dinner @ Northside Baptist (must RSVP)
15th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
18th - Jan. 2nd		Christmas Holidays - <b>Office Closed</b>
21st		First Day of Winter.... Burrrrr
31st		New Year's Eve

### Coming January, 2024

1st		New Years Day - <b>Office Closed</b>
5th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
5th		Deadline for Scholarship Applications
9th	5:30 p.m.	Scholarship Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
10th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
11th	6:30 p.m.	Quarterly Executive Board Mtg @ Westfork Baptist
12th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
15th		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - <b>Office Closed</b>
17th	12:00 noon	Pastor's Luncheon - Sirloin Stockade in Murray
18th	5:00 p.m.	Missions Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
19th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
21st		Sanctity of Life Sunday
26th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
30th	11:00 a.m.	Evangelism Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office



1<sup>st</sup> Jeff Norsworthy, Blood River  
 24<sup>th</sup> Robert Bratcher, Altona  
 26<sup>th</sup> Martha Miller, Symsonia  
 27<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Holland, Holly Hills  
 28<sup>th</sup> Robin Walker, Briensburg



5<sup>th</sup> Brett & Leslie Miles, Northside  
 7<sup>th</sup> Joel & Kathy Frizzell, New Mt. Carmel  
 10<sup>th</sup> Darrell & Cornelia Walker, Gilbertsville  
 21<sup>st</sup> Greg & Jennifer Cagle, Spring Creek  
 27<sup>th</sup> Scott & Kattie Penick, New Harmony



**December**  
**Pastor's Prayer Times**  
 1st 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office  
 8th 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office  
 15th 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office



Week of Prayer for IMB & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering **December 3-10, 2023**  
 Your gifts support gospel transformation around the world.

Pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel!



Pastor's/Board Members/Wives Christmas Dinner  
 December 14 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Northside Baptist Church  
 884 Radio Road  
 Almo KY  
 You must RSVP by 12/11/23  
 Call 270-437-4203

Please Notice This



**Office will be closed**  
**December 18th - January 2nd**

### BRIENSBURG:

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of 2023 and again celebrating together the glorious news that a Savior has been born unto us and His name is JESUS! We will be celebrating this wonderful reality throughout the month. Our church would like to invite you to join us in this celebration on either Saturday the 16th or Sunday the 17th at 6:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Musical. Our worship choir has been rehearsing for months to bring this worship experience to the community. If you are planning on bringing a large group and would like us to reserve seating, please call the office at 270-527-3757. We continue to pray for all of you as our sister churches. Blessings in Christ as we minister together.

### HAZEL:

We are rejoicing daily for everything God is doing at HBC. We collected over \$1,000 for Mt View Baptist Camp for repairs that several from HBC went this fall and did. We would like to welcome to our church family Catherine Reese, Taylor Reese, Andy Hardt, Sara Lovins and Blake Vacca by baptism. By letter we welcome Bruce, Josie, Cassalyn, Caroline and Conner Callahan. Twenty-seven youth and 6 adults went to Mammoth Cave and The Ark Encounter on November 17 & 18. Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday night, November 26th and our holiday meal will be December 3rd. Our choir is busy preparing for the cantata to be presented on December 17th. We would like to wish all sister churches a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name."**  
*Psalm 100:2 & 4.*

### NEW BETHEL:

Here at New Bethel on Sunday November 12th, we honored our Veteran's, with Eric Horner singing patriotic songs and praising our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus in song. Just a great service, reminding us that we live in the Home of the Free, because of the Brave who served in the Armed Forces of our great country (the greatest country God ever allowed to be in existence)! We just finished up the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Ministry, with our boxes filled and delivered to the collection point, and we're looking forward to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. On Sunday December 3rd, a special speaker, Bob Cornuke, Bible Archaeologist, will speak in our morning and evening services. There will also be our Holiday Fellowship Meal after the morning service to visit with Mr. Cornuke. Our Young at Heart Christmas Dinner will be on Friday December 15th, and our Christmas Program will be on Sunday December 17th. Thanksgiving is almost here. Pray for Israel, our Country and all World Leaders.

**"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." 1 Chronicles 16:34**



Due to the Christmas holiday I need to receive your January 2024 newsletter articles by Dec 8th.

Thank you,  
 Terry Laster, BRBA Admin Assistant

### SALEM:

Our Trunk or Treat in October blessed so many young families. The children enjoyed the games, bouncy house and candy while the adults enjoyed the food and fellowship. On November 12 after the morning service we had finger foods and fellowship before the Deacon Ordination service at 2:00 p.m. Bro. Randy Windsor was ordained as a Deacon at Salem. It was a very moving service. We appreciate Bro. Randy and Barbara and what this will mean to our church. On Sunday, November 19 we will have a baptism during the morning service, and then our joint Thanksgiving meal on Sunday night with our sister church, Oak Grove. We will share good food and fellowship. We are very thankful for all the blessings the Lord bestows upon us. We plan to participate in the Christmas parade in December, have Hanging of the Greens on the first Sunay, caroling to our shut-ins, a Christmas play and a Christmas service on December 24 in the morning service. It is going to be a busy time, all to bring honor and glory to the Lord.

**"UNTO thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks, for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare." Psalm 75:1 KJV**

### SPRING CREEK:

It's the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. At our church it is a time of joyful Christian fellowship and love for one another. Last month we had a great Thanksgiving celebration by hosting a four church service of thanksgiving and fellowship. It's great to meet Christians from other churches. The most precious gift of all is eternal life with God. Praise be to our Lord.

### SUGAR CREEK

Wow! I can't believe it is already December. This year has gone by so quickly, but we have so much to be thankful for at Sugar Creek Baptist church. We have continually been shown how faithful our God is each and every day. Our youth group went shopping for the Freeda Harris toy drive, they had a great time and were able to fill the car with lots of toys to take to the association. We are looking forward to our holiday meal on December 10th after morning service which begins at 9:30 a.m., we look forward to fellowship with one another and good food, of course. We hope everyone enjoys this season with their family and friends.

**"God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins."**  
*Acts 5:31*

### Churches Currently without Pastors

Elva	Oak Grove
New Bethel	Oak Level
New Mt. Carmel	Old Salem Road



For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!!!

Bro. Mark Dickling  
 Director of Missions

Terry Laster  
 Admin. Assistant

