

Blood River Baptist Association
 Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions
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DEADLINE

Newsletter deadline for May 2026 is
April 20th

EMAIL US AT:
 bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org
 Remember to limit your words to 175.

Mark's Memos

In 1993, pastor and author, Max Lucado published his book, "He Still Moves Stones." Of course, Lucado was referring to God moving the stone that was rolled in front of the entrance of the tomb where the body of Jesus had been lain. Speaking of this stone, Lucado writes, "The stone was moved-not for Jesus-but for the women; not so Jesus could come out, but so the women could see in!"

Brothers and sisters, as we gather with our family, friends, and fellow followers of Jesus Christ to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ this year, it is imperative we understand and believe that God still moves stones.

Jesus testified in John 5:17, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." While some question this truth, as Christians we know God is continually working in our lives and in the world. We might not see what He is doing, but that doesn't negate the fact that God is continually working to accomplish His will in our lives and on the earth.

Is God actively working in Operation Epic Fury between the United States/Israel and Iran? Without a doubt. How so? I can't say for certain, other than God has promised to bless those who bless Israel and to curse those who curse Israel. (Genesis 12:3) Furthermore, God's Word clearly tells us that He wishes none to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Friend, I don't know what stone you need God to move. But I know this, whether your stone is related to your health; your wealth; or your relationships the LORD is fully capable of moving your stone if He chooses to do so.

I pray as you gather with your church family to celebrate the resurrection of the LORD Jesus Christ this Easter Sunday morning, you will be encouraged with the fact that God Still Moves Stones. Furthermore, I pray that you will have the faith of Shadrack, Meshach and Abed-nego who told King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 3:17-18, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark E. Sickling

2026 DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

APRIL 25
 Nicholasville

Crosswoods Baptist Church
 Chaplaincy Training
 April 24 - 25

REGISTER AT KYBAPTIST.ORG/DR

UPCOMING EVENTS...

April 2026

- 3rd Good Friday (Office Closed)
- 5th Easter
- 7th 10:00 am Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
- 8th 1:00 pm Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
- 9th 6:30 pm Quarterly Executive Board Meeting @ Bethlehem, Benton, KY
- 10th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 10th-11th KY WMU Annual Meeting @ Highland Baptist, Shelbyville, KY
- 12th Baptism Sunday/Personal Evangelism Emphasis Sunday
- 15th Tax Day
- 17th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 19th Salem Baptist Homecoming
- 21st 8:45 am Boomer & Senior Celebration @ Southside Baptist, Princeton, KY
- 22nd Administrative Assistances Day
- 24th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 24th-25th Disaster Relief Training, Nicholasville, KY
 Register @ <https://www.kybaptist.org/disaster-relief/>
- 25th 8:30 am Rooted & Radiant Women's Conference @ Hazel Baptist, Hazel, KY
- 26th Baptism Sunday
- 26th-29th 6:00 pm Briensburg Revival, Benton, KY
- 26th-29th 6:00 pm Spring Creek Revival, Almo, KY (Sun 11 am & 6 pm, M-W 6pm)
- 27th 7:00 pm WMU Quarterly Meeting @ Altona Baptist, Calvert City, KY

May 2026 (mark your calendar)

- 1st 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 3rd SBC Seminary Sunday
- 4th-8th 7:00 pm Revival Among Churches
- 5th 10:00 am Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
- 7th National Day of Prayer
- 8th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 10th Mother's Day
- 13th 1:00 pm Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
- 13th-15th AMS Leadership Advance
- 15th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 16th Armed Forces Day
- 16th 8:30 am BRBA Women's Event @ New Zion, Benton, KY
- 17th Salem Spring Revival
- 17th Children's Ministry Sunday
- 20th noon Pastor's Luncheon @ Archer's, Hardin, KY
- 22nd 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 25th-29th Oneida Baptist Institute Mission Trip
- 25th Memorial Day (Office Closed)
- 29th 8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
- 31st Disaster Relief Sunday
- 31st-June 4th New Harmony VBS

Mark your calendars for the BRBA 2026 Men's Golf Tournament on June 6th!!!
 Get those teams together for a great day of fellowship!!

Bags of Hope Ministry

In February, we were able to help 377 people, of which 25 were new. We gave out 3,497 food items, 391 bread, and 206 personal hygiene items. Thank you and may God Bless our donors and clients!

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 8:00 am - 2:00 p.m. if more convenient.

Bags of Hope Pantry list for April

- Altona — Spam & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- Bethel — Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Bethlehem — Peanut Butter & Dried White Beans
- Briensburg — Ravioli & Canned White Beans
- Cherry Corner — Canned Black Eyed Peas & Mac 'n Cheese
- Elva — Vienna Sausage & Canned Tomatoes
- Flint — Spam & Canned Potatoes
- Gilbertsville — Ravioli & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- Grace — Vienna Sausage & Peanut Butter
- Hamlet — Chicken Noodle Soup & Bars of Soap
- Hazel — Peanut Butter Crackers & Ramen Noodles
- Holly Hills — Peanut Butter & Chili
- Kirksey — Spam & Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
- Lakeview — Ravioli & Canned Potatoes
- Ledbetter — Canned Carrots & Mac 'n Cheese
- Locust Grove — Instant Potatoes & Canned Pinto Beans
- Memorial — Pancake Mix & Syrup
- New Bethel — Canned Black Eyed Peas & Canned Tomatoes
- New Harmony — Vienna Sausage & Mixed Vegetables
- New Mt Carmel — Canned Chicken & Pork 'n Beans
- New Zion — Ravioli & Mac 'n Cheese
- Northside — Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Oak Grove — Canned Chicken & Canned White Beans
- Olive — Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce (no glass jars)
- Owens Chapel — Peanut Butter Crackers & Fuit Snacks
- Pleasant Hope — Vienna Sausage & Ramen Noodles
- Salem — Chili & Instant Potatoes
- Spring Creek — Dried White Beans & Chili
- Sugar Creek — Canned Carrots & Bars of Soap
- Union Ridge — Vienna Sausage & Chicken Noodle Soup
- West Fork — Canned Chicken & Pork 'n Beans

Celebration

LEARN MORE:
kybaptist.org/celebration

Boomer & Senior

REGISTRATION 8:45 a.m. • PROGRAM 9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

APRIL 21
 Southside Baptist Church
 Princeton

APRIL 23
 Immanuel Baptist Church
 Lexington

KBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Blood River Review

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



April Pastor's Prayer Times

10th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office
17th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office
24th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office

April Birthdays

4th	Karen Oates, Lakeview
6th	Heaven Shropshire, Bethlehem
10th	Johnny Coffenberry, Hamlet
14th	Terry Joselyn, Ferguson Springs
17th	Rick Miller, Symsonia
17th	Hermelina Alvarez, El Manantial
21st	Ed Chapman, Scott's Grove

April Anniversaries

11th	Jordan & Hailey Roach, Hazel
24th	Shawn & Kili Hanes, Kirksey

April Church Anniversaries

1st Sunday	Kim Reeder, Grace (2016)
2nd Sunday	Damian Alvarez, El Manantial (2013)
	Jack Kee, Union Ridge (2016)
4th Sunday	Glenn Cope, Flint (2010)

Churches Currently without Pastors

Pleasant Valley	Holly Hills	Oak Grove
FBC Gilbertsville	Poplar Spring	

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting
 April 8th @ 6:30 pm
 Bethlehem Baptist,
 Benton, KY

You're Invited to the
BRBA WMU
 Quarterly Meeting

LIZ ENCINIA
 KENTUCKY WMU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 WILL BE OUR FEATURED SPEAKER.

APRIL
MONDAY 27 7:00 PM
 2026

Location: Altana Baptist Church,
 5827 US Hwy. 62,
 Calvert City, Ky 42029
 Refreshments following meeting.

Have a blessed Easter!

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."
 --John 11:25-26



Rooted & Radiant Women's Conference
 April 25th @ 8:30 a.m.
 Hazel Baptist, Hazel, KY

HAZEL

April is starting out to be a busy month!! April 4th will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am at the church. Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have our Easter Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast. Sunday School and our regular worship service will be at 9:30 and 10:30 am, respectively. Our Women's Conference "Rooted + Radiant" will be on April 25th from 8:30 am until 2:00 pm. We would like each church to encourage their ladies to register and look forward to a GREAT DAY in the LORD'S house!! Registration can be found on <https://form.jotform.com/HBCWomens/hbc-womens-conference-registration>. Congratulations to Christy Casey who won HBC competition for Cobblers & Christ. Plans are already being made for Vacation Bible School which will be June 14-19.

NEW BETHEL

March 1st-March 8th was Week of Prayer and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering--100% of this Offering supports North American Missionaries. Sunday, March 8th was the beginning of DST and our High Attendance Sunday. Also, March is Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month and we love and appreciate Cara and everything that she does here. New Zion, New Bethel and Elva Baptist Churches are holding joint Revival Services at New Zion, Sunday, March 22nd thru Wednesday, March 25th (Sunday Services will be at each Church's home Church, the rest of the Services will be at New Zion and there will be a potluck after the Wednesday Service). On Saturday, March 28th, we will have our Annual New Bethel Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 a.m. here at the Church. Evening Service on Sunday, March 29th will be music by Eric Horner! Please keep our country and our military personnel in your prayers as the war with Iran continues.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

SALEM

It's nearly Spring! Easter will be upon us before we know it. Our annual pancake breakfast and Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, April 4th at 9 a.m. Come join in on fun, food, and fellowship. Our homecoming will be Sunday, April 19th.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ~ Matthew 28:5-6

SPRING CREEK

During February we had a wonderful time at our "Valentine Share Your Love" event. We shared in our love for one another with a Spaghetti Dinner. Everyone attending brought a can of food to be donated to the Bags of Hope. March 20th Pastor Doug Sanders will be going with the Blood River Association Mission Trip to assist in installing a new roof at the Tohono O'odham Reservation in Casa Grande, AZ. March 29th Pastor Sanders and his wife, Sarah will host a "March Madness Celebration" for all Church Members Birthdays. Our Spring Revival is scheduled for April 26th- April 29th. Bro. Norman Cotton is the guest evangelist with Bro. Steve Smith as the Guest Song Leader. Starting time on April 26th is 10 AM and 6PM for all the evening services. Bro. Cotton will be delivering God's messages that we all need to hear. Looking forward to seeing a lot of our old friends at this wonderful time.

EASTER WORD SEARCH

WORD LIST

CELEBRATION
 CROSS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DEATH
 EASTER
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY
 JESUS
 LAMB
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PURPLE
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SACRIFICE
 SAVIOR
 STONE
 SUNDAY
 TOMB

L E N T N F
 W C C E A P
 U Z S I U H
 K I T R M B
 R H P U N H
 R L M H O U
 E C C H I L
 D X E P X J
 E M L Y I Q
 M I E A F P
 P R B D I A
 T A R N C S
 Q P E M I I C A U U S S N Y Q H
 G M A R Y O L T S R O Y O L T S
 B E S E O N E I D C V E D R S U
 B C T D R E J O I C E U X A C S
 K J E F Q Y U N H P R M C L L E
 A C R F I A E M H S T R E Z W J
 D M X N V I
 I E T O F B
 R B A I P S
 F J C T A T
 D E J C H O
 O S M E I N
 O A B R E I
 G V M R T P
 N I A U O A
 E O L S M W
 K R I E B W
 W V Z R Q U



REVIVAL AMONG CHURCHES



May 4th-
 8th, 2026
 7:00 pm
 Nightly

Scheduled Churches and Speakers:

- Monday: Grace Baptist Church-Bro. Kim Reeder
- Tuesday: Holly Hills Baptist Church-Speaker TBD
- Wednesday: Owens Chapel Baptist Church-Bro. James Stom
- Thursday: New Harmony Baptist Church-Bro. Scott Penick
- Friday: Union Ridge Baptist Church-Bro. Jack Kee

For Such a Time as
This
 Blood River Baptist Association
 Women's Event

Saturday, May 16, 2026

New Zion Baptist Church
 Breakfast & Registration 8:30 a.m.
 Worship with Angela Bowlin
 Keynote Speaker: Sara Robinson

Preregister by calling 270-437-4203
 or open QR Code -- \$5 fee



Let us know when your VBS is scheduled, so we can include the dates in the newsletter!