

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



Newsletter deadline for January 2026  
is **December 15th**  
EMAIL US AT:  
bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org  
Remember to limit your words to 175.

Mark's Memo

As I get older, the days, weeks, and years seem to fly by quicker. It is hard to believe we are entering the Christmas Season. One day last week I walked by Kay's desk and she had Christmas music playing. I told her, "I get it. In fact, it is a shame that some of the Christmas Carols are not sung all throughout the year."

Songs like "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come," and "Emmanuel" carry a message that transcends well beyond the Christmas season. Consider the words of Emmanuel:

*Emmanuel, Emanuel, His name is called Emmanuel  
God with us, revealed in us: His name is called  
Emmanuel.*

Brothers and sisters, the fact that **God is with** me every moment of every day is something that I cherish. I don't deserve His presence or His forgiveness and salvation. But, I am eternally grateful for His love; His Presence; and His guidance in my life.

I hope you and your family have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark E. Sickling



From the Blood River Baptist Association Office Staff  
Office is closed December 22nd- January 4th

Mark your calendar



December 2025

Nov 31st-Dec 6th	Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering More info at <a href="https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering">www.https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering</a>
2nd	10:00 am. Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
5th	8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
10th	1:00 pm <b>Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office—CANCELLED</b>
10th-14th	Mission Trip to Casa Grande, AZ for Christmas in the Villages
18th	6:30 pm Pastor/Mission Board Members and Wives Christmas Dinner @ Memorial Baptist, Murray, KY <b>RSVP by 12/15/2025 to (270) 437-4203</b>
21st	First Day of Winter
22nd- Jan 4th	<b>Office Closed for Christmas Holiday (Merry Christmas!!)</b>
25th	Christmas Day
<b>January 2026 (mark your calendar)</b>	
1st	<b>New Year's Day-Office Closed (Happy New Year!!)</b>
5th	Deadline for Scholarship Applications
6th	10:00 am Evangelism Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
6th	5:00 pm Scholarship Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
7th	1:00 pm Budget/Finance Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
8th	6:30 pm Quarterly Executive Board Meeting @ BRBA Office
9th	8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
12th	5:00 pm Missions Committee Meeting @ BRBA Office
16th	8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
18th	Sanctity of Life Sunday
19th	<b>Martin Luther King, JR Day-Office Closed</b>
21st	12:00 noon Pastor's Luncheon @ Sirloin Stockade, Murray, KY
23rd	8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
26th	10:00 am WMU Quarterly Meeting @ Briensburg Baptist, Benton, KY
29th-31st	Shepherding 2026-Lexington, KY Register @ <a href="https://www.kybaptist.org/event/shepherding/">https://www.kybaptist.org/event/shepherding/</a>
30th	8:30 am Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office



Joy to the world!



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

Christmas Star Family Good Tidings  
Great Joy Manger Noel Silent Night

The M&M Nativity Legend

As you hold these candies in your hand, and turn them, you will see...  
The "M" becomes a "W," an "E" and then a "3".  
They tell the Christmas Story, it's one I'm sure you know.  
It took place in a stable, a long long time ago.  
The "E" is for the East, where the star shone so bright.  
The "M" is for the Manger — where the baby Jesus slept that night.  
The "3" is for the wise men bearing gifts, with haste they quickly came.  
"W" is for worship, an angelic choir sang praises to His name.  
So as you eat these candies or share them with a friend,  
Remember the true Spirit of Christmas and never let it end!  
[www.mycomputerismycanvas.com](http://www.mycomputerismycanvas.com)

Bags of Hope Ministry

In October, we were able to help **473** people, of which **77** were new.  
We gave out **4,496** food items, **534** bread, and **223** personal hygiene items.  
Thank you for your generous donations during the unsettling times of our country. Every item counts and God multiplies it! 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.  
Phone: (270) 252-9266

Bags of Hope Pantry list for December

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



# Blood River Review

**DECEMBER 2025** NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## December Pastor's Prayer Times

5th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office
12th	8:30 a.m.	BRBA Office

## Churches Currently without Pastors

Pleasant Valley	Holly Hills	Oak Grove
Ledbetter	FBC Gilbertsville	

## PRAYER REQUESTS

<b>ISREAL</b> Our Youth Each Other Churches without Pastors	<b>THE LOST</b> Our Country Missionaries	Our Leaders Our Schools Our Pastors Mission Trip to Arizona	Sister Churches The Sick Our Teachers
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**Pastor/Mission Board Members & Wives Christmas Dinner**  
**December 18th @ 6:30 pm**  
**Memorial Baptist**  
**906 Main Street**  
**Murray, KY 42071**  
**Please RSVP by 12/15/2025 by calling (270) 437-4203**

Thanks to the collective efforts of all the churches in our Association, we were able to send **455 backpacks** to children in need and more than **1,730 toys** to Freeda Harris Toy Drive. We deeply appreciate your continued support of these missions and extend our gratitude to everyone who helped pack and deliver these items to their destinations.



## December Birthdays

1st	Jeff Norsworthy, Blood River
24th	Owen Hawthorne, Briensburg Youth
26th	Martha Miller, Symsonia
28th	Robin Walker, Briensburg

## December Anniversaries

5th	Brett & Leslie Miles, Northside
27th	Scott & Katie Penick, New Harmony

## December Church Anniversaries

**1st Sunday**  
Charles Frazier, Altona (2025)

**November 30th-December 7th**

**LOTTIE MOON**  
**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

*Providing financial support to missionaries as they share the gospel overseas.*

**For more information:**  
<https://www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering>

**REMINDER**  
Scholarship Application  
Deadline  
January 5th

**Quarterly Business Meeting**  
**January 8th @ 6:30 pm**  
**BRBA Office, Hardin, KY**

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

## BETHLEHEM

Hello! We at Bethlehem have just welcomed 4 new members. 2 of which were saved & baptized. Praise the Lord! Our Holiday dinner will be Dec. 7th after Sunday morning service. On Dec. 13th, we will be having an Angel Tree party for the kids of incarcerated parents. We will also be caroling at the Convalescent Center as well as passing out cards to the residents. Instead of WMU meeting for December we will be having an Angel Tree gift wrapping. God Bless you all & Happy Holidays.

## HAZEL

We welcome to our church family by letter D. J. Hinson. We know he will be a blessing to our church and pray HBC will be a blessing to him. Upcoming events include our HANGING OF THE GREEN" on November 30 at 6:00 PM. Our Holiday meal will be December 7th following the morning worship service. The HBC Choir Christmas Cantata. "Hallelujah Christ Was Born" will be presented on December 21st at 10:30 AM. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord". Luke 2:11 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## NEW BETHEL

Our Trunk or Treat here at New Bethel on October 25th was great, with kids and candy galore. At our Packing Party for the Shoebox Ministry on November 2nd we packed around 200 shoeboxes to the brim, for a total of 258 shoeboxes, and had a time of prayer that these shoeboxes would be a blessing to the kids who received them, and that they would know that Jesus loves them and so do we! Our Youth Trivia Fundraiser on November 8th, was a lot of fun, and all the proceeds will be used for future youth activities. On Thanksgiving Day, we just thank God for all our many blessings! Our Church Wide Holiday Meal will be December 7th, and afterwards our Youth Group will be having their Christmas Party. On December 13th we will have a float in the Benton Christmas Parade, and on December 14th we will have our "Night in Bethlehem." On December 21st we will have our Youth/Children's Christmas Play.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

## SALEM

We have a busy holiday schedule starting this Sunday with SBC hosting our joint Thanksgiving service with Oak Grove Baptist. Fun, Food, and fellowship always proves to be a blessing. November 30th at 5 p.m. will kick off our Christmas activities, starting with Hanging of the Greens. December 6th we will participate in the Murray Christmas Parade. December 14th will be our annual Christmas caroling to our elderly and shut-ins.

Jeremiah 30:19 *And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.*

Psalms 100:4 *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

## SPRING CREEK

We celebrated our Fall Festival with Rick & Shirlene Pilcher introducing the kids to Jesus Christ thru their balloon ministry, that along with the good food and music provided by the Palmers made for a wonderful time of ministry and fellowship.

The Bags of Hope is an important ministry that the Association sponsors throughout the year and is especially rewarding this month because it is Thanksgiving and we were able to participate in the Turkey donation. The Freeda Harris toy drive is something we look forward to each year. Everyone enjoys giving toys that will bring joy into a child's life at Christmas.

November 23rd the Church will attend our Joint Thanksgiving Service which will be held at Kirksey Baptist this year at 5:00PM. Pastor Doug Sanders being the newest pastor has the privilege of delivering the message. Five local churches come together each year at a different location for this service, and what a wonderful time of fellowship it is.

## SUGAR CREEK

This fall has been a wonderful season here at Sugar Creek! We had a great turnout at our Trunk or Treat event — thank you to everyone who participated and helped make it such a fun evening for our church family and community. We also enjoyed our annual men's breakfast, where the men provided a delicious meal and everyone shared a great time of fellowship and encouragement. What a blessing it is to gather together! As we move into the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we look forward to even more opportunities to celebrate and give thanks together. Mark Your Calendars, Our Holiday Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 7th, immediately following the morning service. Bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy a warm time of fellowship as we kick off the Christmas season together.

Please keep the Garland family in your prayers. Clayton Garland will be deeply missed in our church family. We are grateful for his faithful service, kind spirit, and the many ways he touched our hearts. May God bring comfort and peace to all who loved him.

Come and join us at Sugar Creek Baptist Church — where faith, family, and community grow together!

## A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Help a less fortunate family enjoy a Christmas dinner! Each day add items to a box and by December 15th donate the items to Bags of Hope Food Pantry, 3265 Mayfield Hwy, Benton, KY.

Box of cereal & 1 can of green beans  
Peanut Butter & 1 can of carrots  
Stuffing mix & 1 can of mixed vegetables  
Boxed potatoes & 1 can of corn  
Mac 'n cheese & 1 can of chicken noodle soup  
Canned fruit & 1 can of tomato soup  
Canned Tomatoes  
Canned Tuna  
Dessert mix  
Jar of applesauce  
Can of sweet potatoes  
Cranberry sauce  
Chicken broth  
Canned ham  
Box of crackers  
Box of oatmeal  
Package of pasta  
Spaghetti sauce



Call (270) 252-9266 with any questions

## 2026 BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION INDOOR WINTER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

**Volleyball  
Church Team  
sign ups!**



Church team must consist of at least of 6 players co-ed men and women.

Players must be active members of the church they are playing for.

Players must be at least 15 years of age.

Teams can be up to 8 players, if a church has 12 or more players they can enter two teams into the league.

Cost per team is \$200 which will cover team t shirts for players, and awards for the end of the season. (Checks Payable to New Bethel)

Church league will play games in Jan and Feb of 2026

Games will be played on Saturdays starting in Jan 2026

Teams can practice from October to the start of the season.

Churches may combine to form a team if they don't have enough players.

For further details contact  
Bro. David Chandler with questions and team sign ups  
Call or text (270)703-8318

**WMU Quarterly  
Meeting**  
**January 26th**  
**@ 10:00 am**  
**Briensburg Baptist**  
**892 Briensburg Road**  
**Benton, KY**

