

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

Mark's Memo:

If you are like me, you can't believe it is almost Christmas. It just seems like yesterday that we started writing 2022 on our checks. Now we are closing out the year and anxiously awaiting what the Lord has in store for us in 2023.

I want to thank all of those who wrote devotions for our 2022 Advent Devotional. You can find those daily devotions on our website, www.bloodriverassoc.org or our Facebook Page. I pray these devotions will help you and your family prepare yourselves spiritually for celebrating the birth of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will be hosting our **December Mission Board Meeting** here at Blood River Baptist Association on **Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.** Our Pastors, Mission Board Members, and their spouses are invited to join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and of course some food. **Please RSVP to 270-437-4203 by December 5** if you plan on attending.

On Saturday, December 10, at 1:00 p.m. the Marshall County Long Term Recovery Group will be hosting a Marshall County Tornado Anniversary Observance at Jonathan Creek Baptist Conference Center. The public is invited to attend, and gifts will be available to all tornado survivors. I want to thank New Zion Baptist Church for supplying some of the gifts for this occasion and Bethel and Briensburg for the use of their mini-buses. There is still much work to be done to help our tornado survivors. For more information on how you and/or your church can assist in this recovery, please contact me.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful Christmas!!!!

Serving Him Together

Bro. Mark E. Sickling

December 2022 Pastors's Prayer Times

- 12/2/2022 @ 8:30 a.m. @ BRBA Office
- 12/9/2022 @ 8:30 a.m. @ BRBA Office
- 12/16/2022 @ 8:30 a.m. @ BRBA Office
- 12/23/2022 Do not meet Christmas Holiday
- 12/30/2022 Do not meet Christmas Holiday

Blood River Baptist Association
Quarterly Executive Board Meeting
 January 12, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Salem Baptist Church
 1034 Brown Grove Road
 Murray KY 42071

Newsletter deadline for January 2023 is

December 8th

EMAIL US AT:

bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org
 Remember to limit your words to 175
 & have your information in by the 20th
 of each month.



Bags of Hope Pantry list for DECEMBER

- Altona-- hamburger helper & pork-n-beans
- Bethel-- cereal & vienna sausage
- Bethlehem--rice (1lb bag) & chili
- Briensburg-- pancake mix & canned potatoes
- Cherry Corner--chili & pork-n-beans
- Elva--hamburger helper & vienna sausage
- Flint--dry black eyed peas & jiffy corn muffin mix
- Gilbertsville--chili & canned potatoes
- Grace--instant potatoes & canned carrots
- Hamlet-- chicken-n-dumplings & canned tomatoes
- Hazel--cereal & jiffy corn muffin mix
- Holly Hills--spam & saltine crackers
- Kirksey--dry pinto beans & vienna sausage
- Lakeview--pork-n-beans & saltine crackers
- Locust Grove--chicken-n-dumplings & canned potatoes
- Memorial-- instant potatoes & butter beans
- New Bethel--chicken-n-dumplings & jiffy corn muffin mix
- New Harmony--butter beans & dry black eyed peas
- New Zion-- chili & pork-n-beans
- Northside--cereal & canned carrots
- Oak Grove--chili & pork-n-beans
- Olive-- spam & canned potatoes
- Owens Chapel --pancake mix & butter beans
- Pleasant Hope--chili & canned potatoes
- Salem--dry pinto beans & canned carrots
- Sinking Springs--butter beans & canned tomatoes
- Spring Creek--dry black eyed peas & canned carrots
- Sugar Creek--rice (1lb bag) & pork-n-beans
- Union Ridge--cereal & canned carrots
- West Fork--chili & dry black eyed peas

Churches Currently without Pastors

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Bethlehem | New Providence |
| Elva | Oak Grove |
| Lakeview | Oak Level |
| New Mt. Carmel | Pleasant Valley |

Bags of Hope Ministry

In October we were able to help **348** people, **62** of those were new. We gave out **3,545** food items, **259** bread, and **159** 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 2-5 pm
 Food donations can still be donated at the Association Office
 Monday- Thursday 8:30 am - 3:30 pm if more convenient.
 Phone: 270-252-9266



Christmas Word Search



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



Due to the Christmas Holiday
 I need your January 2023
 newsletter article by
 December 8th.

Thank you!!!!

Prayer Requests

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Our Leaders | Sister Churches | Our Youth |
| Our Country | Our Schools | The Sick |
| The Lost | Each Other | Missionaries |
| Our Pastors | Our Teachers | Ukraine |
| Churches without Pastors | | |



- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| CANDY | MISTLETOE | SNOWMAN |
| CANE | NORTH | STAR |
| CAROLING | PEACE | STOCKING |
| CHRISTMAS | POLE | SUGARPLUM |
| DECEMBER | PRESENTS | TREE |
| HOLLY | REINDEER | WREATH |
| LIGHTS | SANTA CLAUS | |
| MERRY | SLEIGH | |



Blood River Review

Birthdays

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

Wedding Anniversaries

- 5th Brett & Leslie Miles, Northside
- 7th Joel & Kathy Frizzell, New Mt. Carmel
- 10th Darrell & Cornelia Walker, Gilbertsville
- 27th Scott & Kattie Penick, New Harmony



Pastor's/Board Members/Wives
Christmas Dinner
December 8th @ 6:30 p.m. @ BRBA
Catered by 4 Little Pigs
RSVP by December 5th
Call (270) 437-4203



Week of Prayer for IMB & Lottie
Moon Christmas Offering
December 4th - 11th, 2022
2022 National Offering Goal is
\$196 million



First Day of Winter
December 21, 2022



December 2022		
4th - 11th		Week of Prayer for IMB/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
7th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA
8th	6:30 p.m.	Executive Board Mtg/Christmas Dinner @ BRBA (must RSVP)
16th	6:00 p.m.	BRBA Volunteer Christmas Dinner
19th - Jan. 3rd		Christmas Holidays - (Office Closed)
21st		First Day of Winter.... Burrrr
31st		New Year's Eve
Coming in January 2023		
1st		New Year Day - Happy New Year !!!!!
2nd		Observance of New Years - (Office Closed)
6th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
6th		Deadline for Scholarship Applications
11th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
12th	6:30 p.m.	Quarterly Executive Board Mtg @ Salem Baptist Church
13th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
16th		Martin Luther King Jr. Day - (Office Closed)
18th	12:00 noon	Pastor's Luncheon @ August Moon -Murray
19th	5:00 p.m.	Missions Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
20th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
22nd		Bags of Hope Sunday
22nd		Sanctity of Life Sunday
23rd	10:00 a.m.	WMU Quarterly Mtg @ Briensburg Baptist
27th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
31st	6:00 p.m.	Church Security Mtg @ BRBA office



We would like to wish everyone a very
Merry Christmas !!
Bro. Mark Sickling, DOM &
Terry Laster, Admin. Assistant
Office will be closed Dec. 19- Jan. 3



BRIENSBURG:

Season's Greetings from Briensburg Baptist Church. It's our favorite time of the year, CHRISTMAS! Our students are excited about their Operation Christmas Child Mission Trip to Northern Illinois. They will be working December 3rd in a processing center preparing boxes to be shipped around the world. Our Christmas musical, *Come Messiah King*, will be presented December 17th & 18th at 6pm nightly. May we all remember the reason for our celebration, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Blessings in Christ as we minister together.

HAZEL:

We want to thank God for a young man coming to know the Lord as his Savior. Welcome to Eli Smith who has united with HBC by baptism. We've got a busy month ahead. On Sunday, December 4th we will have our Thanksgiving/Christmas potluck meal following the morning worship service and at 6:00 PM we will have our Hanging of the Green service. Our Christmas cantata entitled "Breath of Heaven" will be presented on December 18th in the morning service. On December 24th we will have our Christmas Eve Service. Hazel Baptist has had a wonderful year and anticipating nothing less in 2023. We've already started out the associational year with three new members. We are praising God for the great and mighty things He has done. May God bless each one with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

NEW BETHEL:

Here at New Bethel on Sunday October 30th, we had a "Worship With Song" service with the Cope Family Band, and they were great! Wonderful Music! Afterwards there was a fellowship meal in our FLC with great food and desserts. Immediately after the meal, we had a Fall Festival celebration and everyone had a lot of fun with that, especially the kids. All in all, just a wonderful time in Church. We filled over 100 shoe boxes for the Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry--Wow!! We're just now starting our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our Annual Young At Heart Christmas Dinner will be on Friday December 9th in our FLC. We have just started Children's Church for kids ages 4 to 8 years old, another step forward after Covid. Thanksgiving is almost here and we really do have a lot to be thankful for. Please keep our Kids, Schools, Churches, Pastors, Leaders and our Great Country in your Prayers.

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

Freeda Harris Toy Drive 2022

Blood River Baptist Association would like to thank all who participated in the toy drive this year. We were able to collect **1,419** toys. Thank you to all who came to help pack and load the toys.

SALEM:

We had a good time of fellowship and a good meal at Boyette's on November 5. We appreciate Bro. Frankie driving the van and planning the trip. For Veterans Day we displayed photographs of our loved ones who have served this country. The church was decorated with flags and flowers in their honor. We sang patriotic songs and recognized each person who was in the service. On November 20 we will join with the folks at Oak Grove Baptist Church for our annual Thanksgiving service and meal. We are looking forward to that time of fellowship. In December we are planning to be in the Christmas parade, have Hanging of the Green, caroling to our shut-ins, the children having a Christmas program and services on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. God has been so good to us this year.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

SPRING CREEK:

Praise be to our Lord. Our church has faced many difficulties, but our Lord has gotten us through them all. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember the greatest gift of all is eternal life through Jesus Christ. In this season of joyful celebration, the only thing we can give Jesus is our thanksgiving and praise.

SUGAR CREEK:

Wow! 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 recently had our Thanksgiving/Christmas potluck. We had wonderful fellowship with one another and great food, of course. We hope everyone enjoys this season with their family and friends.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. Psalms 19:1-2



**For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6