

Blood River Baptist Association  
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**Mark's Memo:**

As I write this article, we are in the midst of a cold snap that has included the first snow of the year. While this kind of weather is not out of the ordinary for Kentucky, over the past few years we haven't had many extended cold snaps and relatively little snow. But these kinds of days remind me that God is Sovereign and He has a purpose and a plan for the earth and for each of us.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 46:10, "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

For me, cold snowy winter days are perfect reminders to "slow down" and rest. Whether it is sitting in my lazy boy watching it snow, reading, watching tv, etc., it is important for our physical, emotional, and spiritual health to rest.

Our Heavenly Father set the example for us and all creation by "resting" on the seventh day of creation, thus creating the Sabbath. In our faced pace 21st Century society in which we live, I think each of us would do well to remember, as Jesus said, "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

So, on these long winter days, I encourage you to take time to reflect, rest, and rejuvenate your body, soul, and spirit. Then, consider the importance of "Remembering the Sabbath day and keeping it holy."

I am convinced rest and worship are essential to our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. How is your health?

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark E. Sickling



**DEADLINE**

**Newsletter deadline for March 2025 is February 17th**  
**EMAIL US AT:**  
**bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org**  
**Remember to limit your words to 175 & have your information in by the 17th of each month.**

ISRAEL	Our Leaders	Sister Churches
Our Youth	<b>Our Country</b>	Our Schools
The Sick	<b>The Lost</b>	Each Other
Missionaries	Our Pastors	Our Teachers
<b>Churches without Pastors</b>	California Wildfire Victims	

## UPCOMING events

### February 2025

2nd		Groundhog Day
3rd	6:00 p.m.	Constitution/Bylaws Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
4th	10:00 a.m.	Evangelism Mtg @ BRBA Office
7th-8th		Youth Evangelism Summit - Elizabethtown
7th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
10th	6:00 p.m.	Missions Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
10th		Lincoln's Birthday
12th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
13th-15th		Shepherding 2025 - <a href="http://ky.baptist.org/event/shepherding">ky.baptist.org/event/shepherding</a>
14th		Valentine's Day
14th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
16th		Focus on WMU Sunday
17th		Washington's Birthday/Presidents Day
21st	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
23rd		Racial Reconciliation Sunday
28th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office

### March 2025 (mark your calendars)

<b>1st-31st</b>		<b>Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month</b>
2nd-8th		Week of Prayer - NAMB & Annie Armstrong
4th	10:00 a.m.	Evangelism Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
7th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
9th		<b>Daylight Savings Time</b>
12th	1:00 p.m.	Budget/Finance Committee Mtg @ BRBA Office
14th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
16th		Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
19th-22nd		Adult Changers @ Brownsville, KY <a href="http://www.kywmu.org/changers">www.kywmu.org/changers</a>
19th	7:30 a.m.	Pastor's Breakfast @ Matha's, Murray, KY
20th		First Day of Spring
21st-22nd		Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, Princeton, KY Register @ <a href="http://kybaptist.org/dr">kybaptist.org/dr</a>
21st	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
28th	8:30 a.m.	Pastor's Prayer Time @ BRBA Office
31st- April 4th		Guatemala Mission Trip

### Bags of Hope Pantry list for FEBRUARY

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

### Bags of Hope Ministry

In December, we were able to help **276** people, of which **34 were new**. We gave out **3,075** food items, **402** bread, and **53** personal hygiene items. **Praise God, there was 1 Salvation in December!** We want to give a special "thank you" to the Marshall County Sheriff's Department for the donations from their "Cram the Cruiser" and to the Hwy 69 Jeep Club of Princeton for the donations from their food drive! We share the gospel and pray for everyone that comes to the pantry. Thank you for your continued support that keeps this ministry going. Please continue to pray for each client and volunteer.

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

# Blood River Review

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## February Pastor's Prayer Times

7th 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office  
 14th 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office  
 21st 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office  
 28th 8:30 a.m. BRBA Office

## February Birthdays

5th Dale Taylor, New Mt. Carmel  
 10th Lisa Burkeen, Cherry Corner  
 12th Bob McCuiston, Old Salem Road  
 14th Dedria Moore, Sharpe  
 25th Cornelia Walker, Gilbertsville  
 26th Lacey Parker, New Bethel

## February Wedding Anniversaries

11th Terry & Sandy Josleyn, Ferguson Springs  
 28th Chris & Dedria Moore, Sharpe

## February Church Anniversaries

**First Sunday**  
 Johnny Coffenberry, Hamlet (2020)  
**Third Sunday**  
 James Oates, Lakeview (2023)

## BETHLEHEM

January came in a wintery blast! We had our monthly breakfast fellowship as well as our monthly birthday party. We are working on some ideas...more info to come. In February we will have our "Share the Love" Fellowship, as well as taking Valentine's Day cards to the residents at Calvert City Convalescent Center.

## HAZEL

Things certainly haven't slowed down at HBC!! We are excited to welcome to our church family Ashton Boyd and Ethan Dicus by baptism plus Olivia Dicus, Drew Boyd, Jeff and Tammy Graves by letter. We know they will be a blessing to our church and pray HBC will be a blessing to them. On February 8th the ladies will have a Galentines Event; February 9th the youth will have a Super Bowl Party. A new ministry called Legacy of Faith will link senior adults with children and youth by bringing unity across generations. The kickoff will be February 12th at our Family Life Center. "Bring Someone You Love Sunday" will be February 16th. We have scheduled our first "Couples Retreat" February 20-22 in the Great Smoky Mountains. Prayers for our sister churches and may God bless each one.

## NEW BETHEL

December here at New Bethel was very busy and very exciting, starting with beginning our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, our Church Holiday Meal on Sunday December 8th, a Baptism of one of our men on Sunday December 15th and our "A Night in Bethlehem" event that night, the Eric Horner Christmas Special on Wednesday December 18th, our Young at Heart Christmas Dinner on Friday December 20th, observing the Lord's Supper in the morning service and then our Children's Christmas Program that night on Sunday December 22nd, and our Youth Group attended XTREME WINTER YOUTH CONFERENCE in Gatlinburg, TN on December 27th-29th. All of these events went very well and we got to celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, the real reason for the season! On Sunday January 12th we had our 2025 Calendar Meeting to make plans for 2025. Brother Beau has been bringing the messages that God lays on his heart, and it's a real blessing to have him, Lacey, Hastings and Anderson here at New Bethel. *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.* Psalms 56:3

## SALEM

We are doubling up this month from Salem Baptist Church with our news since we missed last month's deadline. We are still seeing God's hand at work with three saved souls, four baptisms, and one moved their membership by letter. Praise His Holy Name! We are seeing new youth in attendance as well, which is always great to see. Bro. Frankie started the new year off with "Let Us Thrive in 2025" for what God placed on his heart for us. We don't want to just strive, but thrive. We look forward to seeing what February, as well as, 2025 brings! Jeremiah 18:3-4 KJV ~ *Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.*

## SPRING CREEK

Spring Creek had a busy time in December 2024 and January 2025. It is always a good time to serve the Lord. The church called Bro. Royce Dukes to be our Transitional Pastor. Bro. Royce has put life back into our worship services. Jazmine continues to provide uplifting flute music. The annual five church Thanksgiving Service was held on November 24 at Owens Chapel, this year was very well presented and attended. The Lord has blessed us with Wendy Joyce playing piano for our morning service. Melisa and Jackie Carson hosted a Christmas Party at their home for the Church and a good time was had by all.

## Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



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



Is <b>PATIENT</b>	Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong <b>SUFFERED</b>
Is <b>KIND</b>	Does Not Rejoice In <b>UNRIGHTOUSNESS</b>
Is Not <b>JEALOUS</b>	<b>REJOICES</b> With The Truth
Does Not <b>BRAG</b>	<b>BEARS</b> All Things
Is Not <b>ARROGANT</b>	<b>BELIEVES</b> All Things
Does Not Act <b>UNBECOMINGLY</b>	<b>HOPES</b> All Things
Does Not Seek Its <b>OWN</b>	<b>ENDURES</b> All Things
Is Not <b>PROVOKED</b>	



## Churches Currently without Pastors

Elva	Pleasant Valley
Locust Grove	Spring Creek
FBC Gilbertsville	Ledbetter



February 7-8, 2025  
 For students in 6th-12th grade



For more information and registration, scan code or visit our church website under 'events'



February 14, 2025

*No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:12



**WMU**  
 God's mission.  
 Our passion.

WMU Quarterly Meeting  
 April 28, 2025  
 7:00 p.m. @ **Bethel Baptist**  
 734 Big Bear Hwy



We know your churches are doing wonderful things. Please share it with your sister churches. Send your church news to the association by the **17th** of the month to be put in the newsletter. Any questions please call the association office, 270-437-4203

**DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING**  
 Bringing Help, Hope and Healing



**When:** February 13-15  
**Who:** Pastors and their wives  
**Cost:** \$300 couple (includes lodging, materials, and meal's, except for Friday night)  
**Must register for event at**  
[kybaptist.org/shepherding](http://kybaptist.org/shepherding)