



## A Difficult Decision To Make

While we don't exactly live in the "Snow Belt" here in the Tri State, January and February often give Pastors and church leaders challenges in having to make the difficult call on cancelling regularly scheduled church services due to inclement weather. This is never an easy decision to make, but sadly, one that is sometimes necessary. Allow me to shed some light on what goes into such a decision.

The decision to cancel is never made on simply convenience or on a whim. We know that the church thrives when its various members congregate for worship and fellowship. The singing of the songs of praise and worship, the encouragement and exhortation of our fellow members, and the reading and exposition of God's Word all work together to strengthen us spiritually. The giving of our tithes and offerings help meet the expense of the regular operation of the local church, but also go to outside mission work, both local, and on the state level, and all over North America and to the ends of the Earth.

Some criticize leaders who make the decision to cancel a service. As I say, we don't do it lightly or on a whim. Our Director of Missions recently said, "When God calls a pastor to Shepherd the flock, part of the duty of the Shepherd is to protect the safety of the flock." Our church is located in a good sized neighborhood of the city and many of our members live literally within walking distance of the building. However, our members are scattered all over the city of Huntington, Cabell and Wayne Counties and even in the neighboring states of Kentucky and Ohio.

While the highways are usually treated pretty quickly, many of the side streets and areas where members live often are low on the priority list for the street and highway crews. We also have to consider the safety of the church parking lot. It is becoming more and more difficult to find dependable snow and ice removing services for timely treatment.

When weather conditions threaten the safety of our members, the decision to cancel is made, primarily by our ministry staff, myself, youth pastor Ryan Smit, and our music leaders, Ted Keown and Josh Spurgeon. We take into consideration local news stations and weather forecasts, consultation with other local pastors, and input from members. A decision to cancel is not made quickly, but prayerfully, and with an abundance of caution for the safety of our members, young, old, and families.

When a service is cancelled, we will attempt to have some type of online service or Bible study, when possible for us to safely do that. When a decision is made to temporarily close, we will try to notify everyone by communication on our Facebook page, website, and our church email list. When feasible we will also try to file the closing with the local television stations, and ask our members to share the word with one another.

One reality of church closing is that we are not able to "pass the plate" for our regular offerings. Please remember that our expenses and missions obligations are still incurred whether the church is gathering in person or not. We would encourage every member to remember that we still need the tithes and offerings to operate and to meet our budget

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**Westmoreland**  
Baptist Church

3401 Hughes Street  
Huntington, WV 25704  
(304) 429-1348

Church E-Mail  
[westmoreland@frontier.com](mailto:westmoreland@frontier.com)

Online giving is available.  
Click on the:



button on the church website  
[www.westmorelandsbcb.com](http://www.westmorelandsbcb.com)

### Church Staff

**Pastor**  
Dr. C. J. Adkins

**Youth Pastor**  
Ryan Smith

**Church Secretary**  
Alanna Cline

**Director Of Music Ministry**  
Josh Spurgeon

**Worship Director**  
Ted Keown

**Team KID Directors**  
Michael & Alanna Cline

**Fellowship Coordinator**  
Angie Scarberry

**Newsletter & Web**  
Rusty Dillon



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needs. Offerings can always be mailed to us at 3401 Hughes Street, Huntington, WV 2504, or they can be given electronically by clicking on the “Give” button on our church website, [www.westmorelandsbc.com](http://www.westmorelandsbc.com).

This is my promise, that we take the work of the church seriously and will seek to always be open for regular services as regularly as possible. Pray that we will always use wisdom and make any such decision to cancel in a prayerful manner.

*C. J. Adkins*



Women on Mission Say a BIG Thank You

A BIG thank you goes out to our church members for helping WOM in the many projects undertaken in 2021. You brought cookies for the First Responders, desserts for First Responder Chili Lunch, socks, caps, and gloves for the homeless, school supplies for the backpacks, hygiene items for Zambia and Vinson Middle School, items for Operation Christmas Child, and items for the homeless backpacks. You filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Some of you helped make and deliver gifts for our homebound members. There is no way WOM could have accomplished all these special projects without church members joining us. So we wanted to give you a big...



Michael Mullins	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ryan Smith	15 <sup>th</sup>
Aidan Blinn	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Curtis Henry	16 <sup>th</sup>
Butch Cotton	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Janora Skeens	17 <sup>th</sup>
Sherry Dunfee	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Madison Jarrell	19 <sup>th</sup>
Kelly Napier	5 <sup>th</sup>	Dina Davenport	19 <sup>th</sup>
Linda Adkins	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jeannette Abbett	20 <sup>th</sup>
Scott Bell	8 <sup>th</sup>	Dino Dygert	21 <sup>st</sup>
Lisa McCain	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ralph Scarberry	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Elizabeth Brewer	12 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Benton	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Cora Allen	12 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Benton	26 <sup>th</sup>
Sue Lipscomb	12 <sup>th</sup>	Brady Lipscomb	26 <sup>th</sup>
Joshua Adkins	13 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Hicks	29 <sup>th</sup>
Aly Adkins	14 <sup>th</sup>		





We as parents find so many things are an important part of our children's lives. Sometimes that can be sports, friends, or educational benchmarks. In student ministry we sometimes get caught up in fads that tend to lead kids to Church, at least temporarily, whether that be lights, music, or special concert events. All that being said, when 2022 was coming around I felt the need to start at the beginning with a fresh start and perspective. We once again have a new group of kids coming in that God is providing. Sadly, some have left us for one reason or another. I believe that's why God placed on Jamie and my heart to head into the New Year with "Sharing the Gospel" as our focus. Our goal for



this year is for all the kids to know by name the books of the Bible from New Testament to Old Testament. I know we have faced setbacks with illness and weather but SPRING IS COMING....lol. We look forward to Youth Sunday on January 30th to showcase our kids but more importantly to show the congregation that God is in control.

Parents I ask that you encourage your kids to put their cell phones in the basket or on the sound table by Jamie and pick up their Bible. Also, parents look at your child's phone and make sure there is a Bible app on it. We can get caught up with Facebook, Tic Tok, and Instagram and I pray the Bible becomes more important than all of those apps available to us. I would love for the Youth to start coming early on Sunday evenings. Jamie and I are normally there at 5 setting up in the basement and we would love that extra time to get to know the kids and fellowship. The book of Matthew has been our focus thus far with some from 1 Peter Chapter 3. Lastly the kids say I have the basement boring when it comes to decorations. I have promised that is going to change. I want to go ahead and thank Ashly McClave for using her talents as she starts to put the books of the Bible on the walls for the kids to have a reference. I am also excited to see the Tree of Life she is going to put on a wall.

The last thing is parents and congregation these kids love their snacks. Anytime you would like to donate to their likeness of snacks just let me or Secretary Alanna know. I love you all and so thankful to be part of WBC Ministry.

Thank You

*Ryan Smith*

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5

## Youth Calendar

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
VALENTINE'S PARENT'S NIGHT OUT  
5-8pm

**March 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>**  
YEC Most Likely Virtual  
With a Lock-in Church Service

**June 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Lifeway Ridgecrest Fuge Camp

**TBD**  
GHBA Youth Rally

**TBD**  
Youth and TeamKid Bonfire Night



February is the month of love. Jesus said that people will know we are His disciples because we love one another. Loving one another takes several forms, how we talk to and about one another, how we greet each other, watch out for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet the most powerful manifestation of our love for one another and our Lord is in gathering together to worship and serve.

In Acts 2: 40-47 the church grew unbelievably! Not by programs but giving themselves to the teaching of the Word, FELLOWSHIP, BREAKING OF BREAD, and the powerful practice of PRAYER. Later, it states they were in unity, gladness and praise! AND THE LORD WAS ADDING TO THE CHURCH DAILY!! Wow, oh to see that happen in our day. And it can!!

Brady Lipscomb, DOM

*Brady Lipscomb*



## The Persecuted Church

Open Doors' annual World Watch List examines the 50 countries worldwide where it's most difficult to be a Christian. It is the only annual in-depth survey of its kind, and reveals several trends in how Christians are being targeted around the world:

### **The devastating persecution no one saw coming.**

The coronavirus pandemic was the event of a generation. And in addition to the pain felt by people all over the world, it also exposed the ugliness of Christian persecution in a new way. In India (No. 10 on the World Watch List), more than 100,000 Christians received relief aid from Open Doors partners to help them through the pandemic. Of these believers, 80 percent reported to World Watch List researchers that they were dismissed from food distribution points. Some walked miles and hid their Christian identity to get food elsewhere. Another 15 percent received food aid, but reported other discrimination, such as being passed over for employment.

And it wasn't just India: The global pandemic made persecution more obvious than ever—simply because so many people needed help. The clear discrimination and oppression suffered by Christians in 2020 must not be forgotten, even after the COVID-19 crisis fades into our collective memory.

### **The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the most vulnerable Christians.**

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed the persecution of Christians. But it's also shown how vulnerable so many of our sisters and brothers are in the places where they live. Christians who abandon a majority faith to follow Christ know they risk losing all support from spouses, families, tribes and communities, as well as local and national authorities. If they lose income due to COVID-19, they can't fall back on customary networks for survival.

For church leaders, COVID-19 also exposed how difficult daily life is. Many are not paid salaries, but depend on financial support from community donations. When church services stop, donations drop—by about 40 percent, said leaders ranging from Egypt to Latin America. This also affects humanitarian assistance to their own communities, both inside and outside churches.

### **Lockdowns didn't matter: The violence is astounding.**

In much of the world, violence against Christians actually decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. But across sub-Saharan Africa, that wasn't the case. Christians there faced up to 30 percent higher levels of violence than the previous year. Several hundred mostly Christian villages in Nigeria were either occupied or ransacked by armed Hausa-Fulani Muslim militant herdsman; sometimes, fields and crops were destroyed as well. Boko Haram—and splinter group Islamic State of West Africa Province—continue to plague Nigeria and northern Cameroon.

### **The terrifying technological reality of persecution.**

As China's global influence spreads, it exports its all-pervasive systems for "protection" and "security"—which can be seen now to brutally oppress the Uighur population in Xinjiang. Chinese companies are supported by the government to supply AI surveillance technology to 63 countries, including countries on the 2021 World Watch List like Myanmar, Laos, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, in India, religious minorities fear contact-tracing apps will have "function creep" and will be used to keep an eye on them and their movements. Another app, already in use, can predict age, gender and race. India's data protection bill does not cover surveillance. Indeed, it has provisions to allow the government to bypass protection standards and even consent in circumstances such as national security or crime investigation.

### **When citizenship is tied to a faith.**

In countries like India and Turkey, religious identity is increasingly tied to national identity—meaning, to be a "real" Indian or a good Turk, you must be a Hindu or a Muslim, respectively. This is often implicitly—if not explicitly—encouraged by the ruling government. In other countries on the World Watch List, religious identity is closely tied to national identity, and anyone who follows Jesus risks being seen—and persecuted—as a bad citizen.



## Deacons Of The Month



Jim Hawley  
(304) 429-1989



Daniel Adkins  
(304) 638-2685



### DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

FEBRUARY 4-5

**Abundant Hope Baptist Church**  
807 Barbara Street  
Barboursville, WV

**Training for Chaplains**  
Friday from 6pm - 9pm  
(Open to anyone)

**Mud Out & Chainsaw Training**  
Saturday 9am -3pm  
(Lunch provided)



### 2022 Season

January 8<sup>th</sup> - February 26<sup>th</sup>

Volunteers Still Needed  
Devotions, Concessions



### Family Night Super Bowl Party & Devotion

February 13th @ 6pm in the Gym

Bring your favorite Super Bowl snack to share and wear your team colors!

## Loving the Lord's Church Will Head Off A Multitude of Problems In The Congregation Before They Arise...

By Joe McKeever

- Because I love the church, I will be careful How I treat it.
- Because I love the church, I will honor the people who make up its membership.
- Because I love the church, I will not force my will upon it.
- Because I love the church, I will not hurt its members trying to get my own way
- Because I love the church, I will pray for its members and its ministry.
- Because I love the church, I will deal with problems quickly and healthily.
- Because I love the church, I will work for its unity and strive for its effectiveness.
- Because I love the church, I will guard its reputation in the community.
- Because I love the church, I will be careful of my own actions in the community since I am one of its members and people will make decisions about this church based on what I do and say.
- Because I love the church, I will pour myself into making it stronger, be more Christlike, and make myself a better example.



About the author: Joe McKeever is a former Pastor in North Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana. He is the retired Director of Missions of the New Orleans Baptist Association. He is also a well known Christian cartoonists whose work has appeared in many publications. Baptist Press publishes a cartoon by Joe every day. He presently resides in Jackson, Mississippi



## Hymn Of The Month

## Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

Henry Lyte (6/1/1793 - 11/20/1847)

It was probably the story of a Methodist woman named Mary Bosenquet that inspired Henry Lyte, an Anglican minister, to write this hymn. Mary was the daughter of a wealthy English merchant and enjoyed the finest of clothing and jewelry – until she attended some Methodist meetings and was converted. Then she was disinherited by her father and lived in a two room house, furnished with borrowed table and chairs. As a member of the persecuted Methodists, she was threatened with injury, and the windows of her house were frequently broken. Lyte's wife, who attended the Methodist church, may have told her husband the story of Mary Bosenquet.



Lyte is perhaps better known as the writer of the hymn, "Abide With Me", but the words to this hymn are no less powerful. While the language is archaic, the sentiment is one that is timeless: "O 'tis not in grief to harm me, while Thy love is left to me: O 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee".

Mark 8:34-35 And He summoned the crowd together with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." (NASB)

Jesus, I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee;  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou, from hence, my all shalt be.  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought, and hoped, and known;  
Yet how rich is my condition,  
God and Christ are still my own!

Let the world despise and leave me,  
They have left my Savior, too;  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
Thou art not, like man, untrue;  
And, while Thou shalt smile upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might,  
Foes may hate, and friends disown me;  
Show Thy face, and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast;  
Life with trials hard may press me,  
Christ will bring me sweeter rest.  
O 'tis not in grief to harm me,  
While Thy love is left to me;  
O 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Haste then on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
God's eternal day's before thee,  
God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,  
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Westmoreland Baptist Church  
3401 Hughes Street  
Huntington, WV 25704

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