



# God's News for Antioch

January 2026

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church

23502 Senedo Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

(540)459-3661

George Bowers, Senior Pastor

## Spices In God's Cabinet

### Schedule:

**8:45 a.m. Sunday School**

**10 a.m. Worship**

**Nursery Provided &  
Children's Church**

**Senior Pastor: George Bowers**

**Associate Pastor for Youth and Visitation:  
Dale Bennett**

**Pastor Administrative Assistant/Clerk:**

**Rachel Buffington**

**Treasurer/Bookkeeper: Kathleen Reynolds**

**Deacons: John Anderson, Chair**

**Don Sherman Jr., Co-Chair**

**Becky Leland**

**Benny & Tammy Andes**

**Tim & Kathy Cooper**

**Norma Doman**

**Matt & Brenda Wendling**

**Noah & Amy Hepner**

**Diane Pence**

**Building & Grounds Chair: Jay Swartz**

**Pastoral & Worship Chair: Diane Pence**

**Finance Chair: Doug Doman**

**Discipleship Chair: Stephanie Chapman**

**Church & Family Fellowship Chair:**

**Ronda Mace**

**Mission & Witness Chair: Allen Bowers**

**Sunday School Superintendent:**

**David Sherman**

**Church Board Chairman: Bernie Adams**

**Church Board Co-Chairman:**

**Stephanie Chapman**

**Moderator: Barry Arey**

Now that Christmas is over, many are weeks deep into their New Year's diets. In an effort to trim off the extra pounds the holidays added, some are slugging through one of any number of eating plans designed to reduce intake and maximize weight loss. May God bless and help all involved in these endeavors.

Although all of the Christmas leftovers have now been thrown out or frozen, some of the lessons we can learn from them linger with us just like the pounds they added to our bodies. One of those involves the different seasonings and spices included in our various dishes.

Not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, chefs, bakers, and cooks incorporate a wide variety of ingredients to the offerings they prepare. Some of these components are major, like the ham in baked ham or the chicken in fried chicken, while others are more minor such as the cinnamon or nutmeg in cookies. Although used in very small quantities, their inclusion contributes significantly to the final flavor of the finished entrée.

This culinary truth reminds us of the value of each human being. Some individuals become the star of whatever dish they may be involved in while others are less obvious but no less important. Even in small doses, salt can transform a dish and greatly enhance its flavor. In a similar fashion, too much salt can ruin even the finest steak.

Some people bemoan the minor roles they play at their jobs, in their communities, or even in their churches. They admire those with more exposure or involvement and yearn for such "usefulness" while failing to appreciate the vital part each person plays. To paraphrase Paul's words in I Corinthians 12:18, "But in fact God has arranged the ingredients in the recipe, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be." As the Master Chef, God knows the exact proportions in which our gifts are needed to create the perfect flavors.

One other truth we can apply from this is that each recipe is different. While some cookies require no cinnamon, others require more. So too, while our role in one area or time in our life may be lesser, there may be another area or time when the Chef will see fit to add what we offer in greater quantities. Submission to His skill and wisdom is what's critically important for each dish to be delicious.

Imagine what might happen if the cumin had a mind of its own and was determined to override the will of the cook. Instead of being sprinkled in sparingly, it defiantly pushes off its lid and dumps itself into the pot. Not only will this upset the chef, but such an action would ruin the flavor and destroy his plan for a tasty delicacy.

In that same passage of I Corinthians 12 where Paul is discussing the importance of every member, he indicates that some spiritual gifts that may seem minor are indispensable. In a similar fashion we can understand that it's because some spices are so powerful and strong that only small amounts are necessary. We may grumble about the tiny quantity our Chef uses us in when our significant flavor and strength would overwhelm the other ingredients if used too abundantly.

Writing in Touchstone Magazine, Senior Editor S. M. Hutchens says, "We who are preoccupied with being something, of achieving significance, must remember that the greatness to which we are called is nothing more or less than being what we were made to be and doing what we were made to do." In small quantities or large, everyone is important.

If you're on earth that means you're in God's pantry and that He has a plan and a purpose for your life. He's in the business of creating the most delicious dishes by utilizing what each of us "bring to the table." Let us submit to His recipe and will.

Blessings,

*George*

## Welcome to our new Antioch Members!

The following individuals were welcomed into Antioch on December 7:

Oakleigh Cummins is the 7-year-old daughter of Donnie Scott and Tiffany Cummins and the sister of Easton. She is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at WW Robinson where math is her favorite subject and she would like to be a math teacher when she grows up. Oakleigh likes to watch football and play soccer and she has a dog named Dolly. She has participated in BLAST as well as WRE. She has felt God moving in her heart and has accepted Jesus as her Savior and was baptized!

Oakleigh's grandfather also became a member of Antioch. Donnie Cummins Sr is the husband of Debbie and they have three children and 2 Grandchildren. Donnie is a construction manager for roads and bridges with AMT Engineering. Donnie enjoys camping with his family, watching football and NASCAR and putting up their outdoor Christmas Decorations! Donnie accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was 10 years old at Valley Baptist and was baptized there by Bro Chick Martin. We welcome Donnie by transfer!

We also welcome Ben Walters! Ben is a Senior at VA Tech majoring in Plant Science and Agricultural Business. He is the son of Jeff and Heather Walters and brother to Jacob and Sadie. He works for Adam's Apples and wants to work in the Agricultural field following his graduation. He enjoys working out and playing sports, especially Basketball. He has been attending Antioch for several years and also attends Christ Church of Christiansburg when he's at Tech. He participates in C3 Campus Ministry as well. Ben has helped with VBS and thanks Antioch for all of your prayers for him. He was baptized when he was three but felt it was important to be baptized as an adult to make public profession of his faith, which is indeed vitally important! God's at work in Ben's life and it's exciting to see where and how God will use Him.

We also welcome Calvin and Janet Stuart by transfer from St. Johns Global Methodist Church in Edinburg. Calvin, also known as Buzz, is retired from Shenandoah County Public Schools. He enjoys history and photography. He and Janet live on Southridge Court in Woodstock and he has joined the Antioch Covenant Ensemble Choir.

Janet Stuart is the daughter of local Boy Scout and forestry legend Ivan Coffelt. She is retired from Bowman Apple Products and enjoys playing the piano and organ and singing in the choir. She and Buzz have three children, 2 grandchildren and three great grandchildren! It is a joy to welcome Buzz and Janet!

Jordan Cooper was also baptized! Jordan accepted Jesus as his Savior several years ago when he was in Middle School but had not been baptized. He felt this was an important step of faith both for himself and as a way to proclaim to others what he decided in his heart. Jordan was involved in Young Life throughout high school before graduating at Central and then earning a degree in Animal and Poultry Science from VA Tech. He currently works for Virginia Poultry Growers. He enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as fishing, kayaking and jeeping. He has a chocolate lab named Jade.

We welcome all of these new members in our church family! If you would like to become a member at Antioch by baptism or transfer or have questions, please see Pastor George or Pastor Dale. We plan to do this on February 1.

If you would like to dedicate a child to the Lord, we plan to do this on March 1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Special Opportunity To Support Antioch With Tax Advantages For You:**

If you are over 70½ years of age, the tax laws allow you to donate all or part of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a church or charity and you won't have to pay any taxes on the amount you give. A Qualifying Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you to donate up to \$100,000 per year directly to your church or qualified charity from your IRA and exclude it from your income, and thus your tax liability. The donation has to go directly from your IRA to your church or charity and cannot come to you and then be given. It must go directly. The money or stocks must be drawn directly from an IRA and must go directly from the IRA institution (Schwab, Fidelity, Wells Fargo, etc) to the church or charity. You, the account holder, must never touch the money.

**Example:** Jane is an active and generous 73 year old who gives to her church regularly. After retiring a few years back, she has a substantial nest egg in her IRA. The Required Minimum Distribution from her IRA (the minimum amount the government requires her to withdraw and pay taxes on this year) is \$30,000. Jane will use \$20,000 toward her living expenses but wants to donate the rest to her church. She will send the funds directly from her individual IRA to her church to make her donation. Since the funds go directly from her IRA to the church, it never hits her bank account and therefore it is not included in her annual adjusted gross income, thus giving her a nice charitable deduction and she is able to advance Jesus' work as well. If you have questions, speak to your financial advisor or tax consultant.

### **Cancellation Notifications:**

Cancellations of the worship service due to weather will be sent out on the email chain. For those without email, announcements are usually posted on WHSV (Channel 3). A decision is usually made by 7:30 am Sunday morning. If anyone would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please let Brenda Fadeley know by emailing her at [bfadeley67@gmail.com](mailto:bfadeley67@gmail.com). For church activities, Bible Studies, BLAST, etc, if school is delayed or canceled, morning activities at Antioch are canceled. If school is canceled or dismissed early, all afternoon and evening activities are canceled.

### **Library News**

Children's Reading Program beginning in January. Laura Brown is organizing a reading program for our younger readers. Children will receive prizes and recognition for the books that they read. We will need parents to help track their child's progress. Watch for details in the Sunday morning bulletins, beginning this month. Thank you, Tony Turley

### **Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley is looking for new members**

Chordially Yours of the Shenandoah Valley, a professional choir under the direction of artistic director Scott Zane Smith, is looking for new members! We will enter our spring season starting February 2nd, 2026. Our choir meets on Monday nights at Linville Creek Church of the Brethren typically from 7:00p to 8:30p. We perform sacred and secular music with a niche for a performance that tells a story from start to finish! If you or someone you know is looking for a place to sing with other people from all over the Valley, please reach out to our Artistic Director, Scott Zane Smith, at [szanes@aol.com](mailto:szanes@aol.com) to schedule an audition. Auditions will be held from 6:00p to 9:00p at Linville Creek Church of the Brethren on January 12th.

### **Middle Youth Lights**

The Middle Youth Lights (5th-8th graders) will meet on January 25th after worship to watch the movie King of Kings. Tacos and popcorn will be served. Contact Sandy Clem if you have questions at 540-481-0264.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **REMINDER REGARDING CHARITABLE GIVING RECEIPTS FOR THOSE USING THE**

**ANTIOCH PAYPAL LINK ON THE WEB PAGE:** Please make sure you print the receipt from PayPal to use for your charitable giving receipt for income tax purposes. The donations given using the PayPal link are not included in recording that is done from tithes and offerings collected during the regular church offering.

**Antioch Little Duckling Preschool continues to** enroll children. If you or someone you know is interested, have them call the Preschool at 459-9486. The preschool is always looking for donations of stickers, crayons, craft kits (35), treats, and paper products. If you would like to donate to the preschool scholarship fund. Checks can be sent to the church or added to the offering. In the memo line it can be earmarked for the scholarship fund. Blessings, Amy Babcock, Director/Teacher, Antioch Little Ducklings

### **Ongoing needs of Family Promise include:**

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese
Breakfast Bars	Spray Cleaner	13-gallon kitchen trash bags
Paper Towels	Toothpaste	Tampons

Adult Body Wash

Donations may be dropped off at our Family Center, 781 Spring Parkway, Woodstock, VA  
Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **SPREAD THE WORD**

Please spread the word! Antioch's Sunday Worship Services are available on YouTube and you can find them by typing YouTube into your browser and then searching for AntiochCBC. Past services and Bible Studies are there as well. In addition, you can find out more information about Antioch at [www.antiochcbc.org](http://www.antiochcbc.org) including upcoming events, sermon note sheets, ministries, mission opportunities, children's activities, Antioch's history, how to meet Jesus, and much more!

### **Sign Your Child Up For Free Bible Classes!**

Weekday Religious Education Classes are being held this school year and are open to all 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Go to [www.Biblebreak.com](http://www.Biblebreak.com) and click on Sign Up! Share with your friends and spread the word! All 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome but every participant needs to register and have a signed permission slip. See Pastor George or Dale for any questions.

### **Join Antioch's Choir!**

The Antioch Choir practices are on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and the group will lead worship and provide sharing of gifts for services once a month on the 4th Sundays. If you are interested in joining the Antioch Choir or have questions, please contact Nancy Bowers in person or at [gabowers@shentel.net](mailto:gabowers@shentel.net).

### **Meals Ministry Opportunity!**

Would you be willing to provide a meal for a church family in need? A Meals Ministry team is being formed to help church members when a need for a meal(s) arises due to a surgery or extended illness. We would like to comprise a list of people who would be willing to provide a meal if called upon. You don't have to be a "Betty Crocker" in the kitchen to help out. A casserole, soup and salad, or a pizza and salad, etc. can easily feed a family. Could you pick up a rotisserie chicken, some potato salad and rolls and drop it by someone's house if called upon? Are you comfortable calling DoorDash? Please prayerfully consider if you could lend a hand and be a part of this outreach. Please contact Leslie Helsley by text or phone at 540-325-7127 or by email at [slbcbj@yahoo.com](mailto:slbcbj@yahoo.com) and she will be able to answer your questions and get you on the list. You can also call Yvonne Ryman on her cell 540-333-4035 or by text. We recognize that many in our church are already addressing this need but are hoping to reach others who may also have a heart for this ministry. A sign-up sheet will also be available on the table in the fellowship hall.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Antioch's Theme Verse for 2026:**

Pastors George and Dale and the Antioch Church Board invite you to memorize, meditate, and live out the following verse for 2026. It will be our “Theme Verse of the Year” and this will be special emphasis in worship, sermons, outreach events, etc.

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. John 15:16

### **Night To Shine 2026**

Night to Shine 2026 will take place on February 13, 2026 at American Celebration on Parade. This event is like a prom for individuals with special needs for ages 14 and up. During the event, respite workers and caregivers are treated to their own special night. If you would like to help make the night special for these caregivers, we would like to collect donations of Valentine's Day themed gift baskets. Ideas for baskets include gift certificates, candy, personal care products, soaps, etc. Anything you think a tired caregiver would appreciate. If you are willing to donate a basket, please let Rachel Buffington know. We hope to get 10 baskets from Antioch.

### **What Is Your Gift?**

Do you have a musical talent? Do you play the guitar? The violin? The harp, harmonica, or banjo? We are looking for musicians to join AWE. We would love to have you join us! Please reach out to Amy Hepner at 540-323-0171 or talk to anyone on the AWE Team.

**Do you play the piano?** Do you enjoy worshipping the Lord? A.W.E. is looking for a piano player to join our team. Please reach out to Amy Hepner at 540-323-0171 or anyone on the A.W.E. team.

### **Church Nursery Help Needed**

Nursery volunteers are needed for both services. Please, if you are able, consider volunteering in the nursery.

### **Disaster Work:**

Samaritan's Purse is constantly looking for volunteers to go on Disaster Mop up and rebuild trips. See Pastor George if you are interested in either.

### **Scripture to start the New Year:**

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!".

Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland".

Revelation 21:5: "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'".

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

### **Pastor George's Back Story on how the paintings came to be**

Several months ago, a couple came to me with a cash donation for the kitchen and fellowship hall that they wished to remain anonymous. Since our kitchen appliances have been gradually upgraded over the years, there weren't any glaring items needed. As I prayed for God to show us how this money could best be used, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to see that there were several gifted artists in the congregation and He gave me the idea to approach them about possibly painting various scenes from Jesus' life.

These paintings, if the artists agreed to paint them, would be hung on the wall in the fellowship hall above the mailboxes. As I sought God's guidance, it became clear that these scenes should all point someone to Jesus and the free forgiveness and salvation He has purchased for us with His blood. Since our fellowship hall is used by many people both in and out of the congregation, this would be an opportunity to share the Gospel through visual art with some who may never be here to hear a sermon.

The scenes were chosen to reflect Jesus' death and resurrection which are the heart of the Gospel. But since Antioch has such a large ministry to children, a scene depicting Jesus with children was also ideal. In addition, since our Love Feasts act out service by washing feet in obedience to Jesus' commands, and since Antioch members serve others in many different ways, a depiction of Jesus washing feet was a gimme. Finally, Jesus' role as our Good Shepherd seemed to be a fifth theme to portray.

The artists chose which of these scenes they would paint and while each artist would donate their artistic gifts, the cash gift could be used to pay for materials as needed. Since all artists provided their own materials, no money was needed for this but Sister Kay Witt knew how to have artwork reproduced on large banners that could be uniform in size and hung on the wall. Although not terribly expensive, part of the gift was used to do exactly this and Sister Kay took care of getting the paintings made into these banners once they were all complete.

At the time, I had no idea God had in mind using these paintings for our Advent themes but as they were being completed early this fall at the time I was contemplating topics for Advent, He made it clear. And so, thanks to each artist and to the original donation, these paintings have become a reality and will be hung above the mailboxes pointing all to Jesus! Kay Witt (Good Shepherd), Anonymous (Jesus washing feet), Shelly Miller (Jesus' crucifixion), Wendy Boyd (Jesus with children), and Roberta Demski (Jesus' resurrection) Each artist has her own unique style and talent but all are exquisite and all raise our thoughts, minds, and hearts to our Savior and help us glorify Him! Thanks so much to each artist who has used her gift to glorify God and help all of us worship Him throughout the Advent season and to point others to Him for years to come. Blessings to all!

### **Inspirations for the Banner Paintings**

#### **My Inspiration for Jesus and the Lamb** by Kay Witt

I am the lamb in this painting!

My inspiration for the painting of Jesus and the Lamb comes from Luke 15: 3-7. It's the story of how Jesus leaves the 99 sheep and goes in search of the one that was lost. He then joyfully carries it home, rejoicing that He has found the lost sheep.

It's my life's story. I was the lamb. I didn't know that I was lost – I'd heard about Jesus, but didn't really know him. Then, one day, a young lady knocked on my dorm room door and explained that I could know Him in a personal way. Immediately, I knew that this was what I was looking for since I was a child. I asked Jesus into my heart as my Savior that very day. I have never been the same since.

I have been an artist most of my life and have painted many wonderful pieces. This one though, came straight from my heart and is my best work to date! To my delight, it has had a profound effect on many who have seen it. It helps to remind people of how much Jesus loves them! He is not mad at you. He loves you and so desires to be your Savior and friend!

If you want to know Jesus, stop right now and ask Him into your heart. You will never be the same again. I promise. P.S. It's my strong desire to share this with as many people as possible. To get your print of Jesus and the Lamb, contact Kay at [kaywitt2@gmail.com](mailto:kaywitt2@gmail.com).

## Inspirations for the Banner Paintings

I am deeply honored to have been given the opportunity to create a painting of Jesus' crucifixion to hang in banner form at Antioch. The creation of No Greater Love has been the most challenging—and the most spiritually transformative—experience of my artistic journey. As you read the story behind this piece, I believe you'll see what I came to understand very clearly: this artwork is God's work. I was simply the vessel He chose to use to create it.

This painting began, as all things should, with prayer. I asked God for guidance and, soon after, received an email from Pastor George containing scriptures related to the crucifixion. My starting point was to immerse myself in research—reading and rereading those passages and studying the writings of Biblical scholars. One detail that struck me was that the charge against Jesus would likely have been written in three languages—Hebrew, Latin, and Greek—and nailed above His head for all to read. Wanting the painting to be both Biblically and historically accurate, I decided to include such a sign in the artwork.

As I prayed through the composition, God impressed on me the importance of emphasizing the blood of Christ. To do that, I felt led to paint the entire piece in monotone, reserving red only for Jesus' blood—the very blood that washes us clean. Once I settled on a close-up composition showing Jesus on the cross, His body wounded and bleeding, I called Pastor George to talk through the concept. With his blessing, I began.

I sketched the scene onto the canvas and started painting the black-and-white layers: Jesus on the cross, the sign above Him, rays of light breaking through dark and stormy clouds. Though the monotone layers took many hours, they flowed from my brush with an ease I've never experienced. It became unmistakably clear that God's hand was guiding mine. When that portion was complete, I stepped back, grateful and relieved. I thought the hardest part was behind me, when in reality, it was just beginning.

After letting the first layers of paint dry for several days, I added the first brushstrokes of wounds and blood. When I stepped back to check my progress from a good viewing distance, I felt unsettled. Something wasn't right. I wasn't sure if I was bothered by the colors of red that I had mixed or by the technique with which I applied them to the canvas. Regardless, it was all wrong. Doubt rushed in. I questioned the design, the choice of completing most of the piece in monotone, and even my ability as an artist. I cleaned my brushes and walked away. The painting sat untouched on my easel for days. Each time I looked at it, the weight of frustration and self-doubt grew heavier. I finally moved it out of sight.

Then came Palm Sunday. Pastor George spoke about how Jesus carried not only the physical weight of the cross, but the full weight of humanity's sin. On the drive home, I found myself thinking about how much weight I had added to Jesus' burden, and suddenly, I realized why I couldn't bring myself to finish the painting. My guilt had become a barrier. Subconsciously, I was translating the act of sinning to the act of painting wounds and blood on Jesus' body. Symbolically, I was adding more weight to that cross with every brushstroke I placed on the canvas. Along with that realization came another...I was under spiritual attack by the enemy. Of course, he didn't want me to finish this painting that would glorify God. So, he used my guilt and shame to plant a seed of doubt that only God's word could destroy.

The moment I got home, I went straight to my studio and placed the painting back on my easel. I finished the final layer of wounds and blood on Good Friday morning. God's timing could not have been more perfect.

My prayer is that No Greater Love serves as a powerful reminder of the unimaginable suffering Jesus endured for us. He gave His life for us—the least we can do is honor Him with ours.

Pastor George and Nancy, thank you for inviting me to be a part of this meaningful project. Above all, thank You, God, for guiding my hands and my heart as I strive to glorify You through every piece I create.

Shelly Miller

Antioch Church

January 2026

Backstory  
for  
Jesus with the Children  
by  
Wendy Wims Boyd

*“God develops my character to match the assignment He has for me.”*

When I was asked to create a banner which would hang in our church, I thought, no way. I am **not** an artist. I was encouraged to pray about the project. So I prayed - a lot. I even started drawing, which only discouraged me. Who *can* draw the face of Jesus? Who can convey perfect love, warmth, kindness, understanding. . . ? Certainly not me.

Then I joined the Experiencing God Sunday School Class. It has been profoundly changing my relationship with God. I have always tried to please God, but I have relied on my own understanding of His desires for me. As I strive every minute of every day (*mostly*) to live with God at the center of my life, I am learning to trust that He will develop my character to match the assignments He has for me, and that I need to watch and listen for His invitations to walk with Him.

Okay then, I will accept the invitation, but please let me present Jesus with little children. A retired Kindergarten teacher, I might be able to speak to them, *simply*. Even *simply* means accepting that, “God develops my character to match the assignment He has for me.”

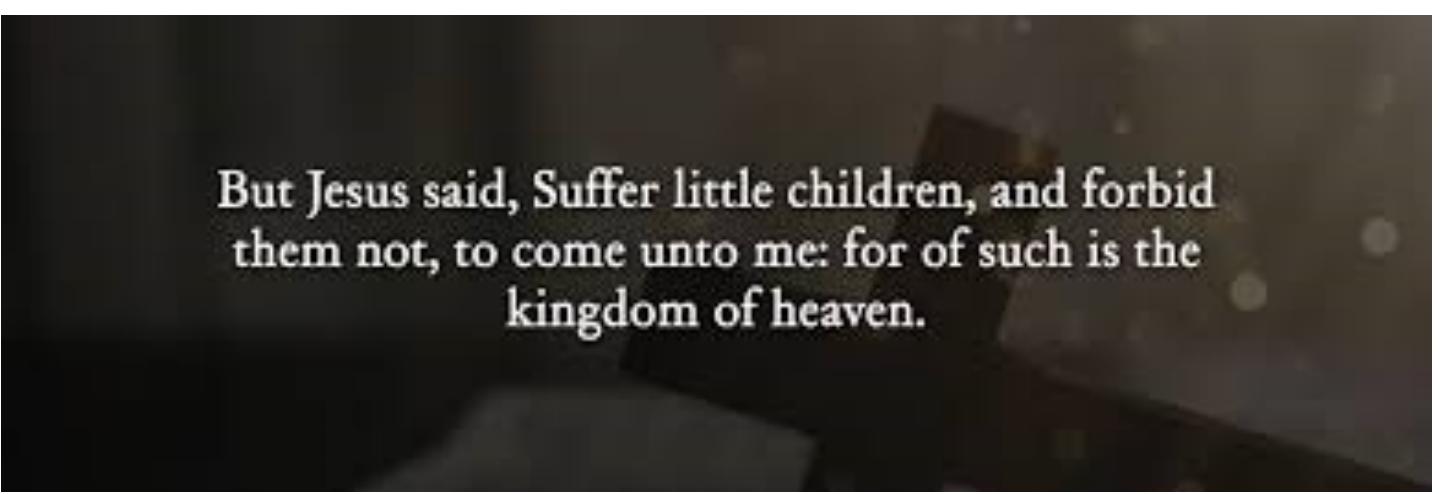
It was fun, challenging, painful, prayerful, inspiring, joyful. I thought I could do it. I thought I failed. I turned it over to God a thousand times. Jesus was fair-skinned, with blue eyes. Jesus was dark-skinned with brown eyes. Jesus was EVERYTHING! I wanted my banner to speak to EVERYONE! Is that possible?

Yes. We know it is possible. All things are possible with God. He developed my skills because I accepted His invitation; but for me, my banner will never be finished. It is okay that it will never be perfect, but I will keep playing with it during my Earthly life - with Jesus on my heart, the word of God in my mind, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

My prayer is that God inspired a banner that will touch one child.

Your Sister, Wendy

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.



**But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.**

## 2026 ANTIOCH ORGANIZATION

(Revised 12/8/25)

<u>Senior Pastor</u>	George Bowers
<u>Associate Pastor Youth/Visitation</u>	Dale Bennett
<u>Pastoral Admin Asst/Clerk</u>	Rachel Buffington
<u>Treasurer /Bookkeeper</u>	Kathleen Reynolds
<u>Custodian</u>	Dianne Funkhouser
<u>Moderator</u>	Barry Arey (2026-28)
<u>Assistant Moderator</u>	Jonathan Martino (2026-28)
<u>Church Board Chairman</u>	Bernie Adams (2024-26)
<u>Church Board Co-Chair</u>	Stephanie Chapman (2026-26)

### Executive Committee:

Bernie Adams (Chair) Stephanie Chapman (Co-Chair)  
John Anderson (Deacon Chair) Doug Doman (At large)  
Allen Bowers (At large) Ex-officio: George Bowers (Pastor)

### Commissions:

<u>Pastoral And Worship</u>	<u>Term</u>
Donna Garber	2026-28
Laurie Eaton	2024-26
Diane Pence	2026-28 Chair
Debbie Cummins	2024-26
Suzanne Clarke	2026-28
Nancy Bowers	2024-26
Lori Mumaw	2025-27
Amy Hepner	2024-26 Co-Chair

<u>Finance</u>	
Doug Doman	2026-28 Chair
Jeff Walters	2025-27
Sheryl Jett	2026-28 Co-Chair
Don Sherman, Jr.	2024-26
Fred Hepner, Jr.	2024-27
Garrett Coffey	2024-26

### Discipleship

Suzanne Clarke	2025-27
Laura Brown	2025-27
Jan Anderson	2026-28 Co-Chair
Tony Turley	2026-28
Stephanie Chapman	2025-27 Chair
Ashley Bowers	2024-26 Secretary
Jane Byrd	2024-26

### Church Family and Fellowship

Sonya Edwards	2025-27
Liz Mauck	2026-28
Ronda Mace	2025-27 Chair
Alice Spence	2024-26
Buck Spence	2026-28
Marie Sherman	2024-26
Tabby Lear	2024-26
Cherie Heishman	2026-28 Co-Chair

### Mission and Witness

Dwayne Ryman	2026-28
Daniel Mace	2026-28
Sharon Kessler	2025-27
Allen Bowers	2024-26 Chair
Tony Turley	2025-27
Rick Kessler	2024-26
Madison Coffey	2026-28 Co-Chair
Ronda Cook	2026-28

### Building And Grounds

Jeff Jett	2024-26 Co-Chair
Freddy Reedy	2025-27
Jay Swartz	2024-26 Chair
Noah Hepner	2024-26
Dale Sherman	2025-27
Quentin Garber	2026-28
Mark Lenick	2024-26
Joey Reynolds	2024-26

### Nominating and Personnel

Norma Doman	2024-26
Chris Cook	2025-27
Dee Sherman	2026-28

### 1 year terms for these:

Head Ushers Guy Pence, Benny Andes, Fred Hepner

2026 Regional Conf Delegates: Sheryl Jett, Diane Pence, John Anderson

2026 Annual Meeting and Worship Conference Delegates: Penny Adams, Stephanie Chapman, Nancy Bowers, Suzanne Clarke

### Youth Team Leaders (Sept to Aug terms):

Antioch Youth for Christ (Grades 9-13): Becky Leland, Allen & Ashley Bowers

Middle Youth (Grades 5-8): Freddy and Sandy Reedy, Barbara Patton

Junior (K-Grade 4): Amy Babcock

### Deacons:

Don Sherman, Jr.	2026-28 Co-Chair
Benny and Tammy Andes	2025-27
Tim/Kathy Cooper	2026-28
Becky Leland	2026-28
Norma Doman	2024-26
Matt & Brenda Wendling	2025-27
Tom Brower	2024-26
Noah & Amy Hepner	2024-26
John Anderson	2024-26 Chair
Diane Pence	2025-27

### Preschool Board: (Terms from 7/1-6/30)

Karenina Baker	7/26-6/29	Antioch Rep
Tiffany Cummins	7/25-6/28	Antioch Rep
Tammy Andes	7/24-6/27	Antioch Rep
Marvin Wells	2026	Parent Rep
Amy Babcock	Director	
Lauren Jenkins	Community Rep	
Bernie Adams	Church Board Chair	
George Bowers	Pastor	

Sunday School Superintendent David Sherman  
Assistant

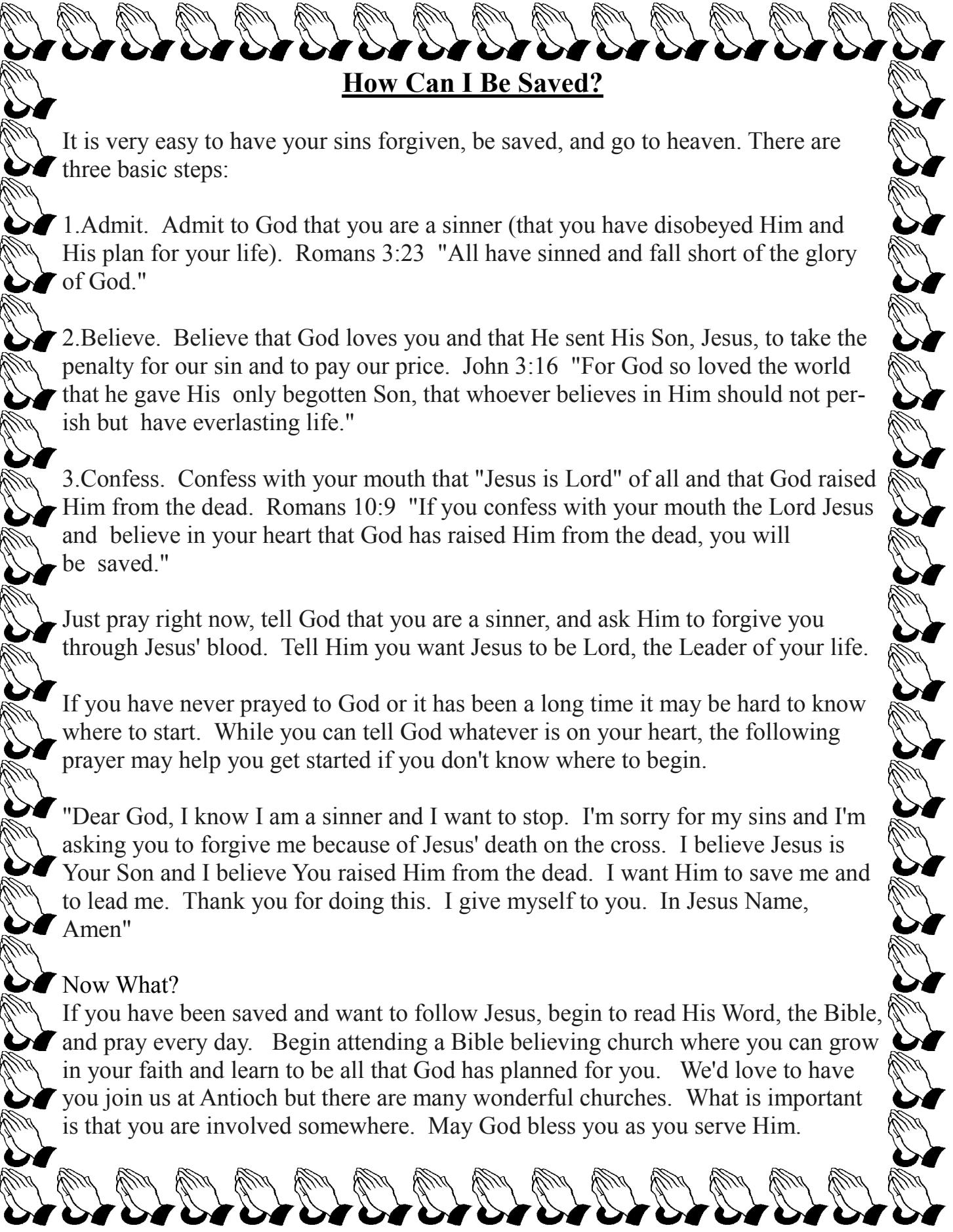
## Gospel Music and Trips Update

Go to [SONshineMinistriesVA.org](http://SONshineMinistriesVA.org) to find out more about other concerts and bus trips as well as a listening schedule for WBTX and ministries sponsored by SONshine Ministries.



### Spring/Summer 2026 -- Ark Encounter, Creation Museum and Riverboat Dinner Cruise

Come see the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum!! Join us on this 3-day, 2-night trip as we travel to the Ark Encounter, featuring a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel will amaze visitors young and old. Ark Encounter is situated in beautiful Grant County in Williamstown, Kentucky. We will also take time to see the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky, a 75,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility that allows you to venture through biblical history, stunning exhibits, botanical gardens, planetarium, plus more. Includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, hotel accommodations with breakfast, a day at the Ark, and plenty of time at the Creation Museum. Cost: Varies depending on age and the number of people per room. A detailed flyer will be available soon. Call Jean Kelley at 540-476-5211 or Dustin Kline at 540-810-6236 or email [dustinkline@gmail.com](mailto:dustinkline@gmail.com).



## How Can I Be Saved?

It is very easy to have your sins forgiven, be saved, and go to heaven. There are three basic steps:

1. Admit. Admit to God that you are a sinner (that you have disobeyed Him and His plan for your life). Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2. Believe. Believe that God loves you and that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the penalty for our sin and to pay our price. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

3. Confess. Confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" of all and that God raised Him from the dead. Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Just pray right now, tell God that you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you through Jesus' blood. Tell Him you want Jesus to be Lord, the Leader of your life.

If you have never prayed to God or it has been a long time it may be hard to know where to start. While you can tell God whatever is on your heart, the following prayer may help you get started if you don't know where to begin.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner and I want to stop. I'm sorry for my sins and I'm asking you to forgive me because of Jesus' death on the cross. I believe Jesus is Your Son and I believe You raised Him from the dead. I want Him to save me and to lead me. Thank you for doing this. I give myself to you. In Jesus Name, Amen"

### Now What?

If you have been saved and want to follow Jesus, begin to read His Word, the Bible, and pray every day. Begin attending a Bible believing church where you can grow in your faith and learn to be all that God has planned for you. We'd love to have you join us at Antioch but there are many wonderful churches. What is important is that you are involved somewhere. May God bless you as you serve Him.

# Happy Birthday to our January Birthday People



Intentionally left  
blank for web page  
posting



Happy  
Birthday  
&  
God Bless You!



# Celebrating Marriages for the Month of January



Intentionally left blank for  
web page posting

Happy Anniversary!

## 2026 Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During 2026, the Pastors, staff, and Church Board invite you to join them in weekly prayers for our church. Please spend some time each week, and ideally each day praying about these items:

### Week of:

January 4

Pray that we as a church will glorify God each day in 2026 and bear much fruit for Jesus!

January 11

Pray that souls would be won and God glorified at the Sportsmen's Banquet.

January 18

Pray that God would sanctify each member by His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit.

January 25

Pray that God would develop and deepen unity in Antioch.



# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please NOTE: Weekly Bulletin Announcements contain the latest info.						
				<i>1 New Year's Day</i>	2	3
<b>4</b> Deacon Meeting, after Service	<b>5</b> 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9am, Morning Bible Study  11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Garden Cafe	<b>8</b> <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>  7pm, Choir Practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Mission & Witness Meeting, after Service	<b>12</b> 7pm Church Board Meeting 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9am Morning Bible Study  11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Garden Cafe	<b>15</b> <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>  7pm, Choir Practice	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Sportsman's Banquet
<b>18</b> February Newsletter Items due to Sheryl Jett  Discipleship Committee Meeting, after Service	<b>19</b> 4pm, Grief Support Group 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Morning Bible Study  11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Garden Cafe	<b>22</b> <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>  7pm, Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Middle Youth (5th-8th grades) meet for Movie King of Kings and treats after Service	<b>26</b> 7pm, Congregational Business Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9am Morning Bible Study  11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Woodstock Garden Cafe	<b>29</b> <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>  7pm, Choir Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## Dates for 2026 Antioch Ministry Plan God Willing

Every Sunday	10am Worship of Almighty God
Every Sunday	8:45am Sunday School to study and apply God's Word.
BLAST and PM Bible Study	Most Wednesdays through April 29, 2026
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays through May 20, 2026
Jan 17	Sportsmen's Banquet 5:30 (Jan 24 snow date)
Feb 6-8	Winter Youth Retreat
Feb 13 6-9pm	Night to Shine at American Celebration on Parade
March 20	WRE Concert featuring Lonesome River Bluegrass Band
March 29	Palm Sunday Worship- Love Feast following
April 3 7pm	Good Friday service
April 5 6:30am	Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast 2nd service at 8:30am
May 17	Graduate Recognition with meal afterward
May 31-June 3	Vacation Bible School
July 5-9	CBC Regional Jr. & Sr. Camp
TBA	CBC Youth Mission Trip
Aug 23	Church Board Planning Retreat
Sept 13	Worship in the Wild, picnic at Maurertown Park.
Sept 20	Sunday School Move Up Sunday/ Back to Church Sunday
Oct 4	Love Feast following worship.
Oct 18	CBC Sunday and Fellowship Meal
Nov 22	Community Thanksgiving Service 6pm.
Dec 20	Christmas Program
Executive Committee Meetings: 6:30pm: Jan 12, April 13, July 13, Oct 12	
Church Board Meeting Dates: 7:00pm: Jan 12, April 13, July 13, Oct 12	
Congregational Business Meeting Dates: 7:00pm: Jan 26, April 27, July 27, Oct 26	

## Day Underway!

George Bowers  
November 2025

The heavens are declaring  
Your glory this morning,  
The fiery red highlights the clouds  
are adorning.  
The shadows of nighttime  
are scattered and gone,  
Chased out and defeated  
by glorious dawn!  
Who knows what new blessings  
we're in for today,  
As our Masterful Maker  
gets it all underway!



### Sharing of Gifts and Worship Leadership:

If you are willing to lead worship, lead music, or share a gift during worship contact Sister Amy Hepner of the Pastoral and Worship Commission.

### Newsletter:

If you have information for the church newsletter, please send it to Sheryl Jett. Please send her all birthdays and anniversaries so we can recognize those in the church newsletter. Please email her at: the-boys@shentel.net or put it in her mailbox at church.