



God's News for Antioch

December 2025

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church

23502 Senedo Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

(540)459-3661

George Bowers, Senior Pastor

God Made An In Person Visit

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

Tom Brower

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: Doug Doman

Moderator: Henry Elsea

On December 25, we will again celebrate one of the holiest days of the year as we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. Although His sacrificial crucifixion provides our salvation and His miraculous resurrection secures our victory over death, His birth in the Bethlehem manger is what got it all moving. Let's pause to consider a bit of what this means.

In this day of Zoom meetings and virtual visits, how refreshing it is to sit down face to face with someone over a meal or for a chat. This is exactly what God did. He didn't send an email, a text, or even a representative. He didn't facetime us from heaven or share a snapchat. He personally came to earth to be Immanuel, God with us.

Although John's Gospel doesn't include the nativity story as does Luke's, John condenses it all down to the profound simple truth that, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The eternal Word of God that created all that is, that expresses the Father's thoughts and will, and Who is one with the Father, actually entered human flesh and lived and walked among the humans He had created.

In Jesus Christ, we have all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9.) Although we will never fully comprehend the mystery of the holy Trinity, we can celebrate its truth and purpose nonetheless. And because the Son did what He did, He opened the door for the Holy Spirit to abide always with those who accept Jesus' salvation.

When the Holy Spirit began to form Jesus in Mary's womb, God made Himself vulnerable to the consequences of His creatures' sin. He became susceptible to sickness and disease, to insult and abuse, and to ridicule and rejection. He encountered and experienced all of these to some degree before finally enduring sin's ultimate penalty, death itself, even though He had never sinned.

The fact that the Eternal God wanted to come in person to be with us is not

only a great miracle, but also an incredible display of His love. Such voluntary vulnerability from One who didn't need to extend it is astonishing and humbling. There could only be one motivation that would inspire such willing sacrifice: love. Nothing else explains why someone would do what Jesus did. And indeed, that's exactly what Jesus Himself declares in John 3:16 where He says, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." That our Creator would love us sinful beings that much is, like the Trinity, beyond our ability to comprehend.

Enmity keeps others far away. Toleration holds them at arm's length. But love draws close and that's what happened on that first Christmas. In love, God Himself drew close to all those He created as the Bethlehem Babe entered time and space.

Since Jesus is the example and pattern for all Christians, we too are privileged and obligated to show love to others and draw close to them. Whenever possible, we too should be present in their lives. In spite of all the technological gadgetry that enables communication over distance, believers are called to follow Jesus into being personally present with others as much as human limitations allow.

Christianity is a relational religion. It does involve the vertical connection with God through Jesus, but as we do that, we then are to reach out horizontally to other people. One of the greatest gifts anyone can give to someone else is our time and Jesus came to give us all of His.

As we celebrate the holy birth of Jesus this month, may we appreciate the love, mercy, and grace God showed and continues to show in coming in person to be with us that we might be with Him forever. If you've never accepted the gift of eternal life Jesus came to purchase for you, do that today that you might enjoy His presence now and always.

Merry Christmas, *George*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us in celebrating Becky Leland's service at Antioch!

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, we will honor Sister Becky for her 14.5 years of service to Antioch CBC as our Administrative Assistant. Please save the date and join us for a carry-in/potluck meal after the worship service. Thank you cards and gifts are welcome! For those who wish to provide a monetary gift, please look for a money tree in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Stephanie Chapman or Diane Pence with any questions.

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

Middle Youth Christmas Party

The Middle Youth will have a Christmas party on December 7, right after the Appreciation Meal. There will be singing, crafts, and gifts! Thanks to all that helped with the food drive. Thank you, Sandy



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 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 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Go to www.Biblebreak.com and click on Sign Up! Share with your friends and spread the word! All 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th 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.

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 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 2025:

Pastors George and Dale invite you to memorize, meditate, and live out the following verse for 2025. It will be our "Theme Verse of the Year" and this will be special emphasis in worship, sermons, outreach events, etc.

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. John 17:23

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 Becky Leland 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.

Membership At Antioch

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 in December.

If you would like to dedicate a child to the Lord, we plan to do this in December as well.

Library News

Are you having trouble finding the Antioch Library online catalog? It is now linked to the Antioch church website, under "Ministries."

Click on the link to scroll through all the library books. When you find a book you want to read, use the labels on the library shelves to find your book.

Church members have contributed reviews and notes for more than a dozen books. If you read a library book, please become a part of this legacy-building activity: recommending good books to future readers. Don't hesitate to contact Tony Turley with any questions at 540 313 5238.

Blue Ridge Region Annual Conference

This was my first experience with our conference, and I was inspired by the day. From the breakfast and visiting the vendor booths before the day began to the focus throughout the day on Jesus and how CBC can grow and serve Him better. Meeting a number of members of other CBC churches and hearing stories of what is taking place in them was such an encouragement and challenge to what Antioch is doing and where we could do more. To see the number of youth that came to pack the 200 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child is such a testament to CBC since the youth are the church of the future.

The devotional by Brother Henry Elsea affirming Jesus' complete purification of our sins and that His work was done but OURS is not. Lynne Rienstra shared/challenged us to change our focus, working to avoid all the distractions that can take our focus off our Savior and to spend more energy/time looking for Jesus and how we can serve Him.

There was also interspersed among the day normal business that had to take place: elections/recognition of accomplishments/plans for other events coming up as well as approving a budget. All those are important but NOT the focus of the day. Worship and praise in song was led by Brandy Wingfield the Barren Ridge Choir and the group Psalm 150. Through each of them we were provided the opportunity to worship our Lord.

Thank you to those other Antioch travelers that day, Sheryl Jett, Diane Pence, Bernie Adams, George Bowers, Dale Bennett, Phil Noel, John Anderson along with Becky Leland and the Highschoolers (Ellie Schlich, Karalynn Bailey, Deztee Fishback, Bayleigh Fishback, Lillian Kibler).



It was a privilege to worship with all of them. I encourage/challenge anyone who has not attended a conference to attend next year.

The conference was held at Barren Ridge CBC and had 21 Congregations represented, 49 delegates, 104 non-delegates and 19 Pastors. The Blue Ridge Region board for 2026 will be Janet Elsea, Darren Howdyshell, Ron Layman, Scott Harris, Ann Jones, Jonathan Farmer, Diane Pence (elected for a 2nd term), Dale Bowers (new board member), and Gary Wingfield (new board member). Penny Adams term on the board was completed, and she was thanked for her service.

Blessings! See you there next year! John Anderson



IN PARTNERSHIP *with*
SHENANDOAH COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Rotary Clubs of Shenandoah County have partnered with Shenandoah County Public Schools to provide tutoring for elementary students in need of improving their reading comprehension skills.



Interested?

Complete an interest form by following this link: <https://forms.gle/DdHQYtb5qZW3K1T8A> or Scan the QR code:



To learn more or get involved as a volunteer tutor, contact:
Randy Doyle, President of the Mt. Jackson/Edinburg Rotary Club
Rrd1974@outlook.com

VOLUNTEER SPECIFICS:

Where: W. W. Robinson & Ashby Lee Elementary Schools

Volunteer Duties: K-2 reading comprehension skills

Volunteer Time Commitment: One hour, one or two days per week while school is in session

Training: Shenandoah County Public Schools will provide tutor training and orientation in mid-January 2026.

Planned Start Date: Late January 2026

****Volunteers are required to pass a background check and will be briefly interviewed.****



***"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!"
– Luke 2:11 (NIV)***

Gospel Music and Trips Update

Go to 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.

The Prediction of the Birth of Jesus:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. – Isaiah 9:6

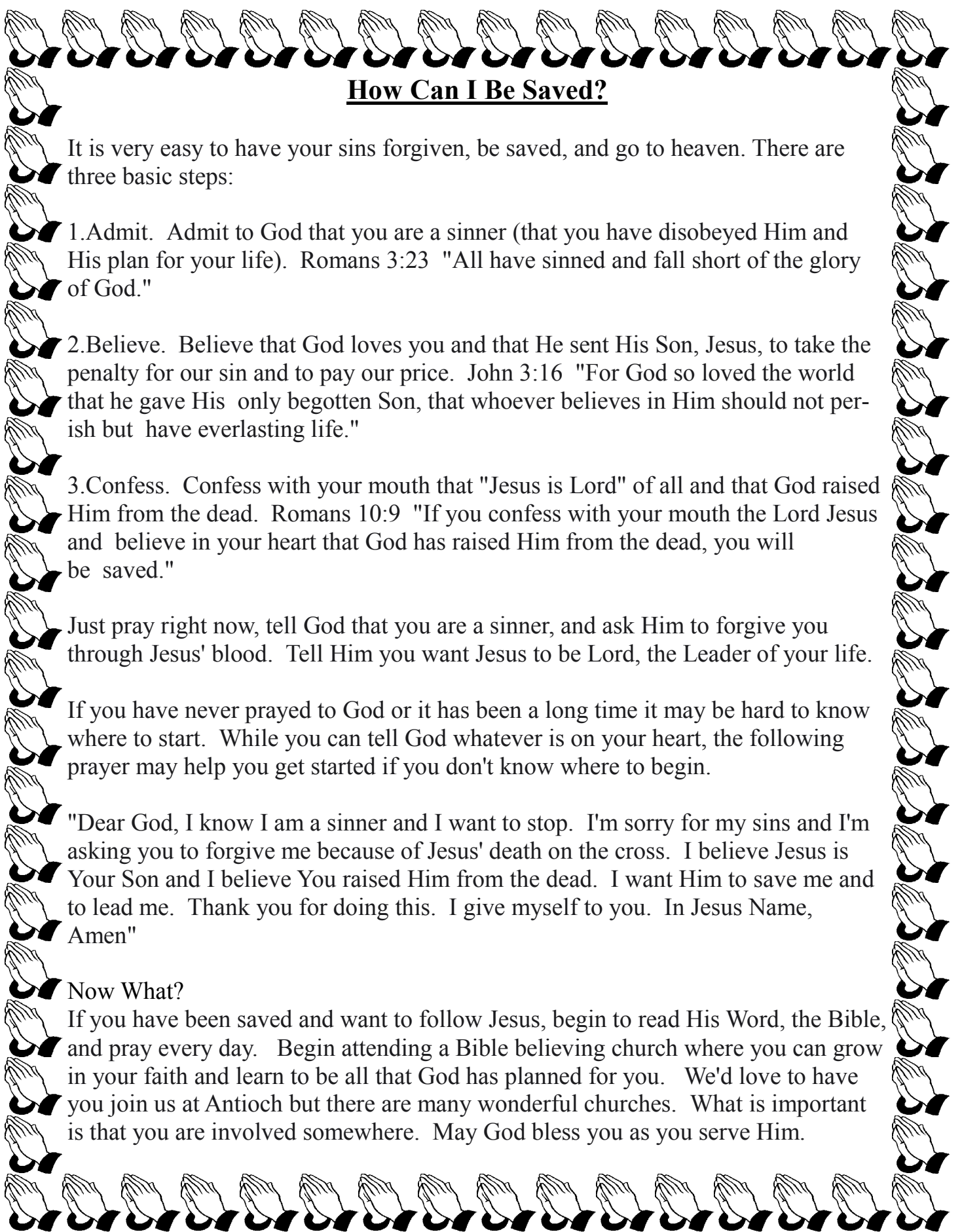
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. – Isaiah 7:14

Jesus Birth:

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." – Luke 2:10-12

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. – Luke 2:16-20

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. – Matthew 2:9-12



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 December Birthday People



Intentionally left
blank for webpage
posting.



Celebrating Marriages for the Month of December



Intentionally left blank for
webpage posting.

Happy Anniversary!

2025 Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During 2025, 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:

December 7— Pray for the Chosen Sunday School Class and teacher Amy Hepner.

December 14—Pray for the Maranatha Sunday School Class and teacher Greg Byrd.

December 21— Pray that Jesus will be the center of all our Christmas celebrations.

December 28—Pray for the Roundtable Fellowship Sunday School Class and teachers Allen & Ashley Bowers



December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please NOTE: Weekly Bulletin Announcements contain the latest info.						
	1 4pm Grief Support Group in new basement 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study in New Basement	2	3 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch	4 <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i> 7pm, Choir Practice	5	6
7 Fellowship meal after worship <u>Middle Youth Christmas Party</u>	8 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study in New Basement <u>7:00pm, Church Board meeting</u>	9 ShenPaco Christmas Meal	10 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch	11 <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i> 7pm, Choir Practice	12	13 Trip to Shoebox Processing Center
14	15 4pm, Grief Support Group in New Basement <u>6:30pm Christmas Remembrance Service</u> 6:45pm, Evening Bible Study in New Basement	16	17 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch	18 <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i> 7pm, Choir Practice	19	20
21 January Newsletter Items due to Sheryl Jett 6PM Christmas Program	22	23	24 7pm, Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day Jesus' Birthday</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

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 from Sept 17, 2025-April 29, 2026
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from Sept 17, 2025-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

Dates for 2025 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.
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from Sept 17-May 28
Dec 21	6 pm Christmas Program
Dec. 24	7 pm Christmas Eve Service

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.

Like Him!

George Bowers
October 2025

I may not look like much right now,
Age has thinned my greying brow.
Sin, God's image, spoils, mars,
And time and life have left their scars.
But one day I'll be fully new,
All earth's ugliness done and through!
I'll be like Him who died for me,
Saved my soul and set me free.
My beauty shall be then as His,
For I shall see Him as He is!