

February
2025



News From Our Churches:

Chambersburg Baptist Church hosted a men's breakfast on Saturday, January 18th. Thirteen men attended. Headed by Kathy Weaber, the ladies in the church cooked breakfast for the men. They prepared homemade sausage gravy, biscuits, scrambled eggs, sausage, french toast, apple crisps, and all the fixings. They had a great time of fellowship, and the women enjoyed getting together to make the meal.



Hanover Fellowship Church Pastor John Harling shares: "We have started a Debt Retirement Campaign for Hanover Fellowship. We are seeking to raise \$10,000 by August. If anyone would like to help out, they can go to hanoverfellowship.org and click on 'Debt Retirement Campaign' and follow prompts. One anonymous donor said they would match up to \$5,000 dollars (dollar for dollar) given by June 1st! Then on September 21st we are having a mortgage burning service outdoors with a catered barbecue to follow! We will be also celebrating 25 years of being in existence!"

New Hope Baptist Church (Middleburg) Bad weather did not dampen the fellowship, food, or laughter at New Hope's Comedy Datanight on Saturday, February 15th! Thanks to, Nick, Hannah, Sam, Dora, Lori, and team provided a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship!



News from KBA:

Pastor's Prayer continue to meet Thursday mornings on Zoom at 10:00am for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

Pastors' Wives continues to meet by Zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30pm. We will meet Saturday, March 8th, 10:30 am at the KMJ Diner in Shippensburg. Check your email for additional information.



Annual Church Letters were due by February 15th, 2025. If you do not fill out your profile, you will not be able to receive Evangelism Grants from BRN. If you have not submitted your ACP, please do so as soon as possible.

Artificial Intelligence Seminar: AI in Action: Practical Tools for Pastors was held on January 21st. If you missed it, the recording is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpLgx-73OWU>.

There will be a follow-up seminar in the weeks to come.

Pastor Jeff Sours (Memorial, Gettysburg) thoughts on the AI in Action Seminar:

“After attending Brad’s Zoom training for pastors on using AI, my mind started racing with possibilities. Like any tool, AI can be used for good or for harm—but in the right hands, it has incredible potential for ministry. As I explored how we could integrate AI into our church’s work, I came across Sermon Shots. This platform allows us to upload sermons and transform them into social media reels, impactful quotes, discussion questions, and devotionals—all drawn directly from the message.

One key insight that stuck with me (yes, from someone selling a product, but still very true) is that we pour so much into preparing a Sunday sermon, yet often, its impact is limited to that one day. AI enables us to extend the reach of our messages throughout the week, continually reminding our congregation of what they’ve learned and filling social media with content that points people to Jesus.

In fact, AI—specifically ChatGPT—helped refine these paragraphs, enhancing their clarity, structure, and flow.”

Congratulations to:

Rev. John and Jackie Healey (Chambersburg Baptist Church) as they welcomed their third daughter on Wednesday, January 29th at 11:40 am. Her name is Josie Elaine. She weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. at birth.



Pray for:

- KBA churches. Pray for their pastors and their church staff.
- Wanda Edmondson (pastor's wife at Family of God). She was not able to have surgery in February and it has been rescheduled for April. Please continue to pray for Wanda and for Pastor Howard.
- Kathy Sheldon's sister-in-law passed away on February 8th. Please pray for Jim Johnson, Kathy's brother and their upcoming trip to her sister-in-law Susanne's memorial service in Switzerland on the 28th.
- Karen Gerstmyer as she continues to battle cancer.
- Pastor Search Committee at Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Continue to pray for Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker's (Stewartstown Baptist Church) grandson. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.
- Plans and preparations for Easter in KBA churches.

New Life -Penn State: Eric Reiber

"Hello KBA. Outside of just constant cold and sickness in State College, we have continued to see God working in the lives of students. A few more students got started this 'spring' semester. First, our annual Breakfast Crew is going every Friday morning. We have found a lot of students buy in from the group and have made great contact with new 'regulars' that swing through for hot chocolate. Secondly, we have started our senior sendoff group. I meet once a month with our outgoing students to discuss transitions. For their entire lives they have been students, and for many of them, that will be in the past. We talk about making friends, choosing a church, and how to choose between job offers. Finally, we are preparing to head back to North Carolina for more Disaster Relief this March." One exciting story is hearing a testimony from our student of how God has changed her life. She did not come to college as a Christian, but believed in Jesus, and put her faith in him over the last year. Last month she vocally shared in front of the group what God has done!



The North American Mission Board Week of Prayer will be March 2nd -9th. The theme is "Step Into the Story." Each day will share the story of North American missionaries serving across the United States. The week also correlates to the collection of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with monies going to North American missionaries and their work. Each church received a package of information including prayer guides and envelopes from the Baptist Resource Network. (BRN.)

For additional resources go to:

[https://anniearmstrong.com/week-of-prayer.](https://anniearmstrong.com/week-of-prayer)

Word from Brad: Back to the Basics (B2B)

One of the most iconic quotes in sports history is: *“Gentlemen, this is a football.”* Vince Lombardi, legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, spoke these words at the start of training camp in 1961. His goal? To remind his team that success begins with mastering the fundamentals. That back-to-basics approach led the Packers to an NFL Championship later that year, crushing the New York Giants 37–0.

Recently, I preached a simple sermon titled *“The ABCs of Becoming a Christian”* at our Slavic Baptist Church in Etters, PA. It was only ten minutes long, but the Holy Spirit was at work. A young man came forward to give his life to Christ.

Two weeks later, I prepared to share the same message—slightly expanded—at Memorial Baptist Church in Gettysburg. Arriving early, I noticed an unfamiliar couple sitting quietly in a pew. I introduced myself and learned their names: Jim and Betty. “Is this your home church?” I asked. “No,” Jim replied. “It’s our first time here.” That explained why they were early. They had just moved to Gettysburg—on Christmas Day, no less—only four days earlier. Then I asked the most important question: *“How long have you been believers?”* Jim’s answer stunned me. “Four years,” he said. He went on to explain that he had contracted COVID and was placed on a ventilator. A few days later, a doctor came in and told him, *“You have 24 to 48 hours to live. You need to make peace with God.”* It terrified him—because he didn’t know God. But against all odds, Jim recovered. The hospital staff called him the *“Miracle Man.”* He saw it as a second chance and placed his faith in Christ. Then I turned to Betty. “And how about you?” She hesitated before answering, “I’m Catholic.” At that moment, I knew my sermon that morning was meant just for her.

When I gave the invitation, Betty stepped forward, tears on her cheeks. “I want to believe and have my sins forgiven,” she said. We prayed together, and that day, Betty placed her trust in Christ. Now, both she and Jim are ready for the day they are called home. Sometimes, going back to the basics yields the greatest fruit.

**Blessings,
Brad**

2025 KBA Financial Update
2025 January Church Income: \$17,884.01
2025 January Expenses: \$11,099.58

WMU: The Annual WMU meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at Red Land Baptist Church in New Cumberland. The theme of the year's meeting is "The Joy of Serving!"

The meeting is planned for adults that are interested in missions and mission education. There will also be sessions for 6th through 12th grade girls. They will enjoy their own time together. The meeting will include WMU's annual business session and update, a mission project, brunch and a time to hear from Alta Brandenberger a member from Wrightsdale Baptist Church and a future missionary with the IMB. So, save the date and we hope to see you there.



Weekend to Remember
by FamilyLife

Family Life will be hosting their annual marriage getaway on February 28th through March 2nd at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. The cost is \$175.00 per person.

There is a special rate for pastors and their wives. For additional information go to: <https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember>.

BRN:



The Baptist Resource Network's **Advance Evangelism Conference** will be held on March 17th 2025 beginning at 9:30 am. The cost is \$15.00.

The location for the meeting is Country and Town Baptist Church in Mechanicsburg.

For additional information go to: brnunited.org/adv25.

**Keystone Baptist Association:
"Equipping and Connecting Churches to reach the
world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."**