

The Messenger

December 2021

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

"The Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association is a network of Churches committed to evangelizing, teaching and ministering to our World."

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

As I write this newsletter article it is Giving Tuesday, which seems to be after a lot of days of spending. Just think about it. Last Thursday was the day set aside for Thanksgiving. Friday was Black Friday; a day set aside by retailers for you to spend money on ridiculously low priced items in order to turn their books from red losses to black gains. Saturday is Shop Small Saturday when you're asked to spend your money at Small Businesses. Now, since the onset of internet shopping we have Cyber Monday which was created by retailers to encourage you to spend more money by shopping online. In fact, Cyber Monday on November 30, 2020 shoppers spent a record \$10.7 billion shopping online.

So, after all these shopping and spending days someone came up with Giving Tuesday. Does anyone have anything left to give after Black Friday, Shop Small Saturday, and Cyber Monday? Maybe they should move Giving Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Is it me or has almost every day of the year been designated for someone or something? And now, on this Tuesday after Thanksgiving, we have the designation of Giving Tuesday. Maybe we do need to be reminded to give.

But wait a minute! Shouldn't Christians already be givers and giving throughout the year? Hold on, this is not a sermonette on tithing. I assume you are already practicing New Testament giving with the tithe as your floor and not your ceiling. Do we model and exemplify giving beyond normal giving to our church to where we move from tithes to offerings? I was reminded from my Bible reading that, *"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* II Corinthians 9:6

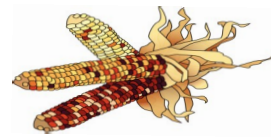
So, after all these days of spending you reach into your pocket, billfold, or internet account and discover that you do indeed have some money left over, what will you do with it? May I suggest you think about giving it to missions? For Southern Baptists, this is the season of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The International Mission Board is a great place to give an offering.

If you're thinking about giving a little closer to home, your Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association has increased the 2022 budget in the area of mission spending and would welcome your gift to help in this area.

May you enjoy this wonderful season of giving,

Kirk

Church Fall Festivals....



Bethlehem Baptist Church.



Loading up for the hayride.



Playing games.



Stirring potatoes and onions frying in lard in an old kettle to be served up for dinner.



Lantana Road Baptist Church Bible scene booths and candy.



Pastor Scott Johnson with fireman Dylon Cole and volunteer Keith Arnot.



Adam and Eve played by Trent and Sara Blake.



Old Testament scribe played by Bud Heuser.



The Gospel Hayride.



Central Baptist Church.



Lined up for candy and fun.



Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church Trunk and Treat.



Cumberland Homesteads inside games and food.



Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church getting ready for fall revival.



Delivering roofing shingles to Forward Church in Knoxville, TN.

CPBA delivers
new shingles.



Forward Church volunteers unloading roofing shingles.



Roofing shingles ready to be installed.



Project: Christmas Backpacks



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328 Christmas backpacks collected by CPBA churches.



More backpacks waiting to be picked up at Oaklawn Baptist Church.



Delivering Christmas backpacks to Maryville, TN thanks to Central Baptist Church trailer.



Volunteers in Maryville, TN unloading Christmas backpacks.



Sorting Christmas backpacks by child's age and boys and girls.



Yolanda Heuser, TBMB WMU President speaking at recent TBC Summit.

Pastoral Counseling Center of the Cumberland Plateau

Submitted by: Carolyn Scott, Pastoral Counselor, December 2021



Beat Holiday Stress

The impact of Christmas can be profound and not always positive. Stress is intensified over family conflicts, the misuse of alcohol, heightened loneliness, financial worries, and domestic violence. Here are a few important facts to remember:

Build in time to spend with God by reading and studying the Word of God and praying over everything!

Learn to journal and write down your thoughts and then find scriptures that overturn those negative thoughts into positive promises from God's Word.

Learn to say "No". Saying "no" sometimes does wonders to holiday stress, clearing our minds to focus on what matters most. As you are confronted with invitations and commitments, ask God for wisdom about how to invest your time and energy.

Change your perspective and decide that you will learn ways to experience God in the midst of a less-than-perfect gathering.

Choose to be the family member that chooses to extend extra grace as a gift to others. Honesty and clear communication can help prevent major disagreement or conflict. Remember that "peace on earth" begins at home. We cannot control what others do, but we have the ability to turn away conflict. James 1:19 tells us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."

Grieving a Lost Loved One, loneliness. For many families this Christmas, there will be an empty chair at the table—a parent, spouse or loved one who has recently passed away. Holidays have a way of triggering memories and making grief fresh. It's important not to suppress grief. Be open with your family members, a trusted friend, or a counselor, as you talk about the good memories you had. A good way to honor that person you loved is to find a non-profit organization that supports what they were interested in and make a donation or volunteer some time for them. Remember that "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted" (Ps. 34:8) and "Heals the brokenhearted" in His time (Psalm 147:3).

Financial Concerns. Lack of money and the pressures of gift-giving are two top holiday stressors. It's important to set a budget and learn to work within that budget. Simplify your gift giving. Try re-gifting or making something special from items you have at home. Write a song, play an instrument, sing a song for family gatherings as a gift to them. Only purchase what you can pay for in cash. Focus on spending time together, building good memories with family and friends, and give the gift of peace and love rather than giving purchased gifts.

Remember above all, Jesus is the reason for the season! Merry Christmas!



Submitted by Ronda Padgett

December 2021

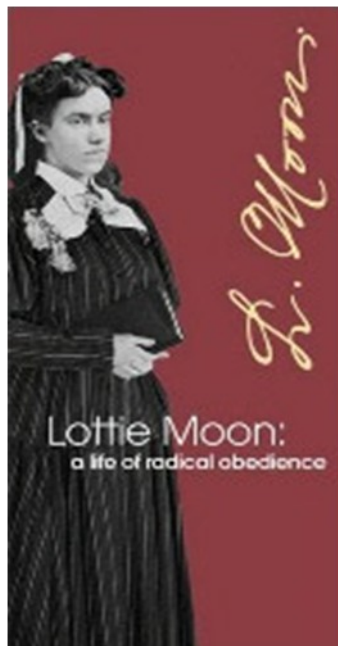


Photo Courtesy of IMB

Lottie Moon

Lottie Moon —The namesake of Southern Baptists' International Mission offerings has become a legend. But in her time, Lottie was anything but an untouchable hero. In fact, she was like today's missionaries. She labored tirelessly so her people group could know Jesus.

Week of Prayer

for International Missions

November 28-December 5, 2021

We Pray for Missionaries Around the World Every day, 155,473 people enter eternity without the hope of Jesus. Please join us as we observe the Week of Prayer for International Missions where Southern Baptists pray for international missionaries, their ministries and the unreached people and places they serve.

WMU

Spring Missions Emphasis Meeting

March 10, 2022

Oak Hill Baptist Church

3036 Genesis Road

Crossville, TN 38555

Theme: "Changing Lives"

Verse: Joshua 1:9

Speaker: Janice Carter,

CWJC/CMJC State Coordinator
for Tennessee WMU

Time: 6:00 P.M. with a meal & fellowship at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend!

Mission Project: Gift cards for the annual Silent Auction at the Missions Get-Together.

Missions Get-Together

An event for women 18 year of age and older.

Theme:

Relentless Faith Hebrews 10:39

Keynote Speaker:

Donna Gaines

Registration:

- Registration opens on January 5
- Registration closes on March 15, or sooner, if event capacity is reached,
- No registration at the event – everyone must pre-register,
- Registration Fee:
 - \$100 per person by February 15
 - \$125 per person by March 15

Note: CONNECTION, a missions event for girls in grades 7-12, will be a separate event in 2022. Date and location TBD.



The Joy of Missions

On Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, Baptist women gathered together at Centennial Park for a prayer walk. On this special day, prayer requests from the continental union were shared and hearts were joined together in prayer walking. We look forward to making this prayerful assembly an annual event.

I am thankful and grateful for all the churches that were represented at our WMU Fall Missions Emphasis Meeting in November. The meeting was hosted by Pine Eden Baptist Church with 45 in attendance from 7 of our churches. Our hearts were lifted together in praise & prayer and offerings were given for our Annual Project. Kim Cruise, Former Missionary & TN WMU Missions Discipleship Specialist, shared powerful mission stories of people coming to know the Lord. We recognized our Director of Missions Kirk Casey for his support and encouragement of WMU. Our family of churches enjoyed a meal and fellowship after the meeting.

We will touch our community for Christ through the distribution of 12 Christmas dinner boxes for 12 families in our 12 Cumberland County Schools. Thank you for your participation in this Annual Project of donating food and giving to provide a bountiful meal and more for these families.

I move forward with great anticipation in what God will do in 2022 through our Associational WMU. Merry Christmas to everyone, and God bless you, your family, and your friends.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Rejoicing in Christ,

Ronda Padgett

Associational WMU Director

"Adopt" an MK/TCK

TN WMU has asked our association to "adopt" an MK whose parents are serving with the IMB for the 2021-22 school year. The MK assigned to CPBA: Fisher Lee Heil, freshman at Bryan College. His birthday is Aug. 13. Mailing address: 3660 Georgetown Dr. NW, Cleveland, TN 37312. Email: fisherleeh@gmail.com. Please pray for and encourage the MK throughout the school year with notes, emails, gift cards, goodie packages, etc.



2022 Quarterly Meetings

March 10	Spring Missions Emphasis Meeting
July 14	Summer Missions Emphasis Meeting
Nov. 10	Fall Missions Emphasis Meeting



Scheduled Christmas Events at CPBA Churches

Bethlehem— The program, *Living Christmas Cards*, is December 11 & 12 , at 6-8 p.m. each night.



Central—The program, *Sing Joy*, will be presented December 10-December 12 at 7:00p.m. each night



Fairfield Glade First— will host the Tribute Quartet on Sunday, December 12 at 4 p.m. No admission charge; a love offering will be appreciated. Temperatures to be taken at the door.

First Baptist Crossville will observe the lighting of Advent candles on Sundays as follows:

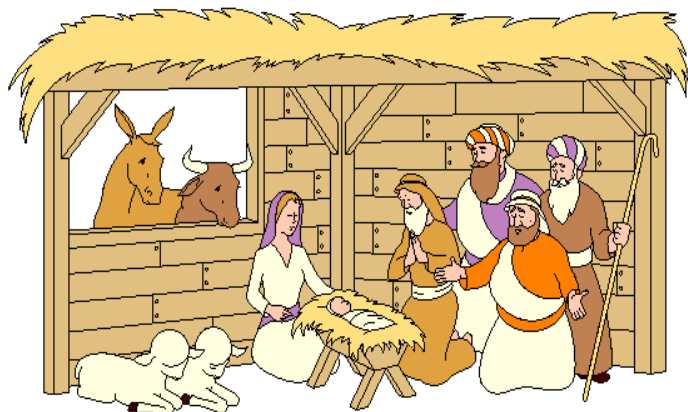
- 11/28 Prophecy & Hope
- 12/5 Bethlehem & Love
- 12/12 Shepherds & Joy
- 12/19 Angels & Peace



Memorial to present “Take Me Back to Bethlehem”

The Worship Choir of Memorial Baptist Church will present the Christmas musical, “Take Me Back to Bethlehem,” on Saturday, December 18, at 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.

“Bethlehem” is filled with songs to draw the heart closer to the true hope and joy of the season. Congregational Christmas hymns and special selections will also be included in the services. The church is located at 1858 Sparta Highway, in Crossville, and online at mbccrossville.com. For more information, call (931) 484-9278 or email mbcoffice1858@gmail.com.



Lantana Road

Wednesday, December 15th at 6 p.m. the children will perform, “The Promise of Christmas”.

Sunday, December 19th at 5 p.m. the teens will perform “The Christmas Dilemma”.

Live Nativity December 22, 23, & 24— 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Oak Hill Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services at 6:00 pm.



Pine Eden—Adult Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 5th at 9:00 a.m.; and Children and Youth on Sunday, December 19th at 10:15 a.m.



First Baptist Crossville Help Wanted

Two Positions:
Church Organist
Church Pianist



Contact (leave Message) Rev. Eric Hinson at 615 670-8370



Save the Date

If you are interested in carpooling to this event please call the CPBA Office and sign up 931 484 1858

Fairfield Glade FBC is seeking a Full-Time Music Director skilled in developing and leading worship experiences with traditional choirs and contemporary praise and worship teams. The position would include a secondary emphasis dependent on the successful candidate's spiritual gifts. See our website: onhisrock.org for more information.

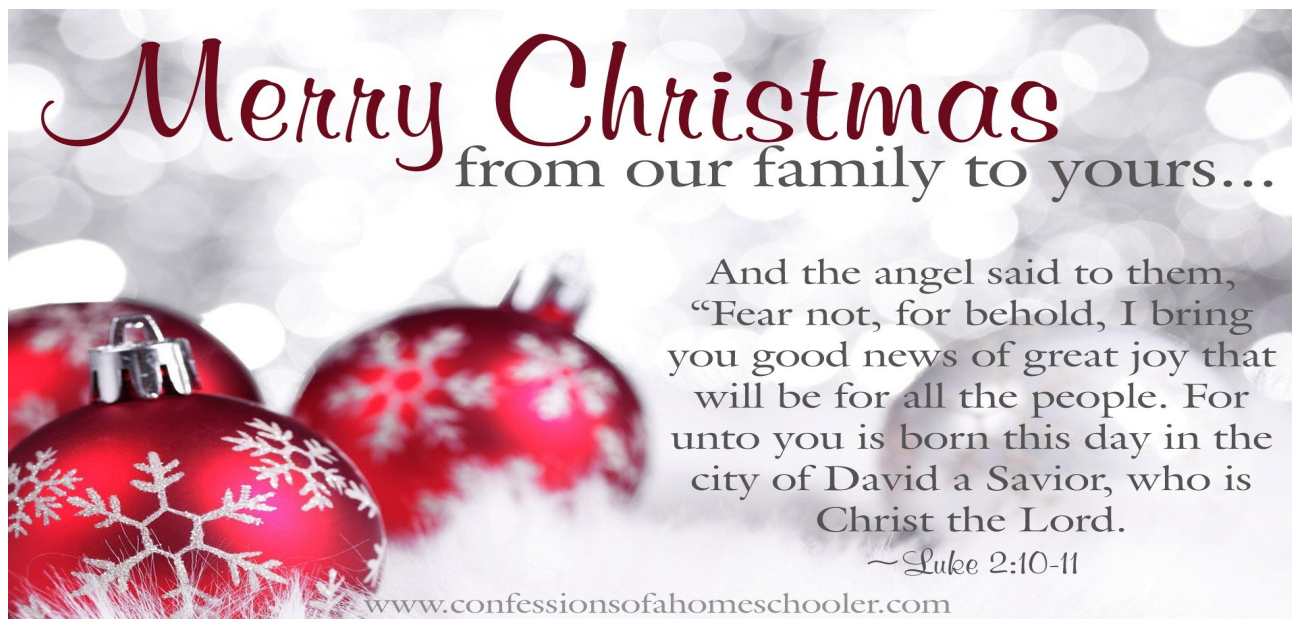


CUMBERLAND PLATEAU BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Associational Directory

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Carolyn Scott, Pastoral Counselor, PCCCP Counseling

Phone: 931-787-9033

cpbacounseling3@gmail.com



December 6	Pastors' Conference 10:00 a.m.
December 6-7	Love Packages Mission Trip
December 13	Pastors' Conference 10:00 a.m.
December 20	Pastors' Conference 10:00 a.m.
December 27	Pastors' Conference 10:00 a.m.