



# The Barnesville Lantern

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*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).*

## The Pastor's Spotlight

Last month I participated in a BBC tradition I have not seen in any other church--the annual Pastor's and Deacons' prayer session. We prayed for everyone and everything associated with BBC: members and attenders and their families as well as activities and ministries like our choir, Sunday School, our finances, and our outreach events. We prayed for the MBA, BCM/D, and SBC. When we finished, I told our Deacons that it was two hours well spent. We may not always see the outcome of our prayers, but I still like the idea of placing everything in God's hands, trusting that His will be done.

The great thing about prayer is that it takes no special talent or gift to do. When I can't do anything else about a situation, I can pray. When I don't know what else to do, I can pray. When I don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit communicates for me.

Praying for others is not an obligation, it is an honor. It is a privilege that people trust me enough to share whatever issue they are facing. It is also an honor that they believe my prayers will have an impact on their issues. We should never feel that it is a burden to pray for others. In fact, *Galatians 6:2* instructs, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". Praying is one of the ways we bear one another's burdens.

Praying for others demonstrates love, by putting our needs and desires on hold and focusing on someone else. Prayer conveys sympathy and empathy. We do not have to know every detail of what someone is facing to pray for them. God knows what is going on and can fill in the blanks.

We all need prayer whether we realize it or not. Even when life seems to be going well, we never know what Satan is doing in the background. The Apostle Peter probably thought he was living the good life until Jesus revealed that Satan wanted to sift him like wheat (*Luke 22:31*).

I encourage you to share your prayer concerns with me. I promise to keep confidential what you tell me and share only what you want to be made public through our electronic prayer chain or the prayer list. May God bless you and keep you safe.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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## Upcoming Events

**February 2** Groundhog Day  
**February 4** Business Meeting  
**February 10** Love Our Seniors Luncheon  
**February 14** Valentine's Day  
**February 16** Presidents' Day  
**February 21** "Equipped to Serve" Men's Conference  
**February 23** Deacons' Meeting



*"And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction'"*  
(Mark 5:4).

# The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

What does God’s love for us look like? We know from *I John 4:8* that “*God is love*” and *John 3:16* that “*For God so loved the world...*”. The first specific mention of God’s love for people in the Bible is found in *Deuteronomy 7:8*, when Moses told the children of Israel that, “...*the Lord loves you...*”.

God’s love for mankind is just as often shown in the Bible as it is discussed. From the beginning, God’s love is demonstrated through His actions. We exist because He wanted us to be here. He didn’t have to create us; He existed in eternal perfection, lacking nothing. But because He wanted to show His glory and love, He created a good world conducive to our life, health, and success. “*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*” (*Genesis 1:31*). It was into that good creation that He created and placed mankind, giving us worth, meaning, and purpose. “*So God created man in His own image....Then God blessed them...*” (*Genesis 1:27-28*). Even after mankind’s rejection and rebellion, the Bible tells the story of God reaching out to humanity to show us kindness and restore relationship. Here are just a few of the ways God shows His people His love:

God keeps His promises to us, even across generations. For the sake of His pledge to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He has remained faithful to the children of Israel. “...*Because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...*” (*Deuteronomy 7:8*).

God grants us our needs and wants. Food, land, family, and riches--He provides for all our earthly needs and cares, be they physical, emotional, or spiritual. “*And He will love you and bless you and multiply you...*” (*Deuteronomy 7:13*).

God seeks our welfare and prevents our destruction. Even when our enemies come against us, the Lord thwarts their plans and protects and preserves us from harm and evil. “...*But the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you*” (*Deuteronomy 23:5*).

God has strong feelings of compassion for us. He hurts when we hurt, and acts out of His concern to help us in our need. “*In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old*” (*Isaiah 63:9*).

God seeks to know us and for us to know Him. He wants to be in fellowship with us and reaches out to us. “*The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: ‘Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you’*” (*Jeremiah 31:3*).

God is genuinely interested in us. Loving us isn’t just God’s job or some duty that He’s required to fulfill, it’s something that He actually wants to do. “*The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing*” (*Zephaniah 3:17*).

When we have questions or doubts about whether God is really there or cares about us, we can turn to His Word and be reminded and encouraged that He truly does love us. The ultimate expression and confirmation of God’s love is His Son Jesus Christ, God in the flesh who came in person to show and share with each of us the Father’s love.

# God’s Love Scramble

Can you match these 20 biblical characters with how God showed love to them? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 2.

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Abraham         | A. received prayed-for son Samuel   |
| 2. Adam            | B. provided food by ravens          |
| 3. bleeding woman  | C. shown mercy from deadly illness  |
| 4. Daniel          | D. sustained during trials          |
| 5. Elijah          | E. spared from Jericho’s fall       |
| 6. Elizabeth       | F. given a seat at the king’s table |
| 7. Epaphroditus    | G. made fruitful with children      |
| 8. Hannah          | H. healed and called daughter       |
| 9. Jeremiah        | I. delivered from demons            |
| 10. Job            | J. family saved from the Flood      |
| 11. Joseph         | K. bore son John in old age         |
| 12. Lazarus        | L. raised from the dead             |
| 13. Leah           | M. clothed after the Fall           |
| 14. Mary Magdalene | N. restored after denying Jesus     |
| 15. Mephibosheth   | O. protected in lions’ den          |
| 16. Noah           | P. received covenant and blessings  |
| 17. Paul           | Q. elevated from prison             |
| 18. Peter          | R. forgiven despite persecution     |
| 19. Rahab          | S. ordained as prophet before birth |
| 20. thief on cross | T. assured of Paradise              |

# God’s Love Word Search

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N S U T I D O R H P A P E E
A S H A O N J G H D J D N M
M Z S X W O B T R E N E E K
O A K O S M E L R A L P K B
W T D E R B Y E N A H S T Q
G A P A A C M P D I U A L T
N H B Z M I N G B R T E B H
I Y I R A N A O A K I Q A Y
D L J H A M S Z F N D J L H
E X O R Y H A N A E I M A Z
E M B R E L A D L L I N T H
L B A T G T R M E U N H A Y
B M H B L L E V X A A E T R
P N N R N T L P H Y L P D N

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Word Bank: Abraham, Adam, bleeding woman, Daniel, Elijah, Elizabeth, Epaphroditus, Hannah, Jeremiah, Job, Joseph, Lazarus, Leah, Mary Magdalene, Mephibosheth, Noah, Paul, Peter, Rahab, thief on cross

## February Birthdays

- 3 Gary Cooley, Linda Roberts
- 7 Michelle Vasko
- 10 Carole Kearse
- 12 Luke Fedders
- 16 Kevin Cullins
- 20 Janet Magruder



## Prayer Concerns

Members: Elnora Caudell, lungs; John & Joyce Dunn, staying in Idaho; Gary Cooley, health  
Family and Friends: Melanie Blankenship, mobility; Susan Cooley, recovering from stroke; Sherry Morrison, recovering from heart surgery; Allison Runkles, sister-in-law of Stephanie Runkles, dementia; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, for leg strength and walking capabilities; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cyndi, for her eyesight; the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.  
Seniors: Barbara Swank; Bob Runkles; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Kitty Cooley; Linda Roberts; Mary Yates; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates  
Cancer patients: Rev. Mike Trammell; Brenda Baker Windsor and Rhonda, friends of Mary Ann Luhn; Pat Luhn, breast cancer; Patti DeArcangelis, friend of Bill Williams; Bill & Elnora Caudell's niece, Brenda Malinowski, cancer; David Carlson, brain tumor; Glenn Norris, colon cancer  
Missions: Dr. Ron Blankenship and MBA leaders; BCM/D Executive Director Tom Stolle and staff; NAMB and IMB missionaries; church planters in MD/DE; MBA-sponsored Nepalese church plant Christ Vision International Church in Rockville, MD



*"The LORD is righteous in all His ways,  
Gracious in all His works.  
The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;  
He also will hear their cry and save them"  
(Psalm 145:17-19).*

## Business Meeting Briefs

*Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in January:*

- The Treasurer submitted his Annual Report on the 2025 fiscal year.
- The Pastor appointed the Deacons to serve as the Select Committee on Auditing, which will review the 2025 finances and report at the March 2026 Business Meeting.

*Expected at the February Business Meeting:*

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the February 2026 Business Meeting.

## COTCD Cartoon

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp



**Preacher aerobics**

## God's Love Scramble Answers

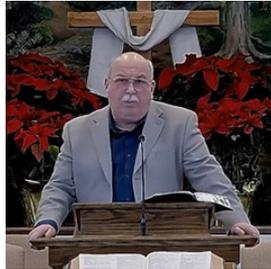
1. **P** (Genesis 17:7); 2. **M** (Genesis 3:21); 3. **H** (Mark 5:34); 4. **O** (Daniel 6:22); 5. **B** (I Kings 17:4); 7. **C** (Philippians 2:27); 7. **K** (Luke 1:13); 8. **A** (I Samuel 1:20); 9. **S** (Jeremiah 1:5); 10. **D** (Job 42:10-12); 11. **Q** (Genesis 39:21); 12. **L** (John 11:43-44); 13. **G** (Genesis 29:31); 14. **I** (John 20:16-18); 15. **F** (II Samuel 9:7); 16. **J** (Genesis 6:8-9); 17. **R** (I Timothy 1:13-14); 18. **N** (John 21:15-17); 19. **E** (Joshua 6:25); 20. **T** (Luke 23:43).

## News You Can Use

**Valentine's lunch.** The annual Love Our Seniors Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10 in the Fellowship Hall at noon. Anyone 55 years and older is welcome to enjoy this time of fellowship and appreciation for the most senior of our church family. RSVPs for

the meal are due to Ellen Williams or Stephanie Runkles—register using the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

**Prayer session.** Pastor Kevin Cullins and Deacons David Bennett, Lee Michael, and Luke Fedders met on Saturday, Jan. 17 for their annual prayer session. They prayed over each person, family, and ministry of Barnesville Baptist Church to ask for God's provision, direction, and blessing for the coming year. You too can pray for your church family throughout the year: use the weekly worship bulletin insert and the prayer concerns list on page 3 of this monthly newsletter to guide your requests and petitions before the Lord.



*Pastor Kevin Cullins recorded a devotional about prayer when snow cancelled the Jan. 25 worship service.*

**Birthday updates requested.** The *Lantern* enjoys sharing members' and friends' birthdays with the Church family. Please help us keep our records current by contacting the Church office with any names and dates we may lack, especially if you started attending within the last year.



*The 20 sanctuary shutters were repaired and repainted from late December through mid-January.*

**Lottie Moon total.** Thank you for supporting the 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with a final total of \$3,519. Adding all the individual offerings (\$2,519, 72%) to the \$1,000 church contribution (28%), we achieved 100% of our \$3,500 goal! Together, we and sister SBC congregations are able to send out more than 3,500 International Mission Board missionaries to share the Gospel all over the world. Thank you again for your sacrificial gifts for foreign missions.

**Men's conference.** The BBC Baptist Men are hosting a men's conference at BBC on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. In addition to BBC men, we are inviting men from other local churches to participate. The theme of the conference is "Equipped to Serve" and will help men identify and use their spiritual gifts to serve and lead their families, churches, and communities, both as individuals and with other

A green rectangular graphic with white and yellow text. At the top, it says "EQUIPPED TO SERVE MEN'S CONFERENCE" in large, bold, white letters. Below that, it lists the main speaker and break-out session leaders. At the bottom, it provides registration information and the host church details.

**MAIN SPEAKER**  
REV. JEREMY DICKSON, BCM/D

**BREAK-OUT SESSION LEADERS**  
REV. MARK DOOLEY, BCM/D  
REV. JAMIE CALDWELL, BCM/D  
DR. RON BLANKENSHIP, MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
REV. FRED CAUDLE, POTOMAC BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

**MUSIC**  
DANNY HOWE, HUGHESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
[barnesvillebaptist.org/men](http://barnesvillebaptist.org/men)  
SATURDAY, FEB. 21, 2026, 8:30 AM - 3 PM  
HOST: BARNESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
17917 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, MD 20838

Christian men. The main conference speaker will be Rev. Jeremy Dickson from the BCM/D. Break-out sessions include: "Identifying and Using My Gifts" by Dr. Ron Blankenship from the Montgomery Baptist Association; "Impacting My Sphere of Influence" by Rev. Mark Dooley, BCM/D; "Iron Sharpening Iron" by Rev. Fred Caudle from the Potomac Baptist Association; and for men's ministry leaders, "Invigorating Men's Gatherings" by Rev. Jamie Caldwell, BCM/D. Danny Howe from Hughesville Baptist Church will provide the music. Register online at [barnesvillebaptist.org/men](http://barnesvillebaptist.org/men). The registration cost is \$25 to provide a light breakfast and hot lunch.

**New Bible study.** Pastor Kevin Cullins has wrapped up his midweek lessons on the "I Am" statements in the Gospel of *John* and is now beginning a new teaching series on the Beatitudes in *Matthew 5* for Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Bible studies. Join us for weekday prayer and learning from God's Word.



*On Jan. 18, Nita Roff and Ann Bennett sang "You Are My All in All" for the call to worship, with Jan Burdette on the piano.*

**Go paperless in 2026.** BBC offers the *Lantern* in electronic (and in color) format to those would prefer such an option instead of a copy sent by mail. If you would like to receive a monthly email with a link to the *Lantern*, please send an email to our masthead address. Those who wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the *Lantern* will continue to receive one; no further action is required.