



WEDNESDAY DINNER

No Dinner on

Wednesday, December 31st

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SMART
PHONES YOU ARE NOT
USING ANYMORE.
DONATE THEM TO THE
EBC A/V MINISTRY.
WE CAN PUT THEM TO
GOOD USE.**



Lectionary Readings for this Week

To encourage your personal study and growth,
here is the list of Lectionary Scripture Readings for
December 28, 2025, First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148;

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



Sermon Notes: December 28, 2025

Title: "The Power of a Testimony"

Speaker: Pastor Kurt Busiek

Scripture: Acts 22:1-21

"Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense."... Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished. 6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'..."



"Glory to God"

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth,
good-will towards all.



You're invited to a
Life Line Screening
event!

Where: Emmanuel Baptist Church

When: Thursday, January 22, 2026



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings**.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone age of 40+

Special Pricing for \$129

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 800-324-9458
and use promo
code: HABC001

Visit
LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC

Text the word
"circle" to
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

Cancer Prayer Concerns

EBC encourages mailing a card of support to anyone with an address listed below. A simple message can boost mental resilience, provide comfort, and increase overall well-being and quality of life during a difficult journey. Cards are available in the narthex and can be dropped off in the church office for postage and mailing after they are signed and addressed.

Jeannette Bauer, Eileen Mayer's sister, is battling advanced stage 4 breast cancer. [10770 109th St. N Largo, FL 33778] (1/26/25)

Sara LeMasters Buck, a friend of Robbi Leonard, is struggling with complications from oral cancer.

[1302 Myrtle St. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (4/13)

Tara Cox, Karen's daughter-in-law, on-going chemo. (4/20)

David Cronin, friend of Gail Samolitis is fighting a stage 4 brain tumor. [135 Morningside Ave. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (8/24)

Wandalene Drake, Leslie Sim's mom/ Lyndall Jones' sister, began a year of immunotherapy in December 2025 with the goal of keeping her aggressive renal cancer from returning. [4732 US Hwy 33E Glenville, WV 26351]

Eric, Evelyn, & Nancy, family of Judy Florence, are receiving treatment for cancer. (10/12)

Michele Farnsworth, cousin of Keith Mayer, is dealing with cancer throughout his body. [19546 Dyson Way Valler Lee, MD 20692] (9/21)

Frank Gephardt, Donna Marcinko's niece's husband, ongoing chemo. (7/6)

Nancy Johnson, Buck Johnson's sister-in-law, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer; on-going chemo; she is recovering from emergency colon surgery. [503 N. Dry Run Rd. Williamstown, WV 26187] (9/14)

Adam Johnston is battling kidney cancer. [512 Paddock Green Dr. Parkersburg, WV 26104] (7/27)

Pastor Tom Lancaster, friend of Gail Samolitis, is recovering after cancer surgery, on-going treatment.

[P.O. Box 28167 Chattanooga, TN 37424] (9/14)

Susie Lattea, cousin of Robbie Leonard, was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. [1402 8th St. Vienna, WV 26105] (10/12)

Ethel Mason got a good cancer report that her cancer is in remission. [1601 Spring St. Parkersburg, WV 26101] (5/18)

Phil Morris has completed prostate cancer treatments. He got a good follow up report from his oncologist on 12/2. He feels blessed and is thankful for the prayers. [2807 Soyer St. Parkersburg, WV 260101]

Bonnie Nestor is doing on-going chemo. [4906 6th Ave. Vienna, WV 26105]

Brian Samples, Josh Titlow's uncle, ongoing cancer treatment. [4702 Spring Hill Ave. South Charleston, WV 25309] (4/20)

Kayvonne Settle, cousin of Kim Matheny, is battling pancreatic cancer. [150 Camelot Rd. Unit 2, Belpre, OH 45714] (7/6)

Lil Underwood, Amber Busiek's mother, is recovering from surgery to remove cancer from her spine; on-going chemo.

[324 Casey Lane Washington, WV 26181] (10/12)

Dianna Wagoner is dealing with cancer on her other kidney. Doctors will watch the situation until 3/26.

[1508 36th St. Parkersburg, WV 26104] (12/29/24)



Let all that you do be done in love

— 1 Cor 16:14

MMBB



Send In Your Gift

Mail

Send a check with the name of your church to:

American Baptist Churches USA/
Mission Resource Development
PO Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Online

- 1 Go to abc-usa.org and click on the "GIVE ONLINE" button at the top right.
- 2 For "Fund," select, "Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering."
- 3 Provide your church name in the "Comment" box.

A Legacy of Love: Honoring Those Who've Served

Following God's call often comes with sacrifice. Many retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses have served faithfully, yet often lack the resources to fully prepare for life's later seasons. Health challenges, the loss of a spouse, or isolation.

These are the people who have poured into our lives. Pastors who prayed with us, missionaries who served where we could not. Their dedication helped shape the American Baptist Churches USA into the vibrant, faithful community it is today.

Your offering is more than a donation, it's a heartfelt expression of love and gratitude. It allows us to provide emergency assistance and a "Thank You" check to those who have devoted 15 or more years of their lives to God's service.

Thanks to your generosity, in 2024 we raised \$932,122, resulting in 3,331 checks sent to retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses.

These gifts meet real needs and offer comfort in life's most vulnerable moments:

"I am so humbled and thankful for your generosity. I was so surprised when I checked my account and saw your kindness displayed. I will remember my family in Christ and the love you've shown."

— Retiree from Ohio

"Thank you for the RMMO gift. An unexpected and generous blessing. Thank you for all you do in Jesus's name."

— Retiree from California

"Thank you so very much for the Thank You check from MMBB. What a lovely gift—just when my laptop was on its last legs. It couldn't have come at a better time. Thank you! Our affiliation during these 40-plus years has meant more to me than you could imagine."

— Retiree from Virginia

Each time a check is received, it's more than financial support, it's a reminder that they are still part of a loving church family that sees them, remembers them, and honors their service.



The
Marriage
Course

Best “Dinner Date” Series for Couples

Invest in your relationship in 2026 at The Marriage Course or The Pre-Marriage Course! This international series of “Dinner Theater” dates is based on excellent, general psychological and Biblical principles designed to strengthen relationships whether you have been married a long time, recently married or just considering marriage. The In-person dinner-date series occurs in a lovely, intimate restaurant setting with “couples only” – no group – conversations. On-site childcare can be arranged.

The Marriage Course is 7 consecutive Fridays, Jan 23 – Mar 6

In-person: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Couples enjoy superb meals at their own "table-for-two" in a relaxed setting while they privately discuss the excellent videos.

Limited Tables, so reserve soon!

Hosts: Keith & Eileen Mayer

Cost per couple: \$75* (\$20 for materials, \$55 for 14 meals/dessert)

Online: 7:45pm – 9:45pm

The Online Course is same excellent material delivered to your own home.

Couples are encouraged to create an intimate environment to privately discuss the videos.

Hosts: Brian & Christa Raitz

Cost per couple: \$25* for materials.

The Pre-Marriage Course is 5 consecutive Fridays, Feb 6 – Mar 6

In-person: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Held just like The Marriage Course but in a different dining area.

Hosts: Joe and Sarah Stephens

Cost per couple: \$60* (\$20 for materials, \$40 for 10 meals/dessert).

More info or to sign up? Check out www.themarriagecourse.org or contact host church (Emmanuel Baptist Church: Parkersburg) at 304.485.5171 or Keith and Eileen Mayer at keithandeileen1221@gmail.com.

We took this excellent series many years ago ... hosting since!

*Cost waivers available



Saturday, February 7, 2025

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Join us for a day of workshops with more than 200 others from your WVBC family!

Registration Deadline: January 24, 2026

If you plan to attend, please let Blaine Hess know or call the church office to possibly coordinate traveling together in the church van or bus.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Make checks payable and mail to:

WV Baptist Convention

P.O. Box 1019

Parkersburg, WV 26102

or register online at:

www.wvbc.org