

10:45 am Worship Service

December 7, 2025

SERMON "Anticipating Peace: Preparing the Way for the Lord"
Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Dr. Jana Stoner

FAB Staff

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**Fifth Avenue
Baptist Church**
LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

1135 Fifth Ave.
Huntington, WV 25701
Change Service Requested

Along the Journey...

An old Chinese parable talks about a farmer who had worked his crops for many years and raised his son on the farm. One day, his only horse broke free from the barn and ran away. His neighbor, upon hearing the news, said, "I'm sorry for your bad luck. You must be sad."

The farmer replies, "We'll see."

A few days later, his horse returns to the farm along with two wild horses that had befriended his domesticated one. The farmer and his son were able to secure the wild horses, and all three seemed happy in the barn and with the food they provided. His neighbor, upon hearing the news, said, "I can't believe your good luck. Now you have three horses! Think of the work you can get done! You must be thrilled."

The farmer replies, "We'll see."

A few days later, his son is working to tame one of the wild horses. He is thrown from the saddle and breaks his leg. A local doctor resets it, but it will be weeks before his son can work again. His neighbor, upon hearing the news, said, "I'm sorry for your son's bad luck. You must be sad."

The farmer replies, "We'll see."

A few days later, military officers arrived at the small town to begin conscripting young men in the community into the army—there was no choice in the matter. When they arrive at the farm and see the son's broken leg, they move on to the next farm. His neighbor, upon hearing the news, said, "I can't believe your good luck. You get to keep your son, who will be working on the farm again in a couple of months. You must be thrilled."

The farmer smiles and once again replies, "We'll see."

I love this parable because it reminds me that my life is never defined by my circumstances. Good things and bad things happen to us all. They don't define us—unless we allow them to do so. With every good opportunity, we have the choice to utilize it or to waste it. With every bad situation, we have the choice to rise to the occasion or to allow it to determine our future. We always have a choice—even if it's making the best of a bad situation.

~ Dr. Tim Moore



Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

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Worship God wholeheartedly. Love one another unconditionally. Help people meet Jesus.
Help each other become more like Jesus. Love our hurting world.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSEMBLE FOOD BASKETS IN DECEMBER! PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

FAB will be conducting its annual Food Basket Mission Project on December 11th, 12th & 13th. We'll be picking up the food and begin packing boxes on the 11th. We'll need lots of physical help to complete this task. We're encouraging monetary donations to help cover the cost of providing each family with \$200 in food items and a nice gift card. When making out your check please note in the memo "FAB Food Baskets". This year, we'll be providing baskets for 85 families. Thank you for making this annual project as successful as it always has been. We appreciate you and your continued help and stewardship.



End of Year Giving

"Donors must deliver checks on or by Dec. 31, 2025, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2025. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2026 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2025, even if the check is predated to 2025 or written in 2025. However, checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2025 will be deductible in 2025, though they may not be received by a church until 2026."

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Mail slots are located in the Fifth Avenue Chapel entry door & the lower 12th Street entry door.

Checks can be delivered via the mail slot when the office is closed. Those dropped in after Dec. 31 will be counted as 2026.

Online contributions, regardless of date made, will be deductible if contribution is processed and in a church bank account in 2025. The processing can take several days, so submit your contribution earlier if wanting to deduct in 2025. If writing a check for more than one fund, please write separate checks for each gift.





**FAB Youth
ONCE MORE!**
Apple Butter Fundraiser

Dec. 13

Contact Mycah
Pemberton for more
information



**YOUTH
COFFEE
SHOP**

Every
Sunday
9-9:45AM

JOIN US IN THE FAB LAB FOR A
CUP OF COFFEE PREPARED BY
OUR YOUTH!



**FAB YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
Party**

WHEN:
DEC. 6 | 4 PM

WHERE:
FAB LAB

Immediately following Head Start
Shopping, we will be coming to
the church to celebrate!



HEAD START

**Christmas
Shopping**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

**BUSES LEAVE PARKING
LOT AT 2 PM**



**GET OUT YOUR UGLY
CHRISTMAS SWEATERS
And join FABkids for**

**A
GINGERBREAD
BASH**

**THIS INTERGENERATIONAL NIGHT
WILL INCLUDE A SKIT, MUSIC,
GAMES, AND CREATING A
GINGERBREAD MANGER SCENE
TOGETHER AS THE STORY OF THE
GREATEST GIFT, IN NOT SO
BEAUTIFUL WRAPPING, IS TOLD.**

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10TH
FOLLOWING DINNER**



**CHRISTMAS
GIFT DRIVE**

Spread the love through giving!

This Christmas, Central City Elementary is making sure every student feels the magic of the season! Each child will receive a small gift – and we need your help to make it happen. We can accept donations of items or monetary donations. Every donation, big or small, helps bring warmth, fun, and smiles to our students this holiday season.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Holiday pajamas
- board games
- books
- blankets

Thank you for helping us make this season merry and bright for every Cougar!

To donate or learn more, contact
Clara Gray at
(304)528-5231 ext. 2137
clara.metz@k12.wv.us

LIFE AMONG THE COLUMNS

CALENDAR | Dec 7-13

Sunday, December 7

9:30 Sunday Morning Bible Studies
10:45 Worship & Live Stream
12:00 Blood Pressure Check (Friendship)

Monday, December 8

9:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 9

12:00 Circle 1 Luncheon (Woodlands)

Wednesday, December 10

5:30 Dinner: **Lasagna, vegetable medley, garlic bread, dessert**
6:15 Gingerbread Bash

Thursday, December 11

9:00 Food Basket Prep

Friday, December 12

Food Basket Prep

Saturday, December 13

9:00 Food Basket Delivery & Pickup

PRAYER CONCERNS

Gay Bird
Christy Bird
Judy Booth
Nell Brumfield
Burke Family
John & Jill Chapman
Sandy Collins, sister of Bud Harbour
Felix Daniels
Bill Denman
Carolyn Dickens
Natalie Swann Dodge, great niece of Jack Lively
David Elmore
Beverly Gaskin, friend of Gerry Smith
Martha Hagan
Anne Jameson, niece of Mary Madsen
Janet Jarrell
Opal Jones
David Justice

Linda Lawrence
Mary Lee Leslie
Julie Lively, daughter of Jack & Jackie Lively
Kim Lively-Smith, daughter of Jack & Jackie Lively
Suzanne Nieman, friend of Jerrie Hussell
Cindy Perry, niece of Mary Madsen
Steve Perry, nephew of Mary Madsen
Jeanine Price
Bill Ransbottom
Allen Reasons
Justin Reynolds, nephew of Janet Jarrell
Larry Shannon, friend of Janet Jarrell
Ryan Sharp, nephew of Jackie Ballard & cousin of Scott Ballard
Patti & Mike Shaver Sr.
Barbara Sheils
Jack, Becky & Haley Stephenson, friends of Martha Hagan
Lenora Sutphin
Sherry Waggoner

Ministry Action Budget: November 30, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | 10,600.00 |
| Online | 25.00 |
| Total | 10,625.00 |
| Given To Date | 752,738.92 |
| MAB Expenses To Date | 833,974.97 |
| Overage/(Shortage) | (81,236.05) |

Designated Funds

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Food Baskets | 5,650.00 |
| Total Designated Funds | 5,650.00 |
| Designated Gifts To Date | 15,325.20 |

If you or someone you have added to the Columns Prayer list can be removed, please call or email the church office.

A Message from Circle 1

Circle 1 will meet Tuesday, December 9 at 12:00 pm for lunch at Woodlands. Jane Fotos will host and Sandy Brown will present the program. For additional info or to RSVP for a lunch reservation please contact Jane Fotos 304-360-5037, janecfotos52@gmail.com. Please RSVP by December 7.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Dec

7 Kenneth Gainer, Judy Veazey
8 Evan Tolley
9 Matthew Prunty
10 Michael Hooser
11 Mary Johnson
12 Sara Runyon
13 Matthew Bowen, Olivia Mort

Inclement Weather Policy

SUNDAY MORNING: Members can learn if there will be services by going to the church website or Facebook page.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT: If Cabell County schools are closed, Wednesday evening activities are canceled. The same policy governs activities on other weeknights.



Christmas Poinsettias

The deadline to get orders in is Sunday, December 7.