

# December 2023

**SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE:**  
 \*Contemporary Worship services are available online on Youtube.com via our Facebook page. Traditional service available on CD (audio only).

9:00 AM Contemporary Service  
 10:00 AM Sunday School (all ages)  
 11:00 AM Traditional Service

MATHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH  
 P.O. Box 8  
 8284 Buckley Hall Rd.  
 Hudgins, VA 23076  
 mathews baptist@live.com  
 www.mathews baptist church.com



**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Rick Andrews, Adriana Gillberg
- 4 Christopher Henry
- 5 Mark Barrick, Kati Hancock, Waylon Waddell
- 6 Nancy Higginbotham
- 7 Susan Mangerchine, Jaelynn Morgan
- 8 Lisa Brown
- 9 Sharon Springer
- 10 Gregory Morgan
- 11 Kimberly Clark, Whitney Eriksen, Linda German
- 12 Kandace Curko, Rosemary Gayle
- 13 Lorna Eriksen, Will Harrington, Jeanette Immel Bain, Dawn Miller
- 14 Alene Cofer, Naomi Sutton
- 15 Mikel Garrett, Dale Mitchem, Hannah Yarkey
- 16 Jeff Immel
- 18 Alan McBurney, David Condon
- 19 Shania Deagle, Bunny Foster
- 21 Mary Clements, Kaitlin Eriksen
- 22 Brian Kramer
- 24 Jathan Doane
- 25 JESUS, Raymond Harris, Janah Stewart
- 26 Franklin Morse, James Pine
- 27 Michael McBurney
- 28 David Nelson, Rosa Milby
- 31 Gerry Clark, Ginger Inabinet

**Anniversaries**

- 23 Robbie & Tracy Whitehurst
- 31 Mark & Michelle Denkinger

\*If your name is not listed above and you had a b'day or anniversary, please call the church office (725-3707). Thanks!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$7,500 3 10 AM Play Pract. 5:30 PM Christmas play 10 3 PM Comm. Concert @Central UMC 17 11AM Children's Lunch/Caroling 5PM Youth Christmas Party 24 7 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 31	4 6 PM Exercise WEEK (Dec. 3-10) 11 6 PM Exercise 7 PM Prayer @Mattaponi BC	5 12:30-6 PM Blood Drive 1 PM WMU mtg. 6:30 PM Bible study 12	6 OF PRAYER	7 6 PM Exercise FOR 14 6 PM Exercise 21 6 PM Exercise 28 6 PM Exercise	1 Deadline to order poinsettia. 8 6-9 PM Journey to Bethlehem @Camp Piankatank INTERNATIONAL 15 16 8 AM Men's Breakfast	2 9 6-9 PM Journey to Bethlehem @Camp Piankatank MISSIONS

<b>Counting committee for December:</b> —Alice & Larry Stewart <b>Counting committee for January:</b> —Bill & Cathy Nelson	<b>9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies):</b> 3 - Katie Haywood/Stephanie Anthony 10 - Delena Nelson/Bonnie Kramer 17 - Cathy Rowe/Hannah Yarkey 24 - Nikki Pollard/Mary Beth Johnson 31 - Pat Taylor/Hailey Denkinger	<b>9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers):</b> 3 - Glenda Ramer/Elizabeth Moore 10 - Nikki Spiers/Claire Kramer 17 - Becky Erthington/James Moore 24 - Megan Waddell/Addy Lowe 31 - Amanda Kemp/
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# Mathews Baptist Church

“The Lighthouse”

Org. 1776



## DECEMBER 2023

**SPECIAL DATES**

- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Wk of Prayer—International Missions
- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of Advent; Christmas Program
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive
- ◆ 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Celebration in Mathews
- ◆ 8-9<sup>th</sup> Journey to Bethlehem @Camp Piankatank
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parade
- ◆ 10<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent
- ◆ 16<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast
- ◆ 17<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of Advent; Children's Caroling Event Youth Christmas Party; Scholarship deadline
- ◆ 24<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent; Christmas Eve Service
- ◆ 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day
- ◆ 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

**Mathews Baptist Church**  
 P.O. Box 8  
 Hudgins, VA 23076  
 Return Services Requested

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Brian E. Kramer, Pastor ❖ P.O. Box 8, 8284 Buckley Hall Rd., Hudgins, VA  
 Email: mathews baptist@live.com ❖ Web: www.mathews baptist church.com ❖ Office: 804-725-3707



7:00 pm  
Candlelight  
Christmas Eve  
Service in the  
Sanctuary.



Want a way to show love to your MBC family and to God's children throughout the world? Send your Christmas cards to your church family through our MBC Christmas mailbox and enhance your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gift with the money you save in card postage. Mailboxes are located at entrance of sanctuary and multipurpose building.



**GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE**  
The next Red Cross Blood Drive is Tues., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-6PM and will be held at the Piankatank Ruritan Building & sponsored by Mathews Woman's Club & American Legion Post 83. Appointments can be made by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or by calling 804-725-2485. Come out & give the gift of life at Christmas time!

**Scholarships** College scholarship applications for the spring semester are available on the counter in the welcome area. Completed applications are due back no later than Sun., Dec. 17. If you have any questions, contact Phil Putnam at 804-815-3564.

Remember to pick up your 2024 offering envelopes in your classroom or entryway to worship. If there aren't envelopes for you & you would like a box, please call the church office.

**New Offering Envelopes**



**Please pray for...**  
†Israel and all those affected by war and conflicts throughout the world.  
†Kathy Heath who is still in the hospital but hoping to go to a rehab facility soon, Cathie Wahlers & Homer Smith who are both recovering from surgery.  
†Our international missionaries.  
**Long term care...**  
†Ed Haufler (Mathews Conv); Mildred Lockwood (Harmony on the Peninsula)  
**Our love & sympathy go out to...**  
†Floyd & Jean Ward at the passing of their sons, Gary on Tues., Oct. 10 and Kenneth Wayne on Sun., Nov. 12.  
†Joyce & William Callis at the passing of Joyce's niece Connie Field.  
**Homebound:** Julie Harvell, Mildred Hudgins, Ron Mallon, Archie/Marilyn Owens, Jim/Gloria Travenski  
**Those who need our continued prayers...**  
†Derek Zwiers      †Mathews High School      †Sherry Inabinet      †Karen Wiant  
†Pauline Barrick      †Daniel West      †Raymond Harris      †Ellen Parkin  
†Bonnie Callis      †Leonard Downs, Jr.      †Peyton Arthur      †Taylor Jacobs & family  
†William S. Smith      †Don & Christy Talbott      †Liam (Neiman's cousin)  
**Our Church Families' Missionaries...**  
†Mike & Susan Mangerchine (Navigators)  
†Abbie Kramer (Baptist Collegiate Ministry)

### Mission News

What our WMU aims to do:

WMU's unwavering focus is **making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.**

We want to thank all of you for supporting our drive of donations for CareNet. We loaded up the church van and delivered all your gracious donations on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



We also celebrated **Operation Christmas Child** last month when we delivered 90 filled shoeboxes to Amy Ashberry's Shoebox Mobile. If you delivered a box directly to the school bus, we would like to know so that we can add it to our total. This seems to be a record number for us. In total, Amy's bus carried 4,760 shoeboxes this year. In the last 3 years she has collected 10,764 boxes.



Nancy Gustafson gave a very inspiring testimony at our November meeting about how to pray for the persecuted church and how we can glorify God by enjoying Him forever. We all should submit to God in order for Him to bring more of His presence on earth. We should pray that those persecuted endure and not deny God. Points Nancy made included: suffering purifies us, we need to keep an eternal focus, our purpose is to glorify God, suffering awakens others out of indifference when they see God in us, and it manifests the supremacy of Christ.

Our next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, a week early so that we can prepare for our December and January projects. Come help us plan for the future. We welcome your input and prayers!

We continue to visit the **Nursing Home** on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am to sing for the residents. We are always looking for people to join us. You don't have to be a great singer, just have enthusiasm and a desire to give of yourself and your time to lift the spirits of some people living with challenging health issues. *If you decide to come, please let us know ahead of time*, as sometimes our schedule changes due to Covid issues at the Nursing Home and unavailability of our pianist. If there is anyone out there with the gift of playing the piano and would like to take part, please let us know, as that is one of our challenges right now.

For questions or comments, contact Donna Frantz at 804-384-2309.

*Donna Frantz*

Our Lottie Moon Offering goal this year is \$7,500 As of 11/26 we have collected: \$240.<sup>00</sup>. The Week of Prayer for International Missions is December 3-10. Look for a prayer guide in your bulletin on December 3.

#### Church Attendance-Nov. 2023

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
11/05/23	125	135	20
11/12/23	114	114	25
11/19/23	130	118	32
11/26/23	119	95	22

*Journey to Bethlehem*  
December 8th and 9th  
6pm - 9pm  
at Camp Piankatank  
1586 Stamper's Bay Road  
Hartfield 23071

Come experience Bethlehem by hayride then warm up around the fire with a visit to the reflection area with hot cocoa!

Free event but you must register. [click here](#) →



#### Christmas Carolers Needed:

On Fri., Dec. 8, businesses in downtown Mathews will be open & lit up for Christmas. Refreshments will be served & a tree lighting at 8 PM. The Bay School is looking for volunteers to sing Christmas carols & hymns on the street & possibly stroll around the town singing. Anyone interested in taking part is asked to contact Jeannine Johnson (804-620-7617) or email her at [shn\\_jhnsn@yahoo.com](mailto:shn_jhnsn@yahoo.com) or call the church office (804-725-3707).



Merry