



The Messenger

December 2023

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

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

"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being." Psalm 104:33

"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth." Psalm 96:1

"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises." Psalm 98:4

The month of December should always be a joyous and cheerful time of the year in our churches. After all, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior! Our churches plan special events like those listed on page 5 of this newsletter. And our congregations get to join their voices in the singing of Christmas hymns and carols.

So, this got me to thinking about the way our churches have changed over the past few years or even decades when it comes to worshipping through singing. And I've also read a few articles about this lately. One article asked the question, "Does your church unintentionally discourage singing during services?" I'll let you answer and deal with that one for yourself, but I thought it was a stimulating question to ask.

What really prompted this article was something found in a Washington Post article. The writer discussed the benefits of church choirs and the physical and mental health benefits of singing with others. Choirs are large families, said the paper. Singing in them promotes social bonding and joy. Choir members are more optimistic, less lonely, and more likely to contribute positively to community. A sense of achievement comes from creating notes with the body and working together to master a work. The text is often inspiring and beautiful, so despite the day's travails, choir members leave rehearsals feeling "this is a very positive thing that I can be a part of." The Bible knew that all along. Choirs are a biblical part of God's scheme of worship!

In the "Sing With Us" study, research points to the physical and mental health benefits of singing with others. Sing With Us linked singing in the choir to reduced stress hormones and increased cytokines, proteins that can boost the body's ability to fight serious illness. The study went on to mention that singing has numerous health benefits for the older adults, too: fewer falls, doctor visits and prescription drugs, better social connections, and better cognitive function, according to a study sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Several of the benefits of church choirs are the social bonding they create which contributes to a sense of belonging and joy. Studies have found that group singing fosters trust, cooperation, and a sense of social cohesion (We call this fellowship!)

However, when you look at the comments from Lifeway research, the number of churches with choirs has fallen to 33%. That's troubling, say the authors of the National Congregations Study, as it means fewer lay people have a role to play in worship. "The decline of choirs is worth examining in its own right because singing in the choir is one of the most common ways, along with Bible studies, for people to become more deeply involved in a congregation, and it is the single most common way for lay people to participate actively in gathered worship," according to the study's author.

Maybe it is time that our churches reconsider the benefits and contributions of having a choir. Not every church will be able to do this and maybe a church would consider having a choir for a specific season or event. I have noticed several churches that I know are returning to the use of a choir, either for special seasons or worship times.

Celebrating Christmas with you,

Kirk



December 3-10, 2023 Week of Prayer

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. Will you join your hear with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel? Visit www.imb.org/pray/week-of-prayer for a detailed prayer guide and stories to go with each day. Here is how you can pray for international missions.

Dec 3: We will reach the lost through obedience.

Dec 7: We will reach the lost through church planting.

Dec 4: We will reach the lost through innovation.

Dec 8: We will reach the lost through relationships.

Dec 5: We will reach the lost through research.

Dec 9: We will reach the lost through discipleship.

Dec 6: We will reach the lost through partnerships.

Dec 10: We will reach the lost through commitment.

February 15, 2024 Leader Connect – Associational WMU Leaders

Online Event @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

For Associational WMU Missions Leaders and State Missions Advocates.

April 11-13, 2024 Missions Get-Together

Brentwood Baptist Church 7777 Concord Rd, Brentwood, TN

www.tnbaptist.org/event/missions-get-together

Missions Get-Together is an annual event planned and hosted by Tennessee WMU for women 18 years of age and older to: Experience Personal Growth Engage in Meaningful Worship Discover Missions and Ministry Opportunities

SPECIAL GUESTS:

- ◆ BRENDA CROSTON – Bible Study Leader
- ◆ FIRST BAPTIST CONCORD WORSHIP TEAM – Worship Leaders
- ◆ MISSIONARIES:
 - ◆ Kevin Godin – NAMB Denver
 - ◆ Kerry Jackson – NAMB Atlanta
 - ◆ Liz Harper – IMB, South Asia



Here are some upcoming dates for youth ministers. Please pray for our youth and our youth ministers.



FEATURING:

CONCLAVE
JANUARY 18-20, 2024
CHATTANOOGA, TN
YMCONCLAVE.ORG

YMCONCLAVE EXISTS TO EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE SBC YOUTH LEADERS THROUGH TRAINING, NETWORKING, AND SHEPHERDING

JOIN US FOR:
 RELEVANT TRAINING
 POWERFUL WORSHIP
 HONEST CONVERSATION
 VALUABLE RESOURCES

REGISTER TODAY!
 \$169 BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023
 \$179 FROM DECEMBER 1, 2023 TO JANUARY 2, 2024
 \$189 AFTER JANUARY 2, 2024

CONCLAVE IS A PREMIER GATHERING THAT BRINGS TOGETHER PASSIONATE STUDENT MINISTRY LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THIS DYNAMIC EVENT IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT, WITH EIGHT STATE BAPTIST CONVENTIONS JOINING FORCES TO LEAD AND EMPOWER YOUTH MINISTERS LIKE YOU.

Conclave

Make plans now to gather with hundreds of Youth Ministry Leaders from all over. This Conference offers lots of breakouts, Worship gatherings, and opportunities to connect with Ministers and Leaders.

Don't forget to check out our free resources on the

[Register Here](https://ymconclave.org/)

<https://ymconclave.org/>

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 2024
YECTN.org

- Registration to open October 1, 2023
- Prices: \$30 Oct. 1 - Feb. 14
- \$35 starting Feb. 15

YEC 2024

Join us this Spring as we come together to for an incredible line up to celebrate Jesus!

Registration opens October 1st!

<p>West TN MARCH 8-9 Jackson, TN</p>	<p>Middle TN MARCH 22-23 Murfreesboro, TN</p>	<p>East TN MARCH 1-2 Knoxville, TN</p>
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[Register Here](https://www.tnbaptist.org/yec)

<https://www.tnbaptist.org/yec>

YEC Mission Trip

- When: June 15-22, 2024
- Where: Vancouver, Washington
- With: Pastor Ryan Sidhom

Contact Ministry Specialist Jay Barbier for more details

email: jbarbier@tnbaptist.org



[Register Here](https://www.tnbaptist.org/event/young-adult-conference/)
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Disaster Relief Training Opportunities 2024

tndisasterrelief.org/events/list

- Jan 12-13: Chaplaincy Training — Jamestown (Middle TN))
- Jan 20: Intro to Disaster Relief and Specialized Classes — Morristown (East TN)
- Feb 9-10: Middle TN Regional Disaster Relief Training — White House, TN
- Feb 17: Intro to Disaster Relief and Specialized Classes — Dandridge (East TN)
- Mar 8-9: East TN Regional Disaster Relief Training — Knoxville, TN
- Mar 15-16: Bucket Truck Classroom Training & Hands-on Training — Newport (East TN)



Song Leader needed at Plateau Missionary Baptist for traditional music. Can be a paid position. Contact Pastor Bob Hallatt at 931-200-7416.

We are currently looking for someone to be our associational leader in women's ministry. If you (or someone you know) would be a good fit for this, or if you'd just like more information, please contact Kirk.



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CHRISTMAS IN CROSSVILLE 2023



Central Baptist Church

Christmas Concert
"We Believe"
December 15 @ 7PM
December 16 @ 2 PM
December 17 @ 7PM
Free Admission—All Ages

Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church

Christmas Eve Service - 6:00pm
December 24, 2023

Cookie Exchange
For Ladies
Dec 9 @1pm
More info: kellykearney013@gmail.com

Christmas Open House
Sat, Dec 2, 4-6 PM
Please bring a wrapped gift for a door prize.
All Welcome! Bring children and grandchildren.
More info: Call Carol @ 931.210.4339

Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church

Christmas Puppet Program
Sunday, December 10th at 6pm
For all ages

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24th at 5pm

Lantana Road Baptist Church

Children's Christmas Play
December 20th at 6pm

Live Nativity
December 22nd, 23rd, and 24th
5pm-8pm

Memorial Baptist Church

Christmas Cantata
"Heaven Has Come"
December 17th @ 10:30
(during the morning service)
Lunch to follow.

Prime Timers will be having their Christmas get together on December 21st at 11:30 with a gift exchange game.

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24th at 4pm





December 2023 At-A-Glance

Dec 4-5	Love Packages Mission Trip
Dec 11	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: Sing Oldham (TBMB)
Dec 25	Merry Christmas—CLOSED

Looking Ahead to January 2024

Jan 1	New Year's Day—CLOSED
Jan 3	School Resumes for Students
Jan 8	Leadership Team meeting
Jan 9	Executive Council meeting
Jan 15	MLK Day
Jan 15	Pastors' Conference 10:30 AM Speaker: TBD
Jan 16	Financial Issues Seminar
Jan 18-20	Youth Ministry Conclave (Chattanooga)
Jan 25-27	Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat (Pigeon Forge)

Cumberland Plateau Baptist Association

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs.

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

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