

*January 2024*



**lonoke  
baptist**

*Monthly Newsletter*



*Making Disciples, Who Make Disciples  
To See Lives Transformed by the  
Power of the Gospel*

## *A Message from Our Pastor*

Saying the wrong thing can get a person in a lot of trouble. You may have heard the story of the man who purchased a horse that formerly belonged to a preacher. In order to make the horse go, the command, "Praise the Lord," had to be given. To stop the horse, "Hallelujah!" was the instruction. The purchaser did all right in getting the horse started. "Praise the Lord!" he shouted. The horse took off at a full gallop and headed for a cliff. "Whoa!" the man shouted, but to no avail. Suddenly he realized he had forgotten the command to stop the horse. Just in the nick of time he remembered. "Hallelujah!" The horse came to a stop at the very edge of the cliff, so that its new owner could look into the chasm below. The man with great excitement and relief shouted, "Praise the Lord!"

Saying the wrong thing can get you into trouble, but doing the right thing in the right way never will. Doing the right thing may be hard, but it will always please the Lord. Every day presents us with opportunities to make choices. We choose to stay or we choose to go. We choose to say yes or we choose to say no.

*The new year will be filled with choices for each of us to make.* Determine today to make the right choice...to do the right thing in the right way. I am reminded of Romans 12:1. There we are told to "present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service." Paul tells us that because of God's grace and mercy, it is reasonable to live honorable lives for the Lord.

Do you remember the hokey pokey song? It's that little song and dance that tells us to put our left arm or right leg or some other part of our body into the circle, shake it, and then "turn yourself around." It's an active and sometimes tiring little exercise that ends with the command, "Put your whole self in ..."

My prayer for each of you this year is that you would *put your whole self in*....that you would present your whole body to the Lord, and you would live in a way that honors Him. Choose to do the right thing in the right way for the glory of God and you will never go wrong.

Pastor Reid

# Service Times

## Sunday Morning

### **8:30am Worship Service**

9:30am Sunday School

### **10:45am Worship Service**

- Nursery Available For Ages 0-2yrs

10:45am Wee Worship

- For Ages 3yrs - Kindergarten

## Wednesday Night

5:45pm Youth & Children's Programs

- Wednesday Night Family Meal - CFC
- Children's Classes for Ages 3+
- Youth Meal & Service in the Youth Building

6:30pm Adult Bible Study

- Nursery Available for Ages 0-2

# Upcoming Events

## Children's Choir

Children's Choir will resume on Tuesday, January 9th for grades K - 6th. Remember to let your child's teacher know if they will be picked up from school by the church bus.

## Women's Missionary Union Meeting

Monday, January 15th at 10:00am

## Ministry Fair

Sunday, January 21st at 9:30am

In place of Sunday School, we invite everyone to come to the CFC where we will have booths set up displaying all of our current church ministries. You can gather information on ways that you can serve in the church, and you will have an opportunity to sign up for a team.

## Church-wide Business Meeting

Sunday, January 28th at 6:00pm

# Financial Update

## December 3, 2023

Budget Giving	\$20,855
21st Century Fund	\$270

## December 10, 2023

Budget Giving	\$25,009
21st Century Fund	\$160

## December 17, 2023

Budget Giving	\$11,245
21st Century Fund	\$1,230

*\*Giving envelopes are still available to pick-up in the hallway between the church office and front foyer.*



## Ways to Give

1. In Person - drop your check in an offering plate located at each exit in the worship center
2. Mail In - mail your check to: Lonoke Baptist Church 406 W Front St. Lonoke, AR 72086
3. Online - [lonokebaptist.org/give](https://lonokebaptist.org/give) (with options for auto-giving)

## Ways to Watch Online

Our online service streams at 10:45am every Sunday!

If you are unable to join us in person, you can still participate in our weekly worship service through the platforms below:

Facebook Live - Lonoke Baptist Church

Website - [lonokebaptist.org/sermons](https://lonokebaptist.org/sermons)

Boxcast - Lonoke Baptist Church on ROKU TV



# LBC Worship

Happy New Year, everybody!

2024 is here and we are excited about it in our music program here at Lonoke Baptist. We've got several things in the works for the upcoming year, but one thing we can tell you about is our worship choir will begin its spring/Easter season in February.

There has never been a better time to get plugged in to our Worship Programs here at LBC, let me know if you have any questions at all about joining our team!

Jesse Mertens



## New Church Members

Rachel Minson

Levi Cook

Katelyn Scott

Avery Neyland

Rhett Morrisett

Briley Hardy

## Greater Things - Church Facilities Improvement Campaign

*To give to our Church-wide facilities improvements campaign, find the specially marked envelopes in any foyer or give online by selecting the 21st Century Fund.*





Hey Everybody!

2024 is officially here! When I think back upon the last year, it has been a whirlwind of a ride for me and my family. Nearly a year ago to when this article is being written, Suzanne had completed her 3rd surgery for having a sinus tumor removed. Then in the beginning of 2023, she did 6 weeks of radiation treatment. Also, we had pushed pause on our adoption journey. During that time, it was hard to look ahead because all we could see were clouds.

Then, at the end of February, Brother Reid called me to see if I was interested in talking about a vacant Children's Ministry position at LBC. Over the next 2-3 months, God gradually transitioned us from Natchez, MS to Lonoke, AR. We would be closer to family, begin a new chapter in my ministry, and resume our adoption story to be paired with our forever baby.

*God used that season of life to teach us to fully rely on Him. We literally could not continue without his love, grace, and mercy everyday. He reminded me of James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." He used those verses to teach me that when suffering comes, we can rest knowing that God has gone before us and knows us by name and is with us every step of the way.*

As we kickoff 2024, here is what is happening in the Children's Ministry at Lonoke Baptist Church!

- **January 3 - Resume Wednesday night meals @ activities**
- **January 9 - Children's Choir resumes**
- **January 21 - Ministry Fair**
- **January 31 - Rec Night**

I'm so thankful to be with Lonoke Baptist Church. I look forward to serving with you in 2024!

Jason Burnett



A new year has arrived. Whether you enter this new year with anticipation, with apathy, or with anxiety, we can have assurance that we have a loving God who goes before us and is with us. We saw Him do amazing things in the life of our church this past year, and I'm confident that we will continue to see the Spirit move in 2024!

## *Upcoming Events*

### Super Winter Arkansas

Our Winter Youth Retreat this year is January 12-15 in Lonsdale, AR.

We have a great group registered and ready to go. Please pray for our students, college staffers, and adults that will be attending.

### Lead>Defend

Looking ahead a bit, we have an apologetics conference at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock on March 2nd. This is for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Sign ups will begin now in the student building!

God bless!  
Benjamin Carpenter





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