

From the Pastor's Pen

Rev. Judy Emerson

I'm sure you have heard this many times by now, however, I want to wish you a Happy New Year and I pray it will be a happy and healthy one for all in 2012.

As we begin another year together as a community of faith, it is a good time to consider what God is calling us to do in the year ahead. Our Administrative Council continues to prayerfully discern the answer to this question. This year I would like to give everyone an opportunity to express an opinion. Therefore, I am asking that you complete the church survey which is available in the church office by February 12, 2012. You may leave it in my mailbox in the church office or give it to me directly. You may also mail it to the church.

I would like to hear from children, youth and adults. This is not a "one survey per family" request as we all have our own opinions. Names are not requested so your responses will be confidential. I ask that you prayerfully consider your answers as you think about where God is calling you to serve and how this call can be put into action through the worship, programs and ministries of Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

I pray that through this time of discernment we will be able to follow God's call by building on the strengths we share at Ebenezer.

The last day to submit this survey is Sunday, February 12, 2012. Please do not miss this opportunity to share. Your input is greatly valued as we plan for the future ministries of our church.

*Grace and Peace,
Rev. Judy*



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 2012

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Shrove Tuesday (also known as **Pancake Day**, **Pancake Tuesday**, **Fat Tuesday**, and **Mardi Gras**) is a term used in English-speaking countries, especially in Ireland, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Germany, and parts of the United States for the day preceding Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of fasting and prayer called Lent. The word *shrove* is the past tense of the English verb *to shrive*, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of confession and doing penance. During the week before Lent, sometimes called Shrovetide in English, Christians were expected to go to confession in preparation for the penitential season of turning to God. Shrove Tuesday was the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, and noted in histories dating back to 1000 AD.

This day is often known as Pancake Day. Making and eating such foods was considered a last feast with ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs, whose consumption was traditionally



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22, 2012

7:30 PM Sanctuary

This year Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2012. On this day we will worship at 7:30 PM in our Sanctuary. In the Christian tradition, **Lent** is the period of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer – through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial – for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to the Synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, where he endured temptation by Satan. Thus, Lent is described as being forty days long.

Christians observe Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday. The six Sundays in this period are not counted because each one represents a "mini-Easter," a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death.

Lenten Bible Study 2012



Tuesday Evenings
March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Wednesday Mornings
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Our four week Lenten Study will explore biblical passages that are primarily historical narratives, however, we will look at them with a new perspective as they contain many practical lessons for followers of Jesus today.

Session I **Baptism and Temptation**

During this session we will learn more about Jesus and the significance of his baptism, the various ways people respond to Him and how he dealt with temptation. We will also discuss the temptations that we deal with each day.

Session II **The Teachings of Jesus**

Sermon on the Mount, Kingdom of Heaven, Good Samaritan, Lost and Found. This session will focus on some of the major teachings of Jesus and what they say About living as one of his followers.

Session III **The Miracles of Jesus**

Feeding the Five Thousand, Walking on Water, Healing the Blind Man, Healing a Demon-Possessed Man, Raising Lazarus from the Dead. The purpose of this discussion is to explore Jesus' miracles and ask what they tell us about him and what he was teaching when he performed them. What do they say to us today?

Session IV **The Cross of Christ**

The Last Supper, Arrest and Trial, The Crucifixion, the Resurrection, The Ascension. Our final session will take a unique look at the death and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for his followers today.

Women's Retreat

March 9th-March 10th, 2012

Register Now!

"Soul Spa"

Spiritual, Purposeful and Amusing
Ways to Live the Christian Life!

Come as you are!



Leave refreshed in the Spirit!



In Matthew 11:28-30 we hear "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Life can be very demanding leaving little time for rest and relaxation. Our bodies and souls need time to rest. Taking time away strengthens us for the path ahead. This retreat is designed to help you grow in your relationship with God and others as we find rest and refreshment in the Lord. Come learn how God wants to renew and bless us. Together we will explore the different aspects of God's healing ways and how they apply to our lives. We will also discover new ways we can bring the message of Christ's peace to others. Our retreat will also include a few relaxing activities to deepen and enrich your learning. Being "taken away" to experience the love of Christ is a wonderful way to take that restful trip that we need now and again.



Optional Craft Project

Learn how to make a beautiful crocheted adjustable fiber necklace. It is so easy to make and yet stunning to wear! Many color choices will be available and no experience is necessary.

**Come and join us for a weekend away!
Indulge in a "Soul Spa"
while relaxing in the presence of the Lord!**



Guess What's New in Your Pew?



We no longer have attendance cards
We are returning to the ***attendance roster!***
Please sign the book and pass it down the pew!

Special Prayer Requests cards are in the pew rack
in addition to our prayer request board in the narthex.
Fill out a card when needed and place it in the offering plate.

Stephen Ministry Cards are now available for your information!

Welcome Cards are in the pew rack
for our Visitors to complete and place in the offering plate.



END OF YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

If you would like a giving statement for the total contributions you have made to Ebenezer UMC in 2011, please make a note on the attendance roster next to your name and a statement will be prepared for you.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING has been rescheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012 at 6:30 PM. Please bring a covered dish to share as we will “Eat and Meet” and set goals for 2012.

Youth Group

Youth Group Schedule

Jan 29: Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Feb 5: No Meeting Super Bowl Sunday

Feb 12: Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm

**Feb 19: Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Pancake Prep**

Feb 21: Pancake Supper

**Feb 26: Roller Skating: see Sign-up sheet
on Youth Bulletin Board
Leave Church at noon**

March 4: Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Earn your way to a FREE Week at Summer Camp!

- ✝ If you have perfect attendance at Sunday School from February 1 until May 31, 2012 and are in 2nd-11th grade, Ebenezer will pay for you to go to summer camp for a week free!
- ✝ **Want to invite a friend?** If they come with you to Sunday school and also have perfect attendance, they can go for free too!!
- ✝ You may miss 1 Sunday during that time period and still qualify for perfect attendance.
- ✝ You may go to any week of camp, but the volunteers from Ebenezer will be at Camp Manidokan July 22-27, 2012, so that week will be the most fun all summer!! You won't want to miss it!

If you are interested please fill out the camp form and have your parent return it to Kim Middleton or Pastor Judy.

I want to earn a free week of Summer Camp

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Current grade in school: _____

I want to attend Camp Manidokan July 22-27, 2012

I want to attend a different week (Date: _____)

I want to attend camp at West River (Date: _____)

Parent Signature:

Parent Names:

Parent e-mail:

Important parent information: If you change your mind for any reason after you register for camp, you will be asked to reimburse Ebenezer for any fees paid on behalf of your child.

February 2012

Notes:

	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Feb 1: OWLS lunch at church 12 PM							
Feb 6: Ad council planning meeting & pot luck dinner 6:30PM				1	2	3	4
Feb 7: Stephen Ministry 7:00PM							
Feb 9: Holly Mart meeting 7:00PM	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Feb 11: Men's breakfast 8:30AM							
Feb 13: Feed My Sheep 10:30AM Trustees meeting 7:00PM	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Feb 16: Women's prayer group 7:30							
Feb 19: Nan & Miguel at services Help at Cold Weather Shelter 6:30PM	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Feb 20 : Presidents' Day Finance & Endowment meeting 7PM	26	27	28	29			
Feb 21: Visit Brinton Woods 10:30AM Evangelism Committee meeting 7PM							
Feb 22: Ash Wednesday service 7:30 PM							

March 2012

Notes:

March 7: OWLS lunch 12PM

March 9 & 10: Women's retreat

March 12: Feed My Sheep 10:30AM
Staff/Parish meeting 7PM

March 13: Stephen Ministry 7PM

March 15: Women's prayer group
7:30PM

March 20: Visit to Brinton Woods
10:30AM

Choir practices every Wednesday
from 6:00-8:30PM

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Holly Mart 2012

Plans are already underway for Holly Mart 2012. This year's date is Saturday, November 10, once again from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now!

Join us for craft days beginning April 19 at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome, as many hands make light the work. Enjoy fellowship, fun, and crafting with the group. No special skills necessary. We are always looking for **new craft ideas**. Donations of dried flowers are needed for our note cards. Please save and dry blossoms, leaves, and other greenery from your gardens. Items should be picked when dry (not too early in the morning or too soon after a rain) and can be placed between the pages of a telephone book. They are ready after about two weeks and can be given to Linda Bennett or Michelle Dahl.

Thank you for your continued support!



MEET OUR MISSIONARIES

Nan and Miguel Mariena , a missionary team that Ebenezer United Methodist Church supports, will be here on Sunday, February 19, and will speak at both worship services. Come and hear about their ongoing ministry in Nicaragua, working to help women and children in a variety of ways



LEADERSHIP ROSTER 2012

A listing of all new officers for 2012 is available in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy when you leave church. This roster is a complete list of all committees and can serve as a reminder of what committees you may have volunteered to serve on!