

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**4901 Woodbine Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784
(410)795-6136**

*Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor
Linda Bange, Director of Music and Organist*

Order of Worship

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
November 17, 2024

The 26th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME

We are blessed by your presence with us today! Our scripture this morning reminds us that Jesus didn't attempt to make sense of the evil of the world, and the goodness of God. Instead, He proclaimed the goodness and love of God amid the terrible things we do to one another and creation. May our worship—our prayers, our creeds, our proclamation, and our blessings—do the same. You are invited to begin this time of worship in silent prayer.

PRELUDE

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Pachelbells

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all the earth make a joyful noise unto the Lord!
Let the mountains and hills break out in song!
Let the trees of the field clap their hands!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.
Let us praise and worship God!

*HYMN

“How Firm a Foundation”

UMH No. 529

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace and love, in this sacred space, we come as individuals, each with our unique joys and burdens, but we also come as a family bound by our faith in you. We pray for unity and fellowship as we gather for this time of worship. Let your love flow through us, binding us together in a spirit of togetherness and support. May our differences enrich our worship, and may we find strength in our shared belief in your divine presence. Lord, help us grow closer as a church family, supporting one another in our walk of faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives and offer that truth to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God who loves us, hear our prayer. So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong. There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories, and not enough hopeful ones. So, we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys and put us on a path toward that which heals and brings joy. And hear us again, O God, as we offer you our confession in silence.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us proclaim the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Go into the world as people made new by God.
Amen.

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

UMH No. 883

Our affirmation of faith reminds us of our beliefs and that we are not alone. God is with us.

SUNG RESPONSE

“Lead Me, Lord”

UMH No. 473

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:1-8

This passage inspires believers to remain vigilant, faithful, and prepared in the face of uncertainty and suffering. This chapter serves as a testament to the enduring power of faith and the boundless grace of God's salvation, reminding us that among the impermanence of worldly structures, God's word endures forever. Jesus reminded the disciples that buildings are only stones and bricks. What really matters is what goes on inside.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

“Don't Be Alarmed!”

Rev. Judy Emerson

HYMN

“Stand By Me”

UMH No. 512

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Offertory

“Jubilee”

Pachelbells

*Presentation of Gifts

*Doxology

“What Gift Can We Bring”

UMH No. 87

**This gift we now bring, this present, this token,
these words can convey it, the joy of this day!
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,
this song we now offer in honor and praise!**

*Prayer of Dedication

Merciful God, whose wisdom surpasses all understanding, we offer these gifts as a token of our faith and devotion. In a world full of uncertainties, may these offerings be used to spread your hope and love. Teach us to listen to your voice amid the noise and to trust in your steadfast presence. Bless our giving, that it may build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“Victory in Jesus”

UMH No. 370

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Announcements

November 17, 2024

POINSETTIA ORDERS – IOrder your Christmas Poinsettias in memory or in honor of your loved ones. These will be displayed on the altar on Christmas Eve. There is an order form in your bulletin which needs to be into the office by **TODAY**. Any questions contact Lori Rapids. Thank you!

FRIENDS-GIVING - November 28th 1:00 to 4:00

Don't have plans for Thanksgiving, not traveling, want to enjoy some good fellowship? Come and join us for the second annual Friends-giving Meal! A sign-up sheet is posted for you to sign up and what you would like to bring for the meal. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall here at church.

ADULT ADVENT STUDY – “Come Home for Christmas” Jesus is calling you back to the greatest story ever told! Sundays at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary, starting December 1, 2024. You are welcome to purchase the book, by Matthew West, however it is not necessary for the discussion. **Come Home for Christmas** by coming together for this time of Advent Reflection!

DECORATING EBENEZER – On Sunday, December 1, 2024 immediately following the late service, we will begin decorating the church for Christmas. Help is needed putting trees up in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and decorating both rooms. If you can lend a hand for an hour or so, please plan on staying after worship,

ADVENT WREATH – We need people to light the Advent wreath during worship again this year. You and your family or you and someone from your church family can join together and participate in worship in a meaningful way. The readings will be emailed beforehand. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider participating in worship in this special way during the Advent Season.

THE COMMUNITY TABLE - provides hot meals at Wesley Freedom UMC on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Ebenezer provides a meal on the second Monday of each month. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to fill in to help prepare and serve on those Mondays. December 9th is the next opportunity. We would like to have some volunteers ready who can also serve on January 13th , 2025. If you are interested please contact Nancy Thompson, 410-241-1509. Thank you



NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY - Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024. Ebenezer United Methodist Church will again be participating as we honor the veterans buried here in our Church Cemetery. ***We are still looking for veterans to place the ceremonial wreaths during the ceremony. We will also need someone to sing the National Anthem and someone to play TAPS.*** There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, see Cindi directly or contact her at darno455@aol.com. We are still taking wreath sponsorships - \$17 per wreath - which will defray costs for the wreaths used during the ceremony. Please make sure to designate the funds to Ebenezer UMC Cemetery. If they are in memory of someone specific, please note that as well. All forms and money need to be handed in to Cindi ASAP. Checks should be written directly to *Wreaths Across America*. We have 47 veterans here in our cemetery and have been honored to be able to place a wreath at each with donations we receive.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - Reservations can now be made for our Annual Christmas Celebration which is a luncheon (*replacing our Saturday night dinner*) this year. On **Sunday, December 8th**, we will have one worship service only at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Our Christmas luncheon will begin immediately following worship. Make a reservation now for a great time of fun, fellowship, and delicious food. Come and join us as we begin our Christmas season. Reservations must be made no later than December 1. Please see Sandy Wean and/or Lori Rapids for questions. Ho Ho Ho!!!

CHRISTMAS VIDEO – We’re hoping to put together a video of Christmas memories for the Christmas Luncheon. If you have any favorite memories in the form of photos, please forward them to Susan Brown at stmpnsusan@aol.com. They can be of your house decorated, your tree, your children, your family, your church family or any special holiday memory. No more than 4 per household please. Humorous photos are always good too! Happy hunting!

C.R.E.W. - A few fall projects have come up and we are looking for some volunteers to help. Both are yard work projects. Please contact Nancy Thompson (410-241-1509) if you are willing. Dates TBD.



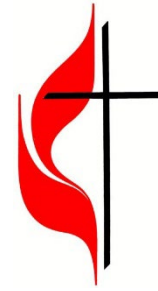
YOUTH GROUP DINNERS - Our youth enjoy having a meal together when we meet. Nothing fancy – they love pizza, spaghetti, subs, grilled cheese, walking tacos, BBQ, just something easy, homemade or purchased. We would love some help from the congregation to support this. We will also need volunteers for our Progressive Dinner in February. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex to see where you can help! We typically feed up to 20/25, including leaders. You can coordinate with one of the leaders. Drinks and paper products are supplied. Thank you so much for your support of our incredible youth!

PLANNING FOR NEW OUTDOOR MINISTRY SPACE – Ad Council has voted to begin a fund to build a pavilion on our property behind the food pantry. This could be used for so many activities for our church family, including for VBS, youth, picnics and so much more. If you would like to donate, just mark “Pavilion Fund” on your check. You can also donate in memory or in honor of a loved one.



**Directory Update
November 2024**

Rick & Toni Byrd
36 Quiet Creek Dr.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Toni Cell # 301-461-3387
Rick Cell # 301-846-8601
tbyrdboys@comcast.net



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Church Office: 410-795-6136
Website: ebenezerumchurch.org
Email: eumcwinfield@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: revjae@aol.com

Office Hours

Tues - Thurs 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - Noon

Nursery

Infants through Kindergarten during worship!

Pastor
Rev. Judy Emerson

Music Director
Linda Bange

Secretary
Lori Rapids

Co-Treasurers
Steve & Katie Cave

Nursery Coordinator
Lisa Humphries

Nursery Coordinators
Susan & Meredith Rodriguez

	Offering	Attendance
Last Week:11/10/24	\$6,815	117
Worship Leaders	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Rocky Mabry & Rick Byrd	Austin & Cyndi Diethrich
Liturgist	Janet Davis	Julie Jones
Acolyte	Kyle Flater	Ryan Pieciewicz
Date	Event	Time
TODAY	Youth Group	6:00 – 8:00 PM
Monday, November 18 th	Finance Mtg via Zoom	6:30 PM
Tuesday, November 19 th	Bible Study w/Rev. Gray	9:30 – 11:00 AM
Wednesday, November 20 th	Children's Choir Chancel Choir	6:30 PM – 7:15 PM 7:30 PM
Thursday, November 21 st	WOWs via Zoom Pachelbells	6:30 PM 6:45 PM
Sunday, November 24 th	Children's Church	11:00 AM
Thursday, November 28 th	Friends-giving	1:00 – 4:00 PM