

**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

*Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor  
Linda Bange, Director of Music/Organist  
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM*

***Order of Worship  
December 1, 2024  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent***

WELCOME  
PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES  
\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come from a world of darkness.  
**We come into Christ's world of light.**  
We come from a world of weariness.  
**We come into God's strength and hope.**  
We come from a slumbering world.  
**We come strengthened by the Spirit.**  
We come to awaken our souls.  
**We come to watch for the coming of Christ.**

\*OPENING HYMN                    *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*                    UMH No. 211

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing light. In the midst of chaos, O God, you bring peace to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace and give us the blessing of feeling your presence among us. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One                    Jeremiah 33:14

Congregation

**While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.**

Reader Two  
Lighting Advent Candle I  
Sung Response

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*  
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.**

UMH No. 204

ADVENT SCRIPTURE                    Luke 21:25-36

*In this passage Jesus foretells signs in the sun, moon, and stars, and distress among nations. Then He describes His return in a cloud with power and great glory, encouraging His disciples to stand up and lift their heads, as their redemption draws near.*

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON                    *"Spiritual Vision"*                    *Rev. Judy Emerson*

HYMN                    *"All Earth is Waiting"*                    UMH No. 210

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Requests  
Pastoral Prayer

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements  
Offertory (11:00 AM)                    *"Prepare For He Is Born"*                    *Chancel Choir  
Pachelbells*

\*Presentation of Gifts

\*Doxology                    *"Praise God!"*                    Tune: UMH No. 95

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.  
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.  
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell  
on earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**O God, we offer you these gifts and tithes. We pray that these funds may abound in love for one another throughout the world. Strengthen our hearts in holiness as we faithfully give, so that our ways may be directed by you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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.**

Breaking the Bread & Sharing the Cup

Communion Offering for Carroll County Food Sunday

Hymns During Communion: *Singing the 1<sup>st</sup> and last stanzas* - #234, #240, #245, #246.

Prayer after communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that in the strength of your Spirit, we may give ourselves for others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

UMH No. 196

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

## Announcements

December 1, 2024


**December 8** - We will not have Sunday School. We will have Children's Church at the 11:00 service

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

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION – TODAY** is the last day to make reservations for our Annual Christmas Celebration which is a luncheon 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. Come and join us as we begin our Christmas season. Reservations must be made no later than **TODAY**. Please see Sandy Wean and/or Lori Rapids with questions. Ho Ho Ho!!!

**CHRISTMAS VIDEO** – We hope 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](mailto: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!

**CHRISTMAS FAMILIES** - Once again EUMC is generously helping to make others' Christmases bright! We will be providing gifts for two families as well as Springfield Hospital patients. If you would like to donate, please sign up on the Signup Genius link below. The gifts should NOT be wrapped and need to be in church by December 11th. They can be left in the classroom across from the Kitchen (Classroom #1). If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brown – [stmpnsusan@aol.com](mailto:stmpnsusan@aol.com).  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AADA723AA8-53266228-christmas>.



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

**ROCK OF HELP FOOD PANTRY SHED** - We appreciate all the donations to the shed that serves our neighbors. We do not have extra storage so please keep in mind to donate season-appropriate clothing. If you have items to donate, it would be helpful if we could get them before Pantry Day. You can leave them in the food pantry foyer or let Nancy Thompson (410-241-1509) know and we can arrange a time to drop off or pick up. Christmas items will be shared on Saturday, **December 21st**. Coats, sweaters and blankets are also welcome. Thank you for being so supportive.

**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.*** Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, see Cindi directly or contact her at [darno455@aol.com](mailto: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 into 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.

**C.R.E.W.** - We are looking for volunteers to help with a few fall projects, both of which involve yard work. Please contact Nancy Thompson (410-241-1509) if you are willing. The dates are TBD.

**ADVENT CALENDARS**– There are Advent Calendars in the Narthex on the counter. Please feel free to take one as you leave the service today.

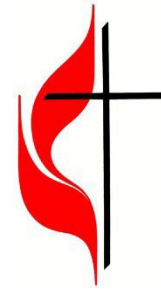


**HOLLY MART** - This year's Holly Mart again set a record for income. We made \$21,843, an increase of over 5% from last year. Holly Mart funds are used to fund many of EUMC's financial needs, such as scholarships for our youth, EUMC mortgage, general fund, missions, and many other areas. Many thanks to the entire Holly Mart team and the support of our wonderful church family.

**THE COMMUNITY TABLE** - provides hot meals at Wesley Freedom UMC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of 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 these 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!

**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** – The 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.



## Ebenezer United Methodist Church

**Church Office:** 410-795-6136

**Website:** [ebenezerumchurch.org](http://ebenezerumchurch.org)

**Email:** [eumcwinfield@gmail.com](mailto:eumcwinfield@gmail.com)

**Pastor's Email:** [revjae@aol.com](mailto: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

	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Last Week:11/24/24	\$4,087.50	142
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Ushers	Rick & Brenda Baker	McGehrins & Stevens
Liturgist	Barb Conaway	Lori Rapids
Acolyte	Kyle Flater	Derek Jones
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ad Council Meeting	7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bible Study w/Rev. Gray	9:30 – 11:00 AM
Wednesday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	OWLS Chancel Choir	12:00 – 2:00 PM 7:30 PM
Thursday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pachelbells	6:45 PM
Sunday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Church Christmas Luncheon	11:00 AM After Worship