

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*

***Order of Worship
December 22, 2024***

4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

God of love, your word became flesh, and you made your dwelling among us when Jesus was born. You set aside all of the glory and splendor of heaven and chose the most humble way to enter into your kingdom. Beneath the stars, surrounded by all of the hosts of heaven, love came. Welcomed by an earthly mother and father, shepherds and wise men, love came. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. Amen.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations.
We praise God's constant and never-ending love and faithfulness.
We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one is about to be fulfilled.
O come, O come, Emmanuel—God with us—forever!

*OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH No. 234
Stanzas 1, 2 and 6

OPENING PRAYER

Precious Savior, we eagerly wait for your coming. The house has been made ready. The tree is trimmed with lights and sentimental ornaments. Guests have been invited. All of the ingredients for a delightful meal have been purchased. Our hearts are filled to overflowing with love for you and for one another. Come into our waiting hearts that we may celebrate the miraculous day of your birth. Welcome, Lord Jesus, for it is in your name, we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One Micah 5:2

Congregation

God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two
Lighting Advent Candles I, II, III & IV

Sung Response *“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”* UMH No. 204
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.**

ADVENT SCRIPTURE

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

HYMN *“What Child is This”* UMH No. 219

SERMON *“A Vision of Virtue”* Rev. Judy Emerson

HYMN *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”* UMH No. 229

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

“An Advent Alleluia”

Chancel Choir

*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

God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birthday party. We recall now in the quiet recesses of our minds, the thrill of receiving your message of salvation. As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, accept these generous gifts. May the ministries that these gifts support invite others to receive the saving message of the Christ Child. In His name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

UMH No. 218

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

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	OFFERING	ATTENDANCE
Last Week:12/15/24	\$3,612.50	102
WORSHIP LEADERS	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Tony & Susan Sager	Lori & David Rapids
Liturgist	Susan Sager	-
Acolyte	Kyle Flater	Ryan Piecewicz
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Wednesday, January 8 th	Children's Choir Chancel Choir	6:30 – 7:15 PM 7:30 PM
Sunday, January 12 th	Christmas Clean Up	After Worship
Sunday, January 19 th	Ad Council Planning Day	12:00 – 3:00 PM

Announcements

December 22, 2024

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 24th

8:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary
10:00 PM Worship in Sanctuary

December 29th

No Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship in Fellowship Hall

Office hours

Christmas Week
Tues 9:00 - 1:00 PM
Wed & Thurs – CLOSED

THANK YOU to our congregation for the generous outpouring of gifts for our Christmas Families and Springfield Hospital. All gifts have been delivered to very appreciative people. EUMC donated over 125 gifts which is an incredible amount at this time of year. Our church is blessed and such a blessing to others.

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!

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS! – January 5, 2025

Time: Sunday School PreK -5th grade 9:45-10:45 AM Grades 6-12 will report to regular SS class at 9:45 AM and then join the younger grades at 10:30 AM for cake and ice cream in the Fellowship Hall.

Place: Sunday School Rooms at 9:45 AM and Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM.

Gift: Help Jesus feed his sheep. Please bring a canned item for our Food Pantry.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP – We will be packing up Christmas after the Service on Sunday, January 12th. If you are available, we would love the help. Many hands make clean up easy. Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES – The new 2025 offering envelopes are in the Narthex. Please pick yours up when you leave the service today. If you have a box of envelopes and you don't want them, please let Lori Rapids know and she can reassign them. Thank you!

