

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER



November-December 2024/January 2025

► Upcoming Events ◀

November 9th - Holly Mart

November 28th - Friendsgiving

December 2nd - Administrative Council

December 8th - Christmas Luncheon
after Worship Service

December 15th - Cantata-One Service Only

December 22nd - Family Christmas Service
(11:00 AM)

December 24th - Christmas Eve Services
8:00 & 10:00 PM

December 25th - Christmas Day!

January 19th - Ad Council Planning Mtg.

Worship

Sundays

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School

9:45-10:45 AM

Worship on Facebook

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Worship Services
(11:00 AM only)

Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Website

Ebenezerumchurch.org

Church Phone: 410-795-6136

Pastor's Office: 410-795-1237

Church Email

eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Pastor's Email

REVJAE@aol.com

Pastor: Rev. Judith A. Emerson

Music Director: Linda Bange

Secretary: Lori Rapids

Treasurers: Steve & Katie Cave

Nursery Coordinators:

Lisa Humphries, Meredith & Susan
Rodriguez

4901 Woodbine Road. Sykesville, MD 21784

A Message from Your Pastor

On Thanksgiving Day, we are each invited to consider the blessings we have received from God. As I consider the wide range of experiences many of us have gone through this year, I am drawn to the Apostle Paul's word to the church in Philippi when he writes, "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need." (Philippians 4:12) This verse comes shortly after his inviting others to "not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

There are times in life when words of thanksgiving come rather easily. I hope you will give expression to just how thankful you are in such wonderful seasons of life. There are other times when words of praise and thanksgiving seem hard to come by. In these moments, I find myself not giving thanks for the adversity, challenges or pain, but giving thanks for how God is with me in such times and places.

Offering words of gratitude increases awareness that we are not alone, and that God is with us. With such awareness, the darkness just isn't as dark. The burdens we carry are heavy but somehow, they seem a little lighter. Offering words of thanksgiving doesn't dismiss our struggles, rather, they provide a step in the right direction for healing. For those who are finding words of thanksgiving hard to come by this year, perhaps starting with the understanding that God is with you in the valley and thanking God for such a presence in your life is what is needed to take a step forward.

Whatever our station in life right now, I hope we can offer an expression of thanks for how God is not far removed from our experiences but with us each step of the way.

Blessings to all as we give thanks for God's presence with us!

Rev. Judy



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

Come Home to Wonder and Joy December 1, 2024

Come Home to Healing and Peace December 8, 2024

Come Home to Compassion and Forgiveness December 15, 2024

Come Home to the Manger December 22, 2024

Author, Matthew West, leads readers to experience Christmas through the eyes of a child and to come home to joy, hope, peace, and belonging found only in Jesus.

Come Home for Christmas invites readers to enter the Christmas season with the intention of returning their hearts to God. During what can be the busiest and most stressful holiday season, each chapter points the reader to the kingdom realities that God invites each of us to participate in through the birth of Jesus. The author uses humor, biblical-teaching, and storytelling to challenge us to embrace this season of Christmas as the homecoming that God intends for it to be.

Come Home for Christmas by coming together for this time of Advent Reflection! You are welcome to purchase the book, however it is not necessary for the discussion.



Decorating Ebenezer for Christmas

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.





Thanksgiving & Christmas Families

We will once again be adopting families for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. We already have all the food we need for Thanksgiving, but will be asking for donations for Christmas meals. Please watch the bulletin for a sign up in December.

Christmas Gifts

We will be adopting 2 families and Springfield Hospital for Christmas gifts this year. A Sign-Up Genius will be coming out soon. Thanks in advance for your generosity. EUMC is just the best!



December Worship & Sunday School 2024

First Sunday in Advent	December 1, 2024	8:30 AM and 11:00 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary 9:45 AM - Sunday School Noon - Decorating the Church
Second Sunday in Advent	December 8, 2024	No Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship in the Fellowship Hall EUMC Christmas Luncheon - after Church (reservations needed)
Third Sunday in Advent	December 15, 2024	9:45 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM -Worship in the Fellowship Hall Christmas Cantata- The Chancel Choir
Fourth Sunday in Advent	December 22, 2024	8:30 AM - Worship in the Sanctuary 9:45 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Children's Christmas Service in the Fellowship Hall
1st Sunday after Christmas	December 29, 2024	No Sunday School 11:00 AM - Worship in the Fellowship Hall



Ebenezer's Annual Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 8th

12:15PM Appetizers

12:45PM Buffet



Adults - \$18

Children 6 to 10 - \$9

Children 5 and Under - Free



Menu

Appetizers

Fried Chicken & Ham

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans & Glazed Carrots

Tossed Salad

Dinner Rolls

Dessert

Contacts

Sandy Wean - 410-596-1748 *or* kswean@comcast.net
Lori Rapids - 410-795-6136 *or* eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Reservations **MUST** be made by 12/1/24



Lighting The Advent Wreath

We will 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.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in November. Please prayerfully consider participating in worship in this special way during the Advent Season.

NIGHT BY NIGHT SHELTER

Ebenezer continues to support the *Night-by-Night Shelter* at 127 Stoner Avenue in Westminster with dinner the third Sunday of each month. If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4babag2ba2fb6-cold> and Scott Murchie will contact you the beginning of the week with a reminder and to arrange drop-off of food in the church kitchen, either ahead of time or at 5:30 PM Sunday for hot dishes. Arrangements can also be made for food to be picked up.

Thank you!

OWLS - Older Wiser Livelier Seniors

First Wednesday of Every Month (Sept.-June)
Noon - 2:00 PM

OWLS is such a fun group. We chat and laugh and play games and sing. Although we don't do much dancing, we do eat a lot. Please join us on the first Wednesday of the month, September through June. All senior citizens are welcome to join us. You need not be a member of the Church, and you may bring your friends with you. Hope to see you there.

Diane Biddinger,
Parliament Leader



Holly Mart Craft Group

Thanks in advance for all the help to prepare for Holly Mart this year.

Please check the sign-up sheets if you can help with set up on Thursday, November 7th or sales help on Saturday, November 9th.

Lifting help will also be needed on the 7th around 8:00 AM at the Fire Hall to get the room ready for all of the crafts to be set up. Craft transport from the church will be around 10:00 AM on the 7th. After Holly Mart, we can use help transporting the extra crafts back to the church.

**Questions call or email Linda Bennett (301-253-3367)
bennettga@aol.com**

Thanks in advance for your help to make Holly Mart Crafts a success again this year.

The Holly Mart Craft Group

(Crafts will be taking a break after Holly Mart until the spring.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22, 2024

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Children's Christmas Service in the fellowship hall.

Birthday Party for Jesus!!

January 5, 2025

Time: Sunday School PreK -5th grade
9:45-10:45

Grades 6-12 will report to regular SS class at 9:45 and then join the younger grades at 10:30 for cake and ice cream in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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



Pill Bottle Recycling

The pill bottle recycling program is well into its second year. So far in 2024, we have mailed OVER 3,600 clean pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries (M25). These bottles help the poorest of the poor receive medications in a safe and sterile manner. Bottles that cannot be reused are shredded for cash to aid M25M responses. M25M is responding to both the Helene and Milton hurricanes with shower and laundry facilities as well as airlifting food, clothing, and other supplies. Your clean pill bottles have supported that response. Please remember to clean your bottles – there is typically no way to remove harmful pill residue on site.

Donations to offset postage are always welcome!



Women's Retreat 2025

March 7-8, 2025



Our retreat this year will be at the church in our beautiful fellowship hall. We will begin on Friday evening enjoying a movie together (you can even wear your pajamas), head home to get a good night of sleep on a comfortable mattress and return in the morning for a full day of faith, fun, food and fellowship. If you can't make it Friday night, you can watch the movie at home so you are ready for Saturday. Brochures and registration forms will be available in January.



SAVE THE DATE! Coming January 2025

Make some room in your freezer so you can stock up on all your favorites. Ebenezer will be selling Joe Corbi's famous pizza kits and Clair's Gourmet sweets. All proceeds will go toward our new Pavilion.



Children's Church

Children's Church continues to meet on the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 11 AM to 12 PM. All children ages 4-17 are welcome to join us!

Our Children's Church has been thriving! The children are actively engaged in every lesson, and we've been blessed to see our numbers grow, with 10-12 children joining regularly. It's truly a joy to witness how eagerly they share their knowledge of God.

In November, we will continue our study of Moses, focusing on his encounters with the Pharaoh of Egypt and the plagues that God sent. In December, we will explore the birth of Jesus. In January, we will conclude our study of Moses with the Ten Commandments.

We invite you to join us for fun-filled sessions of storytelling, games, and artwork, all centered on learning about God.

Thanks,

Meghan Estes
Joanne Davis



Food Pantry Monthly Needs

- January - Laundry Detergent
- February - Shampoo/Conditioner
- March - Toilet Paper
- April - Household Cleaners (Mr. Clean, etc.)
- May - Deodorant
- June - Body Wash/Soap
- July - Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- August - Liquid Dish Soap
- September - Paper Towels
- October - Toilet Cleaner
- November - Bleach
- December - Fabric Softener (liquid/dryer sheets)

Hoffa House

The Hoffa House is a local home where 7-8 men live while recovering from addiction. Our church provides dinner once a month for 10-12 men during their Monday meetings. These meetings help the Hoffa Foundation board members stay connected with the residents and give the men a chance to reflect on their positive and negative experiences each week.

Our church has been incredibly supportive of this nonprofit organization, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year to prepare meals for the group. We will continue to provide meals for the Hoffa House and, if you're able to help, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Meals can be homemade, or you can donate gift cards, which I will be happy to pick up. The mission of the Hoffa House has been deeply appreciated.

Meghan Estes



**Save the Dates for 2025
June 23-27**

There is something for everyone at C.R.E.W.

If you want to participate as part of our work team, or help support our workers in other ways, please sign up in the narthex.

Do you need help from a work team?

Please see Rev. Judy

At our Charge Conference this year, we had the honor of answering the following question (in 100 words or less) for Ebenezer United Methodist Church:

Where have we seen God move in the life of the congregation and how did it benefit the community beyond the walls of the church?

This was our concise answer:

We added a new ministry in 2024 – C.R.E.W. (Caring, Repairing - Ebenezer at Work). In our first year, we focused on serving church members with homes in need of repairing and hearts in need of emotional and spiritual caring. The participation and outpouring of love from the entire congregation was breathtaking; our most extensive service project ever. All hands were "On Deck" to move, clean, fix, and feed. Each day was bookended with moments of the Spirit and fellowship. We created new understanding, relationships, and commitment to serve God's people. Next year we set sail to serve our broader community! "God, we give you thanks!" 100 words which represents hundreds of planning and work hours, delivered by dozens of youth and adults; and an uncountable amount of love.

**Susan & Tony Sager
Co-Lay Leaders**

Pickle, Jam & Jelly Sale

Special thanks to everyone for the support of the Pickle and Jelly Sale. We have a good start toward our Holly Mart total. Hope everyone enjoys their purchases.

*Laura Scott
&
Linda Bennett*

Holly Mart Candy Table

Thanks in advance for your donations to the candy table. If anyone has time to work at the candy table on Saturday Nov. 9th, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

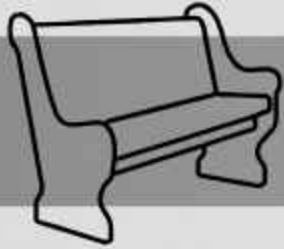
All help is appreciated.



WOWs Women of the Word

We welcome all to our group for it pleases God to hear from His followers and hear our praises as well. We will continue to meet the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Hope to see all your joyful faces this winter.

Sharon Torosky



A View from the Pew

By Ellie Baublitz

MEET BARBARA CONAWAY

A member of Ebenezer for 48 years, Barbara Conaway was the church's first secretary, serving three pastors from 1981 to 2000 when the job was very different from what it is today. "There were four pastors counting the exchange pastor from England," she noted. "I typed the bulletin on a typewriter and mimeographed it. I also did the newsletter. In the beginning, I shared an office with Pastor Rick Gray, where there was no air conditioning, and finally got my own office under Dr. Richard Simpson." She also was secretary with Rev. Gayle Annis-Forder.

Barbara has been active in the Women's Retreat, first-grade and young adult Sunday School classes, WOWs, Vacation Bible School, Camp Manidokan, Holly Mart, and missions, including The Heifer Project when it was active. The daughter of Dorothy Tebo, who lives with her now, Barbara has held a variety of other jobs, including bus driver, bank teller, receptionist, giving pony rides for birthdays, and working at Wachter's Auction House. Some jobs were part-time while raising a family. Now retired, her life continues to be very busy. Born to Dorothy and John Dietz in Baltimore, Barbara has spent the bulk of her life in Carroll County. She was married to Charles Conaway, the late Carolene Will's brother, for 36 years, with whom she had three children: Charlie, Kelly and Jennifer. She now also has five grandsons that she helps babysit.

She has lived for 48 years on a 16-acre farm where she and Charles raised race horses and ponies and where she still boards five pleasure horses and keeps her grandson's pony. She loves hiking, walking, the mountains, quilting, reading, puzzles, playing cards, the Orioles and Ravens, genealogy, horses, other animals and family get togethers. From her family research she has learned that her paternal great-grandfather was an original founder and trustee for Mount Olive UMC in Randallstown, and maternal great-grandfather was the founder of First Baptist Church in Monkton, Baltimore County. Further research found that her fourth great-grandfather, William Harvey, fought in the Revolutionary War, making her eligible to join, Daughters of the Revolutionary War (DAR). She even found Harvey's Cecil County farm and a descendant still living there. "That was fun, finding that out," Barbara said.

Also a world traveler, she has a rock collection from every place she has traveled to, which includes Africa, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Monte Carlo, Italy, France, the Caribbean and Alaska. "Going to Germany and Greece is on my bucket list," she said. Perhaps her most memorable visit was to Africa, where she and daughter Jennifer, a missionary there for four years, started a Young Life group along with other projects. Barbara and her mother also sold crafts to raise money for a well to provide water for the Rwandans. "They had nothing, but were the happiest people in Africa," Barbara recalled. "We went to one worship service that lasted three hours and was the best service." Barbara and Jennifer also led a Bible School for a week in Scotland. Always willing to help others, Barbara and Jennifer have gone to Washington, D.C. for years, once a month, to take clothing and other provisions for the homeless. "I always look forward to serving opportunities and to share the love of Jesus to those around," said Barbara, whose favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10 – "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Next Ad Council Meeting: December 2nd at 7:00 PM

Pavilion Building Fund

Help us build a new outdoor ministry space 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.



Planning Day **Sunday, January 19, 2025** 12:00 Noon **Fellowship Hall**

Our annual planning day will be on a Sunday this year. We will meet after the 11:00 AM worship service on Sunday, January 19th, for a covered dish luncheon and to plan for 2025. After Christmas there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for the covered dish luncheon.

Please plan on joining us! We will conclude our meeting no later than 3:00 PM. As always, our discussion will include reflections on our blessings from 2024, approving Ebenezer's budget for 2025, setting goals, establishing fundraising activities, and discerning God's vision for Ebenezer for the coming year.

All are welcome to join us as we eat and meet and plan for the year ahead!

Leadership Changes as of January 1, 2025

Please be sure to pick up a 2025 Church Leadership Roster from the Narthex in December. Check to see which committees you are serving on for the coming year. Some committees have a group listing with the year stated above. This means you will serve on the committee until the end of the stated year. For example, if you are listed under the class of 2025 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2025. If you have questions about your leadership role for this year, please contact the church office. A special thank you to the leaders of Ebenezer UMC who have completed their service on a committee in 2024. Your dedication and leadership is a true blessing to the ministries of our church. May God bless you as you continue to serve your church and community.



YOUTH GROUP

Ebenezer's Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th grade and higher (including our college/young adults no longer in school)

We meet typically every other week on a Sunday evening from 6 -8 PM. Watch for our schedule each month and come join the fun!

EUMC Youth Group – What's Up With That?

Yo, High School Youth, Listen Up! - The EUMC Youth Group has been on a roll!

So far this Fall, we've had a Water Games Night, Nerf Wars, a Night-Time Corn Maze, Halloween Pumpkin Carving, and more yet to come - check out all the photos from the past events on Facebook!

The only thing we've missed is those who weren't there! Youth (and their parents) need to make it a point to join us – we'll be looking for everyone!

Mr. Doug, Mr. Byron, Miss Cindi, Miss Cyndi, Mr. Dave, Miss Julie



Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 3rd

12:00 PM

Hike to Cunningham Falls
Bring packed lunch & appropriate shoes/clothing

Saturday, November 9th

Holly Mart

Help where needed

Sunday, November 17th

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Regular meeting
Youth Room

Saturday, December 14th

6:00 PM to Midnight

Mini Lock-In
Please arrange a ride home

Sunday, December 22nd

11:00 AM

Children/Youth
Christmas Service

Sunday, December, 29th

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Trivia Night
Fellowship Hall

IN MEMORIAM

Steve Davis
9/26/2024

Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, emails, prayers, and many verbal expressions of sympathy on the passing of my dear sister-in-law Ruth Hopson. Ruth is healed and at peace now with her brother, my late husband Charles. Your love and support helped make a difficult and sad situation more bearable, and continues to aid my own healing of this loss. Thank you all.

With love, Ellie Baublitz



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024
Ceremony to begin at Noon

Plan to join us as we again celebrate National Wreaths Across America Day. We will take this time to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Those veterans who are laid to rest in the Ebenezer cemetery will be honored with a wreath placed at their headstone. This is a moving ceremony, and we invite our congregation and community to join the veterans' families.

Anyone is welcome to sponsor a wreath for our cemetery. Order forms are in the Narthex.

We are also looking for veterans who would like to participate in the ceremony by laying a ceremonial wreath for the branches of our military. Please contact Cindi Arnold (damo455@aol.com) if you are interested or have any other questions.



Don't forget to bring in your used ink cartridges so we can get \$\$\$\$ for our church!
See Debbie Paulsgrove with any questions!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

November

December

2 Hope Allen
2 Sandy Wean
3 Doug Flater
4 Eileen Fries
8 Nancy Newcomer
9 Sue Bergmann
9 Brae Blocher
11 Rebecca Wisner
14 Kathy McGehrin

16 Ann Adams
21 Matt Middleton
21 Travis Saulsbury
23 Mike Nickey
25 Ellie Baublitz
26 Jim Rhodes
26 Kate Luetze
27 Laura Scott
28 Rachel Biddinger

1 Julie Jones
1 Peggy McClelland
3 Michael Torosky
5 Frank Zamosny
9 Norman Zepp
10 Amanda Lowe
12 Dan Newcomer
13 Eric Rapids
13 Gerry Bennett
14 Chuck Shacochois

14 Sarah Humphries
17 Scott Murchie
17 Nancy Thompson
22 Rebecca Estes
23 Derek Jones
27 Angie Jones
27 Bella Mosko
29 Barb Conaway

January

2 Cindi Arnold
3 Shaun Arnold
8 Steve Luetze

27 Valerie Hyer
28 Steve Bergmann Jr
30 William Streaker
30 Caleb Saulsbury

Anniversaries

November

7 Ed & Sandy Newsome
19 Ruth & Steve Heslen

December

11 Bob & Ann Churchman
16 Dave & Sandy Biddinger
21 Curt & Cheryl Roelle

January

4 Scott & Kim Murchie
26 Bob & Dawn Stevens

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EUMC Enrollment Code:
3442E78357829

