Ebenezer United Methodist Church NEWSLETTER



February/March 2025

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

▶ <u>Upcoming Events</u> <

February 22nd - Game Night

March 2nd - Easter Flower Orders Due

March 3rd - Ad Council 7:00 PM

March 4th - Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

March 5th - Ash Wednesday Drop-In

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 5:00 - 7:30 PM

March 7th - 8th - Women's Retreat

March 12th - Lenten Study Begins

Pastor: Rev. Judith A. Emerson Music Director: Linda Bange Secretary: Lori Rapids Treasurers: Steve & Katie Cave Nursery Coordinators: Lisa Humphries, Meredith & Susan Rodriquez

4901 Woodbine Road. Sykesville, MD 21784

A Message from Your Pastor

The journey to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, when we pause to reflect on this holy day of repentance. As we move through the 40 days of Lent, we may choose to praise and worship the Lord, to read the scriptures, and to pray more often, all in preparation for celebrating Easter. When Holy Week is upon us, we contemplate Jesus' final days on Earth, an intense time of joy, betrayal and mourning, all leading up to the most glorious day when we rejoice in Christ's Resurrection on Easter! During this Lenten time I invite you "to observe a holy Lent; by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" (from the <u>United Methodist Book of Worship</u>).

If you are wondering how to "observe a holy Lent." There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping or something else through the season. This is a <u>religious</u> <u>practice known as fasting</u>. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to <u>focus on devotional practices</u> like Bible study and prayer during the season. In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward connecting with God through prayer. You can experiment with <u>different ways to pray</u> during the season.

Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

Service is another way to observe a holy Lent. Throughout the forty days of the season, you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, help someone in need, make special financial gifts to help others, sing in the choir, or participate in a small group.

An important practice with which many of us struggle is rest. This Lent you may want to find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a <u>desktop meditation</u> or listen to scriptures or sermons during your commute. Each can be a great way of enriching your Lenten experience in 2025.

I pray we will all use this time to draw closer to God and one another as we journey together in faith.

Blessings, Rev. Tudy **Adult Lenten Bible Study 2025**

"What are you giving up for Lent?" Seeking God's Help in Giving Up!

Wednesday Evenings

March 12th - April 9th
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Room #1

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33

Lent is composed of the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, not including the Sundays of those six weeks. It has long been the practice of the church to understand Sundays as mini-Easters anticipating the Day of Resurrection. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon meaning "spring" and is traditionally understood as a time of fasting and penance in preparation for Easter.

The Season of Lent is a natural time to become more intentional about connecting with God and following where Jesus leads each day. Our love for the Lord is experienced through our words and our actions. This study is designed to make new connections by asking challenging questions of ourselves as we embark on this journey of faith together.

The topics we will discuss during this five-week study include giving up some of our favorite things for Lent, such as bad habits, harsh judgments, bitterness and pettiness. Together we will explore ways of giving up that one bad habit or attitude and wrapping our arms around something good and pleasing to God for Easter.

The class will meet in classroom #1 across from the kitchen on Wednesday evenings from March 12th through April 9th from 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM. The glass doors near the kitchen will be unlocked.

Come join Rev. Judy as we explore a meaningful Lenten Season together! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you plan to attend.



CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY



We are happy to announce that we will be having a three-session Bible study class specifically for youth, ages 6-9!! These classes will be held during the 11:00 AM worship service on February 2nd, February 16th, and March 2nd. After completing all three sessions, participants will each receive a special patch. Participants will be working on the first patch – "The Good Book" – in the "Bible Basics RP3" series. "Bible Basics RP3" is a patch series from Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.). It is designed to help families, Sunday school classes, and scouting groups get into the Bible. This series is designed to teach both Bible STORIES and Bible STUDY.

If you have a youth who is interested in attending all three sessions of this class, please register them by emailing Jeff Alderdice at <u>AlderdiceJL@yahoo.com</u>. We are planning on offering more classes in this series in the future, so feel free to reach out to Jeff with interest or for more information.

Ebenezer Game Night

Saturday February 22 - 6:00 PM



Everyone is invited to join the fun in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite card game, board game or a group game! There will be a snack table if you would like to bring something to share. Come join the fun and fellowship! Call Nancy Thompson (410-241-1509) with any questions.

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. Signup slots are available through June 2025. If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign up at

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4baba92ba2fb6-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

The OWLS missed our January meeting due to snow, but February will be exciting because Brenda Baker is coming to get us moving. Anywhere Brenda is, there is lots of fun. Hope to see YOU there.

Diane Biddinger, Parliament Leader

Holly Mart Craft Group

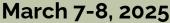
We will resume when the weather warms up!

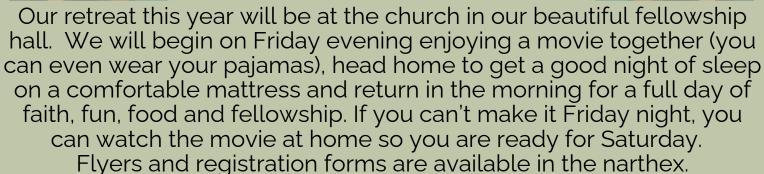
Questions call or email Linda Bennett (301-253-3367)

bennettga@aol.com



Women's Retreat 2025







SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School pre-k through Middle school has been learning the Old Testament up to Advent, when we started the New Testament. We will continue learning about the New Testament as we continue through May. Please join us as we have classes for all ages - Pre-K through Adult. Lots of fun and laughter as we continue to learn about the Bible. There is a class for everyone!

We meet from 9:45-10:45 on Sundays.



Save the Dates for 2025 June 23-27

"Summer Breeze"

See the curtains hangin' in the window In the evening on a Friday night A little light a-shinin' through the window

Lets me know everything's all right Summer breeze makes me feel fine Blowin' through the jasmine in my mind

Summer breeze makes me feel fine Blowin' though the jasmine in my mind......

We are looking forward to these days and in five months we will experience again the warmer weather. Something more to look forward to is C.R.E.W. Week 2025. A lot of things will happen between now and then, but make sure to save the dates of June 23-27: A week of serving others, fellowship, fun and good food!

The phrase, "a little light shining through the window", C.R.E.W. is one way we share the light of Jesus in our community and with our church family.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions please reach out to Nancy Thompson at 410-241-1509

Holly Mart 2024

The final total for Holly Mart was \$22,000.

At the Holly Mart wrap-up meeting, the committee voted to disburse the funds as follows:

Mortgage	25%	\$	5,500.00
General Fund	20%	\$	4,400.00
Scholarship	20%	\$	4,400.00
Campership	15%	\$	3,300.00
Food Pantry	10%	\$	2,200.00
Pavilion	10%	\$	2,200.00
2024 INCOME		\$22,000.00	



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

(Guest Interviewers Brenda Baker & Janet Davis)

(or What you Don't Know About Ellie)

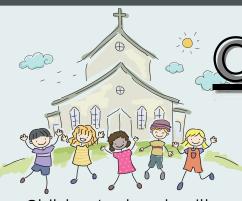
Every month you might read "A View from the Pew" as written by our own Ellie B. Have you ever wondered – "I'd like to know more about Ellie?" Now is your chance! Brenda Baker and Janet Davis interviewed Ellie to learn about our resident journalist and they found out so much that they didn't know! Ellie's real first name is Eleandra. "Ellie" was a nickname she was given in her college days that just stuck with her. She was born in Baltimore and attended schools in Brooklyn Park, graduating from Brooklyn Park High School. Ellie wanted to study journalism and graduated from both Anne Arundel Community College and Towson State University.

While at Anne Arundel CC she met a young man named Charles and married him within 6 months of meeting him! She met him through his sister – one of her college friends. He was a cute firefighter and the rest was history! They married in 1971 and moved to Carroll County, into her current home, in 1984. Between them, they raised a blended family of three – Jerid, Jenny and Charles III. The grandchildren are Victoria, Amber, James, and Nicholas. You have seen her granddaughter, Amber with her in church if you attend at 8:30 AM.

While living in AA County, Ellie began her journalism career as an intern at the Maryland Gazette. After moving to Carroll County, she worked as a freelance reporter and Editorial Assistant for the CC Times until 2009. Ellie is very proud of the many stories she worked on there, including a big feature on the daycare centers across the county which took months to research. Her most exciting interview was when the Duke of Westminster (non-royal, yet still quite impressive) came to Camp Fretterd after 9/11. Ellie willingly volunteered for this assignment. What you also may not know is that Ellie is fascinated with the Royal Family, King Arthur and all things British. What a plum assignment for her!

Ellie also covered *all* the fire station activities around the county. In fact, she was so well known in the county Fire stations, she was made an honorary member of the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association (CCVESA). After leaving the paper, Ellie worked for Barnes & Noble in Ellicott City from 2009 to 2019. Do you wonder how much of that paycheck went back into the store? Ellie came "church shopping" to Ebenezer in 2008. Rev. Judy told Ellie to come back - we have "sales and blue light specials". Ellie's 16 year anniversary at EUMC is in February. According to Ellie, "When I joined Ebenezer, Judy got me doing publicity because they needed someone to do it, and it occurred to me that 'God sure knew what He was doing when he sent me to Ebenezer. He knew they needed a marketing person (me) and I needed someone to help me through my trials at the time' "

Ellie's interests include reading, travel, jigsaw puzzles, cats and her family. Ellie traveled to England twice and on one of her trips, she was able to see the Queen during the "trooping of the Colour". She has a photo as proof! She also was able to visit locations from some of her favorite books – any readers out there know where Jamaica Inn takes place? Or the significance of Haworth? Ask Ellie, she will gladly tell you. It was a great pleasure to chat with her.



Children's Church

Children's Church meets 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!

Children's church will conclude their study of the Old Testament for this year with Moses and the Ten Commandments. We will then move into the New Testament with Jesus' baptism, miracles and communion. We have a great group of children and youth who are eager to learn. Children's Church continues through May and children, pre-k through 8th grade, are welcome to join us! High Schoolers are welcomed and appreciated to join as helpers. They add much to the class and the younger children look up to them. We can complete Community Service forms. Please join us for some fun!

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Next Ad Council Meeting: March 3, 2025

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.



Pill Bottle Recycling

2025 Pill Bottle Mailings

275 bottles were mailed on January 10th. It was one oversized box at a cost of \$57.35 so the donations are being put to very good use! Thank you for your continued support!

Questions? See Sandy Newsome.

Rock of Help Food Pantry Shed

We appreciate all the donations of clothes and household items. Our neighbors are always very thankful. Please be mindful of the season since we do not have storage space. We really like to provide clothes that are needed for the current season. Coats, blankets, current holiday decor and good used shoes/ boots are some of the seasonal items we get requests for. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Thompson @410-241-1509.



TUESDAY, MARCH 4th

JOIN OUR YOUTH AS THEY PREPARE AND SERVE

DINNER SERVED FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

ENJOY PANCAKES, SAUSAGE and MOUNTAIN MAN

FREE WILL DONATIONS

(ALL PROCEEDS TO FUND OUR YOUTH SPRING TRIP)

JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP FOR THE START OF THE LENTEN SEASON

Easter Candy Fundraiser

It will be Easter soon so it is time to start thinking about what you want to order for family and friends! Look for the order form and sign-up sheets soon to help us make and fill orders.

Thursday, April 10th: Make Easter Eggs 9:30 AM until around 1:00 PM (Whatever time you can help is appreciated) Lunch Provided

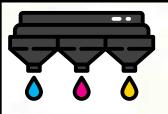
Friday, April 11th: Finish Eggs and Pack Orders 9:00 AM until around 12:00 Noon

Order forms and payments due by Sunday, April 6th

Order Pickup: Sunday, April 13th After Church Services

Thanks in advance for supporting the Easter Egg Fundraiser. Questions: contact Linda Bennett <u>bennettga@aol.com</u> or <u>301-253-3367</u>





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



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 current month scheduling and come join the fun!

UPCOMING DATES

Saturday, February 8th

Progressive Dinner Meet at church at 4:30 PM Plan to return by 8:30 PM

Sunday, February 23rd

Regular Meeting – Youth Room 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, March 4th

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper All hands on deck! 4:00 – 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 23rd

Mini Golf Meet at church – 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Thank you!

The youth and especially the leaders would like to thank those who have volunteered to provide food for our meetings. The kids decided years ago that they enjoy eating together and the leaders love the extra time we can now spend with them.

A big shout out to Sandy and Kenny Wean, who not only volunteered to provide part of our meal for trivia night, but cooked in house for us! They got to see first hand how much fun we have.

Please keep a lookout for future opportunities to provide for our wonderful youth!

Sight & Sound Production of "Noah"

We have reserved 50 tickets for Saturday, May 17th at 3:00 PM. Youth will get first priority, but we will open to others. Tickets will be \$85 each. Youth tickets will be less, as we will cover a portion to be determined later. At this time, we are asking for deposits to hold your spot. \$25 per person. Please turn all deposits in to Cindi Arnold by February 23rd.



November brought us a perfect day to hike to Cunningham Falls.

Staying Busy in Youth Group



One of our own youth led the group in a lesson about the book of Acts and the importance of spreading Gods word. Kyle did a fantastic job. After the lesson we cooked s'mores and played 9 square. It was a great youth group night!





Our annual trivia night was great time together. Lots of good food and fellowship.



December brought us to our Mini Lock In/Christmas Party. We put up our tree in the youth room, decorated cookies, played family feud, ate some awesome food, played games, and made gift bags for the congregation.





And finally bowling to round out a fun few months!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

March Birthdays

6 Jake Zamostny

7 Rachel Holl

10 Sharon Torosky

14 Eric Brown

15 Tim Baker

17 Bridget Estes

18 Susan Fugate

22 Don Bergmann

23 Cheri Holl

24 Jim Wise

26 Maddie Jones

28 Sharon Grim

2 Jason Cave

3 Ellie Klausmeyer

3 Byron Ricketts

7 Steve Cave

8 Dave Biddinger

9 Deb Mathias

10 Jim Carlock

14 Olivia Wisner

14 Andrea Murchie

14 Becca Flater

17 Bill Jones

19 Katie Cave

21 Fred Plitt

23 Tyler Arnold

25 Mel Wroten

27 Kim Middleton

27 Karl Streaker

March Anniversaries

2 Chuck & Julie Shacochis21 Brian & Lori Rapids25 Doug & Cyndi Diethrich



Samaria Jaharias 12/29/24

EASTER FLOWERS & DONATIONS

1. If you would like to purchase Easter Flowers in memory or in honor of someone, the flowers available this year are:



\$12 each:

Hyacinths – Purple, Pink or White **Tulips** – Yellow, Red or Pink

\$15 each

Lilies – White

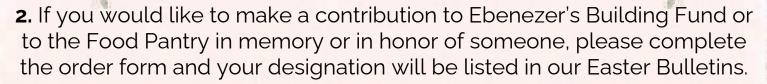
Dutch Asiatic Lilies – White or Yellow

\$27 each:

Azaleas - Red, Pink or White

\$30 each:

Hydrangea - Assorted colors only



Orders due by March 2nd

Order forms available in the narthex



Camp Manidokan Summer 2025

July 13th-18th

Registration for camp opens on February 5th.
Children entering third grade through their senior
year of high school are welcome to attend!

As a part of our ministry, Ebenezer United Methodist Church will cover the cost of Manidokan, except for the deposit, for children who attend Sunday School regularly. Attendance will be recorded from February 2nd to May 25th. Each child is allowed to miss two Sundays and still receive this opportunity. If you have any questions, you may reach out to either Jen Klausmeyer at 443-760-5968 or Rachel Biddinger at 443-547-0519.



PRAY for California

As countless families and communities face the overwhelming aftermath of these wildfires, UMCOR is supporting the efforts of conference disaster response ministries across the region. Evacuees are receiving food and other essential supplies. Trained volunteers are preparing to assist where it is safe to do so.

Pray for all those impacted by this disaster, as well as first responders and volunteers. The road to recovery will be long, but together, we can bring hope and healing.



ONLINE

bit.ly/umcorusdr

BY PHONE 1-888-252-6174

BY MAIL

By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901676 Calfires" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCCR. GPO, P.O. Box 9368, New York, NY, 10087-9068.





umcmission.org



announcements for a date and information for this fun spring event!





Mark Your Calendars Now! **VBS 2025** July 21st to 25th

Save the date and look for more information as it becomes available! Are you on board to help? Send Cindi Arnold (darno455@aol.com) an email so we can start putting our team together. Are you super creative? We are looking for someone to take the lead with decorations this year and it is never too early to start!

Looking forward to another awesome week!

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Next Ad Council Meeting: March 3, 2025



Planning Day January 26, 2025



On Sunday, January 26, 2025, our Administrative Council met to reflect on the blessings of 2024 and to look ahead to our hopes for 2025. We gave thanks to God for the strength of our leadership and the programs and ministries we are able to offer. Below you will see some of the highlights from our gathering regarding worship, fellowship, educational opportunities, missions and fundraising events we hope to provide at Ebenezer in 2025. We pray for God's continued guidance as we discern where and how we are called to serve and live as a community of faith.

Focus	2025 Goals		
Prayer	Prayer Chain/Announcements – through church office/pastor only Lenten Bible Study:		
Faith Formation	What are you giving up for Lent? – Wednesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Tuesday Morning Bible Study Sunday School, VBS – July 21-25, 2025 VBS Adult Study Advent Study Youth Studies Men's Retreat Women's Retreat – March 7-8, 2025		
Hospitality	Keep office informed: surgery, loss, new birth, meal ministry. Outreach		
Worship	Ash Wednesday drop in 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM Summer Worship Schedule - June thru Labor Day - 10:00 AM only in FH Children's Sermon – 2nd Sunday of the month, Children's Church – 2nd and 4th Sundays. Children singing in worship at 11:00 AM 4th Sunday of the month. Graduate Sunday with Reception – June 1, 2025 4th Sunday in Advent – Cantata at 8:30 AM and Children's Service at 11:00 AM (12/21/25) Sunday after Christmas – one service at 10:00 AM		
Missions	Rock of Help, Escape, CREW, Springfield Hospital, Night-by-Night Shelter, Winfield Elementary, HOFFA House, Toy Collection, Shepherd Staff, Community Table. Compassion Child, Recycle Program for Food Pantry, Global Missionaries.		
Fellowship	Game/Activity Night every other month beginning February 22, 2025. Picnic, Christmas Luncheon, Covered Dish, Shrove Tuesday, Sight and Sound, EUMC's Got Talent, Bowling, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat		
Fundraising	Food Pantry - Treasure Sale – (kitchen sales to the building fund) Holly Mart/Canned Goods/Souper Bowl/Easter Candy, Joe Corbi's		



Starting Feb. 2nd

Stock up on your favorite pizza kits, cookie dough, gourmet desserts & snacks while supporting

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Orders and Money Due by Feb. 24th

Use this form or order online at joecorbi.com

https://www.joecorbi.com/participant-shoppingnumber?participant_code=595784

PLEASE SHARE OUR FUNDRAISER WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NAME
EMAIL
PHONE
ORDER TOTAL \$



Joe Corbi's Order Form

ITEM	PRICE	# ORDERED	TOTAL \$
3 pk cheese pizza kit	29.00		
3 pk pepp. pizza kit	31.00		
3 pk saus. pizza kit	31.00		
3 pk white pizza kit	29.00		
8 pk joe jrs. cheese	28.00		
8 pk joe jrs. pepp.	29.75		
12 pk cheezee bread	28.50		
8 pk joe jrs. breakfast	29.75		
6 pk Philly calzone	29.00		
6 pk pep/4 cheese calz.	29.00		
6 pk buff chix. calzone	29.00		
Mozz. sticks	19.00		
12 pk soft pretzels	19.00		
Soft pretzel nuggets	19.00		
6 pk pretzel dogs	22.00		
Choc chip cookie dough	20.00		
Choc chip/peanut butter cup dough	20.00		
Snickerdoodle cookie	20.00		
Apple caramel cookie	20.00		
White choc mac nut	20.00		
Oatmeal raisin	20.00		
Rainbow cookie dough	20.00		
Pumpkin roll	19.00		
Lemon cooler cake	21.00		
Caramel apple pie	24.00		
4 flavor cheesecake	27.50		
Granny smith apple coffee cake	26.00		
Cookies & cream cheesecake	26.00		
Strawberry cheesecake	26.00		
NYC plain cheesecake	26.00		



Restructuring for Vital Change



When considering how to restructure the Baltimore-Washington Conference for more vitality, more than a thousand clergy and laity made it clear. They were seeking a configuration that created increased relationships, collaboration, innovation, discipleship, and connection. The new plan is intended to offer just that.

While the details of the plan are nuanced; in a nutshell:

- Five to 12 local churches are grouped in a Collaborative Hub in a shared, geographically-based mission field. Each hub will have a designated Connecting Church, to facilitate collaborative work and vitality.
- Moving from eight districts to six for missional effectiveness. Each Hub will be assigned to a district where the congregations share common challenges/environments.
- This creates opportunities to network across perceived boundaries and learn from one another in diverse, and yet similar, contexts.
- The hubs and districts are organized into two administrative regions.

As part of this process, at the May 2024 session of Annual Conference, members voted to reduce the number of districts from eight to six.

Restructuring Timeline

The timeline for implementation begins in June 2024 and ends July 1, 2025.

Phase 1: Increasing Local Church Awareness and Organizing into Hubs

- June 1, 2024: Members to AC are given restructuring materials to take back to their churches.
- June 15, 2024: A survey is sent out to the pastor plus nine key leaders of all churches to facilitate the formation of congregational groups/hubs. A separate survey is sent to clergy only regarding their covenant group status.
- July 12, 2024: Assess any impact on the restructuring plan of General or Jurisdictional Conferences.
- January 2025: Use collaborative hubs to create and publish districts and regions.

Phase 2: Establishing the Centralized Administrative Group and Organizing District

- January: Publish region information. DCOMs (and other district committees) create transition plans.
- February 2025: Streamline processes and centralized admin pool created. Provide draft of district and region
 information to the Rules Committee, Discipleship Council and Nominations Committee so that the leadership
 report, policies and procedures can be updated.
- March 2025: Publish a list of churches per district.
- March 2025: Develop an annual evaluation tool for ministry leaders that measures a church's missional impact and leads toward increased church vitality.

Phase 3: Accountability Systems and Details Completed

- April 2025: Vitality management system for accountability is completed.
- After Easter (April 20, 2025): Collaborate Hubs are published.
- May 13-15, 2025: Final details relevant to church leaders presented at Annual Conference with a tool for local churches to understand who is in their support system.
- June or September 2025: Hub Kick-off Event.
- July 1, 2025: New collaborative hubs, districts, centralized admin regions, clergy groups and accountability systems are in place with resource groups.

Phase 4: A Vitality Management system for holistic accountability is developed after evaluating the first year of hubs (2026-2027 ministry year).





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Allows you to automatically reload funds onto physical gift cards purchased through RaiseRight.



Earning on-the-go

The RaiseRight mobile app puts earning at your fingertips—in the checkout lane, at the gas pump, out to dinner, or even from the comfort of your couch.

Shop and buy gift cards
View earnings

Access and use your gift cards

Download the free RaiseRight mobile app for iOs or Android.



Safe & secure payment options

Add your bank account or pay with a debit or credit card to enjoy the on-demand convenience of online payments.

Get eGift cards delivered immediately

Access exclusive benefits like ship to home delivery

Earn 4x more than people who don't pay online

Convenience fees apply based on payment method.



Ship to home delivery feature

Get your gift cards delivered right to your door.

250+ brand options—perfect for self-use and gifting

Available from the mobile app and on RaiseRight.com

Look for brands labeled as "Ship to home eligible"

Shipping fees apply.

www.raiseright.com EUMC Enrollment Code: 3442E78357829

