



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

April '17

Volume 13 Issue 4

Church's e-mail: ebenezerumc@yahoo.com

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"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

--C. S. Lewis

Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Teens for Christ (Grades 6-12)
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Jay Bissett



Since our pastor was off in the wilds of Ireland, I have placed some Bible verses here related to our upcoming Easter celebration. Our celebration is not about bunnies or eggs, but about how God, in his inestimable love and mercy, sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Then he arose again on the third day to show us that we have life only in Christ, and that life is everlasting! Have a happy Easter! Cindy.

Then the LORD God said to the snake, "You will be punished for this...I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel." --Genesis 3:14a, 15

"On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every first-born male, both human and animal, and punishing all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians..." --Exodus 12:12-13, (Note: The sacrifice was young, male sheep or goat without defect. Ex. 12:1-13)

Then the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people...The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned...' So Moses prayed for the people...the LORD told Moses to make a metal snake...So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Anyone who had been bitten would look at the bronze snake and be healed. --Numbers 21:4-9 (selected)

"But I know there is someone in heaven who will come at last to my defense..." --Job 19:25



"But he endured the suffering that should have been ours...because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received...He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die...The LORD says, 'It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness...My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. And so I will give him a place of honor...He willingly gave his life...He took the place

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WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Church Council

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, April 9th at 4:30 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper people will meet to fix and deliver another round of good food to our shut-ins and others on **April 17 at 5:00 p.m.** We welcome all volunteers to help. Contact Ricky or Shawn Baker.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **April 23 at 7:00 p.m.** Dawn Yount will present the program. All women of the church are invited to participate. .

May Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the May newsletter in by **Tuesday, April 19th.** Thank you—Editor

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Good Friday, April 14th. Have a good Easter!

Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in *February & March 2017*:

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:

Tina McClain & Stephen Coffey

In Memory of Bob Sears by:

Nancy Sears

In Honor of Our Nursery by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Kim Ellis to Bolivia Mission Trip by:

Larry & Alice Hill

In Honor of the Sonlighters Class by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of the Rainbow Class by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Children's Time by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we do not become discouraged. We put aside all secret and shameful deeds; we do not act with deceit, nor do we falsify the world of God. In the full light of truth we live in God's sight and try to commend ourselves to everyone's good conscience. —2 Corinthians 4:1-2 GNT

ORTHODOX PART 2

What do we do about the darkness that is incessantly undermining the true faith of the Church? This is an important concern for all members of Christ's universal Church, but especially for the United Methodist Church at this time. The Episcopalians and the Presbyterians have already succumbed to the wiles of Satan in our society and culture; and their respective churches have split apart. The UMC is the last large protestant church organization standing. But how long will it remain "united"? How much are we willing to give up to remain united? How much should we compromise our core beliefs to remain united? How much of the wisdom and traditional beliefs and doctrines of the church that have been followed for centuries are we willing to deny or twist to appease the culture warriors, or to avoid "offending" some people? "As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles..." (1 Corinthians 1:23, GNT) What price do we pay for unity?

"Do not try to work together as equals with unbelievers, for it cannot be done. How can right and wrong be partners? How can light and darkness live together? How can Christ and the Devil agree? For we are the temple of the living God! --2 Corinthians 6:14-16a, GNT, Apostle Paul

There are abundant warnings in the Bible about these kinds of divisions and the false teachings that create them. Jesus called for his church to be united, but he also called for us to be obedient to the Father and to him. Jesus also promised us that we would be persecuted for his name's sake—something we have not had to deal with in this country; but is obviously coming. Discrimination against Christians has been growing, and mockery of Christ and Christians has been here for a long time, and the people who do it are becoming bolder every day in their attacks on the faith and the faithful.

"But remember, my friends, what you were told in the past by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, 'When the last days come, people will appear who will make fun of you, people who follow their own godless desires.' These are people who cause divisions, who are controlled by their natural desires, who do not have the Spirit...Show mercy toward those who have doubts; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and to others show mercy mixed with fear, but hate their very clothes, stained by their sinful lusts." - Jude 17-19, 22-23, GNT

We are called to love, but, also, to obey, and to make disciples, which means people who follow Christ, as well as, believe in him. We are called to witness, to tell people about Jesus, who explicitly said that he is the ONE WAY to salvation (see John 14:8)—there is no other path to reconciliation with God.

I look out on the world and see it going down the rabbit hole into insanity, just because we don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. We are called to compassion, not to empathy. With empathy, you feel what the other feels, or

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Pastor's Corner, con't

(Continued from page 1)

of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven.” —Isaiah 53, selected

“As Moses lifted up the bronze snake in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life...Those who believe in the Son are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God’s only Son.” —John 3:14-16, 18

Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.” —John 14:6



“Listen!” Jesus said. “I am coming soon! I will bring my rewards with me, to give to each one according to what he has done. I am the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Happy are those who wash their robes clean and so have the right to eat the fruit from the tree of life and to go through the gates into the city.”

--Revelation 22:12-14



Church Council – March 19, 2017

Attendees: Ricky Baker, Sonya & David Crouse, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Gerald Frye, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Cathy Huffman, JoAnn Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Seth McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Libby McCrary, Terri Miller, Robert Mullinax, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Jessica Haas, Anthony Austin, John McCrary.

Bleaka Hollar called meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. She read a devotional from the Upper Room, which emphasized that worshiping, singing, and praying together are necessary to helping us to live out our discipleship in the world. She opened the meeting with a prayer from the booklet, too.

Reading of minutes: Motion to approve as read; seconded by Sonya. Motion Passed.

FINANCE REPORT

Jo Nell was absent due to a wreck, but copies of the budget report were presented to the council. Since she was absent, we did not go over it thoroughly.

OLD BUSINESS

Bleaka suggested that we wait until next month to elect a new Chairperson for the Council, since Boyd Johnson had resigned. She asked the group to pray and we would elect someone at the next meeting. There were no objections, so this item was tabled.

Roy Hamby spoke about the guidelines for the use of the van. If you want to submit your name as a possible driver, please see Roy. Printed guidelines will be available soon. Graphic design changes were presented to Natasha Haas, but she has not gotten back with the designer yet about the changes, or having the van decorated with the logo/name of the church.

The battery in the van died, and was replaced. Ricky Baker said he could get very good prices on parts if we ever need some again. The van will need to be used regularly to keep the battery charged.

Layman's Revival: We still need speakers for this. We have one at this time.

Habitat project has started. Work schedule is posted in the old fellowship hall. Volunteers are welcome.

Coffee pot was left on again. So far, doors have been locked. Classes need to make sure the lights are turned out after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

We need a new computer, because the old one the money counters are using cannot operate in tandem with the bank's new software and system. Jimmy Stone is looking for one to replace the old one. A motion was made to authorize Jimmy to locate and purchase an appropriate computer. Ricky Baker made a motion to do so; seconded by Terri Miller.

We have purchased a donation box for the Needy or Benevolence Fund, also known as, the Love Offering. There was some discussion about where to put it. We turned it over to the Trustees to decide the best location and put it up. Donations to this box will go directly to the Needy Fund. Envelopes are provided if you want tax credit for the gift. Unless otherwise noted on the envelope, all monies in this box will go to the Needy Fund.

The Nurture Committee reported on some of their proposals. Libby McCrary told us a tentative mentoring Sunday in which adults will participate

(Continued on page 4)



Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

identify with the other; with compassion you feel for the other, and offer comfort and support, but you also look honestly at what they are involved in and tell them the truth. The truth will set you free, but only if you change your ways. "There is a **way that seems right** to a man, but its end is the **way** to death." (Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25—God knew we needed to see this twice.)

The family is being destroyed by fornication, adultery, homosexuality, gender pretenders, and easy divorce. The black family is almost completely destroyed—by abortion on demand, and the welfare state that works against the two parent family unit. We began by killing our not yet born; we are now legally killing our old, diseased, or crippled people, too. We mainstreamed easy divorce and fornication. Family units began falling apart, and continue to self-destruct. We mainstreamed homosexual behavior. Infection with the AIDS virus has increased from a low of 3% to 27% among male homosexuals; but continued to decline among intravenous drug users and prostitutes. We seem to think that men and boys can be interchanged with women and girls—and nothing bad will happen—except, of course, more sexual assaults, more cancer (from taking hormones that do not align with one's sexual chromosomes), and the destruction of privacy. But who cares about any of that as long as a few (less than 2%) delusional people's feelings are not hurt? If a man stood on top of a tall building, claimed he felt like he was superman, not just a man, and said he was going to jump off; would you let him, or even encourage him to "go with his feelings"? True compassion would force you to tell him the truth, and attempt to stop him from jumping; so why are we enabling people to destroy their God-given bodies because of their obvious delusions?

Only God can save the UMC and our society, and he will do it through us if we are willing to fight the forces of evil and deception arrayed against the church and within the church and in our culture. So, put on the whole armor of God—and begin with fervent, continuous prayer, and faith the size of a mustard seed; then do whatever work God calls you to do to bring revival to the UM and to you and me. The war has come to us now; have faith in God's mercy and his power. ✚

Council Meeting, con't

(Continued from page 3)

directly in a children or youth class is in the works. The older person will answer questions and witness about what the church and Christ means to them.

She reminded us that we are looking for greeters for each service. Please see Libby or Bleaka to volunteer.

We also plan to have an outdoor worship service and Sunday school promotion day at Oakhill School Park on August 27th; at 10:30 a.m. We will grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Other details will be presented once the date gets closer.

The Nurture Committee is also working on a cup or other gift to give to people and children who come to VBS, Halloween, or other church events. We plan to have a Community

Day on September 9th (rain date, 9/23) with all activities outside. We will serve hot dogs, have games, contests, and music also.

Since April 30th is a combined worship service Sunday, Kim announced that we would have the service in the CLC. This will provide us with a more relaxed atmosphere, and coffee and doughnuts, etc. will be served between Sunday school that meets from 9-10 a.m.; and the worship service that will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Copies of a time and talent sheet were passed around for the council to peruse. The proposal is to hand these out to our members and have people fill out the sheets so that we know who we can call for certain tasks or ministries. The forms also have places to record names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail, so that we can be sure we have accurate information. This will give everyone

an opportunity to do something in the church related to our ministries.

Ricky Baker, Chairperson of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, presented some confidential information about current issues within the church, and informed us that he is waiting on a response from the District Superintendent before deciding what to do next. After some discussion, Roy Hamby said the closing prayer.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

Noah Webster:

All the miseries and evils which men suffer from—vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war—proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.



April Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 7th—Andrew Miller
- 9th—Sandy Miller
- 11th—McCall Creaseman
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 12th—Sonya Crouse
- 12th—Samantha Stone
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 21st—Emily Haas
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 23rd—Dakota Helton
- 25th—Terri Miller
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 27th—Sandy McCrary
- 28th—Cinda McCrary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 29th—Maggie Wilson
- 29th—Jeff Smith
- 30th—Rex Teague

Happy Anniversary!

- 11th—Seth & Amber McCrary
- 12th—Jerry & Loretta Helton
- 12th—Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- 17th—Steve & Samantha Kohnle
- 23rd—Buck & Margaret Spencer



We want to remind everyone that we have a **Missions Scholarship Fund** for our church members to use for mission trips. Individuals who want to go on national or international mission trips can receive up to \$1,000 matching funds, if the money is available. You can also apply for training funds (such as Disaster Response Training) that will be awarded by cost per person. Mission team awards will be based on a team's expenses. **Please help us by giving to this fund when you can.** See Cathy Huffman for more information or to apply for aid.



Acolyte Schedule - APRIL

2nd Savanna Creaseman

9th Emily Haas

16th Cole McCrary

23rd Andrew Miller

30th Kevin Miller

Nursery Schedule - APRIL

2nd 8:30 Bleaka Hollar & Nancy Sears

11:00 Celeste Creaseman

9th 8:30 Phyllis Minton & Teresa Simmons

11:00

16th 7:00 Angie Miller & Tasha Haas

23rd 8:30 Sarah & Lucas Teague

11:00 Teresa Herman

30th 10:30 Nancy Sears

Our Military

Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski



Shane McCrary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.

—James 1:2-3, GNT



April Fundraisers & Events

Survivors' Dinner

**Saturday
April 8
5 PM**

Ebenezer is hosting the "Relay for Life" Survivors' Dinner again this year. Cancer survivors will be fed and honored during this event.

This is an invitation only event, but we will need volunteers to help in the kitchen and to serve our guests. Please see Ricky Baker to volunteer, and the times you need to be here to work.

We thank everyone who gave during the recent Poor Man's Supper that was held to raise funds for "Relay for Life." You were very generous this year. Barbara Ferguson reported a \$1,000 profit! Thank you!

Easter Time Special Services

*Maundy Thursday
April 13th, 7 PM*

"Maundy," derived from the Latin term for "command," refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, that they should love and serve one another. This service is in memory of Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples; and often includes, not only a communion service, but foot-washing, which Jesus did as a way of showing how we should serve him and each other with respectful humility.

*Good Friday Service
April 14th, 7 PM*

Join us on Friday evening also as we remember the great sacrifice

Jesus made on the cross for our salvation.

*Easter Sunrise Service
April 16th, 7 AM*

We invite you and your family to our

Resurrection Celebration!

As the women and disciples did on that glorious and miraculous morning long ago, we will worship and praise God at 7:00 a.m. Easter morning.

Breakfast will be served in the Christian Life Center after the service.

*Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*

Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits and bologna biscuits on **Thursday, April 20th**.

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m.** You can eat in or we will continue to deliver orders of 10+ to area businesses, etc. Please **call early or pre-order large orders on Wednesday by calling: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

Proceeds will support local missions. Please make your checks out to ART, which stands for *Area Resources Team*.

Yum!

Yum!



Combined Worship/CLC



**Sunday
April 30th**

We will have one combined worship service in the Christian Life Center on this Sunday.

We invite you to gather in the CLC between 10 and 10:30 a.m. for free coffee, doughnuts, etc. and fellowship with other members and guests.

Sunday school will meet at 9:00 a.m.



Habitat House Project

Our latest Habitat House building project continues. We hope to have the home completed by June 11th.

Workdays are Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8am-noon and Saturdays 8am-1:00 p.m.

This year's house is being built for Lorena Sanchez and her family—Ludwin, William, Luis & Adam, and Denis. The address is: 93 Falls Ave. Granite Falls.

Please contact Rev. Jay Bissett to volunteer and for more information.

We continue to collect for our portion to help finance this project. Our goal is \$5,000. As of March 26, we have \$2,897.

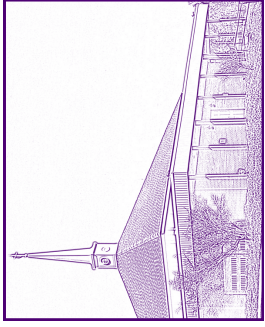
We thank you for your support.

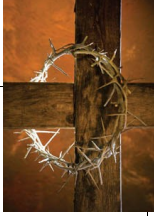





April 2017

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

EBENEZER UMC



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Every Sunday:</i> 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p> | <p>See p. 4 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p> | | <p><i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p> | | | <p>1</p> |
| <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p>  | <p>8</p> <p><i>Relay for Life Survivor Dinner—5 PM, see p. 6</i></p> |
| <p>9</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday Church Council—4:30 PM</i></p>  | <p>10</p>  | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> <p><i>Maundy Thursday Service—7 PM, see p. 6</i></p> | <p>14</p> <p><i>Church Office Closed Good Friday Service—7 PM, see p. 6</i></p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16</p> <p><i>Easter Service—7 AM & Breakfast, see p. 6</i></p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p><i>Biscuit Sales—6-9 AM, see p. 6</i></p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23</p> <p><i>Private Party—1-5 PM</i></p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30</p> <p><i>One Worship—10:30 AM, see p. 6</i></p> | | | | | |  |