



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

April '18

Volume 14 Issue 4

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May newsletter items
are due on April 23rd.
Thank you.

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

For just as death
came by means of a man,
in the same way the rising
from death comes by
means of a man. For just
as all people die because
of their union with Adam,
in the same way all will be
raised to life because of
their union with Christ.

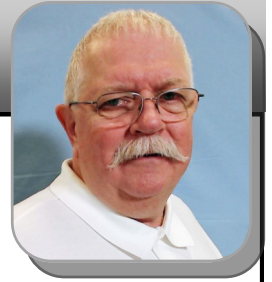
—1 Corinthians 15:21-22 GNT

Sunday Services

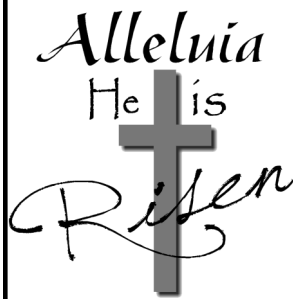
- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women



Pastor's Pen



EASTER



Sunday April 1 is Easter. Christians in many parts of the world will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not all Christians celebrate Easter on the same Sunday. Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate at a slightly different time.

The early church used various dates for Easter. The Day of Preparation fell on 14 Nisan the day of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of John. This was a day of fasting which ended with a Eucharistic meal which celebrated the resurrection. Since 14 Nisan fell on different days of the week, it conflicted with the Sunday celebration of Easter. It was not until 325 that the Council of Nicaea determined that Easter was the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Today Easter may be as early as March 22nd or as late as April 25th.

The early church used the Greek and Latin terms for Passover as the designation for Easter. Perhaps later the church wished to replace a pagan celebration with Pascha, the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bede the Venerable wrote that Easter was named for a German goddess of spring and fertility by the name of Eostre. Her symbols included eggs and rabbits.

Eggs predate Easter and have a long history as a symbol of new life. Because of fast days during the season of Lent there were a large number of eggs available when the fast was broken. Many people were given eggs during this period. (No they weren't hard boiled and colored yet.) The priest often played a game like hot potato with the choir boys. They passed an egg around until the clock chimed. The one holding the egg was allowed to keep it. Eggs symbolize joy, celebration and new life. They were easily connected to the One responsible for that new and eternal life.

(Continued on page 5)

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6:00p Teens for Christ (Gr. 6-12)
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday
April 1st
7:00 AM

Early to bed Saturday night, and early to rise Sunday morning will keep you awake for our annual Sunrise Service as we celebrate our risen Savior and Lord. Help us praise his holy name loudly and brightly—with great and grateful joy!

A free breakfast will be served in the Christian Life Center after the service. Sunday school classes will not meet.



It's empty! Christ is risen!

Meetings, Etc.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, April 15 at 4:30 p.m.** Please contact Cindy or David Crouse if you wish to add a request or concern to the agenda.

Lord's Supper Meal

Monday, April 16 at 5:00 p.m. Cooks and helpers and drivers will be needed. Please see Ricky Baker to volunteer. Thank you.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.** Dawn Yount is in charge of the program.

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Let the giving of thanks be your sacrifice to God, and give the Almighty all that you promised. Call to me when trouble comes; I will save you, and you will praise me.

—Psalm 50:14-15 GNT

THE BENEFITS OF WORSHIP

To many of us, worship is showing a reverence or respect to God, or the ceremonies and acts that are used to display that worship. But King David in the Psalms enters into worship differently. He begins with praise and thanksgiving—he shows gratitude to God, along with reverence. And his reverence isn't staid or ritualistic. King David throws himself completely into his worship, and lifts up his voice in songs of thankfulness even in the midst of deadly troubles and severe depression.

In Psalm 57, David is on the run from Saul and hiding in a cave. Yet, he praises God:

"My enemies have spread a net to catch me; I am overcome with distress. They dug a pit in my path, but fell into it themselves. I have complete confidence, O God; I will sing and praise you! Wake up, my soul! Wake up, my harp and lyre! I will wake up the sun. I will thank you, O Lord, among the nations. I will praise you among the peoples. Your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness touches the skies..." —verses 6-10, GNT

Why do you worship the Lord? How do you worship him? How does worship benefit the worshiper?

- ◆ Praising God reminds you that God is in control. Nothing happening to you is too much for God to deal with—and, therefore, it is not too much for you, his disciple, to deal with in God's power.
- ◆ Thankfulness reminds you of all the things God has provided for you in times past. In the day to day busy-ness of life, we often forget or do not "see" all the blessings God is continually pouring out upon us. In times of trouble, we can end up putting on blinders to these many blessings. Worship opens our eyes to all God's blessings.
- ◆ Reverence to God reminds you that you are not God or a god. You are a frail, prone to sin and error and disease human—made in the image of God, yet not God. This knowledge releases you from believing that only you can resolve the problem, and thinking that you must stand alone in your troubles—a scary place to be.
- ◆ Worship takes your focus away from yourself for a time, relieving your mind of its burdens, and reminding you of your true purpose in this life—living for God's glory and not your own.

(Continued on page 3)



Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

- ♦ Opening up your soul to God's presence and glory, rekindles the power of His Holy Spirit within you, reminds you of His Spirit's presence with you, and empowers you to continue your journey with God, instead of under your own power.
- ♦ Glorifying God stops you from glorifying yourself or the government or your parents or your spouse or wealth above God. This keeps you from attaching too much importance to people and things that are fallible and not permanent. In this world, only God lives forever and is always available and never wrong—no one and no other can stand with you at all times and in all places; and no one else can love you as much as God does. Look to the cross—see his ultimate expression of that love and care.
- ♦ Corporate worship reminds you that you are not alone in your faith; and that you have other people you can turn to for help and encouragement—and that you can help in their times of need, too. Though these people are frail and fallible like you; they are, as a body, as the CHURCH, always there. And their presence reminds you that God has not abandoned you or the world.
- ♦ Publicly praising and singing to and about God and his Son, our Savior and Lord, fulfills your main purpose of life—to glorify God. And God, the one true God, is the only one who deserves that kind of glory and praise.
- ♦ And worship reminds you of the sacrifice made by God's One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, to save you from your sins and eternal punishment (justice) for those sins. This humbles you and fills you with awe and gratefulness that can never be completely expressed—but it's still worth trying. Then you truly understand how precious you are to the Creator of the whole universe! What can be more comforting, empowering, or glorious than that?

So, let your heart and voice rise in praise and sing of God's glory in the best of times and in the worst of times. Nothing else and no one else will calm your soul more when the flood waters of life roll over you.

"Sing to the LORD, all the world! Worship the LORD with joy; come before him with happy songs! Acknowledge that the LORD is God. He made us, and we belong to him; we are his people, we are his flock... Give thanks to him and praise him. The LORD is good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever." -- Psalm 100, selected, GNT ✝

UMM Fish Fry

**Saturday
April 14th
4 PM 'til gone!**



The United Methodist Men's group will be serving up lots of fried fish with all the fixings again. We hope you will join us for good food and fellowship, and contribute to the men's ministries this year.



April Celebrations



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 6th—Andrew Miller
- 9th—Sandy Miller
- 11th—McCall Creaseman
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 12th—Samantha Stone
- 12th—Sonya Crouse
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 21st—Emily Haas
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 23rd—Dakota Helton
- 25th—Terri Miller
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McCrary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 29th—Maggie Wilson
- 29th—Jeff Smith
- 30th—Rex Teague

Happy Anniversary!

- 12th—Jerry & Loretta Helton
- 12th—Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- 23rd—Buck & Margaret Spencer



Church Council Minutes for Mar. 18, 2018

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, David (Chairman) & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Cinda McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Will McCrary, Cindy Sears, and Patty Coffey.

David Crouse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Bleaka Hollar said the opening prayer. Scripture read by David was Luke 9:12-13—"feed the people." As Church Council, we, and our church, are here to feed the people in our community with love, food, concern, and the gospel message. Let us be the disciples we are called to be.

February minutes stand as read.

Old Business

AED machine has been updated and put together.

Financial Report—Jo Nell Harrison

We continue to have the money we need. Jo Nell reported that she is holding off on making the insurance payment as we wait on an estimate from another company. We hope to get a lower price for the insurance.

Electricity bill was up for last month. Jo Nell has held off on paying the apportionment this month, because of the insurance payment and low funds. A motion was made to withhold apportionment payment until we know we will have the money for it. Motion passed.

Building Fund mortgage is now down to \$52,500 principle. We have the money for the next payment.

New Business

UMM: John McCrary reported that the UMM has a work day planned on April 7th to address things at the church that need to be painted or repaired. The Fish Fry is still on for April 14th, 4-7:00 p.m. Kim Ellis

asked that Cindy put an announcement in the News Topic about it. Posters will be prepared.

Trustees: Parsonage gutters have not been replaced yet. We are waiting for a good, dry, not windy day to do it. May 5th was mentioned as a work day to clean up the inside of the church in preparation for VBS. **(NOTE: May 5th is NOT AVAILABLE. We will probably move this to May 12th or 26th.)** We want as many of our members as possible to help that day.

The Trustees continue looking at push bars for some of the church doors to make the church more secure, and checking on prices.

There are two phone lines into the building as emergency lines for the fire system. Trustees are checking to see if we need two lines or if one would be enough.

SPPRC met. Everything remains the same.

Kim Ellis: Easter party is March 31st, 10-12 PM. We are serving hot dogs, and requesting donations of candy and some cupcakes and cookies to serve to the children.

Bleaka Hollar: There will be a small barbecue on May 19th, 4-7:00 p.m. to finish using the meet we have cooked and frozen from the last one. Time: 4 PM – 7 PM. Sandwiches and plates. We will need desserts to go with the meal, which we hope our members will provide. We'll need workers for the meal, too.

Miscellaneous Business:

Blood Drive will be May 14th; 2:30-7 PM.

David brought up that we need a Vice-Chairperson for the Council for when he is absent. Nominations were made for Roy and Marsha. John McCrary volunteered to be the vice-

chairperson. Second made by Jo Nell. Motion passed.

Jo Nell thanked the United Methodist Men for removing the fallen tree in her yard.

Cindy Sears brought up changing the facility use fee to a straight fee of \$100 with no refundable amount. Second made by Tom. There was more discussion. Motion passed.

Sonya made a motion to adjourn. Second made by Marsha. Meeting was adjourned.

--minutes by Cindy Sears



Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in *March*:

In Memory of Rachel Poe by:

Warren Walden, Jr.
Ebenezer's UMW

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 41st Birthday on March 6 by:

Bill & Delores Campbell

In Honor of Bill Campbell's 81st Birthday on May 5 by:

Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Delores Campbell's 81st Birthday on June 26 by:

Bill & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Bill & Delores Campbell's 50th Anniversary, Sept. 7th and Billy Wayne Campbell's Birthday, Sept. 19th by:

Bill, Delores, Gary Paul Campbell



Our Military

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner
Chris Kaisenski
Shane McCrary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts

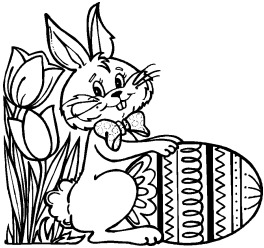
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



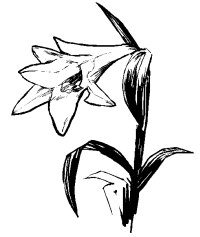
Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.



Pastor's Pen, con't



Many nations have added various traditions to the holiday. The Ukraine is responsible for painting of eggs which later led to dyeing. PAAS the largest producers of Easter egg dye kits is named for Passen, the Dutch word for Easter. Hiding of the eggs is related to the belief that rabbits brought the eggs on Easter morning. Kite flying came from Bermuda when a missionary used a kite with an image of Jesus on it. He cut the string and the kite flew up and away. Easter lilies also are an import from Bermuda.



Another tradition is church attendance. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter have a spike in attendance. Many family celebrations are involved. During the Easter season people feel a need to be reminded of the activities of God in their behalf.

There are many harmless traditions used in the celebration, but we should not lose sight of the fact that it is about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Let us celebrate all that Christ has given us in his death and resurrection.

—Pastor Tom

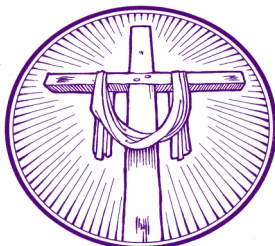




EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast—7 AM, see p. 2	2 Every Monday: Basketball—7 PM	3 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	4 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	5 Every Thursday: Volleyball—7 PM	6	7
8 Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school	9	10	11	12	13	14 UMM Fish Fry Fundraiser—4- 'til gone!, see p. 3
15 Church Council—4:30 PM	16 Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM Trustees—7 PM	17 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM	18	19	20	21
22 UMW—7 PM	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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