



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

April '19

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MAY 2019 newsletter items are due by **Monday, April 22nd.**

"God turned his back upon his Son so that he would never have to turn his back on you."

—David Jeremiah (A Bend in the Road)

Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service (Combined)
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 5:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 6:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." *Matthew 28:19*



Pastor's Pen



Easter is Approaching

Easter is magical time weather wise. People begin to feel better. The winter doldrums have slipped away, we see the weather beginning to change for the better. Flowers are blooming and the green is filling the bare naked branches. As Easter moves closer day by day, we begin to realize that the likelihood of snow is gone. The occasional frost still threatens, but the weather is so much better.

Easter is an important time for the Church. Some wish to debate the chicken and egg theory. Which is more important, Christmas or Easter? They are both of utmost importance, but without Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, Easter would not occur. Hand in hand the two seasons tell us of the great plan God created for a fallen creation. Jesus, the Son, became a human being born into life on earth—lived, died and was resurrected to provide salvation for all that been created.

The Church continues to celebrate the events leading to Resurrection Sunday. Palm Sunday is the Sunday which commemorates the Christ entering Jerusalem openly indicating that He is the Messiah, the Chosen One of God. Maundy Thursday we think about the gathering of the Disciples with their Lord, Holy Eucharist and the pronouncement of betrayal. Friday night is Tenebrae—the betrayal, arrest and abuse of Christ. This night shows sinful humanity the pain and suffering we caused our Lord to endure on our behalf.

Sunday morning dawns, and the Church gathers to prepare the body for burial only to discover that Jesus, the Christ has been resurrected and is alive. *This is the most wonderful event in the life of creation.* Sin is defeated and humanity has the possibility of Eternal Salvation.

Praise God for the gift offered to us. **Hallelujah, Amen and Amen!**

—Pastor Tom

Easter

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



Meetings, Etc.

Church Council

The Council will meet on **Sunday, April 14th at 4:00 p.m.** All members of the church are invited to attend.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

Easter Week Services

See p. 3.

United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m.** Dawn Yount is in charge of the program.

For years, the left has told us all that Christians are anti-science bigots. But now they would have you believe life begins when they say so; that boys can become girls at will; and that children must die to ensure faith in their created systems. Creation now thinks it is the creator and must crowd out all thought of the actual Creator and all discussions of the rules of science that run contrary to their beliefs.

—Erick Erickson (in article on Alfie Evans, baby doomed to death by British government—the height of government takeover of our unalienable rights) townhall.com

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *March*:

In Memory of Cleo Clark by:

Maecile Smith Ramsey
Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
Ebenezer's United Methodist Women

In Memory of Edward & Bonnie Roberts by:

Darrell & Harolyn Roberts

In Memory of Inez Spencer by:

Billy Wayne Campbell

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 42nd Birthday by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell
Anonymous ♥

Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

"...take a good look at the fields; the crops are now ripe and ready to be harvested! The one who reaps the harvest is being paid and gathers the crops for eternal life; so the one who plants and the one who reaps will be glad together." --John 4:35b-36 GNT

**GET THEIR
NAME 2**

With Easter coming upon us soon, now is a good time to consider ways to invite non-church goers to church, and to be prepared to connect with those people who may attend only on major church event days, such as Easter.

Some more suggestions from the book "Get Their Name" are pertinent to these goals. We should always be looking at our church buildings with the eyes of a visitor. Is the main entrance obvious? Are the furnishings inviting? Is each person greeted in a friendly and helpful manner? Is there clear signage to direct people to various parts of the building? Our greeters are doing a great job, but each member of Ebenezer should consider themselves back-up greeters. If a new face shows up, be willing to introduce yourself and ask the person if they need directions, such as the location of the restrooms, the nursery, or the classrooms. In the course of the service, help the person to understand what is going on. (For instance, some people have been confused about the Thank Bank offering and the Tithes collection; or the raising of the hands after the offering is collected.) Ebenezer's Church Council and Trustees are always open to suggestions about building improvements and embellishments, or new ideas for helping visitors to feel more comfortable. Above all, don't be afraid to ask them their names! Introduce yourself first. Then write the names down and turn them into the office or the Pastor. If you can get an address, telephone number or e-mail address that will be even better. Point out the form in the bulletins that they can fill out with such information. (Don't be pushy; just ask politely.)

Other ways to build relationships with non-church attenders involves consistent prayer and what are called "bridge events." We might want to consider setting up a prayer team that specifically prays about reaching the unchurched, and praying for the leaders of our community, such as the police, fire personnel, principals, teachers, local government elected officials, etc. The goal is to pray unconnected people into the church, and to pray for the "bridge events."

Bride Events are gatherings open to the community, such as our Trunk or Treat, Easter party for the children, Mother's Day Banquet, et. al. Other possibilities include a concert in a local park, auto show, craft show, bike safety clinic—think of something that people in the community might be interested in. These events must be free, open to the general public, and should include a way to "get their names." For instance, you could have a drawing for a prize that requires the people fill out a contest entry form (see p. 96 of the book for more good ideas for collecting names). "Three essential elements of a bridge event are radical hospitality, a means to collect names, and fun!"

Then, you will need people to follow up by sending handwritten notes to

(Continued on page 6)



April Events & Fundraisers

Easter Party

**Saturday
April 13th
10-12:00 PM**

All children in the church and in the community are invited to our annual Easter Party. There will be games, crafts, candy, and hot dogs for lunch.

All Free!



Holy Week Services

*Maundy Thursday
April 18th, 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 19th, 7 PM*

Join us on Friday evening also as we remember the great sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for our salvation.

Biscuit Sales

**Thursday
April 18th
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, livermush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, April 18th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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 Response Team*.

Yum! Yum!



*Easter Sunrise Service
April 21st, 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!*



April Celebrations



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 11th—McCall Creaseman
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 12th—Samantha Stone
- 12th—Sonya Crouse
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 21st—Emily Haas
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McCrary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 30th—Rex Teague
- 30th—Sarah McCrary

Happy Anniversary!

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

Special Request

For Clair Gilbert's Girl Scout Gold Award, she needs several volunteers to help crochet small fidget aids for local school children with autism. You do not have to have any crocheting experience.

If you are interested in helping, please let Clair or Kay Gilbert know. Call 729-9319 or e-mail to kaynclair@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Clair and Kay Gilbert





Church Council Minutes for March 17, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, John McCrary (Chairman), Marsha McCrary, Phyllis Minton, and Cindy Sears.

John McCrary read from Matthew 10:5-8 where Jesus tells his disciples that the kingdom of heaven is near, so they should go out and find the lost, heal the sick, and comfort the dying. We do not have to go to strange places to find people who need Jesus. The fields are ripe for harvest in our area, we only need to go out of the church and invite them in.

In verses 9-10, Jesus tells us to travel light. Don't carry burdens of grievances or fears, etc. Let go of the past; you are the equipment God will use.

Pastor Tom then opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from the February meeting were read. The barbecue cook shed was dismantled earlier than planned. A motion was made to accept by Tom, with a second by Bleaka. Motion passed.

Finance Report – Jo Nell

John McCrary reported that \$249.20 was received for the scrap metal taken from the old barbecue shed. This money will go into the building fund to make up for the money taken from the shed insurance money. After Jo Nell's report below, this decision was reconsidered. Sonya Crouse made a motion to put the money in the General Fund with a second by Kim Ellis. Motion passed.

Jo Nell confirmed that the Christian Life Center mortgage is paid off. Jo paid another \$104.20, which was the very last that we owed. She also announced that we have the money to repay the barbecue shed insurance money that was inadvertently paid on the mortgage. We are debt free!

A motion was made to close the

Building Fund with a second by Pastor Tom. Motion passed. Jo Nell wants us to stress that we still need our members/affiliates tithes and offerings. There are other things that need to be done around here. We want to begin applying more money to our children's ministries, which were cut back in the last couple of years to keep the mortgage and other bills paid.

UMM Report – John McCrary

The old barbecue shed has been torn down. The UMM will work on a member's roof shingle replacement this coming Saturday, which was postponed earlier because of the threat of rain.

Lay Leader Report – Bleaka

The Journey with Jesus series of speakers will begin on March 24th with Irene Austin and a woman from the Safe Harbor shelter. Todd Harris will speak on March 31st. On April 7th, Kim Ellis and Kirk Austin will talk about their mission trip to Belize.

Pastor Tom Report

We will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

SPPR Committee – Ricky Baker

There was nothing to report other than that we are satisfied with our current Pastor.

Kim Ellis – Report

The Vacation Bible School teachers will not have to decorate the rooms this year, so please volunteer to help with a small group of children.

Trustees Report – Roy Hamby

He waited to order the new building for the barbecue shed until he could be sure we had the money. He will order it now. Carpet was removed from a couple of rooms upstairs. We are leaving the bare hardwood floors for now, and will

clean the floors in the near future. Some discussion about the work to make the new shed usable followed. Roy said that they hope to have the building up in the next two months or so.

The Trustees have discussed some items, such as more sidewalks and a covered area where people can unload from cars during rain, etc. More about these possible improvement projects will be brought forth later.

There was a general discussion about the demise of the building fund. What do we do with money designated to this fund now for memorials, etc.? It was decided to set up an account fund for Capital Improvements for any contributions designated to the Building Fund, which will be closed.

The Note Burning date is set for Sunday, May 5th.

Bleaka made a motion to close meeting; Ricky Baker seconded. Meeting adjourned.

—minutes by Cindy Sears 

Our Military

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McCrary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



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

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

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval.

—Hebrews 11:1-2 GNT

Update from Finding Hope Ministries

Dear Ebenezer:

March 25, 2019

Hey everyone! Just wanted to send an update on what's going on here in Romania. There is a lot happening here – mission teams are scheduled from now through the summer, (construction & VBS), finishing the Lucas house, buying another home for a 3rd children's home, distributing food and necessities to gypsy communities, working on a church plant, etc. I'll try to get everyone up to speed.

But before the update, I want thank you so much for helping with our ministry here in Romania. We cannot save these orphan children without you!

We're moving forward with the renovations on the Lucas Home (the 2nd children's home). We are getting close to *move-in-ready* - hoping to finish the renovations the end of April (when a mission team from the East Taylorsville and Antioch Baptist come here). Currently, there are 6-9 folks from those two churches planning to come for 9-10 days. We pray one of these days Ebenezer will send a team here as well. We would just love to have you all. If all goes well, we hope to start taking children into the Lucas Home by June or July.



God is really blessing our ministry here. He has provided for us to be able to purchase a 3rd home for another orphanage. We already have host parents for that home as well – (Adi and Elena Moldovan from here in Romania). They attend our church and have decided to dedicate their lives to being parents for Romanian orphans. We are very excited to have them join our team. The new home will not require much renovation so soon we will have a capacity of 36 children! We already cook approximately 90 meals a day so things are about to start going crazy around here!

We are still moving forward with planting a church in a local gypsy village. Please pray that God will open up the doors for the funding and bring churches from the US to partner with us to make this church plant a reality. There are just so many lost souls who need to be ministered to among the gypsy communities. We want to see them saved and to have their own place to worship and fellowship to grow God's kingdom.

Alina, our oldest is coming to the US to do her senior year at Tri-City Baptist in Conover, NC. We are so proud of her! She will be living with a host family (Kevin and Lisa Powell) in Taylorsville, NC. Her goal is to get an education in the US and eventually return here to become a host parent for one of the FHM homes. This is her dream. Thanks to you all who make FHM possible. Alina knows the Lord as her Savior, seeks Him with all her heart, and wants to live her life serving Him, giving back by helping orphan kids. It is so wonderful to see the fruit from this ministry growing up and giving back!

As the ministry grows and we take in more orphan children, we need more sponsors.

We currently have two children who really need sponsors.

Izabella is 12 years old. She was sent to a state run orphanage when she was three. She just came to us in 2019. Izabella is such a joy. She is always talking (our most talkative child – will talk your ear off), always happy and positive, full of energy, hard working, obedient, and just a delightful young lady. One always has pleasant company around Izabella, for she can strike up and carry on interesting conversations with anyone. Furthermore, she is always looking for ways she can be useful and help around the house, whether it be taking care of the smaller children or cleaning. She has brought so much joy to the Finding Hope home. She is such a blessing. We feel sure she too will be a blessing and joy to anyone who decides to sponsor her.

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Finding Hope Ministries Update, cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

Marius was abandoned the day he was born and spent the first two years of his life in the hospital nursery. He was then transferred to a state run orphanage for 10 years. He just came to us in 2019. Marius is very loving, smart, compassionate, kind, gentle-spirited, full of energy, hard working, always obedient, and always thinking of others. He is just a delightful young man who is such a blessing to have around. We are so thankful he has become part of our family here at Finding Hope. He has brought us so much love and joy. We feel sure, he will bring the same to anyone who decides to sponsor him.

Once we open the in 2nd and 3rd homes (very soon), we will need a lot more sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring one of our children, you can do so via our website or contact us personally to set it up.

We are in need of a 2nd ministry van (and perhaps a 3rd in the not too distant future!)

We also need money to help us buy furnishings for the 2nd and 3rd homes – beds, couch, sheets, blankets, kitchenware/appliances, wardrobes, dressers, etc....

Please pray for us. There are SO many needs but prayer and financial support are two of the biggest and most pressing. We need more people and churches involved. If you could share our ministry with others in your church and community, that would be a huge help. Thanks for helping us bring Christ to orphan children, seeing them saved for eternity! Bless you all.

God bless,
Finding Hope Ministries

What's It Like

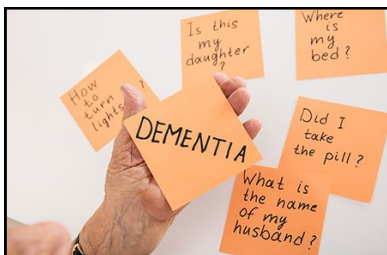
We often wonder what it's like to perform a great act or live in a different manner, or something similar.

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday May 21st, 4 to 6 pm
McCreary Family Professional Center
526 Pine Mountain Rd, Hudson, NC

Here is an opportunity to experience a different life style for a few minutes. I would like to tell you all about it. I would like to describe the emotions I felt. I would like to describe the various experiences I had, but I think it would be better for you to have them first hand.

The event is the VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR. It is a short tour based on the everyday experiences of someone with dementia (as near as science has been able to determine). Individuals that suffer from migraines or are bothered by strobe lights might want to skip this information packed event.



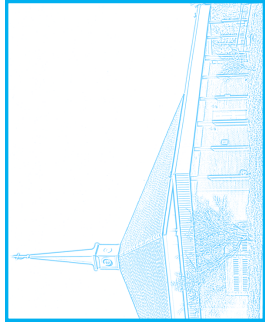
Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

each guest to thank them for attending the event within 24 to 48 hours of the event. There are more details in the book of how to continue to connect with the people without becoming intrusive; and what to do after they begin attending.

Everything involves building relationships with unconnected people—but to do so, you first have to meet them. Get out of your “Christian” circle long enough to get to know someone who is not yet a follower of Christ. The fields truly are ripe for harvesting. ✝





April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir Practice	1 Basketball—7 PM	2 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Volleyball—7 PM	3 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	4	5 	6
7	8 Basketball—7 PM	9 Volleyball—7 PM	10	11	12	13 Easter Party—10-12:00 PM
14 Church Council—4:00 PM	15 Basketball—7 PM Trustees Meeting—7 PM	16 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Volleyball—7 PM	17	18 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone! Maundy Thursday Service—7 PM	19 Good Friday Service—7 PM	20 Reserved for Easter Sunday set-up
21 Easter Sunrise Service—7 AM Free Breakfast After the Service	22 Basketball—7 PM	23 Volleyball—7 PM	24	25	26	27
28 UMW—6 PM	29 Basketball—7 PM	30 Volleyball—7 PM				