



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

## February '20

Volume 16 Issue 2

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

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"The purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, after all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all.

— Leo Rosten

March 2020 newsletter items are due by **Monday, February 24th.**

### 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



### February

February has been shortchanged in its number of days. The other eleven months have at least 30 days and some have 31. Poor little February only has 28 and once every four years, during Leap Year is granted one day extra making the month have 29. Friends whose birthday is Feb. 29 complain about celebrating their birthday once every four years.

According to the internet, when the New Year began in March, February was the last month of the year. The calendar changed, moving Epiphany to the beginning of the year (the 12th day of Christmas).

Then July and August enter the picture. Caesar Augustus wanted his namesake month to have more days, so February had a couple of days removed and added to August giving that month thirty one.

But February has the last laugh.

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, 2 of America's best loved presidents were born in February.

The NFL Super Bowl game is usually scheduled for February.

Valentine's Day is the center of the month, supposedly named after a Christian martyr.

Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday often occur during this month. These days signal the beginning of the Season of Lent. Lent leads to the commemoration of the crucifixion and Resurrection (Easter) of Jesus Christ. February has many days which should draw attention.

We in the Christian religion use the period of Lent to examine our lives in the light of the life of Jesus. This allows us to see our sins, failings and shortcomings, and gives opportunities to Repent of those and live a life more pleasing to our Lord and Savior.

We can accomplish little when we compare our lives to our neighbors, for we tend to assume that we are better than those who fail to attend church, or seem to live a worse life than us.

(Continued on page 3)

### 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.

### Lord's Supper Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will deliver another meal on **Monday, February 17th at 5:00 p.m.** We need deliverers. See Ricky Baker if you want to help cook the meal.

### UMW Meeting

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** Bleaka Hollar will provide the program. All women of the church are invited to come and learn about the UMW and their ministries. The current members will provide a covered-dish meal for all attendees. Yum! Yum!

### Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m.**

### Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

## Special offerings

Our budget is so constrained now that we have had to drop some of the local benevolence groups, such as South Caldwell Christian Ministries, Caldwell County Hospice, and the Pregnancy Care Center, from our budget. Since, we can no longer put these groups in our budget, we have decided to designate one month of Thank Bank contributions to each of these organizations.

We have plenty of available funds in the Thank Bank and in other "needy" funds, so doing this will not effect our ability to help people ourselves.

In February, we will reserve all the Thank Bank offerings, and send them to the Pregnancy Care Center in March. The Center offers information on parenting, adoption, and abortion. They do not provide nor refer for abortions. They are there to help a woman make and informed decision about her pregnancy or potential pregnancy. Visit their website at: [www.caldwellpregnancy.org](http://www.caldwellpregnancy.org) for more information.

## Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

### LET US PRAY

"When you pray do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. This then is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, may your holy name be honored..." —Matthew 6:7-9 GNT

The United Methodist Church is facing a potential break-up; the United States is experiencing the worst political partisanship stand-off in decades; our Ebenezer Church is struggling to continue our ministries and pay our bills. It is way past time for regular, persistent, and concentrated prayer.

Jesus told us to ask, seek, and knock. (see Matthew 7:7) It seems that we often leave off the first part of that admonition and attempt to find the answers ourselves, or knock on the wrong doors. The Apostle Paul tells us to "be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God." (Colossians 4:2) James, the half-brother of Jesus, is said to have had calloused knees from kneeling so much to pray. How many of us have calloused knees from praying? Or have sore arms and hands from holding our hands together as we pray? Do we set aside any particular time to pray every day? Can we even turn off the TV or the radio, etc. long enough to pray?

Physical sickness, emotional sickness, and spiritual sickness are rampant in our society—and in our church. We need to communicate regularly with our God—for solace, encouragement, strength, and peace in these times of stress and disagreement. Also, we should be thanking God regularly and fervently for the current great economy, a strong military to protect us here and abroad, and many wonderful material things we all enjoy every day. Historically, most of us are living better than kings and dictators and the very wealthy used to live only decades ago. When we pause long enough to open our eyes to our blessings, we see how good God truly is. When we pray regularly, we also find it easier to remember WHO is really in charge—GOD; not you, not me, not the government.

I am asking for people who are willing to meet weekly to pray for individuals in our local church, and to pray for the UMC, our country, etc. to contact me and let me know they are interested and will be dedicated to attending a weekly meeting. I am considering a weekday afternoon (after my work hours at the church), and/or a meeting on Sunday afternoon for those who work during the week (or Saturday morning or afternoon if that is better for our members). We will discuss an agenda for the meetings, and limit the time to what is most convenient for the participants at a set-up meeting near the end of February or first of March if I get enough responses. This will be a praying session, not a social gathering. I want people who can be serious about prayer; about lifting our requests up to God, and expectantly waiting for a positive answer. I hope to keep a record of our prayer request (which will be as specific as possible), and the answers that we receive.

You may call the office or send an email to me at [c2sears@yahoo.com](mailto:c2sears@yahoo.com) to confirm your interest in this endeavor. Thank you.





## February Events & Fundraisers

### Missions Fundraiser

#### After Church Lunch Feb. 16th

Ricky Baker is cooking up his great lasagna on **Sunday, February 16th after the church services** to help raise money for upcoming mission trips. Serving will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Donations are requested for the meal with drink and dessert. Eat-in or take-out.



The lunch will be open to the church and the community.

We thank you for your support.

### Pastor's Pen, cont'd

*(Continued from page 1)*

But to really accomplish change, we must compare our life to that of Christ, for he was sinless. We can use this upcoming period of reflection and repentance to seek forgiveness from God, and offer the same to our neighbors.

Remember God loves all—not just those like us.

—*Pastor Tom*

### Happy Groundhog Day!



Where's my shadow?!  
Have I become a ghost?  
Or is winter really over?

### Biscuit Sales

#### Thursday January 16 6 AM — 'til gone!

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

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!**



### SPECIAL NOTE:

Our "Ash Wednesday Service" will be held on **Sunday, February 23rd** during the regular worship service.



### Prophetic Words?

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

--- John Wesley

## February Celebrations



- 5th—Robert Herman
- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Brian Knepp
- 16th—Bernice Burns
- 19th—Judy Smith
- 20th—Dylan Baker
- 20th—Lucas Teague
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 24th—Keith Blair
- 26th—Robert Mullinax
- 29th—Earnest Jenkins

*Happy Anniversary!*



- 14th—Will & Arlene McRary

### Our Military

Kyle Blair  
Ricky Garland  
Trey Hefner  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Michael Potts  
Hunter Tolbert  
Josh Yount



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

Moral issues are always complex matters — for people who have no principles. —Apocryphal

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

The LORD is good; he protects his people in times of trouble; he takes care of those who turn to him.

—Nahum 1:7 GNT



## Church Council Minutes — January 26, 2020

Attendees: Pastor Tom, Ricky Baker, David Crouse, Sonya Crouse, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, and Kenny Silver.

David Crouse welcomed the new members and visitors. He then read 1 Corinthians 12:8-27, and a devotional story that went with it. We were reminded that each person has his own gift or talent. Yet, we are one body, so all parts are important. Sonya opened us with prayer.

After the Reading of the minutes from Nov., they were accepted as written.

### Jo Nell Finance Report:

Jo Nell asked for a method of approving the irregular bills that come in. Also, she needs to know which fund the bill needs to come out of.

Bleaka Hollar discussed what to do with the barbecue fund money from 2019. Kim made a motion to put \$3200 to Ebenezer's General Fund. The remainder would be given to Bleaka for her special benevolence fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marsha McCrary. Motion passed.

Jo Nell went over last year's financial report in detail.

### Old Business

Ricky's spare lapel microphone is working well. David Crouse asked Ricky to price one for the church to buy, so Ricky can have his back.

The Tree lighting in Granite Falls went well. We collected over \$1,000 for the Merrill Orphanage children's plane tickets to come to the U. S. this summer. The drain backing up

problem in the kitchen area was resolved. The Deep fryer, which we had a fundraiser for in 2019, has been purchased and installed.

### New Business

#### *Kim Ellis:*

We are signed up to provide desserts for Grace Chapel fire department's barbecue fundraiser. We will need people to serve the desserts during the fundraiser on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Our UMW is organizing this. We will need volunteers to help setup and prepare the desserts, too (which will be done here at Ebenezer). All monies raised selling the desserts will go to Ebenezer's missions fund.

Kim announced for Marsha that the high school and middle class are combining, because we have so few students.

#### *Ricky Baker:*

SPPRC report. Tom is retiring. We are considering asking for a local pastor, instead of an elder or a two-charge church. Please be thinking about this and give input to Ricky about what kind of pastor you would like to have, and qualifications you are looking for in a new pastor.

We next discussed changes in our check writing and signing procedures. We hope to take some of the burden off of Jo Nell. People who volunteered to be signers were: JoAnn Harrison, Cindy Satterwhite, and Jo Nell Harrison will sign also, if necessary.

A young lady from Romania will come to speak at our church in March. Date will be announced later.

Ricky volunteered to prepare a

lunch here for holy week on Good Friday which will include a worship service. This is part of a lunch and worship set for Holy Week in April by various churches in the area.

A motion was made to go back to having monthly meetings. Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Meeting was adjourned.

--Minutes by Cindy Sears



## Taught to Be Depressed

The bottom line: The reason so many young people are depressed, unhappy and angry is the left has told them that God and Judeo-Christian religions are nonsense; their country is largely evil; their past is deplorable; and their future is hopeless.

That seems to be a major reason, if not the reason, for so much unhappiness: not capitalism, not inequality, not patriarchy, sexism, racism, homophobia or xenophobia but rather having no religion, no God, no spouse, no community, no country to believe in and, ultimately, no meaning. That explains much of the unprecedented unhappiness.

And it explains the widespread adoption of that secular substitute for traditional religion: leftism. But unlike Judaism and Christianity, leftism does not bring its adherents happiness.

—Dennis Prager, Jewish World Review, Jan. 28, 2020

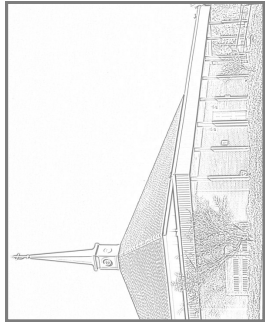






**EBENEZER UMC**

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

# February 2020



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*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir Practice			<i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies			1
2  HE IS AS TIRED OF WINTER AS EVERYONE ELSE.	3 Basketball—7 PM	4	5	6 Volleyball—7 PM	7	8
9	10 Basketball—7 PM	11	12	13 Volleyball—7 PM	14 	15
16 Lasagna Lunch—11:30 AM, see p. 3	17 Food Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM Presidents' Day	18	19	20 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone! Volleyball—7 PM	21	22
23 Church Council—4:00 PM	24 Basketball—7 PM	25	26	27 Volleyball—7 PM	28	29