



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

FEB '21

Volume 17 Issue 2

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

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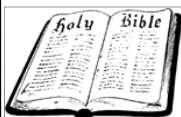
NOTE: Sunday worship services will continue to be held outside as parking lot services until further notice. You may listen in at 98.5 FM on your radio. Services are also on Facebook.



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 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 Note



In “The Game of Thrones” the motto of House Stark is “Winter is coming!” We are not waiting for winter. Winter is fully here, and we still have more winter ahead of us. Yet we know that spring will follow winter.

In the life of the church, due to Covid-19, we have been in a type of winter. Nothing is as it was. We want to get back to “normal.” We long for a return to being able to do things that we did before without having to wear a mask or socially distance. We long to return to worship in the sanctuary. I do not know when that will be. I do know that spring is coming. God has not forgotten or forsaken us.

While we wait for spring to come to the church, I would encourage you to remember that there are things we can do to prepare. For the gardener, winter is not a time of inactivity. There is always something to do to prepare for spring. There are always catalogs to look at so that you can dream and plan for the spring that is coming.

What can we do:

Please pray for the church and its ministries.

Reach out to people you have not seen or heard from in a while. Check on one another and show the love of Christ.

If you are part of a Sunday School class, consider getting together to spruce up your room so that when we can meet, we are ready.

Do what you can to slow the spread. Wear the mask. Be careful when going out. Get the vaccine when you can.

When Caldwell County returns to orange on the North Carolina Covid-19 dashboard we will return to worship in the CLC. When the county goes to yellow, we will look at returning to the sanctuary (with appropriate restrictions). We will continue to provide the worship service on Facebook Live.

No matter how long or brutal winter is we know spring is coming. Spring is coming for Ebenezer. Praise be to God.

In God's grace,

Worship in February

Pastor Alan

February 7th – Mark 1.29-39 (Communion Sunday)
 February 14th – Mark 9.2-9
 February 21st – Mark 1.9-15
 February 28th – Mark 8.31-38

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, Events, etc.

Community Meal

We will have another free pick-up only community meal on **Monday, February 8th starting at 5:00 p.m.** Current plans are to do chicken and dumplings with fixings (no drinks). Come by a get a free meal for yourself, your family, or a neighbor.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is **February 17th**. Due to the ongoing issues with Covid-19 Pastor Alan will provide imposition of the ashes in the church parking lot on that day. You will drive up to the sanctuary and Pastor Alan will make the mark of the cross on your forehead with the ashes. **This will be provided at Noon to 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, February 28th at 4:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. We thank you for your service on this committee.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, February 28th at 5:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

Winter Blood Drive— Report

Our annual winter Red Cross Blood Drive that was held on Monday, January 11th was a success. **Our goal was 29 pints, and we ended up with 30 pints.**

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with the promotion and running of the blood drive.



COVID-19 Pandemic
American Red Cross Blood Program Partner

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

“Many deceivers have gone out over the world, people who do not acknowledge that Jesus Christ came as a human being. Such a person is a deceiver and the Enemy of Christ.” 2 John 7 GNT

**BASIC DOCTRINE:
FULLY GOD,
FULLY MAN**

There are several aspects of Christian doctrine and faith that are difficult to grasp. The fact that Jesus is declared to be both God and Man is one of them. Starting with the divinity of Jesus Christ, we must understand that unless Jesus is God our faith is useless, unverified, and pointless. Jesus Christ is not just a good man. Jesus Christ is not just a martyr. Jesus Christ is not just a man who was empowered by God. Jesus Christ is not just a prophet. Jesus Christ is not just a man whose body was taken over by the Spirit of God for a time and purpose. Jesus Christ is not a created being or an angel in disguise. Jesus Christ is not just an illusion created by God. **JESUS CHRIST IS GOD!**

And Jesus Christ is a man. Huh? How can he be both God and man? If you find this confusing, do not be embarrassed, the Christian Church argued about this for some time—though there were always those in the Church that asserted that Jesus was both God and man.

For instance, there was a doctrine called Nestorianism that believed that Jesus existed as two persons, the man Jesus and the divine Son of God, rather than as a unified person. “This view of Christ was condemned at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A. D.” (Hunt, p. 123). “The motivation for this view was an aversion to the idea that “God” suffered and died on the cross...” (ibid). “The problem with Nestorianism is that it threatens the atonement. If Jesus is two persons, then which one died on the cross? If it was the “human person” then the atonement is not of divine quality and thereby insufficient to cleanse us of our sins” (Hunt, p. 124).

The Arian heresy taught that Jesus, the Son of God, was not eternal, but was only the highest creation of God “made by the Father before all time” (Hunt, p. 127). Although this view was condemned at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A. D., it grew in importance for years when the Emperor Constantine fell under its influence. This view of Christ did help persuade tribes of barbarians to become Christians, because “It lowered the barriers between Christianity and the dominant Neoplatonist form of paganism by emphasizing the oneness of God and representing the Son and Spirit as high creatures” (Hunt, pp. 127-8). Yet, this also made Christianity seem more of a polytheistic religion than monotheistic. By 381 A. D. the orthodox view of Christ had triumphed over both these heresies. (ibid) Christ was deemed co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit—all ONE, all GOD, all UNCREATED.

At the Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D., the humanity of Christ and the divinity of Christ were affirmed:

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Something to Pray About, continued

"The Definition of Chalcedon says that in the one person of Christ are united a true human nature and a true divine nature without confusion, mixture, division, or separation. In other words, when the Son of God, who from all eternity possessed the divine nature, added to Himself a human nature, each nature retained its own attributes. The divine nature did not become human and the human nature did not become divine."

"Christ was and remains the God-man. This is a mystery we cannot fully comprehend, but we must affirm it. If Christ is not truly human, He cannot atone for our sin, for only a human being can atone for the sin of other human beings. If Christ is not truly God, the atonement He offers does not have sufficient value to be applied to all the elect. If Christ is not the God-man, there is no salvation" (ligonier.org, "The Human Nature of Christ"). (NOTE: Yes, this is from a Calvinist site, but Methodists hold many views in common with Calvinists.)

"For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man...Perfect God and perfect man...Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ" (excerpts from the Athanasian Creed from Hunt, p. 131). AMEN.

Sources: The Holy Bible; Concise Church History by John Hunt, AMG Publishers, c2008 by John Hunt Publishing, LTD.



Church Council Minutes — January 24, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Alan Gaylord, Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary (Chairperson), Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, and Linda Moretz and Phyllis Minton.

The new chairperson of the Council, Marsha McCrary, opened the meeting with a short devotion. "Who Am I?" From Exodus, Chapter 3 where Moses encounters God in the burning bush, Moses claims that he is not qualified to represent God to the Israelites. In Exodus 4:10-11, Moses claims to be slow of speech. God's answer is: "Am I not the LORD." So if God chooses you to serve in the church or outside the church in some capacity, don't say "No" to God. Go to Deut. 31:6, and read: "Be strong and of great courage. I will never

leave you or forsake you." God is bigger than your failings and ineptitudes. He will provide all that you need to accomplish his tasks—if you let him lead you. Marsha then gave the opening prayer.

Reading of the minutes: Motion to accept as written by Monte Hollar, second by Kenny Silver. Passed.

Financial Report: Irene Austin

Irene went over the Church Assets and Expenses report to Conference for year 2020. She reported that we did manage to take in more than we spent.

A discussion of our falling giving rates led to a discussion of the PPP loans that are now being offered again by the government to help cover salaries. If criteria are met, the

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February Celebrations



- 12th—Chris Ellis
- 14th—Brian Knepp
- 19th—Judy Smith
- 20th—Dylan Baker
- 22nd—Jesse Barber
- 24th—Keith Blair
- 26th—Robert Mullinax
- 29th—Jacob Jenkins

Happy Anniversary!



- 14th—Will & Arlene McCrary

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *January*:

In Memory of Ernest "Bob" Jenkins by:

Larry & Alice Hill

In Memory of Charles, Faye, and Larry Stafford by:

Eric & Julia M. Tsitouris



Our Military

Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McCrary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert



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



Church Council Minutes, continued

(Continued from page 3)

loan will be changed to a grant. Pastor Alan asked if we want to consider doing this? The Pastor and the Trustees want Irene to look into it, and see what the requirements are. Monte made a motion to look into it. Discussion. Bleak Hollar seconded. Passed with one dissenting vote.

Thank you to Ricky Baker, Ted Daniel, Billy Long and Wayne Ellis who redid the CLC floor. Great job!

Old Business

The floor machine was bought and paid for. The kitchen floor has not been done yet, but scrubbers to do the job were purchased with the floor machine.

New Business

Monte Hollar: we may want to do another meal as we did before, because we still have food in the freezer. Motion was made to do another community meal. Ricky Baker said we will probably do chicken and dumplings this time. Date set was February 8th Monday at 5:00 p.m. It will be pick up only. We will hand out the plates as we did last time. Ricky Baker is in charge. Motion passed.

Ricky Baker asked if we could start the shut-in meals again in March. Monte made a motion to do so. Second by Ted Daniel. Motion passed. The meal will be on the third Monday of every month.

UMM reported that they have cut wood and delivered it--30 loads. There is more to cut, too.

SCCM is collecting food, so we are continuing to collect non-perishable items here and taking them to SCCM. They are accepting clothing, too.

Pastor Alan's Report:

Covid update NC: Caldwell remains a red zone. Therefore, we will continue to have services in the parking lot until further notice.

Alan has noticed that we have lots of stuff in our classrooms and elsewhere. We need to get the building in order for when we return to inside activities. What can we clean up and declutter during this time? Discussion.

Do we want to apply for a summer ministry intern? Discussion. Decided to pass on this.

Alan verified that Sunday school meetings are okay if Covid guidelines are followed.

Nominations Committee will meet to vote on a chairperson for the SPPR committee on January 31 at 3:00 pm.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th from 12-1:00 p.m. and from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Pastor Alan will conduct a service with a drive-by imposition of the ashes.

Dudley Shoals Elementary needs cleaning supplies and classroom supplies—facial tissues, wipes, etc. A notice will be put in the newsletter with a list of needed items.

Pastor Alan went over a list of missing members on our Membership list, and received some information about what has happened to them, and where they may be found or contacted.

Ricky Baker asked if the council thought that people would be interested in having their song lyrics printed out for the people in their cars to use. The council thought this was a good idea.

Cindy Satterwhite asked about committee members' terms. It was verified that you go off of a committee at the end of the year above your name on the list.

Bleaka Hollar gave the closing prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.

Community Needs

Dudley Shoals Elementary

Thanks to Gwen Teague we have been made aware of some needs at Dudley Shoals Elementary. They need the following items:

Clorox Wipes
Hand Sanitizer
Hand Soap
Band Aids

If you wish to help with these needs, please bring your items to the church and they will be taken to DSE in the next few weeks.

South Caldwell Christian Ministries

We are collecting food and clothing for South Caldwell Christian Ministries as they continue to minister to those in need in our community. Please bring any donations by the church.

Supporting Ebenezer UMC

Prayer Group

Consider joining us for prayer group on Tuesday's at 6 p.m. If you have a prayer need, please call the church office (396-2214) and the group will lift your need in prayer.

Giving

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in your tithes and offerings. There are 4 ways to make your gifts: During the offering at the drive-in service, mail them to the church office (4948 Burns Road; Granite Falls, NC 28630), drop them off at the church office (**8:30-1:00 p.m, Mon. – Fri.**) or online at the conference web site. Go to www.wnccumc.org, scroll down and look on the left side for "Electronic donations to churches portal." Click on that and fill out the form. We are in the Appalachian district and the church name is Ebenezer – Granite Falls. There are several Ebenezer's in the conference.



Finding Hope Ministries Newsletter Excerpts—December 2020

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:19

Hi everyone! God is good. We pray all is well with everyone, despite these trying times. Praise the Lord for being our Rock in the midst of the storm and our Hope for a better tomorrow!

Anca and I were both sick with COVID but thank the Lord, we have both recovered. It wasn't too serious but did keep us in bed for about two weeks. Many of the children have had mild symptoms, only lasting a day or so but nothing threatening. Much of the Finding Hope Romanian staff has had it as well. COVID has pretty much made its way through our Romanian homes already - and thank the Lord we all survived and are in good health!

Finding Hope Children's Homes:

Great news from Finding Hope Ministries! The three homes in Romania are all filled to capacity. We're currently serving 37 children in Romania and two at the Dream Home in Moldova. For those that are not aware: Hope House has older girls and younger boys; Luca House has boys aged 7-11; Anchor House has boys aged 12-18, and Dream House has a boy and a girl. The Dream House, once at capacity, will be a mix of boys and girls. Currently, we are under police quarantine again due to COVID. We are only allowed out to buy necessities and go for medical visits...

What's more, because of COVID, school is totally virtual now. All of the kids are doing their school from home via tablets, computers, phones or other devices. Basically, we are homeschooling 37 kiddos! Thank the Lord our oldest daughter, Alina, has stepped up to the plate. She is helping tremendously, teaching the kids and making sure they do their schoolwork. Frankly, we could not hold the fort down without her! Basically, we are trying to keep the kids as busy as possible, so they don't get bored during quarantine. We have trampolines, game consoles, ping pong tables, punching bags, board games, Legos, puzzles, etc.... Moreover, we have them doing crafts, cooking, painting their rooms, and doing their chores, i.e., cleaning! And boy do they love the cleaning part!

USA Children's Home – Grace Home, NC:

We are still moving forward with the Grace Home in NC. Between the government red tape and COVID, the forward progress has been slow. We are hoping to go get the house remodeling underway by early 2021. There are several house updates/renovations that will be required to pass the codes for NC child protective services. Our goal is to be able to house 12 kids at this home. As COVID settles down, we will be sharing more about this with everyone so please continue to keep this in prayer.

Gypsy Ministry:

The gypsy ministry is on hold now due to COVID. Our church building is still there, but we are not allowed to meet because of COVID. In fact, we are not even allowed to visit the village. We pray that the COVID lockdown will be lifted soon so we can continue our village outreach: providing food, clothing, medical care, and ministering the poor.

Thank you:

We thank the Lord for his constant provision. We are always so amazed at how God takes care of us, providing each and every need in His perfect time! We share the needs with you all, God touches hearts, and the body of Christ rises to meet the needs! It is truly awesome seeing how God has grown and provided for Finding Hope all these years through you all! We cannot even begin to thank you for your very generous giving and unceasing prayers. You have given and prayed ever so faithfully for us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You all are truly the heartbeat of Finding Hope Ministries!

Missing Members

We have some members for whom we have no addresses. Please look at the list and call the church office (396-2214) with their contact information.

Susan Chester
Casey Collins
Sharon Hodges
Amanda Simmons Holder
Erin Mejia
Michael Potts
Sydney Richardson
Allison Thompson
Cody Thompson
R.J. Thompson

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:1, 14 NIV