



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

January '18

Volume 14 Issue 1

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

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

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

—2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

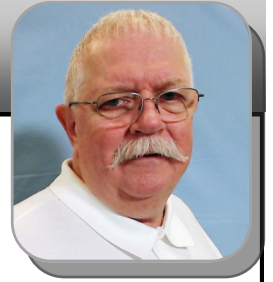


Sunday Services

- 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



Happy New Year!

2017 is dead and gone, 2018 has begun. It is officially the winter season and we have been tolerating winter type temperatures. The temperatures are much cooler than we are accustomed to having in our community. Thankfully it is not icy or snowy. We've heard recently how wonderful it is to "walk in the winter wonder land" or "baby, its cold outside." Hopefully we are warm and well fed.

We need to be aware of those who are not as fortunate as we. There are many who have to work in bad conditions, those out and about regardless of the conditions. We could list a number of groups that make our life more comfortable while they toil in cold. I saw a man trying to get a car started this morning. (Car thermometer was registering 14 degrees) He was successful and the thankful owner was able to drive away. Are we thankful for those working on our behalf?

Just prior to New Years Day or shortly afterward, it is traditional to make resolutions to improve our lives. Usually they include such things as, lose weight, exercise more or save money. This year, reportedly the #1 resolution was, "**I want to be a better person.**" Resolutions are notoriously difficult to fulfill. Most people have failed to keep them within a few days or weeks at most. But this is a resolution that if kept, has the potential to change the world.

If one wishes to lose weight, one needs to have a good diet and exercise plan and a fitness coach. To save money, one must spend less and have a financial advisor to offer guidance. To become a better person, one should associate with positive people, avoid negativity, and allow Jesus Christ to be foremost in their life. Where does one find this Jesus? Many places, but the place to begin is at church. Church is where the power of Christ is magnified because others are searching for him. Others are finding ways to survive the negative power of this world and open themselves to the positive power of Emmanuel, Jesus with us.

Make a resolution to be a better person; begin by coming to church to be with others doing the same.

—Pastor Tom

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.

United Methodist Women

The women will have their next meeting and holiday party on **Sunday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m.** at the parsonage. Food will be provided, but each guest should bring a wrapped \$10 gift to the party. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 21st at 4:30 p.m.** Please contact Cindy or David Crouse if you wish to add a request or concern to the agenda.

Feb. Newsletter Items Due

Please have the February newsletter information in by **January 28th**.

Church Office Closed

The office will be closed on **Monday, January 22nd**, because of Cindy's doctor's appointment in Winston-Salem.



Special Giving

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

In Honor of Our Military by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In honor of Our Church Family by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In honor of Cindy Sears by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In honor of Teens for Christ Class by:

Delores, Bill, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Hoke Clark by:

Friendship Baptist Church, Hudson

In Memory of Wayne, Lillian, & Kenneth Reid by:

Gail Reid

In Memory Tom Harrison by:

Jo Nell Harrison

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great." —Luke 18:14 GNT

**HUMBLE
OR
PERFECT**

Are you a perfect person? Or a perfect employee, wife, husband, son, daughter, leader, follower, giver, receiver, teacher, or student...? If not, do you expect other people to be perfect? Do you insist that others never say a word that inadvertently hurts your feelings? Do you expect your boss to always make the 'right' decisions at work? Do you get angry when your child or spouse doesn't behave in the way you want them to behave? Are you offended when someone close forgets your birthday? Do you become agitated when anything doesn't go your way? Do you assume that other people believe or should believe everything exactly as you believe? Do you think all people who vote Democrat or vote Republican are idiots or evil? Do you withhold help from any person that doesn't fit your idea of a 'good' person—or at least someone who is trying to be a 'good' person? Do other people's mannerisms or style of dress or choice of music or reading materials turn you off or even disgust you? Do you disparage people who find it difficult or impossible to remain financially sound? Do you look down on individuals who are addicted to drugs, overeating, smoking, pornography, or who complain constantly? Do you feel superior to anyone or any reason?

"I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income." —Luke 18:11-12

Are you a perfect Christian? Are you a perfect church member?

We all make mistakes. We all fail to live up to even our own standards. So why should we belittle anyone else when they fail—for any reason?

"Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others." —Matthew 7:1-2

Non-Christians love to use these verses to stop Christians from pointing out sinful actions, but Jesus is not telling us to turn a blind eye to sin here. He is telling us to remember that we are sinners, too. To help someone else turn from their evil ways, we must be willing to admit to our own waywardness, our own weaknesses, and repent ourselves—then, because of our own experiences, we are better able to lead others into more righteous living.

(Continued on page 3)



Something, con't

(Continued from page 2)

"Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother, 'Please, let me take that speck out of your eye,' when you have a log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." — Matthew 7:3-5.

The word hypocrite is our clue here. Do not accuse someone else of a sin that you are indulging in yourself! Yet, it is necessary to point out sins that we have conquered in our own lives (or never gotten caught up in). Remain humble when you are calling others to righteousness—and be on guard. Satan will dearly love it if he can entrap you in the same sins you are speaking out against.



Perfectly Forgiven

That's why being welcoming isn't about telling people that they are free to do whatever they want. It's about assuring them that they don't have to pretend to be strong when they're not. They don't have to pretend to be going from strength to strength when, in reality, they're barely holding on.

It's also about a willingness to accept and even embrace the reality that inconsistency, unsteadiness, and failure are a part of the Christian life. R.C.

Gifts for Christ Memory Tree Memorials

In Memory of

- ***C. W. and Sue King** by Patsy and Tom Hunter
- ***Jr. & Jean Emory** by Patsy and Tom Hunter
- ***Joe Blair** by David & Sonya Crouse
- ***Sondra Crouse** by David & Sonya Crouse
- ***Zachary Cullop & Missy Mullinax** by Barbara Ferguson
- ***Bob Sears** by Nancy Sears
- ***Jack Frye & Ranny Frye** by Barbara Frye
- ***Zetta Mae Frye and Pinola Holman** by Barbara Frye
- ***Ronnie Satterwhite and Kathryn Teague and Buck Teague** by Cindy Satterwhite
- ***J. B. Coffey** by Patty Coffey
- ***Rick Lyda & Edith Lyda** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Eugene Helton & Volenia Helton** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Jim & Pearl McRary** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar
- ***Doris Ann McRary** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar
- ***R. L. & Margie Hollar** by Bleaka & Monte Hollar
- ***Missy Mullinax** by Robert Mullinax
- ***Judy Mullinax & Dennis Mullinax** by Robert Mullinax
- ***Frances Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- ***Penny Fox** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- ***Zetta Mae Frye, Max Frye, & Corrine DeVries** by Gerald Frye
- ***J. C. & Lois Ellis and Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, & Tyler Ellis
- ***Kenneth & Rachel Parlier** by Roy & Tina Hamby
- ***Irene Norris & Ginny Hamby** by Roy & Tina Hamby
- ***Keith McCrary** by Kim & Brian Knepp
- ***Leo & Polly McRary** by Randy & Marsha McRary
- ***John & Wilda Cole** by Randy & Marsha McRary
- ***Larry Huffman** by Rene Huffman
- ***Leo & Polly McRary** by Rene Huffman
- ***Our Old Faithful Church Family Who Have Passed Away** by Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
- ***Glinda Haas** by Chris and Tasha Haas
- ***Steve McRary, Adrienne Overby,** by Unknown

Sproul Jr., commenting on the bumper sticker slogan "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven," [has written](#) "We're not perfect. We are forgiven. But the forgiveness we have from the Father works itself out, takes on feet, when we in turn forgive others." --Roberto

Rivera, Breakpoint.org, "The Scandal of Weakness," 12162017. ☆

"And you shall show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do." — Exodus 18:20



January Celebrations



- 1st—Mary Teague
- 4th—Rhyan Stone
- 5th—Jason Collins
- 10th—Cole McCrary
- 14th—Gary Minton
- 16th—Rosalind Kelley
- 18th—Kasey Smith
- 18th—Chuck Adams
- 20th—Barbara Ferguson
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 25th—Dwight Kelley
- 25th—Dawn Yount
- 27th—Amanda Simmons
- 27th—Stephanie Shook
- 27th—Weston Triplette
- 30th—Kevin Sears
- 31st—Rachel Poe



Happy Anniversary!

- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

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.

Gifts for Christ Memory Tree Honorariums

In Honor of

- *Mae Blair by David & Sonya Crouse
- *Wade Crouse by David & Sonya Crouse
- *Judy Smith and Donald Baker by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- *Theo Jayden Yount by Nancy Sears
- *Our Church Family by Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
- *Marsha & Randy McCrary by Carla & Richie Yoder & Cole McCrary
- *Ward Torrence by Carla & Richie Yoder & Cole McCrary
- *Cole McCrary by Carla & Richie Yoder
- *Carson & Baylor Hamby by Roy & Tina Hamby
- *Cole McCrary by Randy & Marsha McCrary
- *Addie Sears by Cindy Sears
- *Pat Sears by Cindy Sears
- *David Sears by Cindy Sears
- *Carolyn Bowman by Judy McCrary
- *Cinda McCrary by Unknown
- *Billie & Ray Shrum by Clair Gilbert
- *Frances Lafone by Emily Haas



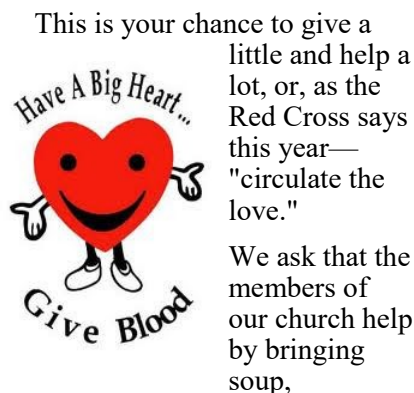
Unsure of designations of the following:

- *Bill Duckworth, Linda Finncanon, and Tina Lear by Unknown

WINTER Blood DRIVE

Monday, Jan. 8
2:30-7:00 PM

We encourage you to come give blood to help save lives in our community. We serve hot soup and sandwiches, along with homemade desserts to the blood donors.



little and help a lot, or, as the Red Cross says this year— "circulate the love."

We ask that the members of our church help by bringing soup,

sandwiches and desserts to share. Volunteers are needed. See Dawn Yount, the blood drive coordinator, to volunteer.

You may pre-register & schedule an appointment by visiting redcrossblood.org online and entering: Ebenezer UMC, or call 1-800-733-2767. We thank you for your generosity and support. ♥

Sorry, there will be no biscuit sales this month.

You don't stop failing, ever. You just become more adept at making use of it.

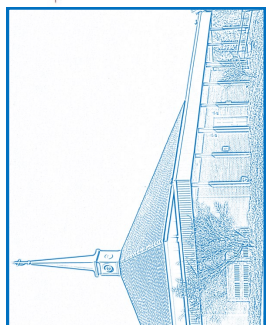
Read more at <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/1017/barreca103117.php3#f8zFZe3P9L3PMYk.99>



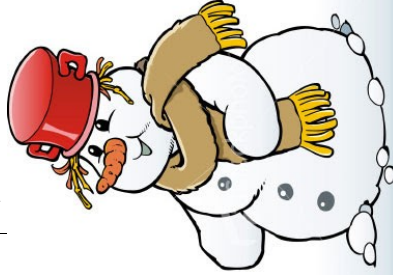


EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school</p>	<p>1 Church Office Closed</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p>	<p>2 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</p>	<p>3 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 UMW Christmas Party at parsonage—6 PM, see p. 2</p>	<p>8 Blood Drive—2:30—7:00 PM, see p. 4</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p> Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>16 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Church Council—4:30 PM</p>	<p>22 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p></p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			