



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

July '20

Volume 16 Issue 4

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

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A Little Wisdom

You cannot hide from danger. Death floats on the air, creeps through the window, comes with the handshake of a stranger. If we stop living because we fear death, then we have already died."

—Margaret Weis, *The Soulforge*

If a person is so afraid of death that he misses life, he may as well not have been born.

—comment by Wayne on Dennis Prager article.

August 2020 newsletter items are due by **Monday, July 27.**

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*



New Pastor Arrives in July/Blood Drive

Our new pastor, Alan Gaylord, and his family will arrive on Tuesday, June 30th. By the time you read this, he will be here. We have asked for volunteers to help the family move into the parsonage on Wednesday, July 1st. Below is some information about Pastor Alan and his family:

56 years old; email: alangaylord1@gmail.com; mobile phone: 386-785-3435.

Spouse: Debra (Debbie)

Children: Jonathan (32); Joshua (32); Ashton (28); AJ (deceased); Alyssa (24); Andrew (23); Alexis (22) and Aimie (14). Only Aimie is at home.

Achievements in his current position: Hired a full time youth minister; began the process of viewing those who come for Food ministry as a second congregation; replaced one roof and working on another at his former church; implemented new security protocols.

Theological themes which guide his work as a pastor: "I seek to reach out to all that they may come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. As United Methodists we seek to draw the circle large, so that all may find a spiritual home. I embrace a theology that has a method that we follow in order to achieve those aspirations."

Pastor Alan will preach his first sermon on Sunday, July 12th at 9:00 a.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

**Monday
July 13th
2:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**



We will serve packaged snacks and drinks only during this blood drive. You can go online to RedCrossBlood.org and enter Ebenezer UMC to schedule an appointment. Go to RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment to save time. Or you can just walk in. There is a great need for blood at this time. We thank you for helping out.

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



Special Notes

Church Council Meeting

We will have a church council meeting on **Sunday, July 12th at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.** We need to go over our financial situation, and bring the council up-to-date on the church's business.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *March-June*:

In Memory of Jim Simmons by:
Randy & Marsha McRary

In Memory of Bernice Burns by:
Randy & Marsha McRary

In Memory of Rene Huffman by:
Larry & Alice Hill
Carlene & Jesse Jackson
Freida Matthews
Anesha Knight (to American Cancer Society)
David & Anita Fowler

In Memory of Paul Spencer and James Franklin Campbell by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 43rd Birthday on March 6th by:
Billy Wayne Campbell
Anonymous

In Honor of Bill Campbell's Birthday on May 5 by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Delores Campbell's 83rd Birthday on June 26 by:
Delores, Bill & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Bill Campbell on Father's Day by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Jimmy Stone by:
Roy Hamby

In Honor of Children's Day on June 14 by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In Honor of Grandparent's Day by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell



Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever. —2 Corinthians 5:1 GNT

TERMINAL

“...I know life on this present earth isn't all there is for me. Through my experience with cancer, I have come to realize that everyone is terminal—no one knows when their last day on earth will be. Every person, healthy or ill, can choose to see each day God gives as a gift. I know where I am headed, I know God holds my future, and I trust God to prepare me for whatever comes.” Anita Gray (Upper Room, p.66, March/April 2020)

We have seen a great deal of panic in this country and the world over the last few months. The reactions to the COVID-19 virus have caused a great deal of harm to our economy, our livelihoods, our health (from delayed or canceled surgeries, dental care, doctor visits, and increased stress and anxiety, increased use of alcohol, etc.), and our spiritual and emotional well-being. First, we were asked to take draconian measures to “slow the spread” or “flatten the curve.” Then, we were ordered to continue restrictions of our lives and work, but now threatened with citations, fines, and jail time—without any laws being passed by our law-making bodies. In other words, without proper representation. Our constitutional rights have been violated willy-nilly with very little push back. I pray that we are not about to lose our constitutional republic all-together, but I will leave that to God, and any people still willing to lay down their lives for our freedoms.



What worries me most is the response of the churches in the U. S. Many of our churches have given up our right to gather together and worship our Lord. Why? Are we so afraid of death in this life, or so attached to this life that we will abandon the church at the first sign of pressure to conform? What would the first century Christians think of us if they could see us now? Maybe they can see us. I hope they are praying for us for we surely need their prayers and their courage.

God is at work in this situation. Is he trying to wake up the church? Have we become too complacent? Are we too willing to follow the culture instead of following God? Have we begun to hang on to this present existence too strongly, instead of looking forward to the time when Jesus will come back and set all things right under HIS rule? How many of us can say with the Apostle Paul: “To live is Christ, to die is gain”?



Have we fallen into believing in the prosperity gospel? Do we believe that God owes us a certain amount of wealth, health, long life, and fun here on this earth? Or maybe we have a vapid, childish idea of what heaven and the new earth will be like. Do we think that all we will be do in

(Continued on page 3)



Something..., cont'd

heaven is sit around in pristine white robes, playing harps and singing praises to God? Do you really think that God, who is truly worthy to be praised continuously, would settle just for that from the highest form of his creation—the human being? There are a multitude of ways to praise God. We can be all that God has designed us to be as a form of praise to him, here and in the new kingdom. We are made in his image—that means that we crave purpose, we want to create and build and grow things; we yearn to do good works and show love to those around us. And much more.

I cannot believe that this life is the best life we will ever have. God has great plans for us. He created Adam to tend the garden. Shouldn't we expect to do that and more after Christ returns and takes us home? Won't heaven and the new earth need gardeners, builders, craftsmen, artists, singers, all types of musicians (not only harpists), explorers (there are multiple millions to trillions of planets in the *known* universe); and there could very well be a need for parents for all those children who died young or were killed in the womb (65 million and counting in the U. S. alone). Isn't it possible that God will arrange for them to grow up to adulthood in the new kingdom? Maybe we will need writers to tell the stories of many of the saints who died in obscurity. Maybe we will have actors visually showing us their stories, or showing us what was going on behind the scenes—the spiritual warfare that we cannot discern now. Will we still have machines, etc. that need to be made and maintained?

I really don't know what heaven will be like, but I am looking forward to taking art lessons from some of the world's greatest artists. With my asthma and other physical problems cured, I look forward to being able to sing well and play several musical instruments, too. I might even want to learn how to play the harp! If anything needs to be filed, I can do it! Let your imagination soar! That is another thing God put in us as a part of his image in our makeup.

Let us fight and stand firm in the face of evil and satanic lies in this culture—no matter what it cost us. And let us enjoy as much of God's beautiful world as we can, here and now while looking forward to a better life than this one could ever possibly be—a life of true abundance with no disease, no sin, no flaws to hold us back from being the people God wants us to be "made in his image" and conformed to the image of Christ Jesus, too!

This existence is terminal, so hold onto it lightly; and hang onto the hope found only in our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ whose promises are secure and last forever and ever.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

—Revelation 22:20-21 NIV

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

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

—John 11:25-26 NIV

July Celebrations



- 3rd—Freida Farr
- 10th—Arlene McRary
- 10th—Cameron Collins
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 13th—Phyllis Minton
- 14th—Matt Shook
- 14th—Marilyn Kohnle
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 20th—Casey Mullinax
- 22nd—Kay Gilbert
- 30th—Mildred Tolbert
- 30th—Rebecca Hirt
- 30th—Jerry Parson, Jr.

Happy Anniversary!



- 1st—Matthew & Amanda Coffey
- 3rd—Randy & Marsha McRary
- 13th—Steven & Cheryl Vosdingh

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.

The passion of fear, and hate are more deadly for nations than disease, or famine, or the falling of money values. —Christian Herald

There is no better way to show love for your country than by supporting the one institution above all others that has made it great—the Church. —copied