



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

June '19

Volume 15 Issue 6

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JULY 2019
newsletter items are due
by **Monday, June 24th.**

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

Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.

—James 1:12 GNT

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



Some Reasons to Pray

We hear on a regular basis, "I have a prayer need or would you pray for my _____? (Fill in this blank)"

During our morning worship service we often pray for the sick and those facing surgery or treatment.

Relationships are often on our list, especially our relationship with God. The recently married or those facing turmoil in their lives are part of the relationship prayer.

Those planning mission trips or missionaries, local or international, are part of our prayer focus. We remember they go representing God as well as the church or organization that sends them.

Those in dangerous or stressful situations are in our prayers. Our emergency personnel, medical, fire, and law enforcement stand in the need of prayer. Their lives are often in danger for our protection.

As we pray for our own, we must remember international situations. These often occur in areas with limited resources and are in great need.

Expectant mothers and fathers, and those who celebrate new families need prayer. The stress level is often at a high level. Raising children has always been stressful and today is probably more difficult.

The families caring for older family members often struggle beyond belief. The needs mount up as they work to provide and protect.

Pray for the leaders of the church as they strive to help us draw closer to God and understand our position with the Holy Trinity.

For example, Sunday school leaders, musicians, choirs, and communion stewards need to be remembered, but also the Scripture readers and especially the pastor. He or she works to bring a message from the Holy Scripture that helps the parishioner live through the week and hopefully be closer to God and do God's will.

We will soon have our annual Vacation Bible School. Pray for the leaders, teachers and helpers and all the children and the families they represent. Ask God if you should step up and take part in VBS. *We need you!*

Annual Conference follows on the heels of VBS. Many important items of

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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 not meet in June.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** Cinda McRary is in charge of the program.

Father's Day

Our Father's Day plans are not set yet, but we will honor our fathers on Sunday, June 16th.

We thank all the fathers and men of the church for their faithful service to their families and to our church.

One of the main problems in today's society is the absence of fathers from the home and the church. We pray that God will help us to help men take up their responsibilities in both places, because we all need a few good men—not just in the army, but everywhere else, too!

Happy Father's Day!

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *May*:

In Memory of Cleo Clark by:
Becky Clark

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:
Robert & Teresa Herman

In Honor of Monte & Bleaka Hollar's 50th Wedding Anniversary by:
Freida Matthews
Larry & Alice Hill



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.

--Hebrews 11:1 GNT

DRY SPELLS & WAITING ON GOD

The Bible is full of stories of the people of God going through dry spells or famines, and times of waiting on God to act or to move them to a place of victory or peace or prosperity. So why do we think that our lives should always run smoothly; that we should never have to deal with financial or physical problems; or that our religious feelings should always be on a "spiritual high"? Do we think that since we know Jesus and have accepted him as our Savior, that we will be blessed in all that we do now? Were the apostles blessed in all that they did? All but one of them died a martyr's death; and even that one, the Apostle John, was almost killed.

Jesus promised us blessings, but not worldly blessings. Jesus also promised us that we would be persecuted for our faith (see Matthew Chapter 5). Jude, Peter, and Paul warned us that false teachers and teachings would infiltrate the church, and that the devil would be roaming about "seeking whom he may devour". In the book of Revelation, seven churches are described—and all but one is rebuked in some way by the Lord. All of the churches have problems coming from the outside or the inside or both. The early church described in Acts and the New Testament letters was financially poor, but rich in devotion and good deeds, growing daily. They dealt with inner church problems, too. Yet, they could worship and praise God fervently in the midst of it all. How?

Abraham waited into his 90s for a son to be born to him. Jacob worked for 14 years to get the woman he loved, Rachel. The Israelites and Moses wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the Promised Land; and Moses wasn't allowed in. Before that, several generations of Israelites worked in Egypt and ended there as slaves before God called them out. The prophet Elijah lived alone by a slowly drying up brook during a drought. He was fed by ravens, scavengers, who brought him bread and meat twice a day—no desserts, no fancy foods, not even something different once in a while. Then, he went into a foreign area and lived with a widow woman, surviving on bread made with oil—nothing else—as the drought continued.

Prosperity is a common feature in the United States. Even the poorest among us live better lives than many do in other countries in the world; and certainly better than many lived in the past. But are we richer in our faith, or poorer because of this prosperity and lack of overt persecution? Are we so used to being well-fed and entertained that we cannot abide a little boredom, a little lower standard of living because we give to the church, a little less of a spiritual high, a little more difficulty in setting aside time for reading God's Word, or praying?

Are we faithful enough to wait upon God during our dry spells, or do we avoid thinking about him at all when we are feeling down, or suffering

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June Events & Fundraisers

Hot! Wings Challenge

**Saturday
June 1st, 6:00 PM**

How much HOT! can you take? Find out by answering the Hot Wings Challenge.

The cost is \$20 to participate (30 participants maximum). You will be eating 10 wings starting from mild and going to extremely hot. During the event, the eaters will discuss questions provided by an emcee. No winners, but those who make it to the end will have bragging rights! And those watching and listening will have a fun time, too. Enter by contacting Jimmy Stone at 828-994-1764 or by email at listenjimmy@gmail.com by May 30th.

Additional food (not spiced to the hilt) will be available for donations—hamburgers/hot dogs, wings without sauce, and dessert.

Proceeds go to a family in the community. Sponsored by Ebenezer's United Methodist Men's group.

Biscuit Sales

**Thursday
June 20th
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, livermush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, June 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!



June Celebrations



- 1st—Joan Pennell
- 2nd—Carson Teague
- 4th—Marley Smith
- 7th—William McRary
- 7th—Sidney Austin
- 8th—Becky Yount
- 8th—Margaret Fairchild
- 8th—Eathan Marrow
- 9th—Gerald Frye
- 10th—MaryLynn Pennell
- 13th—Kim Ellis
- 16th—Casey Knepp
- 22nd—Nathan Adams
- 23rd—Theia McRary
- 26th—Delores Campbell
- 28th—Teresa Herman
- 28th—Ragan Knepp

Happy Anniversary!

- 6th—Brett & Kelsey Hennington
- 20th—Jimmy & Heather Stone
- 22nd—Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
- 22nd—Rex & Gwen Teague
- 24th—Chris & Tasha Haas
- 24th—Ted & Gerry Daniel
- 28th—James & Freida Farr

Vacation Bible School—2019

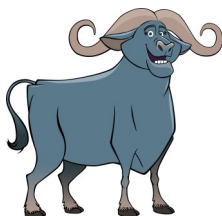
Ebenezer is planning some Wild Bible Adventures at Vacation Bible School this year, because Life is wild; God is good! We'll be singing, playing great games, doing fun projects at the Imagination Station—all while learning how knowing God can make life good, even when bad things are happening—because God is good!



Some of the friends you will meet at VBS include Mack the Rhino, Hooper the Hoopoe Bird, Marge the Cape Buffalo, Zion the Lion, and Savanna the Giraffe. Come and Roarrrr with us at the 2019 VBS! All ages are welcome. A light supper will

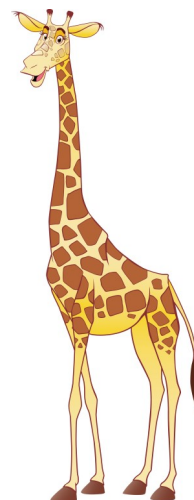
be served at 5:30 p.m. The adult class begins at 6:30 p.m.

(Commencement plans have not been set.)



**VBS
Sunday, June 9
To
Tuesday, June 11
5:30-8:45 PM**

All ages welcome!





Something, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

hardships, or facing what appear to be unresolvable situations?

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 KJV)

Can we pray when we don't feel like praying? Can we read the Bible when we've read the same words over and over again? Can we continue to give to God's work, when we see others having more because they don't give? Can we attend church faithfully when we don't feel well, or don't like the music, or don't like the preaching? Being faithful does not mean being comfortable or inspired or entertained—it just means being there and doing what God wants you to do—and to do that, you must be in conversation with him—in prayer, in worship, in study of his Word. Let's keep the faith, whether we feel like it or not.



Church Council — May 19, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, David Crouse (Chairman), Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Judy McCrary, Marsha McRary, Phyllis Minton, and Cindy Sears.

David Crouse began the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Devotions from Luke 11: now that the Christian Life Center is paid for, it is time to get back to the basics. God is good; God is great—is a simple little prayer taught to children that speaks of truths that we all need to understand and accept. God provides us with the food of his word, and when we read his word; we will be fed through that word.

March meeting minutes were read. Motion to accept them as read, seconded by Marsha. Motion carried.

Jo Nell: Finance Report.

Jo Nell made a motion to change the Food Ministry, and take funds from the General Fund to support this from now on. The motion passed.

Re: UMM funds. Jo Nell will write a check to the men's group so they can put these funds in their bank account.

We took in less income than budgeted, but we seem to be able to pay for everything we need to at this point.

Jo Nell made a suggestion to give our cleaning woman a raise, because she is doing such a good job. General discussion ensued. Roy says that this

proposal will be brought up in the next Trustees meeting.

We are caught up on the apportionments, and should be able to pay them off before the end of the year.

UMM report: the old barbecue shed has been torn down. The men completed repairing the roof for Darren and Sarah. They also put down new mulch around the church. More projects are coming up.

Kim Ellis: could not get the pool for VBS commencement. She is not sure if we will even have a commencement this year. Father's Day is unsettled. Kim asked for more funds IF she decides to rent the big water slide. We decided to call a special meeting if we need to vote on this later.

Kim also asked us to be in prayer about the next conference, and who to vote to send to General Conference.

Roy Hamby, Trustees: the new kitchen door is in. The new BBQ building has been delivered; we are waiting to have it put in. Left over wood from old shed needs to be taken away—if anyone wants it, let Roy know.

There was general discussion about putting in a covered area for loading and unloading from cars when it is raining. They are still thinking about this.

Pastor's Pen, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

legislation will be considered. Also delegates to **General Conference 2020** will be elected. Controversial items will probably be on many people's agenda. We must send delegates that follow God and want what is best for the UMC.

Autumn brings Charge Conference, assessments, and many opportunities to serve God.

Should we pray? By all means; we cannot survive in this world without God's love, comfort, and guidance. As we pray God is closer to us.

Pastor Tom

Our Military

Nick Austin
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.

Marsha, Sunday school report: Marsha asked if we plan to remove any more carpet from the upstairs rooms. There are no plans to remove any more at this time. Marsha said that the carpet helped keep the noise level down. She asked about doing something about the bowed ceiling in one room. Roy said he would run some screws in the bowed part for now.

Pastor Tom report: All American Sunday will be on July 28th. June 2nd will be graduation Sunday.

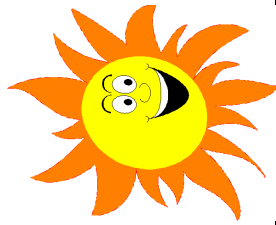
David Crouse discussed changing to quarterly Council meetings, instead of monthly with impromptu meetings if something important comes up. After general discussion, Jo Nell requested every two months instead. Bleaka made a motion to meet every two months; seconded by JoAnn. Motion carried. Next meeting will be July 21st.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.

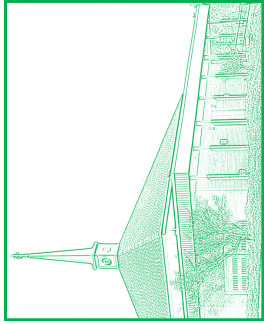






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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



June 2019



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir			<i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM Teens for Christ 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies			1 <i>Hot Wings Challenge & Supper Fundraiser—6-8:30 PM</i>
2 <i>Graduation Sunday</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
Church reserved for Vacation Bible School preparations						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 <i>Baker Baby Shower—2-4 PM</i>
<i>Vacation Bible School-5:30-8:45 pm</i>						
16 <i>Happy Father's Day Private Function—1-6 PM</i>	17 Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM Trustees—7 PM?	18 Senior Adults Go Visiting—9:30 AM Volleyball—7 PM	19	20 <i>Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!</i>	21 	22
23 UMW—6 PM	24 Basketball—7 PM	25 Volleyball—7 PM	26	27 	28	29
30				