



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

January '22

Volume 18 Issue 1

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

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Special Note

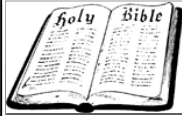
**We return to the
Sanctuary for
worship in
January.**



Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p 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



There is a short work of John Wesley called “The Character of a Methodist.” In it he explains what sets a Methodist Christian apart from other Christians. The spoiler alert in all of this is that Wesley did not believe that Methodists were some strange type of Christian. Rather, Methodists were simply Christians.

In 2022 I want to share with you what Wesley thought made us distinctive, and to encourage us to grab onto these points as we grow in our faith.

The first point he made was that Methodists were not set apart by their “opinions.” I find that to be something to think about when we live in a time where a person’s “opinions” have such importance over facts.

He laid out that there were three things a Methodist believed:

1. All scripture is given by the inspiration of God.
2. We believe the written word of God to be the only and sufficient rule both of Christian faith and practice.
3. We believe Christ to be the eternal, supreme God.

Those three professions were considered by him to be foundational to faith. They are foundational to us who are Methodist Christians. Beyond that he said, “But as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think.”

In an age of opinion that is a good reminder of not getting caught up in disputes, especially with fellow Christians, which do not impact what is foundational to our faith. You may believe one thing about (fill in the blank) and I another. If what we believe does not deny those foundational statements, then it is not something to fight over.

As we enter 2022, let us remember what binds us together.

In God’s grace,

Pastor Alan

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study—Children & Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.

Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, Events, etc.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will have their annual holiday meeting on **January 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Kim Ellis.** Please bring a wrapped \$15-20 gift, and finger food to share.

Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. our weekly prayer group meets. You may call the office or email us prayer requests at ebenezerumc@yahoo.com.

Wesley Class Meetings

Classes return on **Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

Staff/Pastor/Parrish

The Staff/Pastor/Parrish Relations Committee will meet on **Wednesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m.** New committee members will begin their service at this meeting.

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will deliver their next meal on **Monday, January 17 at 5:00 p.m.**

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, January 18th at 11:00 a.m.** (Unconfirmed)

Church Council

Next Council meeting is on **Sunday, January 23 at 4:00 p.m.** New members will need to begin attending.

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert



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

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees...

--Deuteronomy 30:9b-10a

REVIVAL OF A NATION

Reference: Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Interpreter's Bible, v. 2, pp. 507-509.

No one and no nation are ever too far gone to repent and turn back to God, and be blessed (Consider Jonah and the Ninivites). Although the fight to regain our freedoms lost in the United States, which was established as a nation under God and as a "city on a hill," is growing stronger each day; we cannot win this battle until there is true repentance, in the church and outside the church.

I realize that people, even Christians, are hesitant to mention Satan, but isn't it obvious that he is alive and active in our nation today (and the whole western world). After all, Satan is the "father of lies," and lies, deception, and corruption are rampant in our world today. When people are insane enough to deny the two sexes, and that one's DNA determines one's sex (and therefore, gender), the father of lies is laughing with glee. When people can deny the right to live to the weakest, most innocent humans on earth in the womb of the mother, the father of lies and death also laughs with glee. When even people in the church renounce chastity and marriage and promote divorce, the father of lies celebrates the break up of every nuclear family—the very foundation of a civilized society. And when we Christians shelter in our churches and refuse to speak out against these lies and corruption, the father of lies smiles with satisfaction and a feeling of triumph.

Revival must come or the United States and the best, most prosperous, most free society ever founded in the world will continue to deteriorate into a totalitarian dystopia.

Man cannot live by bread alone, but must have the word of the Lord; and obedience to that word to survive. Life is hard enough without adding in rebellion against God, the Father of Truth; who is not only our Creator, but our Sustainer.

Will we continue to slide down the slippery slope and be swallowed up by the lies of Satan in this culture; or will we cry out to our God to turn us around and pull us back up to the mountain of Truth and true Justice; which are grounded in God's word and the grace God offers us through his Son, Jesus Christ?

All we can do, each individual, is repent and turn back to God and his ways. The juggernaut of Satan's lies in the culture is too big for us to fight or counteract on our own. Only God can win this battle; but he needs soldiers

(Continued on page 4)



Cornhole/Hot Wings

**Saturday, January 15
4—7 PM**



&

Hot Wings Challenge

The Under Grace Sunday School Class is sponsoring a Hot Wings eating challenge and a Cornhole Tournament on the same day. Lots of fun for everyone with additional food (not spiced to the hilt) will be available for donations—hamburgers/hot dogs, wings, and dessert.

The Cornhole Tournament begins at 4:30 p.m. It cost \$20 per team to participate. Come and show us how good your aim is in this new version of the old horseshoe throwing game of skill. If you can't throw at all, you can enjoy the show, and cheer on the competitors.

How much HOT! can you take? Find out by entering the Hot Wings Challenge. **Runs 6-7:00 p.m.**

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 Jan. 12. Proceeds go to help a family in the church.

We thank you for your support.

Blood Drive

**Monday
January 24
2:30-7 PM**

Mark your calendars now for our next American Red Cross Blood Drive. Soup and sandwiches will be served to those who come in to donate blood. We are asking our members to help provide sweets, such as cookies and brownies also.

You can schedule an appointment at any time by going to their website: RedCrossBlood.org and choose Ebenezer's drive. You may also complete your paperwork on the site to save time when you come in to give blood.



Please call the church office if you want to schedule a time, but do not have internet access. Telephone number is: 828-396-2214; hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30-1:00 p.m.

Circulate the Love! ❤️

Prayer Focus for January

As part of our period of prayer and discernment called "From Homecoming to Easter" we are engaging in focused prayer each week. The following is the schedule for January.

Jan. 2-8: UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) esp. related to tornado victims.

Jan. 9-15: SCCM (food, clothing ministries)

Jan. 16-22: Robin's Nest (ministry to sexually abused children)

Jan. 23-29: Finding Hope Ministries (Romanian orphanage, home starting here)

Jan. 30-Feb. 5: Safe Harbor (for homeless women)

January Celebrations



- 1st—Mary Teague
- 1st—Barbara Shelton
- 4th—Rhyann Stone
- 5th—Jason Collins
- 10th—Cole McCrary
- 14th—Garry Minton
- 14th—Neal Haas
- 16th—Rosalind Kelley
- 18th—Chuck Adams
- 20th—Barbara Ferguson
- 21st—Kennedy Behmer
- 23rd—Tyler Ellis
- 27th—Amanda Simmons
- 28th—Dwight Kelley
- 30th—Kevin Sears

Happy Anniversary!

- 27th—David & Sonya Crouse

January Worship Information

Sermon Scriptures for January:

January 2: Luke 2:21-32; Roy Hamby preaches (Pastor Alan on vacation)

January 9: Bleaka Hollar preaches (Pastor Alan and family away for grandson's baptism)

January 16: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Communion will be celebrated)

January 23: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

January 30: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (anointing will be offered)

NOTE: Pastor Alan will be on vacation 12/27—1/3/22, and off on January 9 to attend his grandson's baptism service.



Called Charge Conferences/Council Meetings in December 2021

Called Charge Conference Ebenezer United Methodist Church Of Granite Falls, NC December 9 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Attendees: Rev. Alan I. Gaylord, Marsha McRary (Council Chair), Irene Austin (Financial Secretary), Ted Daniel, Bleaka Hollar (Lay Leader), Monte Hollar, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears.

Meeting was called to order by Rev. Alan I. Gaylord at 7:00 p.m. He gave the opening prayer. Rev. Gaylord first informed us that he had been authorized by D. S. Lori Beth Huffman to conduct this meeting.

He then proceeded to give us some background on the Boy Scouts of America attempt to declare bankruptcy, because of the high level of sexual abuse lawsuits against their organization related to cases over the past 50+ years. Currently, our church (Ebenezer UMC) has had no claims made against it, but there are approximately 4,000 cases pending in the Western North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Gaylord then told us that our conference was recommending to vote NO to the proposed settlement, because it does not offer enough protection to our churches that have or have had Boy Scout troops, nor to other smaller charter groups that the UMC is also representing, among other issues.

Question: What was the money for that we paid earlier over this issue? That money was used to hire the lawyers who are representing the UMC and other chartering organizations in this bankruptcy mediation case. There was further general discussion.

After Rev. Gaylord read the proposal to vote NO on the BSA Plan of Reorganization. Monte Hollar made a motion to accept the ballot as written with the NO vote. Marsha McRary seconded. All present approved the motion. Motion carried. Rev. Gaylord is therefore

authorized by Ebenezer UMC to sign the ballot for us, including for any upcoming changes to the reorganization plan.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Cindy Sears,
Administrative Assistant.

Called Council Meeting December 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Rev. Alan I. Gaylord, Marsha McRary, Cindy Sears, Ted Daniel, Kenny Silver, Monte Hollar, Bleaka Hollar, Cindy Satterwhite, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Barbara Ferguson, Judy McCrary, Phyllis Minton.

Pastor Alan explained that the UMC had come to an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America that was satisfactory to the UMC and the other charter organizations that could become entangled in the lawsuits against the BSA; so the Conference was requesting that we reverse our previous vote to say "No" to the settlement, and now say "Yes." The Council voted to change our position to align with the UMC Conference position and vote "Yes" for the settlement.

Minutes by Cindy Sears

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts received in *December*:

In Memory of Kelly McCary by:
John McCrary

In Memory of Blanche Kohnle by:
Tom Kohnle

In Memory of Wayne & Lillian Reid by:
Gail D. Reid

In Memory of Kenneth Reid by:
Gail D. Reid

Something, cont'd

who are willing and able to join in the battle, even if it is only to pray for revival and cleansing. When enough people, especially Christians, repent; then God will heal our land as he heals us.

Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous just as he delighted in your fathers, if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 30:9-10 NIV

But it must be whole-hearted!
Please God, revive us again. Amen.



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

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

To New Committee Members

Copies of the Committees and members are available in the lobby area of the church in case you need a reminder of where you serve.



Gifts from Christ



In Memory of

- ***Keith McCrary** by Kim Knepp
- ***JC & Lois Ellis, Bob Sears** by Wayne, Kim, Jordan, Tyler Ellis
- ***Kelly McCrary** by John McCrary
- ***Keith McCrary** by John McCrary
- ***Missy Mullinax** by Nancy Sears
- ***Rene Huffman, Tommy Cole** by Randy & Marsha McCrary
- ***Dale "Baby" Reid** by Flaxen Reid
- ***Herb Creaseman** by Celeste Creaseman
- ***Juanita Woodby** by Celeste Creaseman
- ***Alex Devlin** by Celeste Creaseman
- ***Bob Jenkins** by Peggy Jenkins
- ***Opal Woodie, Jerry Watts** by Victoria Baker
- ***Ronnie Satterwhite, Kathryn Teague, Buck Teague** by Cindy Satterwhite
- ***Bobby Sears** by Nancy Sears
- ***Frances Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- ***Kelly Minton McCrary** by Garry & Phyllis Minton, Her Kids
- ***Keith McCrary, Berlie & Exie Stafford, Linda Bowman** by Judy McCrary
- ***Houston Adams, Catherine Adams, Charles Lick, Florine Lick** by Chuck & Tammy Adams
- ***Volenia Helton, Eugene Helton, Diane Brown** by Jerry & Loretta Helton
- ***Edith Lyda, Rick Lyda** by Loretta Helton
- ***Millie Little, Jane Burlow** by Kevin & Pat Sears
- ***Gene Sears, Alvin Little** by Kevin & Pat Sears
- ***Gerald Frye, Mildred Tolbert** by Cindy Sears
- ***George Hutchinson, Tim Dockery** by Celeste Creaseman
- ***James Hartley, Marie Hartley, Jim Stone** by Jimmy & Heather Stone
- ***Missy Mullinax, Zachary Cullop** by Barbara Ferguson
- ***Wilbur & Ruby Martin** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Michael Barber** by Becky Yount

In Honor of

- ***Meredith Starnes, Ragan Knepp, Jordan Starnes** by Kim Knepp
- ***Judy McCrary** by John McCrary
- ***Garry Minton & Phyllis Minton** by John McCrary
- ***Aubree McCrary** by Nancy Sears
- ***Makenzie, Magnolia Baker** by Victoria Baker
- ***The Baker Boys & Wives** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- ***Ryatt Walker, Juni Walker, Mackenzie McCrary** by Nancy Sears
- ***Theo Yount, Ezra Yount** by Nancy Sears
- ***Baker Grandkids, Judy Smith, Donald Baker** by Ricky & Shawn Baker
- ***Billy W. Long, Shane Adkins** by Billy Long
- ***Tammy & Gary Camp, John McCrary** by Judy McCrary
- ***Kim & Brian Knepp, Darren & Sarah McCrary** by Judy McCrary
- ***Billy Wayne Campbell, Wanda Townsend** by Gary Paul Campbell
- ***Casey, Meredith, Jordan** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Ragan, Macey** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Delores Campbell, Gary Paul Campbell** by Billy Wayne Campbell
- ***Billy Wayne Campbell, Jacque K., James (Bill) Campbell** by Delores Campbell
- ***Charlie Kersey** by Chuck & Tammy Adams
- ***Levi, Reid, Eva** by Barbara Frye
- ***Luke, Zaylee, Zariah** by Barbara Frye
- ***Jerry Helton** by Loretta Helton
- ***Addie Sears** by Kevin & Pat Sears
- ***Addie Sears** by Cindy Sears
- ***Clemontine Hutchinson** by Celeste Creaseman
- ***Roman Gaylord, Kayden Gregor** by Alan & Debbie Gaylord
- ***Henry Gaylord, Roland Selph, Leo Gaylord** by Alan & Debbie Gaylord
- ***Sieanna, Lucas, Lilly** by Barbara Frye
- ***Brian & Kim Knepp** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- ***Keith & Cathy Knepp** by Russ & JoAnn Knepp

