



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# JULY '21

Volume 17 Issue 7

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

## Inside this issue:

Meetings, Events, etc.	2
Hid in My Heart	2
Something to Pray About	2
July Events:	3
Return to Worship in Sanctuary	3
American Red Cross Blood Drive	3
Hickory Crawdads Offer	3
July Celebrations	3
Military List	3
Something, cont'd	4
Church Council Minutes, June 27	4
July Worship Information	4
Special Giving	4
Have Expired Medicines?	4
Council Minutes, cont'd	5

## Special Note

### July 4th 2021

**Patriotic Sunday  
Sanctuary Worship at  
10:15 a.m.**

See p. 3 for more information.



## Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 5:00p 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



This month marks our return to worship in the sanctuary. I wish to thank all of those who came out to spruce up and clean up the sanctuary. That group includes Bleaka, Monte, Kim, Cindy, Randy, Marsha and Linda. If I forgot someone, I apologize. Special thanks to Linda who had already done a lot of cleaning of the woodwork.

As we return, let us remember that Covid-19 has not left our community or nation. People are still getting infected, and there continue to be new variants of the disease. I encourage you to get vaccinated if it is possible. The overall vaccination rate for Caldwell County is at 34%. Please understand that number of unvaccinated includes kids under 12 for whom there is no vaccine currently. Also, the disease still has a strong grip in nations around the world. We are not over this yet.

One thing that we are working on is improving our internet and our ability to live stream the worship service. We are doing this because it increases our reach to our members, some of whom are homebound. It also provides a way to spread the gospel to people who are curious about Christ and the church in a way that lets them check us out without having to take the scary step of entering the building. I view this as a way of being a "circuit-rider" preacher without having to ride a horse.

These upgrades are not inexpensive, and at some time we may need to do some fundraisers, or ask for second-mile giving for this effort. The current plan is to take this in stages. The first stage is to improve our Wi-Fi. This means new equipment to increase our wireless capabilities. We have contracted with a company to do this. A gift has been given for the cost of the new equipment. We will still need to pay for labor, and thanks to your ongoing faithful giving those funds are available. However, the equipment is back ordered due to problems in the supply chain.

The second stage is to put cameras in the sanctuary to show the service. This is more expensive. We are pursuing some grants that are available through the United Methodist Church (our conference and jurisdiction specifically) to offset some of the projected costs. Please be in prayer as we fill out the paperwork for these grants.

Covid has made us more aware of the congregation beyond our walls. We are seeking to reach them in the name of Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support in these efforts. As Paul says in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

In God's grace,

Pastor Alan

## Sound Booth Volunteers

We need more trained volunteers for the sound booth to back up Randy. If you are interested, please call the church office, or talk with Pastor Alan.

## 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.

### 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](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com).

### Wesley Class Meetings

These class sessions will be held on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.** Contact Pastor Alan if you wish to attend, but have not signed up for the group yet.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, July 25th at 5:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

### Food Ministry

*The Lord's Supper Ministry* will deliver their next meals to shut-ins and others in need of special care again on **Monday, July 26 at 5:00 p.m.** Please contact the church if you know of someone who is recovering from sickness, or surgery that might like to be added to the list.

## Seniors Gathering

Ebenezer's next monthly gathering with a free meal for our Senior Citizens:

**Tuesday  
July 20th  
11:00 AM**

There will be a short program with time for fellowship after the meal provided by our church. You may bring a dessert to share if you can.

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

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."  
—Matthew 5:17 NIV*

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."  
—Jeremiah 31:33b NIV

**BASIC DOCTRINE:  
MORE ABOUT GRACE**

In my reading through the Bible, I am in the book of Numbers (in my Old Testament reading). In Numbers 28-29 there is a long list of daily sacrifices, Sabbath sacrifices, and festival sacrifices. The Tabernacle and later the Temple must have been a very bloody place, indeed! While reading these lists, it is easy to get the impression that the people of Israel had to "earn" the grace of God. Yet, as the author of the commentary I am reading along with the Bible, Roy Gane (see reference below), says this is not what was happening.

"To the nation of Israel, God offered salvation by grace through faith, as he did to Abraham (cf. Gen. 15:6) and as he does to 'new covenant' Christians (Eph. 2:8)." As Gane points out, God showed grace to the Israelites by rescuing them from slavery in Egypt, then he gave them the Law and the sacrificial system. They accepted God's grace by putting "the blood of the lamb" on their doorposts in Egypt, and following Moses out of Egypt through the Red Sea. In the same way, a person becomes a Christian today by accepting Christ (the blood of the Lamb), and then being baptized (walking through the Red Sea) to show one's faith in God's grace. "Grace through faith has always been the way of salvation. There has never been a different way. There has been a succession of divine covenants, but they function as phases of cumulative development in God's plan rather than different roads to redemption."

Gane goes on to say that the sacrifices were a daily reminder of the Israelites' relationship with God, and a way to worship and praise God for his gracious provisioning of forgiveness and material things. In the "old covenant," these sacrifices sealed and helped remind them of their covenant relationship with God. In the "new covenant," we are sealed and reminded of our covenant relationship with God through the internalized Holy Spirit. It is now written on our hearts (see Jeremiah 31:31-34), not in constant bloody sacrifices. God's moral Law remains valid and active. Like the Israelites, we continue to rebel against God's Law—his directions for how best to live out our lives for his glory and our edification. But, now we have God's Spirit within us—whispering to us, guiding us, pulling us into obedience and reverence toward God—our Creator, our Father, and our Savior. Our sanctification continues, as it did for the Israelites, but now we have an ally in our struggles, the internalized Holy Spirit. He works to make us holy, as he is holy. So, the process should be easier for us—if we are willing to and are actively listening for his guidance.

And as Gane goes on to say, Jesus did not come to negate the law, but to restore it (see Matthew 5:17). His healings on the Sabbath showed how that law was for man's benefit (Mark 2:27). In reference to how Jesus healed

*(Continued on page 4)*



## July 4th Worship in Sanctuary!



We will return to the sanctuary for worship services on **Sunday, July 4th**. "Joy, joy, joy, down in my soul!" This will also be our *Patriotic Sunday*, so wear something red, white, or blue (or combinations thereof).

FOR THIS SUNDAY ONLY the Sunday school classes will meet at 9:00 a.m. We will worship at 10:15 a.m. Hotdogs and beverages will be served after the service in the Christian Life Center.

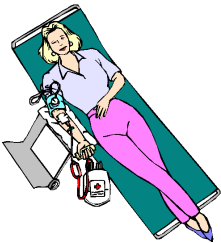
## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Our annual Summer Blood Drive is on

**Monday, July 19th**  
**2:30-7:00 PM**



You can schedule an appointment at any time by going to their website: [RedCrossBlood.org](http://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.



We will be offering free snacks and drinks to the donors.

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.

## Hickory Crawdads Sunday Offer & Invitation



During their season, the Hickory Crawdads have 10 Sunday home games. **If you bring your church bulletin, you can receive a ticket for \$6. The Crawdads will then donate \$4 to the church for each ticket purchased.**

The Sunday games are at 3 p.m. (except for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July game which is at 7 p.m. and includes a fireworks show). July 4th and 18th; **August 1st**, 15th and 22nd; September 12th. An all church outing will be planned for one of the games in either August or September.  
Hickory Crawdad's Baseball



**We will go to the ole' ballpark on August 1<sup>st</sup>.** The Hickory Crawdads will play Greenville at 3 p.m. Bring your church bulletin for a \$6 ticket. For each ticket purchased, the Crawdads will donate \$4 to the church. There will be a sign-up sheet to see how many are interested in going. **For those who want to carpool to the game, we will meet at the church at 2:00 p.m.**

**Enjoy a baseball game, and help support your church!**

## 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
- 31st—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



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



## Something to Pray About, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

people on the Sabbath day (in a way, giving rest from suffering while manifesting his divine, creative power), Gane included the following quote from P. Yancy's book, *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Zondervan, 1995, 182-183):

*Some see miracles as an implausible suspension of the laws of the physical universe. As signs, though, they serve just the opposite function. **Death, decay, entropy, and destruction are the true suspensions of God's laws, miracles are the early glimpses of restoration.** In the words of Jurgen Moltmann, "Jesus' healings are not supernatural miracles in a natural world. They are the only truly 'natural' things in a world that is unnatural, demonized and wounded."* (emphasis added)

Now that is something awesome to think and pray about! ✝

(References: Holy Bible; Roy Gane, *The NIV Application Commentary*; Leviticus, Numbers, Zondervan, c2004, pp. 755-756)

## Church Council Minutes, June 27, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Alan, Irene Austin, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary (Chairperson), Linda Moretz, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, and Kenny Silver.

Marsha called the meeting to order. Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 22:3-6, 8-11; 23:1-3. These scriptures tell the story of counting the donations to repair the old temple. After the work was started, they found the old book of the law. The King tore his clothes when it was read to him; then he called the leaders together, and they all pledged to obey the law and keep its commandments. The Word of God still applies today. Is there any chance for such conviction today? Will our leaders and preachers, etc. speak up and return to the Lord, and call the whole church and nation to repentance? Marsha gave the opening prayer.

Minutes read and approved.

### Financial Report – Irene Austin

Irene has paid the first 6 months of the apportionments to the UMC.

Our funds are getting low. Our unrestricted funds are around \$20,000. There was a question about the Recreation fund. Irene will check on it.

Cindy was overpaid for her vacation days with double time for 9 hours by the software Irene uses. Irene suggested that it be left with her for a bonus, instead of her repaying the funds. After some discussion, Pastor Alan suggested that Irene get the exact figures, and determine what the Recreation fund is; then get back to the council about it. A motion made to that effect by Bleaka. Second by Roy. Passed.

### Trustees – Monte Hollar

Monte has talked to 2 companies about upgrading the internet, video equipment, etc. to transmit services over Facebook. It was decided to change from home to business speed. \$2040 was anonymously contributed to cover the cost of some of the changes (Network Hardware). The upgrade in more equipment will be around \$500-1,000 dollars.

The use of the CLC for nonmembers is \$100. Some

(Continued on page 5)

## July Worship Information

### Sermon Series for July

Pastor Alan will finish his special sermon series on July 4th about characteristics of "Jesus' Followers".

The schedule will be:

July 4th: 1 John 5:1-9 Believe; plus Communion Service

July 11th: Ephesians 1:3-14

July 18th: Ephesians 2:11-12

July 25th: Ephesians 3:14-21

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts received in June:

**In Memory of Kelly McCrary by:**  
Judy McCrary

**In Memory of Margaret Fairchild by:**  
Larry & Alice Hill  
Judy McCrary

## Have Expired Medicines?

Did you know .....

Caldwell County offers a way to dispose of unused or expired medications safely. They offer 5 drop box locations. Those sites are at:

- Community Pharmacy; 321 Mulberry St. SW, Lenoir (M-F 8-8; Sat 9-4; Sun 11-3)
- Caldwell County Sheriff's Dept; 2351 Morganton Blvd SW, Lenoir (M-F 8-5)
- Lenoir Police Dept; 1035 West Ave. NW, Lenoir (M-F 7:30 – 5)
- Hudson Police Dept; 550 Central St, Hudson (M-F 8:30-5)
- Granite Falls Police Dept; 5 Falls Ave, Granite Falls (24/7)







## Church Council Minutes, cont'd

*(Continued from page 4)*

nonmembers use it without paying this cost by signing for the CLC by using one of our current members' names, instead of their own name. This will no longer be allowed. Persons who do not regularly attend, or contribute to our church will be required to pay the full fee.

Lights have been left on, and toilets have been left running, and doors have been left unlocked on several occasions after services or meetings/events at the church. Anyone who uses the church needs to take care that all lights are off, and no water/toilets are left unflushed or running before they leave the building.

### Old Business

Monte will take out the window air conditioner from the old Pairs and Spares Classroom, because bugs are getting in through the sides of the air conditioner.

Concerning VBS – there are no current plans for one this year. A Community Day was discussed. Then a possible date was set for Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-2:00 p.m.. Irene Austin volunteered to look into this and begin the process of preparing for this event. A motion was made by Bleaka that Irene check into this and start making plans. Second by Cindy. Passed.

Marsha stated that we need to continue programs for the children and youth of the church. Wednesday night youth meetings and children's Bible studies need to start again. We should keep doing things for our children and youth, and leave the increase to the Lord.

Kim Ellis reported that the gifts of water and a snack to parents waiting in line at Dudley Shoals elementary to pick up their children went well. They served about 130 people. Leftovers were given to Gateway School. The Principle appreciated the effort.

### New Business

Marsha told Monte that a doorknob is missing on one door of the new resource room. The hand railing on the left of the inner staircase has a broken middle piece, and the one at the top is wobbly. Monte/Trustees have been asked to repair these items.

Marsh brought up that we need a volunteer who can fill-in for Randy in the sound room. His health may keep him from being able to come and run it on some days.

### Kim Ellis

Kim reported that she and a mission team may be going to Romania in October or November to help rebuild the orphanage that burned down. She will be doing some fundraisers. One will use a July Calendar. The idea is to sign up to sponsor one day of July and give an amount that matches the number on the date. She also has plans for a Breakfast for Missions on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 7 or 8 a.m.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Alan gave us more names that have been removed from our membership list. He then introduced the Council to a letter that will be sent to current members who have not been attending or contributing to Ebenezer UMC. These letters will be sent out 10-20 at a time after the pastor has checked with the office to determine if they contribute to the church, though no longer attending; and checked with the Council, also. This process will begin soon.

After asking some questions regarding the cemetery rules and funds, and some other business, Pastor Alan requested suggestions for what the council members would like to see included in the worship services as we transition back to the sanctuary. Some items mentioned included: congregational singing of hymns, reading of scripture by lay people, and an altar call.

We then discussed beginning the Wednesday night Bible studies again. September was suggested for the beginning of that. Homecoming will be on October 10<sup>th</sup>, and Pastor Alan wants to use that date as our official good-bye and thank you for your service to our church for Pastor Tom Hunter and Patsy. Alan will check to see if Tom and Patsy will be available that Sunday. Alan also thanked everyone who came to the church on June 26, and helped clean up and organize the sanctuary for our return to it on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Alan told us about three grants that we are asking for that will help pay for physical improvements to the building, new or improved technology, and community mission work (specifically the expanded food ministry). There was a question about having to pay back the grants if we leave the UMC, but the pastor thinks that only applies to churches who choose to leave before the General Conference is held and sets guidelines for the disaffiliation of churches.

The pastor gave a short update on the first Wesley-style Class Meeting that was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are all learning how to do it, but it went well.

He also mentioned the possibility of participating in the Appalachian Service Project that works with the poor in the Appalachian area to repair and improve their homes.

Kim closed us in prayer. Next meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August at 4 p.m.

"Spiritual unity should be based on truth, not love." We love all people, but do not base unity on that. Truth is paramount in the Church, the Body of Christ."

– Paul Kattupalli,  
Defender's Voice youtube.  
[www.DoctorPaul.com](http://www.DoctorPaul.com)