



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# JUNE '21

Volume 17 Issue 6

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## Special Note

### July 4th 2021

Is the designated Sunday for returning to our Sanctuary for Worship Services. This will also be our Patriotic Sunday. Plan to wear your patriotic gear that Sunday.



### 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



I will touch on three subjects this month.

### *What are the current guidelines related to Covid-19?*

The current CDC guidelines for mask wearing is that if you are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your last shot) then wearing a mask is optional. If you are not vaccinated, then mask wearing is still encouraged. As we gather for worship let us keep the words of Christ in mind to “love our neighbors” and John Wesley’s words to the people called Methodist to “do no harm.” Some are not vaccinated yet for a variety of reasons including inability to receive the vaccines due to illnesses that do not permit them taking it. Also, none of our children are fully vaccinated. Please bear this in mind as we gather.

### *Prayer Request*

As some of you know my wife, Debbie, has a chronic health condition that affects her joints, especially in her hands and feet. She has needed to have surgery to correct this problem in her left foot as this affects her balance. She recently broke a bone in that foot as she was standing up. She now has a boot on that foot. She has seen a doctor and surgery on the chronic problem is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> and she will need to be off her feet for 2 weeks following the surgery. This should straighten out her foot and help it to be stronger. This surgery has been a long time coming due to other health concerns which are now managed better. I simply ask for prayers as she goes through the surgery and the recovery time.

Please see page 4 for June Worship and Sermon information (subject #3).

In God’s grace,

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.

### Wesley Class Meeting

Anyone interested in attending the class meetings modeled on the John Wesley accountability groups, please stay for the planning meeting after Sunday school on **Sunday, June 13th**.

### Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will begin delivering monthly meals to shut-ins and others in need of special care again on **Monday, June 21st starting 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.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, June 27th at 5:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

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

Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

—Ephesians 5:25, 6:4 NIV

### Special Offering Alert

We will receive a **special offering on Sundays, May 30th, June 6th, and June 13th** that will be given to Bishop Paul Leeland and Dr. Carl Arrington, our District Superintendent for their upcoming retirements. The gifts will be divided between these two gentlemen as they conclude their ministries as leaders in our denomination and conference.

Thank you for supporting this effort.

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:9 NIV

### BASIC DOCTRINE: UNFORGIVABLE SINS?

*But if just one person sins unintentionally, he must bring a year-old female goat for a sin offering. The priest is to make atonement before the LORD for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when the atonement has been made for him, he will be forgiven.* Numbers 15:27-29 NIV

*But anyone who sins defiantly, whether native-born or alien, blasphemes the LORD, and that person must be cut off from his people. Because he has despised the LORD's word and broken his commands, that person must surely be cut off; his guilt remains on him.* Numbers 15:30-31 NIV

"A 'high-handed' sinner could not receive reconciliation with God through the system of ancient Israelite animal sacrifices..." (NIV Application Commentary: Leviticus, Numbers, by Roy Gane, p. 624). The thing to remember is that "the fact that defiance is the factor that tips a sin over the edge into the inexpressible category is highly significant. Defiance is personal disloyalty and an affront against the Lord (15:30); it is rebellion against his authority and covenant." (ibid, p. 625). But is "high-handed" sin always unforgivable?

"When is bad too bad...Have I committed a sin too great for [God] to forgive? We have found that defiant ("high-handed") sins were too serious to be handled by the ancient Israelite system of *animal sacrifices* (Numbers 15:30-31). Does this mean that God cannot forgive us if we have sinned defiantly?" (ibid, p. 626).

Roy Gane brings up the story of King Manasseh in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. This king of Israel was very defiant against God—from shedding innocent blood, to engaging in occultic practices, to promoting apostasy in Israel. So, God punished him and Israel by allowing the king of Assyria's army commanders to capture Manasseh, and haul him away to Babylon. But that was not the end of his story:

*In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so, he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God. (2 Chronicles 33:12-13 NIV)*

Manasseh went on to try to undo the damage he had caused (see 2 Chronicles 33:15-16). God was so compassionate and forgiving, King Manasseh remained in the line of descent to Jesus (Matthew 1:10-16). God forgave Manasseh directly, instead of going through the sacrificial system of that time. The cross of Christ and his ultimate sacrifice reached back to Manasseh's time and gave him the forgiveness he could not receive any other

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## Preparation for July 4th Return to Sanctuary



We plan to return to the sanctuary for worship services on **Sunday, July 4th**. This will also be our annual patriotic Sunday service.

Keep your eyes and ears open—and check your email if you have it. We will be setting up a day(s) and time(s) in **JUNE** to get together and spruce up the sanctuary for our return on the 4th. All volunteers will be welcomed. Let's do it up right to honor our Lord.

## 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). The dates for these games are: May 16th and 23rd; June 13th and 27th; 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



**Let us plan to attend the Crawdad's game on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m.** They will be playing the Greenville Drive. Bring your church bulletin and pay only \$6 for a ticket. For each ticket bought a \$4 donation will be made to Ebenezer. This is true for every Sunday home game throughout the season. **If you want to go together meet at the church at 2 p.m.**

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

## Ebenezer Accolades

### Ebenezer's Outreach Recognized

Ebenezer had its outreach to the community recognized. EUMC was honored to be named *Volunteer of the Year* for the Gateway School. EUMC also received a card thanking us for the meals being sent to the Oak Hill Community through our Lord's Supper ministry. We do not do these things for the recognition, however it is a blessing to receive it.

### Other Recognitions for Our Support

Bishop Paul Leeland has sent us a **THANK YOU for giving 100% to the Apportionment Covenant in 2020** in the name of the Western N. C. Conference and the General Council on Finance and Administration of the UMC.

**The Methodist Home for Children as thanked our church for giving \$140 to their organization**, which we collected through a special offering in April and May.

Our members stepped up and **served water and snacks to 130 people waiting in line at Dudley Shoals to pick up their kids**. We gave leftovers to Gateway School. Thank you to everyone who helped.

## June Celebrations



- 1st—Joan Pennell
- 2nd—Carson Teague
- 4th—Marley Smith
- 7th—Will McRary
- 8th—Margaret Fairchild
- 8th—Eathan Marrow
- 9th—Gerald Frye
- 10th—MaryLynn Pennell
- 13th—Kim Ellis
- 16th—Casey Knepp
- 23rd—Theia McRary Wheeler
- 26th—Delores Campbell
- 28th—Ragan Knepp

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*Happy Anniversary!*



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

## 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, continued

(Continued from page 2)

way. (ibid, p. 626-628)

The Sacrifice on the Cross is not timebound, or limited in any other way. That is how merciful and full of compassion our God is. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16, NIV, emphasis added).*

Knowing this gives every sinner hope no matter how bad he has been. It gives each Christian hope that we cannot fall too far from his grace. "However, it should not lead any to suppose that it is safe to presume upon his grace by stubbornly sliding down the slippery slope of apostasy with assurance that the gravity of the depravity can be reversed at any time with a simple hop onto the 'chair lift' to heaven. Going down does not make it easier to get back up. 'It does not soften the heart, increase the likelihood of faith, or amplify the voice of God speaking through conscience' (*Altar Call by Gane*, p. 213). The problem is not for God to be willing to forgive, but for a sinner to want to be forgiven. (NIV Application Commentary by Gane, p. 628; emphasis added by cds).

As Gane says in his commentary on Numbers 15, loyalty is a high priority for God. Even when we sin, if we stick with God, he will stick with us—because he knows we are weak and flawed. He has provided a way of forgiveness for us. BUT, we must ASK for that forgiveness, and truly want it. How do we know that we truly want forgiveness? We repent—turn away from our sins. We fight our sinful desires constantly. We never call evil good, or good evil. We stick with God and truth—found only in God and his laws. We follow Jesus no matter what the cost. We obey as much as it is within our power to do so. Thankfully, that power comes from the Holy Spirit, not from ourselves. The more we indulge in sin, the harder it will be to repent; so, when you sin, repent and turn back quickly; lest you fall prey to greater sin and greater tragedy, such as King Manasseh experienced before he turned back to the LORD. God is working to call all sinners to repentance at all times—even those who already believe in his Son, Jesus. Hear that call and obey. Be loyal to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. For, really, the only unforgivable sin is to refuse the call of the Holy Spirit to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. ✝

## American Red Cross Blood Drive Coming in July

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.

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.



## June Worship Information

### Sermon Series for June to July

Last month I stated that I was going to do a series this summer on our beliefs as Methodists. I will still do that at some time. However, I am sensing God's leading to preach from the book of 1 John for the 4 Sundays in June and the first in July. The focus of the series will be "5 Things to Do to Be A Follower of Jesus." Each week will focus on a word in the scriptures which are verbs (action words).

The schedule will be:

June 6th: 1 John 1:1-2:5	Obey
June 13th: 1 John 3:1-8	Abide
June 20th: 1 John 3:14-24	Do Right
June 27th: 1 John 4:7-21	Love
July 4th: 1 John 5:1-9	Believe

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts received in May:

**In Memory of Kelly McCrary by:**  
Gara P. Craven & Family

**In Memory of Bob Jenkins by:**  
Larry & Alice Hill

## Seniors Gatherings Return

Ebenezer is starting up their monthly gatherings with a free meal for our Senior Citizens again.

Join us

**Tuesday  
June 15th  
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.