



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

Jun '22

Volume 18 Issue 6

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Special Note

Wear red!

We celebrate the first giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church on **Sunday, June 5**. If you can, wear red, the color of the Spirit.

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



I write these words in the shadow of the shootings at a grocery store in Buffalo and an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. I have been talking to you these past months about the marks of a Methodist. I will take a break from that this month.

I know the talking points already from folks on the debate about gun control and mental health. Like others I believe that within our political system nothing will happen regarding these issues. Then there will be another mass shooting and the process will start all over again. This is cynical, I know, but it is where I am in my heart at this moment.

While I doubt that our elected officials will do anything at this time, I do believe that the church has a role to perform in our culture and community. I hear the reports that many of the people who commit these horrible acts are isolated from their communities. They have had their minds and souls subverted by people and groups online to hate. They have anger, and do not know what to do with it. These people are our neighbors, may be our friends or family members.

This is where we, the church of Jesus Christ, come in. We have a message of hope. We have a message of grace. We have a message of forgiveness. We have so much to offer our community through Jesus Christ. We can help change hearts and lives. It is in our job description when Jesus told his disciples to “Go!” We can wait for them to come to us, but that is not working. We need to go to them. Let us work together to discover how we can do this.

This is a special word for those who are part of Ebenezer, but have stopped attending and participating. If you are ill, I understand. However, if you can be here, but are not, I would encourage you to return. You need the church, and the church needs you. And the world needs Jesus. And God, in his wisdom, has created and ordained the church to be how that message is carried into the world.

One life changed might stop a massacre tomorrow!

In God's grace,

Pastor Alan

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.

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 Meeting

Class meets on **Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.**

Food Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will deliver their next meal on **Monday, June 20th at 5:00 p.m.**

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, June 21st at 11:00 a.m.**

Church Council

Next Council meeting is on **Sunday, June 26 at 4:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, June 26 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Bill Campbell by:
Delores, Billy Wayne, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Louise Teague by:
Delores, Billy Wayne, Gary Paul Campbell

In Memory of Larry Hill by:
Alice Hill (from April)

In Memory of Kat Teague by:
Cindy Satterwhite

In Memory of Bob Jenkins Birthday by:
Peggy Jenkins

In Honor of All the Mothers of EUMC past and present by:
Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"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)

THE FOUR ALLS

Thank you to Daniel Hixon on YouTube.

Calvinists, who believe that God pre-chooses those who will be saved, leaving everyone else out-of-luck and no way to avoid damnation, express their reasoning/beliefs in the Tulip or five points of Calvinism. T = total depravity, U = unconditional election, L = limited atonement, I = irresistible grace, and P = perseverance of the saints. Although Methodists accept the total depravity of this system, we do not believe that only certain people can be saved.

One way to express the Methodist's beliefs about salvation is called the Four Alls:

All need to be saved. This coincides with the "total depravity" unit of Calvinism. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." See Romans 3:23.

All can be saved. To Methodists, salvation is open to everyone, because Christ died for everybody; not just a privileged few. "[Jesus Christ] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2 NIV). See also John 3:16.

All can know they are saved. The Spirit begins working in us and gives us assurance of our salvation. "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16 NIV). See also 1 John 5:2-13.

All can be saved to the uttermost. This means "perfection in love" is possible. The Spirit of God empowers us to love and live into his commandment to love and obey. We don't do it. God does it in us. You can experience this in this life. "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it" (1Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV). See also Philippians 1:6.

The Methodists believe in the "prevenient" grace of God. In other words, God's Spirit is calling to everyone to believe in his Son. Basically, salvation involves a surrender to that call or urge within us. Our Sovereign God gave up some of his sovereignty to allow us the freedom to resist that call. As the ruler of all that is, God and only God can set boundaries upon his will. If a person refuses to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, God lets him. But the price of that

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Youth

Summer Fun & Service

During the summer the youth will have the opportunity to get together on Thursdays in the months of June and July. The following is a tentative schedule. Some events may be switched around and times are not set for all events.

Parents, please note that each youth will need a permission slip filled out to participate. This form is good for a year. Also, South Caldwell Christian Ministries has its own form as well.

June 9 — Work day at church with lunch; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

June 16 — Pool Party @ Haas' 11-3 p.m.

June 23 — South Caldwell Christian Ministries, 9:30-1 p.m.

June 30 — Lakeside Park Hike and Cookout, 10—2 p.m.



July 7 — Finding Hope Ministries Thrift Shop

July 14 — Sunrise on the Parkway

July 21 — Yard Work @ church or at home of member

July 28 — Hickory Crawdads game

Contact the church office for a permission form.

Adult help with these events is also needed. Contact Pastor Alan to volunteer.

Special Events

Community Yard Sale

**Saturday
June 25
7 AM til ?**

Our UMW is sponsoring a Community Yard Sale day at the church. For \$10, you can set up a table and sell your used items (all proceeds from the sale are yours).

The UMW will be selling sausage and liver mush biscuits for breakfast with beverage, too.

Come and find that special item at a low price, and have a good hot breakfast, too. UMW's proceeds will be put toward the roof loan.

We thank you for your support.

June Worship Information

- *June 5th:* Acts 2:1-21 This is Pentecost Sunday! **Wear red to worship that day.** Communion will be celebrated.
- *June 12th:* Romans 5:1-5
- *June 19th:* Roy Hamby preaches. Pastor Alan will be at Annual Conference. Come and celebrate our Father's.
- *June 26th:* Luke 9:51-62

Anti-Racism Training (Mandatory): June 3-4, 2022.

Annual Conference: June 16-19, 2022.

Summer Blood Drive

Mark your calendars for **July 25**, the date of our summer blood drive for the Red Cross.

June Celebrations



- 1st—Joan Pennell
- 2nd—Carson Teague
- 4th—Marley Smith
- 7th—Will McRary
- 8th—Eathan Morrow
- 10th—Mary Lynn Pennell
- 11th—Ezma Austin
- 13th—Kim Ellis
- 16th—Casey Knepp
- 22nd—Nathan Adams
- 23rd—Theia M. Wheeler
- 26th—Delores Campbell
- 28th—Ragan Knepp

Happy Anniversary!

- 20th—Jimmy & Heather Stone
- 21st—Kirk & Irene Austin
- 22nd—Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
- 22nd—Rex & Gwen Teague
- 24th—Ted & Gerry Daniel
- 28th—James & Freida Farr

Community Day

Mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual Community Day on Saturday, August 6th from 10-1. Come and help as well as enjoy the day.

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.



Church Council Minutes—May 22, 2022

Attendees: Pastor Alan Gaylord, Irene Austin, Becky Clark, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, Ted Daniel, and Rosalind Kelley.

Marsha called the meeting to order, and opened the meeting with prayer. She read from Ezekiel 34:15-16, 22, 31, and through the verses reminded us that God is our Shepherd and we are the sheep of his pasture. Only God can help us through whatever is going on, and he watches over us always.

March Council meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Financial Report

Irene Austin gave the report with graphs to show how much our contributions have fallen since last year, and how much more we have spent on maintenance of the church this year. Our reserve funds are beginning to disappear. We need more of our members and attendees to step up and give. If each of us gives just a little more, even in these inflationary times, we can continue to be a vibrant witness for Christ in our community. There was general discussion of the situation, and how to encourage people to give more.

Trustees Report

Monte Hollar reported on some repairs that have been taken care of recently, though there is a toilet leak waiting to be fixed, a hole in the sidewalk filled in, and weather-stripping put on several doors. He mentioned that several chairs and tables have had to be repaired. We need to be much more careful with our furniture.

He then brought up changes in the rental of church facilities guidelines. After some discussion, it was decided to change the charge for use of the facilities from \$100 to \$200 for non-members. With further

discussion, it was also decided to charge members \$100 to help cover the cost of lights, heat or cooling, etc. Motion for both these measures with a first and second from Irene Austin and Kim Ellis passed.

Kim Ellis asked the council's members who are fathers if they wanted anything special done for Father's Day. It was determined that we will verbally recognize and thank our fathers, but not do anything else this year.

Community Day is set for August 6, and Irene has reserved a water slide and other items for this event. We will need lots of volunteers to help us that day. Everyone in the community is invited. Get the word out.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Alan presented the first list of names of members who will be sent another letter about their membership, and whether or not they wish to remain on our roll. If we receive no answer, these names will be presented to the conference this fall, and their memberships will be terminated.

The Global Methodist Church was inaugurated on May 1 of this year. Our Discovery Team's first meeting to look over the proposals from this entity and how it will be structured and governed is on Monday, May 23. The team consists of Pastor Alan, Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, and Cindy Sears. The team will make a presentation to the Church Council about their findings in the near future.

Pastor Alan brought up two new offerings set up by the Annual Conference this year. *Passing the Mantle* will be used for a scholarship fund for seminary students in honor of a church's retired (former) pastor. The second fund will help pay for improvements and repairs to Stuart Auditorium for technology upgrades. The Council decided to use the

Thank Bank offerings of June 5 and June 12 for these offerings and divide the funds between the two.

The Pastor mentioned the Youth Summer program, and said that he seems to be getting more adult volunteers than youth participants. Come on kids! Join the pastor for some fun, and be a working part of our community and ministries. You won't be bored, and you can feel good about doing some good things this summer.

Pastor Alan reminded us that we will need to update our Safe Sanctuaries policies, and make sure everyone working with the children and youth have had a background check completed. Please see the Pastor or Cindy Sears to get a form.

During a discussion of the Thank Bank, the Council voted to donate \$250 to Robin's Nest, a ministry for sexually and physically abused children in our area. We will also be accepting toys, books, crayons, coloring books, etc. for young children to donate to Robin's Nest. Boxes are in the old fellowship hall. We will collect in June and July.

Pastor's away times for June: Anti-Racism Training (Mandatory), June 3-4, 2022; and Annual Conference, June 16-19, 2022.

Irene Austin closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.

**"Before I can preach
love, mercy, and grace,
I must preach sin, law,
and judgment. Preach
90% law and 10%
grace. —John Wesley**



Special Offerings

Thank Bank

During worship on June 5th and 12th, the *Thank Bank* offering will go towards to offerings requested by our Annual Conference. One request is "Passing the Mantle," which provides financial help for education to persons seeking to become pastors. The second request is the Annual Conference offering. This offering will be split between renovations to the Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska and Both/And grants towards small membership churches. These grants help improve a church's online presence.

Robin's Nest Collection

Throughout June and July, we are collecting small toys, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, books, etc. for preschoolers and young children for Robin' Nest ministry, which shelters children who have been abused. Please place the new or in good condition items in the boxes in the old fellowship hall. We thank you for your generosity.

Our Finances

A Word from our Pastor:

Our giving has fallen behind where we were last year. We know that everything has become more expensive, and that has affected your budgets. We are working to keep our expenses down as we go into the summer. Prayerfully consider your giving this summer so that we can continue in our ministries to the community. Thank you!



"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:6-7; see also the rest of the chapter.

Something...cont'd

refusal must be paid, because the blood of Jesus, God's One and Only Son, was spilt for him, too. How can a person ever pay that debt in full? He cannot; therefore, there is "hell" that was originally set aside for the rebellious angels (for whom God does not provide a way of redemption). Because of our sinful nature that we all are born with, we are condemned already. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:17-18 NIV).

Our God is a God of mercy to all. He sends rain upon the wicked and the righteous. He makes a way of salvation for ALL. Accept his grace offered through his Son today for you can never pay that debt on your own. Praise be to God who makes the way where there is no way! ✠

Rotting Civilization

"Speaking broadly, fatherlessness leads to civilizational rot. Intact households with mothers and fathers yield more productive and healthier citizens. Once you understand that, you should not be surprised to learn that household income levels in America among racial demographics fall precisely in alignment with rates of marriage in those groups.

South Asians and East Asians households all earn more than white households, which earn more than Hispanic households, which earn more than black households. Not coincidentally, Asian Americans have substantially higher rates of marriage and lower rates of divorce than white Americans, who have a higher rate of marriage than Hispanic Americans, who have a higher rate of marriage than black Americans. Fewer than one-third of black Americans marry, leading to more widespread fatherlessness, incarceration, and poverty than other racial demographics."

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2022/04/what_disproves_the_white_supremacy_narrative.html

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

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...

Titus 2:11-13 NIV