



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

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Sunday Services

- 8:30a Worship Service (Contemporary)
- 9:50a Sunday School
- 11:00a Worship Service (Traditional)
- 6:00p Youth Group (Grades 6-12)
- 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 Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



I had the pleasure to assist with communion on Sunday, February 14, in Corozal Methodist Church. Together with Rev. Duncan (who was filling in for Jamie Williams, who is appointed to the church and serves with his wife Lisa, who is the missionary) and Rev. Doug Pryor, we shared the liturgy for the service.

As I looked out over the congregation I felt that, while we come from different countries and our lives are very different, we are yet very much alike. That likeness is shared because of our belief in God. We were created in the image of God, and we gather to worship and praise God for the grace that he gave to us through His Son, Jesus.

On Tuesday, I was asked to share a story during the school assembly, then again on Wednesday at a different school. On Wednesday evening, I was privileged to bring the message at the church in Corozal. For the children's story I used the familiar passage from John 3:16-17:

“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

I told the story of a man and his garden: It seemed that there was a long dry spell and the crops were beginning to wither and die. However, the man continued to water the plants. One day his wife asked him: “What are you doing watering withered crops that are almost certainly dying?” Without thinking the man replied, “I want to give every seedling and plant a chance to live. Even if they dry up, I will know that I have tried my best to ensure that they lived.”

You may recognize this story; it is taken from the Upper Room devotion. As we reflect on this story and on the scripture, it helps us to realize just how much God truly loves us. In spite of our ways, God showed His love for us by sending Jesus Christ into the world, and allowing him to die for us on the cross—so that all of us could have a chance for eternal life in heaven.

Although plants and vegetable gardens have no choice of whether to live or die, we have the ability to choose everlasting life by believing in Jesus Christ. Praise God that we all have the chance to believe and to receive salvation!

(Continued on page 3)

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

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



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tues.—Friday: 8:30—1:30 p.m.
Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet at **4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 20th**. If you have business to bring before the Council, please contact Boyd Johnson, the new Council Chairperson. All members of the church may attend.

United Methodist Women ?

The UMW will meet on **March 20th at 7:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson will present the program. Cinda McRary and Dawn Yount are in charge of refreshments. All women of the church are invited to participate.

Easter Sunrise Service

We begin our worship at **7:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 27th**. Breakfast will be served after the ONE worship service. There will be no Sunday school.

April Newsletter Items

Please have information and articles for the March newsletter in by **March 22nd**. Thank you. —Editor

Special Giving

Ebenezer UMC and its members, gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts received in February:

In Memory of J. B. Coffey by:

The Hermans

In Memory of Boyd Fairchild by:

Peggy Jenkins

In Memory of Ranny Frye by:

Blanche Kohnle

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's March 6th Birthday by:

Bill Campbell

In Honor of Blanche Kohnle's 99th Birthday by:

Sandra & Rodney Benfield

In Honor of Jo Nell Harrison by:

Marsha McRary

In Honor of Our Sunday School Teachers by:

Bill Campbell



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

If any of you people sin and become guilty of breaking one of the LORD's commands...you shall bring as your offering a female goat without any defects. You shall put your hand on his its head and kill it on the north side of the altar...In this way the priest shall offer the sacrifice for the man's sin, and he will be forgiven.

Leviticus 4:27-29,31 (selected) GNT

**LIFE, BLOOD,
SIN,**



AND GRACE

The people reply, "Who would have believed what we now report? Who could have seen the LORD's hand in this? It was the will of the LORD that his servant grow like a plant taking root in dry ground. He had no dignity or beauty to make us take notice of him. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing that would draw us to him. We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him—we ignored him as if he were nothing.

"But he endured the suffering that should have been ours, the pain that we should have borne. All the while we thought that his suffering was punishment sent by God. But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But he LORD made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.

He was treated harshly, but endured humbly; he never said a word. Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word. He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die, and no none cared about his fate. He was put ot death for the sins of our people. He was placed in a grave with those who are evil, he was buried with the rich, even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie."

The LORD says, "It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. And so he will see his descendants; he will live a long life, and through him my purpose will succeed. After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain.

My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased, will bear the punishment of many and for his sake I will forgive them. And so I will give him a place of honor, a place among the great and powerful. He willingly gave his life and shared the fate of evil men. He took the place of many sinners and prayed that they might be forgiven."

—Isaiah 53 GNT

There is no better way to say what Christ has done for us. There is nothing more clear than that God considers sin as worthy of death, because it leads to death. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the ultimate sacrifice you made for me. ✝



March Celebrations



Happy Birthday!



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 6th—Gary Campbell
- 7th—Trena Kirby, Kim Knepp
- 8th—Kevin Lane, Judy McCrary
- 10th—Kay Smith, Bryan Turner
- 12th—Margaret Smith
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis, Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Adams, Sarah Adams, Olivia Spencer
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 18th—Angie Adams
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis, Ginger Shealy
- 26th—Emily Kohnle
- 28th—Amanda McRary
- 29th—Rene Huffman, Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!

- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith



Pastor's Corner, con't

(Continued from page 1)

As I shared this story at the schools, and reflected on the worship services on Sunday and Wednesday, I had to pause and give thanks to God for life. I also give thanks to God for allowing the church and me to be used as conduits of the gospel message. Though each of us must choose for himself to believe in Jesus or not, God has called us to do all that we can to ensure that others have the opportunity to choose everlasting life—whether they reside next door, down the street, or in countries far away. ✝



Acolyte Schedule - MARCH

6th	Emily Haas
13th	Savanna Creaseman
20th	Anna Miller
27th	Makayla Settlemyre

Nursery Schedule - MARCH

6th	8:30	Nancy Sears & Friend
	11:00	JoAnn Knepp
13th	8:30	Boyd & Emily Johnson
	11:00	Rosalind Kelley
20th	8:30	Kay Gilbert & Tammy Adams
	11:00	Nancy Sears
27th	7:00	Kim Ellis & Friend

Our Military

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

Nick Austin
Kyle Blair
Anthony Coffey
Paul Coffey
Joey Deal
Dakota Fox
Ethan Fox
Andy Gaillard
Ricky Garland
Jason Gibson
Trey Hefner



Chris Kaisenski
Shane McRary
Travis Miller
Joey Moore
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Alex Shealy
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount

Quotable Quotes

"Joy is more divine than sorrow, for joy is bread and sorrow is medicine." —Henry Ward Beecher

"Joy is the serious business of Heaven." —C. S. Lewis

"Joy is not the absence of suffering. It is the presence of God." —Robert Schuller



March Fundraisers & Events

Breakfast Biscuits

SUNDAY
MARCH 6TH

The United Methodist Men will serve up a hot breakfast of biscuits of all kinds on **Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and between services.**

Donations go toward the Christian Life Center mortgage.

Let's pay off the building this year!



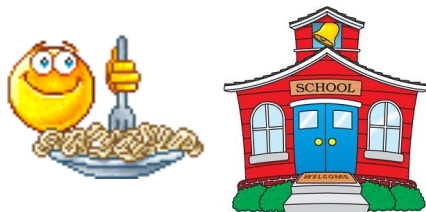
Rainbow Class Benefit

SATURDAY
MARCH 12TH
5 PM—'TIL GONE

Come and enjoy a good spaghetti dinner to benefit Oakhill elementary school.

Menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert with a drink.

Donations are requested.



Biscuits Sales

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class has taken over the biscuit sales. They will be selling ham, sausage, egg and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, March 17th.** (Sorry, no pies.)

Kitchen will be from **6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** 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: 396-2214** (church office; Mon.-Fri. 8:30-1:30 pm).

Proceeds will now support local missions. Please make your checks out to ART, which stands for *Area Response Team*.

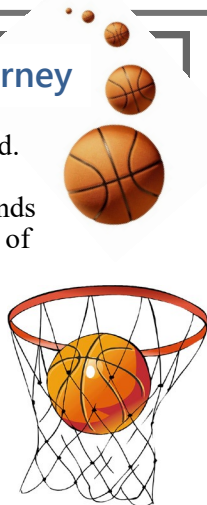
Yum! Yum!



Basketball Tourney

You think you're good. Prove it! Grab two of your friends and jump into a game of

3 on 3
Basketball
Saturday
March 19
All Day



Sponsored by the United Methodist Men. Call Wayne Ellis at 828-781-7156 for more details and to sign up. Teams pay a fee to enter.

Play begins at 8:00 a.m. The men will serve biscuits in the morning and hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. If you don't play, come and watch and eat!

For UMM ministries.

Rise Up With Jesus

SATURDAY
MARCH 26TH
9:30-11:30 A.M.

Children's Easter Celebration

All children of the church and community are invited to come learn what Easter is all about, and eat a hotdog for lunch. All for free!

Young children should be accompanied by a responsible adult, please. Volunteers to help with this event see Tasha Haas.

Van Fund Update

"Are we there yet?"

As of February 21st, we have—drum roll, please!

\$11,190.99!

in the Van Fund.

We thank you for your help in building up this fund. It is beginning to look like we are going to make it this time.



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

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

—John 3:14 GNT



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

March 2016



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>Church Office closed on Mondays</p>	1	<p>2 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	3	4	5
<p>6 UMM Breakfast Biscuit Sale—8 AM +, see p. 4</p>	7	8	<p>9 </p>	10	11	<p>12 Rainbow Class Benefit for Oakhill School—5 PM, see p. 4</p>
13	14	15		<p>17 Biscuit Sales Return—see p. 4 </p>	18	<p>19 UMM 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament—8 AM—, see p. 4</p>
<p>20 Church Council—4:30 PM UMW—7 PM, see p. 2</p>	21	22	<p>23 April Newsletter items due by 9 AM</p>	24	25	<p>26 Children's Easter Celebration—9:30 AM—11:30 AM, see p. 4</p>
<p>27 Easter Sunrise Service—7 AM; Breakfast afterwards</p>		29	30	31	<p>See p. 3 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists</p>	