



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

March '20

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

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Daylight Savings Time begins again on March 8.

Spring forward



April 2020 newsletter items are due by **Monday, March 23rd.**

Sunday Services

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



Trying Times

These are times that try men's and women's souls. I think someone said something similar to this in the past. It seems to me that many today are under more stress than they can handle.

The average person reports inability to sleep through the night. We are told by doctors that we need 7 – 9 hours of sleep every night. Sleep specialists encourage us to go to sleep and wake at the same time every day. Sleeping in on our weekend does nothing to help our sleep deprivation. Lack of sleep has been linked to several serious illnesses. Why can't we sleep? Anxiety is a major cause. We watch the news, listen to the commentators, and decide our world is headed for destruction.



Many politicians use this anxiety to drive their campaigns. Recently, the Democratic and Republican National Committees sent out surveys to gauge the interest level of the American voter. Those surveyed were asked to pick the top three or four items of concern. Personally, I thought every item was important. It is difficult to pick the most pressing need when there are so many facing us. Our stress level increases when presented lists. When each item seems necessary, prioritizing seems almost impossible; increasing our frustration and stress level. Every segment of society has similar and divergent needs. Senior citizens see life differently than young adults with school age children. Society is comprised of a variety of overlapping groups. Often times an individual feels their group is being short changed because of the needs of another. No one likes to be left out or to be told they are receiving more than a fair share.



Jesus told those that would follow him that they should worship God, care for the widows and orphans, and love others as they loved themselves. He told stories that related to their role in earthly relationships. We have learned that the “Golden Rule” has sharp edges. We do not always receive all we want, because we have to share. I learned early in life to care for my brothers and then myself. They were

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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, Etc.

Prayer Group Meeting

Our new prayer group will meet on **Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** to make a final decision on day and time for weekly prayer sessions. Contact our office for more information.

Guest Speaker

Alina Corina, from the Merrill orphanage in Romania (Finding Hope Ministries) will be speaking at Ebenezer UMC on **March 8th during the worship service.** Kevin Powell from her host family in the USA will also speak briefly.

Lord's Supper Ministry

The Lord's Supper Ministry will deliver another meal on **Monday, March 16th at 5:00 p.m.** We need deliverers. See Ricky Baker if you want to help cook the meal.

Senior Citizens' Meeting

We invite our senior citizens to join together for fellowship and a meal on **Tuesday, March 17th at 11:00 AM.**

The main course will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share if you can.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on **Sunday, March 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

UMW Meeting

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.** Barbara Ferguson will provide the program.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**

Benjamin Rush: Without [religion] there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.

Something to Pray About by Cindy Sears

Parents do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction —Ephesians 6:4 GNT

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. —Proverbs 22:6 KJV

KEEPING THE FAITH ALIVE

"Mothers and fathers who practice what they preach and preach what they practice are far and away the biggest influence related to adolescents keeping the faith into their twenties, according to new findings from a landmark study of youth and religion." --from "The Story Continues" by J. Ellsworth Kalas

In the book of Acts, we have stories about the beginning of the Christian Church. We all know the names of the prominent people mentioned in this book: Peter, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, James (the brother of Jesus), Steven (the first martyr), et al. But there were many more people responsible for spreading this new faith called, The Way, with the good news about Jesus, the Savior of the world. They were individuals like you and me. They were business people, mothers and fathers, farm and factory workers, rich and poor, weak and strong, educated and uneducated, former criminals and prostitutes and pagans, slaves, and soldiers.

When they accepted this Jesus, as their Savior and Lord, they did not simply celebrate that they now had their "ticket to heaven," or assume that with Jesus on their side they would have no more worries or problems. They were changed; they became enthusiastic witnesses for Jesus in their daily lives, in their families, and in the culture of the day. They talked the talk AND walked the walk—some to their deaths.

"Of children raised by parents who talk their faith at home, attach importance to their beliefs, and are active in their congregations, 82 % are religiously active as young adults, whereas this is true of only 1% of fifteen -seventeen-year-olds from homes where the parents attach little importance to religion." (Kalas)

We need parents (and other role models) who live out their faith at home, at work, at leisure, and in the church. It is these people who will have the most influence on what happens to the next generation. If our children do not get this at home, as well as, the church, they will not be able to withstand the concerted effort in the educational system, entertainment world, and political world to turn them away from God.

Yet, there is Someone else prominent in the Book of Acts that we need more than anyone else. The Holy Spirit is the key to our power to maintain the faith from generation to generation. I know from my own experience that the pull of the Holy Spirit is what kept me from going astray too far even when I was out of the church for over 20 years. He brought me back in, too. We should emphasize that a relationship with Christ is a relationship with the Holy Spirit. And we should not be shy about the supernatural nature of this relationship. Being endowed with the Holy Spirit does not mean a person has to "speak in tongues" or have "ecstatic spiritual" experiences every day. Yet,

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March Events & Fundraisers

Biscuit Sales

**Thursday
March 19th
6 AM — 'til gone!**

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, liver mush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, Mar. 19th.**

Kitchen will be open from **6:00 a.m. —til gone!** 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: 396-3935** (Bleaka Hollar).

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

Yum! Yum!



Teachers' Closet Fundraiser

**Saturday
March 28th
4:30-7:00 PM**

Come and enjoy a delicious spaghetti supper and help us raise funds for the Teachers' Closet Network. This organization helps support the teachers in our local schools by providing school supplies and encouragement to the people who are educating our children.



Desserts Needed!

Calling all bakers and would be bakers—we need lots of cakes, pies, brownies, cobblers, etc. by

**Thursday
March 19**

for the Grace Chapel Fire Departments annual barbecue fundraiser on **March 20-21.**

Ebenezer is providing the desserts for this event, and will receive all proceeds from the sale of the desserts. We will need to provide enough for about 5,000 orders. This is a great opportunity to raise money for our church, but we must have plenty of good desserts prepared for this popular event. You can bake ahead and place in our freezer.

We also need help in cutting the cakes, etc. and placing on paper plates for the sale. See Barbara Ferguson for more information.

UMCOR Sunday Offering

**UMCOR Sunday
March 22nd**

We will take up a special offering on March 22nd for UMCOR, the United Methodist Church's disaster and crisis humanitarian relief and development agency. Please pray and give generously. Disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes happen often in this fallen world. You can help the people affected by these events by supporting UMCOR.

Thank you for caring enough to give from what God has blessed you with.

March Celebrations



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 6th—Gary Campbell
- 7th—Trena Wilson
- 7th—Kim Knepp
- 8th—Judy McCrary
- 10th—Bryan Turner
- 13th—Clair Gilbert
- 14th—Wayne Ellis
- 14th—Jerry Helton
- 16th—Rachel Adams
- 16th—Sarah Christas
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 17th—Patsy Hunter
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 28th—Amanda Coffey
- 29th—Rene Huffman
- 29th—Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!



- 2nd—Kyle & Patty Toliver
- 24th—Dylan & Vicky Baker

Our Military

Kyle Blair
Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert
Josh Yount



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

Easter is coming soon. We are collecting candy now for the children's party on Saturday, April 4th. Please place the candy in the designated box in the lobby area. Thank you for helping!





Church Council Minutes — February 23, 2020

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, David & Sonya Crouse, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Phyllis Minton, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, and Becky Clark.

David Crouse began the meeting with a devotional reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes. He pointed out that Gratitude = a great attitude. We need to apply the beatitudes to our hearts. Bleaka Hollar then gave the opening prayer.

January minutes were read. There was one correction to a name in the record. Motion to accept after the correction is made; Bleaka seconded. Minutes accepted as written with the name correction.

There was no financial report, since Jo Nell Harrison did not attend the meeting. It was noted that our giving is behind the required amount to meet the budget by \$2,288 as of Feb. 16th.

Old Business

Concerning the lapel microphone for the preacher: Ricky Baker reported on 2 different versions we could buy for \$400 or \$350. He mentioned that we seldom use the one in the CLC, so we could use that one in the worship service. A motion was made by Sonya to pull the one from the CLC; seconded by Marsha. The motion passed.

Allie, former orphan from Romania, will speak here on Sunday, March 8th during the worship service.

We need to remind people that we need lots of cakes, etc. for Grace Chapel Firehouse barbecue. Barbara

Ferguson has been signing up people to provide them, but we will need enough to serve dessert to 4-5000 people—so bakers get to work. You can store them in Ebenezer's freezer.

The Good Friday lunch meal and service for Holy Week was taken by another church. Since this is the only day our people can do the meal, we may not be participating in this event.

New Business

Trustees Report by Monte

Hollar: We have some roof problems. There are rotten areas from water leakage from around windows, etc. Some of the flashing has been fixed, but we are waiting for an estimate to repair the rotten areas. The church's pianos were tuned. It is recommended that the pianos need to be tuned every year. The one in the sanctuary needs new strings. We may be able to get a newer one for \$1500 or maybe as a donation. The man who tuned the pianos has a source, and he will get back to us about whether or not we can purchase or have the piano donated to us.

UMM report by John McCrary.

The UMM has about \$1750 in their account. They have some projects to do that have been delayed because of weather and other factors. They will get to them as soon as possible.

Sonya said that we need a new counter. The check scanner problems continue even with a new scanner. She made the suggestion that we move our account to First Citizens, so we would have a shorter trip to make deposits. A motion was

made to move by Monte Hollar; seconded by Tom. Motion passed.

Marsha McCrary: reported that she is disappointed in Sunday school attendance. We especially need to encourage children's attendance. They need that social fellowship and connection to the church. We need to find a way to get the children and their parents to stay and participate in Sunday Bible studies. There was some discussion on how to do this.

Judy McCrary reported that we took a lot of food to SCCM. They still need food, but we can only give what we receive.

SPPRC will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 25th at Grace Chapel UMC. Ricky thanks everyone for their input about the qualities we want in a new pastor.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive has been scheduled for July 13th.

Kim Ellis reported that Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 15-17, Monday through Wednesday. Commencement may be on Thursday at the pool if possible. Pastor Tome pointed out that is a conflict with the District Conference on the Thursday. We will verify Commencement later.

Kim sent the money to Romania for the Finding Hope orphans' trip to the USA, but she was told that the children will not be able to come this year. They plan to come next year, though.

Unless we can find someone to plan and run an Easter Party for the children, we will not be doing it this year. See Kim Ellis to volunteer.

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Finding Hope Ministries, Feb. 2020 Update

*That will I seek: That I may dwell in
the house of the LORD All the days of
my life, To behold the beauty of
the LORD, And to inquire in His
temple.
Ps. 27:4*

Hi everyone! WOW! It's hard to believe 2020 is well underway now! Christmas was a total blast. Thanks for the outpouring from so many people, donating for the kids' Christmas gifts. They're still playing with them, so that's a sign that they received "good stuff"! The kids are back in school again. The snow has hit here hard and heavy. So, it is really cold, but there have been lots of snowmen, sledding, and snowball fights.

Finding Hope Children's Homes

The red tape on the additional children coming into the new homes has taken longer than we anticipated. Hopefully though, that should be remedied soon. The plan is to have the 24 remaining children in the Romanian homes, and 10 more in Moldovan by the end of summer. So, lest I get ahead of myself, let me update on some of those things. Since we'll be getting so many children this summer, we've postponed our trip back to the US with the kids until Summer 2021. Anca and I need to be here in Romania. We currently have two new children in Romania: Maria and Rares; and two in Moldova: Tamaril and Chiril. They all need sponsors, as will the other kids once they arrive – 48 kids total! So, if you want to sponsor one of our children, PLEASE let us know! It would be such a HUGE blessing for them - and you

likewise!

Church Planting

We were able to purchase a building in a village called Tichedeal



for a church plant in the gypsy camp there. The building was much needed as

we were meeting in a single room (10' x 10'), and we were averaging 30 people. There was no seating, only standing room, and it was very much like riding a packed city bus—with one's nose in another's back. We just moved into the new building, but it still needs a bit of remodeling, as it was originally a house. We plan to make a sanctuary, nursery, and church foyer. Additionally, we would like to outfit the facility as a site for an after-school program for the kids from the Tichendeal village and gypsy camp. We would love to have several construction teams for this renovation. If you or people you know are interested, please contact us.

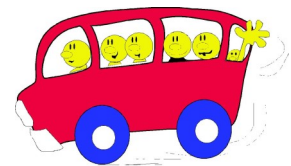
Our other church plant in the Dalas gypsy village is growing much more slowly, but is still vibrant with the few members that are there. Currently, we are still meeting as a house church, but are praying for growth into a full-fledged church one day. Please pray with us in this matter.

Since we are supporting two churches and four children's homes, we desperately need more monthly donors and additional giving in general. We would also be open to

folks helping organize some fundraisers. For example, East Taylorsville Baptist Church is sponsoring a golf tournament on May 23rd at Brushy Mountain Golf Course. Contact Kevin Powell or the church office for more information.

A pressing need

We need an additional ministry van for our children's homes in Romania. Presently, we have one 8-seater van that we use to transport our children to church and outside activities. Since we have three children's homes in Romania (meaning we have 36 kids to transport around), we are in dire need of another, larger van. Our church is 20 minutes away from our homes, and at times we have to make multiple trips to get the children to and from church and their youth group. A decent 18-seater van cost around \$17,000. We plan to use the new van in tandem with the other ministry vehicles. Please pray with us that God will help us procure said van. If God is calling you to help in this regard, it would lift a big weight off our shoulders. We would be truly grateful indeed!



Thank you all for continuing to pray for and support financially Finding Hope Ministries.

May God continue to bless you and your families, as He is doing with Finding Hope Ministries. We love you and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*Sincerely,
Nathan & Anca*



Council, cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

Pastor Tom: showed us a comparison of the plans to be put forward at the General Conference for the UMC "split." He talked about some of the problems. We need to pray at least once a day for General Conference.

Monte Hollar: We need to lock up basketballs etc. when we have a function to avoid accidents, especially since we have so many older people coming to our meals and other functions in the CLC. We need to clean up the mechanical room and the hallways in the CLC to avoid being fined for fire regulations violations.

David Crouse: We should consider setting up the Power Church program, so bookkeeping could be done by someone else. Jo Nell wants to give it up the bookkeeping. Ricky Baker said that we have had someone to volunteer to help. We will continue to work on this and get things organized and changed over.

The next council meeting will be on March 22nd.

Meeting adjourned.

--Minutes by Cindy Sears

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *February*:

In Loving Memory of Cleo Clark by:
Becky Clark

In Memory of J. B. Coffey, Boyd Fairchild, & Virginia Teague by:
The Heavenly Sonlighters' Class

In Honor of Gary Paul Campbell's 43rd Birthday on March 6th by:
Bill & Delores Campbell

Something..., cont'd

if a person has really accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit's presence will be discernable in that person's mind, heart, and daily life experiences.

So Parents, be vocal and active in your faith; and talk to your children about how the Holy Spirit empowers your faith. And do not neglect daily Bible reading and prayer with your children and spouse. The kingdom of heaven is near to those who live out their faith in all of life's pathways; and the best way to change the culture and society for the better is to raise children who will not depart from the Christian faith when they become adults. ✚



Pass It On...

He said, "We cannot have a moral renaissance unless we succeed in passing to the next generation our faith and values in full vigor." The breakdown of religion in society, Barr states, is not decay; instead, it is organized destruction. "Secular forces and their allies have marshalled all the forces of mass communication, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia, in an unrelenting assault on religion and traditional values."

--Attorney General William Barr
Read more: https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2020/02/leftist_bullies_attack_ag_barr.html#ixzz6FFtmuttS

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

And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised. The Spirit is the guarantee that we shall receive what God has promised his people, and this assures us that God will give complete freedom to those who are his. Let us praise his glory!

--Ephesians 1:13-14 GNT

Pastor's Pen, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

younger and I was responsible for their care.

Things have not changed. We still have a responsibility to care for our weaker brethren. As Jesus said, "Feed my sheep, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and help the weak. To light someone else's candle does not diminish our flame.

We need to sit down and seriously consider the problems of our society in light of our Lord's calling. What does He require of us, how should we act, and whom should we help? We cannot help everyone, but we can make a difference for some.

Pastor Tom





EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



March 2020



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Every Sunday:</i> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir	2 Basketball—7 PM	3 Prayer Group—6 PM	4 <i>Every Wed.:</i> 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM <i>Teens for Christ</i> 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies	5 Volleyball—7 PM	6	7 Daylight Savings Time Begins  Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, <small>A.P.</small>
8 <i>Guest Speaker: Ally Corina, see p. 2</i>	9 Basketball—7 PM	10 Prayer Group—6 PM	11	12 Volleyball—7 PM	13	14 Private Party—12-5 PM
15 Private Party—5-8 PM	16 Food Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM	17 Senior Citizens' Meeting & Meal—11 AM, see p. 2 Prayer Group—6 PM	18	19 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone! Volleyball—7 PM	20	21 Private Party—1-3 PM
22 Church Council—4:00 PM UMW—6 PM	23 Basketball—7 PM	24 Prayer Group—6 PM	25	26 Volleyball—7 PM	27 	28 Teachers' Closet Network Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser—4:30-7 PM, see p. 3
29	30 Basketball—7 PM	31 Prayer Group—6 PM				