



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

NOVEMBER '21

Volume 17 Issue 11

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

Inside this issue:

Meetings, Events, etc.	2
Hid in My Heart	2
Something to Pray About	2
UMW Country Store	3
Hanging of the Greens	3
Ministry Opportunity	3
November Celebrations	3
Special Giving	3
Military List	3
Pastor's Note, cont'd	4
Something, cont'd	4
On the Lighter Side	4
Charge Conference, 10/24/21	5
Lighter Side, cont'd	5
November Worship Information	5



Special Note

Time Change

Daylight Savings
Time ends at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday, November
7th. Turn your clocks
BACK ONE hour
Saturday night.

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



There is an oak tree in Florida that can be found on the campus of the Life Enrichment Center. It is not like other oak trees. At some point in its life, a storm came and uprooted it. Yet, some of the roots still had contact with the soil. While its trunk was on the ground somehow the tree kept growing. New branches came out of the trunk and reached for the sky. The crown of the tree began to curve upwards. It should have died. Instead, it thrives.

Ebenezer has been through some storms over the last six years. The church experienced a decline in membership and finances during a pastoral transition. Now we are 16 months into Covid which has affected us and many other churches. We also have storms whirling around us of changes in our culture regarding church attendance and the upcoming changes in our denomination.

Let me tell you what you have been able to accomplish in all of these storms.

- * You paid off the loan on the CLC.
- * You have stayed current on your bills.
- * You have kept worship going even though it has taken place in the parking lot, the CLC, the sanctuary, the BBQ shed (Christmas Eve) and the cemetery (Good Friday).
- * Sunday School is happening.
- * The Lord's Supper ministry is now providing around 70 hot meals once a month. I understand this is double what it was doing as we are now helping out Oak Hill.
- * The Senior group is meeting again, and usually has around 15 people

(Continued on page 4)

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 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.

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, November 15th 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

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on Tuesday, November 16th at 11:00 a.m. You may bring a dessert to share; the meal will be provided by our church.

Church Council

The Council will meet on **Sunday, November 28th at 4:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

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

Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.

—Romans 12:11-12 GNT

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."
Luke 18:1 NIV

**LIVE IN FEAR
OR IN FAITH?**

References: Luke 18:1-8; J. Vernon McGee, *Through the Bible*, Vol. IV; *Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. 8.

The story of the unjust judge and the persistent widow tells us a great deal about prayer, but we should not equate God with the unjust judge. He is never unjust. But, he does not always answer us quickly or with the answer we would prefer to hear.

The following is a quote from a famous Georgia preacher: "When a man prays for a corn crop, God expects him to say Amen with a hoe." (McGee, p. 327)

In difficult times, we have two choices: to either faint or pray. Will you live in fear or in faith? Will you continue the work, or just give up? Prayer connects us with power from the Almighty to do; not just to pray.

Praying without ceasing is an attitude, not necessarily spoken in words. The Holy Spirit will communicate directly to God for us; that is how we "pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Unlike in the parable of Jesus, God is not an unjust judge. He wants to hear from us. Our persistence in prayer shows him that we believe in him and trust him no matter how bad things are in our life or in the world. Consistent prayer also improves and powers our faith in God and his provisioning. It helps us to clarify in our own minds if we really want or need what we are asking for.

"God delays to answer in our way that our motives may be purified...God delays also that desire may be intensified...God delays because the patience of the saints is the best weapon of the faith, for faith spreads in the earth as men persist for God despite all odds and against disappointment." (pp. 306-308, *Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. 8)

The question asked in the Luke passage: "When the Son of man comes, will he find [the] faith on earth?" is a question that we should be asking of ourselves. How much do I truly believe? Would I be willing to die for my beliefs as many of the first Christians did, and still do in some countries today? Am I even willing to gather together regularly with other believers, or would I rather sleep in on Sundays or do other things? And how much do I support the church and its missions with my worldly goods, instead of spending it all on myself?

"Perhaps faith does not find God except on the edge of helplessness." (*Interpreter's*, p. 308) Will God have to take you to the edge of helplessness to get your attention?

(Continued on page 4)



UMW Country Store

**Saturday, November 6
8 AM—2 PM**

UMW Country Store

Supply chain problems won't interfere with Christmas gift giving if you come to the UMW's annual Country Store Fundraiser. Find a bargain on gently used items or a new craft item, pick up a good dessert, and enjoy breakfast or lunch while shopping.

The women will serve biscuits with meat, eggs, or gravy for breakfast early in the morning; then switch to hamburgers and hot dogs around 11:00 a.m.



Eat some good food, and pick up a bargain or two. Your money



will be going to a good cause: the Ebenezer United Methodist Women's ministry for the coming year, such as providing Christmas toys/wish list items to families struggling financially this year.

We thank you for your support.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday

November 28

9 AM Worship Service

We invite you to join us for our annual Hanging of the Greens event during our Sunday worship service. We will decorate the Chrismon tree with your helps. Join in on the fun as we prepare for the Advent Season, and celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

You don't need to bring anything but yourself with a grateful and joyful heart.

See you there!



Ministry Opportunity

Appalachian Service Project

It is time! We need to register for our summer (2022) mission trip with the Appalachian Service Project. Here is the basic information you need in order to decide if you wish to go:

Be 13 years of age and have completed 8th grade.

Be available the week of June 26 – July 2, 2021

Have desire to serve God by making people's homes warmer, drier and safer.

The total cost is \$350 for the week. There will be some fundraisers for this trip. We will also be going with other United Methodist Churches in our missional network.

If you plan to go, please talk with Pastor Alan ASAP!

November Celebrations



- 1st—Gerry Daniel
- 1st—Jacob Vosdingh
- 4th—Steven Vosdingh
- 6th—Linda Moretz
- 12th—Lilly Teague
- 15th—Paul Burson IV
- 21st—Amy Fowler
- 21st—Hunter Tolbert
- 24th—Jo Nell Harrison
- 24th—Kathryn Behmer
- 27th—Abby Haas

Happy Anniversary!

- 30th—Darren & Sarah McCrary

Special Giving

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

In Memory of Gerald Frye by:

Heavenly Sonlighters Class
Caldwell Memorial Hospital
Auxiliary
Rainbow Class

In Loving Memory of Cleo Clark's

October 23rd Birthday by:
Becky Clark

In Memory of Ronnie Satterwhite by:

Cindy Satterwhite

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Trey Hefner
Shane McCrary
Jamie Mullinax
Michael Potts
Hunter Tolbert



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



Pastor's Note, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

attending.

- * You have replaced the flat roof around the sanctuary, replaced the church's copier, and the hot water heater at the parsonage. All had come to the end of their life spans.
- * You welcomed a new pastor and family during a pandemic.
- * You moved to online worship.
- * You showed support to families when loved ones passed away.
- * A Wesley Class meeting was begun.
- * The United Methodist Women have had their country store.
- * Trunk R Treat and Community Day were successes.
- * You improved our wireless abilities for online worship.

Storms may have knocked you over. Yet it doesn't sound to me like you died. You aren't the same as before these storms. No one ever is. You still have life in you and you are reaching towards the heavens. You will never be what you once were. However, God has a new plan and path for all of us as we move forward into His future.

That is something to be thankful for as we come to Thanksgiving this year.

—In God's grace, Pastor Alan



Something to Pray About, cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

These verses call for us to stand firm in the faith. "We are not asked to succeed, but only to bear witness." (Interpreter's, p. 308) In 2 Timothy 4:7, we read "I have kept the faith." What else is more important than to know that I have stood, and not retreated from the faith; no matter how difficult the road God leads me on?

Stand fast. You may think that you are alone at times, but you never are. We never are. Because the Just and Wise and loving Judge is always pleading our case before God through the power of the Cross that He died on for us. ✝

On the Lighter Side: Kid's Games

By Cindy Sears with thanks to Carol on the Light FM 106.9 for getting me to think about these things.

Carol talked about a world tournament for balloon bouncing—seeing how long a group of people can keep an inflated balloon in the air. I understand that there are contests for rock skipping, too. From that, I began to consider some of the games my brothers, cousins, and I played when we were children. There were few if any electronic games, summer television involved mostly re-runs, school was out, and our parents were too busy to entertain

us. Following are some of the things we did to amuse ourselves—all involving animals from God's created and creative natural kingdom. Could these be the next Olympic sports?

Dirt Dauber catching: Yes, we caught dirt daubers (aka mud daubers or mud wasps) bare-handed; those critters that build mud houses, usually of long tubes, in the corners of the garage, a door, or under the eaves of the house. They are normally benign, and not prone to bite or sting. We caught them, then released them. But we stopped the game after my younger brother was stung, because he caught a stinging wasp (or a more aggressive dirt dauber?), instead of one of the "nicer" dirt daubers.

Bumble bee catching: I will explain this game in a more politically correct way than I learned it as a child. We would catch, bare-handed, the bumble bees that had a yellow triangle on their face, instead of a black triangle. I cannot find anything on the internet about this, except that the male drones do not have stingers, and the females are not easily provoked—but they can sting, and more than once. I assume that we caught the yellow triangle ones, because a hornet, totally black faced in our area, was less likely to be mistaken for a bumble bee. We enjoyed hearing them buzz while held in our hands. This was another catch and release unharmed game.

Lawn "fishing": You didn't know that you could go fishing in the lawn? Maybe you have to have a multi-plant lawn like I grew up with, instead of an all grass lawn; but we would "fish" for grub worms. I believe these were June bug larvae, which lived in open holes in the grass. We took a blade of straw or



Charge Conference, October 24, 2021

Attendees: Rev. Alan Gaylord, Irene Austin, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby Bleaka Hollar (Lay Leader), Peggy Jenkins, JoAnn Knepp, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Satterwhite, Cindy Sears, Kenny Silver, Becky Clark, Phyllis Minton.

Pastor Alan was our presiding elder. He opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and read the statement of procedures. We then listened to an opening statement of encouragement by our District Superintendent, Rev. Lory Beth Huffman, online.

Pastor Alan next brought forth the report of the Nominations Committee for officers and committee members for 2022. He explained that there are some positions that will be filled at a later date. The Council voted to approve the list.

The following certified lay servants were approved to continue: Bleaka Hollar and Roy Hamby.

Our Financial Secretary, Irene Austin, presented the apportionments for year 2022. There was a slight increase from last year. Total apportionments for 2022: \$17,644.

Roy Hamby, head of the Staff-Pastor-Parish-Relations Committee reported that the committee recommended a \$2,000 increase in our pastor's base pay. Council approved this increase.

Pastor Alan then presented a first reading of names to be removed from the membership roll, because they have not been attending or supporting Ebenezer UMC for years. The Council was presented a list of 38 names, with 28 persons who did not respond to our recent audit letters, and 10 persons for whom we have not been able to find contact information. There were no

objections from the Council members on any of the names.

Next, the 2022 budget was presented. There was some clarification of changes in the budget, and a change that may need to be made, because of new information. The full and final budget will be presented to the Council at the next meeting. Discussion.

One Council member, Roy Hamby, stated that he would like to see our local missions and other mission work, which we have been unable to budget for in the last few years, be emphasized more; or added back into the budget. Discussion. We will work on doing more special offerings in this area.

Budget was approved with the understanding that the pastor's pension amount may change.

Pastor Alan then read his Pastor's Report to the Council.

Bleaka Hollar then conducted a prayer for Pastor Alan as the Council members formed a circle around him. Immediately afterwards, Pastor Alan, gave the Benediction and formally closed the 2021 Charge Conference.


Minutes by Cindy Sears.

Lighter Side, cont'd

dried grass, found a hole, punched the straw into the hole a few times. Then, we let the straw go, but kept our hand near it; and we waited. When the straw began to move, we would jerk it out quickly. If we had waited long enough, the larvae would have grabbed onto the straw to push it out of the hole; and we had caught our "fish." Catch and release, again. You could be penalized during this game if you

made the mistake of pushing the blade of straw down a yellow jacket hole, instead of a grub-worm hole. Ouch! Run!

June Bug Racing: After those larvae matured and turned into June bugs, we harassed them some more. I know some kids would tie string to a June bug's leg, and fly it like a self-propelled kite; but that often caused the bug a leg amputation, so we preferred to race them instead. Each child would catch a June bug, then bring it into the garage. We would set up at the inside back of the garage. Ready, set, go or one, two, three let go of the June bug! The winner was the one whose June bug flew out of the open garage door first. Unfortunately, it was unlikely that you would catch the same bug twice, so winning was hit or miss. Maybe, a net could be placed at the finish line in a tournament. Then, you could train your bug to fly the fastest, at least until its short life was over for the season. There would be no returning champions.

There were many other things we played with from God's natural kingdom. We had a world of fun things to do. Do you have fond memories of other games and activities that did not involve electronics? 

November Worship Information

Sermon Scriptures for November:

November 7th : *Laity Sunday*.

Bleaka Hollar preaches.

November 14th : Mark 13.1-8

November 21st : Psalm 126

November 28th : Psalm 25.1-10

1st Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Greens