



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

October '19

Volume 15 Issue 10

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

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NOVEMBER 2019
newsletter items are due
by **Monday, Nov. 28th.**

Christmas Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting the shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child program this year. Please begin buying items now. See the website for a list of acceptable items. A \$9 donation to offset shipping costs is requested. You can also pack boxes online at: www.samaritanaspurse.org/occ

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



Thank You One and All

Those are wonderful words and most people enjoy hearing them. Some of us have a difficult time receiving those words of gratitude. But from the bottom of my heart I want to say a huge, warm *Thank You* to everyone that helped with our annual barbeque dinner. We had many jobs to complete and most, if not all were by someone who saw a need and jumped to the task.

Food had to be purchased, cooked and served, hard work for sure. People made themselves available and worked long hours.

Some delicious desserts were prepared and served. They were the perfect end to the meal.

We always have to set up tables and chairs to serve a meal and take them down when we finish. It's a real task, but thanks to many the job went smoothly.

Once again **Thank You.**

October 5th we will have a Corn Hole Tournament to help fund a mission trip to Merrill Orphanage in Romania.

Also we have to prepare for Homecoming, **October 13th at 10:30 am.** (No Sunday school) We will be featuring music by our Choir and Praise Band. Lunch will follow the service. We ask you to bring your favorite dishes to help feed the flock.

During our service we will also ask each family to make an effort to contribute a special offering for the budget of the church.

Later that day some of the church leadership will attend the District Dialogue at First United Methodist Church in Granite Falls.

Charge Conference will be held during morning worship November 3rd. We encourage all members of the Administrative Council to make a special effort to be present.

The United Methodist Women will sponsor their Country Store on November 9th. More information will follow.

Thank you for your service and may you be blessed by God,

Pastor Tom

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.

Church Council Meeting

The Council will meet on **Sunday, October 6th at end of the worship service**. This will be a brief meeting to vote on the officers and committee members and budget for 2020.

Lord's Supper Ministry

The next meal will be delivered on **Monday, Oct. 21st at 5:00 p.m.** See Ricky Baker to volunteer to help.

Trustees Meeting

The Trustees will meet on **Monday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m.**

United Methodist Women

The women will meet on **Sunday, October 27th at 6:00 p.m.** Tammy Adams is in charge of the program.

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

Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped.

—Proverbs 11:25 GNT

The righteous can give, and give generously.

—Proverbs 21:26b GNT

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts in *September*:

In Memory of Jerry Kohnle by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell
Jo Nell Harrison
Dudley Shoals Baptist Church

In Memory of Hoke & Cleo

Clark's September 3rd Wedding Anniversary by:

Becky Clark

In Honor of Marilyn Kohnle by:

Delores, Bill, & Gary Paul Campbell



Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

HOMEcoming & FAITHFUL GIVING

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing...

—Malachi 3:10 (NRSV).

Ebenezer UMC is struggling to pay its bills and continue its ministries. We have had to cut back on some things and stop certain contributions to community ministries. We have been blessed by God in being able to keep up despite a now \$20,000+ short-fall in our General Fund giving. We have faithful attenders and faithful givers, and hard workers; so why are we so far behind? Maybe some of us have fallen into the bad habit of waiting to the last minute of each week to give to God, instead of planning our giving to God as the first item on our to-do list. How much is the love of Jesus worth to us? How much is a supportive church family worth to us?

Homecoming Sunday is October 13th. The number '13' is suppose to be a harbinger of bad times. Let's make this a 'good luck' Sunday, instead of a 'bad luck' Sunday by re-evaluating our giving patterns and plunging deep into our pockets for a special and generous offering to Ebenezer UMC. Help us reach the goal of \$10,000 above our budgeted amount of \$4,000. And, dare I pray for even more—that we give so generously that we eliminate the \$20,000+ short-fall completely?

Below is some information about tithing and offerings for you to prayerfully consider as we get ready to head into a new year of service to our Lord. May God bless you as you bless Ebenezer UMC with your monetary support, along side of your continued attendance and service.

Ten Points About Tithing

Tithe means 10.

The tithe is given to God immediately or as soon as possible after receiving the income.

The tithe symbolizes God's ownership of everything.

The tithe comes off the top—before taxes, bills, savings or anything else.

Tithing is a universal and timeless principle. It is not from the law, but came before the law was given. (See Genesis 14:17-20)

The tithe predates and continues after the law—for every man and woman for all ages. It is not abrogated by the law of grace.

The tithe has been practiced throughout church history.

Tithing is the thermometer of spiritual vitality. You cannot serve two masters: God and money/materialism.

The tithe is important to God—don't mess with what belongs to God!

The tithe—10%--is the starting place of New Testament giving, but not the final place of giving. Offerings are gifts over and above the required 10% and are freewill contributions. You cannot give an offering until after you have given 10%--the tithe. Offerings come from surplus.

We should step out and trust God. Giving 10% of our incomes off the top is a step of faith and a test of our trust and belief in God and in His ability and willingness to provide us with all we truly need.

National average percentage of income given to churches among born-again adults is 3.8% (2003). **But that is from the 7% of born-again adults who give to the church at all.** Nearly twice as many born-again adults don't give anything at all to the church (18%).

The amount that God asks us to give: 10%

(Continued on page 4)



October Events & Fundraisers

Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, October 5
4:30 PM-'til done!

We invite you to test your skill at the popular game of Cornhole or just come to watch and eat soup!

Sign-up your team by calling Kim Ellis at 828-499-0886. Cost is \$10 per person to play.

Delicious homemade soup will be served to players and watchers for a donation.

Proceeds will be used for a mission trip to the Finding Hope Ministries orphanage in Romania.



Biscuit Sales

Thursday
October 17th
6 AM — 'til gone!

The *Rainbow* Sunday School Class will be selling ham, sausage, egg, liver mush, bologna, and gravy biscuits on **Thursday, Oct. 17th.**

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!



Decision America

Thursday, October 10
7:00 PM

Franklin Graham's *Decision America*, Tar Heel State Tour is coming to L P Frans Stadium for an evening of worship music from Jeremy Camp and a message of hope from Graham. No tickets are needed.

We want to get a group of people together to attend this event. We will meet in the Ebenezer parking lot by 6:15 p.m. to carpool to the event. Contact Sonya Crouse or Cindy Sears to get your name on the list or for more information.

Visit <http://nc.billygraham.org> for more information about the *Decision America* tour.

Trunk or Treat

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
5:30-6:30 PM

Bring your little spooks to Ebenezer for a scary, but sweet time at our annual, safe Halloween party.



There will be lots of candy to collect from multiple decorated truck beds and car trunks or handed out by costumed helpers.

We ask that our members and affiliates decorate their vehicles or themselves and come help us dole out the sweets to our visitors. No tricks—just treats!

We are collecting candy now for this event. Place your donations in the lobby area behind the sanctuary. Thank you.



October Celebrations



- 3rd—Kevin Simmons
- 4th—Bleaka Hollar
- 5th—Gwen Teague
- 7th—Larry Hill
- 8th—Jackson Behmer
- 12th—Skylar Helton
- 12th—Michael Knepp
- 18th—David Crouse
- 19th—Katelyn Little
- 21st—Loretta Helton
- 22nd—Colby Collins
- 26th—Victoria Coffey
- 28th—Randy McRary
- 30th—Felicia Fowler



Happy Anniversary!

- 17th—Tom & Patsy Hunter
- 25th—Larry & Alice Hill
- 27th—B. Dale & Flaxen Reid

"The Devil does not care who does the hating as long as the hating gets done."
—Andrew Klavan.

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.



Church Council Minutes — September 22, 2019

Attendees: Pastor Tom Hunter, Ricky Baker, David & Sonya Crouse, Kim Ellis, Jim Farr, Barbara Ferguson, Roy Hamby, Jo Nell Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, JoAnn Knepp, John McCrary, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Phyllis Minton, and Cindy Sears.

Devotional: There is no “u” or “I” in the word “team.” It takes all of us to make this church work. 1 Cor. 12:12-14, 27 says that we are one body in Christ. David thanked everyone on the council for their service on the council.

Reading of the July minutes: Sonya made a motion to accept them as written, seconded and passed.

Financial Report by Jo Nell Harrison

Jo Nell asked if we are finished redoing the BBQ building, because there is some of the insurance left. She was informed that there may be a few other things to do. After that, we will need to decide where to put the remaining money.

Habitat House Funds: We are not involved in an actual building project right now. We can use this for a donation to the Caldwell County Habitat House.

There was general discussion of other line items.

Old Business

Re: Microphone for Pastor Tom. The quote for a headset with lapel set: \$850.00. There was general discussion. We decided to try one that Ricky has before purchasing the new one for the Pastor.

New Business

Judy McCrary report for SCCM – They continue to need more food, because they have more people asking for food. They also need volunteers to help with the food and keeping the clothes folded and put up, etc.

Marsha’s report: one Sunday school class has ceased meeting. Please place in the bulletin: teachers, if you cannot attend on Sunday, please contact your assistant or call someone to take over the class as soon as possible.

Kim Ellis: Gateway breakfast will be on November 15th Friday at 9:00 a.m. Workers need to be there 6:30 a.m.

Kim is going to Romania in October, so will have a fundraiser on October 5th. A Belize Fundraiser is being planned, but not yet set. We will also need money for the building materials for Belize of about \$1,000.

We plan to participate in the annual lighting of the Granite Falls Christmas tree event on Nov. 25th. Materials have been ordered for this, and we will need volunteers for this. Set-up begins at 3:30 p.m.

Kim asked Cindy to read the number of contributors in various giving ranges. A large amount of our people give nothing or at least do not give by name.

Kim suggested that we should also think about doing something in the community or for the community for free. The community meal was brought up. No decisions were made about anything at this time.

Trunk or Treat will be on Thursday on Halloween day from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are collecting candy now for this event. We will not be serving hot dogs this time. Please decorate your car or truck bed or wear a costume, and come and help us give out the candy.

The UMW will have their country store again this year. They are asking for gently used items, crafts, etc. to sell at the country store. (NO CLOTHING!)

We took a vote on giving the Habitat Fund money to the Caldwell County Habitat House group. Kim made the motion to give, seconded by Sonya. Motion passed.

Roy Hamby of the Trustees reported that the BBQ building is essentially

completed. They have accepted a bid by Wayne Ellis to fix the cracks in the church parking lot.

John McCrary reported that the UMM recently cleaned up things around the church; prepared wood for the BBQ; cleaned cobwebs in the CLC; filled in holes in the yard. More projects coming up, such as cutting firewood, and build a ramp for members.

Pastor Tom: the Finance Committee has approved the budget for next year. The Charge conference will be on Nov. 3rd. The next District Dialogue is on Oct. 13 at First UMC Granite Falls. We will need another Council meeting before the Charge Conference, so we will have a brief meeting on Oct. 6th at the end of the worship service to approve officers and committee members, and approve the budget for 2020.

A motion was made to adjourn, which passed.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.

Something...cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

The amount that God owns: 100%

The amount that is left for us to manage for God and His kingdom’s work: 90%

Definitions:

Giving: any amount below 10% of gross income; any amount given by a non-believer.

Tithing: 10% of income off the top—before taxes, necessities, savings or anything else.

Offering: any amount over 10% of gross income.

The amount that you can give each year and receive a tax benefit: 50% of gross income.

The amount that you can take with you when you die: 0%.

Jesus spoke about money more than He talked about Heaven and Hell combined. He must believe it is important. Why? “You cannot serve two masters.” Just how much do you truly TRUST God?

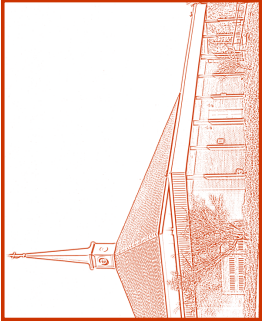
Thank you to all our faithful tithers and givers. ✚



EBENEZER UMC

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

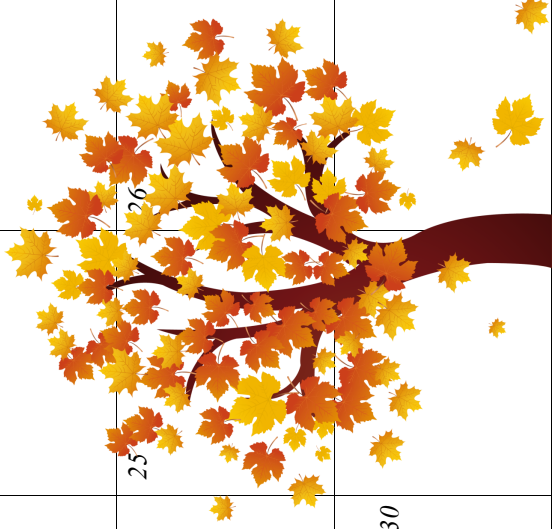
October 2019

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday: 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday school 5:00 PM Choir</p>		1	<p>2 Every Wed.: 6 PM Praise Band 6 PM <i>Teens for Christ</i> 7 PM Children and Adult Bible studies</p>	3	4	<p>5 Cornhole Tournament & Soup Fundraiser—4:30 'til done!, see p. 3</p>
<p>6 Brief Council Meeting after worship service</p>	<p>7 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>8 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Decision America Trip, see p. 3</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 Homecoming Service & Potluck Lunch—10:30 AM</p>	<p>14 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>15 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Biscuit Sales—6 AM 'til gone!, see p. 3</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Private Party—11-3 PM</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 Lord's Supper Ministry—5 PM Basketball—7 PM Trustees—7 PM</p>	<p>22 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	
<p>27 UMW—6 PM</p>	<p>28 Basketball—7 PM</p>	<p>29 Volleyball—7 PM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Trunk or Treat—5:30 -6:30 PM, see p. 3</p>		

