



# EBENEZER

## United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# OCTOBER '21

Volume 17 Issue 10

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

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### Special Note

#### Time Change

We have to wait even longer this year for our extra hour of sleep. Daylight Savings Time does not end until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7th.



### 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



### From Homecoming to Easter: A time of prayer and discernment.

Starting at Homecoming we will enter into a time of prayer and discernment that will last until Easter. What this means is that I wish to engage you in conversations about where Ebenezer has been and where you sense God is leading in the present and future. During this time there will be a prayer emphasis each week. This will include our Bishop, District Superintendent, living former pastors, our local schools and community ministries.

I want to have home meetings in groups of 5-6 people. These will meet twice during this time. The first meeting will be to discuss where Ebenezer has been. The second meeting is to look forward. In order for this to happen, I need people who are willing to open their homes for about an hour and a half. If you are so led, please let me know and we can plan when we can meet. I am not wed to a certain day or time for these meetings. I want to get as many people as possible to participate.

Please be open to participating in these gatherings. I believe that it is important for us to hear the voice of God as we enter into these future days. As we move through this time, I will keep you informed about what I am hearing.

In God's grace,  
Pastor Alan



### Covid-19 Update

Due to the continuing number of Covid-19 infections and contacts in our area, we will continue to hold worship in the CLC during the month of October.

### 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](mailto: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, October 18th 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.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on **Sunday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to attend.

### Charge Conference & Church Council

We will have our annual Charge Conference on **Sunday, October 24th at 4:00 p.m.** with the regular Council Meeting directly afterwards.

## Seniors Gathering

Ebenezer's next monthly gathering with a free meal for our Senior Citizens is:

**Tuesday  
October 19th  
11:00 AM**

Our Senior Citizens will meet at Ebenezer this time.

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

And [Jesus] went on to say, "I tell you, there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Kingdom of God come with power." —Mark 1:15 GNT

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Verses: Luke 13:18-19, 20-21; see also Mark 4:30-32 and Matthew 13:31-33.

*Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."*

*Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."*

NIV

There are two ways to look at these parables. We can consider the mustard seed's growth as the outward, visible growth of the Church that eventually includes all peoples and nations (the birds). Or, some commentators consider the birds that come to nest in the tree as representative of evil that comes to dwell and even be welcomed into the Church as it grows larger.

The yeast or leaven can be looked upon as hidden growth of the Church that changes people and society little by little in "invisible" ways—in other words by influencing people and society to behave in certain ways. Or, the yeast or leaven could represent evil that is hidden in the Church, society, business, and statecraft that eventually leads to rampant sin and corruption within each of the aforementioned areas.

When you think about it, both of these interpretations appear to be true. Christianity and Christian thought have permeated society over the centuries (and before Christ, Jewish thought), which led to improvements in the world.

So, even if you are not Jewish or Christian, you have been blessed with many advantages not available in the past and in many countries today, such as right to property, right to work one's way out of poverty or a lower class to a higher class, more stable economies, scientific, medical, mechanical, and electronic discoveries that have made life easier and more survivable. The government of the United States would not be possible without Christianity and a belief in a higher power than government. Many of our problems today stem from the loss of belief in God by many people. They do what is right in their own eyes, instead.

And that leads to corruption within the Church and within education, government, businesses, and society at large. When we lose the sense of someone always watching us (and over us), we are freer to choose evil over good, especially if we feel it will profit us. When we have no sense of a final

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Homecoming! & \$10,000 Sunday

**Sunday, October 10th  
10:30 AM**

**Lunch afterwards**

**Homecoming is almost here!**

**Bring a dish of your favorite food or dessert to share, if you can.**

Our special guests will be Rev. Thomas Hunter and Patsy Hunter. We finally get to have their Farewell Dinner! We will honor them both for their service to our church and our community.

Worship will start at 10:30 a.m. with dinner on the grounds afterward. (Sunday school classes will not meet.)

**10-10-10**  
**The 10th month**  
**The 10th Day**  
**\$10,000**



**Help us pay for the roof repairs, and keep our church running!**

Please consider giving extra this Sunday to our

General Fund as we try to raise \$10,000. We thank you for your support!

**Pastor Appreciation Day is also on October 10th**, but don't wait until then to thank our pastor for his service to our church and community. Send your cards and letters of appreciation now and throughout the month of October.

## Trunk or Treat

**Saturday,  
October 30th  
5-6:30 PM**

Grab a child and come to our annual safe Halloween event. Our church members will be decorating their cars with spooky things and giving out free candy to all the children who come. Hot dogs will be served this year, too.

We are collecting candy for this event now. Thank you for helping.



## 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 this month!

## 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 L. Mareece
- 21st—Loretta Helton
- 22nd—Colby Collins
- 26th—Victoria Coffey
- 27th—Aimie Gaylord
- 28th—Randy McRary

*Happy Anniversary!*



- 25th—Larry & Alice Hill

Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid neither be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

—p.32 *Wings of Silver*

## Our Military

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



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



## Something to Pray About, cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

reckoning (and reward), we put all our energies and schemes into getting all we can in the here and now—no matter whom our actions may hurt. And heresies enter the Church, because having “good” things now is more important than obeying God, or following in the steps of Jesus.

When Christians opt out of speaking up and working in education, entertainment, business, science, and government, corruption creeps in and, eventually, will take over. We must learn to no longer be silent—even in the face of ridicule, insults, and persecution. We should be influencing the culture, and not let the culture influence us. For when we refuse to speak truth to power and to the culture, evil becomes more powerful and the culture deteriorates into more and more evil and perverted ways. ✝

The human race has had long experience and a fine tradition in surviving adversity. But we now face a task for which we have little experience, the task of surviving prosperity. —Alan Gregg

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

— Albert Schweitzer

## October Worship Information

### Sermon Scriptures for October:

3rd: Mark 10:2-16

Communion Sunday

10th: Mark 10:17-31

Homecoming/Official Farewell to

Pastor Tom & Patsy Hunter

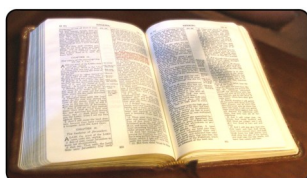
17th: Mark 10:35-45

24th: Mark 10:46-52

31st: John 11:32-44

All Saints' Sunday and  
Communion

Nov. 7th: Laity Sunday  
(moved from 10/17)



## Missing Members List Help Us Find Them

**We have members for whom we have no addresses.** Please review the names and if you know their address, please contact the church office.

Susan Chester

Michael Crouse

Sharon Hodges

William McRary

Erin Mejia

Ellen Minton

Michael Potts

Sydney Richardson

Allison Thompson

Cody Thompson

R.J. Thompson

## Special Giving

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

### In Memory of Hoke & Cleo Clark's September 3rd Anniversary by:

Becky Clark

### In Memory of B. Dale Reid by:

Bill, Delores, Gary Paul Campbell  
Howard & Ann Bentley

### In Memory of Mildred Tolbert by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell  
United Methodist Women—EUMC  
Women's Bible Class—EUMC

### In Memory of Gerald Frye by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell  
Larry & Alice Hill  
Kyle Toliver  
Patty Toliver  
Emily A. Hebrick  
Ronnie & Tamara Frye  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve S. Annas  
Cindy Sears  
Rex & Gwen Teague  
United Methodist Women—EUMC  
Women's Bible Class—EUMC

### In Memory of Kelly McCrary by:

Garry & Phyllis Minton

### In Honor of EUMC's Adult Choir by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

### In Honor of EUMC's Praise Band by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

### In Honor of the Workers of The

### Lord's Supper Ministry by:

Bill, Delores, & Gary Paul Campbell

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

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

—Romans 8:5 NIV





## Church Council Meeting, September 26th, 2021

Attendees: Pastor Alan, Irene Austin, Ted Daniel, Kim Ellis, Bleaka Hollar, Monte Hollar, Peggy Jenkins, Marsha McRary (Chair), Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears.

Marsha McRary called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and gave the opening prayer. She read from Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

We are called for service to Ebenezer UMC as the Council, and as members of the church. We should always be ready to be sent to serve the Lord here, in our homes, in our businesses, in the community, and the world. Willing and ready to serve at all times.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Passed as written.

### FINANCIAL REPORT – Irene Austin

Irene acquired the loan for the roof repair. The cost is \$600 per month for 24 months. She paid the company \$9,000, so that they will have materials to do the repairs. The remainder will be paid once the job is completed. They began work on the roof the week of September 20<sup>th</sup>. A motion to approve the loan report/action by Irene was made by Monte Hollar; seconded by Linda Moretz. Motion passed.

### TRUSTEES REPORT – Monte Hollar

Monte reported that we have the new copier, and it is working. We opted to not sign a service agreement. If service is required, there will be a \$125 per hour fee. The spraying of the church for pest control has been completed. It has been suggested that the UMM clean up the mulch and the concrete around the church before Homecoming. They will begin work on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> on that.

There was a short discussion about removing the light fixtures on the church roof while the men are up there working on it. They are no longer used, so Monte said that he would look into having that done.

### OLD BUSINESS

We will plan a Safe Sanctuary training session in the near future, after our Charge Conference.

### NEW BUSINESS

Monte Hollar brought up the possibility of doing a fish fry fundraiser. A date will be set in October.

Kim Ellis's Romanian orphanage trip has been called off, because a couple of the people bowed out. She may go to Belize in January. We will let you know when plans are more definite.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

**Covid-19:** We will continue worshipping in the Christian Life Center through October; then decide month to month whether or not to return to the sanctuary.

**Homecoming is October 10<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 a.m. Plans continue for a pot-luck lunch afterwards, and the Hunter's plan to be here for Pastor Tom's official Farewell Dinner. This will also be our annual \$10,000 Sunday. We want to raise at least \$10,000 for our church budget fund. Dig deep; give generously and faithfully.

The Pastor said that we will implement the **Time of Prayer and Discernment** that he told us about last meeting. He will begin promoting this to the church in October.

Pastor Alan gave an update on the **Membership Audit**, and a new list of twenty names to send letters. Three of the names were removed by the Council with two known to have joined another church, and one sometimes participating in Ebenezer activities.

**Our Charge Conference date is October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** We need all paper work in, and committee member lists completed by October 17<sup>th</sup>. Turn the information into Cindy in the office, so that she can be ready to upload the information to the district stats site.

Pastor Alan says that we still have some of the money designated for the **CCC&TI meal/snacks for students**. There was discussion about committing to one month to supply ready-to-eat

foods to this service. We will let the church know when we will be collecting food items or money for this.

Concerning the **Appalachian Service Project**. We will be signing up individuals in October who are interested in working in the ministry next year. The registration fee is \$50 per person. Volunteers have to be at least 13 years old and graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade (or graduating before next summer).

Kim Ellis gave us names of the persons who will be remembered on **All Saints Sunday (October 31<sup>st</sup> for us)** this year: Dale Reid, Mildred Tolbert, Gerald Frye, Margaret Fairchild, Marie Hartley, and Kelly McCrary. We would like to have some recent pictures of these people for a slide show. Please give them to Cindy Sears or email jpgs to her at [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com).

**Trunk or Treat is on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 p.m.** We will serve hot dogs this year. We are collecting candy now. Kim told us that we will do the **Hanging of the Greens on Advent Sunday (November 28<sup>th</sup>)** during the worship service again this year.

Closing prayer was given by Linda Moretz.

Next Council meeting will be at the close of the Charge Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes by Cindy Sears.



## FY 2022 Committee Members Needed

We are looking for committee members for the coming year. Please contact Pastor Alan (Chair of Nominations), Bleaka Hollar, or Cindy Sears if you are interested in a role in Ebenezer's governance for next year.

There are openings on the following committees: Trustees, Nominations and Personnel, Staff-Pastor -Parish-Relations, Audit, and the Members at Large on the Church Council. We can use one more Communion Steward, also.

Thank you for serving Ebenezer in every way you can.