

**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**4901 Woodbine Road  
Sykesville, Maryland 21784  
(410)795-6136**

*Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor*

*April 8, 2018*

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Order of Worship**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord!

**Come to rejoice in life born out of death.**

Come to grasp hope in the face of fear.

**Come to find forgiveness for your sins.**

Come to release your doubts into the very presence of God.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

\*OPENING HYMN

*“Christ Is Risen”*

UMH No. 307

OPENING PRAYER

**God of resurrection hope, as you have raised Jesus Christ from death, raise us to new life in your tender care. Draw near and fill us this day with your Holy Spirit. Call us back from places of distraction. Lift the veil of daily routine that hides your constant presence from us. Show us the path of true life, that we may know joy beyond joy in your light. We pray in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the time that has passed since Easter Sunday, have we become a changed people? Have we lived with hope and promise, trusting in the Risen Christ? Or have we been more like the earliest disciples, still gathered behind locked doors out of fear? Trusting in a second-chance God who meets us as dedicated yet doubting followers, let us confess our sins in the presence of Christ and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God, the resurrection of your Son has not pulled us far from our old ways. Our faith becomes fear in the face of the world’s troubles. We trust more in the power of “the way things are” than in the new life you give to us. We hesitate to speak out against wrong, convinced it will do no good. We excuse ourselves from chances to help others, fearing for our security. We stay busy with small concerns to avoid facing our shortcomings.**

**Holy God, forgive our fears and our doubts. Plant Easter seeds in us to push through the packed, dead ground of old habits. Transform our suffering into greater faithfulness. Embrace us in the dance of your Holy Spirit, so that we may find hope and strength for the living of these days. Loving God, direct our ways that in all that we say and do we will bring to others a holy purpose. In the name of our Risen Lord we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even the hardest and most unchanging rock gives way to the persistent dripping of water. In the same way, God’s continual grace washes away our failings and shapes us into faithful disciples of Christ. By the waters of baptism, God forgives us all our sins. Let go of the old ways. Live new lives of confident faith, abundant hope and overflowing love. In Jesus Christ, may we know we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2

NT pg. 224

*In this letter, John tells us the truth about relationships showing us how to have relationships that are real, for both now and eternity.*

HYMN

*“Alleluia”*

UMH No. 186

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31

NT pg. 108

*The story of Doubting Thomas speaks to rebellion, passion and change.*

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

***“A Holy Purpose”***

*Rev. Judy Emerson*

HYMN

*“Because He Lives”*

UMH No. 364

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Offertory

\*Presentation of Gifts

\*Doxology

*“Alleluia, Alleluia”*

UMH No. 162

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Come, let us praise the living God.**

**Joyfully sing to our Savior.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**God of the impossible made possible, make of these offerings more than checks and cash. Transform them into salve for the wounded bodies of your children. In the ministries that these gifts empower, bring forth light, bring hope out of despair and new life from certain death, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”*

UMH No. 304

\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go from this community of disciples with hope that overcomes your fears.

**We go with the promise of new life and with faith in God anchoring us.**

Go with the grace and peace of the Risen Christ, the love of God and the blessing of the Holy Spirit that we may have a holy purpose in all that we say and do!

**Alleluia! Amen!**

\*POSTLUDE

# Welcome to Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Website: [ebenezerumchurch.org](http://ebenezerumchurch.org)

Church Office Hours – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Worship: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School 9:45 AM**

**April 8, 2018**

**Church Office:** (410) 795-6136

**Pastor's Office:** (410) 795-1237

**Church Email:** [eumcwinfield@gmail.com](mailto:eumcwinfield@gmail.com)

**Pastor's Email:** [revjae@aol.com](mailto:revjae@aol.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Judy Emerson

**Music Director:** Linda Bange

**Treasurer:** Sandy Wean

**Secretary:** Cindi Arnold

**Nursery Coordinator:** Jess Middleton

**Nursery Coordinator:** Bridgett Estes

	2018 Regular Offering Summary		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
3/25/18	8,095.82	3,866.83	4,228.99
Year to Date	55,364.40	50,268.79	5,095.61

Attendance Last Week	
Maundy Thursday	87
Good Friday	70
Easter Sunday	279

## Notes

Nursery for Infants through Kindergarten is every Sunday at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

Children's Church for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> Grades is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 11:00 AM.

The Attendance Roster is at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass it to others.

## Worship Today

Service	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Greeters	Jim Leary	Dave Biddinger
Ushers	Jim & Doris Leary	Scott & Sharon Lange
Liturgist	Janet Davis	Deb Mathias

## This Week's Schedule

Sunday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Church	11:00 AM
	UMYF	Noon
Monday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Feed My Sheep	10:30 AM
Wednesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Crafts	9:30 AM
	Children's Choir	6:30 PM
Saturday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Group	8:30 AM

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MEN'S GROUP** – Join the Men's Group for breakfast this Saturday in the fellowship hall at 8:30 AM. The guest speaker for the morning will be Rick Gray, who will speak about putting together a men's retreat.

**SPRING FLING** – Has been cancelled for 2018. There are too many other activities on the same day. See below for our new fundraiser!

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER & SILENT AUCTION ~ APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>** – How can you help??

1) Make your reservation today. 2) Spread the news – invite your friends and neighbors (but please ask them to make reservations). 3) Donate to the dessert table – see Kathy Zamostny. 4) Donate an item for our in-house silent auction. See the bulletin board for ideas. All "New" donations are accepted. Flyers are in your bulletins.

**CONSTRUCTION** – Construction has started and you will notice fencing around the work area. Please – **DO NOT ENTER** beyond the fence at any time unless you are accompanied by the Contractor. This is for your safety as well as the church's liability. Also, please be mindful of parking during construction. Try to keep the back and side by the kitchen available during the week for construction trucks to pass through.

**OFFERING SUMMARY**.....you will see the Offering information in a different format. We are showing you the weekly offering and the year to date offering compared to the budgeted information for that time period. For example, our offering from last week was \$8,095.82 and our budget requires \$3,866.83 per week. If you have any questions/concerns about our offering information, please let me know. Sandy:-)

**GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER** –Purchase gift cards to your favorite stores and restaurants for your everyday shopping and enjoyment. The church gets a portion of all sales. Orders are placed at least twice a month. Order forms are available in the narthex or go to [ShopwithScrip.com](http://ShopwithScrip.com) and see a more extensive selection! Contact Susan Brown with any questions [stmpnsusan@aol.com](mailto:stmpnsusan@aol.com).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2019:** We have already booked Skycroft for March 8-10, 2019 so please consider going again (or for the first time)! Registration is open and requires a \$25 non-refundable deposit per person. We booked for a low number, but can add more if there is availability, so please do not wait until the last minute! Now is the time! Any questions, contact Susan Brown, [StmpnSusan@AOL.com](mailto:StmpnSusan@AOL.com).