

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

November - December 2018 - January 2019

"You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either.

With God's help, you'll get through this!"

A few years ago, several of you participated in a Bible Study by Max Lucado called "You'll Get Through This" led by our Lay Leader, Ken Middleton. In the book is a quote: "You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. Don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this!" Ken often shares this quote when things get a bit challenging at the church. I share it with you now as a reminder that the next year will come with more than a normal share of challenge and chaos. As we complete Phase I and begin Phase II of our building project we will all be called upon to be flexible and cooperative as we approach each day with an open mind and willing spirit. There will be days when it is easy to be flexible and there will be days when it seems like we are asking too much. My prayer is that we will keep Christ at the center of our lives and relationships, be there for each other and not forget we will get through each challenge with God's help.

It was the weekend before Christmas and a young executive in California gets a call from his father in Maryland. The father says, "Your mother's making me crazy. I've had six decades of picking up after her. We're getting a divorce. Don't try to talk us out of it." Dad hangs up and the son immediately calls his older sister in Colorado and wakes her up. Within minutes, his sister telephones their parents. In a rushed voice she says, "Dad, you and mom have been together for sixty years - I will not let you waste your golden years fighting. I don't care what the issue is, we will work it out. Don't do a thing. We will be there tomorrow." The dad hangs up the phone, smiles at his wife and gently kisses her hand and says: "Well, honey, looks like they'll both be home for Christmas this year."

The beauty of this Christmas story is that presence is so much more important than presents. Scripture reminds us: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we have beheld his glory, as of the only Son of the Father." John 1:14. In ancient times, when our ancestors gazed at the skies and pondered the hard questions of life, death, illness and wonder, they found their best comfort in a simple story of divine presence. A pregnant teen, a carpenter, a barnyard birth and the simple claim that God is with us. The message of Christmas is that God becomes present in all our human struggles. God is present in our laughter and love. In that same old story, the angel names the child "Jesus," which means "God saves." By coming to us, being among us, walking beside us...and then commissioning us to go and do likewise – God saves us!

All of us continue to scramble for answers to the hard questions of life: When a nation stands bitterly divided, when we get bad news from the doctor, when the telephone rings in the middle of the night, when someone you love is angry or scared. We have no easy answers at times like these. But we can do what God does in Jesus; we can show up and be present for one another. There's a living presence that will not leave us or forsake us, no matter what we must face in life. At Christmas we are reminded that God enters into all the messiness of a broken world and walks right beside us. We are called to do the same, getting our hands dirty, suffering with those who suffer, remembering that even though there will be times of struggle we will get through this with God's help.

With the birth of the Christ Child, God reached out in love to the sick, the old, the young, the homeless, the helpless, the hopeless, the anxious, the sad, to all creation. We are called to stand with them, for this is how God stands with humanity in Christ. I pray that we will offer the gift of presence to those in need this year. It's a joy to be walking with Jesus beside you once again this year! Merry Christmas! Blessings,

Worship: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Sunday School: 9:45 AM Website:

ebenezerumchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Church Office: (410) 795-6136 **Pastor's Office:** (410) 795-1237

Church Email: eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: reviae@aol.com

Pastor:

Rev. Judy Emerson **Music Director:**

Linda Bange **Secretary:**

Cindi Arnold

Treasurer:

Sandy Wean

Nursery Coordinators:

Jess Middleton and Lisa Humphries



During phase two of our construction project, it will be necessary to relocate our Sunday School classrooms as well as meeting spaces for other activities. This will definitely be a time for being flexible. Please be sure to check with the office before planning any meetings to make sure we don't overbook any spaces. You will find the list below for where your Sunday School classes will meet.

9:45 AM

Sunday School Superintendent: Kim Middleton

Nursery: Jess Middleton & Lisa Humphries Pre-K: Valerie Hyer & Sandy Biddinger Located on the 1st floor of the Food Pantry Building

K-1-2: Joanne Davis & Lynn Baker Located on the 2nd floor of the Food Pantry Building

3-4-5: Julie Jones
Located on the 2nd floor of the Food Pantry Building

6-7-8: Cyndi & Doug Diethrich Located on the 2nd floor of the Parsonage

9-10: Bill Jones
Located on the 2nd floor of the Parsonage

11-12: Carolene Will Located on the 2nd floor of the Food Pantry Building

Adult Class: Buck Scott Located on the 1st floor of the Parsonage

Adult Class: Ken Middleton Located on the 2nd floor of the Parsonage

Safe Sanctuary in Our new Building

With the move of Sunday School classes and Nursery into the Food Pantry Building, we find that we have an additional need for volunteers. Our Safe Sanctuary Policy dictates that at least two adults should be in a building with children at all times. During our church services, we occasionally may only have one adult - the Nursery coordinator - in the building with the children. It will be necessary to request volunteers serve as the second adult in the Pantry Building during church services. This does not require that the volunteer be in the Nursery, just be in the Food Pantry Building. There is a signup sheet on the church bulletin board. Please consider helping with this important need.

Valerie Hyer

Children's Church

During 11:00 AM Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the Month

We will continue to offer Children's Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. The kids can join Mrs. Hare during worship on these weeks as she has some wonderful stories and activities planned!

Older youth are encouraged to provide their usual assistance when possible!!
Children's Church will be located on the second floor of the Food Pantry Building.





HOLLY MART CRAFTS

We will be moving the crafts from the church to the fire hall on Thursday, November 8th. If you can help with transportation and set-up around 10:30 AM, please let Linda know.

We are also looking for help at Holly Mart with checking out customers. If you have any time to give us we would appreciate the help. See signup sheet on bulletin board in narthex.

We will have a good selection of gifts for friends and family. If anyone has items to donate to the craft table the items can be left in the back of the social hall.

Thanks in advance for your support and making this year's Holly Mart the best yet. Special thanks to all the craft help.

Holly Mart crafters



WOWS Updates by Sharon Torosky

Join us each month on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM as we gather in prayer. Our meetings are open to all women who are in need of prayer and support. Meetings will be held in the parsonage.

Looking ahead – our annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM. We are moving this year to the Winfield Inn.

Men's Group Updates by Scott Murchie

The Ebenezer Men's Group is resuming its annual Fall Retreats at Camp Manidokan, Friday Nov. 2 7:30 PM through Sunday Nov. 4 1:00 PM. We will meet again Saturday December 8 8:30 AM at IHOP in Westminster for breakfast and a talk. In lieu of a meeting Saturday January 12, the annual Church Planning Meeting will be held. The Men's Group is also again supporting the Cold Weather Shelter in Westminster. A sign-up sheet for providing home-cooked meals is in the narthex. With the construction project, we'll be winging it a bit with logistics-but your contribution can be picked up from your home if you wish. As in past years, we'll be covering the 3rd Sunday of each month from November through March



OWLS by Diane Biddinger

The OWLS are looking forward to an exciting time: a missionary will be speaking to us in November, we will have our Christmas party at Bullocks, and in January, our very own Brenda Baker will get us moving with senior version exercises. Please join us.

November's luncheon will be held at Bullocks in Westminster at noon on November 7th.

If you are retired or are old enough to be retired, you are eligible for OWLS. It is one of the perks, just like receiving a sweet monthly deposit in your checking account, or finally being on medicare, or getting a discount at McDonalds. Denial of your age will get you nowhere with this group; we celebrate the Golden Years. Our Vanity Plates read,

"60+ & Proud of It" You need not be a member of Ebenezer, all bald heads and gray heads are welcome. Looking forward to seeing

you at OWLS

Church and Society Fall Update

by Janet Davis

The fall is a busy time for us. We provide snacks and candy to the Board of Child Care for Halloween. All treats – no tricks.

We will again be providing food for a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to families in need at Winfield Elementary.

We also plan to support the Board of Child Care with gifts for their residents, as we have the past few years.

Please continue these worthy efforts with your prayers, your donations of food and shopping for gifts. I greatly appreciate the support of ALL the EUMC personnel to make these events successful!



LEADERSHIP CHANGES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2019

Please be sure to pick up a 2019 Church Leadership Roster in the narthex. Check to see which committees you are serving on for the coming year. Some committees have a group listing with the year stated above. This means you will serve on that committee until the end of the stated year. For example, if you are listed under the class of 2019 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2019. If you have questions about your leadership role for this year, please contact the church office. I want to say a special thank you to the leaders of Ebenezer UMC who have completed their service on a committee in 2018. Your dedication and leadership is a true blessing to the ministries of our church. May God bless you as you continue to serve your church and community. Blessings,

> Rev. Judy



Come One – Come All! Administrative Council Annual Planning Day! Saturday, January 12, 2019 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Planning Day. On Saturday, January 12, 2019, we will gather at 8:30 AM for a covered dish breakfast. At 9:00 AM we will begin our meeting where we will celebrate our shared ministry in 2018 and set goals for 2019. All leaders and members of the church are encouraged to attend. We will conclude this gathering promptly at 12:00 Noon! Please bring a breakfast dish to share. We will be meeting on the top floor of the Food Pantry Building.



Communion Servers

On the 1st Sunday of every month we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Each time we come to the table we need 4 volunteers to help the Pastor serve the congregation. If you would like to help, please put your name next to the date you can help on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

COLLECTING/RECYCLING USED GREETING CARDS FOR ARC

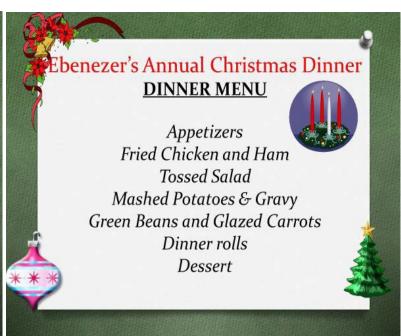
Do you toss your greeting cards or recycle them? The ARC of Carroll County uses all types of greeting cards (not just Christmas cards) are now acceptable for projects with their clients. ARC will now take the entire card.

Christmas seems to be the time of year we receive more cards, so we will collect cards from now until the end of January. In early November a box will be located in the narthex over the coat rack.

This is a good way for others to get some use from our cards that would otherwise end up in the trash.

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Grim 410-489-7455 or by email at robertgrim@comcast.net





Join Us for our Christmas Services



December 2nd – 1st week of Advent

December 9th - 2nd week of Advent

December $16^{th} - 3^{rd}$ week of Advent

"The Winter Rose" Cantata:



8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



December 23rd – 4th week of Advent Children's Christmas Program at 11:00 AM

December 24th – Christmas Eve Traditional Service at 8:00 PM Candlelight Service at 10:00 PM

December 30th – One service only at 11:00 AM



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH IN WORSHIP

We need people to light the Advent wreath during worship again this year. You and your family or you and someone from your church family can join together and participate in worship in a meaningful way. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider participating in worship in this special way during the Advent Season.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Christmas Children's Service will be on Sunday, December 23rd at the 11:00am service. All Sunday school classes will participate. If you have a child or know of someone that does not attend Sunday school and would like to participate please contact Julie Jones 410-795-2890

or juliejones3@comcast.net



Rock of Help Food Pantry Non-Food item:

November: Bleach

December: Fabric Softener (liquid or sheets)

January: Laundry Detergent Calling all past children's choir members now in middle and high school. Miss Jen would like for this group to sing (on their own, not with the children's choir) during the children's Christmas service on December 23rd. If you are interested and able to attend a few practices, please let Julie know.



Treasurer's Tidbits

by Sandy Wean

I can't believe its time for the end-of-year newsletter. Where did 2018 go???

Once again, our fundraisers have done very well this year. The Script Gift Card program has provided almost \$2500 in profit through mid-Oct. It should exceed \$3,000 by years end. Keep buying those gift cards; its an easy way to benefit Ebenezer while doing some of your holiday gift giving.

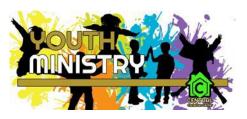
We are preparing for our Holly Mart event which also includes the pickles/jam/and jelly sale. I will have profit numbers for you on that at our Planning day in January if not sooner. Thanks to everyone for their generous donations and support of these events.

Our Christmas Dinner is coming fast. Please SAVE THE DATE....December 1, 2018 at Winfield Fire Hall. We will be taking reservations and collecting money starting November 11. Please feel free to invite family and friends to join us at this festive occasion. Informational flyers will be posted on the bulletin board in November.

Our 2018 budget continues on track for solvency at years end. Thanks to everyone for your dedicated weekly tithing. Final year-end numbers will be provided at Planning Day. The finance team is working on our projected 2019 budget and will present in the congregation in January.

You still have until December 31 to complete your pledge towards our current Capital Campaign. Our Capital Campaign has done very well and we will graciously accept additional donations if you choose to continue giving towards this effort. All additional donated funds will help to reduce the loan amount needed for our new building. Updated numbers on our Campaign will be posted in the bulletin in November. Our Food Pantry Building should be completed very soon and the demolition of the existing building will not be far behind. Its an exciting time at Ebenezer and I feel sure that God is pleased with our new building and our efforts to further our mission "To Proclaim God's Word, To Share God's Love, and To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."

Happy Holidays and blessings to you and yours!!!!



Our Scripture verse for this year is Proverbs 3:5-6.

The calendar for November and December offer great opportunities for fellowship, and for caring for others as well as each other.

November 4th – The group will be taking a Field trip to Washington D.C. Youth need to bring a bag lunch and \$10.00 for a Metro card. The card costs \$2.00 to load and it will cost \$8.00 for the trip. Once you have the card it can be used again at anytime and you just load the amount needed.

If you already have a metro card please bring it with you.

Permission slips are posted on the youth board and need to be returned prior to the trip. Please also use the "Invite" page on email to RSVP.

We will meet at 10:45 a.m. immediately following Sunday school.

November 18th – Our version of the story "Stone Soup". Bring a canned good or non-perishable food to youth group. We will meet in the youth room which is in the upper level of the food pantry.

December 2nd - Here we go a
Caroling!!! Followed by Hot
chocolate and goodies! Dress warm
and meet at church at 12:15.

December 16th – Christmas Party – Bring a wrapped gift (\$5.00) for a fun round of "right and left" game. Meet in the youth room at 12:15 p.m. Looking into 2019 – ROCK weekend is February 8-9-10th!







Christian Appalachian Mountain Project Helping Other People Enthusiastically November 10th – Come see us at our Holly Mart table!

We are working toward our financial goal for 2019. If you have a small project around your house or you need something moved consider asking the Camp Hope team. Free labor for a donation to the Camp Hope Fund.

Our recycle project continues even with the building transition. A new collection location will be determined but you can always give the aluminum and steel cans to either Mike Grim or Paul Thompson. We are willing to pick up larger recyclable items as well. Contact Nancy Thompson at 410-241-1509.



We are getting very excited about the new Food Pantry opening very soon! It looks beautiful and will be a very functional building. We can serve our community in many ways and thank God for these opportunities. Let's think of new ways we can help others and move forward.

We have given out so many household items and clothing to our pantry families in the last several years and they are so appreciative of our efforts. For the next couple months we will not be able to provide this, until we work out the logistics of where we will have the families wait while we fill their food orders and where we can store the items. Once we settle into a new routine, we will let everyone know what we can accept and where to leave it. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Our CAMP HOPE team is busy again, recycling things, planning fund raisers, helping out in many areas where it is requested. They are a blessing to our church and to those that they help. Keep an eye out for any upcoming fund raisers they will be announcing and help support them.

We are looking into ways to support efforts to help the hurricane victims down south. A Methodist church in Hanover has been collecting items to take to the Lumberton, NC folks. I have dropped off a couple car loads of things and if they or another church continue to collect items, I will post a list of things that are needed. Please check the bulletin boards for more information.

Our church has been providing a hot meal and fellowship at Feed My Sheep for 20 years now. What a blessing this has been to so many people. We continue to serve lunch and provide carry out meals for those who are home bound. Thank you to all our Ebenezer folks who carry on this ministry.

Many children at Winfield Elementary were excited to be given new backpacks filled with school supplies at the end of August. This sure helps them start off the new school year in a positive way. Thank you to everyone that donated items and /or helped with getting them ready to be delivered.

We also continue to provide "snack packs" to around 10 Winfield families, providing some food items for the children to have over the weekend. We are hoping to give them out 2 times a month this year. If you want to donate any food for this, we always need things like: individual size Jif peanut butter cups, microwave mac and cheese, individual packets of oatmeal. Thank you in advance!

We are still packing lunches 3 times a year for ESCAPE Ministries at St. Paul's UMC in Sykesville, helping in several different ways at the Board of Child Care, serving a hot meal at the Cold Weather Shelter each month in the winter, starting in November. We just finished collecting for the Blessings Bags to be given out at the Cold Weather Shelter, too!

Wow! Our church is helping others in so many ways, and we are still listening to what God is calling us to do next to serve Him.

In His love,

Sue Bergmann, Missions Committee Chair





Meet Janet Davis

By Ellie Baublitz

Janet Davis is Ebenezer's new Holly Mart chair this year, so she's a busy lady right now. Add that to being Church & Society chair, organizing holiday events such as donations to the Board of Child Care for Halloween and Christmas, and other projects throughout the year.

Her family moved to Carroll County from Arbutus in 1970 – her; her mom Barbara, now in a Westminster memory care facility; dad, Walter, now in Florida; and brother Wayne, in California. They transferred from Arbutus UMC.

"Mr. Jim Dorsey built our house," Janet said. "His wife, Miss Dot, said to come here, so we did and didn't even try anywhere else."

She went to Westminster High School, did all her college locally, and spent her career at NSA working in contracts, finance and accounting for 34 years. Now retired, besides her church work, she volunteers at Carroll Hospital Center on the fundraising committee and will be vice president of the auxiliary next year. She also volunteers with the League of Women Voters and Taste of Carroll committee for Hospice.

Previously, she was appointed Ebenezer's endowment chair by Pastor Gayle Annis-Forder after the church received its endowment; she taught Sunday School while in high school with Diane Biddinger; and was Sunday School superintendent for a time.

Janet likes to travel, and through her work was able to go to Japan, Korea, Germany and Italy. Vacation destinations have included England and Greece and around the

U.S. She also likes to read "anything I can get my hands on"; likes to paint in oils and acrylics; and enjoys "watching, not playing," sports.

Her family also includes two aunts in Pennsylvania and her nephew who lives in Westminster.

CAMP MANIDOKAN NEWS

Lots of updates! Here's what you need to know:

<u>When</u>: Final dates are **JULY 14-19, 2018** (ignore all the previous back and forth! These are the dates!) **Camps Available**:

Adventure Grades 3 – 5, directed by Samantha Albright (St. Luke's UMC) (Lodge)

Adventure Grades 6 - 8, directed by Julie Partridge (Lodge/Cabins)

Adventure Grades 9 – 12, directed by Jen Klausmeyer (Shelters/Tents)

Horseback Grades 6 – 12, directed by Sabrina Merrell (St. Luke's UMC) (Lodge/Cabins)

<u>Activities</u>: We're going to be shaking things up a bit this year with our programming! (This is where you get excited *wink wink*) Things we are adding: ropes courses for all age groups (even you, 3-5!), cooking a meal or two over the fire, better timing of evening activities, more time for stories around the campfire, age-based bible studies, and so much more! This is going to be the best.year.ever.

Next Steps:

- (1) If you are interested in the Ebenezer Sunday School Campership program, be sure you are tracking your attendance on the camp bulletin board and have completed, signed, and returned to Julie an agreement (you can find them on the bulletin board also).
- (2) Keep an eye out for registration information. All campers will need to register online and pay the \$100 deposit. If you earn a campership, Ebenezer will pay the balance.
- (3) Consider volunteering! We are always in need of volunteers for ALL age groups. If you volunteer, you come for free and your campers receive a discount. Can't come the entire week? Consider coming for just a day or two.

Any questions – see Julie Partridge, 410.596.2501, jpartridge623@gmail.com.



<u>December</u>

Rev. Ann Adams & 12/11 Bob Churchman 12/16 Dave & Sandy Biddinger Dave & Karen Gauvin 12/18 Curt & Cheryl Roelle 12/21

January

Scott & Kim Murchie 1/4 Bob & Dawn Stevens 1/26

SAVE THE DATES

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	
Men's Retreat	2^{nd} - 4^{th}
All Saints Sunday	4^{th}
OWLS Luncheon at Bullocks	7^{th}
Cheeseball making	7^{th}
Holly Mart Cooking	8^{th}
Holly Mart set-up	9^{th}
HOLLY MART	10^{th}
Children's Church	$11^{\rm th}$
Feed My Sheep	12^{th}
WOWS meeting	15^{th}
FOOD PANTRY	17^{th}
Poinsettia forms due	18^{th}
Brinton Woods	20^{th}
Thanksgiving Eve Service	21st
Children's Church	25^{th}

DECEMBER

Church Christmas Dinner	1^{st}
OWLS Luncheon	5^{th}
Men's Breakfast	8^{th}
Children's Church	9^{th}
Feed My Sheep	10^{th}
WOWS Christmas Dinner	13^{th}
FOOD PANTRY	15^{th}
CANTATA	16^{th}
Children's Church	16^{th}
Brinton Woods	18^{th}
Children's Christmas Program	23^{rd}
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	24^{th}
One service only at 11:00 AM	30^{th}
One service only at 11.00 AW	

JANUARY

Owls Luncheon	2^{nd}
AD COUNCIL PLANING DAY	12^{th}
Children's Church	13^{th}
Feed My Sheep	14^{th}
Brinton Woods	15^{th}
WOWS meeting	17^{th}
FOOD PANTRY	19 th
Children's Church	27^{th}



November

Hope Allen	11/02
Sandy Wean	11/02
Sue Bergmann	11/09
Rebecca Wisner	11/11
Kathy McGehrin	11/14
Ann Adams	11/16
Matt Middleton	11/21
Carolene Will	11/25
Laura Scott	11/27
Kate Luette	11/27
Rachel Biddinger	11/28

DECEMBER

Julie Jones	12/1
Michael Torosky	12/3
Norman Zepp	12/9
Amanda Brown	12/10
Eric Rapids	12/13
Chuck Shacochis	12/14
Sarah Humphries	12/14
Nancy Thompson	12/17
Scott Murchie	12/17
Kyle Middleton	12/20
Rebecca Estes	12/22
Greg Kessinger	12/22
Derek Jones	12/23
Angie Jones	12/27
Barb Conaway	12/29
The state of the s	

Cindi Arnold	1/2
Shaun Arnold	1/3
Christy Kessinger	1/5
Steve Luette	1/8
Kayla Middleton	1/11
Valerie Paulsgrove	1/20
Valerie Hyer	1/27
Steve Bergmann (jr)	1/28
Bob Biddinger	1/28
William Streaker	1/30
Brian Middleton	1/31