

## What Do You Want for Christmas?

*Rev. Judy Emerson, Pastor*

How did we get here? Seriously, we were just celebrating Easter a few days ago and now we are counting down to Christmas. The four weeks before Christmas is known as the season of Advent. The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." For Christians, the season of advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation and longing.

This time of year is very special and beautiful and it comes with a whole host of feelings and emotions. On Sunday, November 27, 2016 from 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM our adult Sunday School classes will join together in the fellowship hall to begin the Advent Season together. All are invited to join us for this advent study as we look at ways in which God satisfies our hunger during this season. It is our hope to prepare our spirits for the coming of the Christ Child as we share the good news of God's precious gift.

I pray that the 2016 Advent and Christmas Season will be a time for spiritual growth for all of us. It is my hope that we will not get so caught up in the secular celebrations that we forget God created us with a higher purpose than accumulating wealth and prestige and security for our time here on earth.

In order for us to truly understand what the coming of the Christ Child means for us, we need to reflect on who we are and who God is in our life. May we all recognize how much we need Christ and what this gift of love means for us each day. May we live as people of hope who believe in the promises of God that come to us in the birth of the Christ Child.

Rather than thinking about what we want for Christmas, let's begin by thinking and praying about what God wants for Christmas. If we do, I believe we will find the answer to both in peace, justice, righteousness, grace, mercy and love. May it be so!

Blessings,  
Rev. Judy



## Worship Schedule

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

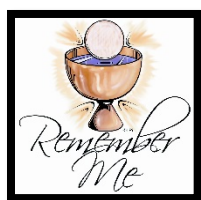
*Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM*



## Children's Church

*During 11:00 AM Worship on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the Month*

We will continue to offer Children's Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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!!



## Communion Servers

On the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Join our Chancel Choir as they lead worship with their Christmas Cantata.



Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Traditional Service at 8:30 AM  
Children's Christmas Program at 11:00 AM



Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Traditional Service at 8:00 PM  
Candlelight Service at 10:00 PM



Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Worship at 11:00 AM



Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
Worship at 11:00 AM



## EBENEZER'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Winfield Fire Hall  
Saturday, December 3, 2016  
5:30 PM Appetizers  
6:00 PM Buffet Dinner



### HOLLY MART

Our Holly Mart 2016 was a huge success. I want to thank everyone for their endless work and time they gave to our bazaar this year. It was amazing to see all of it come together. It was a terrific way to enjoy fun, good fellowship and serve the community.

Meghan Estes



### HOLLY MART CRAFTS

Another successful Holly Mart!  
Thanks to all for your support, help and purchases of our crafts.

If anyone needs additional gifts, we have crafts set up in the back of the Social Hall for purchase.

Thanks again for all the craft workers and help in the craft room. It made Holly Mart work well.

Blessings,  
Linda Bennett



Children's Christmas program will be Sunday December 18th at the 11:00 AM service. All Sunday School classes will be involved. If you have a child or grandchild that does not attend Sunday School and wants to participate please contact Julie Jones [410-795-2890](tel:410-795-2890) or [juliejones3@comcast.net](mailto:juliejones3@comcast.net)

Thanks!!!  
Julie



The chancel choir will offer a musical worship service on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We will present a version of the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah", which is as beautiful as when composed in 1741. Please join us!



## Save Old Greeting Cards

Do you toss your greeting cards or recycle them? The ARC of Carroll County uses all types of greeting cards (not just Christmas cards) for projects with their clients. ARC will now take the entire card. Ebenezer UMC has taken almost 2600 cards to ARC during the last two years.

Christmas seems to be the time of year we receive more cards so we will collect cards from now until the end of January. A box is located in the narthex over the coat rack. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Grim 410-489-7455 or by email at [robertgrim@comcast.net](mailto:robertgrim@comcast.net)

## Donate your Used Ink Cartridges

Speaking of recycling...drop off your used ink and toner in the church office. We use these toward our church office supplies.



## **Administrative**

### **Council Annual Planning Day!**

**Saturday, January 7, 2017**

**8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon**

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Planning Day. On Saturday, January 7, 2017 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 2016 and set goals for 2017. All leaders and members of the church are encouraged to attend. We will conclude this gathering promptly at 12:00 Noon! Please join us.



## **Thanksgiving and Christmas Families**

It was through the generosity of our Ebenezer Church Family that we were able to provide a Thanksgiving meal for 10 families again this year. We now have a new list, posted in the narthex, for those who would like to provide a Christmas meal.

In addition to the food items needed for Christmas, Ebenezer is providing gifts for children. If you would like to purchase a Christmas gift, please take a tag (or tags!) off of the tree in the Narthex. Don't forget to sign your name (*next to the number from the tag*) on the sheet that is on the bulletin board. This is very helpful for us to see if any gifts are missing when getting ready to distribute them. Please leave the gifts UNWRAPPED, but attach the tag you took from the tree. **We will deliver the gifts on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and the food on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> so please have gifts to the church by Sunday, December 6, 2015.**

The food can be delivered as late as December 18<sup>th</sup>. The food sign-up list will be available next Sunday. Janet Davis will continue as our Church & Society Chairperson in 2017. We look forward to working with Janet as we discover together **more** ways to reach out in the name of Jesus Christ.

## WOWs

The WOW's end of year Christmas Dinner will be held at Salerno's in Eldersburg on Thursday, December 8th at 6:30 PM. Please mark your calendars and sign up on the sheet in the Narthex as I need a head count NLT 12/6. The dinner is open to ALL women at Ebenezer including your friends, neighbors, etc. Please bring a \$10 gift to participate in our annual gift exchange. Looking forward to seeing everyone there as we celebrate together the holiday season.  
Blessings to All.....Sandy 😊

## MEN'S GROUP

Saturday December 10 - speaker Tony Sager, cybersecurity  
Saturday January 14 - speaker needed  
Saturday February 11 - Valentine's Breakfast, IHOP in Westminster  
Saturday March 11 - speaker needed  
**Saturday April 8** - speaker needed  
**Saturday May 13** - Mother's Day Breakfast, IHOP in Westminster

Please if you'd be comfortable, consider volunteering yourself for a speaking slot on a topic of interest. We've recently had presentations on travel, nature, technology, mission, charitable organizations, and estate planning,

Thanks,  
Scott

## OWLS

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"

Membership fees are \$1.00 per month and a covered dish, which may be coleslaw from the deli or a pie from the bakery. Some talented cooks may create delicious casseroles and confections, but a bag of chips will get you in the door.

OWLS meets the first Wednesday of each month from September through June in the social hall. Lunch is at noon, but we gather as early as 11 AM to help setup and to catch up on the latest gossip. There is always a lively program and you don't want to miss the fight at the Christmas Party. Dress is casual, sometimes even ridiculous. You need not be a member of Ebenezer, all bald heads and gray heads are welcome. Looking forward to seeing you at OWLS,  
Diane Biddinger

A church of  
small groups





## **YOUTH GROUP**

Youth Group welcomes all youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up!



4<sup>th</sup> - Youth group will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m.

18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas party - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Bring a wrapped gift (value \$5.00) for a gift exchange.

## **January**

8<sup>th</sup> - Game Night - 5:00 at church. Bring your favorite table game

22<sup>nd</sup> - It won't be Ice Skating...brrr... but we will go roller skating!

## **CAMP HOPE**

*The Camp Hope team wishes you a blessed Christmas and joy in the New Year!*

We will find out sometime in December what week we will be attending Camp Hope next summer. We have a good group returning and three new youth to join the team.

This fall the Camp Hope team helped nine of our congregation members with projects at their homes. We had a table at Holly Mart and the youth served as greeters at that entrance.

We continue the recycle program and our efforts this fall brought in approximately \$700.00. Aluminum remains to bring the highest yield but all metals are appreciated.

We are in need of Carroll county dump passes that come with the property taxes. We can use these when we have items that just need to be hauled away. If you do not have use for yours we would appreciate receiving them.

As the New Year approaches our group will find some creative ways to raise the funds still needed for this commitment and ministry to C.a.m.p. H.o.p.e. Thank you for your support, it means a lot.

Joyfully submitted by Nancy Thompson, coordinator



## **LEADERSHIP CHANGES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017**

Please be sure to pick up a 2017 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 2017 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2017. 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 2016. 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*



Dave & Karen Gauvin 12/18  
Curt & Cheryl Roelle 12/21/80



December:

Michael Torosky	12/3
Andy Gauvin	12/9
Amanda Brown	12/10
Eric Rapids	12/13/05
Kaylee Shipley	12/22/99
Rebecca Estes	12/22
Greg Kessinger	12/22
Derek Jones	12/23/07
Angie Jones	12/27/05
Barb Conaway	12/29

January:

Cindi Arnold	1/2
Shaun Arnold	1/3
Christy Kessinger	1/5
Steve Luetze	1/8
Valerie Paulsgrove	1/20
Steve Bergmann(Jr)	1/28
Bob Biddinger	1/28
Laura Shipley	1/30
William Streaker	1/30
Brian Middleton	1/31

## Treasurer's Tidbits

Holly Mart News : We had a very successful Holly Mart this year thanks to the hard work and dedication of a lot of people. From canning to baking to cooking to donating to volunteering to leading and especially supporting, it definitely takes a village to make this happen and be such a success. A HUGE thank you to ALL. Although not final yet, the income to date is \$13,334.04. This represents an increase from last year and also represents what a small church like Ebenezer can accomplish as we work together to share God's love. We are a blessed congregation and are very thankful. We should have a final tally at the January planning day.

Blessings to All,  
Sandy:-)

## Church Family Camping

### Rescheduled - Labor Day 2017 September 1 - 4

(No school on Monday) **CAMP HARMISON** -  
Meadow Pavilion  
Near Berkley Springs, W VA.

There is a Pavilion with a community kitchen with cooking supplies, bathhouse, large recreation field, access to Sleepy Creek and a dump station.

**Cost:** RV and pop up- \$30.00 per night up to two people, \$5 per additional person per night.

Tent: \$7.00 per night per person  
Additional \$2 per night for electric hook up.



Our food pantry, which is continuing to grow, remains a vital ministry for the community surrounding Ebenezer United Methodist Church. We continue to serve many of the same families, but each month we see new families in need of help. This ministry would not be in existence if not for the help and support of many people and organizations. I would like to thank a few of these now:

The Taylorsville/Winfield Lions Club, which supports the pantry financially and collects and donates food on a regular basis. Burrier Queen Funeral Home, which supports the pantry financially.

Thank you to the The Cleaning Authority, who so far has donated 70 bags of food they collected and still have more to donate. A huge thank you to Greg and Christy Kessinger for asking The Cleaning Authority to consider donating to our pantry during their semi annual food drive! Carroll County Food Sunday supports our pantry in many ways. They gave vouchers which our families could use at the local farmers markets this summer and they donate financially to us. Mt. Airy Middle School donated many bags of food to our pantry from a food drive they held in November. Mike Grim has made a beautiful new sign for the pantry! This will be kept up all month so folks driving by will know when

our pantry is held. Thank you Mike for making this and thanks to you and Paul Thompson for installing it. Tony Sager gave an inspirational message to our congregation (which I missed—I was on vacation). I heard from so many people about this, how it moved them to want to be a part of the food pantry ministry. Thank you Tony for this message, and thank you to all the new pantry helpers! All those of you that donate the "item of the month". These non food items are appreciated and needed by the families very much. Also, the new children's shoes that are donated by many are such a wonderful gift to these families—I wish each of you could see the joy on the children's faces when we find them a new pair of shoes!

As you can see, this ministry is supported in so many ways at Ebenezer, from financial help, physical help and those inspiring us to do God's work. Thank you to all those who help in any way!

In His love,  
Sue Bergmann

## **Rock of Help Food Pantry**

### **Non-Food item:**

**December - Toilet cleaner**



# ***Building on Our Rock of Faith Capital Campaign***

## **Approaching Local Businesses for Support**

The congregation of Ebenezer UMC very generously responded to our Capital Campaign this year. It is now time to consider asking local businesses to contribute to our efforts. If each of us is willing to approach even ONE local business in the Community, seeking a financial donation, it would make a huge difference! When asking for assistance to do the work of the Lord - never hesitate! Scripture reminds us and empowers us saying that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength. Scripture also says to love our neighbor as ourselves. There is no commandment greater than these the gospel of Mark tells us. Please prayerfully consider ways you can help us seek the support we now need from our community. Together we can take the ministries we share to a new level of service and share God's love in even greater ways in Jesus' name! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please write your name and the name of the business you plan to contact on the chart and we will send you information to utilize when asking for support. Please DO NOT approach a business until you have received a packet of information from the church office!

### **Building Fund/Capital Campaign Receipts**

*From 1/2014 Through 10/31/2016*

**Building Fund/Capital Campaign Receipts**

*From 1/2014 Through 10/31/2016*

**Building Fund/Capital Campaign Receipts**

*From 1/2014 Through 10/31/2016*



by Ellie Baublitz

## MEET RICK AND BRENDA BAKER

The Ebenezer church family is one filled with teachers and public servants - firefighters, policemen, government workers — and Rick and Brenda Baker are among those.

Rick, the son of Dick and Yvonne Baker, started as a firefighter at age 16 at Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department, where his parents were charter members. Later he switched to Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company, where he has been active for many years, including as president in the mid-1990s. He is a member of the Carroll County and Maryland State firefighters' halls of fame for his service.

He is currently semi-retired from the National Security Agency, where he trained as a signals analyst, later moving into management positions and was chief of staff of one of its organizations. While he was based at Fort Meade, the job involved much travel all over the U.S., and to Canada, England, Germany, Australia, Japan, and Scotland. "It was fun," Rick said. Occasionally, Brenda accompanied him, for instance to Hawaii,

where "I played and he worked," she laughed. He retired in May 2014, but went back doing part-time work a few months later.

Meanwhile, Brenda, originally from nearby Sandymount, was teaching regular and Adapted Physical Education at Mount Airy Middle, South Carroll High, Sykesville Middle, and ending most of her career at Westminster High. A field hockey player since her school days, she coached girls' field hockey for 22 years, winning five state championships. She also coached track and field. Since retiring, she has gotten involved in teaching fitness at the Hill Family Center Y in Westminster. She teaches both regular and classes for the special needs population of all ages from The ARC, Target Inc. and the Bureau of Aging. Through her work with the special needs population, she started coaching Special Olympics students. The special needs clients, she said, "teach me more than I teach them."

Always a huge fitness buff and sports lover, Brenda played field hockey, basketball and lacrosse at James Madison University. Enamored with the outdoors, she especially loves the nations' national parks, having visited many in her younger days with a girlfriend, and even being a park ranger for the National Park Service at Grand Teton in Wyoming for a brief period. While living in Albuquerque a few years ago for Rick's job, Brenda taught fitness in a community center and was security

for University of New Mexico athletic events.

The pair met through Rick's brother, who was a student aide to Brenda. "He said he'd like me to meet his brother, he thought I'd like him," Brenda said. They were married July 31, 1982 at St. Mary's United Church of Christ in Silver Run, in Brenda's church that she grew up in. "It was the hottest day of the year," Rick recalled. "A dog came in the door and laid down by the back pew, looking for some place cool."

Two children followed: Scott, 32, and Zachary, 29, both of whom married in 2012. Scott is an Anne Arundel County firefighter, currently an instructor at the county training academy. His wife Kirby is studying to be a nurse practitioner. She works at Hopkins, as does Zachary's wife Brittany, also a nurse. Zachary, a physical therapist working in sports medicine in Frederick, and Brittany, have two daughters, Reese, 2  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Quinn, 5 months.

The family also includes Pal, an 8-year-old rescue Lab mix. The couple have lived in Taylorsville since 1994.

Rick grew up at Ebenezer, being confirmed by Rev. Hickman and taught in Sunday school by Barbara Davis. "I started going to Ebenezer when the church sanctuary was reversed," Rick said. Later, life, as it does, got in the way with marriage, work and children and he grew away from the church. But the couple came back after attending and finding a mutual interest with lacrosse coach Rev. Rick Gray. "We felt we could

relate to him," Brenda said. Their sons, of course, grew up also playing a variety of sports.

Rick can be found working behind the scenes at church events, such as cleaning up after Holly Mart. Brenda is the scholarship chair, is on the Evangelism Committee, works with the communion servers, helps with the food pantry, and is on the Krimgold Park clean-up group. She also taught Sunday school for many years. She's especially proud of the scholarship program. "We've moved in a positive direction to help the students by increasing the length of the scholarship," Brenda said.

In their free time, the couple travel, go to their beach house in Ocean City, and attend sports games. They visited the Grand Canyon this summer when Brenda hiked down the North Rim, spent the night on the bottom, and hiked back up the South Rim, a total of 25 miles, while Rick drove around 215 miles to pick her up. "She had the easier trip," Rick joked. Brenda also bike rides, and kayaks with a group of girlfriends, and has a moose figurine collection. Rick plays golf with his buddies. On Tuesdays, they babysit the granddaughters.



# December 2016

December 2016						
◀ November 2016						January 2017 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Ebenezer Christmas Dinner 5:30 PM
4 Youth Group At Church 5:00 PM	5	6	7 OWLS 12:00 PM  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	8 WOWs Christmas Dinner 6:30 PM Salerno's	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM
11 Cantata 8:30 & 11:00 AM  Children's Church 11 AM	12 Feed My Sheep 10:30 AM	13	14  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	15	16	17 Food Pantry 9 AM – 11 AM
18 Worship 8:30 AM 11:00 AM – Children's Program  Youth Group Party At Church 5:00 PM  Cold Weather Shelter Dinner	19	20 Brinton Woods 10:30 AM	21  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	22	23	24 Worship 8:00 PM 10:00 PM
25 Worship 11:00 AM only No Sunday School  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	29	30	31



# January 2017

January 2017						
◀ December 2017						February 2017 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 11:00 AM only No Sunday School	2	3	4 OWLS 12:00 PM  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	5	6	7 Church Planning Meeting 8:30 – 12:00
8 Youth Group Game Night At Church 5:00 PM  Children's Church 11 AM	9 Feed My Sheep 10:30 AM	10	11  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	12	13	14  Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM
15	16	17 Brinton Woods 10:30 AM	18  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	19	20	21 Food Pantry 9 – 11 AM
22 Youth Group Roller Skating  Children's Church 11 AM	23	24	25  Children's Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:30	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			