

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Advent and Christmas activities are off and running! People are already shopping for that perfect gift, beginning to decorate and Christmas Cookies are in the oven.

Preparing for Christmas can be demanding with all of the things that lead up to December 25th. At times I wonder if we will get it all done. More importantly, I pray we will not lose the significance of the Christ Child's birth because of the hustle and bustle of the season. With all of the commotion of this time, we have to be intentional to keep Jesus at the center of our hearts and celebrations. If we don't pay attention, Jesus can slip out of focus and we might not even notice.

On the day of Jesus' birth there were many who didn't see the significance of God with us. People were busy living their lives. They weren't concerned about decorating and baking and wrapping gifts. However, they did have other tasks keeping them busy. Only a few discovered what God was doing in that stable in Bethlehem. The shepherds heard the Good News of Jesus' birth from angels and went to see God's gift of love. The shepherds then returned praising God and sharing the Good News of great joy with all. The Magi were far away following a star when Jesus was born. They were looking for the true King, but would arrive about two years after Jesus' birth. Those who saw Jesus would never be the same. The world was changed forever! God loved the world so much that he gave us the best gift ever...the perfect gift of love...he gave his one and only Son.

Through this time of preparation and celebration, let us truly celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth, I pray we will not miss out on what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus means for us today, tomorrow and everyday yet to come.

May we all receive the true gift of Christmas this year. In the birth of the Christ Child we are given hope, love, joy and peace: The perfect gift!

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Judy

December 2017
January 2018



4901 Woodbine Rd
Sykesville, MD
21784



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:
revjae@aol.com

Pastor:
Rev. Judy Emerson
Music Director:
Linda Bange
Secretary:
Cindi Arnold
Treasurer:
Sandy Wean
Nursery Coordinators:
Jess Middleton and
Bridgett Estes

Ebenezer United Methodist Church



Holly Mart ~ Great Success

by Meghan Estes

The Holly Mart was a huge success. Logistically the location change to the fire hall could have been an obstacle but the church came together as a whole to participate. Thank you to all; the crafters, organizers, men's group, transporters, bakers, volunteers, those who donated money, silent auction helpers, cooks, dishwashers, cleaning staff, and servers. Your time and effort was greatly appreciated. A special thanks to the Winfield fire hall, Norman Zepp and Jeanne Burrier for all their help. So many positive comments were made about the event from vendors, church members and community members. A vendor shared that she enjoyed every part of the day; from the people who helped to transport her items into the fire hall, to the music, the delicious baked goods and lunch foods, to the fantastic vendors. This day was a delightful day she shared in the midst of some bad times her and her husband had. Others shared how happy they were with the open hall and the ability to see all the vendors at the event. Also it was shared that Ebenezer Church is such a giving, kind, genuine serving and loving church. I for one have to agree. As organizer of the Holly Mart I have been able to see this in so many ways. It has been a pleasure to serve as leader of such a wonderful event. The fellowship and friendships I have gained through this have been priceless to me. I can truly say God led me to take on this leadership task 3 years ago and though I was skeptical I persevered through it. It has led me to observe how Ebenezer Church members work as a family together to serve the Lord. I feel so blessed to be a part of this church.

Holly Mart Thank You

by Cheri Holl

A wise person once said that whatever we possess becomes of double value when we share it with others. I know this saying to be true because I witnessed it while working the Holly Mart. So, I am writing this brief note to express my thanks to ALL the volunteers who shared their God giving talents in Christian love.

I am especially thankful for all those who supported the kitchen by donating food items, volunteering their time, and to those who prepared the delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts for the event. We sure do have a lot of talented cooks and bakers at Ebenezer! Several shoppers remarked on how scrumptious the food was and were astounded to hear that all the food was homemade. A special thanks to Sandy Wean for mentoring and partnering with me in running the kitchen and for those who volunteered their time in the kitchen on Saturday. We served 180 sandwiches, 245 bowls of soup, 125 slices of pie, 25 apple dumplings and 211 drinks to over 200 shoppers. Again, thanks to all who volunteered during the Holly Mart! Your tireless devotion to our congregation to support programs for our community is such a blessing to all.

May grace and blessing be with you always,
Cheri Holl, Holly Mart Kitchen Team member

Holly Mart Crafts

by Linda Bennett

Thanks to all for the help to make the Holly Mart crafts a success again this year. Special thanks for craters and transporters to and from the Fire Hall. We have set up a Holiday Shop in the back of the Social Hall and craft room for last minute gifts. We will pack up remaining crafts in January. Thanks again to everyone!

Holly Mart craft team

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time.



WOWS Updates by Sharon Torosky

Now is a time we need God's people to lift our prayer petitions to our Heavenly Father. We only need to look at our own congregation and the world situation to know we are in desperate need for healing, comfort and peace. Join us each month on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM to voice our concerns and bring us closer to our gracious Father who loves us so.

We will be celebrating this glorious Christmas season with our annual Christmas Dinner at Salerno's Restaurant on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 PM. For those who wish to participate in our gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift to exchange. A signup sheet will be in the narthex. We look forward to a fun time of celebration and fellowship.

Our next meetings will be January 18th and February 15th. Our annual Women's Retreat will be on March 9-11, 2018. More info on our Soup and Salad fundraiser in February will follow.

Blessing to everyone and their families as we Celebrate the birth of our beloved Savior.

Men's Group Updates by Scott Murchie

The schedule for the rest of 2017-2018 meetings hosted by the Ebenezer Men's Group is:

Meeting - Saturday, Dec. 9th, 8:30 AM - in Fellowship Hall - speaker David Scott on the middle eastern refugee crisis.

Meeting - Saturday Jan. 13th, 8:30 AM - Administrative Council Annual Planning meeting. Breakfast served at 8:30 AM, meeting 9:00-12:00.

Meeting - Saturday Feb. 10th, 8:30 AM - Take out your Spouse Breakfast for Valentine's Day, at IHOP in Westminster.

Meeting - Saturday Mar. 10th, 8:30 AM - speaker Ed Leister of Carroll County Food Sunday will tell us about their operation. Either we'll meet in Fellowship Hall, or alternatively at Baugher's and after breakfast head to the central warehouse at 10 Distillery Drive for a behind the scenes tour. To be decided at the December meeting.

Meeting - Saturday Apr. 14th, 8:30 AM - in Fellowship Hall - speaker TBD

Meeting - Saturday May 12, 8:30 AM - Take out your Spouse Breakfast for Mother's Day, at IHOP in Westminster

This year we're again providing dinner one Sunday per month at the Cold Weather Shelter in Westminster, which is open to guests from Nov. 15 through March. 31. On our first Sunday, Nov. 19, we hosted and fed about 20 guests and gave them take-out breakfasts. During colder weather typically, we feed ~35 people. The guests REALLY appreciate our help. Future dates are:

- CWS dinner - Sunday, Dec. 17 - also handing out Blessings Bags
- CWS dinner - Sunday, Jan. 21
- CWS dinner - Sunday, Feb. 18
- CWS dinner - Sunday, Mar. 18



OWLS by Diane Biddinger

Luncheons
Wednesday, December 6th
Wednesday, January 3rd

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

Church and Society Fall Update

by Janet Davis

Our Halloween treat bags were a BIG hit with the children at the Board of Child Care. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to the youth - of all ages ☺ who bagged up the treats. The Thanksgiving food was delivered just in time for the holiday and again my thanks to all for the generous spirit of giving. So many in our community have been recipients of our love. And now, it's time to buy gifts for children in need. Please check out the tree and the sign-up sheet. We need food and gifts. Thank you ALL.



LEADERSHIP CHANGES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018

Please be sure to pick up a 2018 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 2018 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2018. 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 2017. 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

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) 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. A box is located in the narthex over the coat rack.

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Grim [410-489-7455](tel:410-489-7455) or by email at robertgrim@comcast.net



Administrative Council Annual Planning Day! Saturday, January 13, 2018 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Planning Day. On Saturday, January 13, 2018, 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 2017 and set goals for 2018. All leaders and members of the church are encouraged to attend. We will conclude this gathering promptly at 12:00 Noon! Please join us.

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!!



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.



C.A.M.P. H.O.P.E. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Matthew

During this Christmas season we can easily get “wrapped up” in the hustle and bustle of things to do. Lists become filled with things we feel are important and do not want to forget. We look for ways to let the friends and family in our lives know that we appreciate them. The joy that comes from special gatherings, concerts, family dinners and worship, are only a few of the blessings we count as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Our experiences from this past summer in western Maryland resurface as we think about our families that may be struggling with everyday things they need. Their lists can certainly be like ours, but they also are concerned about food on the table, warmth in the home, and getting through the winter that lies ahead of them.

As we end this year of 2017 we thank you for your support in our endeavors of fundraising. You are a part of helping others you may never have the opportunity to meet. We look forward to next year (2018) as we continue our preparations for our trip again to western Maryland and the project of serving through C.A.M.P. H.O.P.E.

If you have any questions about this mission project, please feel free to contact me.

May your Christmas season bring you many blessings of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.
Merry Christmas!

Nancy Thompson, Coordinator for EUMC Camp Hope team
Christian Appalachian Mountain Project
Helping Other People Enthusiastically

Rock of Help
Food Pantry
Non-Food item:

December - fabric softener
(liquid or sheets)
January - laundry detergent



**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**

Sunday December 24th at the 10:00 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 at

[410-795-2890](tel:410-795-2890) or juliejones3@comcast.net



Treasurer's Tidbits

by Sandy Wean

SCRIP Gift Card Program

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the Gift Card program. We have already made over \$150 profit from our sales. And we are just getting started! Please consider participating in this very easy program to benefit Ebenezer's mission. See Susan Brown for questions or more information.



EBENEZER'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

Winfield Fire Hall
Saturday, December 2, 2017
5:30 PM Appetizers
6:00 PM Buffet Dinner

Gentle Reminders on ways to save on electric usage during the colder months:

Please make sure that the heat in the Sunday School rooms is turned off when not using those rooms (with the exception of the nursery.)

Please keep the kitchen door closed at all times. The mini-split unit in the kitchen is set for best efficiency and should not be changed.

Please keep the fellowship hall doors shut and the mini-split units turned off when rooms are not in use.

Please make sure that the men's/ladies room doors are shut at all times.

If you are the last one to leave the building, please double check that heat and lights are off and all outside doors are locked.

We sincerely appreciate your help keeping our electrical costs down and keeping our building secure.

Finances

General Fund

As our giving continues on target through the end of the year, we will be blessed with another year of solvency and generosity. I give thanks for all the ways that our congregation shares their blessings throughout the year and especially during the holidays. Not only financially, but also by sharing your talents, your time, and your expertise in so many areas. We are very blessed congregation.

Capital Campaign

Our Capital Campaign fund continues to grow ahead of schedule (see chart attached). If you have reached your pledge amount and would like to continue contributions to this effort, please make sure to annotate your additional giving with "Building Fund" so the contribution is deposited into the correct fund. Thank you.

**Wishing you and yours a blessed and joyous holiday season
with peace & cheer in the New Year!**

Sandy

FOOD PANTRY NEWS



DECEMBER

Julie Jones	12/1
Michael Torosky	12/3
Norman Zepp	12/9
Andy Gauvin	12/9
Amanda Brown	12/10
Eric Rapids	12/13
Nancy Thompson	12/17
Scott Murchie	12/17
Kyle Middleton	12/20
Kaylee Shipley	12/22
Rebecca Estes	12/22
Greg Kessinger	12/22
Derek Jones	12/23
Angie Jones	12/27
Barb Conaway	12/29

JANUARY

Cindi Arnold	1/2
Shaun Arnold	1/3
Christy Kessinger	1/5
Debbie Rivera	1/6
Steve Lulette	1/8
Kayla Middleton	1/11
Valerie Paulsgrove	1/20
Valerie Hyer	1/27
Steve Bergmann (jr)	1/28
Bob Biddinger	1/28
Laura Shipley	1/30
William Streaker	1/30
Brian Middleton	1/31



DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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

Our food pantry continues to help about 50 families each month. So many of these families are just getting by and really appreciate our help. Thank you to all at our church who help in the many ways that are needed to keep the pantry running! We have so many willing volunteers that we are going to implement a new system in 2018 so all can get a chance to help.

We will have an "A team" and a "B team" sign up for our pantry days. People who sign up for the "A team" will help in January, March, May, July, September and November. The "B team" will help in February, April, June, August, October and December. If we don't fill all the slots for each team, then people that want to help each month can sign up for both teams. If you are signed up and know of a month you can't help, you can see if one of the other team members can switch with you. I'm hoping with this system we can include all people that want to help. I will also have a list of people that want to help occasionally who can fill in when needed.

We also need help on the Fridays before the pantry day with set up of tables and donated clothing. We usually meet around 9-9:30 AM and are done in one to two hours, depending on the amount of people that come to help. Look for the signup sheet in the Narthex.

There will be a planning meeting on Sunday, December 5 at 10:30 AM for the Christmas breakfast we will serve the families on Saturday, December 16. If you can help with serving the breakfast or with making something, please try to attend this meeting or email me at sue_bergmann@yahoo.com

Our church continues to provide "snack packs" once a month to 8 families whose children attend Winfield Elementary school. Thank you for donations of kid friendly food items that we pack for them.

If anyone would like to help with the Panera bread pick up on Sunday mornings, let me know. Once in awhile I have something planned and can't pick up. Thank you so much to Jim and Nancy Huff for helping me this year after surgery and several other times.

If you have any questions about our food pantry. Please feel free to email me!

In His love,
Sue Bergmann

**Ebenezer United
Methodist Church**
4901 Woodbine Road
Sykesville MD 21784
Ebenezerumchurch.org

UNWRAP THE TRUE MEANING WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

Join us for our Christmas Services

Sunday,
December 17th
Join our Chancel
Choir as they lead
worship with their
Christmas Cantata.



Sunday,
December 24th
One morning Service Only
Children's Christmas Program
at 10:00 AM



Sunday,
December 24th
Traditional Service at
8:00 PM
Candlelight Service at
10:00 PM



Sunday,
December 31st
One Service Only
10:00 AM



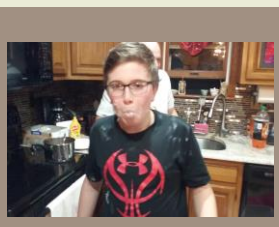
Sunday School News

The 6th & 7th grade Sunday School is having fun growing in faith. We've read some amazing Bible stories, made artwork for our walls, played games and last week we went on a scavenger hunt at our church. Look at those smiling faces...



United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Donuts on a string



UMYF ~ 6TH & 7TH

by Cyndi Diethrich

The 6th & 7th grade UMYF has been having a blast. We're spending time together in Christian fellowship. We have made goodie bags for the food pantry, baked cookies for the church Christmas dinner, and played lots of silly games...

Upcoming events:

December 10th, we will meet after church. Possibly doing Christmas crafts but I am also looking into going to see The Star

January 14th, we will meet after church and have our secret Santa gift exchange and our after-Christmas party

January 28th will be a movie at the Kessinger's house. Miss Shannon & Miss Cyndi will both be out of town at ROCK

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

by Nancy Thompson

December 10th – gathering at church following the late service

January 14th – Will be our first meeting in the New Year!

January 26-28 – ROCK retreat in Ocean city.

If you are here, you are awesome.