

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4901 Woodbine Road

Sykesville, Maryland 21784

Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor

Linda Bange, Music Director/Organist

March 8, 2020

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

The Second Sunday in Lent

WELCOME

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In our lesson from the gospel of John, we hear about Nicodemus, a figure used to represent a type of person who wants to believe but has difficulty understanding spiritual realities. Jesus tells him that individuals cannot enter the kingdom of God unless they are born anew through water and the Spirit. This Lenten season is a time for each of us to prayerfully consider the spiritual realities that challenge us each day.

THE PRELUDE *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”* J.S. Bach

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to know again who you are as God’s children.

We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.

Let us venture together, daring to feel the winds of God’s Spirit.

We are excited to open ourselves to God’s leading!

Come, people of God, to know again who you are as God’s children!

*HYMN *“Blessed Assurance”* UMH No. 369

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we enter the adventure of faithful living with pioneers of the faith. With Abraham and Sarah, we open ourselves to your call into unknown places and among unfamiliar people. Help us to trust you enough that we will not shrink from the challenges presented to us each day. We await your word with eager attention. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have blessed us abundantly with many resources, but we have wasted them, complained and asked for more benefits and protection. We have considered the things we have as ours to be used for our own benefit. It is hard to hear the message that all we have, even life itself, belongs to you and is to be invested in your service. When you call us to leave our safe places to serve you or to give up our wealth for the sake of others, we are frightened. We turn away from the cost of discipleship, seeking to enjoy the benefits of faith without opening ourselves to its risks and challenges. Forgive us, O God, and give us the courage of our convictions. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE AND PARDON

Hear the promises that come to us from God through ancient words of faith: Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered. Again, it is written, “God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” We can step into the unknown in the faith that God goes with us and provides for us. Praise be to God! We are forgiven!

SUNG RESPONSE *“In His Time”* TFWS No. 2203

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 12:1-4 OT pg. 9

This lesson is the story of God’s call to Abraham (then known as Abram) to leave his own country and become the father of a great nation.

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:1-17 NT pg. 88

In our Gospel we hear about Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, who comes during the night to talk with Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

DUET (8:30 AM) *“On Eagles Wings”* Brenda Seibly & Mindy Coates

SERMON *“Nick at Night!”* Rev. Judy Emerson

HYMN *“Into My Heart”* TFWS No. 2160

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.

GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Offertory (11:00 AM)

“Walk by Faith”

Chancel Choir

*Presentation of Gifts

*Doxology

UMH No. 95

**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts.
Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, may the gifts we offer and the lives we are living proclaim your rule among all people, beginning in our midst and extending through all your world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“Because He Lives”

UMH No. 364

*BLESSING WITH DISMISSAL

*POSTLUDE

TFWS=*The Faith We Sing Hymnal*
UMH=*The United Methodist Hymnal*
* = *Congregation stands as able*



Welcome to Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Website: 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
March 8, 2020

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
Treasurer: Sandy Wean

Secretary: Cindi Arnold
Nursery Coordinator: Jess Middleton
Nursery Coordinator: Lisa Humphries

Notes

Nursery for Infants through Kindergarten is every Sunday at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM.
Children's Church for Pre-K through 5th Grades is the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 11:00 AM
The Attendance Roster is at the end of each pew. Please sign in and pass it to others.

2020 Regular Offering Summary				Attendance Last Week 235
	Actual	Budget	Difference	
3/1/20	8,965.00	4,290.38	4,674.62	
Year to Date	51,770.25	38,613.42	13,156.83	

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, March 8 th	Children's Church	11:00 AM
	Youth Group – Jones home	4:00 PM
Monday, March 9 th	Feed My Sheep	10:30 AM
Wednesday, March 11 th	Children's Choir – Room #3	6:30 PM
	Chancel Choir	7:30 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR MUSIC – Today's music is dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Darlene Carlock.

NEWSLETTER – Articles for the April-May newsletter need to be turned in to the church office by Monday, March 23rd.

MARCH MENS GROUP – Instead of meeting as previously announced Saturday March 14th, the Men's Group will have a volunteer morning Saturday March 21st, hosting breakfast for Food Pantry customers and assisting with the Food Pantry. More details will circulate by email.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER – The Men's Group is supporting the Cold Weather Shelter in Westminster on Sunday March 15 with a hot home-made dinner for the last time this winter season.

YOUTH GROUP – Please note the following date changes. March 8th, the youth group will meet at the Jones home from 4 – 7 PM. They meet again on March 22nd at church from 4 – 5:30 PM.

NEWCOMERS! – Have you considered becoming a member of Ebenezer UMC? If you are interested in learning more about joining the church, please contact Rev. Judy at revjae@aol.com or by calling the church office.

VBS – “Knights of North Castle” will be invading our new church on August 16th through 20th. Put it on your calendar now so you don't miss it. If you are interested in helping out – please shoot me an email. We will meet later this month. Cindi – eumcwinfield@gmail.com.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY - “ON THE ROAD AGAIN” A Faith Journey

Each lesson of this six-week study includes a Scripture reference, a brief reflection, questions for reflection, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. We will meet in the adult Sunday School Classroom each Sunday from 9:45 AM until 10:45 AM through April 5, 2020. Join us when you can.

ENGRAVED PAVERS – It's not too late! We will continue offering pavers until we run out. Pavers can be inscribed with your name or the name of a loved one. They can be donated in memory of someone, in honor of someone or just because! Please see the order forms for more information. They are located on the bulletin board.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER – Easiest fundraiser EVER! Order gift cards to places you frequent...grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, local shopping stores. You'll have 'money' in your pocket AND support our church. Orders are placed at least twice a month. Order forms are available in the narthex or go to ShopwithScrip.com and see a more extensive selection! Contact Susan Brown with any questions stmpnsusan@aol.com.