

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

December 2020 - January 2021



4901 Woodbine Rd
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-795-6136

www.ebenezerumchurch.org

**Join us for Sunday Worship
on Facebook**

*Ebenezer United Methodist
Church Worship Services*

**Adult Sunday School class
held on Zoom**

**Children's Church is posted
every Saturday evening on
Facebook**

Church Office Hours
Wed – Thurs
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
Lisa Humphries

From the Pastor's Desk

As I look back to the beginning of last year's season of Advent, we were finishing up the final touches on our building construction. I was recovering from having both knees replaced and we were preparing for our move out of the parsonage. Our focus and our energy remained on completing the building and how we would use this incredible place for ministry. It was a crazy and exciting time of expectation. As I look back, I am so thankful at how well our congregation worked together, adapted and remained flexible throughout the entire process. Now, a year later, we have a beautiful new building, my knees are much better and God has blessed us with an abundance of hope and expectation for how we can serve.

None of us anticipated being faced with a pandemic that would keep us from fully using this new space. I believe we have all done our best to be flexible and adapt to our challenging circumstances as we have continued to serve through the ministries of the church in new ways. We were blessed to celebrate our new building with a wonderful open house and worship celebration in March of 2020 before locking the building due to a pandemic. In the midst of Covid-19 we were still able to rejoice and celebrate the sacrament of baptism and holy communion this year. We received new members into our community of faith this summer. We also grieved the loss of beloved members, remembering and celebrating their lives. We had the joy of confirming 13 youth in a unique way. None of these events occurred as we would have wanted them to happen because of the limitations of the coronavirus. Yet we still adapted and worked together. We continued to be a community of faith in ministry together, we continued to be the church. Our church was never closed! We simply found new ways to worship, study and serve. Jesus tells us we are to "make disciples" and "be witnesses to the truth to the ends of the earth". There is nothing unique about this as a priority, but what is unique is how we respond in the midst of our unexpected limited circumstances right now.

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. At the heart of Christmas is the simple truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ. In coming into our lives Christ saves us from sin and death by reconciling us to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation of Jesus' coming ... and our watchful, hopeful, waiting for his appearing. So, as you look forward to this season, rather than thinking about what we cannot do together, I ask that you consider how God is preparing you for the arrival of the Christ Child. Keep awake and alert for signs of God's kingdom. Keep faith in God's presence in all situations. Keep hope that God brings good out of darkness. At the same time though, expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of this gift and open your hearts and minds to all God has in store for you in the coming year.

I pray we will all have a healthy, happy and faith-filled Advent and Christmas Season as we approach the new year together. May we see an end to Covid-19 soon trusting that whatever 2021 may bring, God is with us!

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Judy

HOLLY MART

As you know, due to the pandemic, Ebenezer had to cancel our Holly Mart for 2020. The Holly Mart is the largest fundraiser for our church. Many people stepped up to chair and help with opportunities to help raise money in other ways. We had a Rada knife sale; Pie, Cake and Dumpling Sale; Cookie and Candy Sale; and Joe Corbi Pizza. We were also able to have the Jam/Jelly sale that we look forward to each year and sell a limited number of craft items. We will continue to have other fundraising opportunities after the first of the year.

I wanted to thank the chairpersons of the fundraisers that we have had these past several months: Sandy Wean, Laura Scott, Linda Bennett, Melissa Pollock, and Cindi Arnold, as well as the many volunteers who helped with these events.

The final income totals are not in as of the time of this writing but should be soon. What we do know is our church family is extremely generous and have made the fundraisers very successful.

We look forward to next year when these dark days are behind us and we can safely continue our Holly Mart tradition. Blessings to you and your family.

Valerie Hyer

Please continue to enjoy our Worship Services on Facebook each Sunday. As things in our world are changing, we are adapting our plans as well. At this time, we will not be meeting in person. Please stay tuned for updates.



January – Laundry Detergent
February - Shampoo/Conditioner
March – Toilet Paper
April – Household Cleaners (Mr. Clean, etc.)
May – Deodorant
June – Body Wash/Soap
July – Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
August – Liquid Dish Soap
September – Paper Towels
October – Toilet Cleaner
November – Bleach
December – Fabric Softener (liquid/dryer sheets)

Treasurer's Tidbits



Well 2020 continues to be a challenging and busy year. And we continue to be amazingly blessed by the generosity and dedication of this congregation. Through your offerings, your support of the fundraisers, and gift card purchases, our budget is in good shape. As of the writing of this message, our financial status is on target to show expenses under budget and income over budget. We have had many areas of expenses that have come in under budget due to the decrease in building usage, less supplies needed, and not as many activities during the year. However, we have had other areas requiring increased spending due to the pandemic, i.e., hand sanitizer machines, masks, thermometers, hand sanitizer liquids, etc.

--Here are the current budget numbers through mid-November:

Offering Income:	\$222,631	Expenses to Date:	\$210,683
Non-Offering Income:	\$ 9,892	Net Income/Loss:	\$ 21,840
Total Income:	\$232,523	PPP Loan:	\$ 29,400

--Our Fundraisers (in lieu of our cancelled Holly Mart) have been a huge success. Starting with the Jams & Jellies, Joe Corbis, Rada Knives, Pies/Cakes/Dumplings, crafts (scrubbies/greeting cards) and now the Cookies & Candy, we are on target to profit over \$5,000. Final tallies will be available after all fundraisers are completed and expenses paid. Thanks to everyone who supported these efforts by purchasing items, donating monies, or making these goodies. Even in a Covid environment, we were able to safely offer these events.

--Our Amazon Smile profits to date for 2020 equals \$414 and our Gift Card Profit to date for 2020 equals \$1,843. Thank you for your continued support of these programs as these profits contribute towards our LOC expense.

--I have been in touch with PNC bank and we are still waiting for our invitation to apply for forgiveness of our PPP loan. Due to many changes to the PPP Program, the on-line software is continually changing, and this in turn delays our ability to submit our paperwork for the forgiveness. I'll update you on this program again at Planning Day in January.

--I will be working on closing the books for 2020, preparing reports for years end, and setting up the system for 2021. This information will be presented at the Planning Day in January.

--After our message in the last newsletter, I have seen an increase in giving using the Online Bill Pay. Just as a reminder, this is an easy way to send in your offering without having to mail your offering, or drop it by church, or even remembering to do it. You can establish Ebenezer as a vendor in your bank's Bill Pay system and schedule a regular payment at whatever frequency you choose. There is no charge to you for this service and Ebenezer does not incur any fees. You don't even need a stamp. If you have any questions or need help setting this up, please contact me and I'll be happy to help.

--Our Charge Conference was very different from prior years. Through ZOOM, there were 55 participants and a very good message from J.W. Parks, District Superintendent. All of our documents were submitted and approved during this zoom meeting.

Sending all of you my very best wishes for a safe, healthy, happy, and blessed Holiday Season. And prayers for a Covid-free 2021.

God Bless,

Sandy:-)

CHURCH & SOCIETY – Janet Davis

CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM FOR 2020

This year we will be providing gifts to a few local families and Springfield Hospital Center in Eldersburg. The need is great for the residents with mental health issues and the Church & Society committee thought this would be an excellent way to give back to our local community. As we are not meeting in our usual physical format at church, we are planning to use a software program this year to track the donations. Most items have a number next to them to show how many are needed so you can sign up for more than one if you are able! If you have any issues using the tool or have any questions about the donations, contact either Susan Brown (Stmpnsusan@aol.com) or Janet Davis (jedavis711@comcast.net). Gifts should not be wrapped and can be dropped off at the church on Wednesdays or Thursdays during office hours when Cindi is there. Donations are due by **December 10th, 2020**.

The software we are using is called Sign up Genius.

You can click here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4AADA723AA8-christmas>

Put a mark beside the item you plan to donate and your name, etc. as the software requests. If you do not have a computer and are seeing this in hard copy, just contact one of us and let one of us know what you would like to donate. Thank you so much for your support to this worthwhile effort. Merry Christmas to all and God Bless!

RESCHEDULING OF MULTI- CONGREGATION MEN'S GROUP RETREAT

For the last couple of years, the Ebenezer Men's Group has joined with several other central Maryland UMC congregations for joint Fall Men's retreats. This Fall, on account of uncertainties due to COVID-19, the annually scheduled Fall retreat has been rescheduled to April 2021. Here is the latest communication for the retreat coordinator:

“Given the uncertainty of re-opening in time for our November retreat and the fact that many of our participants are at higher risk due to age or health concerns, it has been decided that our retreat will be postponed. We have reserved the **weekend of April 16-18, 2021 for the Men's Retreat at Manidokan**. Please put those dates on your calendar.

Hopefully, everyone can attend. We'll have more communication in the spring.”

LEADERSHIP CHANGES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021

Please be sure to pick up a 2021 Church Leadership Roster in the church office. 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 2021 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2021. 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 2020. 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 9, 2021 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Planning Day. On Saturday, January 9, 2021, we will gather via Zoom. At 9:00 AM we will begin our meeting where we will celebrate our shared ministry in 2020 and set goals for 2021. All leaders and members of the church are encouraged to attend. The link will be sent closer to the date. If things change before then, we will try to meet in person. Stay tuned.

GREETING CARD RECYCLING

Do you toss your greeting cards or recycle them? The ARC of Carroll County uses all types of greeting cards (not just Christmas cards) and are now accepting them for projects with their clients. ARC will also now take the entire card. Christmas seems to be the time of year we receive more cards, so we will collect cards beginning the end of November (around Thanksgiving) until the end of January. The box is located in the church office.

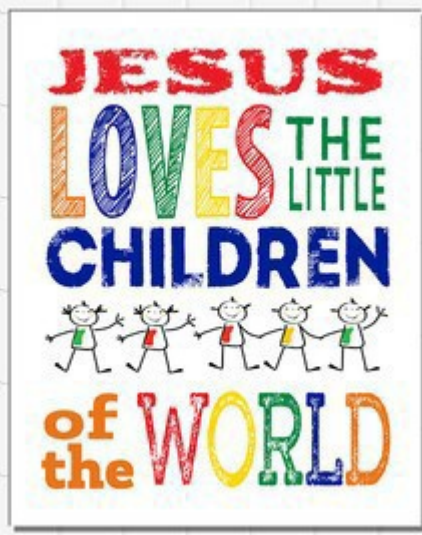
This is a good way for others to get some use from our cards that would otherwise end up in the trash. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Grim 410-489-7455 or by email at robertgrim@comcast.net

CHANGES TO THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER PROGRAM IN WESTMINSTER

In recent years, the Cold Weather Shelter opened November 15th and then closed on or about March 31st every year, and Ebenezer has been one of the community groups to provide and serve dinner 1 night per month.

Beginning this winter, operations have been extended around the clock for 6 months October 1st through March 31st. In addition the shelter has moved to a new space, in the basement of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 17 Bond St., Westminster.

Ebenezer is still providing dinner the 3rd Sunday of each month. In a change from past practices driven by COVID, we are preparing covered dishes of food and/or trays of individually wrapped items and bringing them to the church where CWS staff do the serving. If you are able contribute food, please let Scott Murchie know by emailing him at scott.murchie@jhuapl.edu. Thus far during October and November we have had a good core team. If you could indicate what types of dishes (main, side, salad, dessert) you are interested in, please do.



ADVENT WITH CHILDREN

Things are looking a bit different this year, so we have adapted. We have mailed or delivered Advent materials to all our elementary kids. Included was a Christmas book titled "On the Way to Bethlehem". Please spend time with your children following the advent calendars and join Mrs. Hare on Sunday, December 20th on facebook as she reads this story to the children.

While Sunday School does look a bit different this year, our teachers are reaching out in creative ways. If your child is not currently in contact with a teacher, please reach out to them. Many thanks for their efforts to keep our youth engaged.

Preschool : Sandy Biddinger & Valerie Hyer

K-1-2-3: Joanne Davis & Lynn Baker

4-5: Julie Jones

6-7: Cindi & Dave Arnold

8-9-10: Cyndi & Doug Diethrich

11-12: Bill Jones

Children's Church continues to be offered online every Saturday evening.

Join Mrs. Barbara Hare as she tells her bible stories and keeps our kids (as well as some adults!) engaged. Thank you, Mrs. Hare, for your dedicated ministry.



The middle school youth group enjoyed a bonfire here at the church in October. Along with pumpkin carving and smores, some much needed fellowship was enjoyed. They had so much fun, we decided to do it again in early November. We unfortunately had to cancel our last attempt, but will continue to find ways of staying in touch.



Not to be outdone...the Confirmation Class had their own bonfire. Again...fellowship and being silly is so important.





WALL CALENDAR

\$6.00 EACH
STILL AVAILABLE
CONTACT CINDI

OFFERING

Generosity
changes everything

Thank you for your faithful giving throughout the pandemic. In response to your request, we have added a locked box outside the kitchen door where you can leave your offering when the church office is not open. Online giving is another option and is available through bill pay through your bank.



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 still support our church. Orders are placed at least twice a month. Order forms are available in the office or go to ShopwithScrip.com and see a more extensive selection! Contact Susan Brown with any questions stmpnsusan@aol.com

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	1/2

PICKLE, JAM & JELLY SALE

So many thanks to everyone who took the time and effort to can to support the Pickle, Jam and Jelly Sale. It is very much appreciated by the other canners and I'm sure by all those who purchase and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Our continued success depends on everyone in the congregation who purchased canned goods for themselves and as gifts for others. Although the sale looked very different this year, it went very well. Thanks to everyone who made it such a success.



BLESSINGS BAGS

Ebenezer will still be participating in putting together Blessings Bags for the shelter this year. Due to the pandemic, we are not asking for the items to be donated. We will however accept monetary donations from now until December 10th if you would like to participate. The items will be ordered in bulk and our team will put the bags together and deliver them to the shelter on December 20th. Donations can be mailed or dropped at the church (Wednesdays and Thursdays or any time in the locked box). Please mark them for Blessings Bags.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

The Blessing Bag Missions Team



BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Julie Jones	12/1
Peggy McClelland	12/1
Michael Torosky	12/3
Frank Zamostny	12/5
Norman Zepp	12/9
Amanda Brown	12/10
Dan Newcomer	12/12
Eric Rapids	12/13
Gerry Bennett	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
Bella Mosko	12/27
Barb Conaway	12/29

JANUARY

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