

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 21, 2025

BLUE CHRISTMAS – TODAY. The celebration of the birth of Christ and the holiday season brings joy to the world. Yet many of us also carry deep sadness. Memories of loved ones lost, loneliness, struggles with health or family, or the pressures of work and finances don't disappear simply because the season is joyful. We will gather quietly in the EUMC Sanctuary on the 21st to pause, reflect, and pray—about our own losses and struggles, for healing and hope in our lives, and for all who face similar circumstances. We will also give thanks for the many blessings that God continues to place before us. Lay Leaders, Susan & Tony Sager

SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL GIFTS – Thank you once again for your generous gifts to help those at Springfield Hospital. They were thrilled with our donations and said they will be put to very good use. Your generosity is always astounding.

EBENEZER CRUISERS – There is now less than a year before our cruise! If you have procrastinated and not made your reservation yet, there is still time. Please get your deposit in and join us for this great time of fellowship and fun. For reservations and questions about pricing and availability, please contact Linda Dayhoff at dayoff@comcast.net or 410-875-2093.

NIGHT BY NIGHT SHELTER - A number of people have asked if the Night by Night Shelter needs any supplies beyond food. They do various drives throughout the year to support all of their programs which you can find at <https://hspinc.org/>. For supplies for the shelters and street outreach, they maintain an Amazon Wish List at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/29KCQC7PAVOL6?ref_=wl_fw_le. Please note that some items are seasonal. They cannot accept used mattresses or used baby items, including swings, saucers, walkers, and car seats. Thank you if you can help!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS – This year for the holiday season, a special space is set aside on the bulletin board in the narthex for sharing Christmas cards with the church family. You are warmly invited to post your own Christmas card in this area. By adding your card, you can extend your heartfelt greeting to fellow members and enjoy reading the messages others have shared as we celebrate together.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PLANNING DAY – Monday, January 12, 2026, from 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM. Bring a covered dish to share and we will eat and meet as we plan programs, fundraisers and activities for 2026. We will finish promptly at 8:30 PM! Come join us!



Today - 8:30 AM Chancel Choir Cantata

11:00 AM Children's Pageant

7:00 PM Blue Christmas - Sanctuary

Dec. 24th - 8:00 PM Worship Service with Music by The Chancel Choir

10:00 PM Candlelight Service with Special Music

Dec. 28th - One Service **ONLY** at 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hall

Jan. 4th - Birthday Party for Jesus during Sunday School - Fellowship Hall

Noon - Taking Down Christmas Decorations

Jan 12th - Planning Day 6:00 - 8:30 PM - Potluck dinner



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Church Office: 410-795-6136

Website: ebenezerumchurch.org

Email: eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Pastor's Email: revjae@aol.com

Office Hours

Tues - Thurs 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM to Noon

Worship

8:30 AM Service in Sanctuary

9:45 – 10:45 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:00 AM Service in Sanctuary

WORSHIP LEADERS	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Ushers	Rocky Mabry & Rick Byrd	Doug & Cyndi Diethrich
Acolyte	Kyle Flater	Derek Jones
DATE	EVENT	TIME
TODAY	Chancel Choir Cantata Children's Pageant Blue Christmas	8:30 AM 11:00 AM 7:30 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 24 th	Christmas Eve Services	8:00 & 10:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 28 th	One Service Only – Fellowship Hall Children's Church	11:00 AM

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**4901 Woodbine Road
Sykesville, Maryland 21784
(410)795-6136**

*Rev. Judith A. Emerson, Pastor
Linda Bange, Director of Music/Organist
8:30 AM*

***Order of Worship
December 21, 2025***

4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

Welcome to Ebenezer United Methodist Church. God meets us in these moments with the hope that new insights may lead to faithful obedience. May God speak to all through the Word-made-flesh that we will experience God's grace, peace, and love through this time of worship. Let us begin in silent prayer.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We who seek signs are summoned once more to God's house.

We want assurance, protection and rewards for faithfulness.

God does not bargain with us, the gift of Emmanuel is for all.

Come, O come, Emmanuel!

Let us celebrate God's gift of love that comes to us in Jesus Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

UMH No. 246

OPENING PRAYER

Amazing God of love, we do not always understand your ways, but we are drawn to worship you. Our world makes us fearful, but you, O God, comfort your people. Give us the strength we need to choose what is good and true. Through this time of worship, we pray you will equip us to make choices pleasing to you. Help us to follow your ways and not our own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Scripture Reading from Isaiah 7:10-16

The Candle of Love

Lighting Advent Candle I, II, III & IV

Sung Response

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH No. 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Call to Reflection

Let All Mortal Keep Silence

Hodie, A Christmas Fanfare; Sing on this Day

Prophecy, Hope and Anticipation

People Look East

We are Waiting

Birth of the True Light

Almost There

Is There Room?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Requests

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.

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Announcements

Offertory (11:00 AM)

*Presentation of Gifts

*Doxology

“Praise God!”

Tune: UMH No. 95

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.

Praise God for gifts of joy and love.

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

on earth for us – Emmanuel.

Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Redeeming God, you sent us your messenger, John the Baptist, to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming of Christ. Multiply these gifts to echo his message of your greatness and glory. We pray to your glory forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Joy to God’s People

And Glory Shone Around

What Can I Give Him?

Carols of Christmas

Mary, Go Tell It!

Hodie, A Christmas Fanfare, Reprise

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

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We want assurance, protection and rewards for faithfulness.

God does not bargain with us, the gift of Emmanuel is for all.

Come, O come, Emmanuel!

Let us celebrate God's gift of love that comes to us in Jesus Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH No. 234

OPENING PRAYER

Amazing God of love, we do not always understand your ways, but we are drawn to worship you. Our world makes us fearful, but you, O God, comfort your people. Give us the strength we need to choose what is good and true. Through this time of worship, we pray you will equip us to make choices pleasing to you. Help us to follow your ways and not our own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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ADVENT SCRIPTURES

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

O Come Let Us Adore Him

(Singing the first and last stanzas of each hymn)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel

"Away in a Manger"

Shepherds, Sheep

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"We Three Kings"

Wisemen

"Silent Night"

"Joy to the World"

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**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace.
Praise God for gifts of joy and love.
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
on earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

God of love, teach us how to listen for your call in our lives. Teach us how to be faithful stewards with the gifts you have entrusted to us. Teach us how to use this offering as a source of your ministry and mission. Teach us how to behold the miracles all around us. In the name of the greatest teacher, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

UMH No. 240

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*POSTLUDE