

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church

## NEWSLETTER



February/March 2026

### ► Upcoming Events ◀

**February 17th** - Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

**February 18th** - Ash Wednesday Drop-In  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM &  
5:00 - 7:30 PM

**February 21st** - Palooza

**February 22nd** - Sunday Lenten Study  
Begins

**March 6th-7th** - Women's Retreat

**March 2nd** - Ad Council - 7:00 PM

**March 4th** - Wednesday Evening Bible  
Study Begins

#### **Worship**

Sundays

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

#### **Sunday School**

9:45-10:45 AM

#### **Worship on Facebook**

Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
Worship Services  
(11:00 AM only)

#### **Church Office Hours**

Tuesday through Thursday  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

#### **Website**

[Ebenezerumchurch.org](http://Ebenezerumchurch.org)

**Church Phone:** 410-795-6136

**Pastor's Office:** 410-795-1237

#### **Church Email**

[eumcwinfield@gmail.com](mailto:eumcwinfield@gmail.com)

#### **Pastor's Email**

[REVJAE@aol.com](mailto:REVJAE@aol.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Judith A. Emerson

**Music Director:** Linda Bange

**Secretary:** Lori Rapids

**Treasurers:** Steve & Katie Cave

**Nursery Coordinators:**

Lisa Humphries, Meredith & Susan  
Rodriguez

4901 Woodbine Road. Sykesville, MD 21784

# A Message from Your Pastor

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday emphasizes our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Both themes help us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The imposition of ashes marks the beginning of Lent. In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be. I pray that we will all observe a Holy Lent spending time in prayer and drawing closer to God and one another.

Blessings,

*Rev. Judy*

## **Wednesday February 18, 2026**

The Sanctuary Will Be Open for the  
Imposition of Ashes and Communion

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Come begin the Season of Lent by  
receiving ashes and communion and  
spending time in prayer.

If you are unavailable for the above times,  
please contact Rev. Judy to make other  
arrangements.



Ash  
Wednesday

# Lenten Bible Study 2026

## "Table Stories"

Wednesday Evenings in March  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Classroom #1



This Lenten season, gather at the table with Jesus and his disciples to experience the journey from Palm Sunday to the cross through the stories that prepared the way. Experience Lent through the lens of Jesus' most powerful mealtime parables.

We will travel with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem in this profound Lenten study that explores the parables and stories Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal. We will be invited to experience how these table stories—about searching shepherds, welcoming hosts, prodigal sons, and rejected invitations—illuminate the deeper meaning of the Last Supper and Christ's sacrifice. Together we hope to:

- Discover how Jesus used meals to reveal the surprising nature of God's kingdom
- Explore how stories of mercy, invitation, and radical hospitality prepare us for Holy Week
- Understand why sharing bread and wine became the central ritual of the Christian faith
- Experience Maundy Thursday's profound significance in fresh, meaningful ways.

We will try to connect ancient stories to our contemporary Christian life. Rev. Judy will lead our discussions each week. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex if you plan to attend.

## NIGHT BY NIGHT SHELTER

Ebenezer continues to support the *Night-by-Night Shelter* at 127 Stoner Avenue in Westminster with dinner the third Sunday of each month. Signup slots are available through June 2025. If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign up at

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4babag92ba2fb6-cold>**  
and Scott Murchie will contact you the beginning of the week with a reminder and to arrange drop-off of food in the church kitchen, either ahead of time or at 5:30 PM Sunday for hot dishes. Arrangements can also be made for food to be picked up.

**Thank you!**





# Holly Mart Craft Group

We will resume when the weather warms up!

Questions call or email Linda Bennett (301-253-3367)  
[bennettga@aol.com](mailto:bennettga@aol.com)



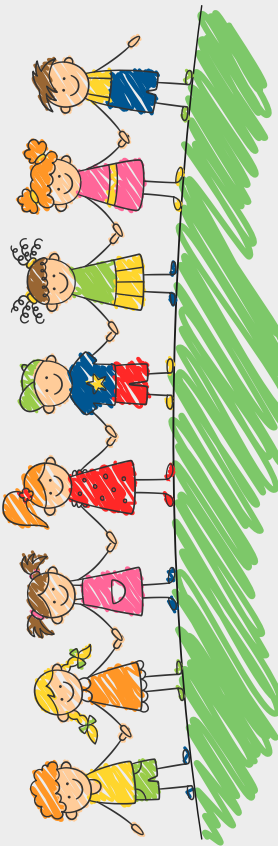
## Women's Retreat 2026

*"Dare to Imagine"*

**March 6-7, 2026**

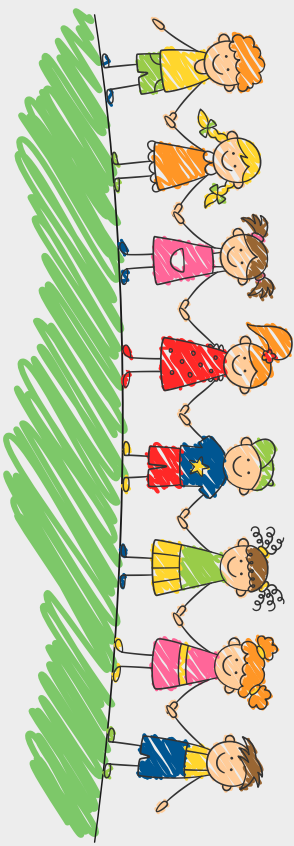
Our retreat this year will be at the church in our beautiful fellowship hall. We will begin on Friday evening enjoying a movie together (you can even wear your pajamas), head home to get a good night of sleep on a comfortable mattress and return in the morning for a full day of faith, fun, food and fellowship. If you can't make it Friday night, you can watch the movie at home so you are ready for Saturday. Flyers and registration forms are available in the narthex and at the end of this newsletter!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



We started the year off with a birthday party for Jesus! The kids brought non-perishable food items for Ebenezer's Rock of Help Food Pantry. We helped Jesus feed his people!

The rest of the year, the Sunday School Pre-K through grade 5 classes will continue to learn about Jesus as we study the New Testament.





## Community Table (Feed My Sheep)

Ebenezer has joyfully supported this program for 27 years. This past December, we served our last meal there. Over the years EUMC has had over 50 volunteers who have prepared and served meals.



*Joanne Davis using the original picture from serving our very first famous beefaroni!*



*Our team on our last day serving*

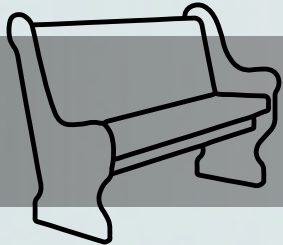
## Holly Mart 2025

**The final total for Holly Mart was \$23,650.**

**At the Holly Mart wrap-up meeting, the committee voted to disburse the funds as follows:**

Cost Area	% Distribution	Amount
Mortgage	26%	\$6,148.04
General Fund	20%	\$4,700.00
Scholarship	19%	\$4,400.00
Campership	10%	\$2,400.00
Food Pantry	11%	\$2,500.00
Pavilion	11%	\$2,501.96
Christmas Dinner	4%	\$1,000.00
<b>2025 Total Income</b>		<b>\$23,650.00</b>





# A View from the Pew

By Ellie Baublitz

## MEET SHARON TOROSKY

Sharon Torosky and her family have been active members of Ebenezer UMC since she was a young wife and mother in the early 1980's. Sharon met her husband Tony Torosky on a blind date in 1962 when he was in the Navy, and they married in 1964, later becoming the parents of Michael and Cyndi. Tony worked for Goddard Space Center for a while, then Bell Atlantic for 33 years in telecommunications. Sharon was an X-ray technician, working at various hospitals over 35 years. During that time, she was also a hospice volunteer. "I loved it, it was very rewarding, helping people," she said.

Shortly after Sharon retired in 2008, the couple became grandparents to Jamie and Michael's son AJ, followed by Aaron and Autumn. "The grandkids are the love of my life and bring me so much joy," Sharon said. She takes the three to Sunday school, where the two younger are in confirmation class this year. Daughter Cyndi, a dermatologist who lives in Virginia Beach with husband Frank, has a daughter Marilyn Grace, and two stepsons, Dorian and Julian.

Sharon has a unique story to tell about her home in Winfield. "Tony built our house over two years from 1975 to 1977 during the day while working full time at night," she recalled. "We had been to Spain and fell in love with the architecture, and Tony had studied architectural drawing. So, he drew up the plans and built the house himself. We lived with my grandfather in Linthicum, and he helped Tony build the house." The two-story white stucco Spanish style house is a one-of-a-kind on their street.

During their younger years, the couple enjoyed traveling, visiting London, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Germany. In the USA, they went camping to national parks, the Grand Canyon, the South and New England, and visited Hawaii and Panama Canal. "Traveling the world was our stage," she said. She and Tony cruised to Alaska for their 50th anniversary. They especially loved skiing, often with her nieces and nephews and dear friends, even taking Pastor Rick Gray, Matt and Bradley with them one year, where "we had such a good time," she said.

After settling into their new home, Sharon and Tony started looking for a church. "We needed a place for our kids to go to Sunday school," Sharon said. "Rev. Glenn Hickman was pastor when we first came here."

Later, Rev. Rick arrived and "was there in the kids' formative years – for confirmation, youth group, camping, Manidokan. I owe a lot of my growth and my kids' growth to Pastor Rick." A woman of deep faith,

Sharon has been involved in Bible studies, adult Sunday School, the Stephen Ministry program, OWLS and WOWS. She also helps with Holly Mart, making crafts and cheeseballs, and working in the kitchen in various capacities. She was one of the founders of the Women of the Word (WOW) group at a time when "we were all young moms, so much was going on and there was a need. For 35 years we shared our laughter, tears, support, love and prayers. Our Women's Retreat began with our 'humble little group' and still continues," she said.

Tony also was involved in the church as a trustee and cemetery committee member. For those who may not know the story, prior to the mid-1980s, church members used to enter the sanctuary through the narthex door and cross over the altar to be seated. (What is now the back of the church). "It was very disruptive," Sharon said. "You had people coming in late, taking their children to the bathroom, and such, and they had to go past the pastor." To get the congregation to agree to a complete reversal of the sanctuary to where it is now, Tony built a replica of what it would look like. "They did it in one week," Sharon said. "As soon as the last service ended one Sunday, a group of parishioners, friends and workers came in and ripped everything out, rebuilding the altar, replacing the carpet and installing electric for the organ and cross. Everybody pitched in, with the women polishing the pews so they looked like new, and we re-opened the next Sunday. Tony made it happen, so it's kind of his legacy."

But in 2016, Sharon's life was turned upside down when Tony and her mother died within 30 days of each other. "It was only by my faith, my WOW sisters, my family and friends and my church family that I navigated through my loss and grief"; she said. Besides being close to her family, Sharon enjoys gardening and yard work, reading mysteries, watching Hallmark Christmas and other movies, playing cards with friends, and attending the OWLS and church widows monthly meetings, along with her other church activities.



# Children's Church

**Children's Church meets on the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 11 AM to 12 PM. All children ages 4-17 are welcome to join us with the older ones helping as leaders!**

Our goal this year is to encourage children to actively participate in serving the Lord. In November, we made trail mix for the Hoffa House. In January, we prepared blessing bags for the Cold Weather Shelter, and in February, we will make cards for church members who are homebound. In March, we will reenact Palm Sunday.

*We would be delighted for you to join us for an hour of learning, singing, sharing, and caring about Jesus!*



## Food Pantry Monthly Needs

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)

## Hoffa House

The Hoffa House is a local home where 7-8 men live while recovering from addiction. Our church provides dinner once a month for 10-12 men during their Monday meetings. These meetings help the Hoffa Foundation board members stay connected with the residents and give the men a chance to reflect on their positive and negative experiences each week.

Our church has been incredibly supportive of this nonprofit organization, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year to prepare meals for the group. We will continue to provide meals for the Hoffa House and, if you're able to help, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Meals can be homemade, or you can donate gift cards, which I will be happy to pick up. The mission of the Hoffa House has been deeply appreciated.

*Meghan Estes*

# Pavilion Building Fund

Help us build a new outdoor ministry space on our property. This could be used for so many activities for our church family, including for VBS, youth, picnics and so much more. If you would like to donate, just mark "Pavilion Fund" on your check. You can also donate in memory or in honor of a loved one.



## 2026 Pill Bottle Recycling

Matthew 25 Ministries assisted over 30 million people in 2025 and EUMC was a part of that! They sent building, school, cleaning and medical supplies to places in need in the United States and 70 countries worldwide. This includes many states like Arizona, California, Florida, and Missouri. Kentucky received 128 barrels of supplies during its disaster recovery! The countries include Honduras, Israel, Ukraine, and Panama. The first box of 250 pill bottle donations has been mailed to Matthew 25 ministries for worldwide use. This shipment brings the total number of pill bottles recycled by EUMC to just over 8,000! We continue to reduce the need for single use plastics and save space in our landfills while supporting medical need. Please continue to bring your CLEAN bottles to recycle! Donations for shipping are welcome as well.

## Compassion Closet

We appreciate all the donations of clothes and household items. Our neighbors are always very thankful. Please be mindful of the season since we do not have storage space. We really like to provide clothes that are needed for the current season. Coats, blankets, current holiday decor and good used shoes/boots are some of the seasonal items we get requests for. If you would like to volunteer on the 3rd Saturday of each month, there is always room! Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact  
**Nancy Thompson @410-241-1509.**







## TUESDAY, February 17th

JOIN OUR YOUTH AS  
THEY PREPARE AND SERVE

**DINNER SERVED FROM 5:00 PM TO 7:30 PM**

ENJOY PANCAKES, SAUSAGE and MOUNTAIN MAN

**FREE WILL DONATIONS**

(ALL PROCEEDS TO FUND OUR YOUTH SPRING TRIP)

**JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP  
FOR THE START OF THE LENTEN SEASON**

## Easter Candy Fundraiser

It will be Easter soon so it is time to start thinking about what you want to order for family and friends! Look for the order form and sign-up sheets soon to help us make and fill orders.

**Thursday, March 26th:** Make Easter Eggs

9:30 AM until around 1:00 PM

*(Whatever time you can help is appreciated)*

Lunch Provided

**Friday, March 27th:** Finish Eggs and Pack Orders

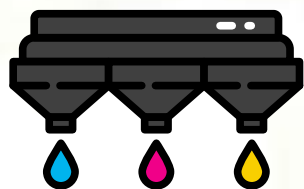
9:00 AM until around 12:00 Noon

**Order forms and payments due by Sunday, March 22nd**

**Order Pickup:** Sunday, March 29th After Church Services

Thanks in advance for supporting the Easter Egg Fundraiser.

Questions: contact Linda Bennett [bennettga@aol.com](mailto:bennettga@aol.com) or 301-253-3367.



**Don't forget to bring in your used ink  
cartridges so we can get \$\$\$\$ for our church!  
See Debbie Paulsgrove with any questions!**



# YOUTH GROUP

Ebenezer's Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th grade and higher (including our college/young adults no longer in school)

We meet typically every other week on a Sunday evening from 6 -8 PM. Watch for current month scheduling and come join the fun!

## UPCOMING DATES

### February 1st

Regular Meeting in Youth Room  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

### February 17th - Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
4:00 - 8:00 PM

### February 22nd

Regular Meeting in Youth Room  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

### March 8th

Regular Meeting in Youth Room  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

### March 22nd

Amazing Race  
Noon - ?

We started November with the churchwide **Holly Mart**. When they say all hands on deck - we bring them! Then the youth finally got to experience a real **Progressive Dinner** as we traveled to different members' houses for our meal. Many, many thanks to our hosts: Jen Klausmeyer, Ed & Sandy Newsome, Jennifer & Jim Wise, Katy & Travis Saulsbury and Val & Mike Hyer. 19 youth and 5 adults were welcomed into these folks' homes to not only enjoy a meal, but some good conversation. On to our first ever **Christmas Cookie Bake-Off!** The youth first tackled making 64 dozen cookies that were handed out to our food pantry patrons. After, they were split into teams and made a cookie recipe of their choice. We had some expert judges come in to taste test. While this activity was tons of fun for the kids, it was also tons of work for the adults. The jury is still out as to if we will see a second annual ;) We followed this up with two of our favorite events - **Trivia Night** and **Bowling**. Both were well attended. The leaders got together for a fun dinner out and planned the rest of year. Stay tuned - more to come from this great bunch of youth!



## Spring Youth Retreat

Friday, April 17th thru Sunday, April 19th

This year's confirmation class will join our youth group for a spring retreat to West River United Methodist Church Retreat Center. The cost per person is \$150.00, which includes meals, lodging and activities. This is a great trip with lots of fun activities you won't want to miss. Mr Doug and Mr Byron are already practicing for human foosball! If your youth/confirmand will be attending, please make a deposit of \$50.00 per person by January 31st. Checks can be made payable to EUMC with a notation on your check saying: Youth Spring Retreat 2026. Please hand these deposits to Cindi Arnold for tracking purposes. Any other monies due will be determined after the Pancake supper, as these funds will offset the cost per person



# Staying Busy in Youth Group



Cookie  
Baking



Our annual trivia night was great time  
together. Lots of good food  
and fellowship.



Progressive  
Dinner



And finally bowling  
to round out a fun  
few months!



# ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

**Next Ad Council Meeting: March 2, 2026**

## **Planning Day**

**January 12, 2026**



On Monday, January 12, 2026, our Administrative Council met to reflect on the blessings of 2025 and to look ahead to our hopes for 2026. We gave thanks to God for the strength of our leadership and the programs and ministries we are able to offer. Below you will see some of the highlights from our gathering regarding worship, fellowship, educational opportunities, missions and fundraising events we hope to provide at Ebenezer in 2026. We pray for God's continued guidance as we discern where and how we are called to serve and live as a community of faith.

Focus	2026 Goals
1. Prayer	Prayer Chain/Announcements - through church office/pastor only
2. Faith Formation	Lenten Bible Study, Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Sunday School, VBS - June 22-26, 2026, VBS Adult Study, Advent Study, Youth Studies, Men's Retreat, Women's Retreat - March 6-7, Youth Retreat - April 17-19
3. Hospitality	Keep office informed: surgery, loss, new birth, meal ministry, Outreach, new pictorial directory
4. Worship	Ash Wednesday drop in 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM Summer Worship Schedule - June thru Labor Day - 10:00 AM only in FII Children's Sermon - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, Children's Church - 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Children Singing in Worship at 11:00 AM - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Graduate Sunday with Reception - May 31, 2026 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - Cantata at 8:30 AM and Children's Service at 11:00 AM Sunday after Christmas - one service at 11:00 AM Live Nativity
5. Missions	Rock of Help, Escape, CREW, Springfield Hospital, Night-by-Night Shelter, Winfield Elementary, HOFFA House, Shepherd Staff, Compassion Child, Recycle Program for Food Pantry, Global Missionaries.
6. Fellowship	Game/Activity Night, Picnic, Christmas Brunch, Covered Dish, Shrove Tuesday, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Spaghetti Supper, Palooza/Praise Band Night, Orioles' Faith Night, Keys Game
7. Fundraising	Treasure Sale proceeds to Food Pantry (kitchen sales to the building fund), Holly Mart, Canned Goods, Easter Candy
8. Facility	Steps with Railing from Food Pantry, Technology Repair/Corrections, Pavilion
9. Finances	Pay Additional \$40,000 on Mortgage

# **EASTER FLOWERS & DONATIONS**

1. If you would like to purchase Easter Flowers in memory or in honor of someone, the flowers available this year are:

**\$13 each:**

**Hyacinths** – Purple, Pink or White

**Tulips** – Yellow, Red or Pink

**\$16 each**

**Lilies** – White

**Dutch Asiatic Lilies** – White or Yellow

**\$30 each:**

**Hydrangea** – Assorted colors only

2. If you would like to make a contribution to Ebenezer's Building Fund or to the Food Pantry in memory or in honor of someone, please complete the order form and your designation will be listed in our Easter Bulletins.

**Orders due by March 2nd**

*Order forms available in the narthex*

## **Camp Manidokan Summer 2026**

**July 12th-17th**



Registration for camp opens on February 4th. Children entering third grade through their senior year of high school are welcome to attend!

As a part of our ministry, Ebenezer United Methodist Church will cover the cost of Manidokan, except for the deposit, for children who attend Sunday School regularly. Attendance will be recorded from February 1st to May 24th. Each child is allowed to miss two Sundays and still receive this opportunity. If you have any questions, you may reach out to Rachel Biddinger at 443-547-0519.



# Holy Week Schedule 2026

## **Palm Sunday, March 29th**

Worship 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM  
Sunday School at 9:45 AM

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**

Worship in the Fellowship Hall  
7:30 PM

## **Good Friday, April 3rd**

Worship in the Sanctuary  
7:30 PM

## **Easter Sunday, April 5th**

### **Sunrise Service**

6:30 AM Outdoors

### **Easter Worship**

8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

### **Sunday School**

9:45 AM

*No Confirmation Class*

# Easter Egg Hunt

**Watch the  
announcements for a  
date and information for  
this fun spring event!**



# Ebenezer Palooza

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 PM**

It's been too long, but Ebenezer Palooza is BACK - a night of family-friendly music and fellowship (and snacks, always snacks!). Expect a mix of favorite hymns, country gospel, "peace, love, and understanding" favorites from the classic rock era, contemporary Christian, sing-alongs.... You never know what you'll hear (and we're never quite sure what we'll play!)

**And a special treat - the musical debut of the new EUMC praise band!**

**Family, friends welcomed!**

*Musical performers can find space on the stage to join us!*





# April 25th

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**RAIN or SHINE**

**Save your SPRING CLEANING items for us to sell!**

**We are seeking donations of housewares, tools, books, vintage items, toys, small furniture items.**

*Please no clothes (they go to the pantry shed),  
christmas decorations or large pieces of furniture.*

**Proceeds go to support the Rock of Help Food Pantry.**

The Kitchen will be open the whole time with breakfast and lunch items available to purchase. There will also be a Bake Sale with delicious homemade goodies.

**All profits from the Kitchen and Bake Sale will  
go to paying off our mortgage.**

If you would like to volunteer to help,  
please contact Nancy Thompson, @ 410-241-1509.

## **OWLS - Older Wiser Livelier Seniors**



**First Wednesday of Every Month (Sept.-June)**  
**Noon - 2:00 PM**



Come join us for a Potluck lunch! Seniors come from several different denominations in the area, some have no church affiliation, but all are looking for social interaction and a good time. We try to provide games and programs that lift the spirit. Senior citizens are more inclined to suffer loneliness than any other group so we strive to have everyone go home with a smile. Our February meetings always accomplish that because Brenda Baker has us laughing while attempting to touch our toes. March is bingo and lots of fun. We hope you will join us in helping fellow senior citizens escape the dull-drums of advanced age.

***Diane Biddinger, OWLS Chairman***

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH



# WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA

On Saturday, December 13th, Ebenezer UMC again participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day. Our Cemetery has 55 Veterans' graves, and we collected enough sponsorships to cover the cost for each grave to receive a wreath. Participation on that very cold Saturday afternoon was impressive. Thank you to all that participated... from those that laid a ceremonial wreath for each branch of the military to those that laid one on the graves of unknown soldiers. Members of Ebenezer UMC, the Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Dept, the Taylorsville/Winfield Lions Club and Pack/Troop 733 Scouts and parents were all in attendance. A special thank you to US Air Force Captain Sandy Newsome for her lovely words. And lastly for Babylon Vault who continues to grow the opportunities for Veteran remembrance here in Carroll County. Look for your opportunity to participate next year!







# WREATHS — across — AMERICA

**Thoughts shared by Sandy Newsome**  
**Wreaths Across America 2025**  
***Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery***

We gather in this sacred place of honor and memory as part of Wreaths Across America—a national tradition since 1992 that reminds us of a deeply important truth: we are free because of the courage, sacrifice, and service of those who came before us. Now, this is a really cold day, but I promise you 2 things. First, it is worth it. Your presence here matters .... it matters to the families honoring their loved ones, to the memory of the past and to the passing on the lesson of gratitude to future generations. To paraphrase Romans 13, verse 7 "Give everyone what is due him ...if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." And secondly, speaking from personal experience, I promise you it is NOT as cold here as launching aircraft from the flightline of Chong Ju, Korea at 4:30 in the morning in February.

Each December, volunteers across the country come together on this day to lay wreaths on the headstones of our veterans. This is more than decoration. It is a promise—one made by every generation to the next—that the names and the sacrifices of our warriors will never be forgotten. We are here today in gratitude and reverence - that deep respect we owe to the sacrifice of so many.

Today we've laid our symbolic wreaths for all of the services and our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who will never have a stone or a wreath. Those whose human remains may be lost to us forever. But the work of bringing them home does continue. So far in 2025, 231 sets of remains have at last been identified, with 165 of those from World War 2. Here at Ebenezer, 5 – yes, 5 new graves were discovered this year with the four unknown, but marked confederate graves. Five soldiers, whose families never knew the resting place of their child. At last, today, for the first time, their service is recognized. I also want to acknowledge that Ebenezer lost one of its own veterans this fall with the sudden passing of Jim Carlock. Jim will soon take his well-deserved place with the heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.

We observe three principles by being here today: The first principle is Remembrance. We remember the men and women who served—those who stood guard in times of war and peace, those who flew the planes, sailed the seas, and who marched into danger. Their courage lives on in every wreath we place. Veterans made choices—often difficult, dangerous, and life-altering. Remembering their sacrifice means recognizing the courage it takes to stand in harm's way, encounter hardship and sacrifice, and uphold a duty larger than themselves. By remembering that sacrifice and cost today, we learn not to take our freedoms for granted. We acknowledge the loss, the deaths, the injuries – both visible and invisible. Our ceremony today helps our understanding of responsibility, service, and unity—values that help bind a community and a nation together. Remembering inspires future generations to live by the values of duty, honor, and commitment. It reminds us, too, that freedom and peace require real effort.

The Second Principle is Honor. We honor the veteran for their life and service and we honor the families who bore the weight of sacrifice—the parents, spouses, children, and the friends who supported their loved ones and endured hardship with them; endured their absence and sometimes their ultimate sacrifice. Every veteran who has gone on before us—whether in combat, in service, or after a time as a civilian—represents a life offered in service, time spent away from family, hardships endured for the sake of others, and a willingness to step into danger so others wouldn't have to. Many of you pass this cemetery on your daily commute or as you arrive at church. May you pause and reflect on what those interred here gave for you. We honor those resting here, and at Arlington, and at Gettysburg, and other sacred sites, by living in a way that respects their service and sacrifice. We honor them when we live as responsible citizens, when we understand the price of our freedom and use that freedom wisely, when we care for each other, and when we serve – even when we serve in our own communities. The third principle observed today is Teaching. Today, we teach. We teach our children what service means. We teach them that freedom is NOT free and cannot be taken for granted. We teach them to recognize the dignity of the veterans among us every day and to carry forward the responsibility and lessons of remembrance.

So, as we lay these wreaths, do it with deliberate intention and honor. Say the veteran's name. Remember that behind each stone is a life, a family, and a legacy. Let this simple gesture—a wreath placed on a grave—speak of remembrance, of honor and of gratitude. To our veterans here with me today: brothers and sisters, I'm glad you made it home. Thank you for your service. To those we have lost: we honor your memory. And to all who came today to remember: thank you for keeping the promise never to forget. May we leave here inspired—reminded of our duty to preserve the freedom so many fought to protect, and committed to carrying their legacies and lessons into the future.



# **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

## ***February Birthdays***

6 Jake Zamostny  
7 Rachel Holl  
10 Sharon Torosky  
14 Eric Brown  
15 Tim Baker  
17 Bridget Estes  
18 Susan Fugate  
22 Don Bergmann  
23 Cheri Holl  
24 Jim Wise  
26 Maddie Jones  
28 Sharon Grim

## ***March Birthdays***

2 Jason Cave	21 Fred Plitt
3 Ellie Klausmeyer	23 Tyler Arnold
3 Byron Ricketts	25 Mel Wroten
7 Steve Cave	27 Kim Middleton
8 Dave Biddinger	27 Karl Streaker
9 Deb Mathias	
14 Olivia Wisner	
14 Andrea Murchie	
14 Becca Flater	
17 Bill Jones	
19 Katie Cave	

## ***March Anniversaries***

2 Chuck & Julie Shacochis  
21 Brian & Lori Rapids  
25 Doug & Cyndi Diethrich

# IN MEMORIAM

**Jim Carlock 10/31/2025**

**Janice Guynn 12/19/2025**

**Barbara Conaway 1/7/2026**

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church 33rd Annual Women's Retreat

**EUMC**

4901 Woodbine Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784

**Friday Night, March 6, 2026**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

*Dare to Imagine*

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

Jeremiah 29:11

***I Can Only Imagine** is a song that brings ultimate hope to so many...often in the midst of life's most challenging moments. Our retreat will use the movie by the same title as a starting point for discussions about the power of forgiveness, God's blueprint for our lives and our purpose in God's plan. Together we will discover that no one is ever too far from God's love—or from an eternal home in Heaven.*

**Cost: \$75 Per Person**

(includes movie snacks, 3 meals on Saturday, crafts and materials)

**Retreat Contact Information:**

Retreat Coordinator - Susan Brown, [stmpnsusan@aol.com](mailto:stmpnsusan@aol.com).

Church Office - (410) 795-6136 or [eumcwinfield@yahoo.com](mailto:eumcwinfield@yahoo.com)



Name:

Email Address:

Cell#:

Dietary Restrictions:

Please return to the church office with a \$75 check made out to EUMC by 3/1/26



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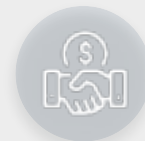
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