

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church

## NEWSLETTER



June/July/August 2026

## ► Upcoming Events ◀

**June 27th** - Church Work Day

**June 29th & 30th** - Pictorial Directory Photos

**July 9th** - Oriole's Faith Night

**July 12th - 17th** - Camp Manidokan

**July 20th - 24th** - Vacation Bible School

**August 30th** - Church Picnic

**September 1st** - Return to Regular  
Office Hours

**September 13th** - Fall Schedule Begins

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

### Worship

Sundays  
10:00 AM

### Sunday School

(off for the summer)

### Worship on Facebook

Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
Worship Services

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Sunday 9:30 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

**“Come to me,  
all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.”**

*Matthew 11:28*

So often we forget that taking time to relax is not a luxury but a divine command. God, in His wisdom, established a day of rest, showing us that even in our service, we need moments to replenish our souls. Resting isn't merely physical it is deeply spiritual allowing us to reconnect with God and refocus on what matters most. As we set aside time to relax, we align ourselves with God's intention for our lives, nurturing our relationship with Him and rejuvenating our spirits. As the season turns and the days become longer with sunshine, I'm inviting you to lean into a new rhythm of life and faith. It is my hope that together we will celebrate the sacred in the simple, the divine in the daily, and the holy moments that find us outdoors, at ease, and in community.

I hope each of us will take this summer and explore a different setting where many of us find joy, connection, and maybe even a little rest for our souls. Perhaps we can even discover what it means to follow Jesus not just in church pews, but on ball fields, at picnic tables, beside the lake, next to the pool, on the beach and in the sounds of laughter on a playground.

As a church family make sure you stay tuned for our late-August church picnic! Expect laughter, community, and a whole lot of fun—with good food, games and fellowship for all ages. Whether you're heading out on vacation or staying close to home, I hope this season brings you a fresh perspective and renewal in your walk of faith.

Bring a friend to worship this summer, wear your sandals, and come ready to pray, relax in God's presence and be surprised by God's grace.

Blessings,

*Rev. Judy*



# BACKPACK MINISTRY

We will again be supporting Winfield Elementary School with supplies for the students. The need is great. We will be collecting during the summer months and will be packing them during the month of August. Monetary donations are always greatly appreciated. Just place in the offering plate marked "Backpacks".

Look for the supply tags coming at the beginning of July. If you don't want to donate all the supplies on a tag please look below for a list of items we could use most. As always, thank you in advance for your continued support of this ministry.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

**Questions: See Kate Luetze or Brenda Baker**

Glue Sticks \* pencils \* 8 Pack of Wide Markers \* Highlighters  
Blunt Scissors \* Packages of Pencil Top Erasers \* 12 Pack Colored Pencils  
Fine Tip Black Dry Erase Markers \* 1" 3 Ring Binders

## 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 for June and September-December 2026. (July and August dinners are handled using take-out and/or supermarket catering.) If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4babag92ba2fb6-cold> and Scott Murchie will contact you around 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!

**Thank you for your support of this important ministry!**



# VBS 2026

*July 20th to 24th*

Dinner Served:  
5:30-6:00 PM

VBS: 6:00-8:30 PM

*Children ages 3  
through 5th Grade*



<https://www.myvbs.org/eumc2026>

## Vacation Bible School Decorations

**We are looking for the following items:**

White Styrofoam balls any size  
four-foot Christmas tree you don't need back  
winter gloves and hats (used are fine)

We will be working on decorations on Tuesdays beginning  
June 16th in Sunday School classroom #5 at 9:00 AM.

Any questions contact Nancy Thompson @410-241-1509

**Looking forward to another awesome week!**



# Join Us!



Please consider joining our chancel choir. We always have room for "one more". You will not be disappointed with our wonderful group of members and hope you will enjoy our choices of music! We meet one hour on Wednesday evening. If you wish, you can choose to just join us for Christmas or Easter services. Bring your voice and come! Any questions, feel free to contact me at [bigbange@comcast.net](mailto:bigbange@comcast.net)

*Linda*



## *A Note to the Chancel Choir: Another Year of Beautiful Music*

As we conclude another year together, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings we have shared. It is truly challenging to capture in words the depth of your kindness, dedication, talent, and enthusiasm. It continues to be a joy for me to accompany you as you sing for the EUMC congregation.

Being a part of this musical ministry is a privilege I deeply value, hoping that we contribute to the worship experience. As you take a well-deserved break from the weekly routine, I hope you enjoy this time of rest.

Thank you,  
*Linda*

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

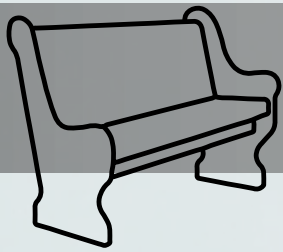
Under the dedicated leadership of Diane Biddinger, this group meets for fun, fellowship and of course good food. They will resume their gatherings in September.

At our potluck on June 3, at noon, we are having a book exchange. You can bring up to ten books that you are done with and look forward to coming away with others. It should be an interesting way to learn about our different tastes and to get some new reads! In July and August we are on vacation, but we will be back on the first Wednesday of each month starting on September 2.

*Hope to see all of our Ebenezer seniors there!*

**Diane Biddinger, OWL Chief**





# A View from the Pew

By Ellie Baublitz

## MEET LYNN BAKER

A woman of more talents than many of us might realize, Lynn Baker is best known for her presence at special Ebenezer events with her camera taking photos of our members enjoying those activities. For instance, she visited all the Sunday School classes earlier this month to capture scenes of those members of all ages enjoying various activities for our new pictorial directory. She also sells her beautiful photos of birds on canvas at Holly Mart. Surprisingly, photography grew out of portrait drawing she did in Ocean City in the 1970s.

"I realized taking photos was easier than drawing," she joked.

Lynn began drawing cartoons and other things at a young age "because I wanted to do something for Disney," she said. Her drawing and then her practical jokes, which some of us have been on the receiving end of, were also an outlet for the grief of losing her father, Edgar Castle, when she was 13. By that time, her mother Ruth, sister Anne and brother Edgar, had lived in places from Alaska to Maryland, following her father's Coast Guard career.

Multi-talented and sporty, Lynn played softball, volleyball and lacrosse through high school and college. At the University of Maryland, she started as a physical education major before switching to art, then minoring in PE and science. She ended up being a full-time cartographer (mapmaker) for 47 years. She was a summer camp counselor, including one overnight camp where she learned to ride a horse. After college she took a job drawing color pastel and charcoal portraits in Ocean City, where she lived for seven months in a "hippie van, with shag rugs, sink, table and storage areas."

Lynn met Bob Baker in a drafting class she was taking for cartography, and they married in 1981. They moved to "a mobile home in the woods near Mount Airy in 1982 and this is where I was introduced to so many birds that I started photographing a few years later," she said, adding that her brother "was an exceptional professional photographer." Sadly, he died at age 36 of leukemia, two years before Lynn and Bob adopted their son, Tim when he was only one week old. Tim and his girlfriend Haleigh live in California and have given Lynn a beautiful 3 ½-month-old grandson, Kingston.

Her artistry also included some work with Bob in stained glass. In recent years, Lynn extended her talent to illustrating two children's books at the request of the authors. **Cisco's Best Day** by Cheryl Aker is about a hero dog finding a lost calf. **Thistle and Petey** by Robert Wasilewski is about a chicken whose best friend is a duck.

Lynn has been attending Ebenezer for 30 years, since Darlene Carlock invited her to bring Tim to the annual Easter Egg Hunt. She began taking Tim to the Sunday School Pre-K class with Susan Sager and Brenda Baker. She later assisted Meghan Estes and Luanne Hash in the K-2 class. Currently, she teaches the K-2 class with Joanne Davis, switching out every other month. It was during Pastor Gayle's tenure that she started taking photos of church activities. She later joined the church after Pastor Judy came. "Judy and Susan are amazing and so supportive," Lynn said. She discovered even more about Judy's caring ways when Bob died suddenly Jan. 8, 2023 of an apparent heart attack. "He was a good man and loved our family very much," Lynn said. Judy was beside her every step of the way from the first call for help to the funeral and afterward. Bob's passing came just 16 months after her mother died in Colorado in September 2021 at age 97.

Life and her faith have taught Lynn many things: keep moving forward, don't look back; never play the 'what if' game since it is in the past; don't worry about tomorrow and ruin the peace of today; everyone goes through hard times so stay positive and see the natural beauty of the world; and trust God to lead the way.

With remaining family out of state, Lynn entertains herself watching for the birds in the area, especially a pair of eagles nearby; and feeding squirrels, Corky, Bubba, Jojo and others. She also travels to Conowingo Dam to photograph the eagles there. Just be careful if you're driving behind her "because I am probably looking up at the trees for a scarlet tanager," she warned.

# Pill Bottle Recycling

*You Make a Difference!*



Several shipments have been mailed to Matthew 25 Ministries and a large one of 360 bottles is in the works. The need for clean and safe medication bottles doesn't take a summer vacation and neither does our collection program. As we continue to collect throughout the summer, please remember to completely remove the label and residue (dirt and germs stick to the residue) and wash the bottles out to prevent cross contamination and allergic reactions. Thanks for meeting this need, saving space in landfills, and reducing the demand for single use plastics. As always, donations to defray the shipment cost are always welcome.



## 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.

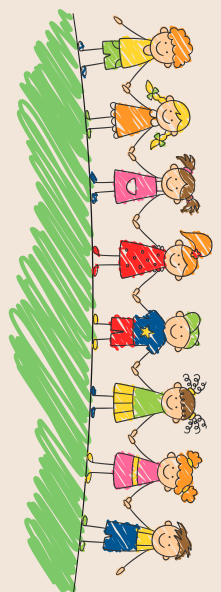
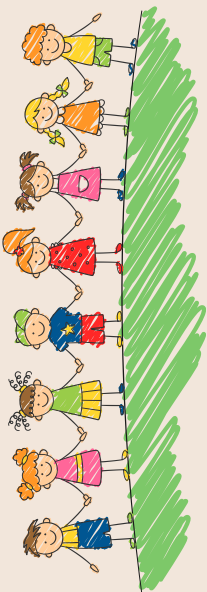
Our church has been incredibly supportive of this nonprofit organization, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has volunteered this year.

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 can be picked up. Thank you so very much and contact Meghan Estes at [Mbrestes@aol.com](mailto:Mbrestes@aol.com) with any questions.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

After a fun packed year of studying the Bible.  
We will be taking a break this summer.  
Be sure to come to VBS in July!

We will start Sunday School again in September at 9:45 AM with classes for ages pre-k through adult. Please come join the excitement as we study God's words!





# Rock of Help Food Pantry



Ebenezer's **Rock of Help Food Pantry** has just concluded its 14th year and continues to grow with its own dedicated building behind the church fellowship hall. In its very first month, April 2012, only two families were served. Today, the food pantry provides a variety of foods, children's shoes, and household items to an average of 65 families on the third Saturday of the month. During the holiday months, as many as 90 families have been served in more recent years. With escalating costs and cutbacks from suppliers, the church is spending \$1,200 to \$1,800 a month on food and non-food items in an outreach ministry that helps feed families in need.

Additionally, the newer **Compassion Closet** is also open during the food pantry, offering clothes for all ages, children's toys and games, household goods, toiletries, and some books, including new Bibles. The food pantry also provides monthly snack bags to Winfield Elementary School students in need. About 14 snack bags are given for take-home to qualifying students in grades 1-5, and a bag of snacks is given to the Pre-Kindergarten students for in-class consumption.

The food pantry was started by Sue Bergmann as an additional community outreach to serve those in need. She continues her tireless mission, along with a core group of faithful helpers who unload food deliveries, bag groceries and load them in clients' cars, and help in many other ways.

*Donations of food, money, shoes, household items, and in-person help on food pantry days are always appreciated.*

**To help in any way, see Sue at church or call her at 410-259-1265.**

## Recycling

*All funds go to the Food Pantry!*

The collection of aluminum, steel, copper, brass and miscellaneous metals has been going well. It is appreciated if the aluminum beverage cans are crushed because it gives us more storage space between trips to the scrap yard. All items can be placed in the orange container on the side of the church.

Thank you for your participation!

If you have larger items,  
please contact

**The Thompsons @410-241-1509.**

## Food Pantry Monthly Needs

**June, July, and August**

Pet food, Adult Incontinence Products,  
Cleaning Products



EUMC's **Rock of Help Food Pantry** makes a huge difference in the lives of our clients. We continue to evolve to meet the needs of our community and the congregation plays a large role in the pantry's success. The pantry is shifting its "Needs" list to reflect frequent requests. This summer we are asking for pet food in easy to dispense quantities. We are also in need of adult incontinence products, especially in larger sizes. We always need cleaning products! Thank you for your support of this vital mission.

## **Compassion Closet**

Currently we are only accepting summer clothes and shoes. We have very limited space and are trying to meet the current needs of our neighbors. We received a very kind thank you note from one of our friends, "Thank you so very much for your contribution to those of us in need. Peace and Blessings." This individual gave each volunteer a card. Please contact me if you have items you would like to donate. Do not drop them off without notice. We appreciate the continued support.

Questions: **Nancy Thompson @410-241-1509**





# 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!

## Final Event for the School Year: Paintball - Sunday, June 1st

Sadly, the end of the year has come for Youth Group. We had another good run, though. Spring started with Ebenezer's Easter Sunrise Service. Our youth stepped up again and provided for a meaningful well attended service. Then, 9 of our youth, 3 leaders, 2 mentors, Rev Judy and Susan Brown spent a fun weekend at West River. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed all of the activities including the 100 foot high swing, human foosball, paddle boarding, kayaking, various games and great discussions about trash or treasure in our lives.

We Finished up the year with our annual Nerf Wars, a meeting on the Apostle Paul by Ryan, and paintball. We always try to find activities that everyone can enjoy, one way or another.

Although our youth group year has ended, we will still have impromptu meetings around the fire pit during the summer. Be on the lookout for an email or text and plan to join us!

Remember we welcome anyone in grades 6 through 12, as well as any recent graduates. Friends are **always** welcome too!

## Have a wonderful summer!



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING



We will have our next Ad Council meeting on **August 31st** at 7:00 PM.



## Camp Manidokan July 12-17

*Eligibility: Entering 3rd Grade to  
Entering 12th grade Fall of 2026*

You should have already registered for camp at [www.bwccampsandretreats.com](http://www.bwccampsandretreats.com) if you are planning on attending. The camper is responsible for the \$100.00 registration fee and the rest will be covered by EUMC if you earned a campership by attending Sunday School as required.

We are always looking for volunteers as well. Please consider giving of yourself by volunteering for camp. Questions: Contact Rachel Biddinger, @ 443-547-0519



**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
to Rev. Rick!**



## Holly Mart Pickle, Jelly and Salsa Fundraiser

As you harvest your garden bounty this summer, we could use any extra tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers or fruits for canning! We have canning jars that have been returned to keep our cost down. We will be selling items on October 18 to add to our Holly Mart total.

Thanks from the canning group for your support.

**Laura Scott. 410-795-0878**

**Linda Bennett. 443-474-7110, [bennettga@aol.com](mailto:bennettga@aol.com)**





In the summer of 2021, Sue Bergmann saw a new need in our congregation. The number of widows was growing as husbands succumbed to age and illness. "I realized how many widows we had in our church, some that didn't get out much, and thought everyone might enjoy getting together for lunch," she said. She took the idea to Pastor Judy, who agreed with the need. "I sent out emails to all the widows," Sue said. "We planned our first lunch for August and it has gone on from there." The group decided to meet once a month on the **second Friday at noon**. Currently, there are about 12 widows in the church who receive notice of lunch gatherings. We've been meeting at various restaurants around the South Carroll to Westminster area in recent months, but have also met at church (where it can be much quieter and easier to converse!).

Attendance ranges from just 3-4 (mostly in summer) to a higher average of 8 to 10. Any widowed woman in the church is welcome, as are friends of church widows (two of us bring a widowed friend). We don't normally discuss our situation, though it may come up during conversation -- it's just something we have in common. But we realize even now that our husbands have gone to God, life goes on. We still have family to care for, friends to get together with, and things to do. When we are together, we discuss our lives, what is happening, and what we are doing. **And we laugh – a lot!** We welcome new members to join us. All we do is meet monthly for good food and fellowship and support when needed. We decide each month where we want to meet the following month and Sue or Debbie Paulsgrove sends out an email asking how many are attending for reservations.

**To join us in June at Texas Roadhouse,  
see or call Sue at 410-259-1265 or Debbie at 410-596-2716.**



# Children's Church

Children's Church will be on break for the summer and will resume in September!

Children's church has been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from September through May. We will be taking a hiatus during the summer. We have had fun reading and interacting with stories from the Bible. We followed Jesus by feeding the hungry (making dessert for the Hoffa House); taking care of the needy (decorating and packing blessing bags for the Night By Night Shelter with the assistance of Brenda Baker); and comforting widows and widowers and those not able to easily get out and about by making Valentine's Day cards. We look forward to another fun year starting in September. Please join us as we continue to follow Jesus as we read God's words on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the months during the 11:00 AM service from September through May.



***Thanks for another great year!***

***Meghan Estes & Joanne Davis***



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

# Confirmation 2026



UNIVERSAL  
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>



Sign Up Now to  
Get Your  
Picture Taken!

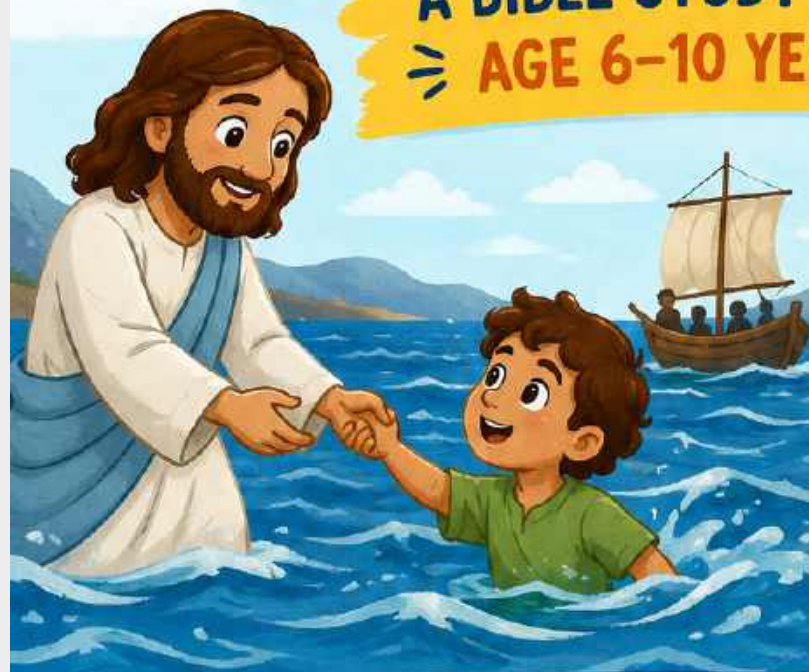
## Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **md223** the Church Code field and enter **umc1** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday.

# P.R.A.Y. SERIES

# OUT OF THE WATER

A BIBLE STUDY FOR KIDS  
AGE 6-10 YEARS OLD



DISCOVER GOD'S  
POWER, FAITH,  
AND LOVE THROUGH  
AMAZING BIBLE  
STORIES!



**DATES TBD**



Please email Mr. Jeff if interested  
in having your child participate.

[AlderdiceJL@yahoo.com](mailto:AlderdiceJL@yahoo.com)



**SUMMER**

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

### JUNE

5 Diane Biddinger  
5 Doug Diethrich  
6 Jaxon Partridge  
6 Rich Holl  
11 Christopher Rapids  
11 Brian Connelly  
13 Jared Blocher  
14 Jeff Alderdice  
18 Erin Roelle Pruner  
20 Katie & Donnie Roe  
23 Buck Scott  
23 Debbie Paulsgrove  
23 Jakob Partridge  
28 Joyce Davis

### JULY

4 Abraya McGehrin  
5 Kathleen Cesar  
7 Mindy Coates  
7 Kim Cooper  
11 Shannon Murphy  
12 Scott Baker  
19 Kenny Wean  
22 Jason Humphries  
23 Meredith Rodriguez  
23 Judy Ricketts  
24 Ruth Heslen  
24 Shannon Roelle Brown  
25 Becky Paulsgrove  
27 Kathy Zamostny  
27 David Thompson  
30 Jeff Arnold

### AUGUST

1 Judy Kressig  
1 Susan Rodriguez  
1 Lauri Allen  
4 Tony Sager  
4 Dorothy Tebo  
8 Susan Brown  
8 Kyle Flater  
13 Cyndi Diethrich  
14 Sandy Newsome  
15 Jennifer Wise  
20 Riley Brown  
21 Julie Shacochis  
21 Jan Connelly  
23 Toni Byrd  
24 Cole Murphy  
25 Brian Rapids  
25 Linda Bennett  
30 Brenda Sebly  
31 Charles Rosier

## Anniversaries

### JUNE

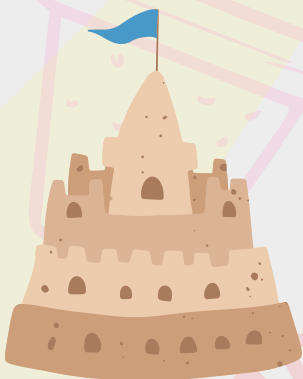
6 Buck & Laura Scott  
7 Steve & Kate Luetete  
14 Travis & Katy Saulsbury  
20 Byron & Judy Ricketts  
23 Karl & Nicole Streaker

### JULY

5 Doug & Becca Flater  
8 Dave & Cindi Arnold  
15 Kevin & Lisa Pieciewicz  
16 Paul & Nancy Thompson  
21 Tony & Susan Sager  
31 Rick & Brenda Baker

### AUGUST

2 Jim & Susan Brown  
18 Larry & Judy Lovell  
23 Jared & Elizabeth Blocher  
29 Ron & Linda Bange





## Shop & earn options to fit your lifestyle

Make fundraising part of your everyday life with gift cards purchased through RaiseRight.



### Multiple card types

#### eGift cards

Digital gift cards delivered electronically within minutes.

#### Physical gift cards

Plastic or paper-based gift cards that can be shipped to your organization or direct to your home.

#### Reloadable gift cards

Allows you to automatically reload funds onto physical gift cards purchased through RaiseRight.



### Safe & secure payment options

Add your bank account or pay with a debit or credit card to enjoy the on-demand convenience of online payments.

#### Get eGift cards delivered immediately

#### Access exclusive benefits like ship to home delivery

#### Earn 4x more than people who don't pay online

*Convenience fees apply based on payment method.*



### Earning on-the-go

The RaiseRight mobile app puts earning at your fingertips—in the checkout lane, at the gas pump, out to dinner, or even from the comfort of your couch.

#### Shop and buy gift cards

#### View earnings

#### Access and use your gift cards

*Download the free RaiseRight mobile app for iOS or Android.*



### Ship to home delivery feature

Get your gift cards delivered right to your door.

#### 250+ brand options—perfect for self-use and gifting

#### Available from the mobile app and on RaiseRight.com

#### Look for brands labeled as "Ship to home eligible"

*Shipping fees apply.*

[www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)  
EUMC Enrollment Code:  
3442E78357829

