Ebenezer United Methodist Church
NEWSLETTER



November/December 2026 & January 2027

Upcoming Events

November 14th - Holly Mart
November 26th - 1:00 PM Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving
November 29th - Decorating for Christmas
November 30th - Administrative Council Meeting 7:00 PM
December 6th - Christmas Brunch (after Worship Service)
December 13th - Chancel Choir Cantata
December 20th - 8:30 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary
11:00 AM Family Christmas Service
(Fellowship Hall)
December 21st - 7:00 PM Blue Christmas - Sanctuary
December 24th - Christmas Eve Services
8:00 PM & 10:00 PM
December 25th - Christmas Day!
December 27th - One Service Only- 10:00 AM
January 3rd - Birthday Party for Jesus - Fellowship Hall

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

Church Phone: 410-795-6136
Pastor's Office: 410-795-1237

Church Email
eumcwinfield@gmail.com
Pastor's Email
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

The fall season has arrived and the leaves on the trees are not the only thing changing. Soon it will be Thanksgiving and then the Season of Advent. Every year we face the holiday challenges of the secular world. It seems that even before Thanksgiving arrives, we are tempted to jump into the middle of the frantic pace of shopping, events, and extra obligations. It's easy to get lost in the commotion and forget the mystery we are preparing to celebrate: the Incarnation, the birth of the Christ Child, God with us.

This Christmas, I'm praying that all of us will intentionally step back from the chaos and choose to follow the light of the star rather than the rush of the crowd. The Christmas message is a message of hope and light in a world of uncertainty. It's a reminder that God's grace unexpectedly breaks into our lives, not just in sweeping gestures, but in the quiet, experiences of making relationships, offering encouragement, or through acts of kindness. Jesus came to show us how to live, bringing us truth, new life, and salvation. He experienced human pain and loss, yet through his fully divine nature, He provides us with healing and hope.

This Advent season, let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ Child in a few tangible ways. First, reflect on the message: take time for prayer, reflection and by giving thanks for the birth of Jesus. Try to read the scriptures from your advent devotions each week asking God to speak to you. Second, offer a blessing": work to deliberately choose to bless at least one person each week in advent with an act of kindness, an encouraging note, or a simple act of service. Third, pray for self and others that all will experience the true gift of God's love this Christmas.

By being intentional about our faith and love for one another, we can resist the temptation of focusing on the secular trappings and missing the spiritual blessings of Christmas.

It is a joy to be your Pastor during this season once again. May we all give thanks as we embrace God's gift of love given to us in Jesus.

Blessings,

Rev. Judy

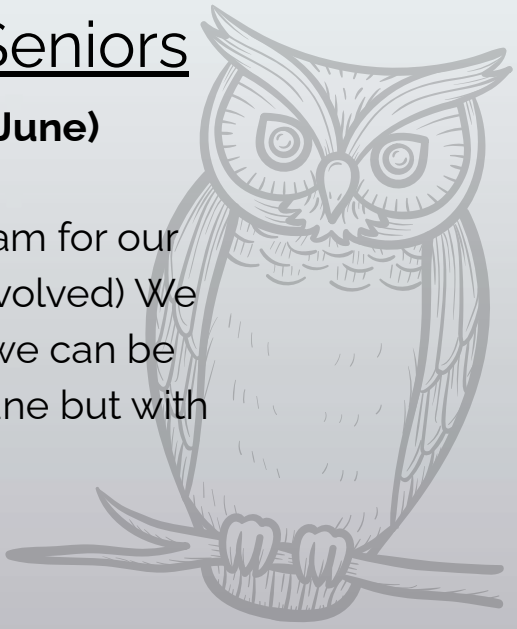


Lighting The Advent Wreath

We will need people to light the Advent wreath during worship again this year. You and your family or you and someone from your church family can join together and participate in worship in a meaningful way. The readings will be emailed beforehand. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider participating in worship in this special way during the Advent Season.

OWLS - Older Wiser Livelier Seniors

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



Rev Rick Gray has volunteered to provide the program for our November meeting. (There was no arm wrestling involved) We are really looking forward to that. Every December we can be heard singing Christmas carols, not necessarily in tune but with much gusto. Please join us!

Diane Biddinger
OWLS Leader

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. Sign-up slots are available for December 2026 through May 2027. If you'd like to contribute a dish, sign-up at **https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4baba92ba2fb6-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

Thanks to everyone for their support again this year.
If you have time to help set up Thursday or work on Saturday at Holly Mart at the Fire Hall, it would be appreciated.

We still have a lot of donated supplies if you would like to see if you can use anything. Just let us know and you can take a look anytime.

See everyone in the spring for Easter Egg fundraiser.

Contact with questions: Linda Bennett 301-253-3367 or bennettga@aol.com

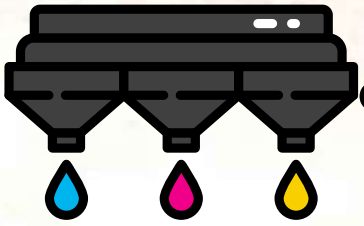
Greeting Cards for ARC

There is a basket in the narthex for any greeting cards you want to pass along. Any occasions, new or used are appreciated. After Christmas we will also collect those Christmas cards!

ADVENT STUDY
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Mornings beginning November 29th from 9:45 - 10:45 AM in Classrooom 1

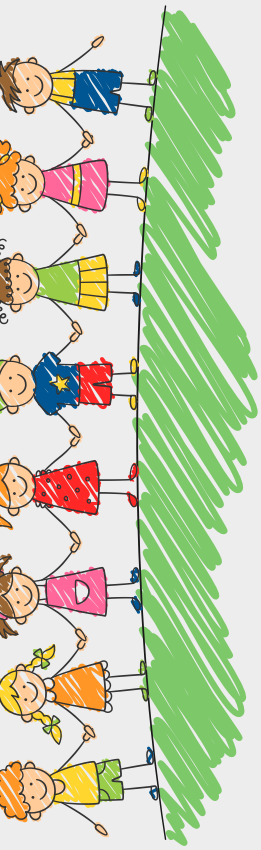
Please join us as Rev. Rick Gray, Sandy Newsome and Karl Streaker lead us through the Advent Season. All are welcome.



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

Please drop used ink cartridges in the box in the Narthex on top of the dresser.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



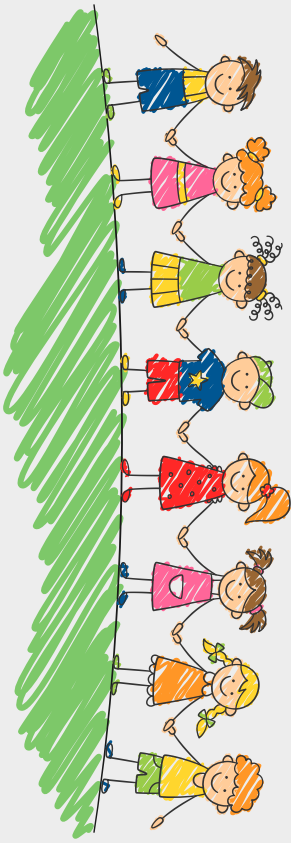
We have started our new Sunday School year with exciting Bible stories and some lively discussions. Everyone from pre-k through adult is welcome to come join the fun!
A great big thank you to all of our teachers!

Pre-k - Elizabeth Blocher, Ashley Alderdice
k-2 - Lynn Baker, Joanne Davis
Grades 3-4 - Julie Jones
Grade 5 and Middle School - Travis Saulsbury, Greg Will
High School - Doug Diethrich, Dave & Cindi Arnold, Bryon RIcketts
Adult - Rev. Rick Gray, Sandy Newsome, Karl Streaker

We will not have Sunday School on December 27, 2026.

Our children/youth Christmas service will be on December 20th at the 11:00 AM service. This will be directed by Julie Jones. Jesus' birthday party will be on January 3, 2027 during Sunday school time. Snow date - Jan. 10, 2027

Thank-you,
Joanne Davis



Children's Church

The 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month, September through May, from 11 AM to 12 PM.
All children ages 4-15 are welcome to join us!

We are excited about the meaningful and fun activities planned for the children over the next several months! This month, the children learned and performed a favorite fingerplay during Children's Sabbath Sunday that helps explain the Christian Gospel.

In November, we will explore the theme of gratitude through Bible stories, reading, and acting. In December, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus by retelling the Christmas story and learning about the true meaning of Christmas. In January, we will learn about the Wise Men through Bible stories and fun activities as we explore their journey to see Jesus.

We look forward to learning, growing, and sharing God's love with our children each month!

Thank you, Meghan Estes & Joanne Davis

HOLLY MART 2026

Please contact the Holly Mart Chairperson, Valerie Hyer, with any general questions at narrovh1@comcast.net or 410-489-2546.

Our annual Holly Mart is fast approaching!

Here are ways you can still help to make this event a success:

1. **Crafting -** Join us for craft days, held on specific Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Dates are listed in our church bulletin and in the Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bennett at bennettga@aol.com.

2. Silent Auction - Donate items for the Silent Auction. Items such as gift baskets, gift certificates, decorative items, items from specialty catalogs (i.e., Smith Island Cake), and high-end decorative items.
Contact Kim Cooper kacooper945@gmail.com for more information.

3. Bake Table - Our bake table is one of the most popular spots of the Holly Mart. Breads (pumpkin, zucchini and banana), pies, cookies, rolls and muffins are some of the best sellers. Contact Ruth Hesen or Becca Flater at RuthieHesen@gmail.com or flater4@hotmail.com.

4. Cheese Balls - Help will still be needed making the cheese balls or donating ingredients. Contact Jennifer Wise at jennifer_is_wise@hotmail.com.

5. Set up and take down - The Methodist Men take the lead on this effort. It includes putting the tables up prior to the Holly Mart, making sure that facility needs are met during the event and taking down all tables and chairs after the event. Scott Murchie is the point of contact for this - murchiescott@gmail.com

6. Kitchen - Help with chopping and cutting will be needed the week before. The kitchen chairpersons are Sandy Wean kswean@comcast.net, Melissa Pollack mellissa.pollack@comcast.net and Nancy Newcomer nbnewcomer@hotmail.com.

7. Candy Sales - Help is needed selling candy on the day of Holly Mart.. Contact Laura Scott at buckandlaura@hotmail.com.

The Holly Mart is our church's biggest fundraiser and this is an "all hands-on deck" event. The funds are used for many different church activities such as EUMC scholarships, general church fund, mortgage and youth activities.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex .

Ebenezer´s Annual Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 6th

12:15 PM Appetizers
12:45 PM Buffet Brunch

Adults - $18
Children 6 to 10 - $9
Children 5 and Under - Free

New Menu: Crab Dip, Scrambled Eggs, Egg Casserole, Bacon, Sausage, Home Fries, Fruit Salad, Pancakes, Danish, Muffins, Donuts, Penne Pasta with Marinara, Assorted Sandwiches & Wraps (chicken salad, tuna salad, sliced turkey, sliced ham), Chips, Dessert.

Contacts : Sandy Wean - 410-596-1748 kswean@comcast.net
Cheri Holl - 410-967-1668
Lori Rapids - 410-795-6136 eumcwinfield@gmail.com

Reservations **MUST** be made by 11/29/26



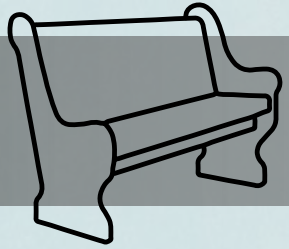
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026

Ceremony to begin at Noon

Ebenezer United Methodist Church will again be participating as we honor the veterans buried here in our church cemetery. We are looking for veterans to place the ceremonial wreaths during the ceremony. Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, see Cindi directly or contact her at darno455@aol.com. We will be taking wreath sponsorships - $17 per wreath - which will defray costs for the wreaths used during the ceremony. Please make sure to designate the funds to Ebenezer UMC Cemetery. If they are in memory of someone specific, please note that as well. All forms and money need to turned in to Cindi by the end of November. Checks should be written directly to Wreaths Across America. We have 52 veterans here in our cemetery and have been honored to be able to place a wreath at each with donations we received.

Decorating Ebenezer for Christmas

On Sunday, November 29th , immediately following the late service, we will begin decorating the church for Christmas. Help is needed putting trees up in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall and decorating both rooms. If you can lend a hand for an hour or so, please plan on staying after worship. We will be taking decorations down after worship on January 3rd and will need help with that as well.



A View from the Pew

By Ellie Baublitz

MEET SHANNON MURPHY

Shannon Murphy grew up in Howard County where she enjoyed attending worship with friends at their churches. She also attended Sunday school occasionally at a Lutheran church. After she married Matt Murphy, the couple moved to Carroll County in 1998 and attended Ebenezer together a few times. In 2008 she found herself a single mother of two young children, Cole, 3, and Lilli, 1. She remembers the first time she came to Ebenezer with them. "It was very friendly and welcoming. I felt like everything was going to be okay."

In 2009 Shannon, Cole and Lilli joined Ebenezer as members. The three attended Sunday school and both kids were involved in the children's choir and God's Team youth group. Cole and Lilli participated in and later volunteered with VBS, attended Camp Manidokin and worked with Camp HOPE. Shannon also volunteered with youth group, Manidokin, Camp HOPE, VBS and Holly Mart. "Being part of a church family and the friendships we have made means so much to all of us," Shannon said. "I feel so blessed that Rev. Judy has been my kids' pastor. She baptized them and me at the same time that we joined and later confirmed them."

Shannon credits involvement in the church activities with Cole and Lilli's desire to volunteer in many different capacities since growing up into young adults, both now in college. "They both love to help others," she said. Shannon also is doing what she loves -- being part of the dental profession. She received an associate's degree from Howard Community College in pre-allied health, then earned a bachelor's in science degree in dental hygiene from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1995. She is currently coming up on 35 years working for the same family dental practice in Laurel, starting with the original owners in 1991. Shannon loves the relationships she has developed with her patients, some of whom she is treating in their third generation. For example, "I treated Amy Anna as a child and now I'm treating her children," Shannon said. After telling Amy about Ebenezer, the Annas recently joined the church.

Shannon works in Laurel Monday to Thursday, then often temps in other offices more locally on Fridays. In her free time, Shannon enjoys spending time with her family and friends, being out in nature, whether the beach or the mountains, traveling, gardening, cooking, dancing and going to concerts. "But my favorite thing and my joy is being a mom," she said.

Cole is expecting to graduate in December from Campbell University, a private Christian college in North Carolina, with a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is very involved in his fraternity, Kappa Sigma, serving as president 2023-2025 and helping them raise thousands of dollars for military heroes. As well as in the fraternity, Cole has served hundreds of hours in volunteering for the college community. He enjoys being with his friends, going to concerts, and recently ran a marathon. He has worked various jobs during school breaks.

Lilli will graduate from Carroll Community College in December with an Associate's degree in criminal justice. She plans on going to West Virginia University to earn a Bachelor's degree in forensics. She also works at Shady Springs Kennel. She loves music and plays guitar for Ebenezer's Praise Band and also plays piano. Lilli still helps out with VBS and volunteered with the C.R.E.W. project recently.

Pill Bottle Program Continues

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 needs. Please continue to bring your **CLEAN** bottles to recycle! Donations for shipping are welcome as well.

Thanks for your support of this worthwhile ministry!

Pickle, Jam, Jelly & Relish Sale 2026

Thanks to everyone for your generosity in donating and purchasing all of our canned goods! It was a very successful fundraiser which will add to our Holly Mart total!

Thanks again from the Ebenezer Canners

Church & Society

Our group provides holiday meals for families at Winfield Elementary at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we need your help!

Please be on the lookout in early November (and then December) for a signup sheet for the items we need. Turkeys (10-12 pounds) and side dishes. We greatly appreciate your help!

Janet & Crew

Holly Mart Candy Table

Thanks in advance for donations of your favorite holiday candies again this year. Please check the signup sheets to see if you can help during Holly Mart or just stop in the day of to see if you can fill in, even for a short time. All help is appreciated!

Questions: Laura Scott or Linda Bennett

Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Join Rev. Rick Gray weekly to discuss the book of Acts. This is always a fun, informative time to be together!

NURSERY ASSISTANCE

If you are age 16 or above and able to help in the nursery during worship once a month, please let the church office know. We have a staff member there each week. However, in accordance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy it would be helpful to have another person present in the room. Assistance is needed from 8:20 AM to 9:30 AM then from 10:45 AM to 12:00 Noon.





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

November 8th
Regular Meeting
Youth Room - dinner provided
6:00 - 8:00 PM

November 14th
Holly Mart - all hands on deck!
8:30 -2:00 PM

November 22nd
Cookie Baking
Fellowship Hall after late service
Lunch provided

December 6th
No meeting
Enjoy the Church Brunch

December 20th
Children's Christmas Service - 11:00 AM
Regular Meeting
Youth Room - dinner provided
6:00 - 8:00 PM

January 3rd
Trivia Night
Fellowship Hall - Snacks provided
6:00 - 8:00PM

January 17th
Bowling Night
TBD

January 31st
Regular Meeting
Youth Room - dinner provided
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Youth Group 2026-2027

Youth group started this year with a fun night of food, fellowship and LOTS of laughs! We already did a mission project and also spent a fall night together at the corn maze!











Food Pantry

Our pantry continues to serve our community each month, and we have a good time together! Everyone enjoys talking with the families, offering them "extras" along with their bags of food. In August we served 69 families and gave out quite a few pairs of new shoes for the children to wear back to school. We love seeing their smiling faces when they like the shoes! God has so richly blessed our congregation and it is wonderful that we can bless these families.

If you have any questions about the pantry or would like to volunteer, text Sue Bergmann @ 410-259-1265

Recycling

All funds go to the Food Pantry!

Thank you for your continued efforts for recycling. We all are keeping these items out of the landfills and the funds received are helping with needs for the Food Pantry.

December reminder - don't throw away those Christmas lights that don't work anymore, they are recyclable!

Thank you for your participation!

If you have larger items or questions, please contact the Thompsons @410-241-1509.

Food Pantry Monthly Needs

November, December & January

Oatmeal, soup, stew,
chili and spaghetti sauce
Canned (or pouched) items
like tuna and chicken



We are continuing to accept hot chocolate and hot tea. We always accept regularsize jars of peanut butter and jelly. If you have a coat or blanket to spare, pleaseread the Compassion Closet article to learn how you can contribute. Thank youfor showing God's love to our community.



Compassion Closet

The Compassion Closet continues to meet the needs of many, and your donations are greatly appreciated. For the winter months we are looking for warm clothing, sweaters, socks, sweatshirts. All sizes. We are low on Men's and youth clothes. Winter coats and gloves and blankets are also needed.

Please contact Nancy Thompson,410-241-1509 if you have items you would like to donate. We appreciate it if you do not just drop them off without notice.

Thank you!



Leadership Changes as of January 1, 2027



Please be sure to pick up a 2027 Church Leadership Roster from the Narthex in December. 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 the committee until the end of the stated year. For example, if you are listed under the class of 2027 you will continue to serve on that committee or in that position through December 31, 2027. If you have questions about your leadership role for this year, please contact the church office. A special thank you to the leaders of Ebenezer UMC who have completed their service on a committee in 2026. 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.

Planning Day 2027

Our annual planning day will be on a Sunday this year. We will meet after the 11:00 AM worship service on January 24th, for a covered dish luncheon and to plan for 2027. Please plan on joining us! We will conclude our meeting no later than 3:00 PM. As always, our discussion will include reflections on our blessings from 2026, setting goals, establishing fundraising activities and discerning God's vision for Ebenezer for the coming year. After Christmas there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

All are welcome to join us as we eat and meet and plan for the year ahead!



Women's Retreat 2026

March 12-13, 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. Brochures and registration forms will be available in January.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

NOVEMBER

2 Hope Allen
2 Sandy Wean
3 Doug Flater
4 Eileen Fries
8 Nancy Newcomer
9 Sue Bergmann
9 Brae Blocher
11 Rebecca Wisner
14 Kathy McGehrin
16 Ann Adams
17 Aaron Torosky
18 Trista Ferrebee
19 Autumn Torosky
21 Travis Saulsbury
23 Mike Nickey
24 AJ Torosky
25 Ellie Baublitz
26 Jim Rhodes
26 Kate Luette
27 Laura Scott
28 Rachel Biddinger

DECEMBER

1 Julie Jones
1 Peggy McClelland
3 Michael Torosky
5 Frank Zamostny
9 Cindy Reisberg
9 Norman Zepp
10 Amanda Lowe
12 Dan Newcomer
13 Eric Rapids
13 Gerry Bennett
14 Sarah Humphries
14 Chuck Shacochis
17 Scott Murchie
17 Nancy Thompson
22 Rebecca Estes
23 Derek Jones
27 Angie Jones
27 Bella Mosko

JANUARY

2 Cindi Arnold
3 Shaun Arnold
8 Steve Luette
20 Valerie Paulsgrove
27 Valerie Hyer
28 Steve Bergmann Jr
30 William Streaker
30 Caleb Saulsbury

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

7 Ed & Sandy Newsome
19 Ruth & Steve Hesen

DECEMBER

11 Bob & Ann Churchman
16 Dave & Sandy Biddinger

JANUARY

4 Scott & Kim Murchie
26 Bob & Dawn Stevens

Friendsgiving Potluck Thanksgiving Day

November 26, 2026

1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall @ EUMC

You are invited to come and join those of us who are not traveling, or have other plans for this day. We all bring a dish to pass and have a wonderful meal and fellowship together.
A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

If you have any questions, please see Nancy Thompson or call 410-241-1509.

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



Rada Cutlery is well known for their quality 100% American-made kitchen products. The products are a great value and come with a lifetime warranty! Rada makes great gifts for the holidays, upcoming weddings, graduations, and other occasions.

You may shop using this link https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=4691254.66b722.

Rada is offering $5 off shipping if your order is $35 or higher. Use the code SHIPDEAL.

If you would rather not use the on-line ordering option, email or give me your order and I will place it. Just visit the Rada link or get a catalog from me to check out all the knives and other products.

Remember... your purchase helps support Ebenezer.

Cindy Reisberg ~ cindyreisberg@gmail.com





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
EUMC Enrollment Code:
3442E78357829