

In Touch



Ebenezer

United Methodist Church

WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE

May
2024

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PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

Sunday, May 19th
ONE SERVICE, 10:00 (FLC)

We had a very exciting Lent and Holy Week. I have gotten very positive feedback on our walk through the Gospel of Mark's telling of the event. And Easter is not just one Sunday. The next week we sang Easter hymns and celebrated in a combined service in the Sanctuary. At least 10 instrumentalists raised a glorious sound to God! And the season of Easter actually goes through to Pentecost Sunday (May 19th).

So, what is Pentecost? First, it is a Jewish Feast celebrating the first fruits from the fields, it was a party reminding us that God is with us and God has provided. But it is also the occasion when we as Christians, celebrate the pouring of the Holy Spirit out on the church.

There is evidence that the Holy Spirit has been working with humanity all along, but on Pentecost we celebrate the birthday of the church. It is time to move forward with the Kingdom of God breaking into the world. It is by the Spirit we are led and empowered to complete Jesus' ministry.

And since Pentecost (May 19th) is considered the birthday of the Early Church, we are going to have Worship and a Party! *This year we will have a combined service in the FLC at 10 am (no Sunday School that week). Wear red, yellow or orange if you have it because we are celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit. And since it is a birthday party, we will be having cake and ice cream after the service!*

Ebenezer UMC is alive and well! God is with us, God is providing, God is leading and empowering us! This would be a great service to invite friends to "come and see" what God is doing.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Tom





@ebumc.suffolk



ebumc.net

MAY Birthdays

- 1—Linda Patton
Keo Tep
- 4—Caitlin Cens
- 6—Celeste Draughn
- 8—Liz Stoddard
- 9 - Mickade Atchley
Rhonda Steere
- 10—Aaron Millikin
- 12—Del Brooks
Austin Johnson
Rowan Stoddard
- 14—Melissa Hazelwood
Tiffany Johnson
- 15—Jane DeLong
- 16—Melanie Cena
April McBride
Ryan Nocon
- 18—Levi Griffin
Chris Wollesen
- 20—Angie Durrance
- 31—Lisa Sorrentino
Connor Thompson

MAY Anniversaries

- 1—Thomas & Karen Hazelwood
- 5—Lee & Judy Kuklock
- 30—Don & Sharon Hawkins
- 31—Kendall & Celeste Draughn
Curtis & Amber Keesee

IN LOVING Memory

A donation was made to the Food Pantry in memory of **Chris Keltner** by Lola Kea.

A donation was made to the Food Pantry in memory of **Bob Hurst** by Janie Murrell.



Ladies,

The R.E.A.L. Women's Ministry Team is looking forward to our 2nd Annual "Celebrating Women" Tea May 18th 2-4:30 (in the FLC)



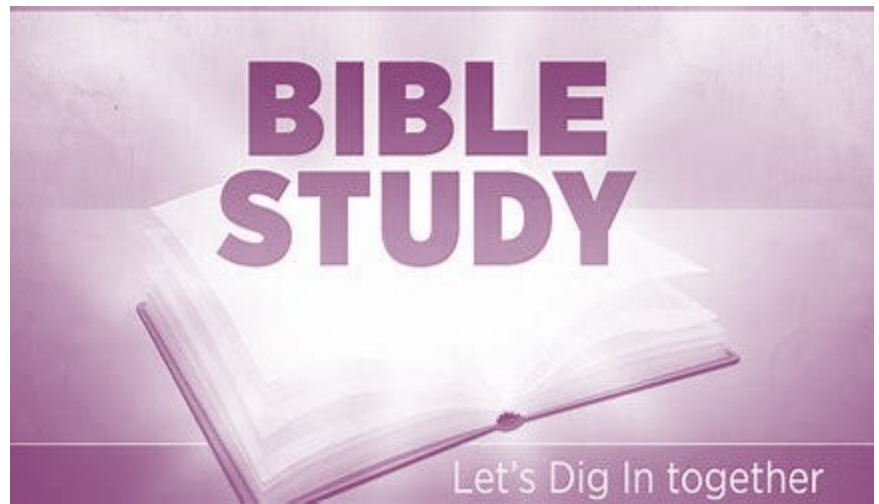
Think spring! Wear a colorful hat or tuck a pretty flower (real or not) in your hair!

The doors will open at 1:30.

Come ready to have a great afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship!

Please Note: We have reached our maximum and cannot accept any more reservations. We are sorry if you missed out this year, but we hope to do it again next year!

Pastor Tom's



"Focus on Prayer"

We are concluding our study on the healing ministry of Jesus. I have been very thankful for the folks who have come out to learn more about Jesus, ask hard questions, and go down some exciting rabbit trails.

For the month of May, our focus will be on Prayer.

So, bring your favorite study Bible or Bible app, (the more translations the better.) We will be looking at what we can learn from Jesus' ministry so we can continue to be Jesus' hands and feet in our community.

No one is called on to pray or read out loud, and I do not ask specific people a question; that way no one is put on the spot. Also, no previous Bible study is required, and there is no homework; this makes it comfortable for new folks.

It is never too late to join. *We meet in classroom 7 (main building) on Wednesdays, 11:30 - 1pm (feel free to bring a sack lunch) and 7-8 pm.*

A photograph of several pink tulips in bloom, set against a background of green and pink polka dots. The tulips are the central focus, with their petals clearly visible.

**We lift up all mothers
in our prayers to God.**



During our dedicated Christian Education Time (10:10-10:55), our Children and Youth meet in the Family Life Center while our Adults meet in both of our buildings.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our Children and Youth meet in the FLC to study *Bible Study Basics*

Nursery—Mini Disciples—Rm. 126

K-2nd—Little Disciples—Rm. 127

3rd-5th—Rising Disciples—Rm. 103

6th-12th—Soul Fire Room—Rm. 124

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

THE LEROY BAISDEN MEMORIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in Room 7 and is studying the book of John. (main building)

THE LADIES BIBLE CLASS meets in the Conference Room across from the Pastor's office. Beginning in April the class will be studying "The Names of God" by Melissa Spoelstra. (main building)

THE CONNECTIONS CLASS meets in the FLC and are studying *The Wesley Challenge*. If you like to "think outside the box" and like showing the love of Jesus through actions, then come join us as we see where God leads us!

COME JOIN US!



You are Invited to a Sewing Workshop for **Dress A Girl Around the World**



This will be an ongoing project, and the plan is to have one workshop a month, with a goal of having as many items completed to be sent with a mission team in September.

Are projects include 2 different dress patterns, cutting flannel and cotton batting materials to make reusable sanitary pads, and no-sew washcloth dolls to go in the pockets of the dresses for the younger girls.

Our next Dress A Girl Workshop will be **Saturday, June 1, 9–2:00**. Please let Katherine know by Tuesday May 28th if you are able to come.

To Register or ask Questions: Email Katherine Pearson – kpaitforward@spectrum.net *(this address for charity projects only)*



JULY 4TH PLANNING

Our next Planning meeting will be held on **Monday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 7** (main building).

Come see how Ebenezer reaches out to the surrounding communities to provide an exciting and memorable July 4th event.

If you've never been here to see this event, come join us in the planning process and see how you might plug in...and if this is something you look forward to each year, we're changing things up a bit this year, so come and see what's new!

Kendra Thompson is our point-of-contact this year.
contact Kendra at
kendrathompson1981@gmail.com





May Newsletter

Children and Youth Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us Sundays from 10:10am - 11:00am

Children meet in the FLC to study "Bible Study Basics"

Nursery - Mini Disciples - Rm 126

K-2nd - Little Disciples - Rm 127

3rd-5th - Rising Disciples - Rm 103

Youth meet in the FLC to study "Be Bold"

6th-12th - Soul Fire Youth Room

UPCOMING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS

Graduating Senior from College or High School?

Send their name, picture, degree, school, accomplishments, and future plans to amberkeese@ebumc.net.



Youth 6th-12th Grade Basketball, Games, and Food

May 2nd & 16th

6PM - 7PM

Mother's Day Love - May 12

Join us using the Sunday School hour

May 5 & 12 to help show our moms how much we care.



4th of July

Fun for the family!



July 15 - 19 (9am-12pm) - VBS Camp Firelight

3 Years Old to Rising 5th Graders

Registration for children and volunteers is available on our website under Upcoming Events.

<https://www.ebumc.net/church-events>

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



**Food Pantry hours:
1st & 3rd Tuesday
10:30-2:00**



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

Always first, thank you and blessings to all who hear the Holy Spirit's nudge to buy an item or two for the food pantry when shopping. In case you have forgotten, we ALWAYS need flour, sugar, cooking oil, salt, black beans, pasta and pasta sauce.

So, there has been something that has been puzzling man since the dawn of time, paper or plastic? Today I'm going to help you with that decision! (Oh Ralph, thank you what a relief!!!)

We always try to be a good steward of God's blessings and feed as many as we can with our limited resources. We are planning a slight change in what we distribute and how we distribute it, and it will be an easier change if we have PAPER BAGS!! If they're double bagged, so much the better.

We will probably make the change in June, so please stockpile the paper bags or drop them in the food donation tubs or the pantry. Watch this space for future updates.

Matthew 25: 34-40

Blessings,

Ralph Scichilone



**YOUTH GROUP
BASKETBALL & PIZZA
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
THURSDAY, MAY 2 & 16
6-7:00 P.M.**





Come join us for our next
UMM dinner
Tuesday, May 28th at
6:30 pm in the Family Life Center

Guest speaker is Ashley Greene, Executive Director of the
Western Tidewater Free Clinic

We hope you will plan to join us and bring a guest!



Monthly Singalong

Friday, May 31st

6-8:00 p.m. (FLC)

Homemade Pizza and ice cream!

*Mark your calendars and invite others to join us for fun,
food, fellowship and good music!*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AGES 3 YEARS OLD TO RISING 5TH GRADERS

REGISTER AT WWW.EBUMC.NET/CHURCH-EVENTS



**July
15-19
9-12 PM**

**1589 Steeple Drive
Suffolk, Va 23433**



MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Missions is now working with the CHILDREN'S CENTER of Suffolk. The Center serves Western Tidewater families and focuses on the healthy development of children including children with disabilities and developmental delays. We will be collecting girls' and boys' underwear sizes 3T, 4T, 5T & 6 for the months of April and May. Receptacles may be found in the Mission Corner of the FLC and the narthex in the main building.

Also, Missions is partnering with BRIDGE THE GAP OUTREACH CENTER of Suffolk. BTG receives donations from large corporations which can span the gambit from food, electronics, health care products and cleansing products. Many of the liquid items arrive in bulk so they need clean empty plastic bottles to transfer the liquids to usable sizes for their clients to take home. They are looking for detergent and cleansers bottles and the heavier plastic drink bottles would work too. What a good way to recycle and being part of the Methodist's green program. This will be an ongoing project for us.

Janie Murrell
Sharon Hawkins

WE CARE

WE CARE will meet on May 7th from 10-12:00 in the FLC. We would love to have others join us as we crochet and knit to fill various community needs. For questions, please reach me at 757-484-2054 or janie.murrell@yahoo.com.

Janie Murrell



Ebenezer United Methodist Church

WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE

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Join us in Worship!
Sunday mornings
8:00 a.m.—Laity-led
9:00 a.m.—Contemporary
10:10-11:00 a.m.—Christian Ed.
11:15 a.m. — Traditional
You may worship in-person or
continue to join us via Facebook,
YouTube or
www.ebumc.net

MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.calendaroptions.com

Our Staff

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

Tom Durrance, Pastor
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Amber Keese, Dir. Of Youth Ministries

Doug Shomaker, Dir. of Music

Linda Boles, Pianist

Pam Saks, Nursery Coordinator

Pam Saks & Christine Neff, Co-Directors of Children's
Ministry

Jeni Millikin, Dir. of Contemporary Worship

Alex VanCampen, Dir. of Sound/Media,
Contemporary Worship

Contact the church office to reach these staff members.

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for
the **J u n e** issue is
Friday, May 10th
Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

Reminder: All activities requiring the use of
church facilities must be cleared through
the church office.