

# In Touch



***Ebenezer***

*United Methodist Church*

*WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE*

**April  
2024**

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## **PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!**

This month I want to share a reflection on Genesis 22.

“Keep Listening!” Abraham was given instruction by God to sacrifice his son Isaac on the mountain. The wood was there, the boy was tied up, and the knife was shining in the sun poised over the child.... This was the child of promise; the one God empowered to be born from folks who were way too old to have children. This was the son who was to be the second generation of God's chosen people. This was a beginning of the people counted by the sands in the sea and the stars in the heaven. And the knife was about to end all that.

“Keep Listening!” I am not sure what Abraham was thinking. Maybe it was something like this... “You gave Isaac to me; you want him back, fine... I still believe you will do the great nation promise.” Or, “I believe your promise, if this is how you want it, even with Isaac dead, you have a better plan than I have, maybe you can raise him back up, so be it.”

“Keep Listening!” The knife begins its downward plunge and a voice interrupts, “Abraham, Abraham!” Abraham replies “Hush up; I am doing what God wants!” Ka-Thunk! No, that is not what happened. The response was, “Here I am.” Abraham kept listening.

We may read the Bible and know exactly in our hearts what God wants. But keep listening! Many things have changed since the writing of the scriptures. That is why it is so important that when we read and apply the scriptures today, we also consider the traditions of the church, our reason, and the experience of the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts daily.

Sure, we may have it all figured out, but that is no excuse not to “Keep Listening!”

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Tom



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ebumc.net



# April BIRTHDAYS

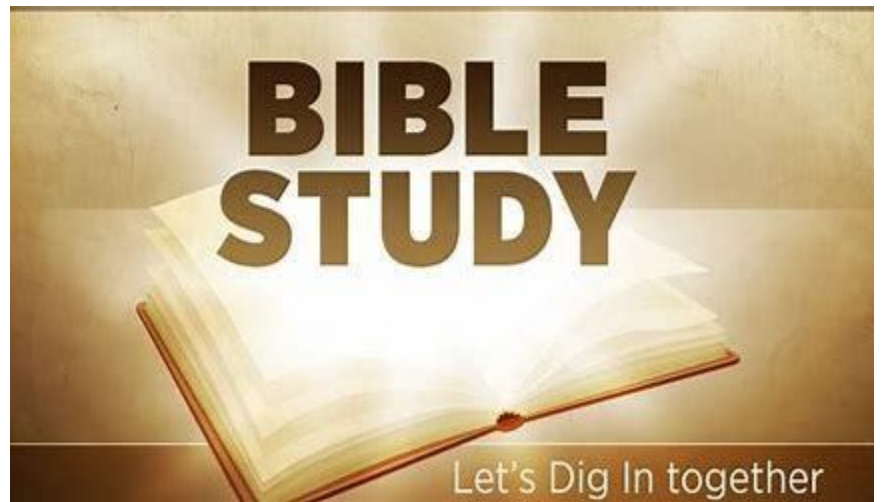
- 2—Sandy Tomlin
- 3—Aaron Roehrs
- 5—Susie Gay  
Nathan Ruehl
- 10—Samuel Compton
- 11—Rick Zuerlein
- 20—Elias Hite  
Brady Horton
- 21—Thom Watkins
- 23—Elise Kennett
- 24—Jeni Millikin
- 25—Adelyn Bright
- 27—Braden Casavan
- 28—Amber Keesee
- 29—Tucker Millikin  
Chuck Wright
- 30—Barb Bass  
Judy Haller-Kuklock



# April ANNIVERSARIES

- 12—Greg & Linda Boles
- 14—Kirk & Karen Newman
- 18—Rob & Jennifer Pitsenbarger
- 30—Ray & Connie Schau

Pastor Tom's



The Lenten Bible study has been good, we are all learning together. Since we did not complete all the healing stories, we will keep going...

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 on Wednesdays, 11:30 - 1pm (feel free to bring a sack lunch) and 7-8 pm.*

?? ?

## Bible Quiz

? ?

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

An illustration of Jesus, wearing a yellow robe, standing in the center and talking to four other men in purple and blue robes. They are in a room with a greenish background.

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



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 "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



We have held two Dress A Girl Workshops, 02/10/2024 and 03/16/2024. For the two workshops, we've had a total of 21 participants plus 4 support persons in Workshop set-up and administration support. As of 03/18/24, 33 dresses have been completed, 20 no-sew washcloth dolls completed at March Workshop (plus those that Carol has made at home.) We have cut flannel and cotton batting materials for approximately 100 reusable sanitary pads; we need sewers for these!

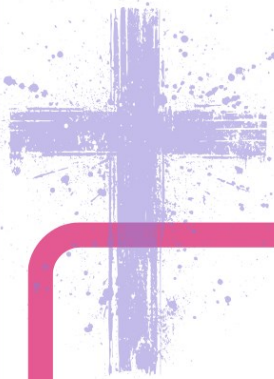
Our next Dress A Girl Workshop will be Saturday, **April 20**, 9:00 – 1:00. Come join us!

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



### An Excerpt from “A Touch of Joy” By Helen Steiner Rice

I ask myself,  
Just who am I  
That God should send His only Son  
That my salvation would be won  
Upon a cross by a sinless man  
To bring fulfillment  
to God’s plan —  
For Jesus suffered, bled, and died  
That sinners might be sanctified,  
And to grant God’s children,  
such as I,  
Eternal life in that home on high.



# April 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](mailto:amberkeese@ebumc.net).



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

April 11th and 25th

6PM - 7PM



#### Spring Kids Day Out! - April 20

Kids can enjoy a day away from their parents with fun activities and games!

Registration is available at [EBUMC.net](http://EBUMC.net) under [Upcoming Events](#).

#### 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

Planning will begin soon for VBS. Volunteers are needed.

Email [pamsaks@ebumc.net](mailto:pamsaks@ebumc.net) if you are interested in volunteering or helping plan VBS. Registration will be available at [EBUMC.net](http://EBUMC.net) under Upcoming Events.



## Monthly Singalong

**Friday, April 26th**

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

**Pizza and ice cream!**

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



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

Guest speaker is Keith Cannady,  
Comprehensive Planning Manager for the City of Suffolk

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

**SECOND PLANNING MEETING  
for JULY 4TH COMMUNITY EVENT**

**Monday, April 15 at 6:30 in Rm. 7 (main building).**



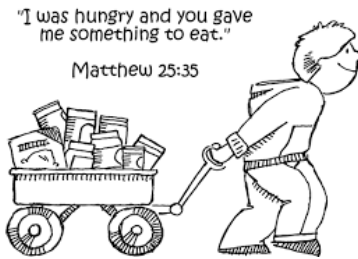
**THE 4TH OF JULY IS OUR BIGGEST  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT DRAWING HUGE CROWDS TO OUR CAMPUS.  
We need lots of folks to jump on board to help organize and volunteer in  
different areas prior to *and* the day of.**

**Kendra Thompson is our point-of-contact this year...**

**Contact Kendra at [kendrathompson1981@gmail.com](mailto:kendrathompson1981@gmail.com)**

**Come to the planning meetings to learn what kind of help is needed  
and how you can help us share the light of Jesus to others!**





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



Spring greetings from the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry! As usual we had a busy March and continued to see the number of families we support increase. The second Tuesday in March we served 35 families. That's 10 more than our previous high mark.

I used to count the number of bottles of cooking oil on hand and that's how I counted the families. Each family always takes one. Recently I had to count the rolls of TP! (lol). I stack the TP in stacks of 4 which is how many each family is allowed to take and I put out 30 stacks of 4. They all went and I had to stock some more.

We've received some funds to support the pantry and we've found a great partner in Saint Andrews Presbyterian down the street before the bridge. Their minister works at a food pantry in downtown Suffolk and they get overstock from Food Lion. We regularly get just over 20 dozen eggs every two weeks and this past week we received 20 bags of fresh oranges!!!

I ask for your continued support with food, GIFT CARDS and monetary donations!!!

Matthew 25: 35

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
Women's Ministry*

*Reaching out*

*Encouraging each other*

*Adoring God*

*Providing opportunities  
for women to make  
authentic connections*

*Learning  
together*

**Ladies,**

*If your name and address is in our church database, then you should receive a special invitation in the mail by the end of the first week in April for our*

**2nd Annual**

**"Celebrating Women" Tea**

**May 18th 2-4:30 (in the FLC)**



R.S.V.P. deadline is **Monday, April 22nd**

*(Seating is limited, so sign up early!)*

*If you do not receive an invitation, but wish to attend,*

**Email:** [sheilasmith@ebumc.net](mailto:sheilasmith@ebumc.net) and we will get the information to you.

**COME FOR FUN, COME FOR FELLOWSHIP,  
COME FOR YUMMY FOOD...feel free to invite friends or  
family to join you!**

Our Guest Speaker will be Sherry Bouley, a woman "on fire" for Christ.

**Sponsored by The R.E.A.L. Women's Ministry Team**

## MISSIONS ACTIVITY

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 will be placed in both buildings for the donations.

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 not be meeting in April 2024 but will meet again on May 7<sup>th</sup> {changed date} For questions, please reach me at 757-484-2054 or [janie.murrell@yahoo.com](mailto:janie.murrell@yahoo.com).

Janie Murrell

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church

WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE

1589 Steeple Drive  
Suffolk, Virginia 23433



Phone: (757) 238-2359  
Fax: (757) 238-7765  
E-mail: [ebenezer@ebumc.net](mailto:ebenezer@ebumc.net)



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](http://www.ebumc.net)

## APRIL - MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1

[www.CustomCalendarMaker.com](http://www.CustomCalendarMaker.com)

## Our Staff

### OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

**Tom Durrance**, Pastor  
[tomdurrance@vaumc.org](mailto:tomdurrance@vaumc.org) Cell: 1-276-734-8902

**Sheila Smith**, Administrative Assistant  
[sheilasmith@ebumc.net](mailto:sheilasmith@ebumc.net) Office: 238-2359  
Office Hours || 9-5 Monday thru Friday

**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

**May** issue is

**Friday, April 12th**

Send newsletter submissions to:

[ebenezer@ebumc.net](mailto:ebenezer@ebumc.net)

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