

In Touch



Ebenezer

United Methodist Church

WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE

**AUGUST
2023**

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PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

One of my favorite stories out of the Gospel of John is the story of Phillip and Nathaniel (v.43-51). Phillip had become a disciple of Jesus and goes to tell his friend Nathaniel about it. In essence he tells his friend, 'We have found Him of whom Moses wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah.' Nathaniel replies, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" It was not a place where prophets, much less the Messiah, should be coming from.

What is most interesting is how Phillip handles the push back. He does not open his Bible and start lobbing scripture like hand grenades to make his point. He does not break into a theological diatribe or logical debate with him either. He doesn't even choose to belittle Nathaniel for his non-belief. Instead, Phillip comes back with a simple invitation, "come and see".

Often evangelism is that simple. You do not have to be a biblical scholar, or a great at debate, to simply issue an invitation to 'come and see.' Come and see what God is doing here at Ebenezer UMC.

Each week we have testimonies of where we have seen God working. We have found the Messiah! We have found that God loves us, broken and all. And that God loves us enough to transform our lives. We have found the Good News that God is the expert at using broken people to share His love with the world. We have found Good News here!

If you have really found Good News (Gospel) here in our community, then the task is simple, invite people to "come and see." No expertise required, just a heart for God, and a heart for those who may need more Good News in their lives.

Blessings, Pastor Tom



@ebumc.suffolk

- 3—Lennie Blanchard
- 4—Larry Zimmerman
- 5—Kelli Horton
Pat Mertig
Dwight Schaubach
- 7—Roger Bryant
Buddy Northey
- 8—Ann Northey
- 11—Thomas Hazelwood
- 14—Ron Keltner
- 17—Jake Newman
- 18—Tom Collette
- 20—Cohen Pitsenbarger
- 23—Faye Darden
Young-Mi Pruden
- 26—Sheila Smith
- 28—Burt Bronner
- 29—Sandi Milton
- 31—Reeva Luecke



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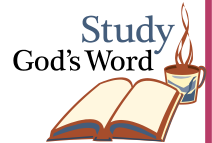
- 1—John & Nina McConnell
- 7—Dick & Carolyn Barry
- 10—Mike & Pam Saks
- 14—Andy & Del Brooks
Steve & Patti Simons
- 22—Buddy & Ann Northey
- 24—Jesse & Sandy Canada

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

BIBLE STUDY—Sunday Mornings

We currently have two classes for Adults meeting in our main church building during our Unified Christian Education Time (10:10-11:00).

- 1) The **LeRoy Baisden Memorial Sunday School Class** meets in Rm. 7 and is studying *the Life of Moses*.
- 2) The **CONNECT** Class meets in Rm. 8 and is studying *The Story*.



Our children and Youth meet in the Family Life Center during the same time frame.

BIBLE STUDY—Sunday Evenings (through August 27)

Rev. Lynne Hundley's Bible study group meets from 6-7:30 in Rm. 7 (main building). All are welcome—just bring a Bible with you.

PRAY FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE AND LISTEN TO HIS RESPONSE

WORSHIP OPEN FORUM – Wednesday August 2, 7 pm FLC.

I promised that our change in worship times was indeed a three-month summer experiment. It is time to look at how we are doing. We knew in advance that it will be difficult to compare summer services attendance because folks take vacations etc., but Summer is also the best time to try a change like this.

If you are interested in seeing the attendance record for June and July and giving feedback to how we have weathered the experiment; we want to hear from you. Please come to the open forum if you can. The more open dialog the better. If you cannot make it, but want your voice heard, send me an email (tomdurance@vaumc.org). For this forum, we will be excluding anonymous or 'someone said' feedback).

After the forum, the lay leaders and I will discern whether to continue the experiment or discern a "Plan B" and timeframe.

Blessings, Pastor Tom

*Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Women's Ministry*



Join us for

CRAFT NIGHT

August 13th

3:30-5:30

Cost: \$15 (to cover cost of materials)

Deadline to register: Sunday, August 6th

Look for insert in the Sunday bulletins

Or contact Sheila Smith at 757-238-2359

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

July was such a blessing for the Children's Ministry. Vacation Bible School shared the message from Romans 14:19...so let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.

God blessed us with a wonderful group of children and volunteers. We are so thankful for each and every one, as well as the members of our congregation who supported us through gifts and prayers.

On Sunday, September 3, we will have ONE SERVICE at 11:15 in the FLC and will have the "Blessing of the Backpacks" at that time. Students and teachers of all ages, bring your backpacks and we will ask a special prayer over them. [Christian Education for all: 10:10]



Blessings from The Children's Ministry Team



FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING

You are invited to join us as we begin planning for our Fall Festival on October 28th.

We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm on **August 8, September 12, October 13 & 24th.**

Help us create a fun and welcoming event for all who attend.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE ITEMS DUE BACK BY 8/27/23

Backpack (w/o wheels)
Rest mat
Lg. beach towel or small weighted blanket
Composition books (no spiral)
Wide-ruled loose leaf paper
Folders—3 prong w/pockets
Page protectors—50 count
3-ring notebook (1 1/2")
3 plastic folders w/prongs (red, blue, yellow)
Plastic work folder (w/prongs & pockets)
Wooden (Ticonderoga) pencils
(no mechanical, foil, plastic pencils)
#2 pencils
Highlighters
Dry erase markers
Dry eraser
Colored markers
Crayons (24 pk)
Colored pencils
Pink block erasers
Pencil top erasers

Glue sticks
Scissors—blunt point & regular
Refillable plastic (no metal) water bottle
Headphones or earbuds
Gallon zip bags
Quart zip bags
Baby wipes
Tissue boxes

These are just ideas gathered from the Oakland Elementary School list (Early Start—5th grade).

*Baskets will be in each building through the month of August to collect **YOUR** donations.*

Please consider taking care of Christ's children as you shop.

Questions: [Janie Murrell 757-619-5709](tel:757-619-5709)



Loaves & fishes
—MINISTRY—

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your night will be like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10

Food Pantry hours are every Tuesday from 10-2:00.

Summer is going by so quickly and the pantry has been busy. As you're aware, we have a large Hispanic community requiring food assistance. We've done a few things to help us understand our customers.

First, I put a questionnaire together in both English and Spanish thanks to Google Translate. We ask where they live, how many people in the family (Adults, Children, Infants), if they are getting assistance (WIC, SNAP, Medicate/Medicaid) and if they need food assistance every week.

In the first week of getting those filled out we found out interesting things. What I would call 8 families (8 shoppers), we were feeding 23 adults, 8 children and 3 infants, almost all needed food every week but most interestingly ALL were from Newport News!!!

Based on that information, I contact 4 food pantries in Newport News. I verified all provided food to walk-ins, time/date of distribution, addresses and phone numbers and I put together a handout to give the families. I even found some that specialize in Hispanic families.

We now have a Spanish translator, Susan Cox, thanks to Berni Harris. She is a retired Spanish teacher. She started last week and has already made an impact understanding more about the families.

Also thanks to Bill and CoCo Cary, we get a large donation of fresh produce from Rose Hill Farms every Tuesday.

One last thing. Last month my food shoppers, Janie Murrell and Sharon Hawkins, spent over \$1200 in food to stock the pantry. YIKES! Please, please help with donations to the pantry. Food, gift cards and monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE

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

August 2023

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		

September 2023

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.a-printable-calendar.com

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the
September issue is
Friday, August 11th

Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

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

Our Staff

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

Tom Durrance, Pastor
tomdurrance@vaumc.org Cell: 1-276-734-8902

Sheila Smith, Administrative Assistant
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.