

# In Touch



**Ebenezer**

United Methodist Church

WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE

## DECEMBER 2023

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### PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

# CHRISTMAS

December is the best time to invite your friends and acquaintances to “*come and see.*” We have more visitor-friendly events in December than we have all year. From the new Christmas sing-along on December 1<sup>st</sup>, complete with chili and dessert, to the Christmas Concerts with awesome receptions afterwards. And then there are our two Christmas Eve services. Each of these are great places for folks to just dip their toes in the water and see what we are about here.

The reason most folks come to a church is because someone invited them to come. It is good to remember we have to invest interest in folks to let them know we care. In essence, we care for folks and that gives us the privilege to ask them to “*come and see*” with integrity.

*I really think we have something to offer a hurting world.* We have a message of hope in a world that seems hopeless. Loneliness is one of the greatest problems in our society, we have regular worship services and small groups that battle isolation. The world is caught in the vice of feeling helpless, we offer a God who walks with us and helps us through the tough times. Many folks do not feel accepted by the world because they are different, we have a God who meets us right where we are, warts and all. And these are just the tip of the iceberg of what we have to offer.

I want us to look at our lives, to look at our own walk with God. Do we have something that really makes life better for us? Do you think others might want this? Invest some time to get to know folks, and when you have earned the privilege to ask, then invite them to “*come and see.*”

Blessings, Pastor Tom



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ebumc.net



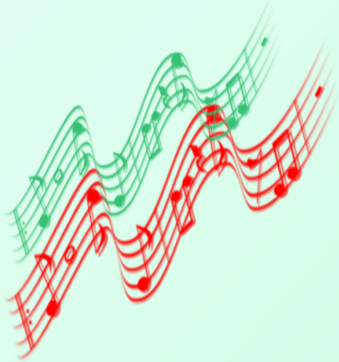
# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Peter Maytham
- 2—Bob Harris
- 7—Ronnie Darden  
Cheryl Lee  
Gerald McCarty  
Shyla Millikin
- 8—Sue Talbott  
Kit Ward
- 10—Keaton Thompson
- 12—A.J. Saks
- 16—Christine Neff
- 20—Edward Luecke  
Jeff Ward
- 21—Taresa Tomlin
- 22—April Watkins
- 26—Katt Schau
- 28—Nina McConnell
- 29—Pamela Gray
- 30—Sarah Corron  
Margaret Keltner
- 31—Doug Shomaker



# DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1—Dale & Susan Terry
- 17—Bob & Debbie Earl
- 18—Bob & Esther Hall
- 20—Aaron & Jeni Millikin
- 24—Ben & Cathy Nocon
- 29—Bob & Linda Patton



**NO SINGALONG IN NOVEMBER  
BUT PLAN TO  
JOIN US ON **DECEMBER 1ST** FOR A  
**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION!****

**[Reindeer games & fun for the kids!]**

***Chili and dessert to follow!***

Invite others to come for a night of fun,  
food, fellowship and good music.

***Something for the whole family!***

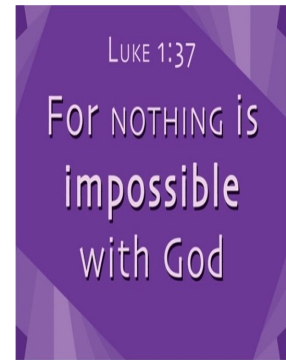
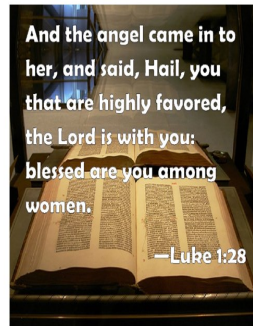


# ADVENT STUDY

## “PRELUDE TO AN IMPORTANT BIRTH

(Normal Lives Disrupted)

*Written by Pastor Tom*



JOIN US FOR

A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

on the season of ADVENT

“Prelude to an Important Birth”

(Normal Lives Disrupted)

Luke 1 in 4 Acts

BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd–24th

During the Christian Education Hour (10:10–11:00)

Children will still be in their Sunday School classes/Nursery.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Calling all kids, youth, and young at heart!

December brings Advent Reflections, The Grinch, Rudolph and a Christmas Play.

Advent starts December 3rd when we will kick off our first Sunday of Advent with a lesson, activity, and a craft for the whole family.

Watch for dates and times for all of the events throughout the Christmas Season in the weekly church bulletin and email.



KIDS'  
DAY  
OUT

Join us, Saturday, December 9th  
10 am-2 pm  
at Ebenezer United Methodist Church.  
Contact Pam Saks or Christine Neff  
757-472-2558 +1 (703) 772-5486  
Youth volunteers welcomed.  
Contact Ms. Amber to help.

*The Ebenezer Chancel Choir, Ensemble & Guest Musicians will be performing their annual Christmas Concert in the sanctuary*



Sunday, December 10 – 3:00 p.m.  
Monday, December 11 – 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 12 – 7:00 p.m.

**Reception following each performance in our  
Family Life Center**

Christmas 2023



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*



1589 Steeple Drive, Suffolk, VA 23433  
Ph: 757.238.2359 • [www.ebumc.net](http://www.ebumc.net)



## of Pat Powell

The following donations have been received as of 11/12/2023 by...

James and Jacqueline Wilkinson  
Don and Sharon Hawkins  
Lawrence and Peggy Riddick  
Janie Murrell

### ***In Honor Of...***

A donation was made in honor of Ralph Scichilone from Messiah United Methodist Church

## **WE CARE**

**WE CARE** will be meeting on December 12, 2023, in the FLC at 10:00am. This is a small fellowship group who likes to knit, crochet or sew. Don't forget to check the baskets in each building for shawls. Also, in the FLC there are lap and baby blankets.

For questions, please reach me at 757-484-2054 or [janie.murrell@yahoo.com](mailto:janie.murrell@yahoo.com).

Janie Murrell

Ebenezer UMC Youth and Children's Ministries  
Fresh Evergreen  
Wreath Fundraiser

**It is not too late!**



**Anyone who ordered in person before Nov 12,  
can pick up their wreaths  
December 10th from 10-12:30 in the FLC**

**There will also be a few extras for  
purchase on Dec 10!**

**Want to order more or want direct shipping?  
Place delivery orders until *December 8th*. Simply  
visit: *GiftItForward.com* and use our fundraising  
code: EBENEZVA002 when checking out.**



*Thank  
you!*





This year ***Christmas Eve*** falls on Sunday. So, on Sunday morning, we will have a combined worship service at **9:00 a.m.** in the Family Life Center. Following worship, we will wrap up our combined Advent study led by Pastor Tom and others.

Our evening worship times will be: **6:00** Contemporary worship in the Family Life Center and **8:00** Traditional worship in the Sanctuary.

We pray that you will enjoy some special time with family and/or friends as we celebrate the birthday of the Christ child.

***New Year's Eve*** also falls on Sunday, so once again, we will have a combined worship service at **9:00 a.m.** in the Family Life Center.

So mark your calendars now and we hope to see you at one of the Christmas Eve services and on New Year's Eve!



Please note change in Food Pantry hours:

1st & 3rd Tuesday

10:30-2:00

Greetings from the Loaves and Fishes food pantry. A great big THANK YOU to all who continue to support the pantry with food and money donations. We couldn't do it without you. Also thanks to my regular volunteers who shop for me and make regular pickups of donated food and those who help me out on pantry days to help me restock and keep me company!!!

The number of families has continued to grow mainly by word of mouth within the Hispanic community. We're regularly feeding 20-25 families. We've been supporting some families with some extra supplies as we can. We have a newborn only a couple weeks old we support and we continue to support the triplets as best we can.

Unfortunately our success doesn't come without a cost. We have so much food going out, we're unable to fund the food we need to buy. We are only "buying" necessary food like cooking oil, flour, sugar, salt, rice, dry black and dry kidney beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise and cereal. Other food will be provided only as donated.

We can use any donation of food and could really use food gift cards.



**LIDL**

**WALMART**

**FOOD LION**

**HARRIS TEETER**

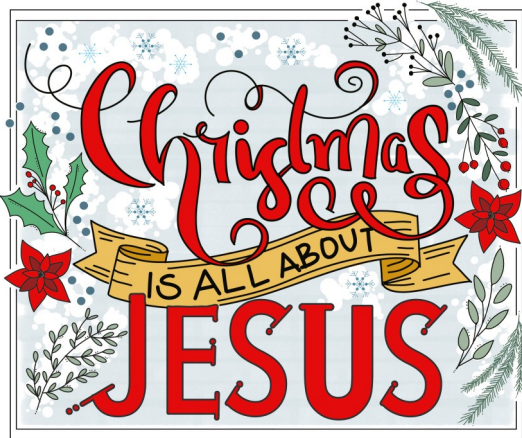
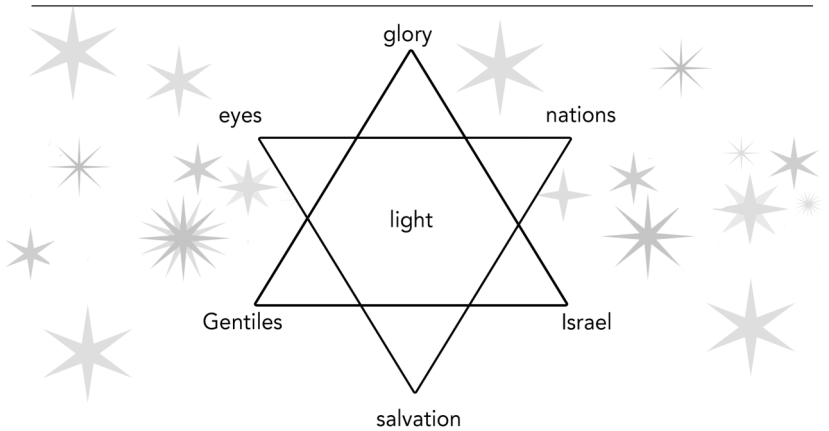
**ALDI**



# SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

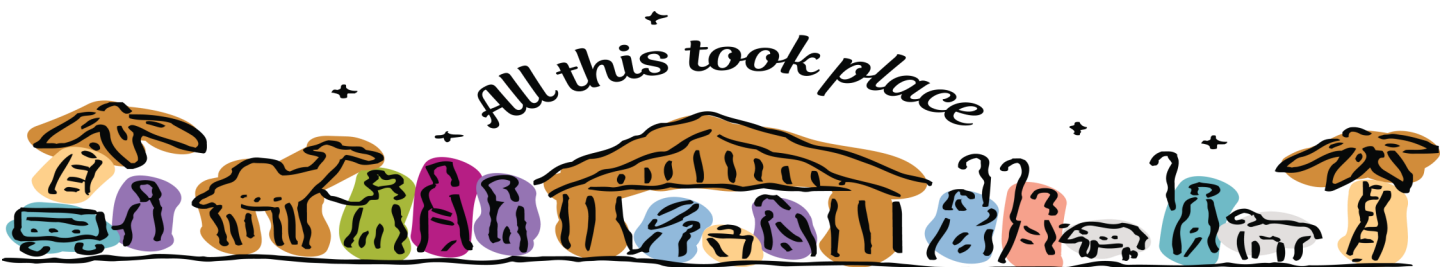
Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my \_\_\_\_\_ have seen your \_\_\_\_\_, which you have prepared in the sight of all \_\_\_\_\_: a \_\_\_\_\_ for revelation to the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of your people \_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

# 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)

## December 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						

## January 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			

www.a-printable-calendar.com

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the  
**J a n u a r y** issue is  
**Friday, December 8th**

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.

## 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.