

In Touch



Ebenezer

United Methodist Church

WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE

**February
2024**

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PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!



Lent and Easter come early this year. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter (Sundays don't count). It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th; Easter Sunday is March 31st this year. Lent is a time of reflection and a time to be a little more deliberate about wanting to grow deeper in our relationship to God.

Often this has to do with "giving up something for Lent". Self-denial is a tool, but what I prefer is for folks to add something to our current walks that add spiritual depth. It might be being deliberate in "practicing random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty" each week. Or adding a special devotion and prayer time with time for pausing and reflecting.

Or, it might mean adding a Lenten Bible study. This year, we will not be having a combined class or even have all the classes do the same study as we have done in the past.

What I am offering for a Lenten Study is a Bible study on "The Healing Ministry of Jesus." The details are in another article in the newsletter. *But if you have never been in a Bible study before, this might be a good 6 weeks to try one out.* I am offering a lunch class and an evening class studying the same scriptures. There is no homework and no one has to speak or pray aloud because I never ask a direct question to a single person. You can participate at the level you feel comfortable. I am hoping for a good turnout in both of the classes. It is a time to get to know each other better as we learn more about Jesus' ministry. (There is so much to learn that goes beyond what we can cover in our weekly sermons.)

Let us walk into this time of preparation together. Let us be deliberate in setting time set apart for God to work with us, in us and through us. Amen.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Tom



@ebumc.suffolk

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3—Meredith Pearson
- 5—Stacy Casavan
Romelle Webber
- 6—Rick Milton
Adelle Morgan
- 7—Berni Harris
- 8—Kenny Lamonea
Bob Murphy
- 12—Kay Liszka
- 15—Marie Riddick
Kendra Thompson
- 16—Betty Harrell
- 17—Glenn Everette
Jacob Sorrentino
- 19—Jaycob Dentel
Jan Porritt
- 22—Mike Saks
- 23—Karen Hazelwood
- 24—Lanora Davis
- 28—Bob Hall

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1—David & Karen Jennette
- 2—Art & Sherry Berkley
- 13—Burt & Janet Bronner
- 14—Andy & Del Brooks
- 15—James & Lisa Sorrentino
- 18—Bill & Rhonda Steere
- 22—Larry & Maxine Zimmerman
- 27—Sandy & Taresa Tomlin



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The following people made contributions in loving memory of Ronnie Darden:

- Dean Gilmore
- Pam Gray
- Lillian Taylor



During our dedicated Christian Education Time (10:10-10:55), our Children meet in the Family Life Center while our Adults meet in our main building.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

THE LEROY BAISDEN MEMORIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in Room 7. They will be studying the book of John.

THE LADIES BIBLE CLASS meets in the Conference Room across from the Pastor's office. Currently studying *Women of the Bible* through February 11 and on February 18, will begin a Lenten study, *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin.

THE CONNECTIONS CLASS meets in Rm. 8. They 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!



You are Invited to a Sewing Workshop for

Dress A Girl Around the World

Saturday, February 10, 2024

9:00am – 2:00pm

(Snacks and Water provided; bring a bag lunch if desired)



We will meet in our main building

Reservations and Pattern Choice Required (Katherine will help you with that)

Register no later than Monday, Feb. 5th (MAX 20 Spaces *excluding leaders*)

Dress a Girl Around the World (DAG) is a Campaign under Hope 4 Women International (a 501 (c) 3 organization) bringing dignity to women around the world since 2006. Hope 4 Women International is a nondenominational independent Christian organization.

Rachel Cinade founded DAG in October, 2009, an experimental box of fifty dresses with a group traveling to Honduras. Since then, DAG has ambassadors making and distributing dresses all over the world and have recorded over 3,000,000 dresses to over 90 countries including USA.

DAG dresses are hand-carried and delivered to the fields because we want to individually present a dress to each girl personally. Usually the dress is slipped on over their ragged clothing, telling each girl that God loves them and that someone who cares about them made this dress especially for them. THEN we watch the transformation before our eyes as the girls realize their dignity!

These dresses represent so many things...it can change a girl's destiny. 1) It makes them feel good about themselves, 2) It reminds them that God loves them and that someone made this dress especially for them, and 3) It lets others know that she is well cared for and may discourage would-be predators/traffickers.

There will be opportunities for **Non-sewers** to participate as well. Please let Katherine know you are a non-sewer when you register. **Note:** If you can sew...come join us! This is an opportunity open to **ALL** sewers...men, women, youth and adults.

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

JOIN US FOR

SHROVE TUESDAY

DINNER AND SOME
MARDI GRAS FUN FOR
THE KIDS

FEB 13, 2023

5-7PM

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Lenten Bible Study – The Healing Ministry of Jesus

Pastor Tom will be leading a Bible study on the healing ministry of Jesus. Bring your favorite study bible or bible app, (the more translations the better.) We will be looking what we can learn from Jesus' ministry so we can continue to be Jesus' hands and feet in our community.

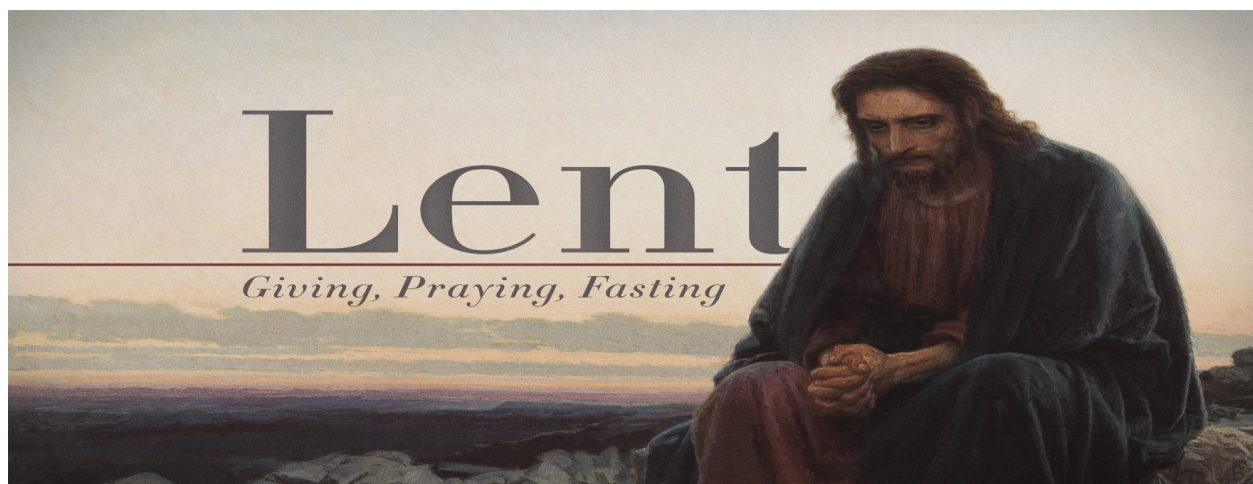
We will meet Wednesdays in Lent starting February 14th through March 27th at 11:30 a.m. (bring a sack lunch to classroom 7) and 7:00 pm (in the FLC).

Ash Wednesday Services February 14th – Noon & 7 pm

These will be quiet, reflective services, focused on preparing us for the season of Lent. Both will be held in the sanctuary (main building).

The Season of Lent and Holy Communion

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, February 14th and goes through Easter March 31st. It is 40 days (but Sundays don't count). Lent is a season of reflection and humility. As food for the journey, we are celebrating Holy Communion each Sunday in Lent at all 3 services.





Monthly Singalong

Friday, February 23rd

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, February 27 at

6:30 pm in the Family Life Center

Guest speaker TBD.

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



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

Here we are in 2024. Why is it that the older you get the faster time flies?

It's been said, "Time flies like an arrow and fruit flies like a banana."

It appears that some monetary donations came in at the end of the year. For that I'm eternally grateful!

If you need to find a place to spend your tax refund, please consider the food bank! Any and all donations gratefully accepted.

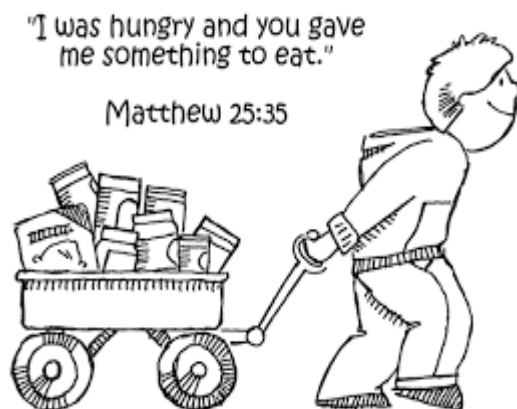
We continue to look for partners to help us in addition to searching for grant funds to help us out. If you have any ideas or know of potential donors, please let me know.

Please shop for cooking oil, flour, sugar, salt, cereal, rice, black and red dry beans. That's what we spend the largest amount of money on.

Read Matthew 25:34-40!

Blessings,

Ralph Scichilone



WE CARE

We Care will be meeting February 13, 2024 in FLC at 10:00am. For questions, please reach me at 757-484-2054 or janie.murrell@yahoo.com.

Many hands make light work for all and busy hands keep you out of trouble! Come join us!

Janie Murrell

*Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Women's Ministry*

*Reaching out
Encouraging each other
Adoring God
Learning together*

*Providing opportunities
for women to make
authentic connections*

The graphic features the acronym 'R.E.A.L.' in large, light-colored letters, each inside a diamond shape. The diamonds are arranged in a cross pattern. The background is a soft-focus image of an olive branch with several olives. The text is in a cursive, italicized font.

*Ladies, mark your calendars
now! The R.E.A.L. Women's
Ministry Team is hosting our 2nd annual
Ladies Tea on May 18th 2-4:30.*



More info coming soon!



February 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



Shrove Dinner - February 13

Join us Tuesday, Feb 13 from 5-7pm
for Mardi Gras activities for the kids and pancakes!



Easter Egg Hunt - March 23

Empty and Prefilled Eggs are needed.

Guarding of the Tomb - March 29-31



Spring Kids Day Out! - April 20

Kids can enjoy a day away from their parents with fun activities and games!
Registration available in March.



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.



July 15 - 19 - VBS Camp Firelight

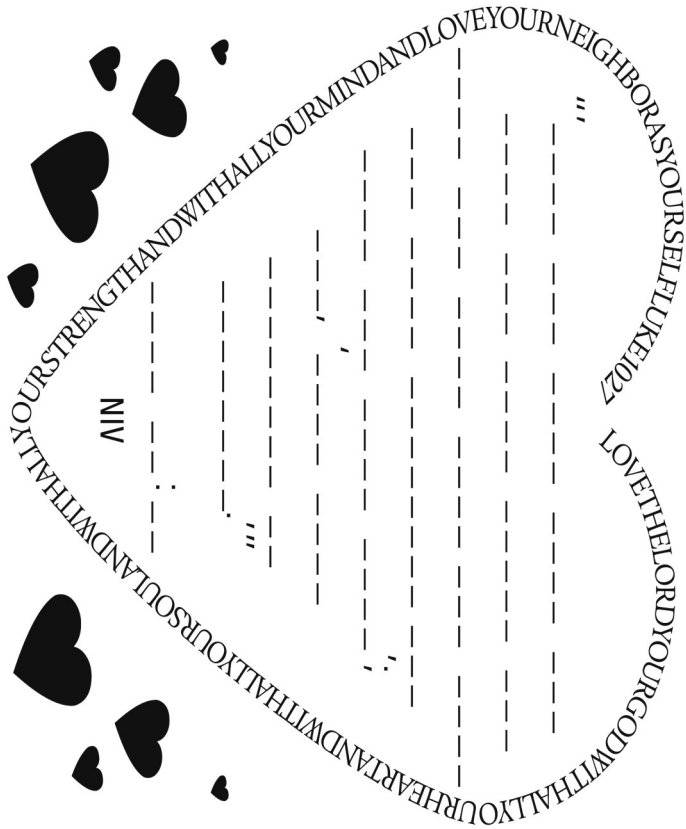
Planning will begin soon for VBS.
Volunteers are needed. Additional information to come!



KIDS PAGE

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We b. Above all, c. My command is this: d. And over all these virtues put on e. Greater f. See what great g. There is no fear in | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14 |
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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

FEBRUARY 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		

MARCH 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						

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Our Staff

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

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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

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the **March** issue is **Friday, February 9th**

Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

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

Contact the church office to reach these staff members.