

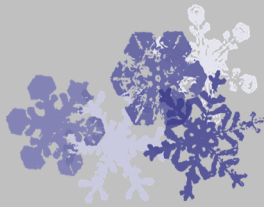
# In Touch



***Ebenezer***

*United Methodist Church*

*WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE*



**January  
2024**

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

It is time to start a new year. Most of us make New Year's resolutions. We resolve (make a pledge) to do things differently next year. Most of the time, these resolutions have to do with our health and money. I am going to eat better, cut caffeine, exercise more etc. Of course, some people who have been at this for a number of years don't bother to make resolutions. They have not been able to make a change in years past so they just give up.

What if we did something a little bit different? What if our sole (soul) aim in life this year was to "walk closer with God." Then it would not be just a New Year's resolution; it might become a New Year's revolution!

What would it mean to integrate the presence of God into every activity we have, every day? It would be a radical change from the way the world operates. There are a lot of people in the world just making it day to day. They have not considered how God might be able to help them make better decisions. Often people run on "autopilot" and face it folks, our autopilots are broken. Just read the headlines, and count the number of failing and failed relationships. And did I mention the scandals of the last few years?

The connection to this revolution is simple; if we will walk closer to God, other people will see how that changes our lives. When they see our lives are richer, they will be ripe to ask them to "come and see" what it means to let God lead us together.

How do we start this revolution? We have already started. If you are reading this message, it is by the grace of God. But to continue and deepen this walk, all we have to do is ask every day, "God, what are we going to do today"? Then as we go through each day, be attuned to the nudges of God. It is that simple. Will you join God in the revolution to change this world one part of a heart at a time?

...Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me...

Blessings, Pastor Tom



@ebumc.suffolk

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Pum Tep  
Maxine Zimmerman
- 3—Linda Briley  
Hunter Ward
- 6—Betty Lamonea
- 8—Rich Corey
- 10—Scott Ange  
Bob Patton  
Haley Saks
- 16—Robbie Horton  
Willard Moger
- 28—Dick Barry
- 19—Bill Cary
- 22—Janie Murrell
- 24—Steven Ange
- 25—Ann Vance
- 29—Greg Boles  
Adrienne Corron  
Mark Hawley

# JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4—Aaron & Jaime Roehrs
- 25—Dennis & Katherine Pearson
- 30—Brian & Romelle Webber



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A donation has been made In memory of Jimmy Peden by Richard and Gail Najarian

A donation has been made to the Food Pantry in loving memory of Chris Keltner by Sheila Smith

A donation has been made in loving memory of Denise Mullins by her husband, Bryan Mullins.



Ladies,

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and pray that the New Year will bring you good health and a feeling of joyfulness as we jump into 2024!

Our next gathering is scheduled for **Sunday, January 14th** from **3-5:00** in the Family Life Center. Come for fun, games, and fellowship! Snacks provided.

We have also invited Carol Stevens to join us. She has been an interpreter with the Deaf for 60 years and has done Deaf Ministry development for the UMC including leading 17 Deaf Ministry mission teams to Africa. Come and see the exciting movement of the Spirit in Tanzania among the Deaf.

May the God who is LOVE and a God of new beginnings, create in each of us a new desire to be filled with the knowledge and spirit of Christ.

*Sheila Smith* and your Women's Ministry Team





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. Subject TBD.

**THE LADIES BIBLE CLASS** meets in the Conference Room across from the Pastor's office and will continue their study on "Twelve Women of the Bible". Join us for lively and thought provoking conversation each week!

**THE CONNECTIONS CLASS** meets in Rm. 8. If you "think outside the box", then this class might be for you! Do you like showing the love of Jesus through actions?; then this class might be for you! Come join us as we see where God leads us!













## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Happy New Year! Reindeer games at the singalong and Kids' Day Out with the Grinch were full of Christmas cheer. The Grinch taught us, "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." What we really learned was that Christmas means a whole lot more! The true meaning of Christmas is rejoicing in the birth and love of our Lord Jesus! The children used their time in Sunday School and Advent activities to learn more about Jesus. What a blessing! In the new year we look forward to celebrating **LOVE** and beginning Lent in February.

Prayers for a blessed and happy new year!

The Children's Ministry Team



## WE CARE

We invite you to begin the new year by participating in We Care. This outreach is an arm of the mission program of EUMC and we strive to use talents received from God to provide a feeling of comfort and love to others in need by crocheting, knitting or sewing shawls, lap blankets and baby blankets. Supplies are provided and we can teach those who would like to learn. **WE CARE** will be meeting on **January 9, 2024**, in the **FLC** at **10:00am**. Please come & enjoy the fellowship.

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

Missions would like to thank our church family for their Bountiful Blessing support in November. We provided meals for 31 families through Social Services, Children's Center and the community. Food was taken to the New Horizons Veterans Home in Smithfield with the help of UMM. And, in December, a big thank you to all those who adopted children or senior citizens from our Angel Trees. Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you all.

Your Missions Team



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

## Year End Report

The food pantry has made it to the end of the year, barely! While the change to only opening the first and third Tuesday each month has helped it hasn't diminished the number of "families". In fact, the number continues to grow by word of mouth in the Hispanic community.

With the help of our Spanish translator Susan Cox, we recently conducted a survey. What we would consider a family (shopper) on this particular Tuesday was 20 families. From the survey we discovered we were feeding 48 adults and 40 children.

On the first Tuesday in December I got to the pantry at 9:15 to prep for the day. There were already 4 cars waiting for the 10:30 opening. By 11:45 the crowd was gone and the pantry cleaned out of all the essentials, oil, flour, sugar, salt, cereal, ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta, pasta sauce and black/red dried beans.

## January 6



# 2024



**Ebenezer United Methodist Men**

are taking orders for **Brunswick Stew**

sold by the quart: \$8.00

**Order deadline is Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.**

Orders may be picked up on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-4:00 p.m.

in the Family Life Center (brick building next to the church)

1589 Steeple Drive, Suffolk

*Walk-ins on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> will be accommodated subject to stew availability.*

*Contact the church office to place an order.*

*757-238-2359 or [ebenezer@ebumc.net](mailto:ebenezer@ebumc.net)*

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church

**WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE**

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Suffolk, Virginia 23433



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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)

## 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.calendroptions.com

## 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		

## 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**

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the **February** issue is **Friday, January 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.

Contact the church office to reach these staff members.