In Touch

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Ebenezer United Methodist Church

WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE

July 2023

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PASTOR TOM's CORNER!

One of the interesting things that has stuck in my head is a lyric of a song from the 1970's. Johnny Rivers ends the song, *"The only thing that's permanent is change."* There is truth in that lyric!

Ok, some will argue that God does not change, but I promise you, our understanding of God does. There is a promise that when we get to heaven, we will know (God) as we are known (by God). I imagine that would require a final change in our hearts when we get to the door!

In any case, changes happen. If nothing else, we get older, whether we like it or not. The question is how we deal with the changes. It depends on what is changing; but many people grouse, others will celebrate, yet others will lean in, adjust, and work through the changes.

All this is to say that we have made a lot of changes at Ebenezer in the last year. And I do understand how changes can be very unsettling. But my whole ministry is focused on "Listen to God, do what God says, see what happens." I promise you that we are trying to listen as best we can, but the only way we can determine how well we listened is in the "see what happens" phase. This takes <u>time</u> and <u>prayer</u>; we must be patient and keep listening.

I encourage us to continue to lean into God, and into what we believe is God's plan for us. If we find we are following God, we will find that the blessings will be worth the discomfort.

Blessings, Pastor Tom

2—Christina Banks
Meghan Draughn
3—Meredith Ketten
4—Betty Murray
7—Mark Pruden
8—Pastor Tom Durrance
9—Lynne Hundley
11—Adam Ruehl
12—Kendall Draughn
14—Angie Hurst
15—Bob Earl
Larissa Knowles
16—Baxley Lockhart
17—Wesley Sorrentino
Marilyn Wagner
21—Cambel Hurst
Cooper Hurst
Connie Ketten
Rob Pitsenbarger
23—Art Latimer
24—Kevin Ange
Ralph Scichilone
26—Daisy Dunning
27—Debbie Woodyard
28—Andy Milton
30—Kristen Horst

2—Ron & Ginny Fravel
7—Robert & Berni Harris
10—Bill & CoCo Cary
14—Walt & Jamie Newman
21—Rich & Sue Corey
29—James & Melanie Cena

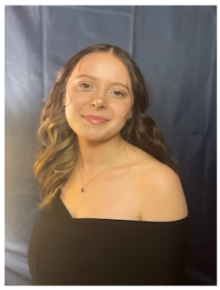
A donation has been made in memory of Chris Keltner by Dennis and Katherine Pearson.

SENIORS

CLASS OF 2023

BRYAN STEERE

Bryan graduated from Smithfield High School. He plans to attend TCC and obtain an associates in business administration before transfering to ODU to major in marketing.



LARISSA KNOWLES

Larissa is currently one of our media interns. She graduated from Kings Fork High School and plans to attend TCC before transfering to major in music business.

CONNER SMITH

Conner graduated with honors from Nansemond High School. He plans to attend TCC in the fall.

MARY SHELOR

Mary is currently one of our media interns. She graduated from Smithfield High School and plans to attend James Madison University in the fall. She is majoring in kinesiology and minoring in pre-physical therapy.

July Newsletter

Youth Updates

4th of July:

Volunteers are needed for the July 4th celebration.

Games from 12-2
Youth Food Sales from 6-8
Face Painting 5-6

Let me know if you are interested in helping or just show up and join us!

Vacation Bible School:

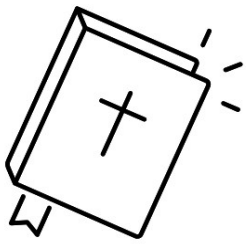
July 10-14 (9-12pm)
Volunteers are needed to help with different activities.
Please reach out to Pam or Christine if you would like to help.
Get ready for a fun week!

Nansemond Swim Club:

July 16 - Come swim 5-7:30 and bring a friend.
8907 Eclipse Dr, Suffolk, VA 23433

Sunday School:

Sunday school has changed times!
We will meet in the Youth Room from 10:15-11am. See you then!



Crittenden/Eclipse
Hosted By
Ebenezer United Methodist Church
4TH OF JULY
JULY 3RD
CHUCKATUCK CREEK RAFT RACE T-SHIRT SALES -TBD
MAILBOX DECORATING CONTEST - JUDGING WILL BEGIN 6PM
JULY 4TH
9:45 - 10:15 - PARADE LINE-UP
10:15 - 10:30 - OPENING CEREMONY
10:30 - 11:30 - PARADE THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD
11:30 - 2:00 - FOOD, FUN, GAMES, PRIZES, DRAWINGS AT EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
-INFLATABLES - BOUNCE HOUSE, FOOTBALL, AND BASEBALL
-PATRIOTIC CRAFT ACTIVITIES IN FLC
-GAMES FOR ALL AGES FROM TODDLER TO ADULT
-PLANTS ON A MISSION
-VBS SIGN UP AND INFORMATION
-FOOD - BBQ, HOT DOGS, CORN DOGS, COTTON CANDY, BAKED GOODS, AND MORE!
2:00 - DRAWING FOR GIFT BASKETS (TICKETS AVAILABLE WHERE FOOD IS SOLD)
3:00 - RAFT RACE ON THE CHUCKATUCK CREEK
6:00 - 8:30 - LIVE MUSIC BY TIME LINE BAND
6:00 - 8:00 - FOOD SALES ON THE LAWN & FACE PAINTING
8:30 - DRAWING FOR BIKES (TICKETS AVAILABLE WHERE FOOD IS SOLD)
9:00ISH - FIREWORKS SPONSORED BY CE&H RURITANS
1589 Steeple Drive Suffolk, VA 23433
Special Thanks to our Sponsors
Q-Daddy's BBQ, Suffolk River Heritage, CE&H Ruritans
Additional Sponsors Still Welcome

SOMETHING NEW ON JULY 4TH

INTRODUCING "Plants on a Mission"

What is it? A fundraising booth that offers up beautiful plants and flowers for donations of any amount!

How it works: Plants and flowers will be showcased and offered up for donations of any amount. Indoor tropicals, outdoor flowers and even home grown started from seed vegetables! AND, not to be outdone, the cutest Volunteers you'll ever see!

All donations collected will go directly to Ebenezer UMC to help continue its various missions projects, be it local or abroad.

Want to donate? Here's how:

Plants! The Star of the Show! Anything goes, indoor, outdoor, any size. Can be bareroot or potted up. I'll get them showroom ready for July 4th!

Pots: Preferably glazed ceramic with a drainage hole. No plastic, please.

Please bring your donations on Sunday, July 2nd and place them in the grass by the side entrance of the main building (on either side of the sidewalk near the door).

I have done this project at my former church for many years and now I am so excited to be bringing it to Ebenezer!

I can be reached at 757-943-1463 or ghcagape@aol.com if you have any question regarding a donation or need help with pick up.

God, family, gardening...in that order.

Cathy Nocon

BAKE SALE FOR MISSIONS

The Missions Team will once again have a Bake Sale on July 4th to benefit local and global mission projects.

What we need: Donations of cookies, brownies, etc. placed in Ziploc bags with one or more items per bag. Whole pies and cakes also sell well. Please identify your goodies, especially if they have nuts.

Please bring your items to the FLC on Monday, July 3rd between 3 & 6:00 or before 10:00 a.m. on the 4th.

Questions: Sharon Hawkins 757-573-7886

Thank you for supporting our various outreach ministries.

FOR KIDS 3 YEARS—RISING 5TH GRADERS!

July 10-14

Click link below to register your child or to volunteer

https://ebumc.myCokesburyvbs.com

Open for ages 3 years to rising 5th graders.

Come enjoy music, crafts, outdoor fun and more!

Answer the call to be a hero and serve God!

Contact Pam Saks (757)472-2558 or

Christine Neff 703-772-5486 for more information

or to volunteer.

R.E.A.L.
Women's Ministry

Join us for

GAME NIGHT

July 16th

3:30-5:30

Family Life Center

Bring a snack to share!

Beverages provided.

Some games will be available, but if you have a favorite game you'd like to share, please feel free to do so! **On August 13th from 3:30-5:30 we will have a Craft Night.**

Mark your calendars!

Since we are doing two months of activities in a row when we usually do every *other* month...we will probably skip September since it tends to be a busy month with kids getting ready to go back to school and new church programs kicking off.

We are always open to new ideas, so feel free to send me an email if you have a suggestion ...especially if it's something you would like to help make happen. If there is a topic of interest and you know someone who might come and speak...or if it's in your own wheelhouse...please let me know! ***Sheila Smith***

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

NEW DEDICATED SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

***June through August**, we are experimenting with a designated time for Christian Education.*

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES—10:10-11:00 a.m.

- The LeRoy Baisden Bible Study Class will continue their study of *The Life of Moses*—anyone can join at any time (Rm. 7—main building)
- The Connect group will continue their study of *The Story—the Bible as one continuing story of God and His people*—anyone can join at any time (Rm. 8—main building)

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY—6-7:30 p.m.

LYNNE HUNDLEY'S Bible study will meet again on Sunday nights, July 9—August 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Rm. 7 (main building). Just bring your Bible and your passion for learning!

Ebenezer Family and Friends

SAVE THE DATE!

July 19, 2023, 7 PM

Linda Boles will present a concert of her original songs at Ebenezer UMC on Wednesday, July 19th at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Linda has recently signed an agreement with Homegrown Worship and Third Floor Productions in the UK to promote her music globally.

After the death of her first husband in 1982, the Lord began inspiring Linda to write songs. She traveled, had a band, recorded albums and did concerts all over the East Coast. She even appeared on radio and television, including the 700 Club. But life happened and things changed, and she forgot about the songs that God had given her. She began her music teaching career and retired in 2017 after teaching for 42 years.

This past February, the Lord reminded Linda of the songs He had given her so long ago. The word she kept getting was to "share". So began the journey of social media. She posted her first video on February 25, 2023 to her Facebook page. That led to more videos and a YouTube Channel, Linda Boles Music. As a result, the videos have been liked and commented on by people from all over the world. It is exciting to see how the songs have been shared by so many.

We believe that there is more that God would like to accomplish through the music He has given to Linda. And so, He is nudging her to sing somewhere besides her living room!

Please mark your calendar and come out to hear and support the work that God is doing in Linda's life through her music. It would be great to see you!!

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

We will meet at **6:30 p.m.**

on

Tuesday, July 25th

in the Family Life Center.

Guest speaker TBD.

Dinner will be served. UMM men, plan to attend and bring a friend!

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SINGALONG

July 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Family Life Center

Homemade Pizza and Ice Cream to follow!

Traditional & Contemporary Hymns

Gospel , Folk Music, and fun secular songs

Invite others to a night of fun, food, and good music!

There's something for everyone!

FOOD PANTRY HOURS
TUESDAYS
10-2
FOR PICKUP OR DELIVERY
Contact Ralph Scichilone with questions or to volunteer to help out in the pantry.

Loaves & fisheS
MINISTRY

We continue to have 10-15 families come in weekly to use our food pantry. Your continued donations are greatly appreciated. Below is a list of most requested items, but please remember that grocery store gift cards are helpful as well.
Ralph: 703-338-2007 or scich88@gmail.com

Baked Beans
Deviled Ham/ Small Canned Ham
Tuna
Jello cups
Cooking Oil
Sugar/Flour
Salt/Pepper
Cookies
Saltine/Ritz-style crackers

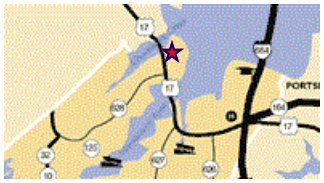
YEAH! YEAH! School is out and fun times begin; however, be aware Ebenezer's school supply drive begins in **August.** The Mission Committee is supporting Oakland Elementary in the school drive this year. In speaking with Ms Tysinger, school counselor, any type of school supply is welcomed.

August 5-7, 2023 is Virginia's tax free school shopping days! Please note that any item $20 or less will be tax free this weekend. Remembering from the past, items include: composition note books, lined paper, pocket folders, 3 ring 1" notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, back packs, blunt scissors, sanitizer liquid or sheets, tissues just to list a few things. Bins will be available in each building as drop-off points beginning mid-July.

This campaign is such a valuable outreach for the Ebenezer family and picking up a few school items here and there through the summer is easy to do. Jesus cared for the little children and so should we. Janie Murrell—Janie.murell@yahoo.com

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

1589 Steeple Drive
Suffolk, Virginia 23433



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

July 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					

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		

www.a-printable-calendar.com

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the **A u g u s t 2 0 2 3** issue is **Friday, July 14, 2023**

Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

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

@ebumc.net

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*

Our Staff

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS"

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

Sheila Smith, Administrative Assistant
sheilasmith@ebumc.net
Office: 757-238-2359
Office Hours || 9- 5 Monday thru Friday
www.ebumc.net

Amber Keesee, Dir. Of Youth Ministries

Doug Shomaker, Dir. of Music

Linda Boles, Pianist, Traditional Worship

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