

In Touch

Also available online at
www.ebumc.net

May 2023

Inside This Issue:

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Memorials	2
Worship Time Change	3
Youth	4
UMM	5
Singalong	6
Celebrating	7
Women's Tea	
Missions	8
July 4th Planning	9
We Care	
Small Groups	10
Kid's Corner	11



PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

Much of what has changed since I have been here is our worship. There have been some changes, and most of the changes have been well received. We have added a formal "confession and forgiveness of sin" to our Traditional services, and we have an informal one several times a month at our contemporary services. The idea is that if we do not confess how broken we are, we will never ask for help from God to fix us.

We have added a "Have you seen God working" time to talk about what God is doing. If God is not working in our lives, then we are either not praying enough, or not looking for God to work, or we need to just pack it up and go home. Testimony gives hope; "if God is working in Sally's life, maybe God wants to work in mine..." Testimony builds excitement; if God is working, they might want to invite others to come participate with us. People are looking for spirituality; when God is working, it is proof we have it here.

And instead of sharing our prayer concerns with one another, we now have time in each service to tell God what is on our hearts. People are even welcome to pray out loud to God in this time!

We have also moved the announcements from a boring introduction to worship to "Opportunities for Missions and Discipleship." They are now a response to our worship service. We have encountered God this morning, now how does God want us encounter Him this week? Discipleship is how we deepen our faith and mission is how do we take care of others. Both of these are all about encountering Christ.

God is calling our hearts in our Worship services. We encounter God in singing, listening, sharing, praying, scripture, giving, and through the message. We respond to God by giving our tithes and offerings, and then giving God our week.

The good news is that God is working here, and it might just be exciting enough to invite others to "come and see" that God is good! *Pastor Tom*



- 1—Thomas & Karen Hazelwood
- 4—Gerald & Nancy McCarty
- 5—Lee & Judy Haller Kuklock
- 7—Roger Bryant & Nancy Quell
- 8—Ralph & Jo-Ann Scichilone
- 30—Don & Sharon Hawkins
- 31—Kendall & Celeste Draughn
Curtis & Amber Keese



- 1—Linda Patton
Keo Tep
- 4—Caitlyn Cena
- 6—Celeste Draughn
- 8—Liz Stoddard
- 9—Mickade Atchley
Audrey Ruehl
Rhonda Steere
- 10—Aaron Millikin
- 12—Del Brooks
Austin Johnson
Rowan Stoddard
- 14—Melissa Hazelwood
Tiff Johnson
- 15—Jane DeLong
- 16—Melanie Cena
Ryan Nocon
- 18—Chris Wollesen
- 20—Angie Durrance
- 31—Lisa Sorrentino
Connor Thompson



In Memory of Chris Keltner:
by Penny Baisden

EXPERIMENTAL SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS *June 4th*

*We Have worked hard on trying to discern how God wants us to worship at Ebenezer UMC. This is what we have discerned so far. But we are still seeking honest feedback and possible tweaks to the plan. **If this plan would place a hardship on your family, please contact me (Pastor Tom) as soon as possible.***

Traditional Worship	9:00-10:00
Christian Education for <u>all</u> ages (aka Sunday School)	10:10-11:00
Contemporary Worship	11:15-12:15

Both services will be livestreamed, recorded and stored on our Facebook, YouTube and ebumc.net pages.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Tom

Holy Week Services

I want to give special thanks for all the folks who worked as a team to make a memorable and touching Holy Week and Easter services. I have heard testimonies that God showed up. I have compiled a video of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Service of the Empty Tomb. The quality of the video is not top notch, but it is there (you might have to turn up your volume). Stay tuned to the weekly E-News for the link in the coming weeks.

Pentecost – May 28th – One Service – 10:30—FLC

Pentecost is often celebrated as the “Birthday of the Church”. This is also Memorial Day week-end when we remember those who have died in service of our nation. Please join us May 28th in the FLC at 10:30 for a special blended worship service.



Happy Mother's Day to all nurturing women, whether biological mothers or mothers of the heart.

May Newsletter

Graduating Seniors:

If you have a graduating senior in your family, send their name, graduating school, degree, and picture to amberkeesee@ebumc.net



Thank You!

Thank you to all the youth who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt! It was a great event.

Thank you to everyone who came out to Guard the Tomb and help set it up.





We will meet at 6:30 p.m.

on

Tuesday, May 25th

in the Family Life Center.



Glen Sorrentino will be our guest speaker for May. He ministers to kids in Juvenile Detention. A Navy Commander who is an ordained minister will accompany Glen. Dinner will be served. UMM men, plan to attend and bring a friend!



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SINGALONG



May 28 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!

Ebenezer United Methodist
Women's Ministry

R

Reaching out

E

Encouraging each other

A

Adoring God

L

Learning together

*Providing opportunities
for women to make
authentic connections*



Buy one or make one!



REMINDER

Celebrating Women's Tea

Saturday, May 13

2-4:30pm

Remember to wear a hat!

It's going to be fun!

SWEET & SAVORY GOODIES

Variety of hot teas and cold
beverages

FUN THINGS TO DO!

DOOR PRIZES

Inspirational Message

***Forgot to sign-up by the April
24th deadline?***

***Call Sheila in the church office to
check on availability.***

(757) 238-2359

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

TUESDAYS

10-2

FOR PICKUP OR DELIVERY

Contact Ralph Scichilone with questions or to volunteer to help out in the pantry.

THE NEED FOR FOOD TO STOCK OUR FOOD PANTRY IS REAL! GROCERY STORE GIFT CARDS IN ANY DENOMINATION ARE ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED!

While the Bombas socks last, you are welcome to grab a pair or two when you bring in items for the pantry.

Reminder: The pantry will remain **UNLOCKED** at all times so that our intention is to make the food readily available to the congregation if they are aware of someone who is food insecure and want to shop in the pantry for them or are in need themselves ... please take what you need.

Thank you, for your continued support of the pantry. When you're doing your weekly meal shopping, just pick up a few extra items for the pantry. Drop them in the labeled containers in either building, in the tubs outside or inside the FLC or on the table in the pantry.

Ralph: 703-338-2007 or
scich88@gmail.com



Loaves & fishes
MINISTRY



After disasters UMCOR needs

Hygiene Kits

<https://umcmmission.org/umcor-hygiene-kit/>

Let's join together to assemble the Kits.

Bring in your donations by Sunday, May 21st.

Needed items are:

- Hand towels 100% cotton - **95**
- Washcloths 100% cotton - **60**
- Toothbrushes - **40**
- Nail clippers - **84**
- Combs 6 inch - **90**
- Bars of soap 3 oz or larger - **50**

MONEY \$2 for each kit

More info contact

Carolstevens100@hotmail.com
443-794-6499

JULY 4TH PLANNING

- * On *Monday, May 1st* at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 7 (main building), we will have an organizational meeting to begin preparations for our 4th of July activities.
- * For those who don't know, Ebenezer is the hub of community activities and we need as many "hands on deck" to make this a memorable event for the surrounding communities. *In other words, this is our opportunity to SHINE* and be the light of Christ to all who visit our campus.
- * The day starts with a parade from Ebenezer back into the community and ends at Ebenezer with one of the best fireworks displays around!

EVERYONE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF THIS EVENT IS INVITED TO COME AND JOIN US IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.



WE CARE

SOMETHING NEW ----- inside the entrance to each building are baskets with shawls and lap blankets in the hope that someone you know would be blessed by receiving one. They are yours for the taking. We are thankful to have loving hands who follow God's will in providing this talent.

If you have an interest in Knitting, Crocheting or Sewing, this is the mission ministry for you. Come and join us for **We Care on May 9th at 10:00am** in the FLC.

For questions, please reach me at 757-484-2054 or janie.murrell@yahoo.com

Stop by and enjoy our fellowship remembering that we are the Hands of Christ.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES—*all groups meeting in Rm. 7 of the main building*

- ◆ **9:30 a.m.**— The LeRoy Baisden Bible Study Class will continue their study of *The Life of Moses*—anyone can join at any time
- ◆ **10:45 a.m.**—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
- ◆ **6-7:30 p.m.**—Rev. Lynne Hundley’s Bible Study Group is studying the book of Isaiah, *“Listening to Scripture, Listening to God”* —anyone can join at any time—bring your Bible



WEDNESDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITY—*Rm. 7 (main building)*

- ◆ **11:30 a.m.**—Led by Thom Watkins, this group is studying the book *Messiah in the Feasts of Israel*.

This is an in-depth study of how the Jewish Feasts show us an image of the Messiah. Even though this study began on April 19th, it is not too late to jump in. There is a study book available for \$15 that can be purchased the day of class.

There are six sessions:

- 1) God’s Redemptive Plan, Sabbath Rest
- 2) Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits
- 3) Pentecost
- 4) Feast of Trumpets
- 5) Day of Atonement
- 6) Feast of Tabernacles

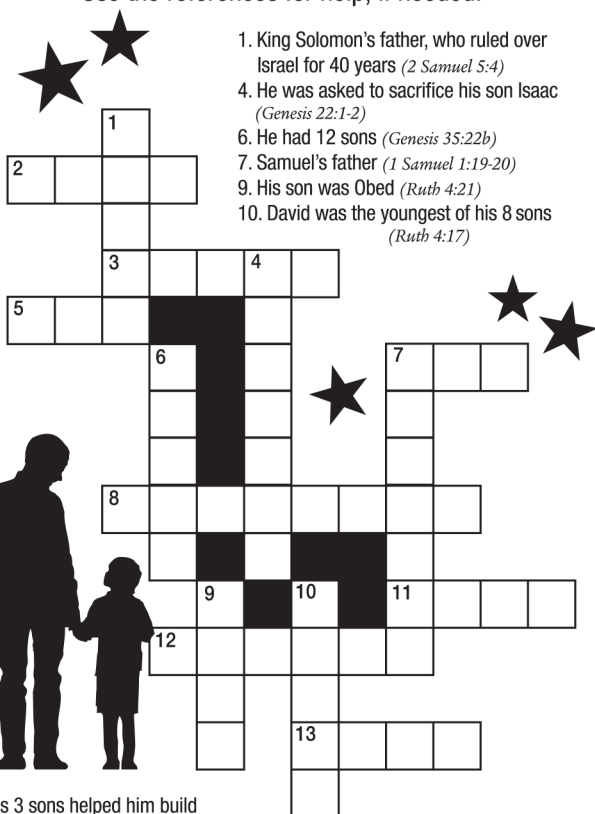
For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4 ESV



Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers. Use the references for help, if needed.



1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul



JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: FOURTEEN

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

1589 Steeple Drive
Suffolk, Virginia 23433



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



Join us in Worship!

Sunday mornings

8:00 a.m. (early)

9:30 a.m. (contemporary)

11:00 a.m. (traditional)

**You may worship in-person or
continue to join us via Facebook,
YouTube or www.ebumc.net**

May 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

June 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

June 2023 issue is

Friday, May 12, 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](https://www.facebook.com/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 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