

In Touch



**OCTOBER
2023**

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PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

Last month I wrote about the truth that if we aim to please God and fall short, we are forgiven. And if we really mess things up, God can make good come from it; that is one definition of redemption.

I remember growing up and mom collecting the yellow "TV" and "S&H Green Stamps" at the grocery store and gas station. By themselves they were not worth much. They were not good for gluing things together. And even when they were put in books, they might be used to level the kitchen table. But that would be a misuse as well.

The stamps only had real value when you took them to the redemption store. Now that was really important to us 4 boys. Mom and dad did not have a lot of money to buy us toys, but since they got the stamps for free, (and we did the pasting into the books), we reaped the rewards and mom bought us toys. We looked forward each few months for the redemption store outing. *Taking something worthless and making it valuable is one definition of redemption.* [For some, you might need to google S&H Green Stamps!]

Biblically, redeeming someone is to buy them out of slavery. When it comes to the work of Jesus, redemption at the cross is often associated with buying us out of slavery to sin.

But I look at redemption of the cross in a different light. The way I see it, Jesus was the love of God made flesh. But Jesus did not do things the way we thought He was supposed to (because we picked and chose which scriptures that we thought he was supposed to fulfill.)

(continued on pg. 3)

Blessings, Pastor Tom



@ebumc.suffolk

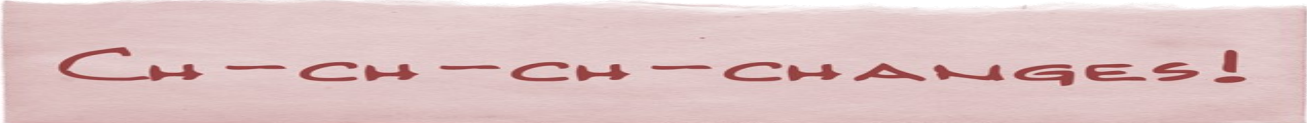
- 1—Emily Shelor
- 2—Sandy Canada
- 3—Jeanne Dennis
- 4—Pam Saks
- 7—Dennis Pearson
Bill Steere
- 8—Nancy Leavitt
- 9—Ryan Horton
- 10—Elizabeth Keesee
Sophia Keesee
- 15—Trevor Hawley
Angela Wilson
- 20—Sandra Boone
Lee Kuklock
- 21—Art Berkley
- 22—Logan Norgard
- 25—Susan Corey
- 26—Dale Terry
- 27—Jamie Newman
- 28—Molly Hazelwood
Danielle Jennette
- 29—Hannah Compton
- 31—Lillian Atchley
Forrest Ward



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- 1—Steve & Sandra Boone
- 8—Rick & Sandi Milton
- 10—Robbie & Kelli Horton
- 13—Art & Mary Ainslie Latimer
- 17—Jeff & Kit Ward
- 24—Joe & Barb Bass
- 28—Ronnie & Faye Darden
- 30—Bob & Betty Murray



WORSHIP CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1st

Traditional (laity-led)	8:00-8:45
Contemporary Worship	9:00-10:00
Christian Education	10:10-10:55
Traditional Worship	11:15-12:15

We are trying our best to listen and respond to the needs of those who have voiced their opinions individually or at one of the open forums and pray that everyone will have their spiritual needs met.

[If you still have concerns, feel free to reach out to Pastor Tom or one of our Lay Leaders—Dave Dentel, Barbara Everette, or James Sorrentino)

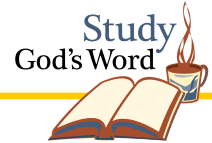
PASTOR TOM’S CORNER (con’t)

So, we hang Jesus on a Roman Torture Device. I reckon that was about as evil an event that humanity could do, even if we did not know what we were doing. Well three days later Jesus is vindicated by God through resurrection.

Now if I were God, and someone had killed my only son, my first reaction would be to turn humanity into a cosmic greasy spot. But God redeems our brokenness by offering us the same resurrection given to the Son! You see God takes the most-evil event, hanging the love of God on a cross, and redeems it and makes it the most compelling argument for God’s love for humanity despite ourselves. You see, if we really mess things up, God can make good come from it; and that is my favorite definition of redemption.

Blessings, Pastor Tom

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES



BIBLE STUDY—Sunday Mornings

We currently have two classes for Adults meeting in our main church building during our Unified Christian Education Time (10:10-11:00).

- 1) The **LeRoy Baisden Memorial Sunday School Class** meets in Rm. 7 and is studying *the Life of Moses*.
- 2) The **CONNECT** Class meets in Rm. 8 and is studying *God Is Closer Than You Think!*
- 3) **NEW! Ladies Bible study** begins on October 15 and will meet in the Conference Room across from the Pastor's office. We will be learning about various women of the Bible and how God used them, as perfect or as imperfect as they might be.

If interested, please contact Berni Harris (lexburnie@aol.com/757-718-0076) or Sheila Smith (sheilasmith@ebumc.net/757-238-2359) ASAP, so books can be ordered.

Our children and Youth meet in the Family Life Center during the same time frame.

BIBLE STUDY—Sunday Evenings

Rev. Lynne Hundley's Bible study group will start back on October 8th in Rm. 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. We'll study the second part of Isaiah (beginning with chapter 36). Even if you haven't come before, come - this is a good place to start.

OCTOBER

*Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Women's Ministry*



Ladies, Join us on

Sunday, October 8, 3:30-5:30 (Family Life Center)

Joyce Meyer will join us via You Tube.

Refreshments to follow

We have some exciting things in the works!

Please pray about how you might be a vital part of this ministry.

Hope to see you then!

Upcoming Event:

Saturday, Nov. 11—Linda Patton will offer a wreath making workshop from 10:30am-Noon in the Family Life Center. You may choose to do either a Fall splendor or a colorful Christmas. Details and registration information coming soon!

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

ARE YOU FALL-O-WEEN JESUS? Well, we will be following the lessons of Jesus in our Bible Basics curriculum! Please join us for Sunday School at 10:10.

We have also prayed that we will follow Jesus this school year and we’re encouraged by the Blessing of the Backpacks!

Now, moving forward! We are so excited about the Fall Festival on October 28th! Contact Pam or Christine for volunteer opportunities.

Finally, save the date for a Kids’ Night Out on Saturday, December 9th. Must sign-up with Pam (pwsaks@gmail.com) or Christine (clmilliganneff@gmail.com).



**Food Pantry hours are every Tuesday from 10:30-2:00.
Please help us keep it well stocked.**

There is a critical need for these items:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Baked Beans | Corned Beef | Shelf-stable milk |
| Pancake Mix | Syrup | Dry Pasta |
| Evaporated Milk (not condensed) | Cereal | Fruit 6-packs |
| Saltines | Ritz Crackers | Flour |
| Bouillon—chicken & beef | Cooking Oil | Sugar |

Suggestion:

As a congregation, let’s make stocking the food pantry an ongoing sustainable ministry by getting in the habit of bringing an item or two with you for the Food Pantry anytime you come to church! (Look for BOGO sales...keep one, donate one!) Marked bins are in both buildings for your donations.

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Fall Festival

Trunk or Treat

October 28

VOLUNTEERS & HELP NEEDED

TRUNK OR TREAT CAR OR GOLF
CART DECORATING SIGN UP



EVENT VOLUNTEERS
SIGN UP HERE



Want to donate prizes or items for our basket raffle? Email: clmilliganneff@gmail.com

Drop cookies, brownies, or prewrapped desserts off by 12:30 on Oct 28th in the FLC

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EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WWW.EBUMC.NET

FALL FESTIVAL

TRUNK OR TREAT

Pumpkin Contest

Bring a "Movie Character" Themed Pumpkin
(Adults and Kids!) *No Registration Needed

Drop off by 5pm

Petting Zoo

Bounce Houses

October 28th 4-7 PM

ENJOY THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

TRUNK OR TREAT - FOOD - BAKED GOODS - DRAWINGS
BOUNCE HOUSES - PETTING ZOO - PONY RIDES - GAMES -
PUMPKIN CARVING/DECORATING COMPETITION -
FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION & MORE

TRUNK OR TREAT

DECORATED GOLF CARTS WELCOME!
CANDY DONATIONS WELCOME!

*FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

Volunteers Contact:	Trunk or Treat Registration:	Basket & Candy Donations:
Amber Keesee	Pam Saks	Christine Neff
amberkeesee@ebumc.net	pwsaks@gmail.com	clmilliganneff@gmail.com

*SIGN UPS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN THE FLC

FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING

You are invited to join us as we continue planning for our Fall Festival on October 28th.

We have two more meetings before the big day! Tuesday **October 3 & 24th** at 6:30 p.m. in Rm. 7 (main building).

Help us create a fun and welcoming event for all who attend.



MEN... Plan now to
join us on **Tuesday, October 24th**
at 6:30 p.m.
In the Family Life Center
for dinner followed by our guest speaker

Our guest speaker is Don Roberts, formerly of WAVY TV News. He is currently volunteering in local Juvenile Detention Centers with a Chess Outreach. He has a group of men who go into the centers, play chess with the kids and generally show themselves to be mature, responsible men of the community and offer their friendship.

What a great outreach! Please plan to join us and invite others to come and hear how Don's new endeavor is making a difference.



GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays, September 13-December 20

6:30—8:30 p.m. (Rm. 5 main building)

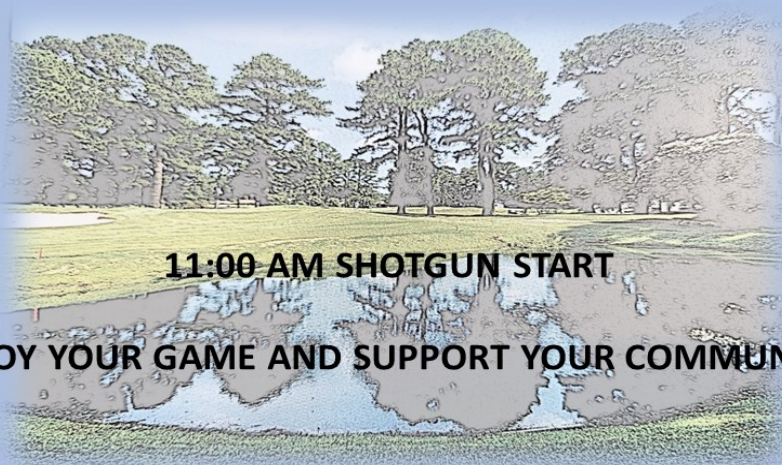
Register online at [griefshare.org/find a group](http://griefshare.org/find_a_group)

Or contact Berni Harris (757-718-0076).

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

SAVE
THE
DATE!



11:00 AM SHOTGUN START

ENJOY YOUR GAME AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

RETURNING TO
ELIZABETH MANOR GOLF COURSE



Monthly Singalong

Friday, October 31st 6-8:00 p.m.

in our Family Life Center

Homemade Pizza and dessert to follow!

Classic hymns, Praise music, and fun secular songs
Invite others to come for a night of fun, food, fellowship
and good music!

October is Pastor Appreciation Month



Dear Lord,

We thank you for Pastor Tom and Angie. We ask that you continue to empower Pastor Tom as he seeks your wisdom and desires for Ebenezer, that we might continue to be a vibrant ministry bringing glory to Your Holy Name. Amen.

Bounty of thanks



We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

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



Join us in Worship Sunday mornings!

8:00 a.m.—Laity-led worship

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

Our Staff

October 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				

November 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
November issue is
Friday, October 13th

Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

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

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

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

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

Amber Keesee, 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.