

In Touch



Ebenezer

United Methodist Church

WORSHIP – LOVE – CONNECT – SERVE



SEPTEMBER
2023

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PASTOR TOM'S CORNER!

Before my father became an Episcopal priest, he was a chemical engineer. As such, he was well informed and invested in the scientific method. It was so entrenched in him that it is what he used when he became a Christian. He saw that science and education were not going to save humanity from themselves, therefore he postulated there must be another way. A woman challenged him to “try God.” He prayed, “God if you are out there and have a solution to this mess, prove you are here.” Apparently, God showed up and gave my father hope that this world can get better. *He eventually found proof that our self-destructive human condition can be changed if we would only encounter God and let God change us.* It was still the scientific method: make a theory, run experiments, check the results, refine the theories.

This became part of my grounding as well. It has even worked its way into my understanding of discipleship. Try to listen to God (form a theory), do what God says (experiment) and see what happens (test the results). Then go back and keep listening. The results call us to listen better, to continue to try new things, and then continue to see what happens.

I also found some good news in this. When it comes to our faith, there are no real failures. If we aim to follow God and fall short, we are forgiven. God does not give up on us...ever! Second, if we really mess up, God can make good come from it. We call that redemption. More on this in another article.

In the meantime, let us continue to try to listen to God (form a theory), do what God says (experiment) and see what happens (test the results). Amen?

Blessings, Pastor Tom



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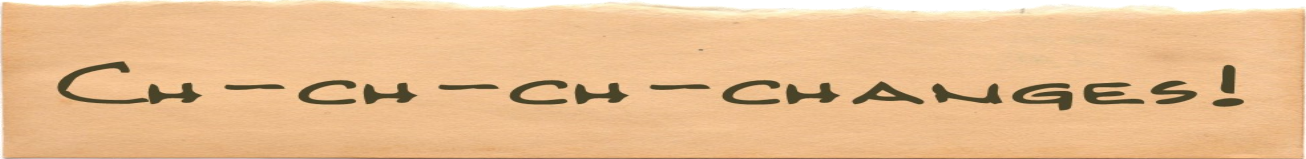
- 1—Lisa Compton
- 2—Steve Atchley
- 3—LeeAnn Hawley
Olivia Shelor
- 5—Simon Thompson
- 6—Debbie Earl
- 7—Linda Bean
Kennedy Johnson
- 8—Garrett Casavan
- 13—Allison Steere
- 14—Karen Jennette
Mekhi Johnson
Meleek Johnson
Chuck Neff
- 16—Linda Boles
Nancy Quell
- 18—Mary Hundley
Mary Ainslie Latimer
Nancy McCarty
- 19—Sharon Hawkins
- 21—Charles Shelor
- 24—Carl LeMon
- 25—Scott McBride
- 26—Mary Shelor
- 27—Ray Schau
- 29—Steve Boone



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10—Chuck & Suzanne Wright
- 12—Glenn & Barbara Everette
- 15—Bill & Elise Kennett
- 19—Willard & Judy Moger
- 30—Bob & Marie Hurst





WORSHIP CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1st

The lay leaders and I have met and we discerned we need to flip the times of our main worship services. I then worked with the worship folks to fine tune the schedule. This is what we discerned:

The new schedule will be in effect **October 1st**

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Contemporary Worship | 9:00-10:00 |
| Christian Education | 10:10-10:55 |
| Traditional Worship | 11:15-12:15 |

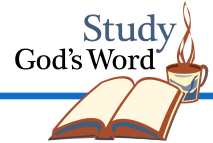
I would like to sit down and explore an option for a lay-led 8:00 a.m. service.

Watch for “open forums” and emails as we explore seeing if this is something we would like to offer.

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!*

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 not be meeting in September.

EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF A BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN DURING THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TIME FRAME ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Ladies, we need your input. We are trying to discern if there is enough interest to pursue offering this additional opportunity to grow in faith and form true connections with other women.

If interested, please contact Berni Harris (lexburnie@aol.com/757-718-0076) or Sheila Smith (sheilasmith@ebumc.net/757-238-2359). **Please respond by August 31st.**



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Women's Ministry*



Ladies, mark your calendars!

Join us on

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

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!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ONE SERVICE, 11:15 (FLC)

September 3rd

"Blessing of the Backpacks"



Students and teachers of all ages, bring your backpacks and we will as a special prayer over them.

Christian Education for all will be at 10:10.

Blessings from the Children's Ministry Team



FALL FESTIVAL PLANNING

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

We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm on **September 12, October 3 & 24th.**

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

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WWW.EBUMC.NET

FALL FESTIVAL

TRUNK OR TREAT

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 - PUMPKIN CARVING & MORE**

***FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Volunteers Contact:
Amber Keese
amberkeese@ebumc.net

Trunk or Treat Registration:
Pam Saks
pwsaks@gmail.com

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

COALITION AGAINST POVERTY in SUFFOLK (CAPS)

Through contributions we give throughout the year, we help enable CAPS to help enable CAPS to help those in need by offering emergency assistance, connection to resources, and a Night Stay program. Volunteers are also needed: Can you fix a car? Help with home repair, deliver furniture? Sign up to be a volunteer to be contacted when a need arises. CAPS can be reached at 757-935-5497 or info@capsuffolk.org.

Another way to support CAPS is by participating in their fundraising events...

BBQ FUNDRAISER

DRIVE THRU ONLY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

11-2

Westminster Church Parking Lot

3488 Godwin Blvd.

Suffolk, VA 23434

Cost: \$13/plate (CAPS receives \$6/plate) - *Tickets sold through **Sept. 13***

**Menu: Capt. Bob's fried chicken, BBQ, coleslaw, green beans,
hushpuppies.**

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.



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

There is a critical need for these items:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Condensed Milk | Ketchup | Bags of Rice |
| Pancake Mix | Syrup | Dry Pasta |
| Paper Towels | Toilet Paper | Ramen Noodles |
| Tomato Sauce | Pasta Sauce | Salt & Pepper |
| Kids Juice Boxes/Packs | Mayo | Cooking Oil |
| Flour | 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.

WE CARE

Come join us if you have an interest in knitting, crocheting, sewing or just chatting! This could be a way for you to walk Christ's words. ***We Care meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the FLC. See you September 12, 2023.***

Don't forget, 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.

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

- *Janie Murrell*

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



Stay tuned!

September's gathering might be a little different!

More details coming soon!



Monthly Singalong

Friday, September 29th 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!

PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Please take a few minutes and go to God in prayer...these are just a few suggestions...feel free to add your own. Pray for...

- 1) God's direction and health for you and your loved ones
- 2) Teachers, staff and students returning to school
- 3) Our country as a whole
- 4) Those who have addictions or mental health issues
- 5) Those who are so angry at everything and everyone, that causing harm to others is their release
- 6) For those in the midst of natural disasters
- 7) For those who are sick in body, soul or spirit
- 8) For those who are lonely
- 9) For those who do not know the peace and joy of knowing Jesus Christ
- 10) Thank the Lord for all your many blessings

All these things we pray, Amen.

REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

WORSHIP . LOVE . CONNECT . SERVE

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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

September 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 |

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 | | | | |

www.a-printable-calendar.com

The **deadline** for newsletter submissions for the
October issue is
Friday, September 8

Send newsletter submissions to:
ebenezer@ebumc.net

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

Our Staff

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN DOORS™

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

Sheila Smith, Administrative Assistant
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

Contact the church office to reach these staff members.