



# EBENEZER

# JUL '26

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

Volume 22 Issue 7

www.ebenzerm-church.com

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**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**July 13th**  
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**Taco & Fajita Bar**  
**Fundraiser**  
see p. 3.

### Sunday Services

- 9:00am *Worship Service*
- 10:15am *Sunday School*
- 5:00pm *Adult Choir* / 4:00 pm *Praise Band Practice*
- 6:00pm *Every FOURTH SUNDAY*  
*Ebenezer Methodist Women*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” *Matthew 28:19*



## Pastor's Pen



Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we enter the month of July, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to God for His faithfulness and to each of you for your commitment to the ministry of Ebenezer Methodist Church Dudley Shoals, a Global Methodist Church.

Over the past several weeks, we have journeyed together through our **"Set On Fire"** sermon series. We have been reminded that the Holy Spirit empowers, transforms, and equips God's people to live lives that glorify Christ. My prayer is that this series has not simply informed us but has ignited a deeper passion for prayer, worship, holiness, and service. May the fire of the Holy Spirit continue to burn brightly in our hearts long after the series has concluded.

This month we begin an exciting new sermon series entitled **"Faith in Daily Life."** Together we will explore how our faith in Jesus Christ shapes every aspect of our lives—our homes, workplaces, relationships, decisions, witness, and service. Following Christ is not something reserved for Sunday mornings; it is a daily journey of trusting and obeying Him wherever He leads. I encourage you to invite family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to join us as we discover together what it means to live out our faith every day.

I also thank you for your generous giving and your faithful participation in our fundraising activities. Your financial support enables our church to continue proclaiming the Gospel, serving our community, supporting missions, and caring for those in need. Every gift, volunteer hour, and act of service help us to advance God's kingdom. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

As we move into this new season, let us continue to be a church that shares the love of Christ with others. Many people around us are searching for hope, peace, and purpose. One simple invitation can change a life. I encourage each of us to prayerfully invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship with us this month. God often uses ordinary invitations to accomplish extraordinary things.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your partnership in ministry. It is a privilege to serve alongside you. May the Lord continue to strengthen our church as we grow together in faith, love, and joyful service.

May God richly bless you and your family throughout this month.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Simon Chigumira. Ebenezer Methodist Church.

### WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:30p Prayer Meeting
- 7:00p Bible Study — Adults.



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.  
Phone: (828) 396-2214



## Meetings, etc.

### Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, July 21 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

### God's Word Study

Our monthly afternoon Bible Study will continue in the book of Genesis on **Tuesday, July 21 at 2:00 p.m.** Non-members welcome.

### EMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

### Covenant Group Meetings

**Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. July 7, 14, 21, 28.**  
**How is it with your soul?**

"The God who gave us life,  
gave us liberty at the same  
time."  
—Thomas Jefferson

## Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in May/June:

**In honor of Bleaka and Monte Hollar** by Peggy Jenkins

**In honor of Monte Hollar** by Delores Campbell

**In honor of Peggy Jenkins** by Delores Campbell

**In honor of Delores Campbell's 89th birthday on June 26** by Delores Campbell

**In honor of Children's Day, June 14 and our Church Family and Children** by Delores Campbell

**In memory of Bleaka Hollar** by Delores Campbell, Kevin & Pat Sears

**In memory of Paul Spencer for Father's Day** by Delores Campbell

**In memory of P. B. Lackey** by Peggy Jenkins

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! --Psalm 66:5

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us. --Psalm 67:1

And God said...And it was so. --Genesis 1:3,6,9,14,20,24. (NIV)

### IN THE BEGINNING GOD

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* --Genesis 1:1 NIV

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* --John 1:1 NIV

What is *nothing*? Can you imagine *nothing*? Can you see or touch *nothing*? God is the only One who can create or make something from *nothing*. Men do not create anything; they make something from something already there, including the ideas of numbers and musical notes or philosophical thoughts. Who is God? Can we ever know God completely? No. But He knows us and he reveals himself to us in His Word.

The Hebrew word for the phrase "in the beginning" is "bereshit." The term is based on two words in Hebrew: "Bet" means in or with and "reshit" means the first, the best, the chief, the head, the prime portion. Before God spoke there was *no thing*. After God spoke there was light, water, sky, ground, seas, plants, the sun and the moon and the stars, living creatures in the water, living creatures on the land, and man and woman—in that order and in six days. Only God was present at that moment. Everything was a first, and everything was very good—the chief, the prime portion, the first fruits. Created by His Word.

The Hebrew word used in Genesis 1:1 for "God" is a plural noun, but it is used with a singular verb. Christians understand why that grammatical "error" is there. The Gospel of John states it clearly. Jesus the Christ is called the Word by John, because He is God along side His Father and with the Holy Spirit who hovered over the waters (Gen. 1:2).

*He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* --John 1:2-3 NIV

So, God created with and in the First, the Chief, the Head, the Prime Portion—Christ.

The universe is not eternal, was not assembled from something already in existence. God made it all from nothing. God is the First Cause, the only Cause of the universe and us. There was no Big Bang, only God's Words.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## July Events & Fundraiser

### Red Cross Blood Drive

**Monday, July 13**

**2:30-7 PM**

Celebrate More Life. Give Blood. Sign up online now for our summer Red Cross Blood Drive. Go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Sponsor Code "Ebenezer MC" to sign up and get an appointment.

Bring your Red Cross Donor Card or Photo ID on the day of the drive. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments will be honored first.

Give blood July 13 to 31 and receive a Fandango Movie Reward by email to see a movie on us! See [rcblood.org/July](http://rcblood.org/July) for more information.

We thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

### Covenant Group Meetings

Our new Covenant Group will be meeting on **Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** Led by Pastor Simon, we will explore how to live our lives in tune with Christ's leading and encourage and support one another as we grow in our faith and service to Christ.

We will meet in the Women's Bible Study classroom in the CLC.

All members of the church are welcome to join in this group. If the group becomes too large, we will organize more groups.

### US 250th Celebration Party

**All-American Sunday**

**July 26**

**10:00 AM**

The celebration continues for our beloved country. Join us as we praise God for the founding and sustaining of this country--the most free nation in the world.

Sleep an extra hour, worship with us, then enjoy that All-American lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a dessert to share if you can.

May God continue to bless America and lead us back to his Word and to his holiness that brings us to acknowledge and experience the only true freedom in this world. Amen. Amen.



### How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

--Genesis 1:1 NIV

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

--John 1:1 NIV

## July Celebrations



- 3rd—Freida Farr
- 13th—Alice Hill
- 13th—Phyllis Minton
- 14th—Marilyn Kohnle
- 19th—Thomas Johnson
- 22nd—Kay Gilbert

### Happy Anniversary

- 1st—Matthew & Amanda Coffey
- 4th—Trey & Kelly Hefner

## Our Military

Ricky Garland  
Shane McRary  
Jamie Mullinax  
Hunter Tolbert



Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

*John Wesley said,*

*On every occasion of uneasiness, we should retire to prayer, that we may give place to the grace and light of God and then form our resolutions, without being in any pain about what success they may have. In the greatest temptations, a single look to Christ, and the barely pronouncing his name, suffices to overcome the wicked one, so it be done with confidence and calmness of spirit.*

## Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

- July 13th—Red Cross Blood Drive, 2:30-7:00 p.m.
- July 21st—Senior Citizens Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
- July 21st—God's Word Study, 2:00 p.m.
- July 25th—Tacos & Fajitas Bar Fundraiser, 4-7:00 p.m.
- July 26th—All-American Sunday Celebration, 10:00 a.m.



## Something, cont'd

*(Continued from page 2)*

Aliens from another world did not bring life to this planet or anywhere else in the universe. We are here by God's design. All of it was designed for us! Can your mind fathom that? All of this amazing and wondrous creation made for us to live here and worship our Creator God, and our Redeemer God, and our Comforter God—the Three in One. And even though the universe is set to run on its own, it cannot continue except for the power of God Who sustains it.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” My translation: All that is was brought into being by the First and Best through the Chief One and by means of the Principal Thing.

Praise be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen. Amen.

(Note: this is a shortened summary of the first Bible study lesson from the new afternoon study group, **which will meet on every third Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.** All members of the church and community may participate.)

## HAPPY 250th U.S.A.!



“The United States is the only country with a known birthday.” – James G. Blaine

## Patriotic Quotes

“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.”  
— Benjamin Franklin

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.” — Nathan Hale

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” — Abraham Lincoln

“True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth.” — Eleanor Roosevelt

“The essence of America—that which really unites us—is not ethnicity, or nationality or religion—it is an idea—and what an idea it is: That you can come from humble circumstances and do great things.” — Condoleezza Rice

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.” — John F. Kennedy

“I was born an American; I will live an American; I shall die an American!” — Daniel Webster

“America is another name for opportunity.”  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“We are the land of the free because of the brave.” — Unknown

“Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.” — Mark Twain

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.” — Thomas Paine

“We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall.”  
– John Dickinson”