



# EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

# June '23

Volume 19 Issue 6

Church's e-mail: [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com)

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### A Challenge

Ricky B. has pledged to give \$1,000 more to Ebenezer this year. Are you willing to do the same?

### Sunday Services

- 9:00a Worship Service
- 10:15a Sunday School
- 6:00p Adult Choir Practice
- 7:00p Every FOURTH SUNDAY United 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 Note



It's all about souls. That is our focus as the church and as Christians. That focus is greater than anything else we could focus on. That focus has been given to us by Jesus in the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:16-20.

### What is a soul?

A soul is that part of each human being that contains the essence/presence of God. In the creation story we are told that God breathed life into Adam and Eve. The Hebrew word is “ruah” which means breath. In the New Testament we hear about the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost the Spirit showed up as a “mighty wind.” In our faith this breath is the part of God that brings us to physical life as well as spiritual life. We are more than the sum of our parts because God's breath makes us more. The word we use to describe this breath is “soul.” Without it we are lifeless.

Yet, the soul is always under attack. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that “your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” Satan is as active in seeking to harm our souls as God is active in seeking to protect our souls. There are too many people making their way through life with damaged souls. This leads to acts of self-harm. This leads to acts of violence. Damaged souls wind up damaging others. Satan is happiest when we do these things to ourselves and others.

The church of Jesus Christ is about soul work. John Wesley reminded us of the things we need to do to protect our souls. They were reading scripture, attending worship, giving, praying, and being a part of a small group in order to grow in grace. Then we can take our faith out into the world to let people know that God loves them, and to show them how to care for their souls.

Let us be about our soul work. Let us take care of our souls. Let us help our brothers and sisters in Christ to take care of their souls. Let us go into the world and help undo the damage the devil is doing by helping people to see their God-given souls and to grow with one another in grace.

In God's grace,  
Pastor Alan

Satan is as active in seeking to harm our souls as God is active in seeking to protect our souls.

### WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00p Praise Band Rehearsal
- 7:00p Bible Study – Adults.



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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



## Meetings, etc.

### Prayer Group

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. our weekly prayer group meets. You may call the office or email us prayer requests at [ebenezerumc@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezerumc@yahoo.com).

### Wesley Class Meeting

Class meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Note: class will not meet on June 6th.

### Meeting with D. S. Huffman

On Tuesday, June 6, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a meeting with our District Superintendent related to the disaffiliation process. The following people will be expected to attend: Pastor Alan Gaylord, Bleaka Hollar, Marsha McRary, Ricky Baker, Roy Hamby, Irene Austin, and Kim Ellis.

### Food Ministry

Next meal will be on Monday, June 19 at 5:00 p.m. Drivers need to arrive by 4:30 p.m. Cook's helpers, see Ricky Baker for when to arrive.

### Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on Tuesday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m. Meal will be provided by the church. Bring a dessert to share if you can.

### Church Council

The Council will meet on Sunday, June 25 at 4:00 p.m.

### UMW Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on Sunday, June 25 at 6:00 p.m.

*The measure of our sacrifice is the measure of our love.*

*—English proverb*

## Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

### HESITANT WARRIOR

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. —Ephesians 6:10-11 NIV

References: Judges 6:(1-13), 14-24, 33-40

"And he said to him, 'Pray, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.'" —Judges 6:15

Israel has strayed from the LORD again and allowed in worship of other gods. So, the LORD lets itinerant tribes come into Israel's land and harass them, and steal their crops, cattle, and sheep. It is so bad in one area that the Israelites have had to resort to living in caves in the mountains.

God calls Gideon to deliver Israel from this enemy. The angel of the LORD who first contacts him calls Gideon a "mighty man of valor," (verse 12) but Gideon hesitates to accept the accolade as true forgetting that the angel also proclaimed, "The LORD is with you." That is where Gideon will find the strength and courage to do what God is calling him to do.

In his hesitation, Gideon requests signs from the LORD. In 6:14-24, he prepares a sacrificial offering, which the angel caused to burn up by touching it with his staff. Most church people probably have more often heard the story of the other request for a sign: a fleece left on the ground first being the only item with dew on it; then the only item with no dew on it (verses 33-40).

In between those two instances, Gideon obeys God's command to pull down the local altar to Baal and the Asherah pole (two pagan gods). Though Gideon obeys the order, he does it at night, because he fears the local people and his father, who put up the altar! Yet, Gideon's father steps in and restrains the people from retribution against his son after they find out who the culprit is who tore down the pagan altars. (Which shows us that God can send aid to us from the most unlikely people, or in unimagined ways.)



Despite his hesitant attitude, Gideon soon realizes that what is to be done must be done in the power of the LORD, not his own power alone. When he leads the attack against the interlopers, Gideon cries out "the sword of the LORD, and of Gideon" (7:20), and leads his warriors to victory.

As we strive to do the Lord's will, we too must remember that we never enter any battle, however small or large, without God's power standing with us and giving us all we need to be victorious in the LORD. Therefore, let us be confident warriors for God, not hesitant and fearful ones. †



June Events

BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

Saturday, June 24

11:00 AM—7:00 PM

\$10

Our cooks and bakers will be heating up the kitchen again soon. Come in for a delicious barbecued quarter chicken leg with baked beans, slaw, and roll, drink, and your choice of homemade dessert. The food will be great, and the atmosphere friendly and lively.

Proceeds will go toward our church's budget and ministries.

We thank you for your support!

Father's Day Display and Celebration

Sunday, June 18

9:00 AM

We are asking our members to help us set-up a display table with mementos of your fathers to honor them on Father's Day. Bring in small items or photos that remind you of your father ( before June 18).

Please label the items. All items will be returned.



June Worship Information

- June 4th - Matthew 28:6-10 (Communion Sunday)
June 11th - Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18th - 1 Bleaka Preaches (Father's Day)
June 25th - Matthew 10:24-39

Other Dates to Know

- Annual Conference, June 15-18

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax



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

Youth Summer Work/Fun

Wednesday, June 14

10:00 AM

The schedule for youth this summer is not set yet. However, we will gather for a workday at the church on Wednesday, June 14th at 10 a.m. We will be cleaning out the cooler and freezer in the kitchen and washing down the shelves outside.

Lunch will be provided. There will be free time in the gym, too.

Each youth will need a permission form completed by a parent or guardian. Please contact the church office or the pastor for the form.

Work
Play
Eat

June Celebrations



- 1st—Joan Pennell
2nd—Carson Teague
4th—Marley Smith
7th—Will McRary
8th—Eathan Morrow
8th—Becky Yount
10th—MaryLynn Pennell
11th—Ezma Austin
13th—Kim Ellis
16th—Casey Knepp
22nd—Nathan Adams
23rd—Theia McRary Huffman
26th—Delores Campbell
28th—Ragan Knepp

Happy Anniversary

- 20th—Jimmy & Heather Stone
21st—Kirk & Irene Austin
22nd—Dwight & Rosalind Kelley
22nd—Rex & Gwen Teague
24th—Chris & Tasha Haas
26th—James & Freida Farr

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

And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. -Mark 9:42-43 NIV



**Church Council—May 28, 2023**

Attendees: Irene Austin, Ricky Baker, Becky Silver, Kim Ellis, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Judy McCrary, Marsha McCrary, Linda Moretz, Cindy Sears, Monte Hollar, Kenny Silver, Kim Knepp.

Opening scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-6, The Potter’s Clay. “God can take our imperfect selves and them shape us into something new.” Quote is from Upper Room devotional book. Marsha continued the thought by referencing the day’s sermon from Roy Hamby that God gives us spiritual gifts—even as imperfect as we are. Is God reshaping each of us and our church through the disaffiliation process? How does he want us to use our gifts and our new being? Think and pray on this in the coming months as we continue to work on leaving the UMC, and moving into a new era as a Methodist church. Marsha gave the opening prayer.

Reading of the Minutes: Motion to accept as written: Bleaka Hollar; second by Judy McCrary. Passed.

**Financial Report – Irene Austin**

We have spent \$16,120 more than we have received in contributions for the General Fund since January. Frankly, we cannot continue like this. We cannot print money like the U. S. government does. Please give more, dig deep, sacrifice; so that we can continue to minister to our members and our community.

Ricky Baker offered a challenge: he has pledged to give \$1,000 more this year. Is anyone else in our congregation willing to accept that challenge and do the same?

There was one good note on the report: We will be able to get help with the disaffiliation cost from the Wesleyan Foundation, but we need

to raise as much as possible from our own congregation and community.

Bottom line, we need more contributions and contributors.

**Trustees Report – Ricky Baker**

Bulbs were replaced upstairs and in the bathroom; he is working on a valve problem in one bathroom. Repairs were done on the dryer in the parsonage for \$288.

**Sunday School Superintendent – Marsha McCrary**

Things are going fairly well, though attendance—especially by the children and youth can be sporadic. She suggested setting up a jar or other container and encouraging our children and youth to contribute to our General Fund with their pennies and other change.

**SPPRC Report—Roy Hamby**

Roy reminded us that he had been denied his appointment as a local pastor this year, because his assigned church chose to disaffiliate. He does not expect to be given another appointment until next year.

**Pastor’s Report**

We went over a list of people who will be receiving another membership letter or their first one. One name was removed from the 2nd letter list, because the person does give money to the church. Those on the second letter list and the no known address list will be removed during the next charge conference in November unless we receive an answer with a request to remain on the roll.

Pastor Alan will conduct another series of youth activities this summer. The first date will be on June 14 at 10:00 a. m. with lunch

included. The project will be to clean out the cooler and freezer, washing down the shelves outside, removing ice, etc. There will be time for some basketball in the gym, too.

Parents of the youth who plan to participate must fill out a permission form. Contact the Pastor or the church office for the form. The rest of the summer schedule has not been set, yet.

Community Day: Council set the date for this on Saturday, August 19th from 10-1:00 p.m. Discussion. We may include a bucket for donations to our General Fund during this activity. Other activities have not been set.

Pastor Alan will be at the district Annual Conference June 15-18.

**New Business**

Kim Ellis mentioned the possibility of having a golf tournament this fall. She will present more on this later.

**Bleaka brought up the possibility of a fundraiser in June. Saturday, June 24th was chosen for a BBQ chicken leg quarters with green beans, slaw, and bun meal fundraiser. We would serve lunch and dinner. Times set are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to the General Fund. We request that our members provide desserts for this event.**

We have hired and paid for an attorney to help us with the disaffiliation process. A meeting has been scheduled with the District Superintendent, Rev. Huffman, on **Tuesday June 6 at 7:00 p.m.** The following people need to be present for this meeting: Marsha McCrary, Ricky Baker, Roy Hamby, Bleaka Hollar, Kim Ellis, Irene Austin, and Pastor Alan. The D. S. will let us know what is required of us. She has to approve the ballot wording for the

*(Continued on page 5)*





### Council Minutes, cont'd

*(Continued from page 4)*

congregational vote on disaffiliation. She will set the special charge conference time for the vote. The members will vote also on where we go after we leave the United Methodist Church organization.

Monte Hollar asked that we find more information on the other organizations and options we can consider after disaffiliation from the UMC. Kim Ellis brought up the idea of a townhall event for our members and the community to present our reasons for leaving the UMC, and what our options are.

Dates related to the process: July 1—letter to D. S. requesting disaffiliation due (Completed); church charge conference held to vote by September 15th; November 4th--district special called conference to vote on the churches requesting disaffiliation; December 31—monies required to disaffiliate are due.

Please pray daily for God's leading and blessings, especially concerning what he wants us to do once we leave the UMC.

Kim Ellis reported that the Finding Hope Ministries kids are coming in July. The plan is to have them here for a presentation on Sunday, July 9th. A pool party will be held for the kids that afternoon at Paul and Annette Burson's house with burgers and hot dogs for the kids. We are considering taking up a love offering that Sunday for the Finding Hope Ministries kids.

Judy McCrary closed the meeting with prayer. Minutes recorded by Cindy Sears. 📄

### Ministry Opportunities

#### Youth Helpers

Adults who wish to help Pastor Alan with the youth summer activities should contact Pastor Alan ASAP. A background check will be required.

#### SCCM Food Pantry

We collect canned and boxed foods for South Caldwell Christian Ministries Food Pantry throughout the year. Please place on the bench in the old fellowship hall.

#### Ebenezer UMC's General Fund

Don't forget that your church needs your monetary support, too! Our contributions are not keeping up with our spending on essentials, such as electricity, repairs, water, apportionments, insurance, etc. Please remember to give. God will bless you and us for your generosity. Thank you.

### Thank You Notes

We received the following thank you notes in May:

**From Robert & Teresa Herman:** "Thank you so much for your gracious gift to us. Please continue to pray for us. In Christ, Teresa & Robert Herman."

**From SCCM:** "Thank you so very much for your special collection and food donation...36.0 pounds of food in the month of April...Sincerely, God bless you for your kindness and generosity!" (We also gave 77.0 lbs on March 21st.)

SCCM also thanked us for our donation of baked goods for the Butterfly Festival. They raised \$556.25 to assist families in need in our community.

Your gifts to Ebenezer continue to do good throughout our area.



**John Wesley Said:**

"When a man becomes a Christian, he becomes industrious, trustworthy and prosperous. Now, if that man when he gets all he can and saves all he can, does not give all he can, I have more hope for Judas Iscariot than for that man!"



### Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts:

**In memory of Addie Sears** by Cindy Sears; Delores & Gary Paul Campbell, Women's Bible Study Class.

**In memory of Kat Teague** by Cindy Satterwhite.

**In honor of Ebenezer's United Methodist Men** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell.

**In honor of Ebenezer's United Methodist Women & Yard Sale** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell.

**In honor of Bleaka Hollar** by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell





## **A Little Bit of Fun**

