

STONEMAKER

Newsletter of Ebenezer Church



Sunset Run • Stafford Regional Airport • September 17 • GoForBo.org



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A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY

Grace and peace to each of you.

Seeing school supplies appear on store shelves every year makes me excited. As a student, I loved getting highlighters, notebooks, and pencils. Now, I love buying them for others. In July, our church community pulled together to provide backpacks filled with school supplies for 220 kids in need at Moncure and Hampton Oaks Elementary Schools. What an impact! Each school year brings new rhythms and new opportunities for students. What will they study? Who will they meet? How will they grow? What teachers will make an impression? They build on the strength of previous years, and the possibilities ahead are exciting.

Getting ready for a new season of ministry is similar. We ask questions as fall peeks around the corner, and new rhythms begin. What will we study in Scripture together? Who will we meet? How will we build meaningful connections with others here and in the community? How will we grow as disciples? How will we make an impact by serving? We build on the strength of previous years, and the possibilities ahead are exciting.

The impact of COVID changed our baseline, and now we learn and shape what it is to be church onsite, online, and offsite in familiar and innovative ways. We are working to build intentional community and relationship across this

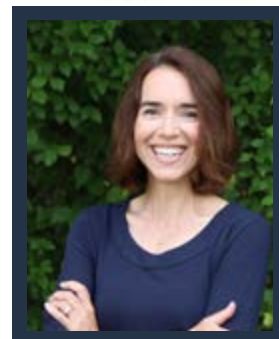
three-pronged spectrum.

Pastor Jeff is working with our dedicated ministry directors in small groups, age-level ministries, and missions to connect new folks to service, worship, and growth. Pastor Donovan is setting a strong course for the community-based Love Your Neighbor Network. He is developing goals, training, and mapping out next steps to meet people where they are, taking real love to the real world around us. All three of your pastors are taking turns being present in online worship and seeking to build connections there.

These are exciting, dynamic, and occasionally bumpy times. We have over 50 new members so far this year and over 25 baptisms. God is moving, and we want to follow wherever Christ leads and be ready to learn from him. May we keep the main thing the main thing - loving God and loving others - and be faithful disciples while we live out our mission to *transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world.*

What a joy and privilege to serve Christ beside you,

Pastor Emily



Upcoming
Sermon Series

Stronger
(Sept 11-Oct 9)

Division and polarization define our culture. Yet in John 17:20-24, Jesus prayed for unity. What if we examine how we view, interact with, and treat each other when we disagree? What does scripture teach about building bridges and relationships? May we, by the grace and power of God, be a strength for each other instead of a threat as we pray for our community, build relationships, and put our trust in God.

Treasures
(Oct 16-Nov 13)

To see what we value most, many would tell us to look at our calendars and bank statements. How we spend our time and money reveals our priorities and, as scripture says, what we treasure. As a person of faith, what does God invite us to do with our time and money? How can we examine what we treasure and let God grow us as disciples? During this sermon series, we will mail 2023 Estimate of Giving cards to the congregation and invite people to consider serving in ministry in new ways.

What's In A Name?
(Advent series: Nov 27-Dec 18)

What's in a name? Much, as it turns out. A name is one of the most vital parts of our identity and one of the first things we ask when we meet someone. A baby is coming this December...what will Mary and Joseph name it? What do the names given to Jesus tell us about who he is? Jesus is Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, Messiah, Savior, Word of God, Light of the World. It's hard to put all that on a birth certificate, and yet it's easy to put all that on our hearts.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

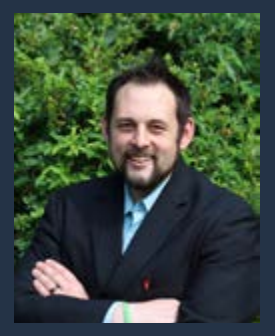
Beautiful and Beloved People of Ebenezer Church!

For years on the apple farm, we had this worn-out Chevy truck that we used to haul bins of apples from the orchard to the market. This truck was not only for farm use; it was also my uncle's main source of transportation. The truck burned so much oil that instead of changing the oil, my uncle just added oil every day. Instead of using new oil, he used old oil saved from other people's oil changes.

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus said there was no use putting fresh wine into old skins, because the old, stiff, brittle skins would burst. Putting new wine in old skins would be like putting new oil in a worn-out motor. The new oil would burn off and be wasted.

Jesus was trying to do something new, but the Pharisees and others were blocking him at every turn. Jesus knew that loving neighbors and having compassion for the least, last, and lost would break the old barriers of the law like fermented wine bursting old wineskins. While Jesus had great respect for tradition as the "living faith of the dead," he was troubled that the Pharisees' rules had become "the dead faith of the living." Their legalism was more important than their love of God and neighbor, and their faith was inflexible and hard.

Friends, the Kingdom of God requires a new wineskin for the new wine of God's grace. If we want new life and lasting joy, we must let God replace our old wineskins with new ones: new discipleship classes, new missional experiences, new small groups, and new ways to share our gifts. You'll find many new "wineskin" opportunities this fall at Ebenezer, including the Go For Bo 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run and Tot Dash at Stafford Regional Airport, the Imagination Library Pumpkin Patch, and Fall Family Fun Days.



My prayer is that we live into our new wineskins and overflow with the new wine of God's grace, as we serve God and our neighbors. Thanks be to God for new wine and new wineskins!

Jeff
Pastor Jeff



With your help, Ebenezer was able to provide more than 200 backpacks full of school supplies to Moncure and Hampton Oaks Elementary Schools in August. We Are For Students!

GLOW FOR BO

The 12th Annual Go For Bo 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run and Tot Dash is taking off September 17 at Stafford Regional Airport! Come "Glow" for Bo in a 6:00 PM sunset run benefiting the lifesaving work of Helping Children Worldwide in Bo, Sierra Leone.

This year's event offers a unique opportunity to race the runway on a flat, fast course that's perfect for all ages and abilities. Plan now to gather your friends and neighbors and make the most of this fun, family event. The airport complex will open at 5:00 p.m. for live music, a food truck, and special activities for kids. Against the backdrop of the setting sun, the Tot Dash will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the 1-Mile Fun Run at 6:05 p.m., and the 5K at 6:30 p.m.

Whether you run, walk, skip, or stroll, your participation will make a world of difference for children and families in Bo. With your support, the sky's the limit for HCW's education, healthcare, and economic empowerment ministries.

Registration is now open at goforbo.org: \$25 for the 5K, \$22 for the 1-Mile Fun Run, and \$20 for the Tot Dash. All participants will receive a performance race shirt. Additional donations for HCW are welcome.

For more information, please contact Amy Miller at amiller@ebenezerumc.org



2022 VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2022 Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church was held June 16-18 in Hampton, Va. Andy and Linda Garlington attended as Ebenezer's lay representatives and provided these highlights. Read their full report at ebenezerumc.org/church.

The theme of the 2022 conference was "United as One in Worship," based on John 4:24. Conference Statistician and Treasurer David Dommissie reported that even during the second full year of COVID, the number of new members and baptisms increased. Over 2,000 people were welcomed through professions of faith, and over 1.3 million people were reached through missions.

Clergy and lay members approved the District Initiative, a motion to create eight new districts from the current 16-district structure. Ebenezer is now in the Mission Rivers District under the Rev. Dr. Charles Bates, which spans from Stafford to Hampton and encompasses the previous Rappahannock River and York River districts. A map of these new districts may be

found at <https://vaumc.org/districtoffices/>

Forty-two individuals were part of the 2022 Retirement Class, including Pastor Mark Miller, who was Ebenezer's lead pastor for 22 years. The retiring personnel have a combined total of 1,154.5 years of service. Attendees also recognized 50 individuals who were licensed, commissioned, or ordained in 2020 and 2021.

The Rev. Grace Han, pastor of Trinity UMC, Alexandria District, led the Service of Remembrance in honor of 77 conference clergy and laity who have passed away since the last Annual Conference. In conclusion, she offered words of hope in the midst of a season of challenges: "...what we'll also see tonight is that it is precisely in our most difficult moments in the shadows of the darkest valleys that God is with us. And just as God's presence was a Balm for the Israelite people in our Scriptures generations ago, God's presence is a Balm for us today. And that is worth remembering."

Recordings of conference sessions are available at <https://vaumc.org/ac2022/>

FOCUS 2025

Focus 2025 is our long-range vision as a church, guiding us to live into our mission statement together. As we met with community leaders this year, several primary concerns rose to the top. We have grouped those in four focus teams that are drafting actionable items and budgets.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT: This team will work to improve our engagement with our online community, through the Ebenezer website, social media accounts, and Church Online congregation.

MENTAL HEALTH ENGAGEMENT: In addition to the recent expansion of our existing counseling services, this team will identify other ways to assist members of our congregation and community in this important area.

NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT: This team's goal is to have a microchurch or small group in every neighborhood in our community. Working with the Love Your Neighbor Network, they will identify ways to expand our discipleship model to spread the Word.

IDEA BANK: This team will develop a bank of ideas and needs that small groups and others could 'adopt' to provide service opportunities within the community.

Watch for updates as these teams develop practical ways for us to put our mission statement into action.



This summer, I led a book study on *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* by Lysa Terkeurst. Here is one participant's experience:

"Participating in the Forgiving What You Can't Forget group study was useful to me in several ways. Lysa Terkeurst's writing style is so personal but is always connected to scripture. Reading the book helped bring some things to light for me. Before this, I thought that if I had truly forgiven someone, it wouldn't still hurt or affect how I interacted with other people. I also felt like I was falling short of one of the most basic things that God asks of us: forgive others. Lysa helped me understand that forgiveness doesn't mean that everything is fixed, and the impact isn't always undone."

The most important part of participating in this study was coming together as a group. I've read similar books in the past and completed the related studies on my own but completing the study in community makes it more powerful. It's helpful to hear that I'm not the only one who feels this way. Listening and supporting each other also helps make things clearer, and hearing other perspectives is important. One of the most powerful moments for me was when I recommended a different way of looking at another group member's situation, and shortly after that it struck me that the same thing applied to me. That helped me reset a negative perspective and strengthened my faith. Being in this open, supportive group was a great experience."

Forgiving ourselves and extending forgiveness to others are among the more difficult tasks that Christ calls us to accomplish. We will offer *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* again in January 2023, but if you're ready to begin working on forgiveness sooner, please contact me at kpriest@ebenezerumc.org.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DONOVAN

Ebenezer & Love Your Neighbor Network,

Eleven years ago, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake caused some shaking in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Many buildings bowed and broke during this unlikely incident. Afterward, a meticulous and faithful process of restoration was applied to dozens of structures, and a majority have now been fixed and are once again usable. This reminded me that shifting can occasionally result in fractures, cracks, and fragmentation.

This prompts me to inquire about your soul. As the summer closes, we will soon return to our regular schedules. Setting consistent pick-up and drop-off times for kids' schools, scheduling a dependable ride to and from work, returning to the gym, and attending our preferred worship service are all part of this. **Shifting** is the theme of this time of year.

I encourage you to keep the care of your soul in mind as we enter a new season of the year and our lives. As we start to occupy ourselves once more, do so with community, connection, and compassion. Join a community where you can stay connected to God through spiritual means of grace. Spend some time reflecting on your life to identify your current situation, your desired outcome, and the best course of action.

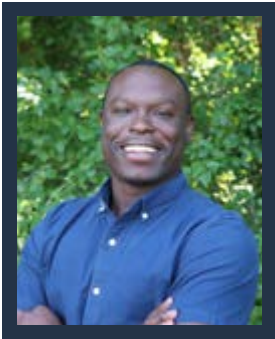
Paul reminds us, *"We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed."* (1 Corinthians 4:9)

The mission of the Love Your Neighbor Network is to **"take real love into the real world."** We do this by being present and doing life with others. Many people are faithful, fractured, or both. We are called to reach them and walk with them through a careful process of healing and strengthening. We accomplish this by building up leaders to serve fresh expression groups and microchurches. Fresh expression groups help others connect over a shared love of something (knitting, baseball, board games), while microchurches are smaller expressions of worship, discipleship, and mission. Within the next couple of months, the Love Your Neighbor Network will seek out individuals to guide these groups, then develop them as spiritual leaders and send them to form a community.

I'm excited to share more as we progress. In the meantime, I invite you to visit our website to learn more about what God is doing: www.theloveyourneighbornetwork.org

Come Together and Stay Encouraged,

Pastor D



Fall Book Study: Claim Your Identity In Christ
with Christian Counselor Keith Priest
Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
September 15 - October 13



Learn more at ebenezerumc.org/events

EBENEZER CHURCH

A Note from the Governing Board

An earlier version of this letter was shared with the congregation on June 22, 2022, in an email. We have since updated some information and are discerning next steps in sharing information, answering questions, and hearing feedback.

Dear Ebenezer Church Family,

Blessings to you. As your Governing Board, we recognize that the past few years have been somewhat tumultuous for the larger United Methodist Church. Decisions made at the 2019 General Conference and the postponement of the next General Conference until 2024 leave many issues unresolved.

The denomination affirms that all people are of sacred worth and are equally valuable in the sight of God, but issues revolve around whether persons who are self-avowed, practicing homosexuals may be ordained as pastors and whether ceremonies that celebrate same-sex weddings or unions may occur in United Methodist churches. Neither is currently allowed by the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*. The *Book of Discipline* is the guiding book for the denomination around church doctrine, structure, and social principles. For more on the denomination's stance, please go to <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-churchs-position-on-homosexuality> or use the QR code at the bottom of this letter. We do not know if the *Book of Discipline* may change in 2024 or 2028 in the next General Conference sessions. General Conference is the worldwide meeting of the denomination held every four years; this is the only body with the authority to change the *Book of Discipline*. At Ebenezer, as in the Virginia United Methodist Conference, we will continue to follow the *Book of Discipline*.

Because of these matters, a small percentage of congregations nationwide have decided to leave our denomination. We understand that you have questions regarding where Ebenezer Church stands on these issues and the intentions of Ebenezer's leadership. We have been praying and discerning for many months around these questions and

want to address them as transparently as possible. Any decision we make as a congregation about our denomination must begin with remembering who we are as United Methodists. To this end, the Governing Board has spent time rereading our founding articles and statements of faith. We are scheduling informational meetings, listening sessions, and putting together a Frequently Asked Questions guide (which will be available on the church website or upon request) so that we can hear your thoughts, provide clarity, correct misinformation, and answer questions.

The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* affirms that we are anchored in Scripture and a theology of grace, and our mission at Ebenezer reflects this: To transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world. We are disciples committed to making disciples, focused on what Jesus says is most important: loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbors as ourselves. As United Methodists, we agree on the core tenets of our faith while embracing the diversity of scriptural interpretation. We are a church where the Holy Spirit is active, where people 'do life' together, showing the light and love of Jesus to all in our neighborhood and community.

The process defined by the conference stipulates that the Governing Board is the body to initiate the process to disaffiliate, or leave, the United Methodist Church. At this time, after prayerful consideration, meetings, a rereading of our founding articles and statements of faith, and learning more about the disaffiliation process, we as the Governing Board do not intend to initiate the process to leave the United Methodist Church. We feel that joining a different denomination would alienate a large portion of our congregation and render us unable to fully live into our mission to love and welcome everyone – even those who interpret portions of the Bible differently.

We realize that this news may be a relief for some and disappointing for others. We also recognize that some of you wish to discuss these issues further.

Please know that whether you agree or disagree with our reasoning, you are a beloved part of Ebenezer, and your point of view is valued. We welcome your thoughts. At Ebenezer, we have a wide range of beliefs and questions around these issues. We have persons at all points along the spectrum, left to right and center. We firmly believe that we all share a love for Christ and can worship together as people who think or feel differently on these questions; this is who we have been and already are as Ebenezer Church.

We will continue to follow and share denominational developments as they occur. More information about General Conference decisions is also available on the State of the Church on the church website. If you would prefer a printed copy, please contact the church office. If you have questions for the pastors or Governing Board, please feel free to speak with anyone on the Board or send an email to ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org. We will host a Town Hall and multiple listening sessions in October. Scan the QR code below for more information.

In the meantime, we are not standing idle. We continue to move forward, making a difference in people's lives by faith and carrying on the Methodist movement of grace, which is rooted in Scripture and the life and teaching of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We believe the future of Ebenezer United Methodist Church is one of hope and purpose, and we invite you to navigate it together.

In Christ,

Your Governing Board

Vicki Brooks
Sarah Chapple
Andy Garlington
James Kenkel
Tim Manning
Micheal Russ
Gayle Thyrring
Pastor Emily Moore-Diamond
Pastor Jeff Harrison
Pastor Donovan Archie
B.J. Priest, Recording Secretary



Sunday Worship

In Person | 8:15 AM (Traditional)
9:45 AM & 11:15 AM (Modern)
Join us at The Bridge Café between
services in the Gym.

Livestream | 9:45 AM & 11:15 AM
or anytime at live.ebenezerumc.org

Event Registration

To learn more about our upcoming
events or to register to attend,
scan the QR code below or visit
ebenezerumc.org/events



ebenezerumc.org/events

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@ebenezer.umc

www.ebenezerumc.org

September Events

- 7

DIVORCECARE BEGINS

7:00 PM
- 10

UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETING

9:00 AM
- 11

EXPLORE EBENEZER

11:00 AM
- 15

FALL BOOK STUDY: CLAIMING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

5-WEEK STUDY BEGINS 7:00-8:30 PM
- ADVENTURERS' GUILD

12:00-4:00 PM
- 17

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL

4:00-7:00 PM
- GO FOR BO: 5K, 1-MILE FUN RUN AND TOT DASH

6:00 PM, STAFFORD REGIONAL AIRPORT, SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO

- 20

EMPTY NEST LUNCH AND SERVE: CARD MAKING

12:00 PM
- 24

UNITED METHODIST MEN FALL YARD SALE

7:00 AM-12:00 PM (DROP OFF ITEMS SEPTEMBER 23, 6:00-8:00 PM)
- 24-25

VIA COLORI

9:00 AM-5:00 PM, COURTHOUSE ROAD COMMUTER LOT
- 24

4TH SATURDAY MEAL

FREDERICKSBURG UMC – 2:30-5:30 PM
- 25

REBOOT FIRST RESPONDERS BEGINS

4:30 PM

October Events

- 8

UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETING

9:00 AM
- 11

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

STAFFORD MARKETPLACE - 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- 14-16

AXIS FALL RETREAT
- 15

ADVENTURERS' GUILD

12:00-4:00 PM
- 15

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL

4:00-7:00 PM
- 16

KIDZCHOIR BEGINS

11:15 AM
- 16-31

IMAGINATION LIBRARY PUMPKIN PATCH

SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE INFO
- 18

EMPTY NEST LUNCH AND LEARN: THOUGHTFUL GIVING

12:00 PM

- 19

SUMMER MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING

7:00 PM

- 22 & 29

FALL FAMILY FUN DAYS

SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE INFO – 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

- 4TH SATURDAY MEAL

FREDERICKSBURG UMC – 2:30-5:30 PM
- 22

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

6:30 PM
- 29

TNT ADVENTURE DAY

November Events

- 2-3

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

8:30 AM-4:30 PM
- 12

UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETING

9:00 AM
- 17

GRIEFSHARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

7:00 PM
- ADVENTURERS' GUILD

12:00-4:00 PM
- 19

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL

4:00-7:00 PM
- 26

4TH SATURDAY MEAL

FREDERICKSBURG UMC – 2:30-5:30 PM

Looking Ahead to December

- 8

GRIEFSHARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
- 24

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH EBENEZER

Recurring Events

- Men's Basketball

Sundays, 7:30–9:30 PM
- TOPS

Mondays, 9:00–11:30 AM
- Exercise Group

Mondays & Thursdays, 9:15–10:15 AM
(Free Child Care)
- Caregiver Support Group

3rd Monday, 1:00 PM
- Active Older Adult Exercise

Tuesdays & Fridays, 9:15–10:15 AM
- Empty Nester Game Club

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 1:00 PM
- MOPS

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 AM
(September-May)
- Nar-Anon

Every other Wednesday, 6:30 PM
- Cancer Support Group

1st Wednesday, 7:00 PM
- Spirituality in Nature Group

Thursdays, 1:00 PM
- Futsal (Indoor Soccer)

Saturdays, 6:00 PM

Kidzcare

Available for ages 0-3 during
Sunday Worship Services and for
infants, toddlers, and school age
children during on-campus group
meetings.

Kidzrock Sunday School

Available during Sunday Worship
Services at 9:45 AM & 11:15 AM for
children age 3 through 5th grade.

Find virtual Sunday School resources at
ebenezerumc.org/bulletin

TNT Middle School
Weekly Gathering

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM, Room B01

AXIS High School
Weekly Gathering

Sundays, 7:00-9:00 PM, Room B01

Connect With Us:
To receive text updates
about our ministries:

Parents of children age 3-5th grade,
text KIDZROCK to **84576**

Parents of middle school students,
text TNTParent to **84576**

Parents of high school students,
text AxisParent to **84576**

High school students, text AXIS to
84576

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STUDENT MINISTRIES SUMMER MISSION TRIP

"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them."
Romans 12:9a NLT

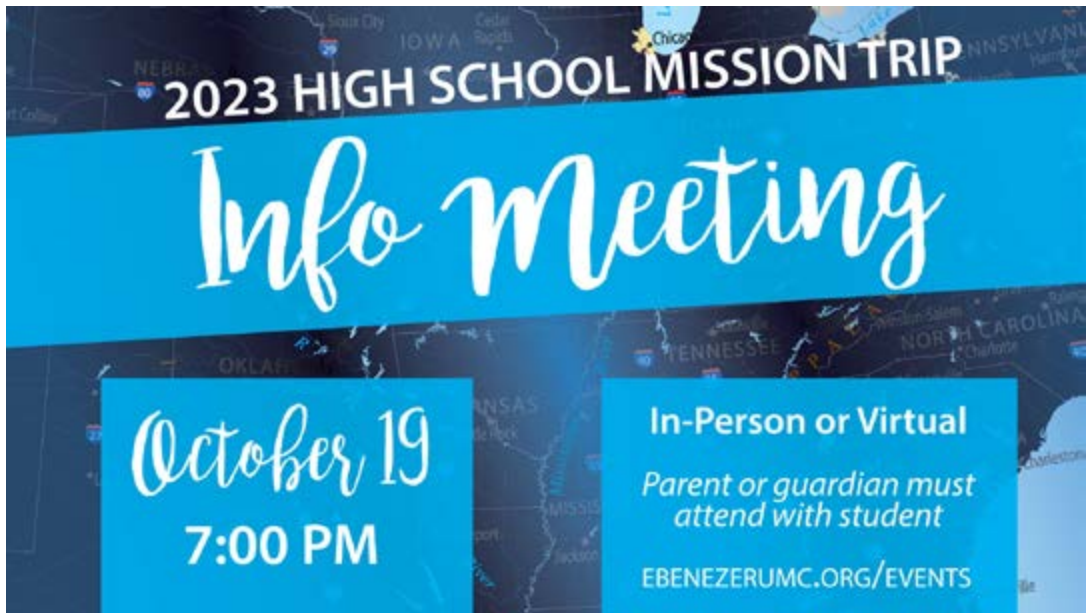
In June, 47 high school students and leaders experienced God's real and transformative love on our Summer Mission Trip to Harrisburg, PA. In partnership with Youthworks, we were able to come alongside and be part of the incredible things happening in the community. It was a beautiful week of getting to know the people of Harrisburg and embracing real love. As students served and formed relationships, they discovered that God is at work everywhere and that we can join Him in His work anywhere.



In the Allison Hill neighborhood, students worked with Wildheart Ministries on beautification projects such as weeding, cleaning up empty lots, and planting flowers. They also served at a summer enrichment camp at the Allison Hill Community Center that provides a safe place for kids to play, learn, and grow. Students serving meals at the Bethesda Men's Mission heard many stories of life change. The shelter points residents toward Jesus, providing medical care, mental health

resources, and life skills along the way. Teams volunteering at the Midwest Food Bank shared the love of Christ by supporting multiple agencies on the front lines of the fight against hunger.

You can find the complete story and all the photos from the 2022 Summer Mission Trip at ebenezerumc.org/2022-summer-mission-trip. Our 2023 Summer Mission Trip is set for June 25-July 1. An info meeting will be held October 19 at 7:00 PM.



ADULT MINISTRIES

Fall means back to school, but it's not just for kids! At Ebenezer, we believe that learning never ends, and we offer many opportunities for adults of all ages to grow in their faith, develop new relationships, find hope, and get involved. This fall, we invite you to explore new topics in our adult classes, connect with others in a small group, start the healing process in a Stafford Hope support group, and find community through our Empty Nest ministries. Check out our upcoming events at ebenezerumc.org/ events or contact Director of Adult Ministries Dana Czzowitz at dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org

Connect With Us:
To learn more about Empty Nest socials, events, and fitness groups:

Follow | Like
@EmptyNestOlderAdults

ebenezerumc.org/empty-nesters



CONNECTIONS

I was thinking the other day that church is like an iceberg. The top 10% of the iceberg - the portion visible above the surface - is worship on Sunday morning. It's the staff and pastors and band. It's the folks at the front door and the ushers who help you find a seat. But what most don't realize is that 90% of church is unseen.

Sunday worship is not the only thing God commands us to do. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45) Jesus came to earth to serve others; we are like Him when we respond to the calling God puts on our hearts.

Each week, it takes more than 100 volunteers to run all the programs and outreach at Ebenezer. This is the 90% of the iceberg that is below the surface. It's the Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Lay Leadership Committee. It's the folks who label the Stonemaker newsletters, prepare meals at homeless shelters, and deliver firewood in the winter.

Each ministry needs folks to share their time and talents. 1 Peter 4:1 says *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* Whether it's mentoring teens, volunteering in Sunday school, working in the cafe, mixing in the sound booth, singing in the band or choir, or greeting someone at the door, we need your help!

Not sure how to get started? Visit ebenezerumc.org/volunteer or contact Crissy Sharon to get connected at csharon@ebenezerumc.org.



WEEKLY GATHERINGS

We have an incredible team of adults ready to do life with you and your student. We meet on Sunday evenings for large group and – most importantly - small group teaching. Small groups grow together in the Word and are based on intentional relationships.

- Middle School: Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM
- High School: Sundays, 7:00-9:00 PM

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVENTURE DAY

October 29, 8:30 AM-10:00 PM

The Edge, George Mason University
We'll spend the day on the low ropes course and Alpine Tower, then gather for pizza, a lesson, and worship. Register by Oct 9: \$45



Join us for an incredible weekend of growing in God and having fun at Watermarks Camp in Scottsville. Our theme is MOVE. Don't miss the zipline, moleball, human foosball, gagaball, and so much more! Register by Sept 26: \$90 through Sept 12; \$110 after Sept 12



KIDZCHOIR

K-5th grade

Sundays, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Beginning October 16

Christmas Musical Performance December 15, 6:30 PM
ebenezerumc.org/events

KIDZCHOIR

We're excited to announce that KidzChoir will begin on October 16! Children in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join the excitement of this seasonal music experience. KidzChoir will rehearse each Sunday from 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in preparation for a Christmas musical performance on December 15. Register your K-5th grader to make a joyful noise with us at ebenezerumc.org/events.

PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL FAMILY FUN DAYS

This fall, we invite you to pick a pumpkin and promote child literacy! Ebenezer is excited to host its very own Pumpkin Patch at Cloe Field October 16-31 to benefit the Ebenezer Church Imagination Library. As an affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, we provide free, high-quality books each month to children from birth to age 5 in Stafford's 22405 zip code.

Located just across the street from Ebenezer at Cloe Field (166 Embrey Mill Road), the Pumpkin Patch will feature hundreds of pumpkins and gourds of all sizes, perfect for decorating and carving. Proceeds will enable the Ebenezer Church Imagination Library to continue blessing our young neighbors with the magic of books.

Mark your calendar: Saturday, October 22 and Saturday, October 29 are Fall Family Fun Days at the Pumpkin Patch! Bring the whole family to Cloe Field from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM and enjoy free activities while you pick out your pumpkins. Don't miss face painting, a petting zoo, bounce house, hayrides, pumpkin painting, caramel apples, popcorn, and more.

Pumpkin Patch Hours October 16-31:
 Weekdays: 10:00 AM-6:00 PM (park at Cloe Field)
 Weekends: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM (park at Ebenezer Church)
 Fall Family Fun Days: Saturdays, October 22 & 29, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM



Vacation Bible School returned to Ebenezer in June, and this time, we invited the entire family to join us for Monumental VBS: Family Edition! More than 200 people experienced three nights of adventure, including songs, games, and learning activities. We had a wonderful time celebrating God's greatness and seeing the impact it had on moms, dads, and kids of all ages.



JOIN SCOUTS AT EBENEZER

Pack 907 is a family pack offering elementary boys and girls an active year program that includes campouts, hikes, and derbies. Scouts learn valuable life skills while having fun! Meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Ministry Center. <https://www.facebook.com/CubScoutPack907>

Scouts BSA Troop 907 offers middle and high school boys an outdoor year program. Scouts learn how to work as a patrol, camp out, serve their community, and more. Meetings on Mondays at 7:30 PM in the Ministry Center basement. <https://bsatroop907.org/>

For more information about scouting at Ebenezer, please contact Ken Todd at 202-714-6484 or ken.todd@frb.gov

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

KidzRock and Ebenezer Preschool are teaming up to host Family Movie Night on Saturday, October 22 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us outdoors on the Ebenezer Church lawn for a fun, family movie. Bring a picnic supper, blankets, and folding chairs. We'll provide the freshly popped popcorn and water bottles. Family Movie Night is free, and registration is not required.



EBENEZER ACRE

Ebenezer Acre yielded a bumper crop for community members in need this summer! More than 1,100 pounds of fresh produce, including cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, peppers, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, onions, corn, and herbs were donated to our local food pantry, S.E.R.V.E. Special thanks to Stan and Linda Duvall, Mark Greggs, and the volunteer gardeners of all ages who helped make it happen. "S.E.R.V.E. has been thrilled with our deliveries, and people are scooping up the fresh produce," Linda said. "The volunteers who have worked the garden have done an outstanding job. What a rewarding year for Ebenezer Acre."



SEPTEMBER 24-25 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
 COURTHOUSE ROAD COMMUTER LOT

[LEARN MORE AT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS](http://EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS)

VIA COLORI

Ebenezer is excited to be part of the Via Colori street art festival as the host of Via Bambini, a special area for children of all ages. We invite you to stop by with your young artists. They'll have a chance to try out chalk drawing and create their very own works of art to take home!



Ebenezer Preschool will begin its 2022-23 school year on Tuesday, September 6. We're looking forward to welcoming 132 students and 22 staff members to a great year of learning and growing together!



161 Embrey Mill Road
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Change of address service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Stafford, VA
Permit #16

Ebenezer Church Imagination Library

**Fall Family
Fun Days**
Oct 22 & 29
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pumpkin Patch

October 16-31 | Cloe Field

Weekdays 10:00 AM-6:00 PM | Weekends 9:00 AM-6:00 PM

ebenezerumc.org/events

