

# TUESDAYS AT THE PARK

Summer 2023

## STONEMAKER

Newsletter of Ebenezer Church

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 02 A Note From Pastor Jeff
- 02 Upcoming Sermon Series
- 03 Global Leadership Summit
- 04 Counselor's Corner
- 04 A Note From Pastor Donovan
- 05 State of the Church Updates
- 06 Calendar of Events
- 08 Adult Ministries
- 08 Connections
- 09 Missions & Outreach
- 10 Children's Ministries
- 10 Preschool
- 11 Student Ministries

### A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY

Lightning bugs. Crickets. Laughter. Stories. Grilling. Citronella. These are some of my favorite summer sights, sounds, and aromas in the neighborhood.

Worship. Stellar VBS. Tuesdays at the Park. Build a Backpack. Global Leadership Summit. High School Summer Mission Trip. Summer Book Studies. Summer Reading Program. These are some of my favorite summer sights, sounds, and more at Ebenezer.

As we enter this season of summer, may we make the most of it. Take a little more time...time to be with God, be with our neighbors, be out in the community. Take a little more time for longer sunlit walks and more outdoor fun with kids and friends. Take a little more time to breathe in God's presence...and take our Bibles and worship God on vacation. Take a little more time to let God grow us in faith.

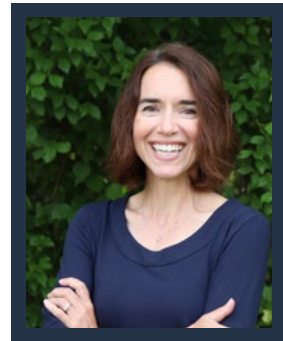
And may we take a little more time to pray and serve the Lord. Help out with VBS. Build a Backpack for a child in need.

Go to GLS. Invite a neighbor to worship. Bring a friend to Tuesdays at the Park. Ask the students about their Summer Mission Trip. Take the time to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and build relationships grounded in genuine faith right here in this community.

Use that gift of a little more time for God to give us a heart for revival. May this summer of faith come to life as we focus on our mission to *transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world.*

What a joy to grow in Christ with you this summer,

Pastor Emily   
pastoremlily@ebenezerumc.org



## FAMILIES COME JOIN US! AUTUMN RIDGE PARK, 9:00-11:00 AM

Autumn Ridge Park is the place to be on Tuesday mornings this summer! Invite your neighbors to join us from 9:00-11:00 AM at 900 Eustace Road as we move, create, explore, and splash together. Each session will include a Bible story, special themed activity, and plenty of free time to make new friends, climb on the play structure, run around in the grassy field, or take a break in the shade.

Tuesdays at the Park is appropriate for kids and parents or caregivers of all ages. Activities are free of charge and no registration is necessary. For more information, contact Chrissy Richardson at crichardson@ebenezerumc.org.

**June 13** - Chalk Day  
**June 20** - Let's Get Moving  
**June 27** - Bubble Day  
**July 4** - No Meeting  
**July 11** - Science Day  
**July 18** - Water Day  
**July 25** - Superhero Day  
**August 1** - Yard Games & Ice Cream

Upcoming  
Sermon Series

Leadership Highlighted  
(June 4-July 2)

Different people model leadership in different ways. Some are bold; others are reserved. Some are collaborative; others work alone. Some are doers; others are thinkers. How is God inviting us to lead? We'll explore different biblical examples of leadership in Joshua, Mary, Martha, Peter, and more. Each of them sought to lead with their God-given gifts. What spiritual gifts do you have for leadership? How is God inviting you to use them? Find out in this series.

Childlike Faith  
(July 9-August 6)

As children, we learn stories that show us God is bigger than whatever we face. Hear those favorite stories from the Old Testament that remind us of that very truth. Spend time in this series with Noah, Joshua, David, Daniel, and three friends who all face big trials in life. Do you need encouragement for what you are facing? Jump into these stories and worship the same big, big God together.

Thank You from  
the Perry Family

The family of Elwood "Tinky" Perry would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits over the past few months. We also want to give a special thanks to Pastor Emily, Pastor Mark, Jen, James, and everyone else who took part in the lovely funeral service. We are also so grateful for all the individuals who set up, served the meal, and cleaned up after the beautifully decorated reception.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Perry and Family

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

Beautiful and Beloved People of Ebenezer!

It may seem that, in this age, we face unprecedented challenges and dilemmas, but as the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, *“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)*

The fact is that we have always wrestled with questions, especially about the essential truths we must understand to live the lives that God intends for us. As we read 2 Peter 1:3, we realize that we already have all we need: *“His (Jesus) divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”*

We have everything we need to do all that we need to do for the Glory of God. However, most of the time we don't do what we need to do. When we see a brother or sister on the street asking for money, do we lock the doors or roll down the window and offer some money? When we see a mother carrying her infant child in a car seat, do we open the door for her or watch as she struggles? When we overhear someone talking about a family member struggling with drugs, do we offer help or judgment?

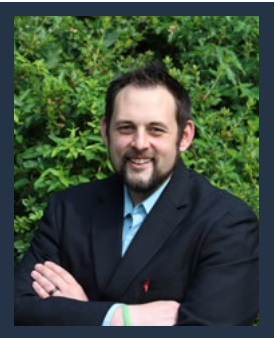
Friends, we have all we need to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, but we have excuses, too. *“I can't go to Small Group, because Jeopardy is on,”* or *“You know, if only the church \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank).”* Let us not allow the excuses to get in the way of showing the love of Christ to all people.

This summer, I invite you to be part of our Spiritual Gifts Book Study beginning Tuesday, June 20. This four-week study aligns with our Leadership Highlighted sermon series, which focuses on the characteristics of various biblical leaders. With what spiritual gifts has God equipped you? How can you grow in your giftedness and leadership?

Join us as we go deeper in discerning our spiritual gifts and how we are called to use them.

When we recognize the gifts that God has given us, and lead out of that giftedness, we begin to see that we have all we need to live into and live out the life God intends. My friends, I am looking forward to unwrapping the beautiful gifts God has given each of us!

Pastor Jeff  
pastorjeff@ebenezerumc.org



WE ARE  
Praying  
FOR YOU

Ebenezer is intentionally praying for our community and ministry partners throughout 2023. Each month has a different prayer topic, with a new prayer focus every week. Visit [ebenezerumc.org/year-of-prayer](http://ebenezerumc.org/year-of-prayer) to subscribe to our Prayer Calendar, access Prayer Tools, and find ways to put your prayers into action through Prayer Works. You can also text YEAROFPRAYER to 84576 to receive a weekly prayer reminder.

This summer, we're praying for:  
June: Healthcare Workers  
July: Government  
August: Schools

YEAR OF PRAYER

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."  
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2023

World-class leadership training returns to Ebenezer August 3-4! Each year, the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) partners with local churches and organizations to help leaders grow and become catalysts for change. Join us in the Sanctuary for two full days of inspiration, broadcast live from the GLS campus in Chicago, IL.

This year's GLS focus is Lead Where You Are, and the faculty includes Life.Church Founder Craig Groeschel, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger, best-selling author Patrick Lencioni, and more. We invite you to take this opportunity to absorb a unique blend of vision, encouragement, and skills you can immediately apply at home, at work or in the community. As a member of our congregation, you will receive a discounted rate of \$139. There is also a special rate of \$99 for active-duty military, teachers, first responders, and students. For more information, visit [ebenezerumc.org/gls](http://ebenezerumc.org/gls).

DEBT  
*is the*  
THIEF  
*of your*  
FUTURE

FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

Thursdays  
7:00-9:00 PM

9-Session Class  
Begins June 15

[ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

When debt isn't holding you back, nothing can stop you from living the life of your dreams. You can get there; you just need a plan that works. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan. This 9-session course will meet on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 PM beginning June 15 and will teach you how to take control of your money, pay off debt, save for emergencies, choose the right insurance plans, invest wisely, build wealth, and give generously. The cost is \$79.99 per family. For more information, contact Dana Czzowitz at [dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

As we move forward this year, Ebenezer United Methodist Men will focus on activities and service. On June 9, we will attend a Fredericksburg Nationals game, complete with food and fireworks. Planning is underway for our September Yard Sale to support our missions, as well as another UMCOR Relief and Hygiene Kit Drive to help disaster victims in October. We will also hold another Worship Breakfast in November and a Manger Build in December. Dust off your recipes, as we are planning a Chili Cookoff as well! Engage in fellowship and service with us this year...Christian Men Choose to Serve. For more information, please contact Bob Skewes at [skewcrew1@outlook.com](mailto:skewcrew1@outlook.com)

Spiritual Gifts  
Book Study

For THE  
COMMON  
GOOD

DISCOVERING AND USING  
YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

CHRISTINE HARMAN

Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
June 20 & 27, July 11 & 18

Learn more at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

Ebenezer Library  
Summer  
Reading Program

May 20 - September 4

Read 10 books to earn a prize  
Visit the library or download the reading log  
[ebenezerumc.org/summer-reading](http://ebenezerumc.org/summer-reading)

The Holy Spirit gives every Christian one or more spiritual gifts. This summer, we invite you to discover your own particular gifts and how you can use them to benefit the church, the community, and the world. Join Becca Runkles and Tara Bain for a four-week study of *For the Common Good* by Christine Harman. The class will meet on Tuesday evenings June 20 & 27 and July 11 & 18 from 7:00-8:30 PM. Participants will complete a personal spiritual gift assessment, guided by key passages in Paul's letters to the Romans, Ephesians, and Corinthians.

This is a great opportunity to identify your distinct gifts and learn how to use them to grow in your knowledge of God's love, expand your understanding of discipleship, and find greater joy in serving God and others. The cost is \$15, which includes the book. Childcare is also available. For more information, please contact Dana Czzowitz at [dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org)

Ebenezer's Mary P. Kniseley Library hosts a Summer Reading Program for all ages May 20-September 4. To participate, pick up a reading log at the library or download a copy at [ebenezerumc.org/summer-reading](http://ebenezerumc.org/summer-reading). Then record the books you read and turn in your log to earn prizes. Librarian Jane Waddell will have prizes available in the Cym after worship services on June 11, July 9, August 6 & 27, and September 4. Anyone can read 10 age-appropriate books to win a prize. Children may upgrade to a medium prize with two completed reading logs or upgrade to a large prize with five completed reading logs. There is no required reading list; just ensure that at least one book is from the church library. Audiobooks count!

The Mary P. Kniseley Library is located on the 2nd floor of the Ministry Center and includes nearly 6,000 books and 500 DVD's for all ages. Stop by Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM or Sunday from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. For more information, contact Jane at [jtwaddell2010@gmail.com](mailto:jtwaddell2010@gmail.com)

STONEMAKER | 3



Counselor's Corner



**Fear not.** The Bible speaks to this phrase in many ways. In counseling, I have been blessed to walk alongside clients though anxiety, depression, and brokenness. Believe it or not, fear resides at the core of many people who are hurting.

People are not *thinking* machines that *feel*, but rather *feeling* machines that *think*. This is an important aspect of our makeup. If we take the time to understand our feelings, we can bring the biblical power and authority of “*fear not*” into our own lives.

Emotional words such as *anxious, discouraged, insignificant, helpless, rejected, and confused* can make us feel like things are so far beyond our control that even if we could do something to address them, there would be no point. This is where fear can lead us.

How can our relationship with Christ change the way we view fear? In John 16:33, Jesus says, “*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*” Jesus knows our fears and challenges. They are of this world, the very world that he has overcome. Jesus reassures us that he has a way forward that includes peace.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul says, “*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*” I can recognize my fears and have control over how I address them, knowing that God grants me power to get to the place of peace that Jesus provides.

Keith Priest, Christian Counselor  
kpriest@ebenezerumc.org

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DONOVAN

Those who put their trust in the Lord, receive these words:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)*

This scripture is a powerful declaration by Jesus, which has the potential to stir up believers to embrace their identity as disciples and live intentionally for God's purpose. Jesus speaks of the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon him. As followers of Christ, we have been given the same power and authority. God wants us to help people know Jesus and invoke His kingdom. This can take many forms, from acts of kindness and compassion to sharing the gospel with others to gathering people for discipleship, worship, or mission to creating new ways of reaching and engaging people.

Jesus began his ministry full of the Holy Spirit and became effective in teaching people the good news, healing the brokenhearted and sick, restoring the identity and dignity of those he encountered, speaking truth to power in love, and teaching his disciples about a love so potent that it will lead us to lay down our lives for God and one another. This type of life and ministry, I believe, changes the world. When we do this work, we become living proof of divine love and hope. We are the church and God's kingdom on full display.

Let us be inspired by the words of Jesus and strive to live a life full of the Holy Spirit, serving God and others with love and compassion. It's important to discern what God is doing in our lives and be open to the nudges of the Holy Spirit to lead and live out our faith in bold and radical ways. If you are not sure where God is calling you, pray for guidance and direction. Together, we can start something and change our neighborhoods and the world.

Let's stay missional and on fire for God! Check out the Love Your Neighbor Network's opportunities to be empowered, serve God, do something new, and reach others.

Your Friend and Brother,

  
Pastor Donovan  
pastordonovan@ebenezerumc.org



Live Webinar Series with Pastor Donovan Archie

Love Your Neighbor Network

June 14: *HOW TO GET INVOLVED*

July 12: *MISSIONAL CHRISTIANS + LEADERSHIP*

August 9: *WHAT IS THE LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR NETWORK?*

ebenezerumc.org/events

STATE OF THE CHURCH & DENOMINATIONAL UPDATE

What will be Ebenezer's future priorities? Our Strategic Planning Team began meeting in January and continues to meet monthly to delve into our core values, ministry goals, and vision together. We are working to determine not only our overall direction but also to discern and communicate specific priorities for onsite, online, and offsite ministry today and moving forward. We are also addressing our projected budget deficit with a measured approach over time, aligning expenses with our ministry vision.

Our annual State of the Church meeting took place February 25 and was open to the entire church. If you missed it, check out the video recordings at [ebenezerumc.org/state-of-the-church](http://ebenezerumc.org/state-of-the-church). Click on “Videos from Feb 25 Info Session” to watch the Strategic Planning Overview, Financial Update, Worship Information, Denominational Update, and more. You'll also find a special message of encouragement by Rev. Dr. Clarence Brown called “Leading with a Limp”.

We continue to post updates on the larger denomination as United Methodists worldwide prepare for the 2024 General Conference next April. Check [ebenezerumc.org/denomination-news](http://ebenezerumc.org/denomination-news) for Frequently Asked Questions and Resources. We are always open to feedback and questions through [ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org). We would love to hear from you.

FINANCE UPDATE

Just like your personal budget, the finances of the church must be managed carefully to ensure we stay on the right track. Our staff is striving to manage expenses while providing opportunities for ministry and spiritual growth, but we are still lacking sufficient donations to support our mission. While first quarter donations were on budget, we must remember that we are operating with a deficit budget, meaning that our annual plan shows expenses higher than income. We could use your help to close this gap. Your Finance Committee is exploring ways to regularly share the status of our finances so you can prayerfully consider your contributions to the church. As Henk de Jager said at the State of the Church meeting in February, if every family reading this newsletter gave an additional \$60 each month, we would erase our deficit. Will you consider bumping up your giving this year?

Finance Committee  
[ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org)



Your 2023 Finance Committee (left to right): Will Stormer, Mark Zoepfl, Barry Mills, Henk de Jager, Mark Lurch, Pat McGuckin, B.J. Priest, Tina DeBoeser, Bob Porzeinski, Pastor Emily, Tom Jackson (Chair), Chad Breeden, Chris Engleright. The Finance Committee meets the fourth Monday of each month and is responsible for: planning and implementing ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries; compiling the annual budget and submitting it to the Governing Board for approval; establishing financial policies; monitoring the receipt and distribution of funds; and commissioning annual financial reviews.

SUMMER MINISTRY INTERN



Please help us welcome Kait Priest as our Summer Ministry Intern! Kait is majoring in pre-ministerial studies at Randolph Macon College and pursuing a call to pastoral ministry. During the school year, she serves as a Ministry Assistant at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church. Kait joined Ebenezer in 2017, served in Vacation Bible School, and grew in leadership through Student Ministries. Her primary role this summer will be supporting the Love Your Neighbor Network. She will also be leading in worship and learning more about pastoral care. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to offer this part-time position due to grants and anonymous donations to the Love Your Neighbor Network. We value being a teaching church, and the pastors and Ministry Mentor Team look forward to sponsoring Kait in her call to pastoral ministry this summer.

Summer Book Study

with Christian Counselor Keith Priest

Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
June 22 - August 3



Learn more at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

Are you stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain due to someone else's actions? Discover what the Bible really says about forgiveness and how to find the peace that comes from embracing it. Join Christian Counselor Keith Priest for a six-week study based on Lysa TerKeurst's best-selling book *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*. The class is open to all adults and will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM from June 22-August 3. Through video lessons, discussion, and journaling, you'll learn how to let go of resentment, make peace with painful memories, and reclaim your future. For more information, contact Keith Priest at [kpriest@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:kpriest@ebenezerumc.org)



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](https://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](https://ebenezerumc.org/events)



[ebenezerumc.org/events](https://ebenezerumc.org/events)

Connect With Us:

To learn more about  
Empty Nest events:

Follow | Like

[@EmptyNestOlderAdults](#)

[ebenezerumc.org/empty-nesters](https://ebenezerumc.org/empty-nesters)

Find Us Online

Follow | Like | Visit

[@EUMCStafford](#)

[@ebenezer.umc](#)

[www.ebenezerumc.org](https://www.ebenezerumc.org)

[@ebenezerumc](#)

June Events

- 6-9

STELLAR VBS  
6:00-8:50 PM
- 13

TUESDAYS AT THE PARK BEGIN  
AUTUMN RIDGE PARK, 9:00-11:00 AM (SEE PAGE 1 FOR INFO)

AXIS HIGH SCHOOL POOL PARTY  
EBENEZER ACRE, 7:00-9:00 PM
- 15

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY  
9-WEEK COURSE BEGINS 7:00-9:00 PM
- 17

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL  
4:00-7:00 PM
- 18

UWIF DONUTS WITH DAD  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM
- 20

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TUESDAYS BEGIN  
ROOM B01, 7:00 PM (SEE PAGE 11 FOR INFO)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS BOOK STUDY  
4-WEEK STUDY BEGINS, 7:00-8:30 PM
- 20

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING  
7:00 PM, ROOM 207 (TRIP DATES: DECEMBER 1-10)
- 22

SUMMER BOOK STUDY: FORGIVENESS  
6-WEEK STUDY BEGINS, 7:00-8:30 PM
- 24

4TH SATURDAY MEAL  
FREDERICKSBURG UMC, 2:30-5:30 PM

July Events

- 9-30

BUILD A BACKPACK DONATION DRIVE
- 15

ADVENTURERS' GUILD  
12:00-4:00 PM

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL  
4:00-7:00 PM
- 22

4TH SATURDAY MEAL  
FREDERICKSBURG UMC, 2:30-5:30 PM
- 26&27

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- 30

TNT MIDDLE SCHOOL TUBING  
11:00 AM-6:00 PM

August Events

- 3&4

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
- 5&12

SYSTEMS OF SELF DEFENSE  
9:00 AM-2:00 PM

- 12

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR NETWORK TUNE-UP & CALLING LAB  
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

- 13

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE SUNDAY  
WORSHIP SERVICE, 9:45 AM

- 13

STUDENT MINISTRIES LASER TAG KICK-OFF  
5:30-8:00 PM

- 15

LUNCH AND SERVE: PACKING LUNCHES FOR MICAH  
12:00-2:00 PM

- 15

ADVENTURERS' GUILD  
12:00-4:00 PM

- 19

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL  
4:00-7:00 PM

- 19

STEP PRETEEN GATHERING  
(SUPER TERRIFIC EBENEZER PRETEENS) 6:00-7:30 PM

- 20

AXIS & TNT WEEKLY GATHERINGS RESUME

- 26

4TH SATURDAY MEAL  
FREDERICKSBURG UMC – 2:30-5:30 PM

Looking Ahead to September

- 7

SOUL OF SHAME BOOK STUDY  
8-WEEK STUDY BEGINS, 7:00-8:30 PM

- 16

GO FOR BO 5K, 1-MILE & TOT DASH

- 17

DISCIPLE 2 & DISCIPLE FAST TRACK NEW TESTAMENT BEGIN  
3:00-5:00 PM

- 25

THOUGHTFUL GIVING: HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE  
6:30-9:30 PM

- October 13-15

AXIS HIGH SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

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

- Love Your Neighbor Network Webinar

2nd Wednesday, 7:00 PM

- Nar-Anon

Every other Wednesday, 6:30 PM

- Cancer Support Group

1st Wednesday, 7:00 PM

- United Methodist Men Meeting

2nd Saturday, 9:00 AM

Kidzcare Nursery

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 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Find virtual Sunday School resources at  
[ebenezerumc.org/bulletin](https://ebenezerumc.org/bulletin)

TNT Middle School  
Weekly Gathering

Will resume August 20

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

AXIS High School  
Weekly Gathering

Tuesdays, June 20; July 11, 18 & 25;  
August 1, 7:00 PM, Room B01

Sunday meetings will resume  
August 20, 7:00-9:00 PM, Room B01

Connect With Us:

To receive text updates  
about our ministries:

Parents of children age 3-5<sup>th</sup> 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**

Follow | Like

[@axis.eumc](#)

[@ebenezerumckidzrock](#)

[@eumc\\_axis](#)

STONEMAKER | 7



# ADULT MINISTRIES

## VISITATION TEAM

To support our mission of *transforming lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world*, we are seeking volunteers to serve on our Visitation Team. This team makes monthly visits to anyone who would benefit from encouragement, comfort, or a sense of belonging, especially those who are bereaved, hospitalized, or living in nursing homes. A cheerful visit relieves loneliness and reminds them that they are not forgotten. If you enjoy writing encouraging notes or cards, we can use your help as well! If this ministry speaks to you, please contact Pastor Jeff at [pastorjeff@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:pastorjeff@ebenezerumc.org). Watch your inbox for more upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in our new bimonthly Adult Ministries e-newsletter.





Register Now

MOPS Registration 2023-24

[ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

Registration for Ebenezer Moms of Preschoolers (MOPS) and MOMSNext is now open for the 2023-2024 year. We are excited to welcome moms of all walks to our group. We gather for fellowship, breakfast, guest speakers, and crafts, and reach out to others through service projects. This is a place to connect with fellow moms in your season of motherhood. Momming can be hard, but finding a mom tribe doesn't have to be. MOPS meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM, beginning September 6: MOPS for mothers of preschoolers; MOMSNext for moms of children in kindergarten and above; Mentor Moms for experienced moms of older kids; and MOPS Lite for moms who cannot attend meetings, but would like access to MOPS resources. Registration ranges from \$86-\$135 and includes childcare. For more information, visit *Ebenezer MOPS and MOMSNext* on Facebook or email [mopsebenezer@gmail.com](mailto:mopsebenezer@gmail.com).

## CONNECTIONS

As summer begins, I'd like to plant a seed about serving at Ebenezer this fall. Volunteers are an essential part of every church, including Ebenezer. God and HIS church are always in need of people to give their time and talents to do ministry. It's important not only to be served but to then turn around and serve others. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* (1 Peter 4:10)

How can volunteers help?

- Hospitality & First Impressions: Set up coffee and snacks, greet people at the door, or host online.
- Student Ministries: Become a mentor. Middle and high school students need your guidance.
- Children's Ministries: Help with Sunday School. The children will learn a lot, and so will you!
- Tech Team: Work behind the camera, in the sound booth, or in the broadcast room.
- Worship Music: Sing or play an instrument in the Band or join the Choir.
- Missions & Outreach: Work alongside ministry partners in our community.

Please connect with me to find out how you can serve in a ministry this fall!  
Crissy Sharon, Director of Connections  
[csharon@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:csharon@ebenezerumc.org)

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

The 13th Annual Go For Bo 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run and Tot Dash will take off September 16 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. Go For Bo is now part of the Stafford Race Series. Race registration is open, so sign up to race the runway and enjoy music, food, and kids' activities on our Family Funway.

Want to go even further for Bo? Become a race sponsor and make a direct impact on children and families in Sierra Leone. Sponsorships are available at Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Brass levels. Benefits include logo placement on our race t-shirt, signage, website, social media, and more. Stop by our table in the Gym after services on June 18 to learn more or contact Amy Miller at [amiller@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:amiller@ebenezerumc.org)



## HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

When you support Go For Bo, you support the ministry of Helping Children Worldwide in Bo, Sierra Leone. HCW's Village Empowerment initiative is just one example. In 2019, Ebenezer entered a partnership with HCW and the village of Samie to help residents overcome the obstacles of extreme poverty. To date, 23 families have been enrolled in the Child Reintegration Centre's (CRC) Family Strengthening workshops, where they learn household economics along with strategies for building strong, healthy family bonds. HCW is currently working to convert a temporary outdoor structure to a permanent health clinic that will serve Samie and surrounding villages. The Village Partnership is also researching the acquisition of a palm oil processing machine as a sustainable enterprise for Samie. During Ebenezer's trip to Bo in October, our team will have the opportunity to visit Samie, meet the families enrolled in the CRC program, and discuss future plans. Thank you for your support of HCW and the people of Sierra Leone!



Systems of Self Defense

for women ages 12 and up



August 5 & 12

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Cost: \$25



Register at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

A two-session self-defense course just for women returns to Ebenezer in August! In partnership with the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, Ebenezer will offer Systems of Self Defense for women ages 12 and up on August 5 & 12 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. The course increases awareness and overall safety through lecture, discussion, and hands-on training in realistic self-defense techniques. The cost is \$25. Learn more and register at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events) or contact Dana Czzowitz at [dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org).

Donuts with Dad

Sunday June 18

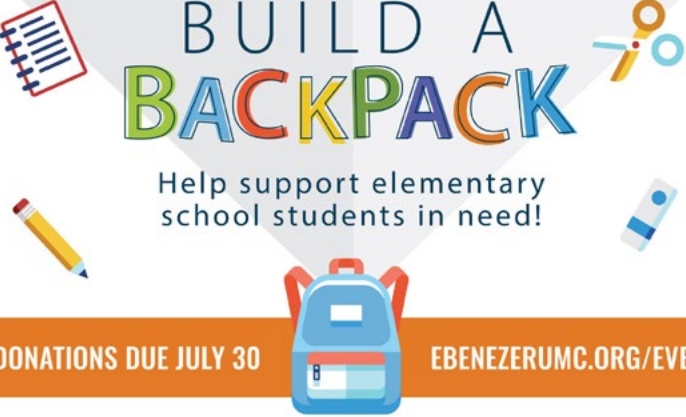
After worship services in the Gym



[ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

BUILD A BACKPACK

Help support elementary school students in need!



DONATIONS DUE JULY 30

[EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS](http://EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS)

Each fall, Ebenezer's backpack ministry helps local children start the school year off right, with a new backpack filled with all the supplies they require. This year, our goal is to provide a total of 200 backpacks to students in need at Moncure and Hampton Oaks Elementary Schools. Here's how you can help: Donate - using our supply list, buy and fill a backpack, and return it to the church by July 30. Sponsor - register to sponsor a backpack for \$50, and we'll purchase a quality backpack and all the necessary supplies for you. Volunteer - help shop, organize, and deliver backpacks. Find out more at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events) or contact Amy Miller at [amiller@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:amiller@ebenezerumc.org)

Ebenezer Acre volunteers are back in the garden this summer, growing community as they grow produce for our local food pantry, S.E.R.V.E. Last year, this grassroots effort yielded more than 1,100 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables for neighbors in need. With your help, we can cultivate another bumper crop in 2023. All ages are welcome – meet us in the garden on Saturdays from 8:30-11:00 AM, weather permitting, and get your very own Ebenezer Acre t-shirt! Watch for monthly special events throughout the season, and stay up to date by joining the Ebenezer Acre Facebook Group or by contacting Amy Miller at [amiller@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:amiller@ebenezerumc.org)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Kindergarten Bible Sunday

August 13, 9:45 AM  
Worship Service  
Register your kindergartner to receive their very own Bible!  
[ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)



August 13 is Kindergarten Bible Sunday! As our Sunday School students transition into their new role as kindergartners, we will celebrate by presenting them with a new Hands-On Bible of their very own during the 9:45 AM worship service. Jesus taught with hands-on lessons and illustrations, and the Hands-On Bible uses the same experience-based learning to communicate God's Word in active, understandable ways. Please register your kindergartner for Kindergarten Bible Sunday at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events). Note: If your child of any age needs a Bible, please contact Chrissy Richardson at [crichardson@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:crichardson@ebenezerumc.org).

4th and 5th graders, invite your friends and join us for our next STEP Preteen Gathering on August 19 from 6:00-7:30 PM. Lots of fun is in store as we dive into the Word through large group games, activities, and fellowship.

Register at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events) or contact Chrissy Richardson for more information at [crichardson@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:crichardson@ebenezerumc.org)



PRESCHOOL

Thanks to our Ebenezer Preschool families for another year of learning and growing together! Please mark your calendars for these important upcoming events:

Paperwork Drop-Off: August 22, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM & August 23, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Parents of students enrolled for the 2023-24 school year may drop off paperwork in the car line circle next to the Ministry Center.

Orientation For All Students: September 5

First Days of School: September 6 & 7

For more information, please contact Gayle Thyrring at [gthyrring@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:gthyrring@ebenezerumc.org).



Middle school students, let's have some fun in the sun this summer! Join us for a day of tubing on the Rappahannock River July 30. This includes rising 6th graders and those who just completed 8th grade. We'll meet at the church at 11:00 AM and then head to the Virginia Outdoor Center in Fredericksburg. We will return at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$24. For more information, contact Michelle Paquette at [mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org)

STUDENT MINISTRIES

I have been blessed to serve full time in Student Ministries for 23 years and one thing I have noticed is that there is nothing like youth ministry.

Every single year is new. Students grow and change from young, excitable 6th graders to trying-to-figure-it-out 7th graders to ready-for-the-world 8th graders to nervous 9th graders to flying-under-the-radar 10th graders to stressed-out 11th graders to moving-on 12th graders. Each and every year they are different students, even if they are the same individual people.

Youth Ministry is a beautiful, fertile ground that is an active example of what being the church is all about: an incredible team of leaders, investing in relationships with students, getting to know them, walking through the highs and lows, pointing them to Jesus. You feel all the joys with the students and all the heartaches as well. Some grab hold of the Word, some hold back. It's an emotional and spiritual rollercoaster, but in the end it is all about relationships and the Good News of Jesus. You plant the seed that HE is the main thing and pray that it will take root as they move on, that they will continue to grow and go and make disciples.

Leaders. Parents. Students. So many different faces of Jesus. Intertwined for a season to try to navigate this life and follow Jesus together. There is nothing like Youth Ministry. It is a reflection of what our whole life should be: groups of people coming together to do life together. Different age groups, in the Word, striving to follow Jesus, and sending people out to make disciples.

Oh wait. There is something like Youth Ministry. It's called the Church. It's amazing, isn't it?

Keep an eye on the website for upcoming Student Ministry opportunities this summer and contact me if you're interested in joining the Student Ministries Team and investing in the lives of students.

- TNT Middle School Tubing: July 30. Rising 6th graders are welcome, along with those finishing 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.
- Axis High School Pool Party: June 13, 7:00 PM, 2249 Garrisonville Road. Rising 9th graders welcome.
- Axis Summer Tuesdays: Begin June 20, 7:00 PM, Room B01.
- Laser Tag Kick-Off: August 13
- Axis High School Fall Retreat: October 13-15

Michelle Paquette, Director of Student Ministries  
[mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org)

Thank You Michelle Paquette



We are so grateful for Michelle Paquette's twenty-plus years of ministry here at Ebenezer! Michelle's 20-year anniversary slipped by us in 2020 during COVID, so we're a bit late in expressing our appreciation, but we don't want to wait any longer to shower her with gratitude. There are insufficient adjectives to describe Michelle's contributions to the youth and families of this congregation in her 23 years so far as our Director of Student Ministries. The thousands of students who have been blessed by her ministry, as well as the hundreds of volunteers she has mentored, have been inspired by her passion, hard work, and loyalty in making disciples for the Kingdom of God. Here's to 20 more years! Congratulations, Michelle - what a joy to see how God uses you in ministry. We are grateful for you!

High School Students

**SUMMERTUESDAYS**

June 20-Aug 1 | 7:00 PM | [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

High school students, escape the heat with us this summer! Join us on Tuesday evenings for large group activities and small group teaching in Room B01. We'll meet June 20, July 11, 18 & 25 & August 1 at 7:00 PM (Note: we will not meet on Tuesday, June 27 or Tuesday, July 4.) For more information, please contact Michelle Paquette at [mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org](mailto:mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org)

Student Ministries Middle & High School

**LASER TAG**

August 13  
5:30-8:00 PM

Learn more at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)

Student Ministries will kick off the new school year with Laser Tag right here at Ebenezer on August 13 from 5:30-8:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity for middle and high school students to reconnect with friends, meet their adult leaders, and learn more about everything we have planned for fall. Laser Tag is free. Please register at [ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)



 EBENEZER CHURCH

161 Embrey Mill Road  
Stafford, Virginia 22554

Change of address service requested

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



# THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

*Lead Where You Are*

August 3-4

Register now at  
[ebenezerumc.org/events](http://ebenezerumc.org/events)