

STONEMAKER

Newsletter of Ebenezer Church



September 16 • Sunset Run • Stafford Regional Airport • GoForBo.org



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A NOTE FROM PASTOR EMILY

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. Psalm 63:8

The 63rd psalm is one of my favorites. Within that psalm, this verse jumps out each time I read it. When I turn a new page in life or revisit an old one, the message of this verse jumps out again. This is how I get my bearings. This is the ground and center of who I am. It is the ground and center of our church as well. In all of life, God is the One who upholds us. God is our help, refuge, and redeemer. God is our foundation and the One in whom we live and have life. God is the One to whom we cling. God is our anchor and hope. God is the one who leads us.

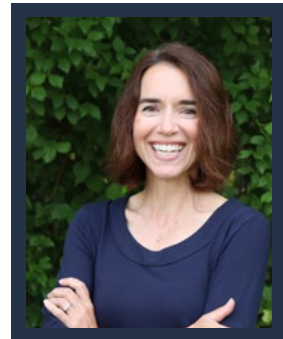
As autumn approaches, we turn a new page...to a new school year, a new season, new Student and Children's Ministries, new sports teams, and more. We will run and walk the annual Go for Bo race. We will send mission teams to Bo, Sierra Leone, to serve with Helping Children Worldwide and to Guatemala to serve with Athentikos. We will host a community Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival. Small groups will gather for Bible study and shared discipleship. Classes and support groups will provide hope and healing for those experiencing grief, divorce, and more. As we begin these new pages, let us be grounded again in the One who upholds us in each new beginning. Let us once more remember who and what will guide us.

With God at the center, we will be led by our longstanding values of relationship, discipleship, and community. We will be driven by our mission to *transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world.* We will live the two greatest commandments Jesus taught us: love God with all that we are and love our neighbors. This will guide and drive us here at Ebenezer as we cling to God who leads us forward.

In all things and all pages...*My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.* Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.

Clinging to God and the cross now and always,


Pastor Emily
pastoremy@ebenezerumc.org



Upcoming Sermon Series

Recalibrate (August 13-Septmeber 17)

As a new school year begins, it's a great time to re-examine what matters and where we want to place emphasis. How will we spend our time? Where will we direct our focus? What will shape and guide us as a church, as a family, or as individuals? What do we want to drive our calendars and hearts? Let's revisit what scripture says matters most...and recalibrate our lives to be more fully Christ-centered together.

Miracles (September 24-October 15)

Our mission statement as a church is to *transform lives through Jesus Christ as we connect, heal, and bring hope to the world*. The gospels are replete with stories of Jesus doing just that: transforming lives, making connections, healing others, and bringing hope to the world. We will jump into these lively stories of the miracles of Jesus and explore how Jesus is calling us to join him in his work and ministry right here and outside our doors.

Growing Gratitude (October 22-November 26)

Discover once more the power of gratitude as a child of God. It has been said that gratitude and anxiety cannot coexist; becoming grateful shapes and changes who we are and how we interact with others. The practice of giving thanks to God has been part of worship for thousands of years. As we study scriptures of discipleship, gratitude, and giving, how will God use gratitude to change us? On November 26, we will lift up ways we intend to engage with the church through financial giving and active service in the coming year. Join us as we grow in gratitude together.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEFF

Early this spring, my family started planting seeds for our backyard garden in our basement. Every few days, I went down to check the timer on the grow light, make sure the plants had enough water, and check the status of the seedlings. By mid-March, the plants had outgrown their sprouting cells and were ready to be transplanted outside. Each night for months, I covered them to protect them from the cold. By the middle of May, I was already harvesting green beans and carrots. The tomatoes and peppers took a little longer to take off but once they did, they never stopped.

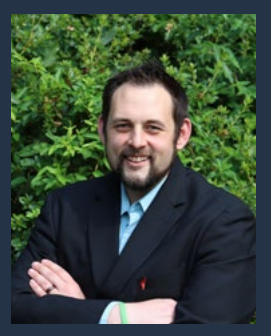
I thought I had planted "determinate" tomatoes, which means they only grow to a certain height and only produce a certain amount of fruit. However, I mistakenly planted an "indeterminate" tomato variety, which means they will continue to grow and grow and grow, producing an exorbitant amount of fruit. Thus far, we have harvested over 50 pounds of tomatoes in a small 4-foot by 6-foot section, with more still to come. As for the peppers, what we thought were run-of-the-mill bell peppers turned out to be a much-sought-after variety - Chocolate Bell Peppers. Make no mistake, they do not taste like chocolate, but they are sweeter and are even brown in color. My family and I have been feasting on fresh veggies all summer.

Growing the garden wasn't easy. It took daily care, and we didn't necessarily harvest exactly what we thought we had planted, but the fruits of our labor have been bountiful. Our spiritual lives are much the same. If we want to grow, we need to plant seeds, cultivate good spiritual habits, and share our harvest with others. Sometimes we will produce an abundance of fruit or even Chocolate Bell Peppers.

This fall, there are so many opportunities to plant spiritual seeds, through which the people of Ebenezer can grow in faith and relationship with God and neighbors. From our Visitation Team to GriefShare to Small Groups to Disciple Bible Studies to our second annual Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival, where is God calling you to plant, grow, and bear fruit this fall with Ebenezer?

I cannot wait to see what God is up to in this next season! I'm looking forward to growing with and alongside you.

Pastor Jeff
pastorjeff@ebenezerumc.org



Thank You Sandy Lytle

Thank you, Sandy, for over twenty years of faithful service and ministry! Our Property Manager, Sandy Lytle, joined the staff of Ebenezer in January of 2001 as a Sexton, then took on additional duties as a Nursery Worker after a year. Since April 2002, Sandy has been our Property Manager, feverishly working behind the scenes to ensure that the church campus is a clean, safe, and welcoming environment. During Sandy's time here, the campus has grown from one building to three, plus Cloe Field across the street. She works with the Board of Trustees and provides daily management of everything from elevator inspections to HVAC maintenance to snow removal! The facilities continue to be in excellent condition, thanks to Sandy's hard work and dedication to the church. We're grateful for your ministry, Sandy, and look forward to many more years of your leadership here at Ebenezer. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

The 13th Annual Go For Bo 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run and Tot Dash takes 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 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. Our Family Funway will open at 5:00 PM with a food truck, music, and special activities for kids. Against the backdrop of the setting sun, the Tot Dash will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by the 1-Mile Fun Run at 6:05 PM, and the 5K at 6:30 PM.

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: \$27 for the 5K, \$22 for the 1-Mile Fun Run, and \$10 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



INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS MAKING AN IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD

Members of our church family will embark on two international mission trips this fall! In October, a nine-person team will go to Bo, Sierra Leone with Helping Children Worldwide. There, they will connect with our partners at the Child and Family Reintegration Center, Mercy Hospital, and the village of Sammi, where we are entering Phases 2 & 3 of our commitment to the Village Partnership Program. In November, we will send a team to Guatemala with Athentikos. Team members will serve at the I AM ART program at Oasis, a ministry dedicated to helping young women find hope and healing through the creative arts.

You can help sponsor our teams or specific team members as they dedicate this season to mission work abroad. For the Bo, Sierra Leone mission, please choose the October Mission Team at <https://www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/donate-to-support-a-mission-team.html>. For the Guatemala Athentikos mission, please choose the I AM ART Fall 2023 trip at <https://athentikos.kindful.com/>

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



PUMPKIN PATCH

Get ready for the most exciting Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch in town! Ebenezer's second annual Imagination Library Pumpkin Patch is coming to Cloe Field October 15-29. Gather your family and friends to pick out the perfect pumpkins for fall carving and decorating, while supporting the Ebenezer Church Imagination Library.



The Pumpkin Patch will offer hundreds of pumpkins of all shapes and sizes, from tiny ones that fit in the palm of your hand to giant ones that might require a team effort to carry. But that's not all! Our Fall Festival will be jam-packed with fun activities for all ages on Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Kids will enjoy bouncing on the inflatables, meeting the animals at the petting zoo, getting their faces painted, taking a hayride, and more. There will also be a tasty selection of seasonal treats, including caramel apples, popcorn, baked goods from United Women in Faith and hot dogs from the United Methodist Men.

As an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the Ebenezer Church Imagination Library provides free books to children from birth to age five in Stafford's 22405 zip code. When you support the Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival, you also help foster a love of reading among our community's youngest members. Join us as we come together to celebrate the beauty of the season and create cherished memories. We can't wait to see you there!

Pumpkin Patch Hours October 15-29:
Weekdays: 11:30 AM-6:00 PM (park at Cloe Field)
Weekends: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM (park at Ebenezer Church)
Fall Festival: Saturday, October 21, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
(Rain date: October 28)

Counselor's Corner



God loves us too much to leave us where we are. This holds true not only in the valleys but also in the mountaintop experiences of life. God consistently calls us into deeper waters, challenging us to think beyond our capabilities and never be content with the status quo.

During the Global Leadership Summit, Erwin McManus stated that each one of us has genius within us, and often the only thing keeping that genius from coming out is our own fear or perceived limitations. This is something that I have seen play out in numerous conversations and at various points in my own life. Fear that I may fail as I try to accomplish something spectacular prevents me from engaging.

Genesis teaches that the very God who created everything from nothing created us in His image, then breathed the breath of life into each of His children. This speaks volumes to the nature of God's connection to each of us at our core. We have genius in us because He created it within us; it is a gift passed down from our loving Father. To emphasize this point, Jesus teaches in John that we will be blessed with the Holy Spirit. In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in each of us, and that we have internal and eternal connections with God Himself, made possible through His Spirit.

How could the acknowledgement of the God-given genius within you enable you to view your challenges and your successes differently? How can you use ALL your gifts to reflect His love and light into this world?

Keith Priest, Christian Counselor
kpriest@ebenezerumc.org

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DONOVAN

There, there. All is well, my friends.

I am also grieving the loss of our dear friend, Summer. I love the summer. This season is full of such joy. Between bright mornings, warm nights, beach days, cooling off, relaxation, and dress down days, I feel free and at ease. There is an unconceivable feeling of what this season brings. I feel like myself. I feel honest. I feel understood. I feel deeply rooted. Unfortunately, this usually doesn't last, because just up ahead is the change in season that speeds up my life and leaves me feeling shallowly rooted and less myself. So in my prayer time, I have asked God to help me address this matter and help me become deeply rooted year-round. I want to always feel deeply rooted, where I am feeling like myself, growing, fruitful, full of life, and purposeful.

Psalm 1:2-3 helps us understand that when we delight ourselves in the Lord, we become deeply rooted, not withering, and prosperous in all we do. I want that for myself, and I want that for you. I pray that as we continue through the rest of the year, you press toward the mark of being deeply rooted and formed. Being shallowly rooted doesn't serve us well and quite frankly, causes us to go through life fragile and unfruitful. Imagine with me what your life would be like being rooted. This October, I am leading a study on *The Deeply Formed Life: Five Transformative Values to Root Us in the Way of Jesus* by Rich Villodas. Don't let being you and feeling rooted be seasonal - have it for life. Join me.

With Deeply Rooted Love,
Donovan

Pastor Donovan
pastordonovan@ebenezerumc.org



Love Your Neighbor Network

Fall Book Study

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

October 4-25, Room 215

Learn more at ebenezerumc.org/events

Five Transformative Values to Root Us in the Way of Jesus

THE DEEPLY FORMED LIFE

RICH VILLODAS

FOREWORD BY PETER DILLIGARD

STAFFORD HOPE

Begins Sept 7

DivorceCare

13-week class

7:00-9:00 PM

Begins Sept 14

GriefShare

13-week class

7:00-9:00 PM

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays helps those who are grieving a loved one's death navigate the holiday season. Christian Counselor Keith Priest will offer three sessions at Ebenezer on November 14, 9:00-11:00 AM; November 15, 7:00-9:00 PM; and December 6, 7:00-9:00 PM. He will also offer one session at The Gardens of Stafford on December 5, 9:00-11:00 PM. Learn more and register at staffordhope.org

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2023 Virginia Annual Conference was held June 15-17 in Roanoke, Va. Andy and Linda Garlington attended as Ebenezer's lay representatives and provided these highlights. Read their full report at ebenezerumc.org/denomination-news.

The conference theme was based on Acts 1:8b. The VAUMC Delegation provided an overview of the Christmas Covenant, a proposal for regionalization and contextualization as a way forward for the UMC. If a regionalization plan passes at General Conference 2024, Annual Conferences will vote to ratify resultant constitutional amendments. The VAUMC Delegation unanimously supports the Christmas Covenant as the wisest and most hopeful way forward for the UMC, and the Annual Conference members voted to affirm their endorsement in advance of the 2024 General Conference. (More info at <https://vaumc.org/gc2024/>)

A total of 59 new faith communities have been planted in the conference since 2008. Of these, more than 70% remain active. This year, 13 churches were closed. Since October 2022, 107 churches have disaffiliated under Paragraph 2553, of which 70 have completed the legal closing process. The remaining 37 churches will be completed in the next several weeks. The final called session to consider disaffiliating churches under Paragraph 2553 in the Virginia Conference will be October 7. The conference projects that by year end, the Virginia Conference will comprise 900 churches with 268,000 members.

FINANCE UPDATE

It is now August, more than halfway through the year. The financial results through June were reviewed at our July meeting. The good news is expenses are currently lower than what we planned; however, we also learned that offerings are below what we expected and that causes us concern.

The results of a midyear forecast completed by the church staff also show that while spending will be less than planned, offerings are also projected to be less than budgeted. The church is now planning for a deficit of about \$522,000, which is 5% more than originally thought (see graph below).

The church has planned for budget deficits since 2018, and the extraordinary circumstances of COVID and federal funding programs have both negatively and positively impacted our bottom line. As we sought to faithfully navigate the unpredicted challenges, we were hesitant to make major changes. COVID impacted many churches with a reduction in pre-COVID engagement and giving. We have felt that impact as well. Knowing that we have investment income as an added resource (though insufficient to cover all deficit balances), our leadership has intentionally approved budgets with an expected deficit to provide time to reassess priorities and

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Our Strategic Planning Team has been working hard to delve into our core values, dreams, and community context. We are making adjustments to embrace a new season after the height of COVID and resulting changes in attendance and finances. Together, we are drafting a new vision and ministry goals, building on the work of Focus 2025 and COVID adaptations. We will then map resources to those goals, using a measured approach over time to align expenses to ministry vision, reduce the deficit, and increase the discipleship of giving. Questions are welcome at ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org

During the Equitable Compensation report, there was discussion and a motion was made and approved to increase the minimum salary for full-time clergy in each category by \$1,000 for 2024. A motion was also made and approved to appoint a work group to analyze and give new recommendations on housing allowances.

The conference treasurer reported that 2022 apportionment receipts were \$23,398,006, a 3.75% increase from 2021. Second-mile benevolences increased \$55,000 from 2021. The 2024 budget was approved for \$27,362,000, a 1.33% reduction from 2023.

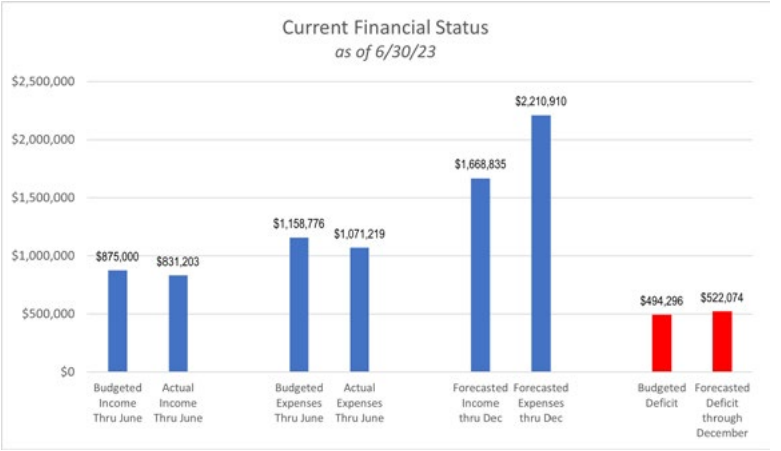
A Service of Remembrance was held for 75 conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference. A Retirement Service was held for 58 clergy members, with a combined total of 1,210 years of service. We also held a Service for the Ordering of Ministry, where our own Anji Budzynski became a licensed local pastor! She is serving the congregation at Andrew Chapel UMC here in Stafford.

Ebenezer will continue to share updates as United Methodists worldwide prepare for the 2024 General Conference to be held April 23–May 3. We have tentatively scheduled an evening session for May 20 entitled “What Just Happened” to review and unpack the results of the General Conference. The Governing Board would love to hear from you, and you are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Check ebenezerumc.org/denomination-news Frequently Asked Questions and Resources. We are open to feedback and questions through ebenezerinfo@ebenezerumc.org.

develop a measured approach. We are now some distance from the height of COVID and discern the time is now to reduce the projected deficit.

There are two ways to eliminate the deficit: increasing giving and reducing spending. We need to do both over the next several years to produce a balanced budget. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to help move us toward that goal. May peace be with you.

Your Finance Committee



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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September Events

7

DIVORCECARE BEGINS
7:00-9:00 PM

14

GRIEFSHARE BEGINS
7:00-8:30 PM

14

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY BEGINS
7:00-9:00 PM

16

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL
4:00-7:00 PM

16

GO FOR BO: 5K, 1-MILE FUN RUN AND TOT DASH
6:00 PM, STAFFORD REGIONAL AIRPORT, SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO

17

DISCIPLE I FAST TRACK & DISCIPLE II FAST TRACK
CLASSES BEGIN, 3:00-5:00 PM

UMM FALL YARD SALE
7:00 AM-12:00 PM

23-24

VIA COLORI STAFFORD
10:00 AM-5:00 PM, STAFFORD REGIONAL AIRPORT

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

25

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: LEGACY GIVING
6:30-9:30 PM

30

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
6:30-8:30 PM

October Events

1

KIDZCHOIR
REHEARSALS BEGIN, 11:15 AM-12:00 PM

4

THE DEEPLY FORMED LIFE BOOK STUDY
4-WEEK CLASSES BEGIN, 7:00-8:30 PM

UMM UMCOR RELIEF KIT ASSEMBLY
9:00-11:00 AM

7

NIGHT OF WORSHIP
7:00 PM

15-29

IMAGINATION LIBRARY PUMPKIN PATCH
10:00 AM-2:00 PM, CLOE FIELD, SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO

17-22

PRESCHOOL BOOK FAIR & SILENT AUCTION

18

2024 HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING
(IN PERSON & VIRTUAL), 7:00-8:00 PM

21

FALL FESTIVAL
10:00 AM-2:00 PM, CLOE FIELD, SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFO

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL
4:00-7:00 PM

22 KAIROS COOKIES DUE

28 4TH SATURDAY MEAL
FREDERICKSBURG UMC – 2:30-5:30 PM

November Events

1-2

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

GRIEFSHARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
9:00-11:00 AM

14

LUNCH AND LEARN: TRICARE/FEDVIP UPDATE
12:00-2:00 PM

15

GRIEFSHARE: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
7:00-9:00 PM

BRISBEN SHELTER MEAL
4:00-7:00 PM

18

STEP PRETEEN GATHERING
6:00-7:30 PM

ANGEL TREE BEGINS
GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 10

19

2024 CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING
(IN PERSON) - 11:15 AM

25

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

29

2024 CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING
(VIRTUAL) - 7:00 PM

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

Pickleball

Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM & Thursdays,
2:00–5:00 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 Women In Faith

3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

United Methodist Men

2nd Saturday, 9:00 AM

Adventurers' Guild

3rd Saturday, 12:00–4:00 PM

Futsal (Indoor Soccer)

Saturdays, 6:00–8:30 PM

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
Preschool 3's through 5th grade.

Find virtual Sunday School resources at
ebenezerumc.org/kidzrock

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 Preschool 3's-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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ADULT MINISTRIES

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Ebenezer United Methodist Men are finalizing plans for the remainder of the year. Events will include our Fall Yard Sale on September 23, UMCOR Relief Kit Assembly on October 7, and Family Manger Build on December 2. We will also host a hot dog sale at the Fall Festival on October 21. Our seasonal Woodcutting Ministry will resume meeting on the first Saturday of each month beginning September 2. Christian Men Choose to Serve! Please join us at our monthly meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Gym. Questions? Contact Bob Skewes at skewcrew1@outlook.com

YARD SALE

Donate items in the Gym
Friday, September 22
6:00-8:00 PM

September 23
7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
ebenezerumc.org/events

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women In Faith will resume monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Our topic for September 21 is Human Trafficking, with an FBI Special Agent as our guest speaker. Childcare will be provided. UWIF will help UMM with the Fall Yard Sale September 23 and will host a Bake Sale at the Fall Festival on October 21. Our members are driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. All women are welcome to put their talents to work, experience spiritual growth, and live out their faith. For more information, contact Dana Czzowitz at dczzowitz@ebenezerumc.org

Ebenezer United Methodist Men

UMCOR RELIEF KIT DRIVE

Sponsor • Donate • Volunteer

OCTOBER 7
9:00-11:00 AM

EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS



DISCIPLE CLASSES

Sept 17

Disciple 2 Fast Track

3:00-5:00 PM • 12 weeks

Sept 17

Disciple Fast Track Old Testament

3:00-5:00 PM • 12 weeks

VISIT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

DAVE RAMSEY'S

FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY

Take control of your money with Financial Peace University! This 9-week course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you. Join us on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 PM, beginning September 14. Childcare provided. Cost: \$79.99 per family. For more information, contact Dana Czzowitz@ebenezerumc.org.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Sept 25

Coffee & Conversation: Legacy Giving

6:30 PM

Nov 14

Lunch and Learn: Tricare/FEDVIP Update


12:00 PM

VISIT EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION

WE ARE Praying FOR YOU

Join us in a year of intentional prayer for our community in 2023. Visit ebenezerumc.org/year-of-prayer to subscribe to our Prayer Calendar. Text YEAROFPRAYER to 84576 to receive a weekly prayer reminder.

This fall we're praying for:
September: International Ministry Partners
October: The Church
November: Our Military




BOOK FAIR

and Silent Auction

OCTOBER 17-22 • IN THE GYM

EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS



We're excited to welcome students and parents to the 2023-24 school year! Orientation will be held on Tuesday, September 5. Our Scholastic Book Fair and Silent Auction will return to the Gym October 17-22. Bring the whole family to browse hundreds of titles for all ages and bid on themed gift baskets donated by local businesses for our Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit the Preschool operating fund. To donate an item for the Silent Auction or learn more, contact Preschool Director Gayle Thyrring at gthyrring@ebenezerumc.org

Book Fair and Silent Auction Hours:

- Tuesday, October 17: 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
- Wednesday, October 18-Friday, October 20: 8:30 AM-1:30 PM
- Saturday, October 21: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- Sunday, October 22 - 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Night of Worship

October 7, 7:00 PM, Room B01
ebenezerumc.org/events

Join the Ebenezer Band for a Night of Worship October 7 at 7:00 PM! Come early for fellowship around a food truck in the parking lot, then meet us in Room B01 for an evening of spirit-filled worship. For more information, contact Preston Hardage at phardage@ebenezerumc.org



BAND & CHOIR UPDATE

The Ebenezer Worship Team invites you to share your musical gifts with our congregation! The Ebenezer Choir will return to the 8:15 AM Traditional Service on September 10, and all are welcome to join. Contact Dwayne Miller for more info at dmiller@ebenezerumc.org. The Ebenezer Band leads worship at the 9:45 AM & 11:15 AM Modern Services. Auditions are open year-round for vocalists, bass and electric guitarists, drummers, and keyboardists. Contact Preston Hardage for info at phardage@ebenezerumc.org

Thank You Donna Kenkel



It is our honor to acknowledge the amazing career of our retiring Preschool Director, Donna Kenkel. Donna started at the Preschool more than 20 years ago as a teacher and stepped into the role of Director more than 12 years ago. She has seen thousands of students go through the doors of the Preschool during her time here. She has mentored teachers and developed a family atmosphere among the staff. Through her leadership, she ensured that all students knew they were loved and special. God has used her to impact countless families and provide a foundation for childhood education. We wish Donna well as she moves into retirement and is able to focus on her family life. Donna, we were blessed to have you at our school, and we are blessed to have you in our lives. We are thankful for your leadership, your legacy, and the way you live your faith! May God bless you and your family as you move into this next phase of your life.



The Bridge Café is the perfect place to connect with friends old and new on Sunday mornings! Stop by for coffee and snacks after the 8:15 AM and 9:45 AM worship services. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Family

MOVIE

Night

September 30, 6:30 PM
Free Popcorn!

Bring a picnic supper, blankets, and chairs
and join us on the lawn at Ebenezer
ebenezerumc.org/events

KIDZ CHOIR

1st-5th grade
Sundays, 11:15 AM-12:00 PM
Beginning October 1

Christmas Musical Performance December 18, 6:30 PM
ebenezerumc.org/events



RICE + BEANS MINISTRIES

BACKPACKS FOR COSTA RICA

Help Rice and Beans Ministries provide hope and joy to children in Costa Rica! Pick up a backpack October 8 or 15, fill it with gifts and essentials according to our lists, and return it by November 12. Backpacks will be mailed to Costa Rica in time for the holiday season. For more information, contact Chrissy Richardson at crichardson@ebenezerumc.org

Via Colori

STAFFORD

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Stafford Regional Airport



EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS

STEP

Ebenezer Preteens

4th & 5th Graders

November 18, 6:00-7:30 PM

ebenezerumc.org/events

KIDZCARE



Welcome Lauren Runge, our new Director of KidzCare!

Happy fall, y'all!! After a busy summer of meeting new friends, we're ready for back-to-school season. To make KidzCare a safe place for all our friends, we're going allergy friendly. Going forward, we respectfully request that no outside food or drinks (except water) be brought into any of the KidzCare rooms. Bottles of formula or milk are permitted in Room 25 only. To further reduce the risk of allergens, we will also eliminate snack time during shorter stays (e.g. worship services and exercise classes). On longer days (e.g. MOPS meetings and evening classes), we will offer Sensible Portions Sea Salt Veggie Straws, which are free of the top nine allergens. This will help keep our friends with food allergies safe.

The back-to-school season is also a great time to check and update information you provided upon first registering your child(ren) with KidzCare. If you have any updates, please fill out a new green form the next time you're at the KidzCare Kiosk. We are always accepting volunteers and donations. Scan the QR code to see a list of our current needs.



Thank you for your support. The safety of our youngest members is of the utmost importance to us. Most of all, thank you for sharing your littlest treasures with us.

Lauren Runge, Director of KidzCare
lrunge@ebenezerumc.org

STUDENT MINISTRIES

GROW!! We believe that the next generation matters. Our hope is that every teenager who walks through our doors will be empowered to develop an authentic relationship with Jesus. It's all about being in intentional relationships: adults who love Jesus and students, connecting students with other students, and ultimately students knowing God and living out their faith. Everything we do is centered around those key components. We hope to see all middle school and high school students this fall!

- Middle School Weekly Gatherings: Sundays, 5:00-6:30 PM
- High School Weekly Gatherings: Sundays, 7:00-8:00 PM

Michelle Paquette, Director of Student Ministries
mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org

CONFIRMATION BEGINS IN JANUARY

Confirmation is a chance for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders to say YES to their faith! Through confirmation, we cover the foundations of being a Christian, the church, and what it means to fully live for Him. We also go deeper into what it means to be baptized and be part of the church. At the end of confirmation, students can decide if they would like to join the church.

Our confirmation experience will take place primarily on Wednesday evenings from January 17-March 6. We will also have a day retreat at Ebenezer on Saturday, January 20, and the confirmation experience will culminate with a weekend retreat experience.

Parents and guardians are a vital part of this process. Due to the high level of commitment necessary for confirmation, we ask that parents and guardians attend one of our informational meetings:

Sunday, November 19 at 11:15 AM in B01
OR
Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 PM (virtual)

For more information, please contact Pastor Jeff at
pastorjeff@ebenezerumc.org

MENTORS NEEDED

Confirmation is an incredible time in the faith walk of a student. We need adults who are willing to walk alongside students during the confirmation experience to support, lead, and grow with them. The time commitment is for the classes and retreats. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Paquette at mpaquette@ebenezerumc.org



In June, 51 students and adult leaders had an incredible week of serving in Wilmington, NC on the High School Summer Mission Trip. Find photos and more info at ebenezerumc.org/2023-summer-mission-trip.

Connect With Us

To receive text updates about our ministries:

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

HIGH SCHOOL

FALL RETREAT

OCTOBER 13-15

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 25 | EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS

Sometimes the best way to get closer to God is to get away! This fall, we will have a chance to get away to Watermarks Camp in Scottsville, VA to grow in our faith, grow closer to each other, and have fun in the process. It's a weekend full of fun activities, Bible study, and worship, coming up October 13-15. Register by September 11 for the Early Bird rate of \$90.

2024 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Info Meeting

October 18

7:00 PM

In-Person or Virtual

Parent or guardian must attend with student

EBENEZERUMC.ORG/EVENTS

Save the Date! An Info Meeting for the 2024 High School Summer Mission Trip is coming up Wednesday, October 18 from 7:00-8:00 PM in the youth room or virtually. A parent/guardian is encouraged to come with their student to get the important information.



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

Pumpkin Patch



October 15-29 | Cloe Field

Weekdays 11:30 AM-6:00 PM | Weekends 9:00 AM-6:00 PM

ebenezerumc.org/events

Fall Festival
Oct 21
10:00 AM -
2:00 PM