

December 11, 2016

Ebenezer Emissary



Welcome friends! St. Luke reminds us that Christ came *to shine on those living in darkness and ... to guide our feet into the path of peace* (Luke 1:79). Let us open ourselves to the light of the Savior and walk in love and peace with one another as the children of God.

Please take a moment to fill out the Ebenezer Communications Card which is part of the Emissary. This communication is a vital link which helps our Body stay connected. Feel free to place completed cards in the offering plate or in the box provided in the Missions Center on the Prayer Counter.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
(Various Classrooms)

10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour *(2 year olds-B16,
3 year olds-B10, 4&5 year olds-B11)*

10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering, Pastor Jim *(CMC)*
A Different Kind of Christmas – Star Bright
Special Music: Julie Rieman

6:30 p.m. Children’s Christmas Program *(CMC)*

****No Junior High and High School Small Groups or
Evening Fellowship Service****

Children’s Christmas Program, The Good News Flash:
Come hear the really good news as the children share in drama and song tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center. Everyone is invited. Bring all your friends and neighbors too!

~ OUR NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY HAS ARRIVED! ~

You may pick up your copy today in the Crossroads Ministry Center Foyer or anytime through the week. Extra copies are available at \$5 each. Please see Deb Hilty

Ebenezer Communications Card

Please take a moment to complete the information below. Place in the offering plate or the box provided in the Missions Center on the Prayer Counter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am interested in information on:

Ebenezer Mennonite Church Baptism Membership

Child dedication Getting involved in ministry

Joining a small group Prayer requests _____

~ REPORTS DUE ~

Year-end reports for 2016 are due on Sunday, January 22. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2016 Annual Report.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Dec. 21 *Wednesday Children’s Ministry and Junior High will not meet*

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service *(6:00 p.m., CMC)*

Dec. 25 Christmas Worship Service *(10:15 a.m., CMC)*

****No Sunday School, Adult Bible Fellowship, or Evening Service****

Dec. 28 Junior High and High School Ice Skating-Findlay
(12:30 p.m., meet at the Schoolhouse)

Jan. 7 Living Faith ABF *(7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)*

Jan. 13-15 Junior High Ice Camp *(Miracle Camp)*

Jan. 21 Ebenezer Cleaning Day *(8:00 a.m., - noon, Various Rooms)*

Jan. 22 FaithFull Singles Luncheon *(11:30 a.m., FH)*

Jan. 29-Feb. 11 SIM Building Maintenance Team *(Charlotte, NC)*

Feb. 5-11 SIM Work Team *(Charlotte, NC)*

Feb. 24-26 High School Ice Camp *(Miracle Camp)*

Occasionally, e-mail messages are sent to the church family for weather-related postponements/cancellations, reminders of special meetings or projects, or other announcements. If you have not received any Ebenezer group e-mails in the past and would like to be included in these messages in the future, please e-mail kathy.brauen@ebenezymennonite.org to be added to the church family group.

~ THANK YOU ~

Thanks for your long-term investment in our ministry in Japan. Your generosity and care giving to missionaries is exemplary. Your partnership is such a blessing to us! – *Murray & Kathy Trim-TEAM*

Thank you to Pastor David for organizing the group who helped cleaned my yard, burned a brush pile, trimmed bushes, raked leaves, and cleaned out the spouting. Jaden August, Matthew Good, Ben, Molly, & Rachel Moser, your help was much appreciated! – *Virginia Gladwell*

~ STAFF ~

James King, Senior Pastor

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Dale Seefeldt, Pastor of

Christian Education and Family Ministries

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David Glick, Pastor of Student Ministries

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Richard Potter, Assistant Pastor

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Charles Warren, Pastor Emeritus

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Kathy Brauen, Church Administrator

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Deb Hilty, Secretary

info@ebenezymennonite.org

Doug Messinger, Custodian

doug.messinger@ebenezymennonite.org

~ CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION ~

Ebenezer Mennonite Church

8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton, OH 45817

Phone: 419-358-8588

www.ebenezymennonite.org

E-mail: info@ebenezymennonite.org

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 4:

Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	(9:00 a.m.)	268
Morning Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	430

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

The promises presently amount to \$260,640, towards our goal of \$275,000. Faith Promise pledges will be taken until the end of December. Pledge cards may be picked up in the Missions Center or the church office. Thank you again for your prayers and pledges that make our missions program a great blessing to many missionaries and ministries. - *Missions Committee*

Announcing a New Giving Option! Electronic giving (E-giving) is now a viable way to give your tithes and offerings. Please go to Ebenezer's website (<http://ebenezermennonite.org>) and click on the Online Giving link (bottom left) to receive information and instructions which will lead you through the process of registering to consistently give to the church or to make one-time gifts. Thank you to the E-giving Committee for their work with this new giving option. If you desire assistance with the set-up process or have questions or problems, please contact Kathy Brauen at the church office (419-358-8588).

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Ralph & Melba Gerber
Missions Center: Chad Veit, Jared Meyer

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 12-18 ~

Monday	9:00 a.m.	MOPS (FH)
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Education Com. Meeting (103)
Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Small Group (Bluffton McDonald's)
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Game Time (FH)
	6:00 p.m.	Men's Prayer Time for Families (103)
	7:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
	8:30 p.m.	Bread of Life Ministries (Church Kitchen) Dodgeball Junior High/High School (CMC)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Deacon Meeting (103) Men's Prayer Time (Sanctuary) Young Adult Small Group (Jaden & Amber August's home)
	8:30 p.m.	Young Adult Basketball (CMC)
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship (Various Classrooms)
	10:00 a.m.	The Good News Hour (2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4&5 year olds-B11)
	10:15 a.m.	Worship Gathering (CMC)
	5:30 p.m.	Junior High & High School Small Groups Christmas Caroling (Meet in schoolhouse)
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Fellowship Service (Sanctuary)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 ~

Infant & Toddler Nurseries:

Jason & Kim Fritsch, Brian & Kendy Young Family

Good News Hour:

Allison & Madeline Burghaze, Rosemary Carman, Julie McKanna, Bruce, Cindy, & Rachel Moser, Jessica Robinson, Olivia Spallinger

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

Scheduled Surgery: Kylee Staley, Monday, December 12, at Orthopedic Institute of Ohio.

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

The annual congregational meeting is Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will discuss the General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed 2017 budgets. Ushers will distribute copies following the Worship Gathering today. Elections will also be held. The Wednesday Night Children's Ministries, Junior High, and Bible Studies will not meet that evening.

The Wednesday Night Family Supper and Women's War Room will not meet until next year on January 11.

~ O HOLY NIGHT! ~

Join the Ebenezer family Saturday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Bring your family and friends for the evening as we worship the Newborn King!

Gift of Grace: Our *Daily Bread* has published a special devotional with ten reflections designed to help you in your spiritual journey during the Christmas season. Please stop by the table in the Foyer to get your copy to find encouragement, comfort, and true joy this Christmas season. *For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.* - Titus 2:11NLT

Do you have an abundance of t-shirts and want to get rid of some of them? The sewing team going to Haiti in February is in need of adult-sized t-shirts for one of their projects. All colors and even stained t-shirts are welcomed! They also need spools of black, white, and beige colored thread. A box has been placed in the CMC foyer for your donations. Thank you for helping!

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina from February 5-11 with an additional building maintenance week planned for January 29 – February 4. If you are interested in serving with the team, please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 by Saturday, December 31.

The Wild Game Committee is in need of any kind of wild game for our annual Wild Game Event. If you have some and would like to donate it, call Joe Alt at 419-234-1247. Thank you!