

# Ebenezer Emissary



For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise...wrote the psalmist (Psalm 96:4). We welcome everyone who has come to worship this Christmas Day. Let us sing for joy to the God of all nations who has revealed love and truth and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 ~

**10:15 a.m.** Christmas Worship Service, Pastor Jim (CMC)  
*A Different Kind of Christmas – In the Neighborhood*  
*Special Music: Sam Brauen*

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

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

**Our sympathy** to the family of Mary Eiden. Mary, the mother of Jeff, passed away on Tuesday, December 20. A memorial service was held on Friday, December 23, in New Bavaria.

**Shine your light on Jesus. Be like the Magi.  
 Open your treasures into Jesus' hands for the purpose  
 of multiplying God's work in the world. (Matthew 2:11)**

**Suggestions...**

**\*Ethiopia - Christmas for Korah**

**Go to Hope for Korah Facebook page.**

**Click on the link HFK Christmas Catalogue**

**\*Haiti – Mission Possible**

**Buy a bottle of vitamins and dump them in the bucket  
 which will be taken to Haiti in January.**

*I humbly thank* Pastor Warren and Kathy Brauen for their prayers before the surgery I had to fix the torn tendons and also sitting with Kerris during the surgery. Thank you to Pastor Jim when he came to the ER and prayed with us during some testing I was having. Also thank you to all my brothers and sisters in Christ who have sent cards and prayed for me and continue to pray during this time of healing. Psalm 121 reminds me *I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD the Maker of heaven and earth.* – Nancy Wright

**Dear Friends:** As 2016 comes to a close our hearts are filled with gratitude as we reflect on your faithful partnership over the last 28 years. You have blessed us more than words can express! Thank you for your faithfulness. Merry Christmas! - *Lee & Michelle Sonius, Reach Beyond*

**Dear Ebenezer Mennonite Church:** You are making a difference in the lives of the people of Korah, Ethiopia and we are deeply grateful! Thank you for your very generous donation towards Alison's fundraiser. You are not only contributing to meet practical needs, but you are also bringing joy and transformation into the lives of families, children, and elders in Korah. Thank you! Wishing you and your loved ones God's blessings for this Christmas and the coming year! – *Sincerely, Karissa and the Hope for Korah team*

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- 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)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Report – November 2016**

**Giving & Expenses**

	General	Missions	C. E.	Building
Budgeted YTD	460,258	244,283	43,496	54,615
Expenses YTD	463,116	197,967	41,178	83,013
Actual Income	434,477	225,938	38,437	92,263

**Cash Balances as of 11/30/16:**

General .....	* (\$19,388)
Missions .....	\$103,869
Christian Education .....	\$14,751
Building .....	\$31,278
Cemetery Restoration Project .....	\$3,440
Archive .....	\$4,600
Sanctuary Roof Replacement .....	(\$10,255)
New Building .....	\$27,989
Benevolent .....	\$7,570
Van .....	\$14,797

\* Please note the General Fund balance made a small bit of progress during November but is still lagging behind actual expenses and budgeted amount. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord will supply to handle this deficit. The General Fund would need approximately \$35,000 to end the year in the black.

**Thank you for your generous and sacrificial giving.  
 God is blessing!**

**At this time of the year** we join you in joyful praise for God's unspeakable gift of grace, mercy, and peace of the Christ-child. Thank you for your love, prayer, and faithful support during these many years. - *Norm & Gwen Bowman, Global Outreach Int'l Spain*

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~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

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**Attendance on December 11:**

Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	(9:00 a.m.)	267
Morning Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	401
Children's Christmas Program	(6:30 p.m.)	324

**Attendance on December 18:**

All services were cancelled due to icy conditions.

**Giving on December 11:**

\$15,163.84

Benevolent Fund	150.00
Building Fund (\$550 towards Sanctuary Roof)	775.00
Christian Education Fund	907.84
General Fund	7,359.00
Missions Fund	5,705.00
Youth Fund	267.00

**Missions Giving:**

- \$240 - Mission Possible, Christy Garmatter and Jeremy Lemley
  - \$1,200 - South America Mission, Marisa Burkett
  - \$1,200 - Freedom to Lead International, Doug Anthony
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~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE~

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**The promises presently** amount to \$263,040, 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*

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~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

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*Crossroads Ministry Center:* Marvin & Karen Garmatter

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OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK:  
DECEMBER 26, 2016 - JANUARY 1, 2017

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(CMC-Crossroads Ministry Center, FH-Fellowship Hall)

- Monday**    **\*\*Church office closed, Christmas Holiday\*\***
- Tuesday**    **6:30 a.m.**    Men's Small Group (*Bluffton McDonald's*)
- Wednesday**    **9:00 a.m.**    Game Time (*FH*)
- 12:15 p.m.**    Junior High and High School Ice Skating (*meet at Schoolhouse, The Cube-Findlay*)
- 6:15 p.m.**    Worship Team Rehearsal (*CMC*)
- Thursday**    **7:00 p.m.**    Young Adult Small Group (*Jaden & Amber August's home*)
- 8:30 p.m.**    Young Adult Basketball (*CMC*)
- Sunday**        **10:15 a.m.**    New Year's Day Worship Service (*CMC*)

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

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~ NEXT SUNDAY, NEW YEAR'S DAY ~

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**The Infant and Toddler Nursery:**

Sue Epp, Deb Hilty, Gail Schantz, Tammy Whitlow

**The Good News Hour** will not meet, so families may attend the New Year's Day Worship Service together.

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~ CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS ~

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**The following persons** were elected and approved at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 14: **Deacons:** Three-year term – Jack Bash, Don Leader; **Trustees:** Four-year term – John Good, John Shaw; **Christian Education Committee-Secretary:** Ashley Fry; **Engage Ministries:** Hanné Burkholder, Clyde & Janie Wireman; **Legacy & Investment:** Dave Miller; **Missions:** Jeremy Fry, Janie Wireman, Hanné Burkholder; **Nominating Committee:** One-year term – Tammy Spallinger, Bev Stockman; **Head Usher:** One-year term – Mike Biery; **Ushers:** One-year term Steve Burkholder, Randy Forrer, Alan Garmatter, David Garmatter, Randy Garmatter, Bob Geiger, John Good, Alan Hefner, Bob Holt, Russell Koontz, Ron Meyer, Mike Powell, Barry Schneck, Alan Sommer, Jim Spallinger, Robert Spallinger, Ron Steiner, Bob Zimmerman  
*Ancillary:* Jerry Cartwright and Larry Moser. The 2017 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets were all approved.

**Junior High and High School** Ice Skating on Wednesday, December 28. Meet at the schoolhouse at 12:15 p.m. We will then go to The Cube in Findlay and plan to return by 4:00 p.m. Bring \$6 to skate and be sure to sign-up with Pastor David so we can reserve a spot for you!

**The Wednesday Night** Adult Bible Study & Prayer, Children's Ministries, Junior High, Bread of Life Ministries, and Dodgeball for Junior High and High School will not meet until January 4. The Wednesday Night Family Supper, Women's War Room, and Men's Prayertime for Families will not meet until January 11.

**New Pictorial Directories:** If you had your photo taken you receive a free directory. Please see Deb Hilty for your copy today or anytime through the week. Extra copies are available at \$5 each.

**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.

**A small group book discussion** begins Wednesday, January 4, and will run through Wednesday, March 22 (12 weeks) from 7:05 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Bluffton McDonald's. *People of the Second Chance:* A guide to bringing life-saving love to the world. What if I told you that you and your not-so-perfect story have been invited to experience the joy of second chance living? Your critics and nay-sayers and those negative voices in your head have defined who you are far too long! This simple guide will show you how your imperfect life matters in ways you never thought possible. It will help you see your scars, flaws, and failures as unfair advantages and gifts that you can bring to the world. Packed full of unfiltered honesty and simple next steps, this book will help you discover beauty in the brokenness. Cost is \$16, payable to Pastor Jim.

**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!

**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!