

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 _____

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!

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)

*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.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- 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. 4 Maranatha ABF (7:00 p.m., *Lima Rescue Home*)
Feb. 5-11 SIM Work Team (*Charlotte, NC*)
Feb. 24-26 High School Ice Camp (*Miracle Camp*)

The House of Christmas

By GK Chesterton (1874-1936)

There fared a mother driven forth
Out of an inn to roam;
In the place where she was homeless
All men are at home.
The crazy stable close at hand,
With shaking timber and shifting sand,
Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
Than the square stones of Rome.
For men are homesick in their homes,
And strangers under the sun,
And they lay their heads in a foreign land
Whenever the day is done.
Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
And chance and honor and high surprise,
But our homes are under miraculous skies
Where the yule tale was begun.
A Child in a foul stable,
Where the beasts feed and foam,
Only where He was homeless
Are you and I at home;
We have hands that fashion and heads that know,
But our hearts we lost – how long ago!
In a place no chart nor ship can show
Under the sky's dome.
This world is wild as an old wives' tale,
And strange the plain things are,
The earth is enough and the air is enough
For our wonder and our war;
But our rest is as far as the fire-drake swings
And our peace is put in impossible things
Where clashed and thundered unthinkable wings
Round an incredible star.
To an open house in the evening
Home shall men come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and that are,
To the place where God was homeless
And all men are at home.



January 1, 2017

Ebenezer Emissary

A New Year's Prayer

Author Unknown

*May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;*

*Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;*

*Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;*

*Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;*

*Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.*

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

10:15 a.m. New Year's Day Worship Service, Pastor Jim (*CMC*)
Escape to Egypt (refugees)
Scripture and Refuge book for children: Pastor Dale

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

2017 Birthday/Anniversary calendars will be handed out by the ushers following today's Worship Service. Please use these calendars as reminders to pray for and encourage members of our church family.

Our sympathy to the family of Tommy Shaner. Tommy, the brother of Rick, passed away on Saturday, December 17. Services were held on Wednesday, December 21 near Jackson Center, Ohio.

Our sympathy to the family of David Jones. David, the husband of Maudra, sister of Ruth Amstutz, and sister-in-law of Joan Jones, passed away on Friday, December 23. Services were held on Thursday, December 29 in Findlay.

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 24:

Christmas Eve (6:00 p.m.) 303

Attendance on December 25:

Christmas Worship Service (10:15 a.m.) 395

~ MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA ~

Daniel & Lynn Pleff have expressed a desire to have 2-4 individuals come to Slovakia to do some repairs/maintenance to the TWR office. These could include, but not limited to, carpet replacement, linoleum replacement on a stairway, painting, faucet/toilet repairs, sealing a flat-metal roof and other minor repairs. There are two guest rooms available in the office building. Public transportation is quite good and inexpensive, and easy to use. It is very likely that various staff would invite you out and show you around town. TWR would require proof of insurance. An estimated cost of the materials needed for the various repairs is: carpet \$900, linoleum \$900, and painting \$200. Please contact Barb Steiner at 419-358-6783 for more information or see the bulletin boards.

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Kathy Brauen, Sarah Elsea

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: JANUARY 2-8

(ABF- Adult Bible Fellowship, CMC-Crossroads Ministry Center, FH-Fellowship Hall)

Monday **Church office closed, New Year's Day Holiday**

Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Men's Small Group (*Bluffton McDonald's*)

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Game Time (*FH*)
6:15 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal (*CMC*)
7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study & Prayer (*103*)
Children's Ministries (*Various Classrooms*)
Junior High Wednesday Night (*117*)
Men's Bible Study (*Sanctuary Overflow*)
7:05 p.m. Small Group (*Bluffton McDonald's*)

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Men's Prayer Time (*Sanctuary*)
Young Adult Small Group
(*Jaden & Amber August's home*)

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

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 & Communion Service (*CMC*)
5:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting (*103*)
6:30 p.m. Junior High/High School Small Groups (*Schoolhouse*)
6:45 p.m. Disciple Singers' Choir (*Grades 1-6, 118-119*)
7:00 p.m. Evening Fellowship Service (*Sanctuary*)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 ~

The Infant and Toddler Nursery:
Kevin & Melissa Hilty, Aaron & Emily Koogler

~ PLEASE NOTE ~

An Open House will be held Sunday, January 8, from 2-4 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center to honor Wilda Hanthorn on her 90th birthday. No gifts please.

The Wednesday Night Family Supper, Women's War Room, and Men's Prayer time for Families will not meet until January 11.

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.

Attention Grades 1-6: All kids in Grades 1-6 are welcome to join Disciple Singers as we begin practicing Sunday evening, January 8, for the Spring Musical *Kidz Under Construction*. Choir practice will start at 6:45 p.m. in Rooms 118&119. Contact Renea Zimmerman at 419-369-4543 or Angela Steiner at 567-712-1907 if you're interested in joining the choir or have any other questions.

Starting on Wednesday, January 11, there will be a six week ladies book study at 7:00 p.m. in the schoolhouse. We will be discussing Lysa TerKeurst's *Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out and Lonely*. We will also spend time in prayer and fellowship encouraging each other. Please contact Heidi Steiner at 419.358.0116 or steinerhl@gmail.com for more details. Cost for book/study guide is \$16.

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.

Ebenezer Cleaning Day: The Trustees are looking for several volunteers who can join us on Saturday, January 21, from 8:00 a.m. until noon to do some extra cleaning around the church. Please bring cleaning rags, buckets, and Murphy's oil soap (optional).

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.

Ebenezer Church: Thank you all so much for your continued giving and investment in the Gospel. We are continually blown away by your selfless generosity. We are so blessed and grateful to have such a sweet church family! Merry Christmas! – *Love, Andrew & Sarah Winebrenner, Cru-University of Cincinnati*