Dear Ebenezer Church: Thank you for your faithful giving and prayers. You are truly “Amplifying the Mission” around the world. – God bless, Tim & Tiffany Gallant

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 Sunday. Let us sing for joy to the God of all nations who has revealed love and truth and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Make yourself at home, you are among friends who would love for you to be part of the family! 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. Please feel free to place completed ones in the offering plate.

~ STAFF ~

James King, Senior Pastor
jim.king@ebenezermennonite.org

Dale Seefeldt, Pastor of
Christian Education and Family Ministries
dale.seefeldt@ebenezermennonite.org

David Glick, Pastor of Student Ministries
david.glick@ebenezermennonite.org

Richard Potter, Pastor Emeritus
dick.potter@ebenezermennonite.org

Kathy Brauen, Church Administrator
kathy.brauen@ebenezermennonite.org

Deb Hilty, Secretary
info@ebenezermennonite.org

Doug Messinger, Custodian
doug.messinger@ebenezermennonite.org

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

8:30 a.m. Christmas Worship Service – Pastor Jim (CMC)
9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast (CMC)
10:00 a.m. The Good News Hour (2 year olds–B16, 3 year olds–B15, 4-6 year olds–B14)
10:15 a.m. Christmas Worship Service - Pastor Jim (CMC)

Proclaim Jesus – Luke 2:15-20
Special Music: Sam Brauen, Sarah Lehman

There will be a nursery for the 10:15 a.m. service only today.

~ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~

All are invited tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center for Christmas carols, scriptures highlighting the birth of Jesus, and a candlelight service. Please invite your friends and family members.
Attendance on December 16:
Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship (9:00 a.m.) 272
Morning Worship Gathering (10:15 a.m.) 416

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE ~

The promises presently amount to $291,670, towards our goal of $300,000. Faith Promise pledges will be taken through next Sunday. Pledge cards are available in the Missions Center, Crossroads Ministry Center, or the church office. Thank you again for your prayers and pledges that make our missions program a great blessing to many. - Missions Committee

~ BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT ~

Congratulations to Benji & Sarah Bergstrand on the birth of their son, Finn Orion, on Tuesday, December 11.

Year-end reports for 2018 are due on Sunday, January 27. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2018 Annual Report.

The small group Connections will begin Wednesday, January 9, at 7:05 p.m. at Bluffton McDonald's. This will be an 11-week series using Knowing Scripture by R. C. Sproul and Praying the Bible by Donald Whitney. Bundle the two books together for $15 (price good for the moment!). Let Pastor Jim know if you are interested.

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Wayne & Susan Bixel
Missions Center: Deb Hilty

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 24-30

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

Monday 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (CMC)
Tuesday **Merry Christmas – Church Office Closed**
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. Game Time (FH)
            6:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal (CMC)
Thursday 7:00 p.m. Men’s Prayer Time (Sanctuary)
            8:30 p.m. Young Adult Basketball
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)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 ~

Infant and Toddler Nurseries:
Brett & Kylie Baxter, Ashley Pearson

The Good News Hour:
Jaden & Amber August, Ashley Eachus, Bruce & Cindy Moser,
Julie Rieman, Lily Shadle

Director of Children and Family Ministries Update: The Deacons have unanimously selected a candidate. Please do not share this on social media. - The Deacons

Hello Family Campers: Just a reminder that we need some new leaders for Family Camp. Normally the process of reserving camp sites begins in January/February. We will remove the dates from the church calendar if we do not hear any responses. We hope someone feels encouraged and led to lead this, if not, we have had a great run. - Thanks, Kelli, Sarah, Christy, and Heidi

Note from Trustees: We are in need of someone to cover the cemetery sexton position here at Ebenezer. Please contact any Trustee if you are interested or have any questions regarding this appointed position.

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Disciple Singers’ Choir: We will resume on Sunday, January 6, at 5:15 p.m. Parents and children, please plan to attend this practice to talk about plans for the spring program. I also would like to highly encourage Grades 4-6 to come and join us! – Rachel Mathewson

Junior High Ice Camp-January 4-6: Please pick up medical release forms which are located in the Information Center near the Café. There you will also find an information letter on what to pack. Completed forms can be given to Pastor David or dropped off in the church office. Cost of the trip is $115 and includes a non-refundable deposit of $25. Any questions, please see Pastor David.

High School small groups ONLY on Sunday, January 6.

Snow tubing for Junior High and High School. Sunday, January 20. Bring a packed lunch that we will eat in the Fellowship Hall following the congregational meeting, and then we will leave for Mad River Mountain near Bellefontaine. The cost is $25 for three hours of snow tubing. Food is available for purchase at the lodge. There will be no small groups that night. Please sign up with Pastor David if you would like to go.

~ MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ~

Volunteers needed for chair set-up on Sunday mornings. Four vacancies need to be filled. Please contact John Good at 419-420-5698 or church office at 419-358-8888 if interested.

Needed: Volunteer(s) to clean the infant and toddler nurseries once a month. It involves light work such as cleaning the toys, sweeping, and dusting. This takes about an hour. Please contact Heidi Steiner at 419-358-0116 or the church office at 419-358-8888 if you are willing to help or if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this.

Buckets will be available in the back of the Crossroads Ministry Center until next Sunday, December 30, if you would like to make a donation to either or both of these ministries:
- Mission Possible needs 20 LifeStraws for their schools. One LifeStraw is $375. Donations so far amount to $1,636.01.
- Water4 focuses on entire community transformation (not just well drilling). The average community well project costs $4,000. Donations so far amount to $1,033.60.

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