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.

E-Giving: Giving to Ebenezer is available electronically. This can be done by using your checking account or card online (www.ebenezermennonite.org/giving) or by using EasyTith Mobile App. 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.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Jan. 17  Women’s Mystery Dinner (meet at the church at 5:15 p.m.)
Jan. 25  Parents’ Night Out (6-10 p.m., CMC)
Feb. 8-10 High School Ice Camp (Miracle Camp)
Feb. 10-16 SIM Work Team (Charlotte, NC)
Feb. 15  Parents’ Night Out (6-10 p.m., CMC)
Mar. 23  Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)
June 12-23 Youth Missions Trip (Naomi’s Village – Kenya – Africa)
July 19-21  Family Camp (Barton Lake Jellystone, Fremont, Indiana)

Welcome to worship on this last Sunday of the year 2018. St. Paul wrote wise words to the Colossians that seem quite appropriate for all Christians to consider as we enter the New Year: Bear with each other and forgive ... as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ... Colossians 3:13-15

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.

~ 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)
Church Lite, Matthew 16:13-20  Special Music: Brent Zimmerman

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

Our sympathy to the family of Paul Hunter. Paul, father of Jean Bash, passed away on Monday, December 24. Services were held yesterday at the Community Bible Church in Arlington.

2019 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars are ready. The ushers will hand them out following the Morning Worship Gathering.
### OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 6

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Happy New Year – Church Office Closed</strong></td>
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| **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)  
Missions Committee Meeting (103)  
8:30 p.m. Young Adult Basketball                                                                     |
| **Friday** | 4:00 p.m. Junior High Ice Camp (Miracle Camp)                                                     |
| **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)  
11:30 a.m. Women’s Ministries Meeting (FH)  
5:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting (103)  
5:15 p.m. Disciple Singers’ Choir (118&119)  
6:30 p.m. Small Groups Youth Small Groups (Schoolhouse)                                              |

### ~ NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 ~

**Infant and Toddler Nurseries:**  
Sue Epp, Deb Hilty, Gail Schantz, Olivia Spallinger

### ~ 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 encourage Grades 4-6 to come and join us! – Rachel Mathewson

**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.

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### ~ MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ~

**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

**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.

**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 419-358-8858 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 419-358-8858 if you are willing to help or if you have any questions. Thank you for considering this.

**Trip to Haiti with Mission Possible, February 16-23, 2019:** We are looking for individuals to help with medical and construction work. Please contact Josh Steiner at steinerjd@gmail.com or 419-234-7041 for more information.

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### ~ WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT ~

**Congratulations** to Michael & Natalie (Celmer) Sheehan who were united in marriage yesterday in Arizona.

**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.

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**Today’s Greeters**

Crossroads Ministry Center: Donita Luginbill, Jean Reichenbach

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**Mexico Service and Mission Trip** - July 20-27: Current Grades 8 & 9 can begin registering online by using the link on the church website ebenezermennonite.org/youth. Registration, $100 deposit, and short term mission trip application are due by January 27 when we will have a parent meeting following the morning worship gathering. Any questions, please contact Pastor David at david.glick@ebenezermennonite.org.