Beans and Rice: We are engaged in a special fundraising effort to supply beans and rice for Mission Possible schools in Haiti. In the back of the Crossroads Ministry Center is a Mission Possible table where you can give a special gift toward this project. You will visibly see the progress we are making. A ton of beans costs $400. A ton of rice costs $800. How much can we supply? You may give toward this special project from now until Christmas.

SIM Missions Trip: A work team is scheduled to go to Charlotte, North Carolina, February 9-15, 2020. If you are interested in serving with the team, please contact Frank Boehm at 567-371-9541 by Tuesday, December 31.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

Jan. 3-5 Junior High Ice Camp (Miracle Camp, cost $115)
Jan. 4 Living Faith ABF (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
Jan. 14 Deacon/Women Meeting (6:30 p.m., FH)
Jan. 24-26 High School Ice Camp (cost $115)
Feb. 1 Maranatha ABF (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
Feb. 9-15 SIM Work Team (SIM, Charlotte, NC)
Mar. 7 Youth Group (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)
Mar. 28 Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)

~ EBENEZER MENNONITE STAFF ~
Church office hours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
James King, Senior Pastor
jim.king@ebenezermennonite.org
David Glick, Pastor of Student Ministries
Monday-Thursday, off Friday
david.glick@ebenezermennonite.org
Kerry Wright, Jr., Director of Children & Family Ministries
Tuesday-Friday, off Monday
kerry.wright@ebenezermennonite.org
Richard Potter, Pastor Emeritus
Monday - Wednesday
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 (CMC)
The Gift of Jesus – Pastor Jim
Scripture: Luke 2:1-12

9:30 a.m. Breakfast Pastries (CMC)

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. Christmas Worship Service (CMC)
The Gift of Jesus – Pastor Jim
Scripture: Luke 2:1-12

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.
~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

Attendance on December 15:
Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship  (9:00 a.m.)  259
Morning Worship Gathering            (10:15 a.m.)  401

~ FAITH PROMISE UPDATE ~

The promises presently amount to $269,794 towards our goal of $325,000. Faith Promise pledges will be taken until the end of December. Pledge cards may be picked up 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 missionaries and ministries. - Missions Committee

~ TODAY’S GREETERS ~

Crossroads Ministry Center: Jim & Marty Lemley

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 23-29 ~

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

Tuesday  4:00 p.m.  Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
          6:00 p.m.  Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday **Merry Christmas – Church office closed**

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)
          11:30 a.m.  Youth Skating (Leave for Findlay)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 ~

Infant and Toddler Nursery
Sue Epp, Christian & Amy Schedler, Bev Stockman

The Good News Hour:
Bruce & Cindy Moser, Julie Rieman

~ REPORTS DUE ~

Year-end reports for 2019 are due on Sunday, January 26. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2019 Annual Report.

~ THANK YOU ~

Ebenezer Family: Thank you so much for your prayers, support, and cards during our time of grief. We could not do it without you. Thank you for showing God’s love. – The Emerson Diller Family

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

Junior High and High School: Join us next Sunday, December 29, to go ice skating from 2-4 p.m. We will leave right after morning worship. Cost is $15 and includes lunch.


All Wednesday evening activities will resume on January 8.

Small groups will resume on Sunday, January 12.

Sign-ups for Winter Jam in Columbus on Saturday, February 22, are now underway for any junior high or high school student. Cost is $20 and includes transportation. Bring money for supper. Please sign up with Pastor David.

On Target Outfitters: A five-week instructional archery program will meet on Saturdays during the month of February, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Crossroads Ministry Center for students in Grades 3-8. Using modern youth archery equipment, students can discover the fun, challenging, and safe sport of target archery. Led by a certified archery instructor, they will learn the techniques needed to be a successful archer. Students will develop skills to play tic-tac-toe with their arrows, shoot for prizes, and take the challenge to a whole new level as they shoot at action targets and participate in some exciting competitions. Through archery students also learn: confidence, concentration, and character. Register online at: www.ontargetoutfitters.org (On Target West tab). If you have questions call Steve Scott at 330-423-5101 or e-mail at steve@ontargetoutfitters.org. – Kerry Wright, Jr.

A new Wednesday evening book study will involve reading Rhymes of Renewal by Rebekah Lyons. This group will meet at the Bluffton McDonald’s from 7:05 to 8:15 p.m. This series will run for 12 weeks from January 8 to March 25. Cost for the book is $15. If you are interested, send Pastor Jim a message at jim.king@ebenezermennonite.org and he will order you a book. You may not be able to make every week, but that’s okay. We would still love to see you. Thank you for considering and have a very Merry Christmas!!!

In the hospital: Joyce Conrad, St. Rita’s Transitional Care Unit.

~ TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~

All are invited Christmas Eve, this Tuesday, December 24, at 4:00 or 6:00 p.m. (both the same service) for Christmas carols, scriptures highlighting the birth of Jesus, and a candlelight service to be held in the Sanctuary. Please invite your family and friends.