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.

~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Worship Gathering-Deacon Installation (10:15 a.m., CMC)</td>
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<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Deacon/Women’s Meeting (6:30 p.m., FH)</td>
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<td>Jan. 24-26</td>
<td>High School Ice Camp (Miracle Camp, cost $115)</td>
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<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Maranatha AFB (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)</td>
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<td>Feb. 9-15</td>
<td>SIM Work Team (SIM, Charlotte, NC)</td>
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<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>Youth Group (7:00 p.m., Lima Rescue Home)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Wild Game Event (5:00 p.m., CMC)</td>
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~ SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00 A.M. ~

Infant Nursery – 111, Toddler Nursery – 106
Age 2 - B16. Age 3&4 - B-10 af, Ages 5&6 - B-11
Grade 1 - B-12
Grade 2 - B-15
Grade 3 - B-14
Grade 4 - B-13
Grade 5 – Sanctuary 4 (Upstairs)
Grade 6 - B-18
Grades 7&8 (B-17) — Sue & Greg Luginbill
High School (Schoolhouse) — Pastor David Glick

~ ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ~

ABF (Sunday School for adults) at 9:00 a.m.
Focus is on some form of Bible study. Classes listed below are currently being offered, and all are welcome to attend.

College & Young Adults-Rm. 103: Led by Pastor Jim.
Alpha Class-Rm. 115: Led by Chuck & Saun Niswander.
Genesis Class-Sanctuary Foyer: Led by Jed Marquart.
Maranatha Class-Sanctuary Overflow: Led by Milo Luginbuh.
Living Faith Class-Rm. 112: Led by Jack Bash, Dan Steiner, Kerris Wright, Sr.
Berean Class-Rm. 118: Led by Pastor Dick.

~ CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION ~

Ebenezer Mennonite Church
8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton, OH 45817
Phone: 419-358-8588
Website: www.ebenezermennonite.org
E-mail: info@ebenezermennonite.org

Welcome to worship on this last Sunday of the year 2019. 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-B14)
10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (CMC)

Finish Well: Pastor Jim
Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-8
Special Music: Kevin Gratz

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

2020 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars are ready. The ushers will hand them out following the Morning Worship Gathering.
~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

**Attendance on December 22:**
- Christmas Worship Service (8:30 a.m.) 116
- Christmas Worship Service (10:15 a.m.) 365

**Attendance on December 24:**
- Christmas Eve Service (4:00 p.m.) 121
- Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m.) 225

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**FAITH PROMISE UPDATE**

The promises presently amount to $270,794 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

**OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: DECEMBER 30–JANUARY 5**

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

**Wednesday** **Happy New Year – Church office closed**

**Thursday** 7:00 p.m. Men’s Prayer Time (Sanctuary)
8:30 p.m. Young Adult Basketball

**Friday** 3:30 p.m. Junior High Ice Camp (Leave for 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)
6:30 p.m. Small Group (King’s Lemley’s)

~ NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 ~

**Infant and Toddler Nursery**
Sue Epp, Denise Rex, Tammy Whitlow

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

**Junior High and High School Students:** Join us today 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.

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**Our sympathy** to the family of Paul “Bud” Giardini. Bud, brother of Gail Schantz, passed away on Monday, December 23. Services were held on Friday, December 27, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Swanton, Ohio.

**Scheduled Surgery:** Ruth Koontz, Monday, December 30, at Riverside Hospital.

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

**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 *Rhythms 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.ingen@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!!!

**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.

~ 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.