Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. 9 The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields. 10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are its owners, if its owners perish when they have children? 12 Everyone comes naked from their mother, and as everyone comes, they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands. 13 This too is a grievous evil: as everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain, since they toil for the wind? 14 All their days they eat in darkness, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

In-Person Corporate Worship: We encourage our vulnerable population, as well as anyone feeling ill, to continue joining us online. The service will be live in the Crossroads Ministry Center and streamed to the Schoolhouse and to the Sanctuary. The following steps will be taken to ensure the safety of all worshippers:

- Worship service will begin at 10:15 a.m., in the following locations:
  - Crossroads Ministry Center – face coverings optional
    - Please park in the south and east parking lots and enter via the south and east doors to the CMC.
  - Schoolhouse – face coverings optional
    - Please park in the parking lot adjacent to the Schoolhouse.
  - Sanctuary – face coverings required
    - Please park in the schoolhouse parking lot and enter via the doors labeled “Sanctuary/Office."

- Emissary newsletters available online only. No handouts will be provided.

- No nursery or childcare available – families sit and stay together.

- No children’s Sunday School classes or Good News Club.

- All entry and restroom doors will be propped open. Hand sanitizers placed strategically.

- Water fountains not in service. Coffee not available but may bring a beverage from home – not to be shared.

- The Café, offices, conference room, nurseries, and basement classrooms closed on Sundays.

- Come prepared to remain in Crossroads Ministry Center, Schoolhouse, or Sanctuary. If child requires restroom, must be accompanied by adult.

- Sit alone, sit as a couple, or sit in a family unit and remain in original seat. Extra seats will be available for larger family units. Ushers will assist in seating and if extra chairs needed. Maintain social distance by remaining six feet apart from other persons/family groups.

- Offerings collected online or in boxes at the doors.

- Structured/guided dismissal by ushers.
Attendance on July 5:
Morning Worship Gathering (10:15 a.m.) 205

Giving for July 5:
Benevolent Fund 255.00
Building Fund/HVAC Project 1,550.00
Christian Education Fund 280.00
General Fund 4,552.00
Missions Fund 5,740.00
Youth Fund 1,130.00

Notice of Retirements: Congratulations to our missionaries Don & Brenda Ernst, SEND North Alaska (June 30) and Steve & Carol Lehman, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Idaho (August 21) on their retirements. We are sure they will continue God’s work wherever they are; however, according to our policy we will discontinue their quarterly payments from our annual faith promise budget. Please stay in contact with them and write a note of thanks and encouragement to them for their service. - The Missions Committee

12th Annual River Ride will be held on Saturday, July 25. All proceeds support City Life Rally Point, Lima. If you would like to enter, you may register online at rallyup.org.

~ BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT ~

Congratulations to Arthur & Stephanie Woodruff on the birth of their son, Zane Arthur James, Thursday, July 2, weighing 7 lb. 7 oz.

~ STAY CONNECTED ~

Join the all-church email group. If you would like to be added to our all-church email group or have any prayer requests, concerns, or needs, please let us know by calling 419-358-8588 or email kathy.braun@ebenezermennonite.org.

~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: JULY 13-19 ~
(CMC-Crossroads Ministry Center)

Monday 6:00 p.m. Investment Committee Meeting (103)
6:45 p.m. Church Council Meeting (FH)

Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Men’s Small Group (Home of Bart Moner)

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting (103)

Sunday 10:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (CMC, Sanctuary, Schoolhouse)

~ WHITE CHRISTMAS IN JULY ~

During the month of July we honor our Ebenezer missionaries with our White Christmas giving. This annual offering is to help make Christmas a little more special for our missionaries. If you wish to give, please place your gift in a separate envelope marked White Christmas as this offering is not tax deductible. You may also give through EasyTithe Mobile App found on the church website. Thank you!

Ebenezer Missionaries
- Sarah and Caleb Elsea - Child Evangelism Fellowship; Greater Findlay
- Tim, Tiffany, Katherine, and Jonathan Gallant - Global Partners; Cambodia
- Don and Ann Leader - Youth for Christ NW Ohio; Findlay
- Rachel Moser - YWAM; Louisville, Kentucky
- Rick and Pat Shiner - Avant Ministries; Alaska
- Wade, Hannah, Evey, Josephine, and Avonlea Slechter - Youth for Christ; Kern County, California
- Phillip, Melinda, Caleb, and Chloe Steiner - Be2Live; California/Mexico

~ MANY THANKS ~
Thank you so much to many who have shown the love of Christ by serving in different ways here at Ebenezer! During the last four months the virus pandemic has caused challenges in the way we gather for worship. Yet many unique opportunities to serve our Lord arose. Almost immediately, a group of persons volunteered to “Stay in Touch” with our dear ones isolated in their homes or in nursing facilities. Others have opened their homes for small group worship (10 persons or less) and for children to have home Vacation Bible School. We want to give special thanks to Frank Boehm, Steve Shaw, and Kerry Wright, Jr. for building four wooden offering boxes you see in the different locations where we worship. Our ushers have gone beyond their normal duties to make sure everyone is safe and feels comfortable. Thank you to Marvin Foster, Jacob Lehman, and Joshua Steiner for sharing their time and skills in providing quality sound/video presentation through live streaming. Please pray many more all over the world will come to personally know the Lord and will commit to follow Him each day, even through a global pandemic. – Church staff

~ DESIRE BAPTISM? ~
Baptism is the public expression of a believer’s faith. It is an important step of discipleship that is intended to be shared and celebrated with other Christ-followers. If you desire to follow the Lord’s command to be baptized, please sign up with Pastor Jim (jim.king@ebenezermennonite.org) or Pastor David (david.glick@ebenezermennonite.org). We ask that candidates for baptism be entering high school or older. The baptism service will take place on Sunday, August 9.

~ HOW DO YOU TELL GOD YOU’RE SORRY? ~
1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

~ 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