



Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Summer-Newsletter
2024

"Blessing the Body"

This blessing takes one look at you and all it can say is holy.

Holy hands.

Holy face.

Holy feet.

Holy everything in between.

Holy even in pain.

Holy even when weary.

In brokenness, holy.

In shame, holy still.

Holy in delight.

Holy in distress.

Holy when being born.

Holy when we lay it down

at the hour of our death.

So, friend,

open your eyes (holy eyes).

*For one moment see what this blessing sees,
this blessing that knows how you have been formed
and knit together in wonder and in love.*

*Welcome this blessing that folds its hands in prayer when it meets you;
receive this blessing that wants to kneel in reverence before you—
you who are temple, sanctuary, home for God
in this world.*

—Jan Richardson – The Circle of Grace

Greetings beloved of the Lord! At the June 3rd Church Council meeting it was suggested that we have a quarterly newsletter. Summer is a good time to start this.

It will save on paper/toner/pastor-time/filling up your e-mail boxes etc!

Again, I encourage you to get in touch with the pastor if you would like to include something in the newsletter: news, prayer concerns, a poem or short story (short-short!) Community happenings, needs or just some thoughts you would like to share. Continuous updates will be submitted in the weekly bulletins.



Big event June 23rd! Family Faith Forum: fun, food, fellowship! Say that fast 10 times! ☺

Come prepared to stay awhile! Barry Sudduth will bring our worship service and together, Jeanne Axtell and pastor will share the Annual Conference news. We are open to discussion and invite questions, concerns, joys – all to God's glory. Barry, Jeanne and pastor will be prepared to share news from the General Conference and how it does or doesn't affect EUMC.

The favorite part is sharing time together as the family of EUMC!

May I challenge you to submit possible questions ahead of time to Pastor, Jeanne, or Barry so we may be ready for you! Pastor: pastorlorettaumc@gmail.com, Jeanne: joaxtell@gmail.com, Barry: Brsudduth2000@yahoo.com. Or you may write out on paper and hand to one of us on Sunday June 16th. Thank you!

A sign-up sheet was sent around on the 9th and will be present on the 16th too.



Jeanne and Buddy Axtell and Pastor Loretta will be attending the Annual Conference being held in Hampton Roads this year. June 20-22. Pastor will leave the morning of June 19th and return the evening of June 22nd. You are able to watch live by going to the VAUMC.org website and look for the above logo and check it out!

OTHER NEWS

There will not be a Church Council meeting in July. The Consent Agenda will be sent out. Council leadership is to send in their information to Amanda by June 26th read and respond all that is reported by July 1st. See any additions or changes to this plan in the bulletin.

Other notes from the Church Council: To save money on our copy material we will only use color copies occasionally. We were buying toner every two months at over \$100 each for black and three colors. Bulletins and newsletter will appear in black and white. Thank you as we try to cut back on our expenses.

Karen Lester, our church treasurer reported that the church is in good standing. Offerings are exceeding the costs! Thank you for your continued support and keeping the church ministry strong.

Mark the date: Saturday, August 3rd Church family fun day and BBQ! A sign-up sheet will come around during worship in July to help with this event.



COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY: WARSAW UMC – THE CHOSEN!

Our first study on 6/9 went very well. We had members from each of the churches: Carmel/Coles Point, Ebenezer, and Warsaw. 14 folks viewed the first episode of Season 1 followed by a great discussion. The next study will be at 4:00 PM on the 23rd of June at Warsaw. We will choose our best dates for the rest of the summer following our discussion. All are welcome.



Emmaus fans: The next gathering is -- July 13th—Melrose UMC, Lottsburg, VA
Car-pooling is possible.

Starting Youth ministries! June 16th. Sunday School Class 9:45. Thank you, Beth Scherm. Please lend her your prayers And support!

thank you



June Mission Outreach

In-Hospital Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU

The facility, run by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Richmond staff and volunteers, serves caregivers and families as their child receives medical treatment in a nearby pediatric unit. All families receiving care through acute inpatient services and the pediatric intensive care unit at Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU are welcome. At 3,285 square feet, the In-Hospital Ronald McDonald House provides space for families to relax, enjoy a meal, and participate in calming activities. The family-centered facility offers dining and lounging areas, four Family Sleep Rooms, a food-service area, laundry facilities, a children's play area, and an outdoor patio. Here compassionate RMHC Richmond staff and volunteers present regular programming including Lunches with Love and snack services, warm dinners, and interactive activities such as music, hair styling, and chair massages.

This space features non-clinical architectural design and furnishings to provide a home-away-from-home feel within hospital walls. Our In-Hospital Ronald McDonald House will

The May Mission outreach went to Conference Kits and the children packed 100 Hygiene kits! Thank you.

Remember: helper bees are needed in the summer too!

Friday 6/14, 7/19, & 8/16 at 1:30: PM volunteers are needed to help bag up the groceries for the customers who will be served on Saturday. The more helper bees the sooner we can get things done. Every month things change and Scott figures out how to pack the bags of non-perishable items and the boxes of fresh produce. Scott - has it organized - we just need to supply the willing helpers. You may come as you are able. Wear your comfortable work clothes. Thanks to all for this important mission. 80+ families may be served. Saturday is an easier day but helper bees are needed then also.



Please see your weekly bulletins for continuous updates!