



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

www.ebenzerm-church.com

Apr '25

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**Easter Sunrise
Service with free
breakfast 4/20,
7:00 a.m.,
see p. 3**

Sunday Services

- 9:00am Worship Service
- 10:15am Sunday School
- 5:00pm Adult Choir / 4:00 pm Praise Band Practice
- 6:00pm Every FOURTH SUNDAY
Ebenezer Methodist Women

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” *Matthew 28:19*



Pastor's Pen



We will be welcoming Pastor Simon back from Zimbabwe in South Eastern Africa on April 8th. Keep him in your prayers and ask for traveling mercies when the time for his arrival gets closer. Below is some information about Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe, officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country in Southeast Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the north, and Mozambique to the east. The capital and largest city is Harare, and the second largest is Bulawayo.

A country of roughly 16.6 million people as per 2024 census, Zimbabwe's largest ethnic group are the Shona, who make up 80% of the population, followed by the Northern Ndebele and other smaller minorities. Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most common.

Zimbabwe began its nationhood as a part of the British Colony called Rhodesia, becoming independent after 15 years of guerrilla warfare in April of 1980. The country has been sanctioned for human rights abuses, and has had to deal with authoritarian rulers, corruption, and drought. Its economy has begun to recover slightly in the last few years. (see Wikipedia for more information)

Most of the country is on an elevated plateau. The extreme east is mountainous and known as the Eastern Highlands which is a tourists attraction because of its natural environment. Victoria Falls is in the extreme northwest. The climate is subtropical with the Southeastern part hot and dry. The Eastern highlands are cooler with lots of rain. Some places in the central plateau can experience frost in the winter. Though severe storms are rare, the country has faced recurring droughts. (Wikipedia)

Republic of Zimbabwe Flag



WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:30p Prayer Meeting
- 7:00p Bible Study — Adults.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon.—Friday: 8:30—1:00 p.m.
Phone: (828) 396-2214



Meetings, etc.

Shepherd's Meal

The next meal will be served on **Monday, April 21, 12-6:30 p.m.** Please contact Ricky Baker for details.

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m.** All women of the church are invited.

*Where is their spirit
for God and his work?
Maybe the problem is
a lack of the Spirit of
God in their lives.*

How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

—Luke 24:1-3 NIV

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

WORKING CHURCH

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

—James 2:14, 17b NIV

Pastors and other church leaders can become discouraged when much of the congregation refuses to become involved in ministry efforts or Bible study classes, or prayer meetings, etc. There are church members who will come to every meal prepared by the church (free or a fundraiser), and bring their children to Easter Egg Hunts, or special singing services, or parties or events with fun activities, but refuse to join a Sunday School class, or meet for prayer, or volunteer to serve on a committee, or give money regularly to the church budget. They tend to be “now you see them, now you don’t” church attenders, not Kingdom workers. Where is their spirit for God and his work? Maybe the problem is a lack of the Spirit of God in their lives. Or they simply ignore or have not learned how to access the Holy Spirit’s power.

We can help the Spirit by avoiding unbalanced emphasis in our preaching and teaching. We can stress the experience of the Spirit at the time of conversion too much and new Christians do not learn that the Spirit can also empower them for mission and how to become more holy in Christ every day (entire sanctification).

Yet, again, too much emphasis on the ‘perfecting’ of a Christian’s life can lead to inaction from fear of doing something wrong or unnecessary guilt or concentration on the letter of the law over the Spirit of the law. But all believers need regular study and reading of God’s Word. We need to communicate with our Lord often, and reading his Word is one way to know God and to learn from him. He calls to us from his Word, and his indwelling Spirit opens his Word to us to guide us and encourage us.

Corporate worship affirms our faith publicly and encourages us and strengthens our faith and our Christian bonds with fellow believers. To use a worship service or Sunday school/Bible study class for entertainment or socializing does not build us up in the faith. It may bring people into the church, but it is too shallow and empty of hard truth to lead people to saving grace in a deep, lasting belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Socialize but don’t stop there. Get to the hard truths. Then pray for God’s power to do what is right and what is righteous throughout your life. †

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

Apr 8— Pastor Simon returns from trip

Apr 12—Easter Egg Hunt, 9-11:00 a.m.

Apr 17 — Holy Thursday Service/Communion, 7:00 p.m.

Apr 18 — Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

Apr 20—Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast, 7:00 a.m.

Apr 21 — Shepherd’s Meal (Food Ministry)

Apr 22 — Senior Citizens’ Gathering, 11:00 a.m.



EASTER Events & Activities

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12
9 to 11 AM

All children in the community are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt with lots of free candy, prizes, and breakfast biscuits. Come, eat, play and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Free coloring books and other gifts will be given away.

The EASTER egg reminds us that we can become new in Christ Jesus when we believe in him. And symbolizes Jesus' emergence from the tomb at his resurrection.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16 NIV

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13
9 AM

During the Palm Sunday worship service, we will wave palm leaves again as we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem not long before he was betrayed by Judas and sent to the cross to die for our sins.



Holy Week

Please join us for 2 special services between Palm Sunday and Easter.

On Thursday, **April 17 at 7:00 p.m.** for our Holy Thursday service with scripture reading, song and Holy Communion.

On Friday, **April 18 at 7:00 p.m.**, the Global Methodist Churches of Caldwell County will have a combined service at Grace Chapel GMC to remember Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. We will hear the story as we solemnly gather together to commemorate this great and awful sacrifice by our Lord and Savior for each one of us.



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20
7 AM

Jesus has risen!



Come help us celebrate our Savior's resurrection at our Sunrise Service. We will sing praises to our wonderful Savior, remember his great sacrifice for each and every one of us on that cruel cross, and proclaim that he still lives! With great and lasting joy, we offer our thanks for God's grace and his power shown in the resurrection of Jesus that assures us of our own resurrection some day.

After the service, a free breakfast will be served in the Christian Life Center. We hope you will stay and fellowship with us.

April Celebrations



- 1st—Brian Sears
- 9th—Sandy Miller
- 12th—Tammy Adams
- 18th—Haley Pitts
- 19th—Nancy Sears
- 23rd—Annette Burson
- 27th—Wyll Baker
- 28th—Cinda McCrary
- 29th—Seth McCrary
- 29th—Maggie Wilson
- 30th—Sarah McCrary

Happy Anniversary

- 12th—Jerry & Loretta Helton
- 12th—Russ & JoAnn Knepp
- 14th—Garry & Phyllis Minton
- 30th—Kenny & Becky Silver

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McCrary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.

John Wesley said:

"Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God."

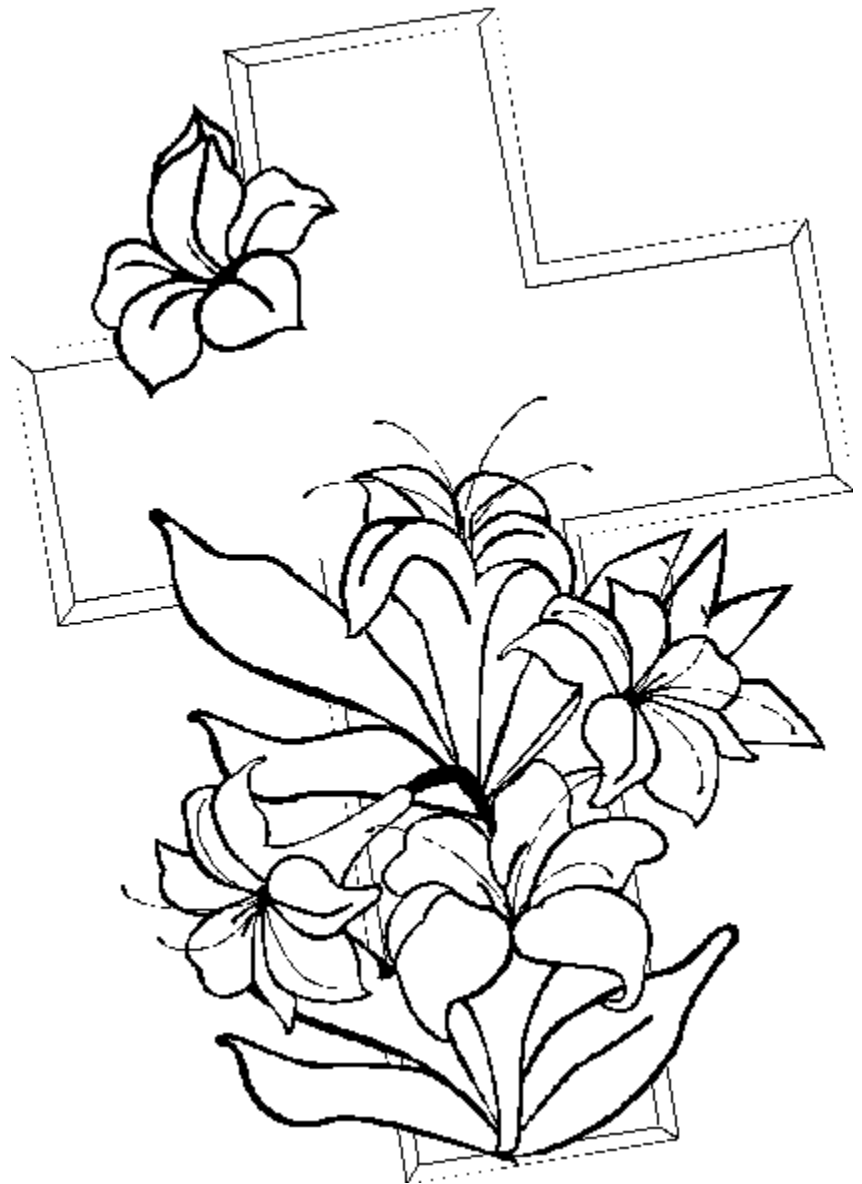


BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION INVITATION

Our church family is invited to a birthday party for long-time member, Nancy Sears, on **Saturday, April 26 from 10-12:00 p.m.** Nancy has been an integral part of Ebenezer Church for many years, and her children have helped support our church, too. Her love for God, His church, and her extended family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren has been a blessing to all of us. So, let's all come and say thank you to her, and praise God for her birth and long life and, God willing, many more years to come in service to God and her family.



Color me!



HAPPY EASTER!