



EBENEZER

Methodist Church Dudley Shoals

www.ebenezerm-church.com

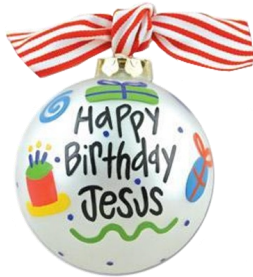
Dec '25

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Gifts for Christ

Sunday, Dec. 21, see p. 3

Christmas Eve Service
6:00 p.m.

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



Glory to God in the Highest!

Beloved Ebenezer Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ! As we enter the month of December—one filled with light, expectation, worship, and joy—I want to share a word of encouragement and vision as we journey through Advent and into Christmas together.

A Season of Holy Anticipation

December invites us to slow down and make room for Christ. In the midst of crowded calendars, Christmas lists, travel plans, and responsibilities, the voice of Scripture still calls out: “*Prepare the way of the Lord.*” This Advent season at Ebenezer, we are focusing on **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**—not as sentimental words, but as gifts Christ desires to birth within us. May each candle we light remind us that darkness cannot overcome the Light of the world.

Throughout this month, we have several opportunities to worship, serve, and rejoice:

Advent Sundays

Each Sunday will bring fresh reflections, music, and the lighting of our Advent candles. Invite someone who needs the encouragement of Christ's presence.

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will once again be a time of wonder and reverence as we hear the angels' song and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors—there is room for everyone at the manger.

Choir, Children, and Worship Ministries

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone preparing special music, readings, decorations, and worship leadership this month. Your service helps create an atmosphere where Christ is glorified and His people are renewed.

A Spirit of Giving

December is also a time when we reflect on the generous love of God. As He gave us His Son, we are called to give of ourselves—with joy and gratitude. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in:

- Tithes and offerings, which sustain the ministries of our church.
- Service and volunteer efforts, which shine Christ's love to our community.

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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.

Clergy Meeting

Caldwell County's Global Methodist clergy will meet here on **Thursday, December 4th at 10:30 a.m.** (For clergy only)

Seniors Gathering

Our Senior citizens are invited to another morning of fellowship with meal on **Tuesday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m.** Details to be announced later.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday—Friday, December 24-26.

Please turn in bulletin and January newsletter information by **9:00 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 22.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

EWG Meeting

The Women will have their next meeting on **Sunday, January 4th at 5:00 p.m. at Kim Ellis' house.** All women of the church are invited to participate.

Special Giving

We gratefully acknowledge the following special gifts in November:

In memory of Randy McRary by: Russ & JoAnn Knepp, Heavenly Sonlighters, Ebenezer Methodist Women, & Peggy Jenkins.

In memory of Amy Fowler by: Ebenezer Methodist Women.

In memory of Gerry Daniel by: Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

In memory of Kat Teague by: Cindy Satterwhite.

In memory of Dean Kirby by: Delores Campbell & Gary Paul.

In memory of Bob Jenkins by: Peggy Jenkins.

In honor Pastor Simon and Family and All Saints Sunday by: Delores Campbell & Gary Paul.

In honor of Ted Daniel by Delores & Gary Paul Campbell

Something to Pray About

by Cindy Sears

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

**PEACE MAKER
PEACE GIVER**

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." — Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." -- John 14:27 (NIV)

In case you haven't heard because you follow the mainstream media instead of more conservative and alternative news sources, President Trump and his cabinet have brokered at least seven peace deals between warring nations since he has been in office this time around. That is many lives saved, even if the agreements do not hold. The jury is still out on the Israel/Palestine cease-fire for instance. The President is using economic incentives, among other points, to get these nation states to the peace table. Peace leads to more prosperity for the people. War destroys businesses, buildings, and people. Let us pray that these peace treaties hold, and that the President and his team can lead even more warring nations to turn towards peace and away from war. Blessed are the peacemakers!

Yet, we know that peace on earth is unlikely to hold for any length of time without people changing their hearts. That heart change can come only from God through belief in his Son, Jesus Christ. Without peace in everyone's heart, peace cannot be. We humans have too much lust for power and money and control to be peaceful for long on our own.

Jesus gives us a peace that is not like that the world gives. Jesus settles our hearts in a peace that passes understanding. We can have peace in our hearts when all the world around us is filled with chaos.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the



(Continued on page 4)



December Events & Fundraisers

Gifts for Christ

Sunday Worship

Dec. 21

We will set up a Memory Tree again this year and accept designated "Gifts for Christ." For your gift, we will hang up an ornament on the Memory Tree in honor or in memory of a loved one. **Please turn in your forms by Sunday, December 14th.** You may hold your gift until **Sunday, December 21st when we will take up the special Gifts for Christ offering.**

Forms are available now in the narthex and lobby areas.

Advent Wreath Lighters and Readers List

Nov. 30th — Kirk and Irene Austin
Dec. 7th — Phyllis and Gary Minton
Dec. 14th — Annette Burson & Nancy Sears
Dec. 21st — Savanna Creaseman & Sarah Chigumira
Dec. 24th —

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, Dec. 24

6:00 PM

We invite you to join us for a short program as we praise God and celebrate the first coming of Christ and look forward to his return when He will make all things right again.



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

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

—Matthew 1:20b-21 NIV

December Celebrations



- 4th—Shane Kelley
- 10th—Abigail Mullinax
- 11th—Jeanette Eby
- 12th—Barbara Frye
- 14th—Carla Yoder
- 14th—Patty Toliver
- 20th—Peggy Jenkins
- 23rd—John McCrary
- 26th—Lyle Miller
- 26th—Sarah Teague
- 27th—Cheryl Vosdingh
- 28th—JoAnn Knepp
- 29th—Tina Williams

Happy Anniversary

- 5th—Kevin & Pat Sears
- 13th—Shawn & Heather Wallace
- 29th—Dylan & Vicky Baker

Our Military

Ricky Garland
Shane McRary
Jamie Mullinax
Hunter Tolbert



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

Christmas Card Distribution

You may bring Christmas Cards for our regularly attending members to the church, and we will distribute them. Last day to bring them in is on Sunday, December 21. Put them in the marked box in the old fellowship hall.

Upcoming Events & Ministry Opportunities

December 4th—GMC Clergy Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
December 14th—Last day to turn in Gifts for Christ forms
December 20th—Private Function in CLC, 12-4:00 p.m.
December 21st—Gifts for Christ Sunday
December 24th—Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.
December 24-26—Church Office Closed
January 1st—Church Office Closed
January 4th—EMW Holiday Meeting
January 26th—Winter Red Cross Blood Drive



Pastor's Pen, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

- **Contributions toward our ongoing financial commitments**, including the work toward retiring all remaining obligations.

Your giving is not just financial—it is spiritual, sacrificial, and deeply appreciated.

As we close the year, remember:

- Christ came **for you**,
- Christ dwells **with you**,
- And Christ will continue **to lead us** as a congregation.

Whatever burdens you've carried in 2025, place them at His feet as we prepare to enter a new year. Whatever hopes you have for 2026, surrender them into His capable hands. Emmanuel is with us—and that makes all the difference.

A Blessing for December

May this month center your heart, still your spirit, renew your faith, and fill you with joy unspeakable. May the peace of Christ rule in your home, your family, and your life. And may the love of God shine through Ebenezer as a beacon to our community.

Thank you for being a faithful and loving church family. Serving as your pastor is a gift I cherish deeply. **Merry Christmas, and blessings for a hope-filled New Year!**

In Christ's Love, Pastor Simon Chigumira



Something, cont'd

angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." –Luke 2:10-14 (NIV)

That last line above gives us a hint that the peace promised here is available to all people, but only if they choose to follow the Christ. It is through acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior that a person receives God's favor because the person is washed clean of all sin. When we are free from sin, we are free from God's righteous wrath.

So come to the Lord Jesus for salvation and be filled with peace. No longer be afraid or anxious. Let his indwelling Spirit lead you and give you joy, because He is now in control of you as He is of the world.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Things will continue to fall apart here, but we know whom we have believed in and He will keep us against that day—the end of all history or just the end of our own history in death. That death is the one that leads to a new birth into the presence of our Lord and Savior forever. Praise God for his mercy endures forever!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my family here. Peace in God's care.

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