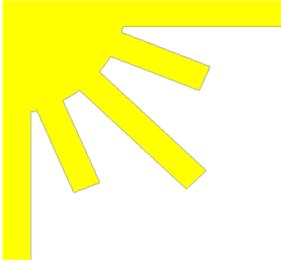


**Ebenezer**  
**Today, Tomorrow and Beyond**  
Monthly Newsletter for Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
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**December - January Issue 2018/2019**



### Carl's Corner....

Dear Church Family,

When I was growing up and had a tough day at school, my Mom would try to console me with the words, "There are going to be days like that." Today is NOT one of those days. Today has been very productive and energizing. Even though, my "To Do List" is nearly full; I've been checking things off left and right. There is a certain sense of satisfaction in completing a task. I also feel that I am getting ahead of somethings. For instance, I am writing this article on November 14, 2018. It is not due until the 20<sup>th</sup>. I imagine we are aiming for December 1<sup>st</sup> as its publication date. Those who put the newsletters together will probably be happy to have it ahead of time. Earlier is always better. I am not sure why today is going so well and I really don't want to analyze it. I simply choose to enjoy it.

With all the activities of December and January, it is easy to get overwhelmed. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. This is a time of year to look for psychological sunshine. I was introduced to this idea from a book left to me by my father-in-law. What brings you joy and delight? What recharges you? It will be different for each person. Some love the music of the season while others get sick and tired of it. The parties and activities will be like a bubbling fountain for those who are extroverted and a drain on those who are introverted. For the quiet souls the candle light service will bring a joyful glow. May the Love of Jesus Christ be the spiritual sunshine of your soul this and every season.

Blessings,  
Pastor Carl



### Poinsettias

Poinsettias are being offered to decorate the sanctuary and narthex at Ebenezer. Sign-up sheets are available at the church for those interested in purchasing a poinsettia or you may call (309)874-3352 or email: [mariann111@frontier.com](mailto:mariann111@frontier.com) Price is \$11.00 per poinsettia. Deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**.

### The Redemption of Scrooge: Advent Study

**Ebenezer** will meet on Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. with Coffee.

**Atlanta** will meet Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. with Soup and Bread.

Classes will be on the following Wednesdays:

Nov 28: Bah Humbug.  
Dec 5: The Remembrance of Christmas Past.  
Dec 12: The Life of Christmas Present.  
Dec 19: The Hope of Christmas Future.

### Ebenezer Church Council

Church Council **will not** meet in the month of December. The next meeting for Ebenezer Church Council is **Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 p.m. Church Council is always open to all who would like to attend.

## Special Thanksgiving Offering

It's not too late to give to the **Ebenezer Special Thanksgiving Offering**. This special offering helps to meet our Special Sunday Offerings as well as Golden Cross needs. Giving to the Special Thanksgiving Offering will then fulfill one star of the FIVE STAR Challenge. Your gifts can be your loose change that you have saved over the year or you can write a check. Just make sure you designate that your gift is for the "Thanksgiving Offering. Please help support these programs and special agencies and the good work that they do through the United Methodist Church.



### Ladies Aid Christmas

The Ladies Aid Annual Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 p.m., at the home of Susan Walden. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped \$15 gift for the gift exchange. All ladies are invited to join in this fun celebration.



### Christmas Open House Sunday, December 16, 2018 2-4 p.m.

**Gary & Linda Bristow  
7 Lone Oak Court  
Bloomington, IL 61705**



### Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for Ebenezer's Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on **Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m.

### Ebenezer's Weekly Attendance

November		
Date	Adults	Children
4	31	0
11	29	2
18	35	4
25	33	3

### The IRA Charitable Rollover

(copied from a flyer from the Preacher's Aid Society)

#### *An Easy Way to Help Our Cause*

If you are over 70 ½ or older, rather than simply take an IRA withdraw this year, you can direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA to our organization (church). Any amount you transfer counts against your required minimum distribution (RMD), and you can direct up to \$100,000 to your favorite cause this year.

#### *Making an IRA Rollover Gift is Easier Than Ever*

-Contact your IRA administrator. With the popularity of the IRA rollover, most administrators provide forms and a procedure to help you make a rollover gift.

-You can direct a transfer of up to \$100,000 to be made this year from your IRA to a qualified charity.

-You will pay no income taxes on the amount transferred.

-Note: Because you are not claiming the transferred amount as income, you will not receive an income tax deduction for your gift.

## Upcoming Events in the area.....



### “A Village Christmas Program”

The Waynesville United Methodist Church will present “A Village Christmas” on **Sunday, December 2** at 7 p.m. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to an evening of Christmas music provided by area talent. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the church basement.



### Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things

- **Shovel with cooking spray:** Spray your shovel with nonstick cooking spray before getting started; snow will slide right off.
- **Make your own De-Icer:** Mix 1 teaspoon Dawn dishwashing liquid, 1 tablespoon rubbing alcohol, and ½ gallon warm water; pour the mixture over walkways to keep them from freezing again right away.
- **Use your Porch to Refrigerate:** If your fridge is full during the holidays and the temperature is 40°F or below, place hardy perishables (like fruits and vegetables) in a cooler outside near the back door. This will free up some extra while still keeping food cold.
- **Get unstuck with Kitty Litter:** If your tires are spinning in a pile of snow, sprinkle a healthy handful of kitty litter or birdseed under them to gain traction.

**Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year**

