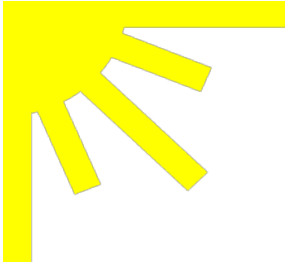


**Ebenezer**  
**Today, Tomorrow and Beyond**  
Monthly Newsletter for Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
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**May Issue 2019**



### Carl's Corner....

Dear Friends,

My friend and colleague, Rusty Richards of the Minier Christian Church, has sent to me (and everyone else in a 20-mile radius) a postal card describing his next sermon series. I am going to publish our sermon series for the next month to the newsletters and the bulletins of the Parish.

You have my permission to share this with others. You may tell people face to face. Consider posting it on Facebook or other social media. You might want to send an email to those you know. A letter or a phone call are also options. I urge you to be creative. I am going to focus in May on Spiritual Mentorship. We will be looking at the Apostle Paul and Timothy. To whom could you be a spiritual mentor?

#### Spiritual Mentorship

- May 5 1 Timothy 6:6-16, "Flee and Pursue"
- May 12 2 Timothy 1:1-7 "Genuine Faith Remembered"
- May 19 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "Form and Function"
- May 26 2 Timothy 4:1-8, "Before I go..."

So why are Rusty and I trying to let people know what we are going to be preaching on one month out? Adam Hamilton, the pastor of the largest United Methodist Church in the US, suggested in a book he wrote, developing a preaching plan for a whole year! The more time a preacher thinks about the sermon; the better the sermon should be.

Also, it not just about the preacher. The musicians, bulletin makers, slide producers, and those with artistic and creative skills need time to tie the sermon with their ministries. A musical group needs a full six weeks to learn a new song. My aim is to have a thematic approach to each worship service.

It is also about you. Now you can look up the scripture and see what I might be doing. You could attend with some questions of your own. Before you even walk in the building, you are prepared to encounter God and the Word.

Together, we can approach worship with a greater unity of thought, reflection and action.

Blessings,  
Pastor Carl

### Ebenezer Church Council

The next meeting for Ebenezer Church Council is **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**, at 7 p.m. Church Council is open to all who would like to attend.

### Ebenezer Ladies Lunch

All ladies of Ebenezer are invited to enjoy lunch and conversation on **Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.** – at a location TBD. Please let Linda Bristow know if you plan to attend. Future lunches will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. For more information talk with Christy or Linda.



## 2019 Annual Conference

The 2019 Annual Conference will be **June 6-8** at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria.

The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church. The annual conference consists of clergy and lay members.

### Annual Conference Collection – Tornado Totes

Attendees to the 2019 Annual Conference are urged to have their congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. A truck will be located at the Peoria Civic Center to accept those donations during the Annual Conference.

Tornado totes include the basic necessities for persons whose homes have been affected by tornados or floods. The items needed for each tote include the following:

- \$9 Donation for 2 Totes
- 2 pairs of work gloves
- 24 - one gallon-size resealable bags
- 2 permanent markers (i.e. Sharpie)
- 1 roll of duct tape (prefer colored) (to label household items)
- 2 dust masks (no surgical)
- 24 heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon)
- 24 clear/white trash bags (20-33 gallon)
- 1 canister disinfectant wipes

Supplies can be collected and brought to Annual Conference and/or contribute to Advance Special #6620 and indicate "Tornado Tote". See flyer on bulletin board for more information.

## Preachers to Be

The District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) of the Vermilion River District will meet on **May 14<sup>th</sup>** in Pontiac. Gaurav Holkar and Debbie Johnston will meet to be interviewed. If they are approved by the DCOM, then they will become "certified candidates" for ministry. Your prayerful support is appreciated.

## License School for Local Pastors

As "certified candidates" for ministry, Gaurav and Debbie will attend License School for Local Pastors. They have already registered in hopes the DCOM meeting goes well. They have both sent a \$50 non-refundable application fee.

Gaurav and Debbie have been "strongly encouraged" to request funds from the local church. **Cost of this school is: \$1100 due June 1<sup>st</sup>.** Books for the 10 classes cost \$1,000. They cannot ask for any limited scholarship help until they have asked their local churches. The school is: July 14-25, 2019 in Springfield. They are already working on reading and writing assignments prior to getting to class. Your financial support is appreciated.

After successful completion of this school, they will be eligible to do the work of a minister in a local church. They will have to ask permission from the District Superintendent to conduct weddings, baptisms, confirmation and serve communion outside of the church(es) they are appointed to.

## Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC)

On **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 pm the PPRC will meet at Ebenezer. This is the only committee that has representatives from all three churches. It meets to keep communication going and to resolve issues and concerns. Please talk to Helen Doty, Lynda McKeown, or Marianne Johnson with any topics you would like us to discuss.

## Ebenezer's Weekly Attendance

### March 2019

Date	Adults	Children
31	33	1

### April 2019

Date	Adults	Children
7	35	0
14	33	3
21	57	15
28	41	2



It was great to have Rondy Rutherford join the church on Palm Sunday. She transferred her membership from the McLean Christian Church. Please make her feel welcome.

There are four different ways to join the church. The first is profession of faith. This is a person who has never belonged to any church before and is joining. The second is a transfer of membership. A person can transfer from a different denomination or from another United Methodist Church. The third is an affiliate member. This is a good choice for United Methodist members who are in the military or away from home for an extended period. If they still want to be involved in a local church but not their home church, they can be listed as an affiliate member. The last is an associate member. A person from another denomination can become involved in a United Methodist local church but may not vote on the church council. They can serve in all other ways.

### Thanks

The Chime and Vocal choirs did a great job on Easter Sunday. Thanks to all of you who practiced and presented your music.

### 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming

At our last Administrative Council meeting, a list of possible ideas for celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church were passed around. In 2020, we will be 150 years old. I urge all of you to begin thinking about how we can celebrate this milestone in the history of our church.

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

### Brent Vernon & Sam in Concert

On **May 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6 pm at the Atlanta United Methodist Church, Brent Vernon will have an hour-long concert. He is a singer-songwriter, children's book author and illustrator and a ventriloquist. We will take a special offering. A table of his CD's and books will be available. The Atlanta Church will have desserts after the concert. This is an event for the whole family. Bring your friends and neighbors. Check out his website: [www.brentvernon.com](http://www.brentvernon.com).



### Kiwanis Mother's Day Flower Sale

The Bloomington-Normal Kiwanis will hold their Mother's Day Flower sale on **May 8-11** (Wed.-Sat.). Look for the white tent at The Shoppes at College Hills, between Yankee Candle and Ann Taylor Loft. Proceeds from the sale help support Camp Limberlost and other projects for local kids.  
**Hours - 9 am. to 7 pm.**  
Fundraising partner: Wendell Niepagen Greenhouse.



### Memorial Day Services

The McLean American Legion, Burger-Benedict Post #573, will hold their annual Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 27, 2019, at Funks Grove Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. and the McLean Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.



### Start Seeing Farmers

Finally, with the forecast for warmer weather, you will begin seeing our farmers on the roadways again. Please have patience and give them plenty of room so that they can get to their fields for planting. Also, don't be a distracted driver. Texting and talking on a cell phone can be deadly. Keep your eyes on the road and drive safely.



### Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, **May 19**, OHS Graduation, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, **May 22**, Last Day of School at Olympia

### Congratulations to Our Graduates

**Leighton Rutherford**, son of Marlene & Shane Rutherford and grandson of Arlene Rutherford

**Keegan Canfield**, son of Jenny Wilson and grandson of David & Janet Canfield

**Gunnar Wilson**, son of Jenny & Josh Wilson and grandson of David & Janet Canfield

**Wade Cook**, son of Greg & Michelle Cook and grandson of Helen & Don Doty