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## OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK- DECEMBER 5-11

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### Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m.** Family Meal (*Kitchen and Fellowship Hall*)  
- Menu Spaghetti, Salad, Bread and Applesauce- \* gluten-free options are available
- 6:00 p.m.** Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (*CMC*)  
- Children grades kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will practice for the Christmas Program in the Crossroads Ministry Center
- 7:00 p.m.** Wednesday Night Kids JAM (*Various classrooms*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Men's Study (*Sanctuary Foyer*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Women's Study (*103*)
- 7:00 p.m.** Middle School Small Groups (*Schoolhouse*)
- 8:30 p.m.** Youth Dodgeball (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)

### Thursday

- 6:15 p.m.** College & Career Small Group (*Ron & Sue Epp's House, 489 Cherry St.*)  
- College students & young adults are welcome to this small group. Food is served at 6:15 p.m. and the Bible study begins at 7:15 p.m.
- 8:30 p.m.** Men's Basketball (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)  
- Open to all men.

### Friday

- 6:00 p.m.** Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (*CMC*)

### Sunday

- 11:15 a.m.** Safety Team Training (*Fellowship Hall*)  
- Church staff and safety team as well as representatives from the ushers and teachers will receive training regarding church safety.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Dec. 11** Children's Christmas Program- 10:15 a.m. (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)  
- Experience the Christmas story as the children of the church perform the program "Because God Said So, That's Why!"
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- 6:00 p.m. (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)
- Dec. 25** Christmas Services (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)  
- Celebrate the birth of the "Unexpected Savior". Services will be held at 8:30 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Childcare for ages birth to kindergarten will be available for 10:15 a.m. service. The nursery will be available for both services

December 4, 2022



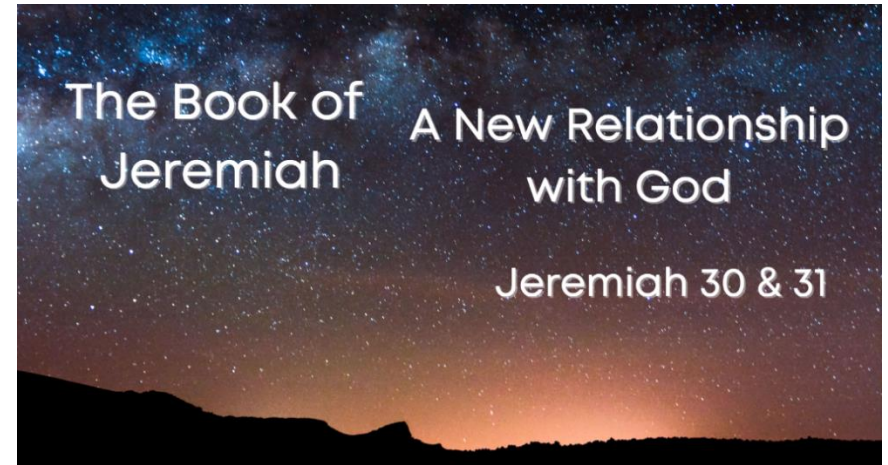
# Ebenezer Mennonite Church

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## OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY

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- 9:00 a.m.** Sunday School/Adult Bible Studies (*Various Classrooms*)
- 10:00 a.m.** Children's Church (*Ages 2-6, B10 & B11*)
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Service – Pastor Nick Ringger (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)  
*Message-* A New Relationship with God  
*Scripture-* Jeremiah 30 & 31
- 11:15 a.m.** Appreciation Time for Pastor Dick (*Crossroads Ministry Center*)
- 6:45 p.m.** High School Small Groups (*Schoolhouse*)

**Welcome to Ebenezer!** We are so happy you are here. If today is your first time joining us, please pick up a gift at the Welcome Center in the Lobby.

**Appreciation for Pastor Dick and Cheryl:** Pastor Dick is officially retiring at the end of the year. There is a dessert and coffee reception in the CMC today following the worship service for the congregation to express their appreciation and fellowship over cookies and coke, favorites of Pastor Dick. To show gratitude for Pastor Dick's many years of service, there will be ushers in the back of the church with baskets today and on December 11, to collect a love offering to be given to Pastor Dick and Cheryl.

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## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

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### Attendance on November 27:

Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	(9:00 a.m.)	189
Worship Gathering	(10:15 a.m.)	342

**Contact Cards** are available at the Welcome Center or by scanning the QR code to the right. Please update any new information or share any praises and prayer requests. If you are new, please complete a card so we may stay connected.



**Faith Promise Commitments:** Faith Promises will continue to be received until the end of this year. Cards are available at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Current totals for the Mission Faith Promise are

**The annual congregational meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will discuss the 2023 General Fund, Building Fund, and Christian Education Fund proposed budgets, and elections will be held.

**Christmas Program Practice:** There will be a dress rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program (grades K-5) on Wednesday, December 7 and Friday, December 9 in the Crossroads Ministry Center. The dress rehearsals will be from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Christmas program will be performed during the worship service on Sunday, December 11 at 10:15 a.m.

**Bible Reading:** Pastor Nick is inviting the Ebenezer family to once again journey through the Bible in 2023 using a congregation-wide reading plan. For those interested, the ESV translation is being recommended for this year. Please see Pastor Nick or a member of the staff for further information.

**Case for Christmas Books:** Copies of Lee Stroebel's book, *The Case for Christmas*, have been made available to the Ebenezer family at the Welcome Center during these weeks leading up to Christmas. Now is the perfect time to have conversations with people in your life about hope and faith and sharing this book can be a great resource.

**The Pearl Valley Cheese Sale:** Cheese orders are still available for pickup in the kitchen window. Additional cheese is available for purchase.

**Ice Camp Registrations:** Ice Camp registrations for Middle School (January 13-15) and High School (February 24-26) are available on the Church Center App and on the church website.

**Operation Christmas Child Team:** Pray for the team traveling this weekend to serve at the Operation Christmas Child processing center in North Carolina from December 4-10. The 637 shoeboxes that were collected at Ebenezer are part of the 2.5 million boxes that were collected and are now being prepared to be sent to children all over the world. Those serving are

**Church Directory:** A new pictorial directory will be produced for 2023. If you are not yet scheduled, please contact the church office about scheduling an appointment or submitting a photo for the directory. Online scheduling is hosted at [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) and entering the church code OH2624 and the password "photos". Pastor Nick and the rest of the staff deeply desire 100% participation for the best possible directory.

**Missionary Retirements and Resignations:** Rick and Pat Shaner (AVANT), Neil and Meredith Bittle (MAF), Joe and Jeanie Stucky (BGFM), and Dennis and Cindy Wiens (SAT-7) have retired or will be retiring at the end of December. Also, Kelly and Anisa Essinger (ELIC) resigned in September 2022 and Scott and Caitlin Andrews' (TEAM) resignations will be effective December 31, 2022. (The Essingers may sign with another ministry group.) We praise God for the way He has used each of these couples in the lives of others through their ministries!--The Missions Committee

**Family Assistance:** Ebenezer has adopted two families for Christmas through the Bluffton Food Pantry. If you would like to help with donations for these local families, the list of items needed/desired and sign ups are located in the welcome center. Drop off donations to the church office by December 15, 4 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Jacy Meyer. Let's help provide Christmas to these local families!

**Service Opportunities:** The church website has been updated with a new page detailing service opportunities. You can access this page by clicking the "Volunteer" tab under the "Get Connected" tab. The church could not function without the many people who serve throughout the year in ministries like these. The Ebenezer family wishes to recognize the many people who serve throughout the weeks of the church calendar to staff the various ministries and serve the church body. Thank you.