

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
Heritage Worship Service  
December 15, 2024  
11:00 am

Prelude.....Advent Medley.....arr. James Wilson  
Jamie Wilson, Trumpet, and Wendy Kitts, Piano

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Rev. Tim Paul

\*Opening Hymn.....O Come, All Ye Faithful v.1,3.....UMH 234

Special Music.....Ebenezer Children  
Alicia Wilson, Denise Gray, Aydan Miller (narrator), and Wendy Kitts  
We Wait for Him  
Do You See the Christmas Star?  
Jesus Is Born, Let the Earth Rejoice

\*Hymn.....Away in a Manger.....UMH 217

Advent Celebration  
The Lighting of the Advent Candle at 9:00 am.....The Head Family  
The Lighting of the Advent Candle at 11:00 am.....The Kitts Family

*The candle of Joy symbolizes the boundless and unexpected joy that comes from encountering Christ, a gift that transcends all barriers and reaches every heart.*

Choral Response .....We Bring His Light.....John Purifoy

Offering Moment

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Anthem.....Beautiful Name.....Joseph Martin  
Addie Wilson, Soloist

Message.....Unlimited Joy.....Rev. Austin Byerly

\*Closing Hymn.....Emmanuel, Emmanuel.....UMH 204

\*Benediction

Postlude.....Now Come the Savior of Nations.....arr. Harold Rutz  
Edward Pierce, Organ

**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1001 Ebenezer Road | Knoxville, TN 37923  
(865) 691-8330 or [www.eumcknox.org](http://www.eumcknox.org)  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 am—2 pm  
Celebration Worship, 9 am ~ Sunday School, 10 am ~ Heritage Worship, 11 am



**WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING**

To participate in worship through giving: place your offering in the baskets by the doors of the sanctuary; mail your offering to PO Box 31047 Knoxville, TN 37930; or give online, securely, by using the QR code or visiting [www.eumcknox.org](http://www.eumcknox.org).

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# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 15, 2024



## WELCOME GUESTS!

We are glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a connection card that you can find on the back of the pew in front of you. Leave us your name, phone number, and email so that we can connect with you, learn more about you, and share more about who we are. Also, please note that we have a **Cry Room** and a **Sensory Room** on the right side of the sanctuary if needed. We're so thankful you're here!



### THE HOLIDAYS AT EBENEZER

We are so excited to celebrate the holiday season at Ebenezer! Here are some important dates for you to know during November and December.

**December 24—27, December 31, and January 1**—Office closed

**December 24**—Christmas Eve services at 4 pm (Celebration) and 6 pm (Heritage)

**December 29**—One service at 10 am

**December 22**—All Music Sunday  
**December 22**—Blue Christmas service at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

#### Angel Tree

A big thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for Angel Tree this year! Wesley House recipients and Bluegrass Elementary School were so grateful to receive their gifts from Ebenezer. Thank you for your generosity!

#### Blue Christmas—December 22, 6 pm

Ebenezer's Blue Christmas service is for those who have lost loved ones, struggle during the holidays, or find themselves grieving during this season.

#### Christmas Eve Services

We will celebrate Christmas Eve with two candlelight services at 4 pm (Celebration Service) and 6 pm (Heritage Service) During these services, we will also have a Birthday Party For Jesus for our Ebenezer children in Power JAM!

#### One Service—December 29, 10 am

We will have one service on this Sunday at 10 am! Because of this, there will not be Sunday School for youth or adults on this day (but we will still have children's church).

### MINISTRIES AT EBENEZER

*Looking for new ways to get involved, especially during the holiday season? Volunteer in one of these ministries below!*

**Partner With Us In Prayer**—We'll meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 17, at 6:30 pm. To join or submit a prayer request, contact Anita.

**Visit Ministry**—Contact Celia or Barbara to join.

**Magnolia Ave. Food Pantry**—Tomorrow we are distributing bags of food. If you'd like to volunteer and serve, **meet at the church at 10 am** to load up cars and carpool to the Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who donated this month!

**Wesley House**—Currently collecting Canned Goods in the container in St. Clair Hall.

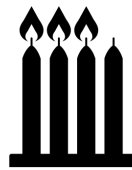
**Helping Hands**—Reach out to Ken to learn more.

**Altar Flowers**—Sign up on the calendar in the lobby to bring flowers on a Sunday.

**Serve on a Sunday Morning**—Read Scriptures, creeds, and responsive readings in the Heritage Service; Join the Tech Team; Be an Usher/Greeter; Serve communion!

| 2024                                                                                         | November           | YTD                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Actual General Fund Income                                                                   | \$75,974.16        | \$609,095.48       |
| Budgeted General Fund Income                                                                 | \$55,751.75        | \$613,269.25       |
| General Fund Giving—Over / Under Budget                                                      | <b>\$20,222.41</b> | <b>-\$4,173.77</b> |
| Actual Building Fund Income                                                                  | \$11,116.70        | \$90,567.85        |
| Mission Giving (includes Holston Conference Tithe and Smoky Mountain District Apportionment) | \$3,316.39         | \$87,117.58        |

## THIS WEEK AT EBENEZER



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (JOY)

9:00 am—Celebration Service (Sanctuary)  
10:00 am—Sunday School (various locations)  
11:00 am—Heritage Service with Children's Music (Sanctuary)  
5:00 pm—Youth Group Christmas Party (Annex)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:00 am—Magnolia Ave. Food Pantry  
6:00 pm—Yoga With Tammy (Lobby)  
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts (Annex)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:00 am—Women's Coffee (Community Room)  
11:00 am—Qigong With Mona (Lobby)  
12:00 pm—Lunch Bunch with speaker Matthew Valenti (St. Clair Hall)  
6:30 pm—Prayer Team Meeting (Zoom)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:30 am—WaTT (confirm each week with Amy Aspenwall)  
6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 am—Men's Coffee (Annex)  
10:00 am—United Methodist Women Meeting (Community Room)  
7:00 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Sanctuary)  
7:00 pm—Al-Anon Meeting (Community Room)  
7:00 pm—Alateen Meeting (Annex)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:00 pm—Brownie Troop Holiday Party

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 am—Veteran's Breakfast (St. Clair Hall)



### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (LOVE)

9:00 am—Celebration Service with All Music Sunday (Sanctuary)  
10:00 am—Sunday School (various locations)  
11:00 am—Heritage Service with All Music Sunday (Sanctuary)  
6:00 pm—Blue Christmas Service (Sanctuary)

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—TODAY

Today is the third Sunday of Advent! Today we light the pink candle, **the candle of Joy**. The pink candle, known as the Gaudete (rejoice, from Latin translation of Phil 4:4) candle, marks a moment of celebration during the otherwise reflective and repentant season. Its origins come from early church traditions, where Advent mirrored the somber tone of Lent, and the third Sunday provided a joyful reprieve. The color pink symbolizes this shift to rejoicing as we draw closer to the celebration of Christ's birth and the joy of his presence in the world. Next Sunday's candle is the candle of Love.

#### LUNCH BUNCH—THIS TUESDAY

Make plans to join us for fellowship and a feast Tuesday at 12 pm in St. Clair Hall! Our guest speaker will be Matthew Valenti, a Financial Advisor, speaking about Qualified Charitable Distributions. Bring a covered dish and a friend for this great program!

#### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—THURSDAY

Our United Methodist Women are looking forward to gathering this Thursday at 10 am in the Community Room. All women of the church are invited! Contact Sue Petrie with any questions about UMW. See you Thursday!

#### END OF YEAR OFFERINGS

If you have any offerings that you are planning to give this holiday season, please note that these gifts must be post-marked by the end of the year. The church office will be closed December 24—27, but **will be open December 30 from 9 am till 12 pm** for you to drop off any year-end offerings. Thank you for how generous you are to Ebenezer!

## WARMING SHELTER DONATIONS AND PACKING EVENT

*This winter, we are serving the community by supporting the West Knoxville Emergency Warming Shelter at Cokesbury UMC!*

Along with purchasing blankets for those in need (**go to our Outreach Programs portion of our website under the Programs tab to see the Amazon link to order these**) we will also be providing basic needs for people who are unsheltered during frigid nights by packing 500 Dinner Snack Bags! Everyone at Ebenezer can help by ordering the supplies listed below and dropping them off to the church (**no later than Sunday, January 5**) in the designated area in the lobby.

|                        |                       |                              |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Peanut butter crackers | Chewy granola bars    | Individual bags of trail mix |
| Nutri-Grain bars       | Little Debbie cakes   | Fruit strips                 |
| Fruit cups             | Squeezable applesauce | Slim-Jims                    |

Then, on Sunday, January 12, at 12 pm, we invite all Children and Youth Ministries' Families and Young Adults to join us for our event **Lunch with Purpose: Bags of Grace!** At this event, we will have lunch together and fill these 500 bags with the supplies. This will be a wonderful time for our young adults and young families to meet, share a meal together, and connect and bond as we serve the community together!

*If you have questions about our Youth Ministry or want more information on the activities listed below, reach out to Pastor Austin Byerly, Associate Pastor and Youth Director, at [abyerly@eumcknox.org](mailto:abyerly@eumcknox.org)*



### JOIN US FOR YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

#### Sunday School This Morning

We will meet for Sunday School this morning at 10 am in the Annex. Join us!

#### Youth Christmas Party Tonight!

Our Youth Christmas Party is tonight from 5-7 pm in the Annex! We will play some Christmas games, enjoy good food together, and have a fun gift exchange (wrapped, appropriate gift worth no more than \$20). It will be a great evening together!

#### UPCOMING IN YOUTH

**Parents' Meeting—January 5, 4 pm, St. Clair Hall**

**Resurrection 2025—January 24-26**

We are looking forward to Resurrection this winter! **The deadline to register is today.** Sunday. The cost to attend is \$100 per person and \$75 for any additional siblings (scholarships through Ebenezer are available). Join us for this amazing, fun weekend!

*If you have questions about our Children's Ministry or want more information on the activities below, contact Alicia Wilson, Children's Director, at [childrensministry@eumcknox.org](mailto:childrensministry@eumcknox.org)*



### Children's Ministry

#### JOIN US THIS MORNING FOR CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

#### Power JAM—9 am & 11 am (for Pre-K through 5th grade)

As we study the Christmas story, we find that many things happened in a way that seems a little backwards because God told us what would happen long before it did. We'll discover how what seems to be a backwards Christmas story to us was actually God's perfect plan all along!

#### Sunday School—10 am (for Pre-K through 5th grade)

There is always something exciting planned for Sunday School as Ms. Katie leads our Pre-K—2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday school class and Mrs. Alicia leads our 3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> graders!

#### Nursery—9 am to 12 pm (for infants and toddlers)

A nursery is available for your young children from 9 am to 12 pm on Sundays while you are here. Worship worry-free, as Mrs. Sherry cares for your little ones!

#### VOLUNTEER IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

Make a difference in the lives of kids by volunteering with our Children's Ministry team! Whether you love teaching, crafting, or just being a friendly face, we have a spot for you to help share God's love! Contact Mrs. Alicia for more information.