

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Heritage Worship Service

December 22, 2024

11:00 am

Prelude.....Still, Still, Still.....Traditional Austrian Carol
Dogwood Strings

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Rev. Austin Byerly

*Opening Hymn.....Angels We Have Heard on High.....UMH 238

Advent Celebration

The Lighting of the Advent Candle at 9:00 am.....The Woods Family

The Lighting of the Advent Candle at 11:00 am.....The Watkins Family

*The candle of love reminds us of God's unending, transformative love made flesh
in Christ, calling us to share this love with the world.*

Choral ResponseWe Bring His Light.....John Purifoy

Special Music.....And the Stars Sang.....Joseph Martin
Heritage Choir and Jennifer Bruce, Soprano

Offering Moment

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

And There Was Light

By Joseph Martin

Narrations by Heather Kyle and Will Puckett

A Festive Call to Christmas.....Choir and Congregation

Narration.....The Light of Hope

Celebration of Light

Narration.....The Light of Peace

Come Golden Light

Narration.....The Light of Joy

Dazzling Joy

Narration.....The Light of Love

Beautiful Name.....Choir and Addie Wilson

Narration.....The Light of the World

Dreamer of Stars.....Choir and Jennifer Bruce

Narration.....The Light of Glory

Angel Song

Narration.....The Light of Wisdom

Silver and Shadows.....Choir, Sarah Howell, and Kevin Young

Narration.....The Light Everlasting

Joyous Carols of Christmas.....Choir and Congregation

*Benediction

Postlude.....Joy to the World.....G.F. Handel
Dogwood Strings

The rose on the altar this morning is in celebration of Theodore Bruce Rheel



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.

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1001 Ebenezer Road | Knoxville, TN 37923

(865) 691-8330 or www.eumcknox.org

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 9 am—2 pm

Celebration Worship, 9 am ~ Sunday School, 10 am ~ Heritage Worship, 11 am

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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 the remainder of December.

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

December 29—One service at 10 am

December 30—Office open 9 am-12 pm

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

Blue Christmas—Tonight at 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).

FROM JASMINE HOISINGTON

Jasmine created a beautiful piece of artwork in today's Celebration service. Read her words below about how she was inspired to create this gift!

Christmas was drawing near and the opportunity to make a new piece of chalk art was arriving just as quickly. I looked back on nearly seven years of kindness, support, encouragement, and plenty of room to be myself, gifted to me every Sunday by the people of Ebenezer. Your kindness has truly taken me by surprise again and again. When I was approached to consider ideas for a new drawing, I felt that I wanted to do something different this year. I decided to create a more permanent piece of art. Inspired by Isaiah 43:19, Matthew 25:36-40, Luke 1:52-53, Luke 4:18-19 (Referencing Isaiah 61:1,2), and Luke 22:19, I have attempted to convey, in acrylic paint on double-paned glass, the image that these verses create for me: an image of God and human beings, as they manifest Heaven here, through feeding each other, clothing each other, visiting each other in prison, covering and sheltering each other, healing each other, washing each other, meeting together, and more. The people of EUMC were a spring in the desert for me, and I am proud of the ways that this congregation shows up for the people in their community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

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, January 7, 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—Thanks to everyone who donated! We had eleven volunteers who handed out 70 bags of food! We are now collecting **Toilet Paper**. If you'd like to donate, please drop your items off in the bin in the hallway in front of the office. The next distribution day at Magnolia Ave. is **Monday, January 27**.

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

Helping Hands—Reach out to Ken to learn more.

Altar Flowers—The **2025 calendar** is now available in the lobby!

THIS WEEK AT EBENEZER



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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:00 pm—Yoga With Tammy (Lobby)

7:00 pm—Boy Scouts (Annex)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

4:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration Service (Sanctuary)

6:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Heritage Service (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25—MERRY CHRISTMAS! (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 am—Men's Coffee (Annex)

7:00 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Sanctuary)

7:00 pm—Al-Anon Meeting (Community Room)

7:00 pm—Alateen Meeting (Annex)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27—CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

11:00 am—Tammy Huchison Receiving of Friends (Lobby)

12:00 pm—Tammy Huchison Celebration of Life (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 am—One Service (Sanctuary)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—TODAY

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. On this Sunday, we light the last purple candle, **the candle of Love**. The Love candle reminds us of the ultimate love of God, that He sent His only Son for us. As this candle is lit, we meditate on Jesus coming in a manger, full of love for us. On Tuesday during our Candlelight services at 4 pm (Celebration Service) and 6 pm (Heritage Service), we will light the final candle, the Christ candle.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We celebrate that Lisa and Tom Slagle became members of Ebenezer today!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM EBENEZER!

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas filled with sweet times with friends and family, warm memories being made, and a joyous heart filled with praise for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!



TAMMY HUCHISON CELEBRATION OF LIFE—DECEMBER 28

A Celebration of Life will be held for Tammy Huchison on Saturday, December 28, here at Ebenezer. Receiving of friends will begin at 11 am in the Lobby, with a service to follow at 12 pm in the Sanctuary. In honor of Tammy, Rick has requested that instead of wearing black, everyone who attends should wear bright colors and casual attire as a way to remember and celebrate Tammy. In lieu of flowers, you may make donations to The Ballard House (an organization that offers no-cost temporary housing for individuals and caregivers undergoing treatment in Houston, Texas) or UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Please hold Rick, Lyndsey, Megan, Jared, all who loved Tammy, and all who were loved by Tammy in your prayers as they mourn and grieve Tammy's passing.

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



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!

No Youth Group Tonight

We will not have Youth Group tonight because of our Blue Christmas Service.

UPCOMING IN YOUTH

No Youth Group or Sunday School Next Sunday, December 29

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

Resurrection 2025—January 24-26

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



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—2nd grade Sunday school class and Mrs. Alicia leads our 3rd—5th 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!

Storytime Is Back!

Join us for Storytime with Mrs. Alicia! Starting Tuesday, January 7, at 10 am, bring your little ones (ages 1-5) for a fun-filled morning of stories, songs, and crafts. All are welcome—come connect, learn, and grow with our community!

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.