

## Celebration Worship Service

### Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

9:00 am

Pre-Service Music

\*Opening Song ..... Be Lifted High

Welcome ..... Rev. Austin Byerly

\*Worship Song ..... Fresh Wind

\*Worship Song ..... Amazing Grace (Broken Vessels)

Offering Moment

Pastoral Prayer

Message ..... Snake Bit ..... Rev. Michael Sluder  
John 3:1-17

A Service of Holy Communion ..... Revs. Michael Sluder and Austin Byerly

*Invitation*  
*The Great Thanksgiving*  
*The Lord's Prayer*  
*Breaking the Bread*  
*Giving the Bread and Cup*

*Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repents of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.*

\*Closing Song ..... O Come to the Altar

\*Benediction

#### Welcome Guests!

We are so glad you're here! We'd love to connect with you, and invite you to fill out a connection card (green header) from the pew in front of you. Share your name and contact information so that we can connect with you and share more about who we are. Also, if you need them, we have a **Cry Room** and a **Sensory Room** on the right side of the sanctuary, as well as a **Nursing Mom's Room** in the Children's Wing.

#### Worship through Giving

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



#### Ebenezer United Methodist Church

*A church where everyone is inspired by God's Love, invited into God's Community, and Involved in God's Mission.*

1001 Ebenezer Road | Knoxville, TN 37923

(865) 691-8330 | [www.eumcknox.org](http://www.eumcknox.org) | [office@eumcknox.org](mailto:office@eumcknox.org)

## Heritage Worship Service

### Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

11:00 am

Prelude ..... Ah, Holy Jesus ..... arr. James Kantor  
Edward Pierce, Organ

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

\*Opening Hymn ..... Lead on O King Eternal ..... UMH 580

Prayer of Confession ..... On Screen

\*Hymn ..... To God Be the Glory ..... UMH 98

Scripture Reading ..... John 3:1-17 ..... Rev. Austin Byerly

Anthem ..... Glory in God's Love ..... Joseph Martin

Offering Moment

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music ..... Ride On King Jesus ..... arr. Howard Helvey  
Marcus Smith, Kevin Young, Carroll Logan, Jamie Wilson

Message ..... Snake Bit ..... Rev. Michael Sluder

A Service of Holy Communion ..... Revs. Michael Sluder and Austin Byerly

*Invitation*  
*The Great Thanksgiving*  
*The Lord's Prayer*  
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*Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repents of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.*

\*Closing Hymn ..... Grace Greater than Our Sin vv. 1, 4 ..... UMH 365

\*Benediction

Postlude ..... Let God Arise and by His Might ..... arr. John Barr  
Edward Pierce, Organ

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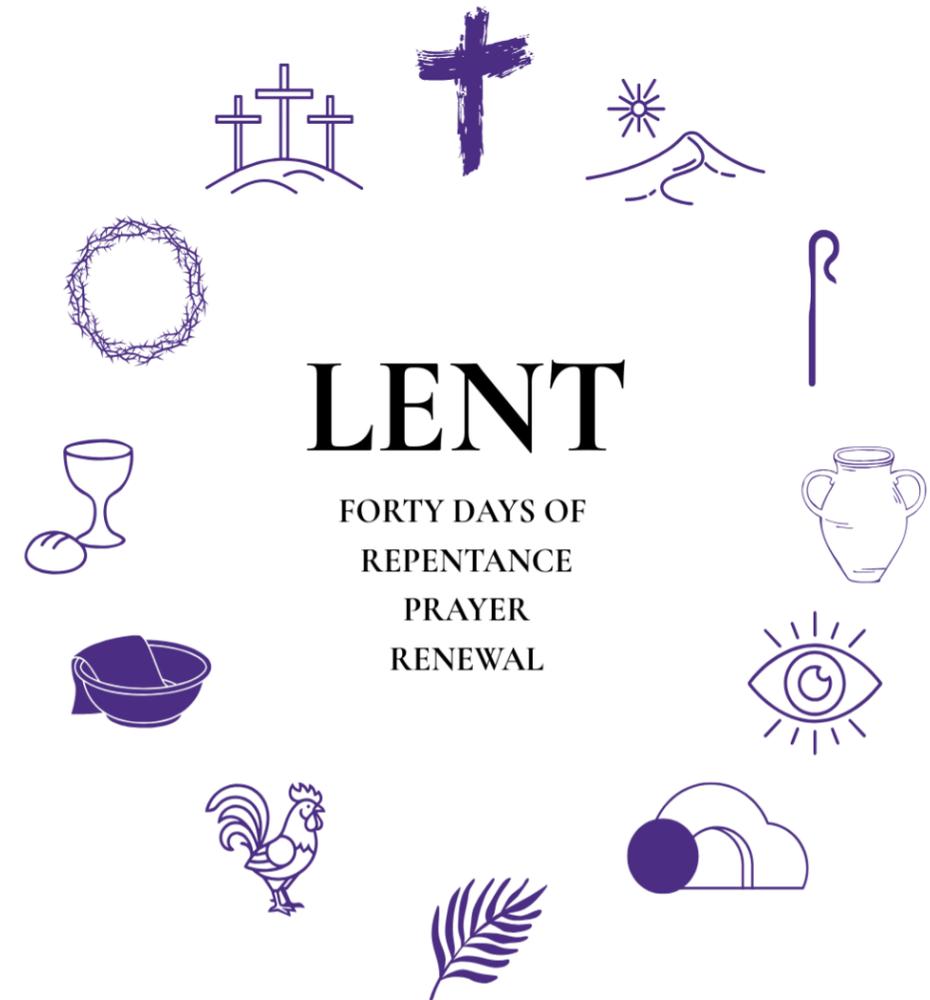


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*Ebenezer*  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inspired | Invited | Involved

# Involved in God's Mission

Participate in God's mission by using your gifts to serve others and make God's love visible in the world.

## ANNUAL CHURCH WORKDAY—SATURDAY, MARCH 21

As we enter spring and prepare for Easter, Spring Recitals, the Pinewood Derby, and many other gatherings, it's time for our annual Church Work Day. This is one of the ways we are involved in God's mission together—caring for our church grounds so Ebenezer remains a welcoming, clean place where community is formed, gifts are realized, and God is experienced.

Join us on **Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 am** as we prepare our campus to welcome guests and celebrate the season. If you have mulching tools, gloves, or other yard equipment, please bring them. Thank you for taking care of our church!

## FAMILY SERVE DAY: BUILDING, PLANTING, & SHARING—MARCH 15

Families are invited to be involved in God's mission on Sunday, March 15, after the 11:00 service for a fun Family Serve Day! Families of all ages will build birdhouses, plant seeds, and create encouragement cards as we share God's love with our community. A light lunch will be provided. We can't wait to serve together!

## SERVING ON EASTER MORNING

Easter morning, April 5, is one of the most joyful and meaningful days of the year as we celebrate that Christ has defeated death! We will welcome so many friends and guests to Ebenezer for worship on Easter, and we are so excited!

With so many people walking through our doors, we'll need extra help with hospitality: greeting guests, helping people find their way, directing families to children's ministry, and assisting with refreshments for our outdoor services. This is a simple but powerful way to be involved in God's mission by helping others feel welcomed and at home at Ebenezer.

If you're interested in serving in this way on Easter, please reach out to Austin. It takes all of us to extend Christ's welcome.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM MEETING—TODAY, 12:00 PM

Parents and volunteers are invited to join us for a children's ministry team meeting this afternoon as we gather to pray, dream, and vision together about the future of our ministry. This is one meaningful way to be involved in God's mission as we serve the next generation and helping create spaces where children are invited into God's community and inspired by God's love. We hope you will join us and share your voice in this important conversation.

## MAGNOLIA AVENUE FOOD MINISTRY

Thank you for being involved in God's mission this month through your involvement in our Magnolia Avenue Food Ministry! Your generosity and prayers are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors as last Monday six volunteers gave out 60 bags of groceries and hygiene supplies in the cold. Thank you! **If you'd like to be involved in God's mission this month, we are collecting canned pasta.** We will go to Magnolia Avenue UMC to distribute grocery bags next on Monday, March 23.

## MINISTRY IMPACT—HELPING HANDS

This February, Helping Hands and UMW partnered to share Christ's love in a tangible way by delivering small vases of roses and handwritten notes of encouragement and prayer to patients at the Tennessee Cancer Specialists office. We received a note that said, **"To those at Ebenezer UMC who took the time to put together flowers for us at the cancer center—THANK YOU! The reminder of prayers and love is so helpful on my cancer journey! I just wanted to say thank you!"**

This is who we are called to be: a church inspired by God's love, extending that love beyond our walls; inviting others into God's community through compassion and care; and being involved in God's mission through simple acts of faithfulness. Your generosity, your prayers, and your willingness to serve are making a real difference. Thank you for being the Church.

## THIS WEEK AT EBENEZER

### SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 am—Celebration Service with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)  
10:00 am—Sunday School (Various Locations)  
11:00 am—Heritage Service with Holy Communion (Sanctuary)  
12:00 pm—Children's Ministry Team Meeting  
2:00 pm—Tennessee Valley District Leadership Training (Bearden UMC)  
5:00 pm—Sunday Night Youth (Annex)

### MONDAY, MARCH 2

10:00 am—Storytime with Mrs. Alicia (Children's Wing)  
6:00 pm—Yoga with Tammy (Lobby)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 am—Women's Coffee (Community Room)  
10:30 am—Staff Meeting  
11:00 am—Qigong With Mona (Lobby)  
5:30 pm—KSYO Chamber Rehearsal (Sanctuary, Various Locations)  
6:30 pm—Cub Scouts (St. Clair Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

9:00 am—Men's Coffee (McDonald's on Northshore)  
10:00 am—Morning Glories (Community Room)  
7:00 pm—AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen Meetings (St. Clair Hall, Various Locations)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:30 am—Men's Breakfast (Community Room)  
9:00 am—Celebration Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
10:00 am—Sunday School (Various Locations)  
11:00 am—Heritage Worship Service (Sanctuary)

## Invited into God's Community

Find your place, build meaningful relationships, and grow together as God's people.

### MORNING GLORIES—THIS THURSDAY, 10:00 AM

Women, you are invited into God's community through Morning Glories, meeting this Thursday, March 5, at 10:00 am in the Community Room. Morning Glories is a women's book study that gathers on the first Thursday of each month for conversation, encouragement, and shared growth in faith. This group offers a welcoming space to build relationships, support one another, and deepen faith through thoughtful discussion. The group is currently reading *Chasing Vines*, and all women are welcome to join, whether this is your first time or you've been attending for years.

If you are looking for a place to belong, be encouraged, and grow alongside others in faith, we invite you to be part of Morning Glories. Questions? Contact Marjorie Barr. We look forward to seeing you Thursday!

### FIBER FELLOWSHIP—NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 9

Fiber Fellowship is off to a wonderful start, and there's still space for you to join us. This welcoming group meets on the second Monday of each month from 10:00 am–12:00 pm in the church library with the next meeting being Monday, March 9.

Together, we're invited into God's community through shared creativity, conversation, and fellowship as we knit or crochet hats, scarves, and gloves for those in need, along with prayer shawls and baby blankets for congregational care. Yarn is provided—just bring your own patterns, hooks, or needles. All skill levels are welcome. Questions? Contact Debbie Norris.

# Inspired by God's Love

Experience God's love that forms your identity, renews your heart, and draws you into life with the Creator.

## LENT 2026: 40 DAY JOURNEY TO EASTER

Lent is a season to refocus on our discipleship and intentionally make space for God as we journey toward Easter. Some people choose to add a spiritual discipline like prayer, Scripture reading, generosity, worship, or Sabbath to help them grow closer to Christ. Others choose to give something up, like coffee, chocolate, or social media, as a daily reminder to turn their attention back to God. As one example, Austin's Bible reading focus this Lent is reading through the Gospel of John: one chapter a day, which will take him through John twice by Easter.

What spiritual practice or focus are you adding this Lent?  
How are you making space for God in this season?

Wherever you begin, start small, stay faithful, and trust that God will use this season to draw you closer.

## SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN MARCH!



Join us for our March series, You're Invited! This series will remind kids that Jesus' invitation is always open, and we're never too far away to join the party! In this 5-week series, kids will learn that they're invited to believe in Jesus, love like Jesus does, experience Jesus' miracles, ask Jesus for help, and worship Jesus. We'll also be practicing songs throughout the month to prepare for our Palm Sunday performance on March 29 during the 11:00 service!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Sunday Night Youth—Tonight, 5:00-7:00 pm

During Lent, our students are getting honest about how hard it is to stay focused on God in a world full of distractions. Through the Psalms and the Gospels, we're practicing disciplines that help us refocus: listening to God's Word, giving something up, praying, and resting. This week, we'll look at what Jesus teaches about prayer and how giving something up isn't about proving we're spiritual, but about creating space for God. When we release distractions, we gain clarity and perspective.

## PALM SUNDAY—SERVICE OF MUSIC

One of our favorite Sundays of the year is Palm Sunday! It's a beautiful morning when our children wave palm branches and lead us in joyful celebration. On March 29, we will be inspired by God's love in worship as it will be a Service of Music. Our Celebration Band and Heritage Choir will lead us in worship, and at the 11:00 service, our children will bless us with their Palm Sunday performance. The Heritage Choir, joined by the Dogwood Strings, will also present their cantata, *Shadows of Sacrifice*, helping us reflect on the depth of Christ's love as we begin Holy Week together.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

We are thrilled to share the incredible progress of our capital campaign! As we "live into our vision," your generosity is already making a significant impact. We are currently **ahead of schedule**, with pledged giving at **17%**, surpassing our 14% target for this stage of the 36-month fiscal campaign.

### CAMPAIGN AT-A-GLANCE (AS OF 2/20/26)

**Total Pledged + Miracle Offering:** \$1.14 Million  
**Total Received (In-Hand):** \$417,000

**Current Building Fund Balance:** \$249,947.12  
**Remaining Mortgage Payoff:** \$538,002.52



As we continue this journey together, we invite you to join us in prayer: *Dear God, show us what to do, help us trust and follow You. Guide our nets both far and near, build Your future with us here. Amen*