

Celebration Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00 am

*Opening Song Who You Say I Am
Welcome and Announcements Rev. Austin Byerly
*Worship Song No Longer Slaves
*Worship Song Fresh Wind
Offering Moment
Pastoral Prayer
Message Gifted for A Purpose Rev. Mike Sluder
1 Corinthians 12:-11
*Closing Song New Thing
*Benediction

*The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Georgia Kitts.
By Perry and Jane Taylor.*

*The white rose on the altar is given in celebration of Baby Williams who was
born Wednesday, April 22.*

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.



Your generosity makes a real difference. Through your giving, we are able to support ministries that nurture faith in our children and youth, care for those in need in our community, create meaningful opportunities for worship and connection, and share the love of Christ both near and far. Thank you for being part of what God is doing!

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

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 | office@eumcknox.org

Heritage Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

11:00 am

Prelude Christians, To the Paschal Victim arr. Thomas Frost
Edward Pierce, Organ
Welcome and Opening Prayer Rev. Austin Byerly
*Opening Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth vv. 1,2,4,6UMH 92
Affirmation of FaithA Statement of United Faith of the United Church of Canada
*HymnWhat Gift Can We Bring Tune : FoundationUMH 87
Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Rev. Austin Byerly
Anthem Be Not Afraid Taylor Davis
Heritage Choir and Elizabeth Kitts, Cello
Offering Moment
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Special Music Come to Me..... arr. Dan Forrest
Marcus Smith, Kevin Young, Sonny Bailey, Carroll Logan, Jamie Wilson
Elizabeth Kitts, Cello
Message Gifted for A Purpose Rev. Mike Sluder
*Hymn Spirit SongUMH 347
*Benediction
Postlude Because You Live, O Christ..... arr. George Lachenauer
Edward Pierce, Organ

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Invited into God's Community

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

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EBENEZER?

Do you want to learn more about Ebenezer? Are you thinking about joining, or wondering how you might get more connected and involved? If so, this is your invitation.



Last Sunday, we began offering a three-week class called **1001 Ebenezer: Introduction to Ebenezer**. Together, we'll explore the story, ministries, and people of this church, while making space to build relationships and discover where you might belong. This is an opportunity to be part of what God is still creating here while helping to shape the future of our community. **We'll meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 am from April 19–May 3**, with a fellowship meal to share along the way. This class is also part of the journey toward Pentecost Sunday, May 24, when we will celebrate the birth of the Church and welcome new members into the life of Ebenezer. We would love for you to be part of that story. Come and see. Come and belong.

If you missed today, or cannot attend every session, you are still welcome to be part of this class.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY—SUNDAY, MAY 24, PENTECOST SUNDAY



On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the birth of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. This year, Pentecost will also be a special opportunity to take a next step in your own faith journey. If you have been thinking about joining Ebenezer, we invite you to become part of this day as we welcome new members into the life of the church. Want to learn more first?

Join our **1001 Ebenezer: Introduction to Ebenezer** class beginning April 19 to explore who we are and how you can be part of what God is doing here. For more information or any questions, reach out to Pastor Mike or Pastor Austin.

SPRING FESTIVAL—SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 4:00-6:00 PM

Our Spring Festival is today, April 26th. We are so excited to celebrate with you. This is one of our favorite community events of the year.

Bring your friends, neighbors, and family for an afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and joy for all ages. There will be something for everyone, including a bounce house, games, crafts, and plenty of space to relax and enjoy time together. This is also a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to extend a warm and genuine welcome to our community. As you come, we invite you to be intentional about hospitality. Take a moment to introduce yourself to someone new, strike up a conversation, and help create an atmosphere where everyone feels seen, known, and valued. Small moments of kindness and connection can make a lasting impact.

CHURCH-WIDE BASEBALL GAME—JUNE 3



Join us for a church-wide baseball game on Wednesday evening, June 3 at 7pm! The cost is \$25, which covers your seat and an All-You-Can-Eat Buffet (children and youth costs will be covered by the church). If you're interested in going, put your name down on the sign-up sheet in the Lobby. We hope you will join us!

MEN'S BREAKFAST—SUNDAY, MAY 3, 7:30 AM

Men, come enjoy a hearty breakfast together next Sunday morning at 7:30 am in the Community Room. You won't want to miss it, this will be a wonderful time of good food and good fellowship with men of Ebenezer!



VOTING CENTER—MAY 5

Our church will be hosting the Knox County Board of Elections on this day.

THIS WEEK AT EBENEZER

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 am—Celebration Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:00 am—Sunday School (Various Locations)
11:00 am—Heritage Worship Service (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm — Spring Festival

MONDAY, APRIL 27

9:30 am — Magnolia Ave. Food Pantry
10:00 am—Storytime with Mrs. Alicia (Nursery)
6:00 pm — Yoga with Tammy (Lobby)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

9:30 am—Women's Coffee (Community Room)
11:00 am—Qigong with Mona (Lobby)
3:00 pm—Farmer's Market (Parking Lot)
5:30 pm—KYSO Ensemble Rehearsals
6:30 pm—Cub Scouts (St. Clair Hall)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

9:00 am—Men's Coffee (McDonald's on Northshore)
10:30 am — Walk and Talk (Church parking lot)
7:00 pm—AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen Meetings (Sanctuary, Various Locations)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

No events scheduled.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

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

NEW STAFF MEMBER!

We are excited to welcome Stacey Gibson to our staff team as our new office manager. Stacey and her husband Jonathan have been married for 31 years and have 2 grown children, Ryan who lives in Kentucky and Caitlyn who is currently living her best life in Colorado. They moved to the Knoxville area 5 years ago and are members of Powell Church.

In addition to her role in administration for the Army Corps of Engineers, Stacey previously served as a church administrator at Powell and her church in Ft. Knox, KY.

You can come say "Hello" and welcome Stacey during church office hours.

2026	March	YTD as of Mar 31
Actual General Fund Income	\$71,224.50	\$155,937.30
Budgeted General Fund Income	\$54,997.08	\$ 164,991.28
General Fund Giving Compared to Budget	\$16,227.42	-\$9,053.98
Actual Building Fund Income	\$16,355.43	\$86,672.58
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$ 14,830.71	\$59,322.84
Building Fund Giving Compared to Monthly Mortgage	\$ 15,24.72	\$27,349.74
Mission Giving (includes Holston Conference Tithe and Tennessee Valley District Apportionment)	\$7,762.78	\$21,572.63

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.

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands is a ministry that helps with handyman projects for those in need. We serve God by serving others! There are always opportunities to serve in a variety of ways. Helping Hands doesn't wait for opportunities, they create them. The biggest need right now is food donations for families under Helping Hands care. If you'd like to help out in this way, drop off pantry staple food items in the bucket in the hallway. To help by serving or to receive help, reach out to Ken Pearson at kenpearson8905@gmail.com or (865) 773-7613.

HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT 2026: LIBERIA FOOD BUCKETS

For decades, Holston churches have made a meaningful impact on children in Liberia and Zimbabwe through Hands-on Mission kits, providing vital support like food, school supplies, and health items. These simple acts of generosity have become lifelines for our mission partners and a powerful expression of our shared ministry.

This year, we continue this special tradition with a renewed focus on assembling food buckets for children in Liberia through our partnership with the Liberia Annual Conference. The Holston Conference's goal is to help fill an entire container with these much-needed supplies.

Buckets are now available for you to take home and fill. Take one with you to the store, gather the requested items, and return it to the church by Sunday, May 3. Thank you for being part of this hands-on way to share God's love across the world.

MAGNOLIA AVENUE FOOD MINISTRY—TOMORROW!

Thank you for being involved in God's mission this month through your donations to our Magnolia Avenue Food Ministry. This month, we are collecting canned fruit. If you'd like to participate, drop off your donation in the bucket in the hallway. Thank you for your involvement in God's mission at Magnolia Avenue through your prayers, donations, generosity, and your time! If you'd like to join them, a group will gather at 9:30 am tomorrow in the Annex to go serve.

Inspired by God's Love

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

GRADUATE SUNDAY—MAY 3

We are excited to celebrate our graduates on Sunday, May 3, during both the 9:00 and 11:00 services! This is a special opportunity for us as a church family to honor not only their accomplishments, but also who they are and how they are growing into who God called them to be. Join us as we recognize and pray over this important milestone.



If you have a graduate, please let Stacey know your graduate's name, where they are graduating from, what's next for them, and 3–4 pictures by Monday, April 27.

Children's Ministry

Throughout April, our children have put on their detective hats and followed the clues! Each week, kids have followed clues in the Bible, starting with the Easter story and discovered how it connects to other moments in Jesus' life and ministry. Along the way, they've uncovered that the Bible isn't just filled with clues about who Jesus is—it's the complete story of God's love for us.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026: SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

Join us for Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS from June 15-18, 6:00-8:00 pm. It'll be four fun-filled evenings of games, music, crafts, and Bible stories as kids (ages 4–5th grade) discover that "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Scan the QR code to register today!

