



# THE EAGLE



July 2014



Ebenezer United Church  
of Christ  
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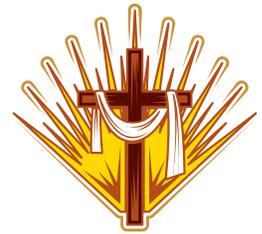
Ebenezer Ucc Chilton



## Mission Statement of this Church

Ebenezer United Church of Christ is a vibrant faith community that strives to...

- ◇ Serve the spiritual needs of our neighbors.
- ◇ Transform by walking in Jesus' footsteps.
- ◇ Openly reach out for opportunities to share God's word at home and abroad.
- ◇ Nurture our relationships with God and each other.
- ◇ Empower and embrace faith, hope, and love in God!

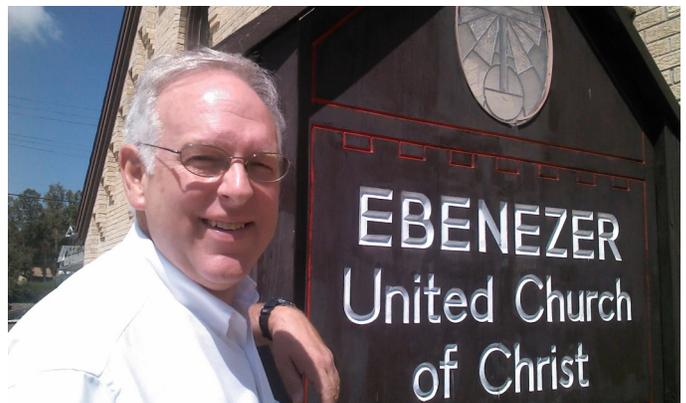


## PASTOR'S CORNER

Grace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who came into the world to give us life and give it abundantly, who brought the Kingdom of God close to each of us, and who chose the cross to complete his earthly mission. Peace to all who worship at Ebenezer and all who are touched by our ministry.

Thank you. Thank you for welcoming me into your fellowship and as your pastoral leader eleven months ago. Your warm welcome has brightened my heart and allowed me to feel at home with you. Your prayerful support for me and my family during a stress filled year has been a source of comfort and strength for Sue and I. Just a few weeks from now we will have shared our pains and joys for a full year. The past year has been a time of introduction and building trust. I see the second year as a time of mutual ministry.

The primary focus during the summer of 2014 will be completing the church's profile, *Cont. on pg. 2*



Cont. from pg. 1



the first step in your search for a settled minister. The profile is close to being complete, we are temporarily stuck as we search for long ago financial figures for past ministers. Once we have found those, the Search Committee will submit the profile for final approval. When that approval is given, it will be published on the UCC website for all UCC clergy to see.

A second focus this summer will be crafting a new constitution and bylaws for the church. We have been operating without a constitution for a number of months. A group of people is being gathered to write a document that fits this church today and will be flexible enough to help us move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



A third focus is continued growth and stability in financial giving. Since the beginning of last autumn the offerings have generally increased. We need to work on sustaining that trend throughout the year and especially during the summer so we will have a solid foundation to draw upon for funding new ministries.



Finally, we will explore how Ebenezer can best be a presence of the Holy Spirit in the community. What talents do we possess that can be used to bring peace, justice, and love to Chilton? This will be the biggest question and task moving into 2015.

May the peace of God be with each of you as we move into an exciting and unknown future.



Peace and grace,  
*Pastor Mike*

# Offerings During Summer



As I mentioned in the *Pastor's Thoughts* article, the offerings have been trending upward. This is very good because it is one measure of the health of a church, but more important than that is increased offerings form the solid foundation for the church to extend new ministries to the community. One or two good offerings does not provide a firm foundation for new ministries.

Consistent offerings which exceed our basic needs for salaries, utilities, and in-house ministries is the key to ministries beyond our walls. This kind of giving is a disciplined spiritual practice. Disciplined in that we do it every Sunday of every week of every month of every year. Whether we are in church or visiting family the offering envelope finds its way to the church each Sunday. This practice is hardest during the summer.

Summer has countless activities which pull us away from regular church attendance. Since we attach our offering with Sunday morning church attendance we frequently forget the offering when summer comes around. We need to expand our offering time from something we do on Sunday morning to a spiritual practice.

A spiritual practice is something that is done on a regular basis, usually daily and is done no matter where you are that day. A spiritual practice helps build a solid faith and provides us a way of expressing that faith as a daily commitment. Two familiar examples of spiritual practices are prayer and Bible reading. These can be done anywhere you happen to be and nearly at any time. Our relationship to giving needs to become the same; the offering is given to the church every week regardless of church attendance. When viewed as a spiritual discipline the offering becomes a way to grow in the expression of your faith.

Please move your understanding of the offering from something we do on Sunday morning to its rightful place as a spiritual discipline. This will deepen your understanding of the offering and it will provide a solid foundation for further growth for Ebenezer's ministries.

Peace and Grace, *Pastor Mike*

## Sunday School's "M&Ms" Stand for Many Meals

What began late last summer as our idea for a mission project for the year turned out to be a far greater success than any of us could have foreseen. Thanks to our Sunday School students and many of you from our congregation we were able to collect \$1,951.35 which will be forwarded to *Feed My Starving Children*, an international organization that is able to feed a child for just 22 cents per meal. That means we collected enough quarters for 8,869 meals which will feed 8 kids for an entire year. Sheila, from the *Feed My Starving Children* organization, told me that they partner with 50 countries but that the most need is in Haiti, the Philippines and Nicaragua. I thank you all for participating in our project and I hope you all feel the same pride and

gratification that I do in knowing what our small congregation is able to accomplish when we work together.



~Shirley Lisowe



# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

JULY 9 4:00-7:00 PM

Hot tamales  
grilled chicken sandwiches  
German potato salad



Goleslaw beans fruit salad  
homemade pies ice cream  
beverages



**GARRY OUTS AVAILABLE!**

*Come early and enjoy the festivities and food. Stay late and enjoy the conversation and the food.*

*(This just in: Pastor Mike will be there with his daughter Laura from South Korea and his wife Pastor Susan! They will be attending near the beginning of the fun.)*



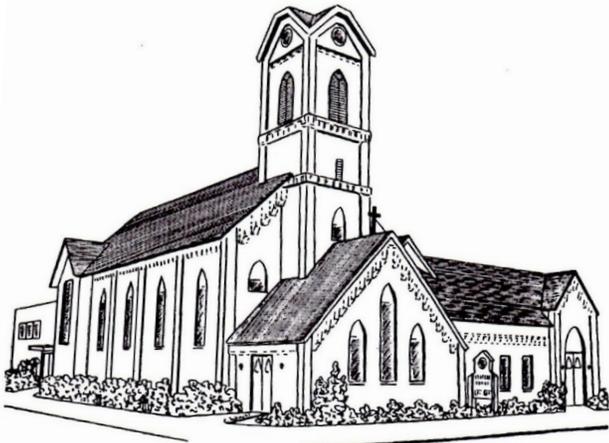
THANKS TO THE PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF AARON LISOWE AND THE DRIVE AND DETERMINATION OF RUTH AEBISCHER, EBENEZER NOW HAS A BRAND NEW WEBSITE.



WHILE IT IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL AT THIS TIME, IT WILL NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY UPDATED IN ORDER TO STAY CURRENT. I'M LEARNING TO DO THIS AS I GO, BUT IT'S SOMETIMES SLOW GOING. (OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS—YOU UNDERSTAND) CHECK IT OUT. THE SITE NAME IS [WWW.EBENEZERCHILTON.ORG](http://WWW.EBENEZERCHILTON.ORG) . IF YOU SEE THINGS THAT NEED CORRECTING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THINGS INCLUDED THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY ON THE SITE, LET ME KNOW AS WELL. ~ Shirley



*Come and be our friend on Facebook. Just search for "Ebenezer UCC".*



# Newsletter Articles

Please get your articles to Heather by the 3rd Tuesday of the month so she can get the Eagle published before the start of the next month. That means the deadline for the August 2014 Eagle is Tuesday, July 15. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

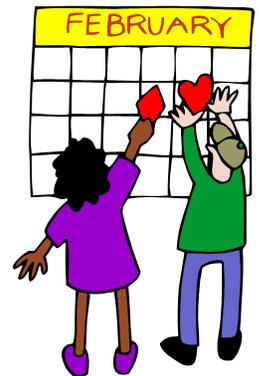
*Let's let everyone know what is happening at Chilton's best church!*

## WALL CALENDAR

Over the course of the past several months people have asked about meeting dates or church availability. Instead of memorizing dates and times we re-introduce Heather's wall calendar.

Yes, the wall calendar has finally arrived and is hanging in the church office behind the door. If you have a meeting, even if it is a recurring meeting, please jot down the date and time for your meeting. This will help ensure meetings make it into the Eagle and the weekly bulletins.

Remember, we'd rather hear about a meeting or event 50 times than for 50 people to assume someone else has told us about the event.



## USHERS

**July 6** Church Council

**July 13** John & Jane Schroeder, Glen & Rita Pingel

**July 20** Ken & Shirley Lisowe, Kelly Brown Family

**July 27** Dean & Ellie Papendieck, Steve & Chris Stenz



# July Birthdays

		Owen Brown	17
		Vern Gasch	18
		Don Pagel	18
Charlaine Parsons	01	Kyle Pingel	26
Aaron Lisowe	04	Judith Mattes	27
Rick Mattes	07		
Jordan Kress	07		
Beatrice Pingel	09		
Nicholas Keuler	10		
Tyler See	10		

If you have a July birthday, and it was missed, please let the office know so we can get it right next time.



We have had great participation with our SCRIP program so far this year. Since January 1, we have earned over \$670 for the church. We have been able to do that with less than 15 families participating. Just think of the possibilities if we all would use scrip for our groceries, gas, gifts and dining out. Stop by the office or check out [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) to see how you can help support our church. Once you get started, you will see how easy it really is.



## **Offering Envelopes**

You may have noticed a small change to your newest set of offering envelopes. When you receive your new packet of offering envelopes you will notice the red sticker that says you are almost out of envelopes has been moved to the week before you use your final envelope. This small change will allow Heather to get your new packet out to the table before you use your last envelope.

This change helps in a couple of ways. First, the office will have two weeks to get the new envelopes to you. Second, you will always have an envelope at the ready for your offering, no more arriving at church and hoping you have new envelopes for that Sunday.

Thanks for the suggestions that have helped us make improvements to an already good system!



## ***NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER...***

**We're still looking for special  
worship music to enhance summer  
worship.**

**Please make your musical 'offerings' known to Pastor  
Mike, Heather or Elaine.**

**Vocal and/or instrumental are welcome!**

**An invitation has been extended to anyone interested in  
singing with a community choir for the August 2  
dedication of the new Veteran's Memorial.**

**Please contact Elaine for further details.**



# Sunday School Teachers

So often it seems the only way we can help the church is through our offerings. Offerings get a lot of attention, as you have noticed elsewhere in the Eagle, yet there are other ways of helping the mission of the church.

As September approaches we are in need of two Sunday School teachers for the coming year. The requirements for these positions are:

- Member of Ebenezer
- Available the majority of Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:15 (September through May)
- Willing to fall in love and be loved by several adorable children

Almost all of you who read this article will respond with, “Not me. I can’t do that” or, “I don’t know the Bible well enough, what if they ask a question I don’t know the answer to?” *Banish those thoughts!!!*



The best lesson from Sunday School is that the whole church loves these children. They will ask questions that will amuse you, give insight into their world, and will cause you to think. As long as they know that they are loved by the church and by Jesus, all will be well.

Share your love for God, your love for the kids, and your life of experiences and become a Sunday School teacher.  
Peace, *Pastor Mike*

### THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH

Loving, living, and serving faithfully – uniting God and our neighbors.

<b>Eva</b>	<b>Rod</b>	<b>Joyce</b>	<b>Jane</b>
<b>Louise</b>	<b>Dennis</b>	<b>Barb</b>	
<b>Charlaine</b>	<b>Sarah</b>		
<b>Sharon</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>Betty</b>	
<b>Sheri</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Steve</b>	



Due to privacy laws, we can no longer list last names of members of our congregation on the prayer list above because our Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet. Thank you.

### Scrip

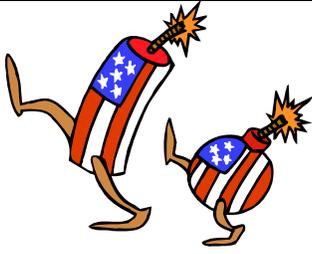


Please keep in mind to buy scrip if you plan on making a shopping trip, gassing the car, or having dinner out!! It helps our church meet our goals!



United Community

We have partnered with United Community to help raise funds needed to help our church. We are using the funds towards our OCWM contributions and the General Fund. Many of you have been using your United Community Card at the partnered businesses and we thank you for doing that. If you do not have a United Community card and would like more information on how to obtain one, please contact the church office at 849-4331.



# July



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Church office open 9-5	2 Church office open 9-5	3	4 Independence Day 	5
6 9:30 am Worship 	7	8 Church office open 9-5	9 Church office open 9-5	10 8:30 am Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels 	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship  Council Meeting	14	15 Church office open 9-5 Eagle Articles Due 	16 Church office open 9-5	17 1:00 pm Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship 	21	22 Church office open 9-5	23 Church office open 9-5	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship 	28	29 Church office open 9-5	30 Church office open 9-5	31		