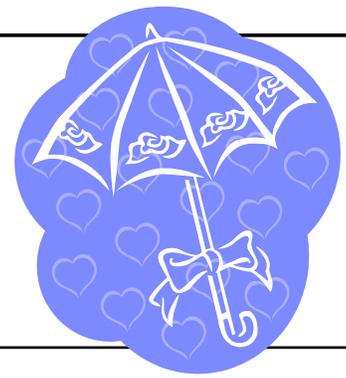


# The Eagle



Ebenezer United Church  
of Christ  
44 W. Washington Street  
Chilton WI 53014  
(920) 849-4331

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[www.ebenezerchilton.org/](http://www.ebenezerchilton.org/)

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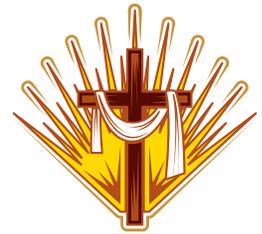


April 2014

## 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!

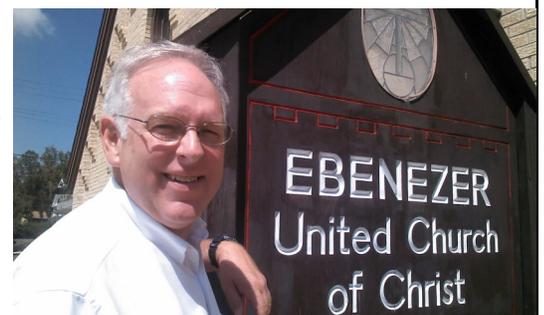


## PASTOR'S CORNER

**"If everyone gave 10% more than last year you would be able to hire a full time minister."**

That statement from last month's Eagle has sparked lots of conversation among church members. Sometimes that happens when the accepted worldview is challenged. The accepted worldview was that Ebenezer is a church in decline and that the spiral of decline could not be changed. The road ahead of Ebenezer is too winding, with too many valleys and mountains. There had been too much loss over a short amount of time.

The people of Ebenezer were tired when they decided that a part time minister was all they could hope for. It had been a long and trying several years as they said goodbye to one minister and then hired an interim. Stability breeds hope and instability breeds uncertainty and uncertainty leads to the death of dreams. At some point along the path of uncertainty dreams first became quiet and then eventually died. *Cont. on pg. 2*



Cont. from pg. 1

*“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;”*  
(Luke 3:5)

John the Baptizer said these words as he was baptizing people in the Jordan, preparing for the day when the Lord would appear. He didn't know the particulars of how or when but he wanted to be ready when the Lord did appear. He kept ready, he kept hope alive. Then one day the Lord Jesus appeared before him and he was ready. We must do all that we can to be ready to welcome the gifts of God into our midst. There are many ways for a church to prepare for welcoming God's gifts, one of the ways is to have a strong giving program. Giving 10% more than last year is one of the steps to a solid financial foundation. (In later months we'll talk about some of the other ways to be prepared.)

“10% more, Pastor Mike how can I do this?” Does one run 5 miles without training? Giving 10% more is something we do with the proper training. You run 5 miles by first walking a half mile. You give 1% before 10%. Do you give \$5.00 per week? During April give \$5.05 per week. Do you give \$50.00 per week? Give \$50.50 during April. When May arrives boost your giving another 1%. We cannot fill in those valleys or make the paths straight over night, filling valleys, straightening roads, and giving 10% more than last year is a project that takes time.

Here's what it looks like to increase your giving in April:

\$ Last Year (per week)	+ 1%	\$ April (per week)
10.00	0.10	10.10
15.00	0.15	15.15
25.00	0.25	25.25
50.00	0.50	50.50
100.00	1.00	101.00
150.00	1.50	151.50

We have already started making the path straight and filling in those valleys: we are averaging 20 more people in worship this year than last year. We have doubled the size of Sunday School. The kids that come forward for Children's time are excited and beg for the chance to take Pastor Mike's bag. Committees are returning to the scene as people want to work in and for the church! Confirmation class meets every Wednesday night. Yes, the Holy Spirit is rich in its presence here at Ebenezer.

Peace and Grace, *Pastor Mike*

## Council Meeting- March 16, 2014

Meeting called to order at 10:45. Members present: Karen Cmejla, Don Waldvogel, Andrea Cmejla, Steve Stenz, Stephanie Adamietz, Tiffany Knoespel, and Pastor Mike. Members not present: Janene VanHoorn. Karen made a motion to approve the February minutes as well as the agenda for today. Tiffany seconded. Motion carried.

### Finances Report

Our February revenue is \$9,994.

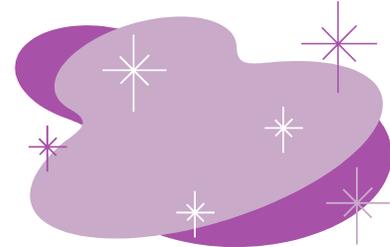
Our February expenditures are \$12,921.

Our general fund balanced as of February 28, 2014 is \$20,375.

Our current balance is \$66,807.

Tiffany made a motion to accept the financial reports. Andrea seconded. Motion carried.

Karen made a motion of approval the bills list. Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.



### Pastoral Reports

Pastor Mike shared with us a written synopsis of what he has done from mid-February through mid-March, including funerals, visitations, counseling, and Sunday School/confirmation. Confirmation is looking like it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May.

### Committee Reports

**Christian Ed/Music**- No new news.

**Evangelism**- Don stated that our church may be featured in one or two newspapers within the next month or two.

**Mission**- Flyers for the rummage sale will be going up this week. It will take place April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup>. A bake sale is also possibly going to happen during the rummage sale. More information for this will be talked about within the next week or two by the Mission Committee and Women's Guild. Spaghetti supper is also in the works to take place in the fall sometime. Bell Choir may be helping with this as well.

Stephanie brought up that the Missions Committee was looking for other things to contribute to besides OCWM (see New Business).

**Women's Guild**- Possibly contributing baked goods for the rummage sale to help fund raise.

*Cont. on pg. 4*

Cont. from pg. 3

**Men's Breakfast**- No new news.

**Property**- Ken came and gave us an update on the house. Everything is going well. More "up-to-date" pictures will be coming within the next week or two.

**Old Business:**

Search committee is meeting later this week to finalize the profile, which will then get sent to the association. This will start the process on getting a settled minister.

The records closet is updated, cleaned, and organized with the new shelving. Looks great!

Thanks to those who helped!

Items that are on the church wish list were discussed.

**New Business**

Constitution and bylaws will be worked on by the committee to hopefully be completed before the interview process of the settled minister.

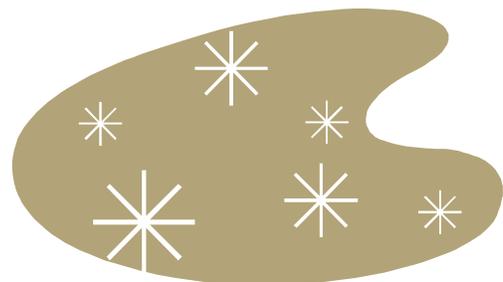
Starting up the Stewardship Committee was discussed, and we are exploring our options.

We received a letter from the American Legion Post 125 asking for a \$20 donation for flag placement for the year. Tiffany made a motion to approve the \$20 donation to the American Legion Post 125. Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

There was discussion about starting up a youth group again. Tiffany, Stephanie, and Andrea will be getting together to talk about what we can do and how to get this going again within our church and our community. Council then brought up asking the mission committee to possibly help fund mission trips for the youth to be a part of within Wisconsin and elsewhere. New information about this will be discussed next council meeting.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, March 27th, following the church service. Stephanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:56.

Council Secretary,  
*Andrea Cmejla*



# Communication!?

As the church grows and becomes more active we rejoice and look excitedly toward the bright future which God holds for us. Also, as the church grows we discover that the old ways of doing some things don't work in the new times. One of those things that doesn't work well anymore is the way we communicate, the way we share dates and information. Try as I might, I can't remember all I'm told.

We move from the old ways of telling me "not to forget," or "please remember," or even, "we've always done it this way." I have enough going on with the church, my position as "Chair of Placement and Transition", membership on the "Commission on Church and Ministry" and re-writing the Member in Discernment program that it is increasingly difficult to keep straight all of the different dates/deadlines/announcements. So, rather than becoming frustrated with each other let's change the way we do a couple of things.

- ⇒ If you send me an e-mail about a church function, please also send it to Heather...this doubles the chance we'll accomplish the task!
- ⇒ If you tell me something Sunday morning, please give me a note.
- ⇒ On Heather's desk we are placing a notepad. If you have something for her or me, jot it down on the pad *with your name*.
- ⇒ I'll try doubly hard to write down notes to help me keep it all straight.

Oh, I will always welcome a reminder about an upcoming date, event, or commitment!

Thanks for understanding and helping the church grow smoothly into a bright new future.

Peace and grace, *Pastor Mike*

## Holy Week Services

As I write this we are at the midpoint of Lent. Lent is rapidly drawing to a close. The subdued atmosphere of Lent will give way to the agony of Good Friday and then the celebration of Easter. I encourage everyone to participate in the full experience of Holy Week by attending all of the services and experiencing the all the emotions, sights and sounds of this transforming week.

April 13: *Palm Sunday*

at Ebenezer 9:30 am

April 17: *Maundy Thursday*

at Ebenezer 7:00 pm

April 18: *Good Friday*

at Bejhel UCC 7:00 pm

April 20: *Easter*

at Ebenezer 9:30 am

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

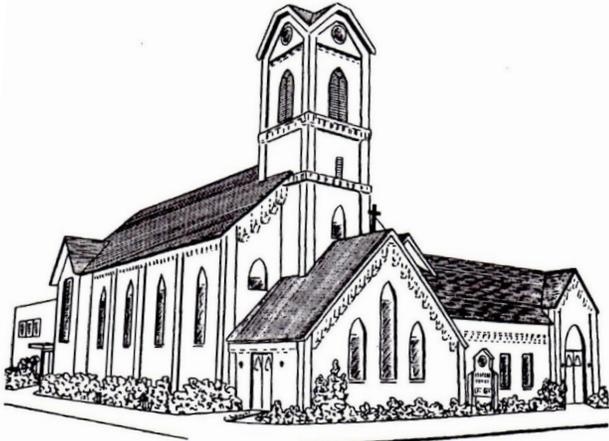
[WWW.EBENEZERCHILTON.ORG](http://WWW.EBENEZERCHILTON.ORG) . IF YOU SEE THINGS THAT

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



THE DONATIONS TO THE FUND FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT TO FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN CONTINUE TO GROW AND WE ARE DELIGHTED BY THE RESPONSE AND THE ENTHUSIASM WE HAVE SEEN. IT'S HARD TO TURN ON THE EVENING NEWS THESE DAYS AND NOT HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE IN NEED BECAUSE OF STORMS OR EARTHQUAKES OR MANMADE DISASTERS CAUSING PEOPLE TO LOSE THEIR HOMES AND FLEE THEIR COUNTRIES. THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF ALL OF YOU WE WILL BE PROVIDING MEALS, NOT FOR HUNDREDS, BUT FOR THOUSANDS OF HUNGRY CHILDREN. KEEP ENJOYING YOUR M&M'S AND RETURNING YOUR QUARTERS AND FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE WORK OUR SMALL CONGREGATION IN OUR SMALL TOWN HAS DONE. AND DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HOW BLESSED WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO BE ON THE GIVING END, NOT THE RECEIVING END, OF THIS MINISTRY.





# 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 May 2014 Eagle is Tuesday, April 15. Weekly bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday morning.

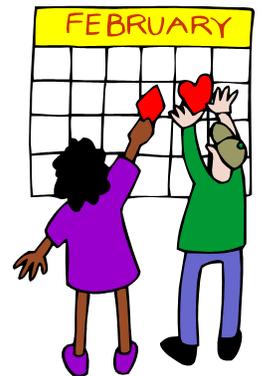
*Let's let everyone know what is happening at Chilton's best church!*

## 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

**APRIL 6 : CHURCH COUNCIL**

**APRIL 13 (PALM SUNDAY) :**

**JOE & JUDY MASTERCOLA,**

**NICOLE MOORE, SUE VERRIER**

**APRIL 20 (EASTER): CHURCH COUNCIL**

**APRIL 27: JOHN & JANE SCHROEDER,**

**GLEN & RITA PINGEL**



## April Birthdays

Dexter Sattler	01
Mary Sayeski	04
Zach DeWitt	06
Rosemary Daun	10
Kari Meyers	14
Francis Popp	14

Gail Dederling	17
Richard Werblow	23
Barb DeWitt	25

*If you have a April 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. *To encourage you to try using scrip, each time you buy scrip between now and Easter you will be entered to win a \$50 scrip gift certificate of your choice.*

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



Most of the music throughout March has set the ‘tone’ for Lent leading to Palm Sunday, April 13 and continue into Holy Week. Sunday School students will alert us to “Look Who’s Coming” on Palm Sunday with enforcement from a trumpet and adult vocalists. They will also usher in the worship service with palms and singing “Hosanna”. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship music is yet to be determined.

The joy of Easter will be clearly expressed with a bell processional accompanied with trumpet and then a dynamic “Victory” played by Ebenezer Brass. The Sunday following Easter will continue with “Joyful” ringing. Let the music, both vocal & instrumental, be an integral part of your worship experience!



*We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the families and friends of Herman Pagel, Mildred Jensen and Harvey and Shirley Heller for their generous gifts of remembrance to Ebenezer's Memorial and Bequests/Gifts accounts totaling \$6,945. They were faithful and loyal members of our church family and their legacies will continue.*



**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!

**THE PURPOSE STATEMENT OF THIS CHURCH**

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



Eva Frank Tod  
 Joyce Louis  
 Dennis Charlaïne  
 Barb Phyllis

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!



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.

# Mission Rummage Sale Reminder



It is that time of year again when we start thinking about spring cleaning! Please think of the church when you are cleaning those cupboards and closets. We need your items. Bring them to church or call one of us if you need assistance. Thanks!

Nan 920-418-0149 or Jeanne 920-203-4137.  
NO TVs OR COMPUTERS, PLEASE.

**The rummage sale is:**

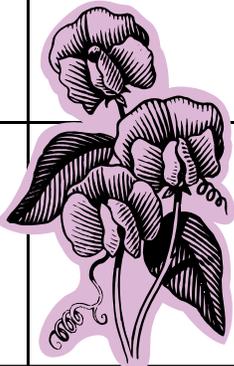
**April 10th (5-8 PM),**

**April 11th (12-5 PM)**

**April 12th (8-10 AM \$3/bag)**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1 April</b> Fools Day 	<b>2</b> Conf Class 3:45-5:15	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Church office open 9-5	<b>9</b> Church office open 9-5  Conf Class 3:45-5:15	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Men's Brkfst @ 7 Angels Rummage Sale 5-8PM 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 	<b>11</b> Rummage Sale 12-5PM	<b>12</b> Rummage Sale 8-10AM (\$3/bag)
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship  	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Church office open 9-5  Eagle Articles Due 	<b>16</b> Church office open 9-5  Conf Class 3:45-5:15	<b>17</b> 1:00 pm Women's Guild @ 7 Angels Maundy Thursday 7PM worship 	<b>18</b> Good Friday 7PM worship @ Bethel UCC (Ada) 	<b>19</b> Holy Saturday
<b>20</b> EASTER 7:30-9 Breakfast 9:30 am Worship  	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Church office open 9-5	<b>23</b> Church office open 9-5  Conf Class 3:45-5:15	<b>24</b> 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> NEA Annual Mtg in Black Creek, WI 
<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Worship Council Mtg. & Ev. Comm Mtg 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Church office open 9-5	<b>30</b> Church office open 9-5 Conf Class 3:45-5:15			