



FEBRUARY 2026

Pastor's Corner

I read this recently and really fell in love with it. It reveals some hard truths.

If you're looking for Christians to mess up – they will
If you're looking for a pastor to say something wrong – they will
If you're looking for 'that person' that goes to church to look like a hypocrite – they will
If you're looking for dirt to dig up on something or someone – you'll find it



The shortcomings of Christians are not proof that God is a sham, but rather proof that God is infinitely powerful, patient, forgiving, accepting, and loving.

I was reminded of the story of Jesus who called those first Disciples, (those fishermen who were just minding their own business and doing their jobs). Jesus didn't wait for perfect people, perfect circumstances, or perfect anything. Jesus merely said, "Come and follow me". He didn't give them a theological lecture. He didn't ask for a résumé. He didn't send them to the human resources department, asking for references. Jesus simply said: "Follow me." It's just that simple. And guess what? Amazingly enough, they do decide to follow. Not in two weeks, not the next day, but immediately. Why? Because the call of Jesus carries authority, tenderness, and purpose. Because deep down, every human heart longs for a life that matters. And at the same time, Jesus didn't just call them away from something, Jesus called them toward something new, exciting, and really unknown. Those first Disciples put down their nets and followed Jesus.

How about us? Are we able to put down our 'nets' and begin following Jesus right now? I would venture to say that almost 99.9% of people in today's world would laugh at me and say, "Right?! You want me to do what? When? Ha! That's the best joke I've heard all day." The problem is, God's not laughing. The Holy is not kidding when the Divine decides to call us into a more meaningful and deeper Divine commitment.

When we do believe that we are feeling God's 'call', we may get scared, maybe even panic a bit. We may feel the urge to begin bargaining with God. "God, certainly there are more qualified people. People that have more time available. People that have... (more of this or that...). God wouldn't call us, if God didn't have faith in us. When I look at myself and my spiritual journey, I see a person who has messed up too many times to count. Yet, God uses my imperfections to share the Good News with others.

I am reminded of what John wrote in the Book of Revelations in chapter three, as he heard the voice of God speaking to him, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." If we say we cannot hear the sound of God knocking, perhaps there's too much noise in our lives. I pray that God's knocking sounds louder than the noise of humankind. I pray that each of us will hear the voice of God calling us to put down our 'nets' and follow God.

May the wisdom of the Holy, lead us and guide us.

Remember that God loves each of us – and we are called to go out and do likewise.

+ Dave

Sunday School Corner

We are continuing the second half of our 2025-2026 Sunday School year. We held Children's Worship on January 4th. Mackenzie Brown was our student reader for the month of January. She was able to do a joint reading with one of our Confirmation students, Jordan Propson. It has been wonderful to see each of the students step into reading and ushering roles this year. I'm excited to continue this going forward.

We continue to collect money for the Matt Kolbe Foundation and have raised \$104.04 so far. We will continue collecting money for this great organization in our community until the end of Sunday School in May.



We will begin rehearsing for our Easter program in March. Our first Easter program last year was a great success and I'm very excited to have this be part of our Sunday School program again this year!

I also want to let you know that if you still want to sign your children up for Sunday School, you can do so at any time. We have classes for 4-year-olds to 7th grade. Please reach out to me at melissa.moehn@yahoo.com if you would like more information or would like to have your children enrolled in Sunday School.

Thank you for your support and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Melissa Kuhn



Mission Committee News



The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the recent Hygiene Drive for our local Salvation Army. We collected 135#s of personal care items and paper products including : 42 rolls of toilet paper, 12 bottles of body wash, 24 bottles of shampoo, 12 deodorant, 20 tubes of toothpaste, 12 toothbrushes, 28 bars of soap, 2 bottles of detergent, lotion, Qtips, chapstick, mouthwash, shaving cream and many more items!!! The staff at the pantry said new people come in every month, struggling to take care of basic needs for their families and our donation will help with that need. We can't begin to tell you how appreciative the volunteers were, and I am sure the clients will be too.

Blessings to you all,
The Mission Committee



2 Penni Gleason
12 Mason Pagel
12 Bobby Van Beek
15 Kaleb Plate
15 Darren Sattler
21 Andy Hofmeister
21 JoAnn Lakin
21 Jase Porsche
28 Carson Pierquet

Prayers

Alex ~ Cassie ~ Colleen ~ Da' Monique ~ David ~ Diana ~ Elizabeth
~ Gail ~ Jim ~ Joan ~ Julie ~ Katy ~ Pat ~ Rachel ~ Raelynn ~ Rod ~
Sandi ~ Sandra ~ Sherry ~ Stevie ~ Tony

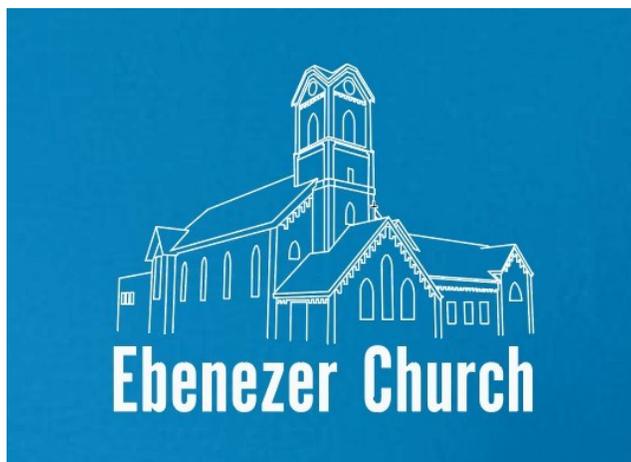
Apparel Available Until February 15th

Ebenezer now has apparel for our members to purchase, so we can represent Ebenezer Church when we're out in the community, especially when we are volunteering or serving others.

T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts are available at the online store [here](#).

A paper version of the order form is available in the narthex.

The store will close on February 15, so be sure to get in your orders by then. New Hope Center's Made by M.E. T-Shirts will be printing the apparel.





February 1: Council, Sunday School

February 8: Ken, Shirley

February 15: Don, Kelly

February 22: Mike, Andy

February 1: Jordan, Sterling

February 8: Stephanie

February 15: Mark

February 22: Karen

2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Annual Meeting for Ebenezer

9:15 Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order

There was a proposal to move discussions on the budget to the beginning of New Business

Zach Platner made a motion to move the agenda item. Vern Gasch seconded the motion, and it carried.

Kari Meyers made a motion to approve the agenda for the annual meeting. Karen Cmejla seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to approve the 2025 minutes. Kari Meyers seconded the motion, and the 2025 minutes were approved.

Under Old Business

- We discussed the repairs to the roof, the bell tower, and the stained glass windows
- We discussed the need to fill committees

Brian Adamietz gave the 2025 Financial Report

Dean Papendieck made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Glep Pingel seconded the motion, and the 2025 Financial Report was approved.

We had discussion on the 2026 proposed budget.

- There was discussion about the amount budgeted for health insurance for a pastor.
- It was explained that this is a plan for a worst-case scenario financially
- There was discussion on scenarios for a full-time pastor vs. having one at 50%
- Don Pingel asked for no increase to his stipend for maintenance

Amy Kuhn made a motion to approve the 2026 budget. Kari Meyers seconded the motion, and the budget was approved.

Zach Platner and Kari Meyers were approved as tellers for nominations for new council members.

Aubrey Plate, Lexi Pagel, and Shirley Lisowe stepped forward to be on the council.

Brian Adamietz made a motion to accept the new council members. Kelly Brown seconded the motion, and we approved Aubrey, Lexi, and Shirley as the new council members.

There was more discussion under "New Business"

- There was a discussion about the lead pipe
- An estimate we have is \$6290

- There was discussion about a new digital sign for the church
- There was discussion about how the search for a settled pastor is going and what available options there would be
- There was discussion about the cottage meetings and how we are trying to gauge where the congregation is at on certain items.

Ann Gasch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristi Schnell seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Election of Officers

Sunday, January 18, 2026

A meeting to elect new council officers was held after the annual meeting

Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to nominate Nick Kuhn as Council President. Brian Adamietz seconded the motion.

After there were no more nominations, Shirley Lisowe made a motion to close nominations. Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and nominations were closed. Shirley made a motion to accept Nick Kuhn as president, Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and Nick was approved as president.

Nick Kuhn made a motion to nominate Shirley Lisowe as Vice President. Andy Hofmeister seconded the motion.

After there were no more nominations, Glen Pingel made a motion to close nominations. Brian Adamietz seconded the motion, and nominations were closed. Glen made a motion to accept Shirley Lisowe as vice president, Brian Adamietz seconded the motion, and Shirley was approved as vice president.

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to approve Brian Adamietz as Treasurer. Glen Pingel seconded the motion.

After there were no more nominations, Shirley Lisowe made a motion to close nominations. Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and nominations were closed. Andy

Hofmeister made a motion to accept Brian Adamietz as treasurer, Shirley Lisowe seconded the motion, and Brian was approved as treasurer.

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to nominate Andy Hofmeister as Secretary. Glen Pingel seconded the motion.

After there were no more nominations, Brian Adamietz made a motion to close nominations. Shirley Lisowe seconded the motion, and nominations were closed. Brian Adamietz made a motion to accept Andy Hofmeister as secretary, Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and Andy was approved as secretary.

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brian Adamietz seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM

January Council Meeting Minutes

7:30 Nick Kuhn called the meeting to order

In attendance: Nick Kuhn, Brian Adamietz, Shirley Lisowe, Aubrey Plate, Andy Hofmeister, Lexi Pagel, Glen Pingel, Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave led us in prayer

Glen Pingel made a motion to approve the agenda. Brian Adamietz seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved.

Pastor Dave gave the following Pastor Report:

We are now past the Advent/Christmas celebrations. Christmas attendance and participation appeared higher than I remember. It was positive to hear the Bel choir involved again. Than Annual Meeting also appeared to proceed smoothly. I observed good questions being asked. Nick, good job leading the meeting.

What's on deck? (Yes, I'm thinking baseball already).

Sunday, February 1, Youth/Family/Contemporary Sunday

Sunday, February 15, My installation as Settled Pastor at St. John, 3:00 pm

Wednesday, February 18, Ash Wednesday, 10:00 am at St. John, 7:30 pm at Ebenezer

Recommendation for Mission and/or Outreach committee: Perhaps it's again time to plan some sort of Community Outreach (Food Drive, Hygiene Drive, Help a Neighbor Day...) as a Lenten tribute. Events like this provide positive community recognition and needed assistance to the community.

Personal Reflection: The added work in establishing weekly music is taking up some valuable ministry time. What is the plan for recruiting a new organist/keyboardist? If we intend to continue using canned music, then we really need someone (or a rotation of someones) to, at a minimum, assist me on Sunday mornings in set-up and volume monitoring. In a more ideal world, it would be helpful to have someone who has Powerpoint experience and can set up the file, in addition to playing them on Sunday morning. An... we should also be thinking seriously about creating a sound/video/technology booth in the rear of the church.

FYI – I will be off Monday through Friday this week – vacation. I will be assisting my wife following a medical procedure.

Regarding Holy Week: Good Friday evening will be an Ecumenical Service at Bethlehem UCC, hosting Ebenezer, Gloria Dei, and St. John. The Easter Vigil will again be an Ecumenical Service, hosting the same four churches at St. John.

Comment: I realize that Ebenezer and St. John are not in covenant with each other right now, however, as long as my time is being divided between the two churches, there will be several instances where some sharing, which is unavoidable. Cases in point – Ash Wednesday. The morning worship will be solely at St. John. Regarding the evening worship. St. John will have theirs at 6pm and Ebenezer at 7:30pm. The same will be true for Maundy Thursday. Good Friday Ebenezer will host the noon worship (with St. John invited to come to EUCC) and Bethlehem will host the evening ecumenical worship. I will make every conceivable effort to hold separate worship services, as time and availability make sense. Regarding midweek Lenten worship, I will be hosting a lite soup/grilled cheese supper again at St. John, followed by a short communion style worship service. All are welcome.

I will not be visiting at ALFs or SNF's for the next 30 days. Reports are indicating that illness rates are very high and not safe for visitors. I will continue to visit people in homes, as they feel safe and comfortable. I will also continue making emergency visits.

I would like to schedule a Council Installation Service on Sunday, February 1. I will bless and install each member to the new council. I would appreciate all council people being present at the same time for this event.

Glen Pingel made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Shirley Lisowe seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Brian Adamietz gave the Treasurer's Report

December Report

Income:	\$22,595.73	
Expenses:	(\$6758.56)	
Checking Account Balance:	\$127,079.46	
Money Market Account Balance:	\$105,710.52	\$148.22 gained in interest
Total Equity:	\$232,789.98	
Minus Special Giving Acct: \$79,359.60	\$153,430.38	
Cambridge Accounts:	\$73,509.96	
Parsonage Income:	\$1495.00	\$17,490.00 rental for year

November Givings of \$7638.78 were deposited on 12/2/25. December givings of \$11,546.80 were deposited on 12/29/25

Shirley Lisowe made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Glen Pingel made a motion to pay the bills. Andy Hofmeister seconded the motion, and it was approved for the bills to be paid.

Christian Ed Committee

- Easter Program
- Confirmation first Sunday in May

There was discussion about committees and having a council member on each one with the exceptions of the Search Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee

Brian Adamietz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glen Pingel seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36am.

The next Council meeting is February 15, 2026 at 7:30am.

February Calendar of Events

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Family Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. w/ Communion • Children's Worship Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	2	3	4 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.	12 Men's Breakfast Group Meeting at 7 Angels 8:30 a.m.	13	14
15 No Sunday School Council Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. No Bible Study	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:30 p.m. <i>(10:00 a.m. at St. John)</i>	19 Women's Guild Meeting at 7 Angels 9:00 a.m.	20 Eagle Articles Due	21
22 Sunday School @ 8:00 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Bible Study @ 5:30 p.m.	23	24	25 Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m. Lenten Service <i>(at St. John)</i> Supper at 5:00 pm Service at 6:30 pm	26	27	28

**Click calendar to view larger image*



Administrative Assistant: Mary Keran (920) 849-4331 ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. David Kohls
(920) 252-3885 rev_david_kohls@yahoo.com

Council President: Nick Kuhn (920) 378-0204

Council VP: Shirley Lisowe (920) 418-1675

Council Secretary: Andy Hofmeister (920) 464-0257

Council Treasurer: Brian Adamietz (920) 645-8699

Glen Pingel (920) 419-0433

Aubrey Plate

Lexi Pagel



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