

Mark Your Calendar

THANK
FEST

THANKING THE CREATOR
THRU FUN FELLOWSHIP

MUSIC-GAMES-FALL FOOD

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 1P-4P

Jerome King Playground: Bandshell

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The EbenezerPress

Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength

As we make our way back to our regularly schedule newsletter, let me remind you that we were exploring the idea that God works in purposes for us instead of plans.

Purpose over Plan.

Let us also be reminded that God has not made His plans a mystery, but has made it known to us, showing His purpose for us is to know Christ Jesus! (Ephesians 1). How does this purpose play out in our day-to-day lives?

In Mark 12, Jesus is teaching and having a bit of an argument with the Pharisees. One of the scribes chimes in and asks Jesus a question about the commandments. Now we have to understand that the commandments were everything to the Jews. These were not merely laws to follow, but this was their way of life. In essence, the law and commandments is what gave purpose to the life of the Jews. So this story is a good metric for us to use to answer the question, “How does God’s purpose play out in our day-to-day lives?” The scribe asks the question, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and all of your soul, and all of your mind, and all of your strength.

I think we should take each of these in turn, but first we must think about what the “all your...” means. Funny enough, the translation from the original language means, “all your”. Not some of you! Not just a piece of your...! All of you! The purpose God has for you and me is to love Him with all that we are! Now let’s take each of these in turn.

Heart- What is the heart? I’ve always thought of this term as the very center, core, or beginning of who you are as a person. This is our will, our emotions, our desires. Now the Bible says a great deal about “the heart”. The prophet Jeremiah says the heart is deceitful above all things. Proverbs states we are to guard our hearts. So how do we love God with all our heart? By surrendering our heart to Him. We surrender our desires to His desires for us. We surrender our will to His purpose for us. We keep our emotions in check with the reality that He is in charge of our lives.

Soul- This is a tricky one! What exactly is the soul? Each one of us has one. C.S.Lewis said that every human is a soul with a body, not the other way around. The soul is the part of you that will live on in the presence of Jesus until His return and we are given glorified bodes like His. To say it poetically, the soul is the part of you where heaven and earth meet; or where the spiritual and physical intersect. Loving God is more than a feeling; it is a way of life. Something that grows as we walk with Jesus in this life. As we live, we see God’s blessing and goodness toward us, not only trusting Him for all things in this life but what is to come afterwards.

Newsletter Ministry of Ebenezer Church

ISSUE #20

September 2026

Ebenezer
United Brethren
Church



The Helping S.T.O.N.E.
1 Samuel 7:12

Quick Look: Upcoming Events

Kingdom Kidz Begins
Evy Wednesday
9/23
6:30-7:45

Bible Study
Evy Tues. 9:30a

Sunday 9/13
Grandparents Luncheon

Saturday 9/12
Men’s Breakfast
7:30a

Friday 9/18
Movie Night
6p

Widow/Widower
Lunch
Thurs. 9/24

Spotlight!!
Grandparents Day Luncheon!!

Sept. 13, 2026 directly after Worship Service

Join us to honor all Grandparents.

Menu: Meatloaf and Fixins'

Mind- How do we love God with our minds? The mind is powerful and much like a sponge. I know it sounds corny, but bear with me. The human brain can take in a great deal of information that informs our whole being, so we need to be careful what we put in our minds. What we are allowing to go into our minds. Paul writes to the Corinthian church about taking every thought captive. Be careful what you allow your sponge of a mind to soak up!

Strength- Finally, we are to love God with our Strength; our physical being. We are to love God with the use and maintenance of our physical bodies. This also means that whatever we do, whether work or our time and talents, do it as unto the LORD. WE need to honor God with our bodies; this, of course, has ramifications for our sexual desires. We are not to use our bodies nor our sexuality to sin. 1 Thessalonians says there should not even be a hint of sexual immorality in our lives. We need to use our bodies to honor and love the LORD our God!

Heart, soul, mind, and strength cover your entire being. The above paragraphs just scratch the surface of the implication of this verse. Armed with these ideas, what does it look like in your own life to love God with all that you are?

PRAY!!!



**Lithuania Mission Trip
Planned for 2027**

Pray for the
preparations and for
the possibility of YOU
going on the trip!

Talk to Pastor Chip for
any questions or
details.

THINGS TO BE PRAYING FOR!!

- BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR EBENEZER FAMILY WHO IS IN THE HOSPITAL OR AT HOME RECOVERING
- KEEP THE PASTORS AND ELDERS IN PRAYER!
- PRAY FOR THE CHURCH; THAT OUR FAITH WOULD BE DEEP, OUR HOPE WOULD BE WIDE, AND OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND EACH OTHER BE LIMITLESS
- PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING FOR EBENEZER, AS WE SEEK HIS GUIDANCE AND STRIVE TO BE THE HELPING S.T.O.N.E.

Raise the Colors
MEN'S CONFERENCE
A Call to Raise Holy Hands

October 10

**RHODES GROVE CAMP
AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

Oct. 9 Worship Kickoff/ Oct. 11 Church Service

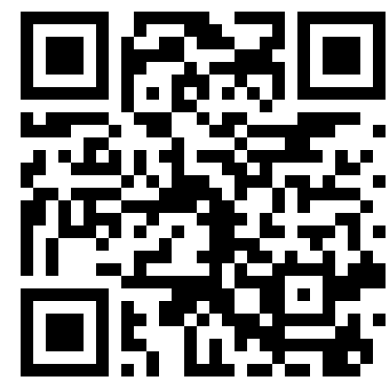
SPEAKERS:

BRAD BUCKLEY

& JOSH LANCE

\$75 CONFERENCE COST
Includes Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday

\$100 @ DOOR



**QR Code For Registration
and Lodging Information
Facebook Event Page
For Further Details**