

# The Highlighter



**Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Newark, Delaware**

**2022**

*Then Samuel took a stone, set it up...and said, "The LORD has helped us all the way,"  
and he named it Ebenezer [Stone of Help]. 1 Samuel 7:12 GNB*

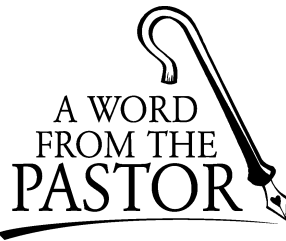
Greetings, Beloved:

The over-arching theme for December is the liturgical season of Advent, the season of waiting for the fulfillment of the promise of God, the birth of the One who is the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. Yet I recognize that there are aspects of the season of Advent that can be hard for us to live into fully. Beyond the boundaries of our worship services, there is very little in our daily lives that invites us into a time of stillness and anticipatory waiting for the coming of the Christ Child.

Our worship series for Advent is called "The Gift of Being Present." Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is "do not be afraid, I am with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. In our worship this season, we will be invited to be the gift of presence with hope, peace, joy, and love for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

In keeping with the theme of our presence being a present to others, I want to encourage you to invite a family member, a neighbor, a friend to come with you to Sunday worship or another worship or fellowship event at our church during this season of hope-full waiting, watching, and celebration. Besides Sunday morning worship and Social Hour, here are other opportunities to which you could invite someone new to come with you and introduce them to our church:

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant** – December 3, 9:00 a.m., Christian Life Center (CLC)  
**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble** in concert –



December 9, 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
**Live Nativity** – December 10, 4:00-6:00 p.m., front of church  
**Blue Christmas Service** – December 21, 7:00 p.m., a service where we can acknowledge the feelings of pain, sadness, and hurt that many people experience during this season. We are reminded that we are still surrounded by the compassionate love and God and can experience God's presence for peace and endurance.

**Christmas Eve** – December 24, 4:30 p.m. (Family Service), 7:00 p.m. (Service of Lessons & Carols)  
**Christmas Day** – December 25, 10:00 a.m., Service of Carols and Communion, comfy clothes and pjs welcome

I want to thank you for the ways in this year in which you have lived out your membership vows to support Ebenezer through "your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness." Every one of us is vital to make the ministry and mission of Ebenezer continue to bring hope, vision, growth, and joy into the lives of many – within our church facilities, our local community and throughout the world. John Wesley is remembered for saying, "The world is my parish." Let us not grow weary in pursuing the work to which we have been called as the unique body of Christ that is Ebenezer United Methodist Church. There is work that God has called us to and work that God will call us to help to spread the good news that in Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God has come near.

I pray for you each and every day and hope you also pray for me, each other, and the strength of our faith community at Ebenezer.

May the peace and joy of Jesus Christ be with you,

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Mary



## Advent I, December 3rd

The word “advent” derives from the Latin “adventus”, meaning “coming.” During its earliest observances, Advent was 40 days of repentance, fasting and prayer as new believers prepared for their baptisms. Oftentimes, these baptisms took place on the day of Epiphany--which is a day remembering the Magi’s visit to baby Jesus; it was a celebration of Jesus’ incarnation on Earth.

Later Christians began tying Advent not just to Christ’s incarnation, but to an anticipated second coming of Christ. Advent became a period for renewing the anticipation and longing for Jesus’ return.

Today, Advent is a period of preparation for both “advents”--or arrivals--of Jesus. Lester Ruth, a professor at Duke Divinity School and a historian of Christian worship, offered this distinction for Advent: “The simplest way I have to distinguish between Advent and Christmas is that advent uses the word “come” as a longing petition, expressed in anticipation, whereas Christmas is a commemorative reflection on how the Lord has come in Christ’s birth and thus the trigger for a new redemptive order has begun.”

In our culture, the close ties to Christmas seemingly outweigh the anticipation of another “advent” of Jesus. We conflate the Christmas commemoration and the anticipation of Advent. Ignoring this “second coming” removes some of the urgency of our Christian call to enact God’s love and justice on Earth.

Our celebration of Advent will include the “Hanging of the Greens” (decorating the church for Christmas). Each week an Advent candle will be lit, marking the time to Christmas.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

- The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.
- The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepherd’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.
- On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

A white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath; this is a beautiful modern adaptation. The white candle is lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

## Lighting Advent Candle Sign-up

We need individuals, couples, or families to light the Advent Wreath candles. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. The litany for the lighting the candles will be provided to you ahead of your service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mary.

12/03 @ 10:00 am service  
 12/10 @ 10:00 am service  
 12/17 @ 10:00 am service  
 12/24 @ 10:00 am service  
 12/24 @ 4:30 pm service  
 12/24 @ 7:00 pm service  
 12/25 @ 10:00 am



**HANGING OF THE GREENS**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

Following the 10:00 am. Worship Service

This year we are making an adjustment in the timing of this annual activity of fellowship and ministry in which everyone is invited to participate. We will decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church in preparation of the beginning of Advent. There are tasks for just about every level of skill. We need folks willing to climb the ladders and folks who can sit and hand out the Chrismons to be hung on the tree in the narthex. This is a fun time of fellowship where truly, many hands make light work. We will begin with fellowship during Social Hour in the CLC with snacks before we set about the tasks that need to be done. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Mary.



**Live Nativity**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm** is the annual **Live Nativity**. Readings will be held every half hour. Youth of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. Participants should arrive no later than 4:30. A refreshment table will be located in the Narthex. This has become a very popular community event. We are asking for donations of goodies for the refreshment table. Please donate something if you can! Donations can be left in the kitchen any time prior to 4:30 on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Gifts for the Christ Child**

“Whoever receives on such child in my name receives me.” *Matt. 18:5*

At Ebenezer Church’s worship services on Sunday, December 4, 11, 18, 25, and at each special service leading up to Christmas, you are invited to bring a gift of baby food for the Christ Child.

Members and friends who worship with us online can also participate by dropping off your baby food items at Ebenezer during the week or call the church office and arrange for your pick-up at your home.

The items we collect will be distributed to families in need through St Stephen’s Food Pantry in Wilmington. Your food gifts will truly be a blessing to the young innocents amount us for whom our Lord has a special place in his heart. Please consider this ministry while shopping for your holiday meals and make a visit to the baby food isle.

Thank you and may God’s Pease be with you this blessed season.

**‘Tis the Season at Ebenezer United Methodist Church 2023**

- November 26 After Service Hanging of the Greens
- December 3 9:00 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- December 9 4:00 pm Wilmington Handbells Concert
- December 10 4:00 pm Live Nativity
- December 17 7:00 pm Healing Service
- December 21 7:00 pm Blue Christmas
- December 24 10:00 am Worship Service  
 4:30 pm Family Service  
 7:00 pm Lessons and Carols
- December 25 10:00 am Worship Service



## Blue Christmas Service at Ebenezer Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm

Blue? Yes, blue, as in "the blues;" as in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Ebenezer Church is holding a Service of the Longest Night (or Blue Christmas service) on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. It will include quiet carols, an inspiring message and Holy Communion. Please join us in worshipping our God of light, who meets us in our times of darkness and deepest needs.



## Sunday School Christmas pageant

Everyone is invited to **Our Sunday School Christmas pageant, Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the CLC at 9:00am. Refreshments will be available after the pageant.

## Connie's Rolls EUMW Fund Raiser

It's time for Connie's famous rolls for Christmas! If interested in purchasing rolls, please place your order by

**December 10, 2023.**

**Call Connie: 302-737-4411  
or Carol 302-731-9495.**

No late orders will be accepted. Pick up will be on December 17, 2023.

The cost for a dozen is still \$8.00. Please pay by check (made out to EUMW) or have exact change when picking up.

If you are interested in helping, contact Connie directly at  
302-737-4411

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Zingo's

It is that time of year again where Ebenezer and friends will have the opportunity to ring the Salvation Army Bell at Zingo's.

Our dates will be the Saturdays of November 25th, then December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9th, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> with one-hour slots from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sign-up sheets are available in Narthex. It is a great way to help others and let your light shine by volunteering. Any questions please contact Donna Dennis at 302-525-1883.

## New Crop Pecans Have Arrived

Please contact Brooksie Pruden at [brooksiepru@gmail.com](mailto:brooksiepru@gmail.com) or 302-239-3191. Pecans will also be available in the church office. The price for one pound of new crop mammoth halves is \$14.00. Payment by check or correct cash amount would be appreciated. Thank you for supporting the United Methodist Women.

Contact: Brooksie Pruden  
[brooksiepru@gmail.com](mailto:brooksiepru@gmail.com) | 302-239-3191



## Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry

### As promised, all about Type 2 Diabetes

#### What Is Type 2 Diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes is a lifelong disease that keeps your body from using insulin the way it should.

People who are middle-aged or older are most likely to get this kind of diabetes. It used to be called adult-onset diabetes or diabetes mellitus. But type 2 diabetes also affects kids and teens, mainly because of childhood obesity.

Type 2 is the most common form of diabetes. About 1 in 10 people in the U.S. have type 2. Nearly 1 in 3 have prediabetes, meaning their blood sugar (or blood glucose) is high but not high enough to be diabetes yet.

#### Symptoms of Type 2 Diabetes

The symptoms of type 2 diabetes can be so mild that you don't notice them. About 9 million people have it and don't know it. Symptoms include:

- Being very thirsty
- Increase in urination
- Blurry vision
- Tingling or numbness in your hands or feet
- Fatigue/feeling worn out
- Wounds that don't heal
- Yeast infections that keep coming back
- Feeling hungry
- Weight loss without trying
- Getting infections

If you have dark rashes around your neck or armpits, see your doctor. These are called acanthosis nigricans, and they can be signs that your body is becoming resistant to insulin.

#### Causes of Type 2 Diabetes

Usually, a combination of things causes type 2 diabetes. They might include:

- Genes. Scientists have found different bits of DNA that affect how your body makes insulin.
- Weight. Having extra weight or obesity can cause insulin resistance.
- Metabolic syndrome. People with insulin resistance often have a group of conditions including high blood sugar, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and triglycerides.
- Too much glucose from your liver. When your blood sugar is low, your liver makes and sends out glucose. After you eat, your blood sugar goes up, and your liver usually slows down and stores its glucose for later. But some people's livers don't. They keep making sugar.
- Bad communication between cells. Sometimes, cells send the wrong signals or don't pick up messages correctly. When these problems affect how your cells make and use insulin or glucose, this can lead to diabetes.
- Broken beta cells. If the cells that make insulin send it out at the wrong time, your blood sugar gets thrown off. High blood sugar can damage these cells, too.

#### Type 2 Diabetes Risk Factors

Certain things make it more likely that you'll get type 2 diabetes. The more of these that apply to you, the higher your chances of getting it are. Some things are related to who you are:

- Age. 45 or older
- Family. A parent, sister, or brother with diabetes
- Ethnicity. African American, Alaska Native, Native American, Asian American, Hispanic or Latino, or Pacific Islander American

#### Risk factors related to your medical history and health include:

- Insulin resistance
- Prediabetes
- Heart and blood vessel disease
- High blood pressure, even if it's treated and under control.
- Low HDL ("good") cholesterol
- High triglycerides
- Being overweight or having obesity
- Having a baby who weighed more than 9 pounds.
- Gestational diabetes while you were pregnant.
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- Depression

Other things that raise your risk of diabetes have to do with your daily habits and lifestyle. These are the ones you can do something about:

- Getting little or no exercise
- Smoking
- Stress
- Sleeping too little or too much

#### Type 2 diabetes epidemiology

Some 462 million people worldwide, or about 6.3% of the population, have type 2 diabetes. It's the ninth leading cause of death, responsible for more than 1 million deaths each year. Cases of type 2 diabetes are increasing faster in developed countries like the U.S. and Western Europe. Scientists say type 2 diabetes affects men and women at about the same rate.

It's more common in people in middle age and older, affecting:

- 4.4% of those ages 15-49
- 15% of those ages 50-69
- 22% of those 70 and older

It's also more common in people of color, including those whose heritage is:

- Black
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Asian

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

### Type 2 Diabetes Diagnosis and Tests

Your doctor can test your blood for signs of type 2 diabetes. Usually, they'll test you on 2 different days to confirm the diagnosis. But if your blood glucose is very high or you have many symptoms, one test may be all you need.

Blood tests for type 2 diabetes include:

- A1c. It's the average percent of your blood glucose over the past 2 or 3 months.
- Fasting plasma glucose. This is also known as a fasting blood sugar test. It measures your blood sugar on an empty stomach. You won't be able to eat or drink anything except water for 8 hours before the test.
- Oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). This checks your blood glucose before and 2 hours after you drink something sweet to see how your body handles the sugar.

### Stages of Type 2 Diabetes

Researchers have defined four stages of type 2 diabetes:

#### Insulin resistance

In this stage, your body usually makes enough insulin to keep blood sugar levels in the normal range. But if your cells "resist" the insulin (don't use it correctly), your body will make more insulin to try to help the glucose get into them. Insulin resistance can be temporary, but it can also last. There's no test to detect insulin resistance, so it can be hard to diagnose.

#### Prediabetes

Eventually, insulin resistance causes glucose to build up in your blood. You have prediabetes when your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be considered diabetes. An A1c between 5.7% and 6.4% means you have prediabetes. You may not have any symptoms. But prediabetes increases your risk for heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes.

#### Type 2 diabetes

If your A1c is 6.5% or higher, you will have diabetes. You may have symptoms like increased thirst, blurred vision, and numbness in feet or hands. Or you may not have any symptoms at all.

### Type 2 diabetes with vascular complications

At this stage, your diabetes has led to vascular (blood vessel) problems. You may have damage to vessels in your eyes (retinopathy), kidneys (nephropathy), and certain nerves (neuropathy). You might also develop heart disease, stroke, or circulation issues.

### Type 2 Diabetes Treatment

Managing type 2 diabetes includes a mix of lifestyle changes and medication.

#### Lifestyle changes

You may be able to reach your target blood sugar levels with diet and exercise alone.

Weight loss. Dropping extra pounds can help. While losing 5% of your body weight is good, losing at least 7% and keeping it off seems to be ideal. That means someone who weighs 180 pounds can change their blood sugar levels by losing around 13 pounds. Weight loss can seem overwhelming, but portion control and eating healthy foods are a good place to start.

**Healthy eating.** There's no specific diet for type 2 diabetes. A registered dietitian can teach you about carbs and help you make a meal plan you can stick with. Focus on:

- Eating fewer calories
- Cutting back on refined carbs, especially sweets
- Adding veggies and fruits to your diet
- Getting more fiber
- Exercise. Try to get 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity every day. You can walk, bike, swim, or do anything else that gets your heart rate up. Pair that with strength training, like yoga or weightlifting. If you take a medication that lowers your blood sugar, you might need a snack before a workout.
- Watch your blood sugar levels. Depending on your treatment, especially if you're on insulin, your doctor will tell you if you need to test your blood sugar levels and how often to do it.

Look for part 2 in the January Newsletter.

Your Health and Wellness Ministry wishes you a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.



Many thanks to each one who donated items for the soldiers. Ebenezer will be going as a group to stuff stockings on Monday November 27. Meet at the church at 6:00 pm to go to Brandywine Center. Stockings is near Bobs Furniture. Please bring a few items for the stockings if you can. It is always a fun night and we stop at Charcoal Pit for ice cream!

Any questions please call Ann Varey at 302-540-7488.

Ann Varey

#### The Highlighter

is a monthly publication of  
**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
**525 Polly Drummond Hill Rd.**  
**Newark, Delaware 19711**

**Pastor:** Rev. Mary H. Browne

**Voice:** (302) 731-9495

**FAX:** (302) 731-9555

**E-mail:** [newarkebenezerumc@verizon.net](mailto:newarkebenezerumc@verizon.net)

**Editor:** Diana Bienkowski

**Newsletter deadline:** The 15th of each month

**Web site:** [EbenezerUMCNewark.org](http://EbenezerUMCNewark.org)

**Email:** [DianaUMCNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:DianaUMCNewsletter@gmail.com)





As we anticipate the holiday season, our Angel Tree tradition will be celebrated with opportunities to provide gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Each child receives two gifts, typically a toy or game and an article of clothing. Caregivers are contacted to provide appropriate gift suggestions. This year Ebenezer will be blessed with 20 Angels for 40 gifts. Gift deliveries will be made to families within nearby zip codes. Our Christmas tree with sign-up tags will be available in the Narthex.

Share the Joy!  
Donna Dennis



### Finance Committee Report

I wish each of you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Each one of us is a member of the Ebenezer family. Our church needs your gifts and support now. It is the last month of 2023. Ebenezer is still showing a deficit of \$14,434. Capital campaign is \$1,218 above budget. We are working on the 2024 budget. It is very difficult to complete. Cuts will have to be made.

Please do what you can to help. One example is to ask someone to come to church with you. They will see how much the church on the hill has to offer.

Thank you  
Ann Varey  
Finance chairperson

### Scout and Cub Scout News

Troop 50 is again selling wreaths and will have the annual pancake breakfast fundraisers this year.

#### Wreaths:

As last year T50 will be selling a complete assortment of wreaths that will be available the week before Thanksgiving. These are freshly made for the Troop in NJ and are picked up on the same day or very close to it that they are made. They last long time, in fact we typically have ours up into Feb with little needle drop. Please see the attached order form. You can drop your orders in the Boy Scout Mailbox at Ebenezer or email them to me directly. Note there are two basically identical order forms, one is an Excel spreadsheet you can fill in and it will automatically calculate your order, or use the basic pdf and do it manually.

#### Pancakes:

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Troop 50 Pancake Breakfast and Sausage sale are on for Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>. Come out and join the fun – 7:30 am to 11:30 am, Limestone Presbyterian Church.



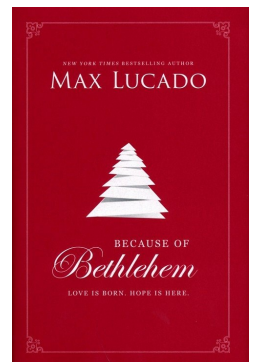
Tickets are available from any Troop 50 Scout and also the new Troop 50 Store:  
<https://5610e6-3.myshopify.com>  
or scan the code



Thanks for your support,  
Dan White

### ADVENT SHORT-TERM STUDY *Because of Bethlehem*

In *Because of Bethlehem*, Max Lucado unwraps the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope—all because of one baby born in Bethlehem, Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the hold in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a place on earth and a Savior in heaven.



Contact the Church Office for a copy of the book (\$15.00 suggested donation)



- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Betty Ann Ainsworth | Danny White        |
| Barbara Beasley       | 21 Donna Guretsky  |
| Elizabeth Peoples     | 25 Sabrina Helsel  |
| 4 Beverly Culver      | Nicholas Jackson   |
| Florence Gregg        | Josaphine Whiteman |
| Marissa Hohman        | 26 Cora Sowden     |
| Johnathon Momot       | Aaron White        |
| Jerome Stewart        | 28 Tiffany Combs   |
| Jennifer Wilde        | Makiyah Drby       |
| 5 Aaron Bey           | Cameron Mills      |
| 8 Mary Minker         | 29 Barbara Kryza   |
| Beverly Shunta        | Leanne Phillips    |
| 9 Craig Bailey        | Kyle Shelton       |
| Linda Stapleford      | John Smith         |
| Elaine Williams       |                    |
| 10 Christie Koontz    | <b>January</b>     |
| 12 Jeff Peoples       | 1 Judy Hanus       |
| Robert Sylvester, Sr. | Dennis Williams    |
| 14 Ron Klein          | 2 Heather Lumb     |
| William Mills         | Michael Smith      |
| Grace Tackett         | 3 Henna Castle     |
| 15 Mark Hafer         | Brian Dempsey      |
| Michael Kefauver      | Shannon McAdams    |
| 16 Brian Adams        | 5 Mark Hodgson     |
| Meri Ann Spears       | 6 Alison Gibney    |
| 17 David Patterson    | Caleb Wood         |
| 18 Cain Taylor        | 29 Jimmy Wood      |
| 20 John Castle        |                    |
| Becky Knowles         |                    |

**A Route — December**  
 4 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson  
 11 Paul & Beverly Shunta  
 18 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson  
 25 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncan

**B Route — December**  
 4 Paul Kelley  
 11 Paul Kelley  
 18 Paul Kelley  
 25 Kathy and Doug Gibney

**Substitutes**  
 Mary Anne Menghi 302-234-1544  
 Newark Senior Center 302-737-5747  
 Paul & Beverly Shunta 302-239-7765  
 Adele Madden 302-540-2313  
 Mary Minker 302-593-2982  
 (Coordinators)



- December
- 10 Michael & Jennifer Wilde (18 Years)
  - 31 Lamar & Sandra Smith (18 Years)
- January
- 20 Christopher & Alexis Brookens (11 Years)

**Family Promise**



We are in the middle of our November Hosting week Nov. 12-18) as I write this.

There are three families in Cottage 1, two of whom moved in just last week. With eight children (ages 1-17) and three mothers, dinnertime can be busy; but we still have time to visit while we share the meals we've prepared. Thank you to all the Ebenezer volunteers, to those who donate to Family Promise and especially for all the prayers on behalf of this mission.

Our next hosting week will be January 28 – February 3.

Kathleen Zinn  
 302 463-5428 | [zinn.kk@gmail.com](mailto:zinn.kk@gmail.com)



**Need a ride?**

**Driving Ministry** If you need transportation to doctor appointments, the drug store, etc., please contact the church office at 302-731-9495 Ext 10.



## Wilmington Handbell Ensemble Presents



*Experience the joy and wonder of the season across cultures and continents as Wilmington Handbell Ensemble presents “Carols Around the World,” our 2023 winter concert series, at these locations.*

**Saturday, December 2 4:30 PM**

*Kent County Public Library  
497 S Red Haven Lane  
Dover, DE 19901*

**Saturday, December 9 4:00 PM**

*Ebenezer UMC  
525 Polly Drummond Hill Road  
Newark, DE 19711*

**Sunday, December 3 3:00 PM**

*The Newark Symphony Orchestra &  
Friends @ Independence School  
Paper Mill Road  
Newark, DE 19711*

**Monday, December 11 7:00 PM**

*Brandywine Hundred Library  
1300 Foulk Rd  
Wilmington, DE 19803*

**Saturday, December 16 4:00 PM**

**Tower Chime Recital 3:30 PM**

*Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1502 W 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Wilmington, DE 19806*

Mr. Kerry W. Dietz, Artistic Director

*Wilmington Handbell Ensemble is the only community-based handbell ensemble in the Wilmington, Delaware area, and a sponsored ministry of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.*

*We have two CD’s for sale for your listening pleasure, “A Little Bit of Christmas “ and “Theme Songs to Ring By.” Both are available for purchase online and at our concerts. For more information, visit [www.wilmingtonhandbellensemble.org](http://www.wilmingtonhandbellensemble.org).*



### THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED

During the summer, the church sponsored 4 Scouts from the newly-formed BSA Girl Troop 1050, sponsored by Ebenezer, to attend summer camp. The girls sent thank you notes to the church when they returned from camp:

"We have a message to all the people who have supported and cared for Ebenezer church.

We appreciate all the donations and work that you have given into Scouting. We are so thankful for all that the church has done for us and we would have never gotten to do all the things we have been. So on behalf of all the girls in Troop 1050 we thank you so much for all that you have done." Harmony

"We have a message to all the People who have supported and cared for Ebenezer Cub Scouts and Troop 50 family. We thank you for service." Tierra

"We have a message to all the people who have supported and cared for Ebenezer church.

We appreciate all the donations and work that you have given into Scouting. We are so thankful for all that the church has done for us and we would have never gotten to do all the things we have been. So on behalf of all the girls in Troop 1050 we thank you so much for all that you have done." Ryane

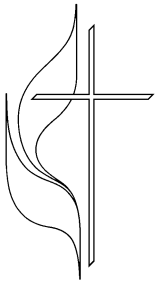
"Thank you for paying for our summer camp. We are grateful [sic]." El

Genevieve Hahn, the young woman who occasionally shares her gifts of singing and flute playing in our Sunday worship graduated from the University of Delaware in May 2023 with 2 Masters degrees. The church gave her 2 cards signed by members of the church and a gift card. We received the following note:

"Dear Pastor Mary and the wonderful congregation of Ebenezer United Methodist Church, I cannot begin to express how surprised I was during the service when you talked about my graduating and presented me with such an unexpected and generous gift! I was touched beyond words. I also need to note the incredible artistry and detail of the beautiful cards created by Adel Madden. And it took two cards for everyone to sign! I cannot believe all the signatures and kind words that were expressed. With heartfelt thanks, God bless you all, Genna."

# December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10:00am AA	2 2:00pm 2 x 4 Meeting 6:30pm NA
3 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00am <b>Sunday School Pageant</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 3:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm BSA50	4 10:00am AA 11:30am Social Seniors 5:00pm <b>Friend-ly's Fundraiser</b> 5:00 Soccer Shots 7:00pm 2x4 Class 7:00pm NA	5 9:30am <b>Ad-vent Study</b> 12:00pm AA 6:30pm Vol-leyball	6 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2x4 Class 7:00pm <b>Finance Comm.</b>	7 9:30am BSFT 11:45am <b>Health &amp; Wellness</b> 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	8 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	9 10:00am Dela-ware Valley Historic Sam-plers 4:00pm <b>Wilm. Hand-bell Concert</b> 6:30pm NA
10 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 6:00pm <b>Live Nativity</b>	11 10:00am AA 5:00pm Soccer Shots 7:00pm 2 X 4 Class 7:00pm Eagle Scout Board 7:00pm NA	12 9:30am <b>Ad-vent Study</b> 11:00am <b>Stephen Ministry</b> 12:00pm AA 6:30pm <b>Priscilla Cir-cle</b>	13 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 10:30am <b>Naomi/S&amp;S Circle</b> 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	14 9:30am BSFT 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm Cub Scouts	15 10:00am AA 6:00pm Pri-ivate Event	16 6:00pm Pri-ivate Event 6:30pm NA
17 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 7:00 <b>Healing Ser-vice</b>	18 10:00am AA 5:00pm Soccer Shots 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	19 9:30am <b>Ad-vent Study</b> 12:00pm AA	20 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	21 9:30am BSFT 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA 7:00pm <b>Blue Christmas Ser-</b>	22 10:00am AA	23 6:30pm NA
24 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 4:30pm Family Service 7:00pm Lesson and Carols	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00am Wor-ship	26 12:00pm AA	27 10:00am <b>Hope Dining Room</b> 10:00am AA 1-:00am Chance; Choir 6:30am Good Chimes	28 9:30am BSFT 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	29 10:00am AA	30 6:30pm NA
31 <b>1st Sunday af-ter Christmas</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour						



**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
525 Polly Drummond Hill Road  
Newark, Delaware 19711

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Permit No. 120  
Newark, DE 19711

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

## **Inside**

A word from the Pastor	p. 1
Advent	p. 2
A Word from the Music Director	p. 3
Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Child, Live Nativity	p. 3
Special Worship Services	p. 3
Blue Christmas	p. 4
Announcements	p. 4
Wellness News	p. 5
Stocking for Soldiers	p. 6
Angel Tree, Boy Scouts	p. 7
Birthdays & Anniversaries	p. 8
Meals on Wheels Schedule	p. 8
Handbell Special Concert	p. 9
Calendar of Events	p. 10 & 11