

# The Highlighter



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

**2024**

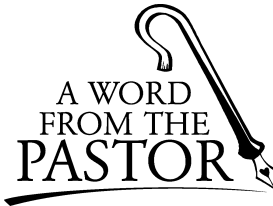
*Then Samuel took a stone, set it up...and said, "The LORD has helped us all the way,"  
and he named it Ebenezer [Stone of Help]. 1 Samuel 7:12 GNB*

Greetings, Beloved,

Recently, while listening to the radio in my car as I was driving, I heard part of a sermon by Dr. Tony Evans. In his sermon he was talking about the joy of receiving Holy Communion and how many church goers appear to not fully understand or appreciate the importance of this holy mystery. I was not able to hear the entire sermon, but it set me to thinking. I am a cradle Methodist, and my family attended Sunday School and Worship every Sunday. My growing up years in the 60s was during the time when the church celebrated Communion only a few times during the year. Being too young to understand the liturgical year cycle, it was always a welcome surprise for me when we came into church and I could see the altar set for Communion. I remember looking forward to the time when we would go forward to receive the elements; I still do. Receiving Communion is a time of humbling awe and wonder at the magnitude of God's gracious love and mercy.

The tradition of celebrating Communion only a few times a year came out of the early history of the Methodist Church in America where ordained clergy, the only persons permitted to officiate the Communion service traveled and circuit and most local churches saw the ordained pastor only 1 per quarter, at which time both sacraments – Communion and Baptism were celebrated. In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, The United Methodist Church had moved to encouraging churches to celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Some churches have adopted the practice of celebrating Communion every week and an increasing number of churches have adopted the practice that I have followed in my ministry, Communion weekly during the Holy seasons of Advent and Lent and monthly the remainder of the year.

What is it in the celebration of Holy Communion that draws us with joy, thanksgiving, and



expectation to receive the elements? It is God's divine grace, unmerited and undeserved, poured into our lives whether or not we are mindful of it. Since the time of the apostles, Jesus' words, "Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22, 1 Corinthians 11) have guided Christians to believe by faith that Christ is present in the service of Communion yet can be challenging to fully explain. This is why Communion is more than an intellectual recalling. In the liturgy and actions of Communion, we see a re-presentation of God's love for the world in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is not a repetition; Hebrews 9:26 says, "But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself."

The sacrament of Communion is an act that is the communion of the Church, the gathered body of believers. The Church is a body, a covenant community, much more than a collection of separated individuals. In Communion, there is meaningful personal experience when we are offered the bread and the cup with the words, "...for you." *But the pronouns in the liturgy are consistently plural – we, our, us. We hear the text from 1 Corinthians 10:17 – "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." Communion is Christ's feast with the Church, revealing the goodness of God and God's creation. The sharing and bonding experienced in the service of Communion demonstrate the nature of the Church and gives us a glimpse of the world as God would have it be.*

The gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, comes to us in Jesus' own words at the beginning of Mark's Gospel, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." In Luke 4, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah to describe the reign of God, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to

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proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then Jesus adds the "good news," "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

In Communion, we are offered a tangible experience of God's grace and we demonstrate the nature of the reign of God that is among us in Christ and that is coming. All are invited and welcomed. All are fed. All are loved. All are given the grace needed to live as part of God's realm. My early life experience of looking forward to being able to receive Communion has not altered but has become more profoundly meaningful. Now I am doubly blessed because as your pastor, I am privileged to welcome you to the Lord's Table, to help you find your seat, so that we all share in the feast of God's love. My prayer is that each time we attend Christ's feast you look forward to coming forward, and as the hymn says, "come with joy to meet your Lord, forgiven, loved, and freed." God bless you.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor



## WILMINGTON HANDBELL ENSEMBLE CONCERT

### "Songs Around the World"

Saturday, May 11:00 4:00 p.m.  
Ebenezer Sanctuary

Some songs you will know, some songs will be new to you. All will inspire as we celebrate the universality and diversity of culture and continents.

Donations received at the concert will benefit our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration events throughout the year.

Bring a friend; in fact, bring two!



## We ARE Connected!!

I know when you travel or move, you probably look for a United Methodist Church to attend or if you move, you will look for a new UMC church home. For in the United Methodist Church, we are ALL Connected!

We are connected in many ways to community, worship, growth in faith, service, beliefs, service and missions. My journey at EUMC began with a member telling me of his joy in attending EUMC. Then I met a Couple that invited me to church. Then, I was welcomed and invited to a small group Bible Study and later accepted Christ!

EUMC always connected with me when I had to go to hospital, when I got married, when my husband died and now as a widow, EUMC has always encouraged, supported and prayed for me and my family. The joy of this connection and seeing God's love in action through your heart and hands has manifested in an amazing walk with Jesus, especially since becoming Missions Chair for about 6 years! I have truly enjoyed this honor and it has impacted my faith and made EUMC an integral part of my life, now and ALWAYS!!

I have had awesome mission trips and have seen Jesus in the eyes of the poor, disabled and others not held in high regard in society. Connecting with people in need during mission projects, that are very different from me have made me learn first hand the POWER of the Holy Spirit and prayer to change lives eternally and see Jesus's commandment to "love the neighbor, as thy self!" Collecting items to help others is great, but just deeply connect with a person in need and you feel and see the Holy Spirit is alive and at work NOW in this world!

So I look forward to visiting EUMC in June and on our Anniversary! But I am excited to see God's Love in Action at EUMC in the Pike Creek Community and beyond through our wonderful Mission Team and EVERY member's support!!

I am already excited about coming back to visit you all at EUMC!

Our hearts will always be CONNECTED!!

May our dear Lord be with you always!!  
Linda Heller, Chair,  
EUMC Missions Team



## Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry

This month I am going to give you some important information regarding Chemotherapy treatment and how to avoid any infections or setbacks during this treatment. All of the information has come from the Centers For Disease Control website.

### Information for Patients Who are Receiving Chemotherapy

People with cancer who are treated with chemotherapy are more likely to get infections because of their weakened immune system.

Chemotherapy works by stopping or slowing the growth of cancer cells, which grow and divide quickly. Chemotherapy kills fast-growing cancer cells. Chemotherapy also can damage your immune system by reducing your number of infection-fighting white blood cells. This makes it harder for your body to fight infections.

An infection can also lead to sepsis, the body's extreme response to an infection. Sepsis happens when an infection you already have triggers a chain reaction throughout your body. It is a life-threatening medical emergency. If you or your loved one has an infection that's not getting better or is getting worse, act fast.

Having cancer or having a history of cancer can make you more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 and the flu. Cancer and treatments for many types of cancer can weaken your body's ability to fight off disease. Having a history of cancer may increase your risk.

### What Is an Infection?

You get an infection when germs enter your body and multiply, causing illness, organ and tissue damage, or disease. Bacteria and viruses cause infections.

You can get bacteria from the air, water, soil, or food, during the course of your medical treatment. Most bacteria come from your own body. Common bacterial infections include pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and ear infections.

Viruses are passed from one person to another. Common viral infections include the common cold, herpes, and the flu.

### What Can I Do to Protect Myself from an Infection?

#### Watch Out for Fever

Take your temperature any time you feel warm, flushed, chilled, or not well. Call your doctor right away if you have a temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.

#### Clean Your Hands

Many diseases are spread by not cleaning your hands, which is especially dangerous when you're getting chemotherapy treatment. Wash your hands often.

#### Know the Signs and Symptoms of Infection

Infection during chemotherapy can lead to hospitalization or death. Call your doctor right away if you notice any of the signs and symptoms of an infection.

During your chemotherapy treatment, your body may not be able to fight off infections like it used to. When your white blood cell counts are low, you must take infection symptoms seriously. Infection during chemotherapy can lead to hospitalization or death.

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of the following signs and symptoms of an infection—

- Fever (this is sometimes the only sign of an infection).
- Chills and sweats.
- Change in cough or a new cough.
- Sore throat or new mouth sore.
- Shortness of breath.
- Nasal congestion.
- Stiff neck.
- Burning or pain with urination.
- Unusual vaginal discharge or irritation.
- Increased urination.
- Redness, soreness, or swelling in any area, including surgical wounds and ports.
- Diarrhea.
- Vomiting.
- Pain in the abdomen or rectum.
- New onset of pain.

Find out from your doctor when your white blood cell count is likely to be the lowest, since this is when you're most at risk for infection. This usually occurs between 7 and 12 days after you finish each chemotherapy dose and may last up to one week.

#### How Can I Lower My Chances of Getting an Infection During Chemotherapy?

To lower your risk of infection:

- Wash your hands often, and ask your family, visitors, and health care providers to wash theirs, too.
- Get a flu shot every year and encourage your family and friends to get one. Ask your doctor if you need a pneumococcal shot and about the best types and timing of vaccines with your treatment.

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- Get the COVID-19 vaccine, plus any booster doses you may need to stay up to date.
- Take any medications your doctor gives you.
- Take a shower or a bath every day with warm water and mild soap.
- Brush your teeth several times a day with a soft toothbrush.
- Protect yourself from cuts, be very careful when using sharp items, and wear gloves when gardening or cleaning.
- If you get a small cut, wash it thoroughly, put antibiotic cream on it, and cover it with a bandage.
- Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs of an infection, especially a fever.

**What Else Can I Do to Stay Healthy?**

You can lower your risk of getting cancer again by making healthy choices like:

- Staying away from tobacco. If you smoke, try to quit, and stay away from other people’s smoke.
- Protecting your skin from overexposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun and avoiding tanning beds.
- Eating lots of fruit and vegetables.
- Keeping a healthy weight.

- Being physically active.
- Clean Your Hands

**Handwashing is the most important way to keep from getting sick and spreading germs to others.**

Clean hands help prevent infections. Many diseases are spread by not cleaning your hands, which is especially dangerous when you’re getting chemotherapy treatment because your body may not be able to fight off infections like it used to. You and anyone who comes around you, including all members of your household, your doctors, and nurses, should clean their hands frequently. Don’t be afraid to ask people to clean their hands. Use soap and water to wash your hands. If soap and water aren’t available, it’s OK to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

**Be sure to clean your hands:**

- Before, during, and after cooking food.
- Before you eat.
- After going to the bathroom.
- After changing diapers or helping a child use the bathroom.
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- After touching or cleaning up after your pet.
- After touching trash.
- Before and after treating a cut or wound or caring for your catheter, port, or other access device.

Blessings,

Your Health and Wellness Ministry



**Finance Committee Report**

Thank you for your donations to our church. The month of March was a good month.

Pledges and tithes were a bit above budget. That is the first time in awhile total giving was below budget. Capital campaign giving was \$1581 below budget.

The finance committee strives to meet the needs of the church. Each one of us has to provide for our homes and families. As part of our church family, we depend on your support to maintain our building, staff, and programs. We thank each member of our church family.

Ann Varey  
Finance chairperson

**Attention Graduates!**

*If you or someone in your family is graduating from High School or College this spring please contact the church office and let us know the graduate’s name, school graduating from and future plans. We will be honoring our graduates in the spring.*



**Sunday, May 12**



**Thursday, May 2**





**Save the date!**

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza fundraiser for VBS is Wednesday, May 22.

Watch for more details of how you can enjoy a great meal and support Vacation Bible School.



**Register today for Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School June 17 – 21**

Remember the fun of summer camp? S'mores. Campfire songs. Catching lightning bugs. Your children, grandchildren and young neighbors can experience summer magic right here at Ebenezer at our Camp Firelight Vacation Bible School June 17 – 21 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Once again we'll partner with our friends from Resurrection Parish to learn that whenever we're afraid, we should put our trust in God (Psalm 56:3)

Registration forms are available on the church website, or look for paper forms on the VBS table in the CLC. Children must be at least 4 years old for VBS. Those who will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher in the fall should reach out to Megan and Mike Jones at [Youth\\_pastor@verizon.net](mailto:Youth_pastor@verizon.net) to sign up as junior counselors. Adults willing to help us set up camp, lead or assist with classes, serve as hall monitors or greeters, or help with set up, clean up and feeding hungry campers at our Friday closing ceremony please email Martha Helojoki at [mlodge221@yahoo.com](mailto:mlodge221@yahoo.com). If you can't pitch your tent the entire week with us, but would still like to be part of the VBS summer camp fun, be on the lookout for our wish list of craft supplies, decorations and snacks you can donate to keep the campfires burning.



**A Route — May**

- 6 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 13 Paul & Beverly Shunta
- 20 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 27 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncan

**B Route — May**

- 6 Paul Kelley
- 13 Paul Kelley
- 20 Paul Kelley
- 27 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)



"Thank you" to everyone who supported Hope Dining Room in the recent Home Grown and Do More 24 fundraisers. Donations totaled more than \$5,000 which was then matched by a generous donor. This is a much needed boost to the budget that allows us to continue serving meals to those in need.



**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.



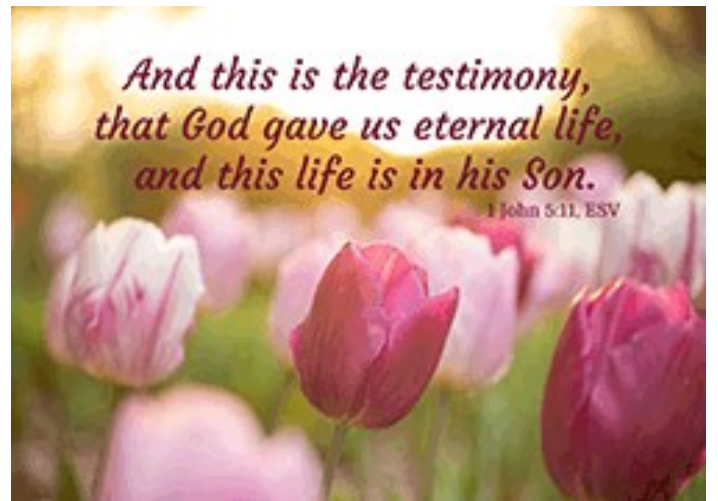
**MAY**  
Birthdays



**Memorial Day**

*Remembering their*  
**SACRIFICE**

**Monday, May 27**




**MAY**  
Anniversaries



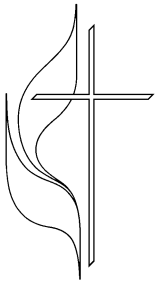
**The Highlighter**  
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# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<b>2</b> <b>11:45am Health &amp; Wellness</b> 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>3</b> 9:30am Visitation Jennie May 10:00am AA 11:00am Service Mrs. May 12:00pm Graveside	<b>4</b> 6:30pm NA
<b>5 6th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 2:00pm Private Event 4:00pm BSA50	<b>6</b> 10:00am AA 11:30am Social Seniors 7:00pm 2 X 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>7</b> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA <b>12:30pm UMW Board</b> <b>7:00pm COM</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir <b>4:00pm Project Linus</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<b>9</b> 6:30pm AL Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>10</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	<b>11</b> 4:00pm Wilmington Handbell Concert 6:30pm NA
<b>12 7th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 1:00pm Youth Group	<b>13</b> 10:00am AA <b>10:30am Naomi/S&amp;S Circle</b> 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Eagle Scout Board 7:00pm NA	<b>14</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>11:00 Stephen Ministry</b> 12:00pm AA <b>6:30pm Priscilla Circle</b> <b>7:00pm Trustees</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>17</b> 10:00am AA	<b>18</b> 8:30am Kitchen Clean Up 6:30pm NA
<b>19 Pentecost Sunday</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00 Social Hour 11:30am Anniversary Sunday Committee	<b>20</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>21</b> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 Hope Dining Room</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>24</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	<b>25</b> 6:30pm NA
<b>26 Trinity Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 1:00pm Youth Group	<b>27</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>28</b> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA	<b>29</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>31</b> 10:00am AA	



**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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