The Highlighter

Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Newark, Delaware **June & July 2026**

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

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, Beloved:

One last time I greet you in the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is hard to believe that our journey together will soon be over, nearly 10 years since I arrived at Ebenezer on September 1, 2016. It was an abrupt change for both you and Rick and I. I had a little over 2 weeks from the time that then District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Joe Archie had talked with and told me that our Bishop at the time, Bishop Peggy Johnson, was appointing me to Ebenezer as Rev. Dr. Rick Vance moved on to serve The United Methodist Church on a General Board until the day I walked into the church for the first time as your pastor and missional leader. I was nervous and filled with trepidation; I kept close to my heart my life verse, Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." and another favorite verse, "I will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)." I was unsure of how I would be received as the first woman lead pastor for the church; I knew you had been served by several strong women as Associate Pastors in the past. On September 4, as I stepped into the pulpit for the first time, facing a sea of your still unfamiliar faces, I also saw three strong servant leaders of our Conference: Rev. Dr. J.T. Seymour, Rev. Tom Short, and Rev. Ted Day. Can we talk about how intimidating that felt? But even stronger than the nervousness and intimidation was the knowledge that we were gathered in the presence of God to worship God and to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading to grow in grace in the desire to live God's love in the world.

That was the beginning of a journey together that has taken many twists and turns, but I believe has always moved us forward in seeking God's kingdom first and striving to make God's kingdom known to the world through our words and deeds. As I look back over the years, my heart is full. Your steady support, prayerful encouragement, and everyday kindness have been a living testimony of God's grace at work among us. Thank you for showing up—in worship, in service, in quiet moments of care. You have walked with Rick and I through challenges and joys, and your faithfulness has strengthened our own. We will never forget the ways you surrounded us with love, support, and caring in the time of Rick's medical issues and stroke and my breast cancer treatment. We will never forget how you continue to surround us with love, support, and caring as Rick has recovered and we have found his new normal for continuing to be a part of the church, and I continue deal with the after-effects of my chemotherapy treatment and ongoing preventative care.

I am grateful for your patience and grace, especially when I have faltered and needed forgiveness. I ask your forgiveness for any times I have been insensitive, impatient, or hurtful—whether through words I chose poorly, actions I left undone, or moments when I failed to listen as I should have. I regret these shortcomings. Your willingness to embrace me, flaws and all, has allowed me to grow and serve with renewed purpose. You have reminded me that ministry is never a solo endeavor; it is the work of a people bound together in Christ's love. In our recent worship series after Easter as we grew in our understanding of our United Methodist vision to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously, we were reminded each week that we are children of God, bearing the image of God who created us, and we are not alone for God walks with us each day and we love and support each other.

I hope that in my time as your pastor I have helped you have a renewed gratitude for the heritage we carry as United Methodists. When John Wesley began his Holy Club and his subsequent field preaching and Methodist societies, he was not seeking to form a new church, he wanted to help people find a deeper faith and a stronger desire to love and serve God and others. Acts of piety and acts of mercy were equally important. The supremacy of Scripture influencing

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our tradition, reason, and experience formed a quadrilateral to help shape our understanding of how we live God's way in our time. Wesley's covenant prayer, "I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it also be made in heaven," which we have shared many times over the years can be challenging and comforting. Some of Wesley's teachings which have morphed into pithy sayings – "the world is my parish," "do no harm, do good, stay in love with God," "do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can," help to capsulate the message of God's Word in easily remembered phrases.

Thank you for being a congregation that truly lives out the values of acceptance, generosity, and faith. As you move forward, continue to allow God to shape you into a community that bears one another's burdens, celebrates one another's joys, and stands as a light on the hill. Keep choosing love over fear, curiosity over certainty, and grace over grievance. Let's keep praying for one another, welcoming the stranger, and tending to the least among us. I am excited for you as you begin a new era of growth, ministry, and mission under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Tracy Mooney. Give her the chance you gave me to find her footing and share who she is and how she lives out her call to love God and love others.

Please know that I leave with great love and appreciation for the body of Christ that is Ebenezer UMC. Though retirement brings a change in role, the memories and relationships we have shared will remain forever close to my heart.

May God continue to richly bless you with unity, faith, hope, and love. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of walking this journey with you. I will carry you with me always in my prayers and in my heart.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mary

Thank you Calvin for delivering the church flowers and the beautiful prayer after the death of my daughter, Wendy. I felt lighter after you left. Where would we all be without you!?

Peace and Love,
Sandy Berk

Thank you Ebenezer friends and family for all the get well wishes and birthday cards.

She would also like to thank Pastor Mary and Calvon Keeler, Sr. for their loving care and prayers.

Ruth Johnson

Finance Committee Report

I hope all of you have a safe and fun summer.

Finance committee met. We will be getting a new pastor on July 1. We thank Pastor Mary for her ten years of leading our church. We all wish you a happy and safe retirement. New pastor will not live in our parsonage. She has her own home.

Please welcome our new pastor.

There are several improvements planned. A roofing project is being worked on. Lighting project to switch to LED lighting is also planned.

Donations to capital projects are welcome to cover these projects to update our church. Ebenezer is aging so it is necessary to update. Thank you for helping us on this.

Ann Varey
Finance. Chairperson

Family Promise's new facility will be officially completed June 1!

In combination with the two current cottages, they will be able to provide shelter for 16 families, (approximately 54 parents and their children) at any given time. The new building has additional living space, free washers/dryers, internet, communal living space and more.

From our perspective as a volunteer congregation for evening meals, the biggest change is that the new building is equipped with a commercial kitchen and dining room. All the program participants can be seated and served meals, cafeteria style, with restaurant style dishes and silverware. There will be an onsite kitchen manager to plan menus, stock the kitchen (using Family Promise funds) and prepare the meals served Sunday -Thursday.

Our role will transition from coordinating, providing, serving and cleaning up on our own to 1) assisting in food preparation in the kitchen with oversight of the kitchen manager (as needed), 2) serving the food to the families, 3) providing hospitality and 4) assisting with streamlined cleanup.

Ebenezer volunteers will be able to sign up (through our EUMC coordinators) for shifts in the process depending on their schedule and preference. The time commitment on any serving day could be anywhere from 45 minutes to 3 hours.

The process of adding additional families and changing the food service model will be phased in over the next several months.

For our next service week (August 2-7) we will still prepare and serve our own food but will serve it in the new building. We will still have a maximum of 8 families, not 16. By our next service week (November 1-5) we'll convert entirely to the new model and could expect 12-14 families.

Family Promise has designed the new model to reduce the burden currently in place on volunteers so that they can participate and truly engage in providing hospitality while not burning themselves out in the process. This is an exciting change and could allow more of our congregation to be directly involved with this mission and the families. Please continue to pray for the success of Family Promise as they help families in need.

"Feeding the hungry is a very holy thing, but a person who is hungry has a soul as well as a body, and it is just as necessary to feed the soul as it is to feed the body." — Billy Graham

Kathy Zinn | 302-463-5428 | zinn.kk@gmail.com

A Route (JUNE)
1 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
8 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
15 Paul & Beverly Shunta
22 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans
29 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson

B Route — (JUNE)
1 Mary Ann Menghi
8 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
15 Mary Minker & Adele Madden
22 Kathy and Doug Gibney
29 Mary Minker & Adele Madden

A Route (JULY)
6 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
13 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
20 Paul & Beverly Shunta
27 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans

B Route — (JULY)
6 Mary Ann Menghi
13 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
20 **Mary Minker & Adele Madden**
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)	

The Highlighter
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Sunday, June 21, 2026

An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, *Meditations by the Sea*

Freedom

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's Will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

1 Sarah Keever
3 Rick Browne
4 Andrew Peffley
Dean Spears
5 Kerry Dietz
6 Stephanie Touhey
Kate Mills
7 Sharon Keeler
8 Georgia Jones
Candy Muldowney
Abby Peffley
James Tobin
9 Megan Cascio
10 Annette & Bill Burgess
Megan Burns
Reed Williams
11 Nichole Willey
12 Jenna Zolanandz
13 Shantosh Ajanthan
Jack Bowdoin
14 Steve Dennis
Deegan Gebhart
Todd Trexler
15 Wesley Gages
Trish LaBonte
16 Veronica Hanus
19 Mark Miller Sr.
20 Kevin Coney
Adam Keever
Jim Stout
21 Tommie Sue Simmons
23 Avery Taylor
Rhonda Vible
25 Zach Trexler
Heidi Williams
27 Sam Siple
Margaret Tobin
28 Doris Baker
Joshua Lawton
Noel Rosario
Lily Schultz
Takuma Stewart
Diane Woodman
29 Pamela Reed
30 Violet Gorton
Carol White

1 Nicholas Merritt
2 Emily DiOrio
Jean Harlan
Joy Latzko
3 Liam Wood
4 Audrey Damewood
6 Michael Hodgins
7 Macyn Fogg
Dan Roberts
Christopher Salam
8 Melanie Merritt
Alma Tassell
9 Lucy Broelmann
10 Margaret Owen
11 Noah Wood
12 Austin Frazier
Sandra Smith
13 Aram Terzian
Daylin Mullin
14 Kristin Caldwell
Ann Giftlin
Lena Latzko
15 Amber Crossan
17 Brianna Dempsey
Mark Miller Jr.
18 Nicholas Brendza
Alexis Brookens
Margaret Fraser
19 Jarred Logan
21 Aaron Donato
Justin Donovan
Charlotte Jones
22 Aimee Bouchet
Jamie Lumb
Katherine Walton
23 Elsie Outten
Pattianne Root
Ben Tackett
24 Philip Dingus-Tackett
25 Dustin Sterkenburg
26 Maria Esposito
28 Cara Beach
Henry Hafer
Giavanna Maritato
29 Amanda Bienkowski
Arlene Brown
Ally Hudson
30 Wanda Bassano
31 Ryan Mullin
Andrew Zinn

7 Rick & Donna Guretsky (57 Years)
9 Bill & Diane Clark (47 Years)
13 Adam & Sarah Keever (18 Years)
17 Ken & Kathy Zinn (48 Years)
22 Marty & Diana Bienkowski (41 Years)
23 Scott & Jodi Grabusky (19 Years)
24 Mark & Connie Miller (54 Years)
25 Mike & Terri Peffley (32 Years)
28 Annette & Beill Burgess (46 Years)

7 Harrison & Kristin Caldwell (20 Years)
8 Bill & Barbara Just (70 Years)
10 Weldon & Kay Leventry (50 Years)
12 Debra Albao-Ebalacas (12 Years)
26 Aaron & Kristie Koontz (18 Years)
31 Allen & Virginia Sylvester (16 Years)

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:00am AA **11:30am Social Seniors** 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA	2 9:45amBible Study 12:00pm AA **12:30pm UMW Board** 6:00pm Support Group	3 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 6:00pm Private Event 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm District Committee BSA	4 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	5 10:00am AA	6 **Kitchen Clean Up** 10:00am Scandinavian Stars 2:00pm Private Event 6:30pm NA
7 **2nd Sunday after Pentecost** 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 4:00pm BSA50	8 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm Eagle Scout Boards 7:00pm NA	9 9:45amBible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	10 7:30am AA 10:00am AA **11ooam Stephen Ministry** **1**2:00pm AA Luncheon **4:00pm Project Linus** 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm Private Event	11 11:30am BSFT Brown Bag Luncheon 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	12 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 X 4 Dance	13 6:30pm NA
14 **3rd Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour **4:00pm Ulster Project Dinner**	15 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA	16 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group 6:30pm Cub Scouts	17 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 6:15pm Good Chimes **7:00pm Admin. Board**	18 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	19 10:00am AA	20 6:30pm NA
21 **4th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	22 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA	23 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	24 7:30am AA 10:00am AA **10:00am Hope Dining Room** 6:15pm Good Chimes	25 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	26 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	27 6:30pm NA
28 **5th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	29 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA	30 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group				

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 7:00pm District Committee BSA	2 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00 BSA50	3 10:00am AA	4 6:30pm NA
5 **6th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 4:00pm BSA50	6 8:00am AA 10:00am AA **11:30am Social Seniors** 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm NA	7 8:00am AA 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group **7:00pm COM**	8 7:30am AA 8:00am AA 10:00am AA **11:00am Stephen Ministry** **4:00pm Project Linus**	9 8:00am AA 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	10 8:00am AA 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 X 4 Dance	11 8:00am Private Event 8:00am AA **10:00am Project Ulster Car Wash** 6:30pm NA
12 **7th Sunday after Pentecost** 8:00am AA **10:00am Worship/ Project Ulster** 11:00am Social Hour	13 8:00am AA 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00 Eagle Scout Boards 7:00pm NA	14 8:00am AA 12:00pm AA **3:00pm Endowment** **4:00pm Trustees** 6:00pm Support Group	15 7:30am AA 8:00am AA 10:00am AA	16 8:00am AA 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	17 **8:00am Life Line Screening** 8:00am AA 10:00am AA	18 8:00am AA 6:30pm NA
19 **8th Sunday after Pentecost** 8:00am AA 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	20 8:00am AA 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm NA	21 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group 6:30pm Cub Scouts	22 7:30am AA 8:00am AA **10:00am Hope Dining Room** 10:00am AA	23 8:00am AA 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	24 8:00am AA 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	25 6:30pm NA
26 **9th Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	27 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm NA	28 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	29 7:30am AA 10:00am AA	30 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	31 10:00am AA	

EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
525 Polly Drummond Hill Road
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