

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

March 19, 2023



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation*



The Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and

*In Loving of Sherri Helms Mullenix
Presented by Nicholas and Aaron Bey*

*In Loving Memory of Tom Crescenzo, Jr.
Presented by His Family*

Participating in Service

Pastor:	Rev. Mary H. Browne
Director of Music:	Mr. F. Robert Rudolph
Worship Leader:	Don Pruden
Media Team:	Bill Clark and Rich Johnson
Greeter:	Diane Woodman
Usher Coordinators:	Don Grimes and Don Pruden
Communion Servers:	Susan Durbin and Margie Pankok

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“When [Jesus] had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.’ Then he went and washed and came back able to see...”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’” John 9:6-7, 24-25

March 19, 2023

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME

Kindly sign our pew register and pass to your neighbor.
If you are visiting with us today, please sign your name and USPS or e-mail address
as we would like to acknowledge you being with us today.

PRELUDE

“Lenten Prelude”

Vladimir Rebikoff

THRESHOLD MOMENT

“Show Us How to Love”

words: Mark Miller/music: Lindy Thompson

Chancel Choir

Hearts open, minds awake,
save us now for heaven’s sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred’s wake.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

We have been focusing on where love is to really be found during this season of Lent.

We too often look for love in the security of powerful figures, sure that they can “fix” things for us. It was no different for the people of the First and Second Testaments. They were looking for kings, saviors, and liberators who would offer peace and security in uncertain times. And they often looked

“in all the wrong places.” The Pharisees just can’t believe that this trouble-maker, this rule-breaker named Jesus is the One, the Son of God and Savior. Time and again Jesus uses the unlikely metaphor of a Shepherd to teach us how we ought to love and care for each other.

No wonder, the Shepherd does what is needed, when it is needed, regardless of the “rules.”

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see?

**Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us,
and bear fruit in us.**

**Touch us, so that we are utterly changed, a "before" and "after,"
a "then" and "now;" that we may also say,
"One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
Lord, we believe; help our unbelief.
In Christ's light, we pray. Amen.**

*PRAISE HYMN (UMH 381) "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

BRADSBURRY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read
and proclaimed, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may see
what is good and right and true.
And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory
becomes visible in our words and deeds.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen**

A READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 23

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A WORD FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Open My Eyes"
Chancel Choir

Michael John Trotta

Let us not deceive ourselves, so that the truth can dwell in us.
Let us not deceive ourselves, so that His Word is in us.

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth You have for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free.
Repent, change your heart, change your heart and mind.

Silently now, on bended knee, I wait Your will to see.
Change your mind, open my eyes, illumine me.

Spirit divine! Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth You have for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free.

MESSAGE

"Look for the Shepherd"

Rev. Mary Browne

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Grant to us your peace, Lord.**

"Kyrie" (HAVE MERCY)
#3133, *Worship & Song* hymnal supplement
©2011 by Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Prayers for the World

Loving Creator, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care
and attention to matters of the world.

Prayer continues...

God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this world to you with our love:

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Grant to us your peace, Lord.**

Prayers for Our Community

Loving Sovereign, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care
and attention to the matters in our communities.

Prayer continues...

God have mercy. In this singing we lift up this community to you with our love:

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Grant to us your peace, Lord.**

Prayers for Our Relationships

Loving Parent, we come to you asking for the power of love found in deep care
and attention to matters in our homes and relationships.

Prayer continues

God have mercy. In this singing we lift up each other to you with our love:

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Grant to us your peace, Lord.**

Prayers for Our Selves

Lover of Our Souls, we come to you asking for the power found in deep care
and attention to matters in our own hearts.

Prayer continues...

God have mercy. In this singing we open ourselves to your love:

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Grant to us your peace, Lord.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God.

Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring now our tithes and offerings
to God, with gladness and gratitude.

OFFERTORY (*UMH* 393)

"Spirit of the Living God"

LIVING GOD

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (*UMH* 87, v. 4)

"What Gift Can We Bring"

ANNIVERSARY SONG

*OFFERING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd, gentle Savior, we give you thanks this day:

**for rest in green pastures,
for refreshment beside still waters,
for health and wholeness for our souls.**

**As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer you our gifts this day.
Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed
from your hand. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Holy and Merciful One, in this season of discernment we come bringing our deepest longings, and our failed attempts at satisfying them.

We have often looked for love, for acceptance and security, in halls of the perceived power of public opinion or unexamined presumptions about others not like us rather than the real power of love and care for one another.

We yearn for lives that matter, we desire relationships that thrive, we want less regret.

At times we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance.

You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others by affirming their worth and dignity.

You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better.

In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness to a different way of living.

Silence

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says that "the Lord is our shepherd... whose goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives."

Let us respond together:

We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sung responses: Musical Setting D (UMH 23)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**In gratitude, O God, we have come into your house, into your presence;
we have come to your table.**

**For all that you have done for us, most especially for bringing us into the light
of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise.**

**In our comings and goings, lead us to live as children of light, doing what
is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ.**

It is in his name that we pray.

Amen.

NURTURING LOVE

*HYMN OF SERVICE (UMH 347)

"Spirit Song"

SPIRIT SONG

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Beloved, go forth in the light of God, walking as children of light.

Live in Christ's light, even in the darkest valley.

Trust that our Triune God enables you to walk by faith, seeing signs of the Shepherd,
and tending to the world around us with love.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

Amen.

*GOING FORTH

"Symphony in Bb"

Nicolas Le Bègue

Please remain seated until the SENDING FORTH is concluded.

Following the service, all are welcome to join in a time of fellowship and snacks
at Social Hour in the Christian Life Center.

**please stand, in body or spirit*

bold text indicates congregation response

UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal (red)

TFWS: The Faith We Sing (black)

††This Order of Worship is subject to the direction of the Holy Spirit.††

Lectionary readings for the **Fifth Sunday in Lent**, March 26, 2023:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: As many of you may know, altar flowers can be dedicated "in memory of" or "in honor of" a family member or friend on any Sunday of the year. The dedication appears in the Sunday bulletin of your chosen Sunday. If you wish to make an altar flower dedication (\$50/Sunday), please contact Carol in the church office at 731-9495. Thank you!

Sunday School Classes at Ebenezer, classes start at 9:00am.

Faith Class	Lounge	"God Heard Their Cry"
Youth/Children's Sunday School	Lower level	

Bible Study for Today: Meets every Thursday at 9:15am in GHH and Classrooms.

In Person Attendance for March 12-69.

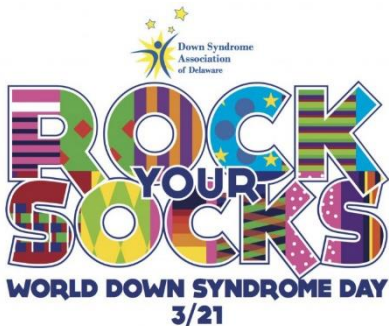
Upcoming Special Services

April	2 nd	Palm Sunday	10:00am
April	6 th	Holy Thursday	7:00pm
April	7 th	Good Friday	7:00pm Tenebrae Service
April	9 th	Easter	6:30am 10:00am

ROCK YOUR SOCKS DAY

Tuesday, March 21

Supports Down Syndrome Association of DE



For a \$3.00 donation, you can purchase a pair of pre-mismatched socks to wear in support of World Down Syndrome Day, (www.dsadelaware.org). Choose a pair

of socks from the box on the table in the Narthex and leave your \$3.00 donation in the basket. On March 21 wear your socks to show your awareness and support of the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down Syndrome.

Snap a picture of your feet in your RYS socks and post it our Ebenezer Facebook page (Ebenezer UMC Newark) or send picture to

Pastor Mary (eumc_pastor@verizon.net) to post to our FB page.

Our Prayers



Brandy +++ Lucy Broelmann +++ Julie +++ Carrie Mack ++ Patty Oswalt	Richard Rudolph Lauren Vanderpool ++ Sue +++ Chase Wisniewski	<u>Ongoing Concerns</u> Jade August Clara Brelsford Roy Brown Rick Browne Ron Case Marge Clark Judy Crescenzo Jeannette Jarrell	Kristin Gary Pierce Denise Reedy Olivia Richart Louis Simmons Joyce Simpson Zach Trexler Josh Vible Alex Wiant
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Please pray for all Law Enforcement Officers.
Please continue to remember all who serve our country in the military,
especially pray for those represented from our congregation.

Missionaries We Support:

Matt & Erin Reinders	(Unalaska UMC)	Michael Fisher	(I-Tec)
Catherine & Andy Kellogg	(Florida)	Joy & Robert Vargas	(Paraguay)
Gaston Ntambo	(Congo)	Jeanne Ntambo	(Congo)

The UMW still has **new crop pecans** available for \$13.00 per bag (one pound). They are now stored in Brooksie Pruden's freezer. We would love for you to buy pecans to store in YOUR freezer and then they would be handy the next time you need them for baking, etc. Just email Brooksie at brooksiepru@gmail.com or call her at 302-239-3191. Thank you!



As we celebrate Holy Communion, the offering plates at the front of the center aisle are to receive your gift to the pastor's discretionary account used to help members of our community with utility, rent, food, and other appropriate expense assistance.



Children's Disaster Services Volunteer Workshop April 14 – 15, 2023 here at Ebenezer UMC

Childrens Disaster Services is a Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministry that involves volunteers from many faith communities who provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos that follows disaster by setting up & operating special childcare centers in disaster locations.

This workshop provides specialized training for all volunteers. It is a comprehensive 25-hour workshop that uses applied, experiential activities to help the participants integrate their learning.

We have a signup sheet available in the Narthex.

Save the Date Rise against Hunger

April 29th

Donations welcomed; Volunteers needed.

Questions? Want to volunteer? There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Church Office with any questions or to sign-up now.



**Delicious UMW Soup Sale
Ham & Bean \$12.00/quart**

Order sheet available in Narthex, call church office or call Diane Clark at 302-239-6835 to order.

Please order and pay in advance. Leave payment in envelope and place in UMW mail slot by March 19, 2023. Soup will be available for pick up after worship on March 26th.

The youth group decided that we'd like to concentrate on giving our time and talents for this Lenten season, but we need your help. Our mission this year is to concentrate on UMCOR relief kits for Hygiene. From Wednesday, February 26, through Easter, we need donations of materials. Hygiene kits will be assembled the week after Easter and sent to Mission Central.

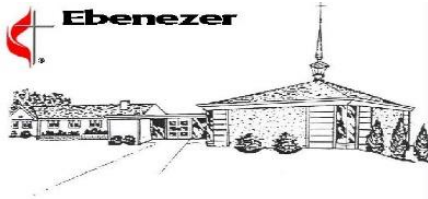


Hygiene Kit Material specifications:

- **hand towel** (15 x 25 -17 x 27 inches)
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **washcloth**
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **comb**
Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
No pocket combs or picks
Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- **toenail or fingernail clipper**
No emery boards or metal nail files
- **Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)**
No Ivory or Jergen's soap
Do not remove it from the packaging
- **adult toothbrush**
Do not remove it from the packaging
Personal advertising is not acceptable
- **adhesive bandages** (3/4 by 3 inches)
Common household bandages are acceptable
- **one-gallon size re-sealable bags**



Boy Scouts Troop 50 will be having a Free Ebenezer Car Wash on Saturday, April 8th, starting at 10:00. Free to all members of Ebenezer. We will have Scouts there ready to get the winter salt and dirt off their cars and ready for Easter Sunday morning!



On the Calendar, this week....

Sun	03/12	3rd Sunday in Lent	
		9:00am	Sunday School
		9:15am	Chancel Choir
		10:00am	Worship
		11:00am	Social Hour – CLC
		1:00pm	Cub Scouts - GHH
		3:00pm	Youth Group – CLC
		5:30pm	BSA50 – Room 204
Mon	03/13	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
		7:00pm	Eagle Scout Boards – Room 204, 211 & Lounge
		7:00pm	NA Meeting – GHH
Tues	03/14	9:30am	Bible Study – Room 204
		12:00pm	AA Meeting - Room 204
		6:30pm	Priscilla Circle – CLC
		7:00pm	Trustees – Room 204
Wed	03/15	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
		1:00pm	Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
		6:00pm	Good Chimes – Music Room
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
Thurs	03/16	6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room204
		5:30pm	CFA-Ball Team – Ball Field
		7:00pm	BSA50 – CLC
		7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	03/17	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
Sat	03/18	5:30pm	UMW Chicken & Dumpling Dinner
		6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH & Old Kitchen



*May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
And nothing but happiness
come through your door*

Looking forward

Sun	03/19	4th Sunday in Lent	9:00am	Sunday School
			9:15am	Chancel Choir
			10:00am	Worship
			11:00am	Social Hour – CLC
			3:00pm	Youth Group – CLC
Mon	03/20		10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
			7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
			7:00pm	NA Meeting – GHH
Tues	03/21		9:30am	Bible Study – Room 204
			12:00pm	AA Meeting - Room 204
			1:30pm	Stephen Ministry – Confirmation Room
			7:00pm	Silverwood Homeowners - GHH
Wed	03/22		10:00am	Hope Dining Room
			10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
			1:00pm	Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
			6:00pm	Good Chimes – Music Room
			7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
			7:00pm	Finance Committee – Room 204
Thurs	03/23		9:15am	BSFT – GHH & Old Kitchen
			6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room204
			7:00pm	BSA50 – CLC
			7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	03/24		10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
Sat	03/25		10:30am	Volleyball - CLC
			6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH & Old Kitchen

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA!

Website: www.EbenezerUMCNewark.org and Facebook: [Ebenezer UMC Newark](https://www.facebook.com/EbenezerUMCNewark).

If you have information about an event which you would like featured on the website, please contact Lori Brown loribrown927@msn.com, or Rick Browne at rbrowne646@gmail.com.



All our members, ministers
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Robert Rudolph, Music Director
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Megan & Mike Jones, Youth Ministry
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