

# Ebenezer United Methodist Church

March 5, 2023

MY HELP COMES  
FROM THE LORD

PS. 121:2

*Ebenezer United Methodist Church is a  
Stephen Ministry Congregation*



*The Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and*

*In Loving Memory of Christopher Patterson*

*Presented by Wayne and Dave Patterson*

	Participating in Service
Pastor:	Rev. Mary H. Browne
Director of Music:	Mr. F. Robert Rudolph
Worship Leader:	Beth Jackson
Media Team:	Bill Clark and Rich Johnson
Greeter:	Deb August
Usher Coordinators:	Don Grimes and Don Pruden
Communion Servers:	Adele Madden and Calvin Keeler, Sr.

# SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth...  
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."  
Psalm 121:1-2, 8*

March 5, 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

"Prelude in E Minor"

J.S. Bach

## THRESHOLD MOMENT

"Show Us How to Love"

words: Mark Miller/music: Lindy Thompson  
Chancel Choir

Hearts open, minds awake,  
change 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.

Oftentimes we believe that we must "deserve" the love we receive. We work, work, work to get approval and to feel like our life is justified — pulling our own weight, thinking that whatever life we create, and love we get, is only what we ourselves can conjure up.

But the scriptures today offer the image of God as our "keeper" — always helping, always present.

Nicodemus has followed all the rules and done everything HE can do, and yet he is still looking for love — for tangible connection with God.

Jesus says that he must be born "of the Spirit." It's not all up to simply "doing the right thing!" It is about allowing the Spirit to help birth love in our lives.

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

**Spirit of help and hope, be with us this day.**

**Breathe into our prayers and praise.**

**Breathe into our spirits.**

**Breathe into our worship with your promise of help, your promise of rebirth,  
and your promise of blessing.**

**In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.**

\*PRAISE HYMN (UMH 117)

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeing  
understanding and the new life it offers.**

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may  
believe this testimony and have eternal life.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior we pray. Amen.**

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 121

\*GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

A WORD FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"How Beautiful"  
Chancel Choir

Twila Paris

How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and the children of earth.  
How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.  
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.  
How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise.  
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

And as He laid down His life, we offer, offer this sacrifice that we will live just as He  
died: willing to pay the price.

How beautiful the feet that bring the sound of good news and the love of the King.  
How beautiful the hands that serve the wine and the bread and the children of earth.  
How beautiful is the body of Christ.

MESSAGE

"Look for the Helper"

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

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*Prayers for the World*

Loving Creator, we come to you asking for the strength of your help in this 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 strength of your help  
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 strength of your help 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 strength of your help  
to love ourselves.

*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

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion  
of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

OFFERTORY (*UMH* 170 v. 1, 2)      "O How I Love Jesus"      O HOW I LOVE JESUS

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (*UMH* 87, v. 4)      "What Gift Can We Bring"      ANNIVERSARY SONG

\*OFFERING PRAYER

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in  
deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal  
journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.  
Accept what we bring for your own good purposes.  
In Christ we pray. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The God who made heaven and earth has created us in God's glorious image.  
Come to God's table and partake of Godself.  
Remember the blessings we have received and the blessings we are called to be.  
Come to be blessed. Come to be fed.  
Come, for the Spirit is calling, inviting us to be nourished and born anew.

## 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 formulas that will assure success at the expense of staying tuned to the Spirit's nudge.

**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.

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, "The Lord will keep your life... your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."

**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

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of you Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### NURTURING LOVE

#### \*HYMN OF SERVICE (*UMH* 354)

"I Surrender All"

SURRENDER

**\*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Go now in the sure knowledge that God goes with you every step of your journey.  
Go surrounded by the steadfast and strengthening love of God.  
Go in faith to love and to serve all God's children.  
Look for signs of The Helper, knowing that God is ever present, urging our choice  
for 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**

"Rondo"

John Bull

*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 **Third Sunday in Lent, March 12, 2023:**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



As we celebrate Holy Communion. The offering plates at the front of the center aisle are there 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Blood Pressure checks available Today in the Workroom.*

**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 Feb 26-90**

## *Upcoming Special Services*

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

## **Chicken & Dumpling Dinner**

*Sponsored by the Ebenezer UMW to support local and global missions.*

When: Saturday, March 18, 2023

5:00 pm Takeouts

5:30 pm Eat In

Cost: \$12 for 12 yr. olds to Adults: \$4 for 4-12 yr. olds;  
3 and under free



### **Please reserve your meal so we have an accurate count.**

Sign up form: in the church Narthex or by calling:

Church Office (731-9495) or Diane Clark (239-6835)

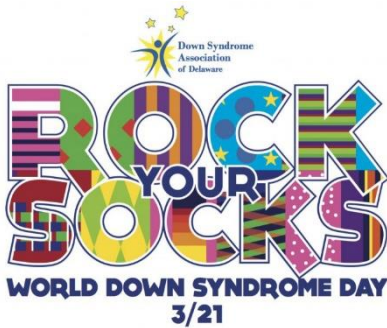
**Orders due by 3/11/23**

## Our Prayers



Jerry Avery +++++ Barbara +++++ Brandy + Lucy Broelmann + Colin +++ Inga Dillon +++++ Kristen Emmerl +++++ Kitty Huber +++++ Julie + <b>Carrie Mack</b>	Rene Moreno +++++ Lloyd Robinson +++++ Richard Rudolph +++ Stephanie Simmons +++++ Geoffrey Steggell +++++ Marlene Tribbitt +++ Lauren Vanderpool Sue + Tim Von Duyke +++++	<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.



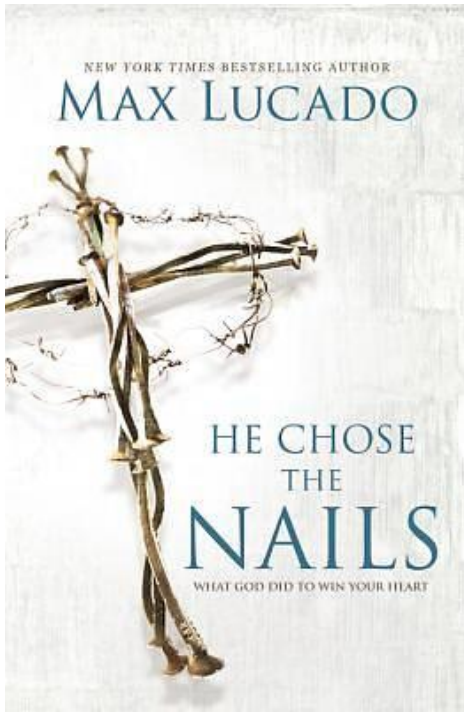
### ROCK YOUR SOCKS DAY

**Wednesday, 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](http://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](mailto:eumc_pastor@verizon.net)) to post to our FB page.





***He Chose the Nails***  
**by Max Lucado**

Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Room 204

February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28

In the author's words: "There were no accidents on the days surrounding Jesus' death. Jesus' last moments were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. God didn't have to do all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more."

A suggested donation of \$13.00 helps to cover the cost of the book.

Please speak with Pastor Mary if you have any questions.

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**Save the Date April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Rise against Hunger**

**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.**



At 2 a.m. Sunday, **March 12**, you will need to set your clocks forward one hour to 3 a.m., meaning we will "spring forward" and lose an hour of sleep.

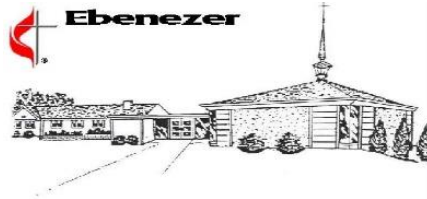


The youth group decided that we'd like to concentrate on giving our time and talents for this Lenten season, but we need your help. Our mission this year is to concentrate on UMCOR relief kits for Hygiene. From Wednesday, February 26, through Easter, we need donations of materials. Hygiene kits will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

### Hygiene Kit Material specifications:

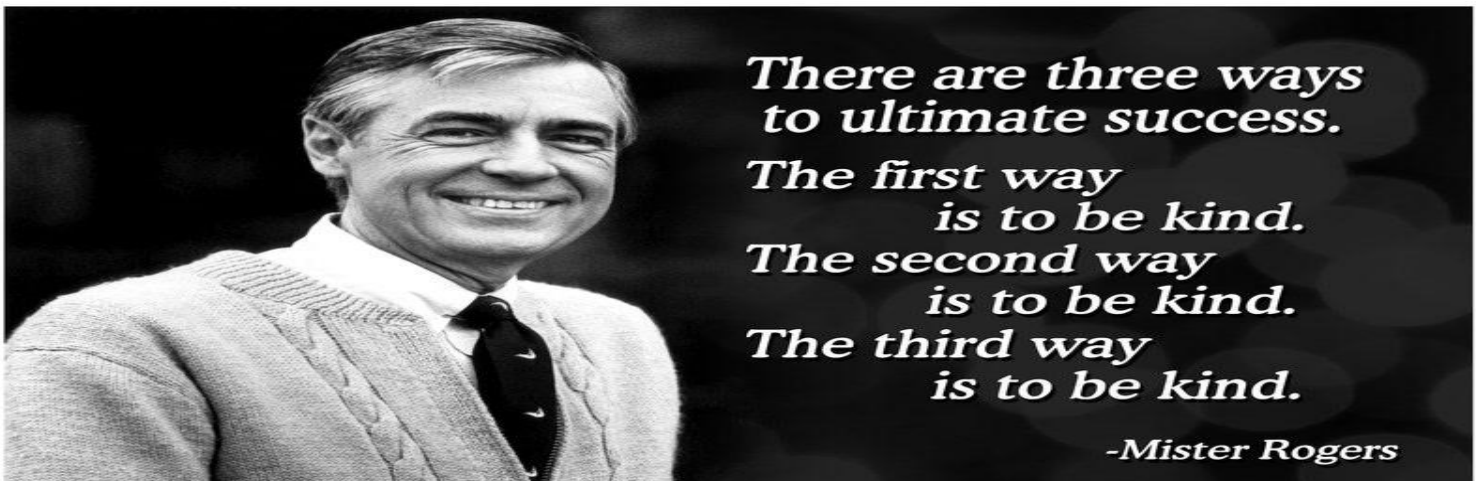
- **hand towel** (15 x 25 -17 x 27 inches)  
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **washcloth**  
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **comb**  
Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth  
No pocket combs or picks  
Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have 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** (¾ by 3 inches)  
Common household bandages are acceptable
- **one-gallon size re-sealable bags**





**On the Calendar, this week....**

Sun	03/05	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	9:00am 9:15am 10:00am 11:00am 3:00pm 5:30pm	Sunday School Chancel Choir Worship Social Hour - CLC Youth Group - CLC BSA50 - Room 204
Mon	03/06		10:00am <b>11:30am</b> 7:00pm	AA Meeting - Room 204 <b>Social Seniors - GHH</b> 2 x 4 Class - CLC
Tues	03/07		7:00pm 9:30am 12:00pm <b>12:30pm</b> <b>7:00pm</b>	NA Meeting - GHH Bible Study - Room 204 AA Meeting - Room 204 <b>UMW Board - Room 211</b> <b>COM - Room 204</b>
Wed	03/08		10:00am <b>10:30am</b> 1:00pm <b>4:00pm</b> 6:00pm 7:00pm <b>7:00pm</b>	AA Meeting - Room 204 <b>Naomi/S&amp;S Circle - CLC</b> Chancel Choir - Sanctuary <b>Project Linus - GHH</b> Good Chimes - Music Room 2 x 4 Class - CLC <b>SPRC - Room 204</b>
Thurs	03/09		6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	BSA50 - CLC Al-Anon - Room 204 NA Meeting - GHH
Friday	03/10		10:00am	AA Meeting - Room 204
Sat	03/11		10:00am 1:00pm 6:30pm	Delaware Valley Historic Samplers - CLC BSA50 - CLC NA Meeting - GHH & Old Kitchen



*There are three ways  
to ultimate success.  
The first way  
is to be kind.  
The second way  
is to be kind.  
The third way  
is to be kind.*

*-Mister Rogers*

## Looking forward

Sun	03/12	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	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
			<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Priscilla Circle – CLC</b>
			<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Trustees – Room 204</b>
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		6:00pm	BSA50 – CLC
			6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room204
			7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	03/17		10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
Sat	03/18			<b>UMW Chicken &amp; Dumpling Dinner</b>
			6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH & Old Kitchen

### **STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA!**

**Website:** [www.EbenezerUMCNewark.org](http://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](mailto:loribrown927@msn.com), or Rick Browne at [rbrowne646@gmail.com](mailto:rbrowne646@gmail.com).



All our members, ministers  
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contact @ [eumc\\_pastor@verizon.net](mailto:eumc_pastor@verizon.net)  
Robert Rudolph, Music Director  
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Calvin Keeler, Sr., Minister of Visitation  
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