

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

September 3, 2023



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation*



The Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and

In Loving Memory of my parents, Allen and Mary Vines

Presented by Margie Pankok

Participating in Service	
Pastor:	Rev. Mary H. Browne
Director of Music:	Mr. F. Robert Rudolph
Worship Leader:	Beth Jackson
Media Team:	Bill Clark, Rich Johnson
Greeter:	Diane Clark
Usher Coordinators:	Don Grimes and Don Pruden
Communion Servers:	Donna Dennis and Sherri Hodgson

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it...

*Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy;
share tears when they’re down...*

*If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody. Don’t insist on getting even; that’s not for you
to do. ‘I’ll do the judging,’ says God. ‘I’ll take care of it...’*

Don’t let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Romans 12:9, 14-15, 18-19, 21 (The Message)

September 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING MUSIC

“I Surrender ALL”

David Schwoebel

*CALL TO WORSHIP

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Come to the Table of Grace”

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

*Worship & Song, #3168, v. 1
(Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, 2011)*

We know there is a place for us at this table.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude.

We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

We come ready to open our hearts beyond their current size.

We humbly take our seat.

We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus.

*PRAISE HYMN (TFWS 2269)

“We Gather Here”

DIVERNON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among
your gathered people, opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.**

In Jesus’ name we ask it. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS (from *The Message*)

Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:24-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A WORD FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Sharon Keeler and Christine Harlan

I traveled down a lonely road And no one seemed to care;
 The burden on my weary back Had bowed me to despair,
 I oft complained to Jesus How folks were treating me,
 And then I heard Him say so tenderly,
 "My feet were also weary, Upon the Calv'ry road;
 The cross became so heavy, I fell beneath the load,
 Be faithful weary pilgrim, The morning I can see,
 Just lift your cross and follow close to me."

"I work so hard for Jesus" I often boast and say,
 "I've sacrificed a lot of things To walk the narrow way,
 I gave up fame and fortune, I'm worth a lot to Thee,"
 And then I hear Him gently say to me.
 "I left the throne of glory And counted it but loss,
 My hands were nailed in anger Upon a cruel cross,
 But now we'll make the journey With your hand safe in mine,
 So lift your cross and follow close to me.

Oh, Jesus if I die upon A foreign field some day,
 'Twould be no more than love demands No less could I repay,
 "No greater love hath mortal man Than for a friend to die"
 These are the words He gently spoke to me,
 "If just a cup of water I place within your hand
 Then just a cup of water Is all that I demand,"
 But if by death to living They can thy glory see,
 I'll take my cross and follow close to thee

MESSAGE

"The Table of Hospitality"

Rev. Mary Browne

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (*UMH* 636)

"Christian People, Raise Your Song"

AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The apostle Paul encourages us to not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
 In loving service to our loving Lord, we now return to God a portion of the bounty
 God has provided.

OFFERTORY

"Behold the Lamb"
Ruthie Toole, soloist

Keith & Kristyn Getty

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
 Slain for us and we remember
 The promise made that all who come in faith
 Find forgiveness at the cross

Chorus

So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you
Eat and remember
The wounds that healed the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one

Sing Chorus

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God

*PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS (*UMH 95*)

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD 100TH

*OFFERING PRAYER

**Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts
and use us for your ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Here is the table of the Lord, we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.

Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.

Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.

Come, old and young, there is room for all.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

**God of mercy, we confess that, like the disciples, we set our minds
not on divine things but on human things.**

Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need.

Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers.

Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation.

**Forgive us that we may gain new life in you, for it is in Jesus' forgiving name
we pray. Amen.**

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.

In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sung responses: Musical Setting A p. 17,18

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

As we have been shown the hospitality of Jesus, may we take on the mantle of hospitality in our own lives, eating and drinking and inviting others to the welcome table.

We have been fed.

We have been nourished.

We have been transformed.

It is with Great Thanks that we have come to this table.

Amen!

*HYMN OF SERVICE (UMH 369)

"Blessed Assurance"

ASSURANCE

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

This Table of Hospitality requires much of us.

It demands that we examine our own boundaries of "who is in" and "who is out."

It asks us to accept that the Spirit may move in surprising ways,

through surprising people, and we might just miss out on the beauty and fullness of life if we insist on limiting invitations to the feast.

Indeed, sometimes WE couldn't even pass our OWN litmus test for inclusion!

The grace of God abounds!

The invitation of Christ is wide!

The power of the transforming Spirit will surprise us every time!

May the blessings of hospitality you find here go with you and move through you to others wherever you go this week.

Amen.

GOING FORTH

"Glory" (Barcelona)

Rudolph/Tesh

Please remain seated until the GOING FORTH is concluded.

All are welcome to a time of fellowship and refreshment at Social Hour in the Christian Life Center.

**please stand, in body or spirit*
bold text indicates congregation response

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

UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal (red)

TFWS: The Faith We Sing (black)

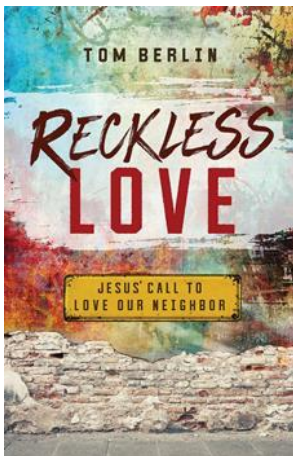
Lectionary Scriptures for the **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**, September 10, 2023:
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

This Sunday 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.



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.



Our first study will be the book, *Reckless Love*, by Rev. Tom Berlin. *It is a six-week study of Jesus' teachings that challenges us to consider how Jesus teaches us to love our neighbor first as a way to more deeply love God.*

From the book's back cover: In his exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper relationship with God, what if becoming a better neighbor leads you to that deeper love of God?

In Reckless Love, you will consider your life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God.

Copies of the book are available in the church office. A \$15.00 donation is suggested to help cover the cost of the book. Please speak with Pastor Mary if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BP Checks available in Workroom after service today!

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!

In Person Attendance for Aug 27 – 70.

September 10th will be our "Welcome Back" service with music and special events.

The music in this service will include the singing of favorite hymns, there will be a traditional hymn sing at 9:45am, a handbell choir, traditional music with the chancel choir, a contemporary Christian selection, soloists, and a traditional folk music selection. Our musicians are back to providing uplifting music for the fall season.

There is a signup sheet for the luncheon in the Narthex.



Blessing
of the
Backpacks



School students and teachers join us at the 10:00 service on **Next Sunday**. Bring your backpacks! Pastor Browne will give a special blessing for a great 2023-2024 school year!

We will be collecting donations for the stockings from July through November. The box is out in the narthex and ready to accept your donations.



This month we will do **lip balm, pretzels / trail mix, foot powder, ramen noodles (bricks only, no cups) and jerky**. Of course, we will accept anything else that is suitable. There are lists of all donations requested available in the Narthex. Thanks again for your generous support of this endeavor.

Money donations and Christmas cards for the troops are always welcome. Cards would be a great project for the children.

Our Prayers



Mary Anderson +	Jenna +	<u>Ongoing Concerns</u>	Rich Johnson
Gary Avery +++++	Becky Knowles +++++	Jade August	Kristin
Bill Bedient +	Becky Mack +++++	Clara Brelsford	Gary Pierce
Mary Bowers ++	Carrie Mack +++++	Roy Brown	Denise Reedy
Cami +++++	Micah +++++	Rick Browne	Olivia Richart
Lois Chamberlain	Rachel +++++	Ron Case	Louis Simmons
Hack +++++	Susan +	Judy Crescenzo	Joyce Simpson
Frank Harkins +++++	Shirley Vanderpool +++++	Delia Irwin	Zach Trexler
		Jeannette Jarrell	Alex Wiant

In an effort to list all prayer requests each will appear for 4 weeks as indicated by the number of + after the name

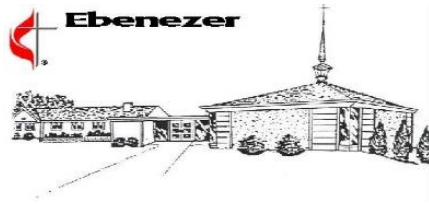
Please pray for the family and friends of Clark Brown, (Jeannette Richart's brother)

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.**

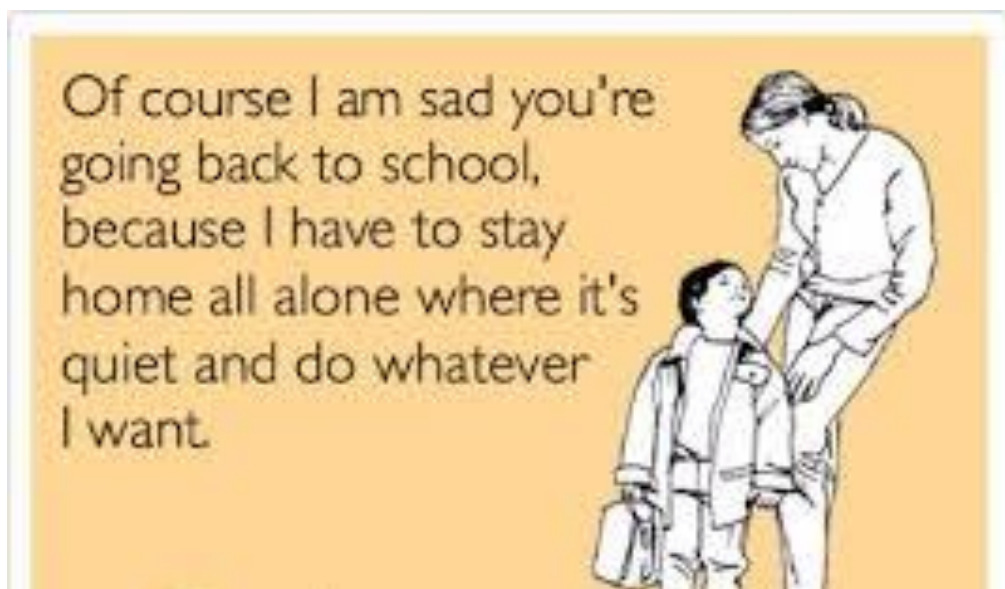
Missionaries We Support:

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



On the Calendar, this week....

Sun	09/03	14th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00am	Worship
			11:00am	Social Hour – CLC
			3:00pm	Youth Group – Youth Room
			5:00pm	2 X 4 Meeting – room with a view
			5:30pm	BSA50 - CLC
Mon	09/04	Labor Day		
			10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
			7:00pm	NA Meeting – GHH
Tues	09/05		12:00pm	AA Meeting – Room 204
			12:30pm	UMW Exec Board – Room 211
Wed	09/06		10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
			10:00am	Chancel Choir
			5:00pm	SPRC – Room 204
			6:30pm	Good Chimes
Thurs	09/07		11:45am	Health & Wellness Comm. – Room 204
			6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room204
			7:00pm	BSA50 - CLC
			7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	09/08		10:00am	AA Meeting – GHH
			7:00pm	2 x 4 Square Dance - CLC
Sat	09/09		10:00am	Delaware Valley Historic Samplers - CLC
			6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH & Old Kitchen



Looking forward...

Sun	09/10	15th Sunday after Pentecost
		9:00am Sunday School
		10:00am Worship
		11:00am Welcome Back Luncheon – CLC
		1:00pm Cub Scouts - GHH
		3:00pm Youth Group – Youth Room
Mon	09/11	10:00am AA Meeting – Room 204
		11:30am Social Seniors – GHH
		7:00pm 2 x 4 Classes – CLC
		7:00pm Eagle Scout Boards – Rooms 204, 211 & Lounge
Tues	09/12	7:00pm NA Meeting – GHH
		9:30am Bible Study – Room 204
		12:00pm AA Meeting – Room 204
		6:30pm Priscilla Circle – CLC
		7:00pm Trustees – Room 204
Wed	09/13	10:00am AA Meeting – Room 204
		10:00am Chancel Choir
		1-:30pm Naomi/S&S Circle - CLC
		4:00pm Project Linus - GHH
		6:30pm Good Chimes
		7:00pm 2 x 4 Class - CLC
Thurs	09/14	6:30pm Al-Anon – Room204
		7:00pm BSA50 - CLC
		7:00pm NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	09/15	10:00am AA Meeting – GHH
Sat	09/16	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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