

# The Highlighter



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

**April 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*

Greetings, Beloved:

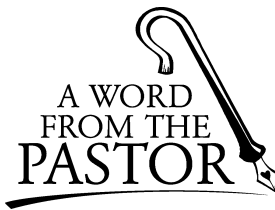
"Jesus said ... 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.'"

—John 11:25–26, ESV

Jesus' own words lead us to consider how Easter marks the most hopeful and powerful moment in our history as Christians: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's more than a spring tradition or a day filled with new clothes and eggs. Easter is the celebration of God's promise fulfilled and the victory of life over death. It's the heart of our faith, where sorrow turns to joy and death gives way to life. It is more than a miracle; it is the fulfillment of God's plan to bring salvation to the world.

In all 4 Gospels we read how the women, in their grief and sorrow, came to the tomb to properly prepare Jesus' body for burial after he had been hastily buried after his death because the time of the beginning of the Sabbath was approaching. What they found was the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and an angel who gave them a message. In Luke's Gospel, there were 2 angels and the message they gave was: "'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.''" Luke 24:5-7 (NIV)

The Bible reveals Easter as the cornerstone of God's redemptive story. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture points to a Savior who would defeat sin and restore what was broken by sin as we read the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Easter is not an isolated event but the fulfillment of God's promises through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the clearest expression of God's love and power.



Jesus willingly gave His life to pay the penalty for our sins so that we could be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God. Isaiah described this truth when he wrote, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed," Isaiah 53:5.

We are reminded of the central place Easter has for our life as a disciple of Jesus when we read these words in Paul's letter to the Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." The resurrection confirms that Jesus' sacrifice was accepted and that sin and death have been defeated. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:17 "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins".

But Christ has been raised. Easter Sunday is a declaration of that truth and a reminder that through Jesus, we are given new life. I hope that you will come join with your sisters and brothers in faith at Ebenezer on April 5 as we give glory and honor to God through our worship this most fundamental statement of our faith: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

In the process of beginning to sort through books I will keep and books I will let go when I retire, I came across a small book I had bought several years ago, *Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith*, by Steve Harper. It is a keeper and one I will return to in my "free time." The book is a discussion of the points John Wesley made in his 1742 treatise, "The Character of a Methodist." Wesley saw these character points as being "distinguishing marks" of a good foundation of faith for a Methodist. The five marks are:

- a Methodist loves God
- a Methodist rejoices in God
- a Methodist gives thanks
- a Methodist prays constantly
- a Methodist loves others

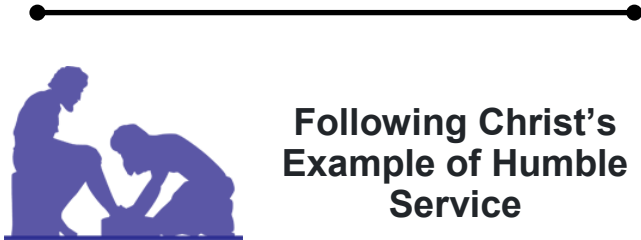
*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

These marks are not unique to Methodists; they are descriptors that should characterize the life of every follower of Jesus. In his treatise, John Wesley described how these marks are lived out in a Christian’s life both in “acts of piety” (loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength) and “acts of mercy” (loving one another as Christ has loved us). In his conclusion, Wesley made the point that our discipleship as a follower of Jesus should be developed deeply and broadly – “going on to perfection” to quote a favorite Wesley truism. Wesley saw these character traits as leading toward unity with all Christians as we stand in the foundation that Paul iterated in his letter to the church in Ephesus, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.” Ephesians 4:5-6.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mary



**Following Christ’s Example of Humble Service**

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples’ feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ’s command and his example of humility, service and love.



**Upcoming Special Services**

- March 29 Palm Sunday 10:00 am
- March 29 St. Marks 2:00 pm  
Choirs Sign Pepper  
Choplin’s “Come,  
Touch the Road”
- April 2 Holy Thursday 6:00 pm
- April 3 Good Friday 4:00 pm
- April 5 Sunrise Service 6:30 am
- April 5 Easter Breakfast 7:30 am
- April 5 Easter Service 10:00 am

**Finance Committee Report**

April brings spring, Easter, gardens, flowers, and our risen Lord. Our church altar is always abloom on Easter Sunday.



Ebenezer church welcomes each of you to our celebration. Your donations to our beloved church enable us to keep the doors open and our many programs celebrating the season going.

I thank each of you for your continued support to our church. We still have many building renovation projects in process and coming up this year, so please continue your gifts to support these needed renovations.

Happy Spring !!!!!

Ann Varey  
Finance Chairperson



### Pecans

New crop pecans are available for sale!

**\$13 Pecan Pieces**  
**\$16 Mammoth Pecan Halves**

See Carol in the Church office or contact Diana Bienkowski  
dianab6@verizon.net  
302-463-1653

Payment by check to Ebenezer United Methodist Women or correct cash amount would be appreciated. Thank you for supporting the United Methodist Women!



### Pound Auction

**Wednesday, April 29**  
has been canceled!

The UMW has decided to cancel the Pound Auction previously scheduled for April 29th!

### Attention Graduates!



If you or someone in your family is graduating this spring please contact the church office and let us know the graduates name, school graduating from and future plans.

# Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention



April is Child Abuse Prevention month. Pinwheels for Prevention began as a grassroots campaign in Georgia, Florida and Ohio. Their success and a desire to create a national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention led to this effort nationwide.

In 2015, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware, along with state chapters throughout the country, adopted a new logo – the pinwheel. A pinwheel represents the whimsical notion of childhood and reminds us that every child deserves the chance at having a healthy and happy childhood.

Keep an eye out for pinwheels throughout Delaware! We ordered pinwheels to display at church and for church members to take home. They are available in the Narthex. Help us spread the message about the power of prevention through the visual recognition of pinwheels throughout the community.

Remember...a pinwheel also needs wind to move forward, and with our actions and our intention, **we can be that wind.**



## The Joy of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

The hope Christ offers is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our assurance that life can be good and joy-filled for all. Consider the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply them to your own life: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:4-5, NRSV).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?



## Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

## There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There's something better coming.



Easter Blessings



The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

### What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



### What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5–6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!”



**Save the Date – Saturday, May 16, 2026,  
Noon – 4:00**

**Houses of Hope Tour  
Benefiting Hope Dining Room**

On May 16, Ebenezer will be one of eight churches, welcoming the community into their churches for the Houses of Hope Tour.

Each church will feature 2 or 3 "highlights" such as stained glass windows, gardens, interesting historical facts, a walking labyrinth or a favorite outreach. The tour will begin at Kingswood United Methodist Church where each weekday, area faith and community groups support Hope Dining Room by serving lunch to anyone who wishes to come. At Kingswood participants will register, make a donation, receive a map of the sites on the tour and a brief description of the unique features at each location. You will also see displays from churches/sites that will not be open that day. Once registered for the tour, the order and choice of venues is up to you. Come and enjoy the Houses of Hope Tour.

*How can you help?*

For the Houses of Hope Tour, we can use your help with advance planning to prepare our church for visitors, visit the churches on tour day, or welcome the visitors here at Ebenezer. For more information or to volunteer contact Kathy Gibney, 302-299-7980.

<https://hopediningroom.org/>



**A Route (APRIL)**

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

**B Route — (APRIL)**

6 Mary Ann Menghi  
13 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart  
20 Nolan Sickles & Mary Minker  
27 Kathy and Doug Gibney

**A Route (MAY)**

4 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson  
11 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson  
18 Paul & Beverly Shunta  
25 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans

**B Route — (APRIL)**

4 Mary Ann Menghi  
11 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart  
18 Sherrie Hodgson & Mary Minker  
25 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**

is a monthly publication of  
**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
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**Email:** [DianaUMCNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:DianaUMCNewsletter@gmail.com)





# APRIL Birthdays

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Austin Logan<br>Michelle Meney<br>Virginia Parker  | 23 Allison Monarski-Santorelli                                    |
| 2 Billy Feldmann<br>Lauren Jackson<br>Elyse Miller<br>Joanne Monarski<br>William Shane Thomson | 24 Doris Jarrell<br>Elliot Jones                                  |
| 3 Nathan Harlan<br>Beth Manchester   | 25 Felicity Jones   |
| 5 Sandy Ashby  | 26 Mark Albin<br>John Reynolds<br>Charlotte Zolanandz             |
| 6 Andrew Feldmann<br>Beth Jackson<br>Ava Grace Sterkenburg                                     | 28 Terri Peffley<br>Bruce Wilhelm                                 |
| 7 Jacob Peffley<br>Carolyn Wilhelm   | 29 Brian Boyette<br>Hillary Hanus<br>Linda Heller<br>Ruth Johnson |

**May**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 8 Julia Murphy<br>Pamela Waun                    | 1 Kay Weeks   |
| 10 Robert Helsel                                 | 3 Vicki Bouchat-Maynard   |
| 11 Abigail Devestine<br>Donna Klair<br>Ken Zinn  | 4 Gary Dempsey<br>Kim Feldmann<br>Gail Lloyd<br>Linda Mullin                  |
| 14 Robin Damewood<br>Ciara Sostre                | 5 Britni Bosari<br>Anita Gorton   |
| 16 Ann Sylvester                                 | 7 Lauren Ashby<br>Kimberly Lindgren<br>Jane Sowden<br>Ruth Templeton          |
| 17 Learis Donovan<br>Adele Madden<br>Tom Sperow  | 8 Marc Ashby<br>Joe Kryza<br>Skip Leventry<br>Russell Lomax<br>Nancy Williams |
| 18 Joan Logue<br>Rick Peterson                   |   |
| 19 Francesco Trapani<br>Arthur Tressler          |   |
| 20 Chris Dennis<br>Emma Feldmann<br>Henry Komnik |   |
| 21 Paul Shunta                                   |   |
| 22 Joel Rosario                                  |   |



**Rain: A Gentle Reminder of God's Care**

A rainy day can be many things ...  
 It can be moisture for the farmer's garden,  
 Or the picnic that has to be postponed;  
 It can be the replenishing of a stream,  
 Or the overflow of a flood;  
 It can be relief from a hot summer day,  
 Or the chill of an autumn wind.  
 The rotating cycle of clouds to Earth  
 Is part of Nature's plan  
 For stability throughout the Universe,  
 As old as the hills,  
 And dependable as the seasons.  
 Rain and sunshine are equal partners  
 In the daily expression of God's love.

— Jeanne D. Birrell




# APRIL Anniversaries

- 9 Michael & Jessica Hodgins (21 Years)
- 10 Nicholas & Trish LaBonte (16 Years)
- 15 Robert & Sabrina Helsel (25 Years)

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## Youth Rally Trip to Ocean City, MD

Our youth group is preparing for an exciting opportunity as we embark on our Youth Rally Trip to Ocean City, Maryland, March 20–22. During this weekend, our students will gather with youth from across the region for worship, teaching, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Events like these give our young people a chance to deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the wider UMC community.

We are also looking forward to our Youth Service on April 28th, when our students will help lead worship and share reflections from the rally. It is always a meaningful time for the congregation to hear directly from the young people of our church and celebrate the ways they are growing in faith.

Please continue to keep our youth and leaders in your prayers as we prepare for this trip and the upcoming youth service.

VBS:

### Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

Planning is already underway for Vacation Bible School, June 22–26, and we would love your help! VBS is one of the most joyful and impactful ministries of the year as we welcome children from our church and community for a week filled with faith, fun, music, and learning about God's love.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help in a variety of roles.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact the church office for the volunteer application.

Thanks,  
Mike Jones



## Vacation Bible School Road Trip June 22 – 26

Get Ready for an ice-cold summer adventure, packed with cool winter activities

Wear your mittens and come sliding in!

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) adventure, "Snowball Mountain Challenge," is skiing in on June 22nd through June 26th but we cannot have is adventure without YOU!

To volunteer or register your child, please contact the church office or send us an email.

Church office is at 302-731-9495 Ext10

Send emails to:  
[NewarkEbenezerUMC@verizon.net](mailto:NewarkEbenezerUMC@verizon.net)

**All aboard for faith, fun, and fellowship!**

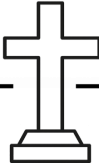





# FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

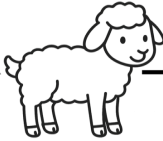
Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV


























1. Jesus	5. cross
2. weary	6. endured
3. endured	7. scorning
4. opposition	8. shame



1. Jesus	5. perfecter
2. lose	6. him
3. pioneer	7. faith
4. sinners	8. hand



1. eyes	5. right
2. us	6. grow
3. joy	7. God
4. heart	8. throne

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Answer: "... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV



## Easter Flowers Order Form

On Easter Sunday, an array of Easter flowers will adorn the chancel area, proclaiming through their beauty the glorious news that Christ is risen indeed! If you would like to purchase one or more flowers to be part of the display, please complete the order form below. In lieu of flowers, you may remember or honor your loved ones through a gift of equal amount to Family Promise to support their work with homeless and at-risk persons and families.

**The absolute deadline to order is Sunday, March 29 (no late orders can be accepted).** The cost of each plant is **\$12.00**. Please prepay your order by making checks to Ebenezer UMC, indicating in the memo line either Flowers and/or the homeless.

I want to order #\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies (white).

I want to order #\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils.

I want to order #\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (assorted colors).

I want to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Family Promise.

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Cash enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT DEDICATION(S) FOR THIS YEAR.**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

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**IN HONOR OF:**

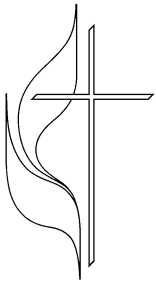
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**GIVEN BY:**

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# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 7:30am AA 8:00am Lifeline Ex-ams 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm District Committee BSA	<b>2 Holy Thursday</b> <b>11:45am Health &amp; Wellness</b> 12:00pm ACOA 2:00pm Grief-Share <b>6:00pm Worship Service</b> 7:00pm NA 7:00 BSA50	<b>3 Good Friday</b> 10:00am AA <b>4:00pm Worship Service</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30pm NA
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> <b>6:30am Sunrise Service</b> <b>7:30am Easter Breakfast</b> 10:00am Worship 11:30am Choir Practice 2:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm BSA50	<b>6</b> 10:00am AA <b>11:30am Social Seniors</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Na Meeting	<b>7</b> 12:00pm AA <b>12:30pm UMW Exec Board</b> 6:00pm Support Group <b>7:00pm COM</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir <b>11:00am Stephen Ministry</b> <b>4:00pm Project Linus</b> 6:15pm Good Chimes	<b>9</b> 12:00pm ACOA 2:00pm Grief-Share 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	<b>10</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 X 4 Dance	<b>11</b> 9:30am DE Valley Samplers Guild 6:30pm NA
<b>12 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 11:30am Choir 2:00pm Youth Group	<b>13</b> 10:00am AA 6:00pm Day-break 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00 Eagle Scout Boards 7:00pm NA	<b>14</b> 12:00pm AA <b>3:00pm Endowment</b> 6:00pm Support Group <b>6:00pm Priscilla Circle</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes	<b>16</b> 9:30am BSFT 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	<b>17</b> 10:00am AA	<b>18</b> 6:30pm NA
<b>19 3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 11:30am Choir 2:00pm Youth Group	<b>20</b> 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>21</b> 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>22</b> 7:30am AA <b>10:00am Hope Dining Room</b> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes	<b>23</b> 9:30am BSFT 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50	<b>24</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	<b>25</b> 6:30pm NA
<b>26 4th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 11:30am Choir 2:00pm Youth Group 2:30pm Private Event	<b>27</b> 10:00am AA 6:00pm Day-break 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>28</b> 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	<b>29</b> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes	<b>30</b> 9:30am BSFT 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm NA 7:00pm BSA50		



**EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
525 Polly Drummond Hill Road  
Newark, Delaware 19711

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Newark, DE 19711

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***



Christ the Lord  
is *Risen* Today

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