

# The Highlighter



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

*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*

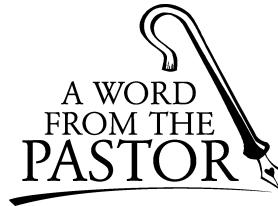
Greetings, Beloved:

Thank you for the cards, notes, and words of encouragement you shared with me for my birthday last month. I enjoyed reading each message, finding myself moved to laughter, to tears, and to prayers of praise and thanks for the privilege and joy of being a part of the faith community at Ebenezer. Thank you, also, for the delightful evening of fellowship at the potluck supper on the 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Carol Coney's and my birthdays. We both enjoyed the conversations, the laughter, and the food we shared with each of you.

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 5. We will have our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. The service invites us to begin the season with an impactful act of corporate confession and receive the ashes as a sign of repentance and renewal. We will make ashes available to you in advance of March 5 if you know you will be participating in the service through the livestream broadcast.

Our preparation for Ash Wednesday actually begin the day before, on March 4, known as Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday (in New Orleans, Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday). The tradition of observing Shrove Tuesday has been part of Christian church for more than 1000 years. In its earliest expression, the day before Ash Wednesday was a day of confession of sins and receiving absolution through penance; "shrove" is the past tense of the verb "to shrive" which means to hear the confession of, assign penance to, and absolve (someone). There was also the practice of ridding the house of foods forbidden during Lent such as eggs, sugar, and fat. Rather than waste the foods, they were used up in feasting on the days before Ash Wednesday. That is why pancake breakfasts or suppers are so popular on Shrove Tuesday. I hope you will attend our Pancake Supper and fellowship on Tuesday, March 4.

The season of Lent had its beginnings in the early



church as a time of preparation for new believers who would be baptized at the Easter Vigil. That time of preparation included instruction, fasting, repentance, prayers, and almsgiving. Over time, the season of Lent took on the form of being a time for the whole church to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Easter. In this season of formation and preparation, we approach the forty days of Lent from a variety of different perspectives and points along the Christian faith journey. It does not matter how long we have been walking in the steps of Jesus, even the most mature Christian hears the call to return to God with all their hearts. When we adopt behaviors and practices in these areas as a means of self-examination and spiritual renewal we are taking seriously Jesus' words in Matthew 16:24 "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Through discipline we find freedom and grace; we focus our lives on Christ's self-sacrificing passion, death, and resurrection, which has brought us acceptance, forgiveness, and redemption by God.

These Lenten disciplines are not unusual or special in and of themselves. They are spiritual practices that can and should be part of our daily walk as a disciple of Jesus, but the intentional practice of them during the season of Lent can bring a heightened awareness of God's call on our lives to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus, a deepening of our personal relationship with Jesus. In our Wesleyan tradition, it is the work of God through sanctifying grace, our "going on to perfection." I find these words from 20<sup>th</sup> century mystic Evelyn Underhill helpful in recognizing the wisdom of observing spiritual practices during Lent: "Lent is a good moment for a spiritual stocktaking; a pause, a retreat from life's busy surface to its solemn depths. There are few who cannot benefit by a bit-by-bit examination of the resources that each baptized Christian has, a discernment of those things which must be

*(Continued on page 2)*

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treasured and kept in good order as opposed to the spiritual odds and ends which we have accumulated for ourselves.”

I invite you to consider how you will engage in spiritual disciplines during the solemn season of Lent. Here are a few suggestions – observe the “Wesley Fast” from sundown on Thursday until 3:00 p.m. on Friday; participate in our Lenten Bible Study, *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton on Tuesday mornings, 9:45-10:50, beginning March 11; set aside a period of time each day to engage in meditative and intercessory prayer; make a Lent almsgiving donation to the fund that will support our meal-packing event on Saturday, May 3 for Rise Against Hunger (please designate **RAH** on your check or envelope).

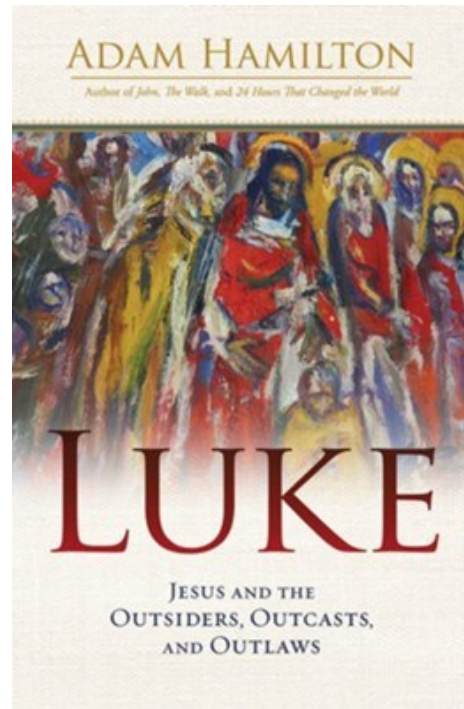
As always, I pray that the peace of Christ will fill your soul,

Pastor Mary



Do your New Year’s resolutions challenge you to be more creative or develop and practice new skills? Do you want to amplify your spiritual practice through the collective effervescence of singing? Come and join us in the choir; where we raise our voices in the warmth of the spirit!

We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9 and Wednesday mornings at 10 at EUMC. If you would like to talk about your musical experience and background, or are feeling brand new and ready to learn, come visit with our music director, Margaret Badger, over coffee after worship or by appointment, to consider together how your musical presence might deepen your practice and build our community!



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

### Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws

**Tuesdays,  
March 11, 18, 25  
April 1, 8, 15  
9:45 – 10:50 am**

You are invited to join in this 6-week study of the Gospel of Luke, the primary Gospel used in Sunday worship this liturgical year. Through Jesus’ actions and parables in Luke, we see Jesus’ concern with those who were the marginalized, ignored, and forgotten. We are reminded that as followers of Jesus, we, too, are called to care about and advocate for the least, the last, and the lost of our time. Please contact the church office if you want to participate in the study; a \$15.00 donation toward the cost of the book is welcomed.

If you are not able to join the study group on Tuesday mornings, you are welcome to read the book on your own. There will also be available a 40-day reading guide for the Gospel of Luke during the season of Lent.



**A Route — MARCH**

- 3 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 10 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 17 Paul & Beverly Shunta
- 24 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncan
- 31 Sharon Keeler and Gail Donaldson

**B Route — MARCH**

- 3 Paul Kelley
- 10 Paul Kelley
- 17 Paul Kelley
- 24 Kathy and Doug Gibney
- 31 Paul Kelley

**A Route — APRIL**

- 7 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 14 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
- 21 Paul & Beverly Shunta
- 28 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncan

**B Route — JANUARY**

- 7 Paul Kelley
- 14 Paul Kelley
- 21 Paul Kelley
- 28 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)        |              |



**We want to see you at this year's Shrove Dinner.  
Our Boy Scouts will be cooking again this year**

**Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner**

In the CLC on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm to 7:00 pm

\$6.00 per adult, children up to 12 free

All you can eat pancakes!

**Wear your Mardi Gras beads and come hungry!**



Ebenezer, in conjunction with Resurrection Parish and Christ Church in Greenville, served eight families during the week of February 2-8. The dining room was a busy place as we fed 11 adults and 23 children! We're adjusting well to handling more people than ever before as we share our Christian love with neighbors who are struggling.

We are looking forward to our next Family Promise week (April 27- May 3). We will again be splitting the week with each church serving two nights and all three gathering for a joint meal. Our members have been generous with their time and with food and donations. Please keep those dates in mind and let me know if you'd like to join in this mission. I'm always happy to answer questions or listen to suggestions.

*Love cannot remain by itself—it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service.*

*Mother Teresa*

Kathleen Zinn  
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**The Highlighter**

is a monthly publication of  
**Ebenezer United Methodist Church**  
525 Polly Drummond Hill Rd.  
Newark, Delaware 19711

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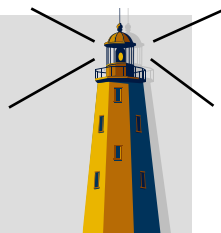
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**FINANCE**  
COMMITTEE

## Finance Committee Report

The budget for 2025 is almost complete. We know two items will be higher - snow removal and heating because of the weather.

Forty five people have filled in pledge cards. Please understand that it is not a financial contract. It only gives us an idea of donations. Last year there were 102 giving units, which is persons who gave money to our church, including pledges and plate donations

So far it appears there will be a deficit. We have asked chairpersons to review their budget items. I know prices have risen on everything, as they have for the church also.

Please give what you can to enable our church to serve all of us.

Ann Varey  
Finance chairperson

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## Jesus, the model of salt and light

In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus tells his followers, "You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world." Through his example, our Savior showed us what that means.



"The remarkable thing is that Jesus brought it all into reality in his own person," writes Bible scholar N.T. Wright in *Matthew for Everyone*. "He was the salt of the earth. He was the light of the world: set up on a hilltop, crucified for all the world to see, becoming a beacon of hope and new life for everybody, drawing people to worship his [F]ather, embodying the way of self-giving love which is the deepest [fulfillment] of the law and the prophets."





## Chicken & Dumpling Dinner

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

When: Saturday, March 22, 2025  
5:00 pm Takeouts  
5:30 pm Eat In

Cost: \$15 for 12 yr. olds to Adults  
\$5 for 4-12 yr. olds;  
3 and under free

Where: CLC at Ebenezer  
United Methodist Church  
525 Polly Drummond Hill Rd  
Newark DE 19711  
302.731.9495

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 3/16/25**



## Sunday, March 9

At 2 am Sunday, March 9, 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.



## Pound Auction

## Wednesday, April 30

Join the United Methodist Women for a lot of laughs and a fun evening at the Pound Auction.

Bring a Friend.  
Bring a decorated bag to share in the Auction.

Refreshments will be served!

All proceeds benefit UMW Missions.



## 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 Thursday, April 10 (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 #\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths (assorted colors).

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:**

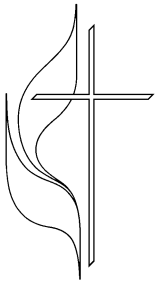
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**GIVEN BY:**

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# March 2025

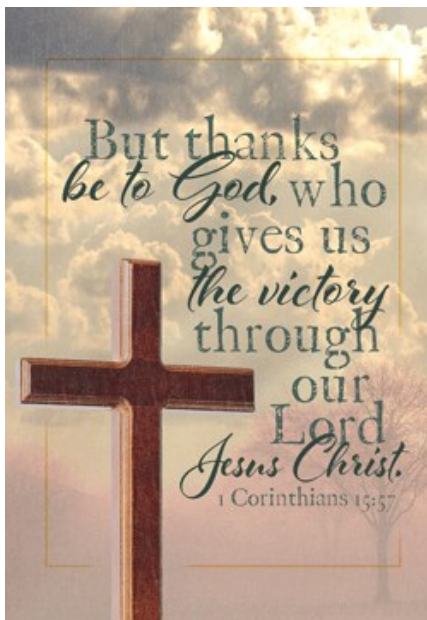
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b>            9:00am Sunday School            10:00am Worship            11:00am Social Hour            11:30am Conformation Class            12:00pm Laikos Church Service            1:00pm Youth Group            4:00pm BSA59</p>	<p><b>3</b>            10:00am AA  <b>11:30am Social Seniors</b>            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class            7:00pm NA</p>	<p><b>4</b>            9:45am Bible Study            12:00pm AA  <b>12:30pm UMW Exec Board</b>  <b>5:00pm Shrove Dinner</b></p>	<p><b>5 Ash Wednesday</b>            10:00am AA            10:00am Chancel Choir  <b>7:00pm Ash Weds. Service</b>            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class            7:00pm District Committee BSA</p>	<p><b>6</b>            9:30am BSFT  <b>11:45am Health &amp; Wellness</b>            7:00pm BSA50            7:00pm NA</p>	<p><b>7 Youth Rally</b>            10:00am AA</p>	<p><b>8 Youth Rally</b>            9:30am DE. Valley Historic Samplers Guild            11:00am Laikos Choir            6:30pm NA</p>
<p><b>9 1st Sunday in Lent Youth Rally</b>            9:00am Sunday School            10:00am Worship            11:00am Social Hour            12:00pm Laikos Church Service            2:00pm Cub Scout Pine Wood Derby</p>	<p><b>10</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm Eagle Scout Board            7:00pm NA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>	<p><b>11</b>            9:45am Bible Study  <b>11:00am Stephen Ministry</b>            12:00pm AA  <b>6:00pm Priscila Circle</b>  <b>7:00pm Trustees</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            10:00am AA            10:00am Chancel Choir  <b>4:00pm Project Linus</b>            6:15pm Good Chimes            6:30pm Cub Scouts            7:00pm 2 x 4</p>	<p><b>13</b>            9:30am BSFT            7:00pm BSA50            7:00pm NA</p>	<p><b>14</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance</p>	<p><b>15</b>            12:00pm BSA50 Banquet            6:30pm NA</p>
<p><b>16 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>            9:00am Sunday School            10:00am Worship            11:00 Social Hour            11:30am Confirmation Class            12:00pm Laikos Church Service            1:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p><b>17</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm NA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>	<p><b>18</b>            9:45 Bible Study            12:00pm AA</p>	<p><b>19</b>            10:00am AA            10:00am Chancel Choir            6:15pm Good Chimes            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>	<p><b>20</b>            9:30am BSFT            7:00pm BSA50            7:00pm NA</p>	<p><b>21</b>            10:00am AA</p>	<p><b>22</b>            11:00am Laikos Choir Practice  <b>5:30pm Chicken &amp; Dumpling Dinner</b>            6:30pm NA</p>
<p><b>23 3rd Sunday in Lent</b>            9:00am Sunday School            10:00am Worship            11:00am Social Hour            12:00pm Laikos Church Service            1:00pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm NA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>	<p><b>25</b>            9:45am BSFT            12:00pm AA</p>	<p><b>26 10:00am Hope Dining Room</b>            10:00am AA            10:00am Chancel Choir            6:15pm Good Chimes            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>	<p><b>27</b>            9:30am BSFT            7:00pm BSA50            7:00pm NA</p>	<p><b>28</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance</p>	<p><b>29</b>            6:30pm NA</p>
<p><b>30 4th Sunday in Lent</b>            9:00am Sunday School            10:00am Worship            11:00am Social Hour            11:30am Conformation Class            12:00pm Laikos Church Service            1:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p><b>31</b>            10:00am AA            7:00pm NA            7:00pm 2 x 4 Class</p>					



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

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***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***



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