

The Highlighter



Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Newark, Delaware

May 2026

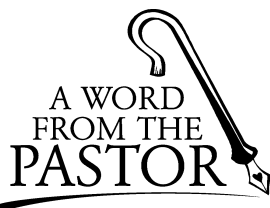
*Then Samuel took a stone, set it up...and said, "The LORD has helped us all the way,"
and he named it Ebenezer [Stone of Help]. 1 Samuel 7:12 GNB*

Greetings, Beloved:

In the liturgical season of Lent this year, our worship theme of "The Way" invited us to introspectively consider what it means to follow Jesus on the journey to the cross. Our celebration of Easter reminded us once again that in the resurrection of Jesus the power of God's love and grace won the victory over sin and death and provided the path across the chasm separating us from God.

In this liturgical season of Easter we are continuing the journey of following Jesus, away from the empty tomb, reconciled to God through our acceptance of the gift of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives. We are considering what it looks like to live into Jesus' instruction to his followers in Matthew 28 at the time of his ascension: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (v. 19-20). At its founding in the 1968, The United Methodist Church adopted this instruction as its mission, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In May of last year, the Council of Bishops released an updated vision statement for how The UMC can focus its ministries and outreach efforts to fulfill the mission statement: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

In conjunction with this vision statement, the Council of Bishops also announced a bold



initiative for the church, inviting the people called United Methodist in our 30,000+ congregations around the world to participate in a one-time offering to permanently endow 500 scholarships for theological education enabling students in the Philippines, Europe, and Africa to prepare for ordained ministry. This initiative is called Miracle Sunday, and the date of May 17 has been set as the day when the offering will be received in churches across the denomination.

Since the early days of the Methodist movement, education has been a core commitment as John Wesley sought to "spread scriptural holiness over the land," establishing a school in 1748 (which is still in operation) to educate the children of coal-miners, as well as adults. But ensuring would-be pastors can pay for their education has long been a challenge — especially in Africa, the Philippines and parts of Europe. While 71% of United Methodist clergy in the U.S. have a master's degree or higher in theology, less than 5% of clergy in Africa, Europe and the Philippines can say the same. The students who will benefit from these endowed scholarships now and in the future. must attend a United Methodist-approved theological institution.

Miracle Sunday is an important example of The United Methodist Church's connection in action. Each congregation, including Ebenezer is a part of one church and strengthening one segment strengthens the witness of the entire church. Miracle Sunday invites us not only to give generously in the model of 1 Chronicles 29 and New Testament example of the gift Paul received from all the faith communities he had established to support the needy in the church in Jerusalem, but to invest wisely in the future

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leadership of our denomination.

My hope is that you will prayerfully consider how you will respond to this opportunity to unite in this faithful act of “serving joyfully.” We will have labeled envelopes available on May 17 to receive your gift for Miracle Sunday. You can make your check payable to Ebenezer UMC with the notation “Miracle Sunday” on the memo line.

As part of the retirement class of 2026 for the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, I was asked to share a few thoughts about a meaningful aspect of my ministry over the years. I chose to share about the gift that you and the members of all the churches where I have served as Pastor have given me over the years: the privilege of being the celebrant in leading us through the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. As we hear in the liturgy of the Sacrament, the Lord’s Supper is both a memorial remembrance of Jesus’ sacrificial death, but also an anticipation of the feast we will share with Jesus and all believers in God’s fully realized kingdom.

Every time we celebrate Holy Communion, I am humbled by the opportunity to offer you a portion of bread and share the words, “the body of Christ given for **YOU**”; I have strived to make sure that I look into your eyes as I say those words. And then I look at your hands as I give you the portion of bread, and offer a thank-you to God from my heart for your life and your love for Jesus. It is a very holy moment for me and I thank you for allowing me to serve you in this way. It is a special memory I will carry with me forever.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mary



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

All aboard for faith, fun, and fellowship!





Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry

With the world the way it is today, even with the loving help from our GOD and our prayers sometimes we can become anxious and not know what to do. So we will look at anxiety and see how we can help control anxiety.

Feeling worried or nervous is a normal part of daily life. Everyone frets or feels anxious from time to time. Mild to moderate anxiety can help you focus your attention, energy, and motivation. If anxiety is severe, you may feel helpless, confused, or very worried. But your feelings may be out of balance with how serious or likely the feared event might be. Overwhelming anxiety that interferes with daily life isn't normal. This type of anxiety may be a symptom of an anxiety disorder. Or it may be a symptom of another problem, such as depression, Opens dialog.

Anxiety can cause physical and emotional symptoms. A specific situation or fear can cause some or all these symptoms for a brief time. When the situation passes, the symptoms usually go away.

Physical symptoms of anxiety include:

- Trembling, twitching, or shaking.
- A feeling of fullness in the throat or chest.
- Breathlessness or a rapid heartbeat.

Lightheadedness, Opens dialog or dizziness, Opens dialog.

- Sweaty or cold, clammy hands.
- Feeling jumpy.
- Muscle tension, aches, or soreness (myalgias).
- Extreme tiredness.
- Sleep problems, such as not being able to fall asleep or stay asleep, waking early, or feeling restless (not feeling rested when you wake up).

Anxiety affects the part of the brain that helps control how you communicate. This makes it harder to express yourself creatively or function well in relationships. Emotional symptoms of anxiety include:

- Feeling restless, grouchy, or on edge or keyed up.
- Worrying too much.
- Fearing that something bad is going to happen. You may feel doomed.
- Not being able to concentrate. You may feel like your mind goes blank.

Anxiety disorders

Anxiety disorders occur when people have both physical and emotional symptoms. These disorders interfere with how a person has a good relationship with others. They also affect

daily activities. Women are twice as likely as men to have problems with anxiety disorders. Examples include panic attacks, phobias, and generalized anxiety disorder. When you have generalized anxiety disorder, you feel worried and stressed about many everyday events and activities.

Often the cause of anxiety disorders is not known. Many people who have them say that they have felt nervous and anxious all their lives. This problem can occur at any age. Children who have at least one parent with the diagnosis of depression are more than twice as likely to have an anxiety disorder than other children.

Anxiety disorders often occur with other problems, such as:

- Mental health problems, like depression.
- Substance use problems
- A physical problem, like heart or lung disease. A complete medical checkup may be needed before an anxiety disorder can be diagnosed.

Panic attacks

A panic attack is a sudden feeling of extreme anxiety or intense fear without a clear cause or when there is no danger. Panic attacks are common. They sometimes occur in otherwise healthy people. They usually last only a few minutes, but they may last longer. And for some people, the anxiety can get worse quickly during the attack.

Symptoms include feeling like you're dying or losing control of yourself, rapid breathing (hyperventilation), numbness or tingling of the hands or lips, and a racing heart. You may feel dizzy, sweaty, or shaky. Other symptoms include trouble breathing, chest pain or tightness, and an irregular heartbeat. These symptoms come on suddenly and without warning.

Sometimes symptoms of a panic attack are so intense that you may fear that you're having a heart attack. Many of the symptoms of a panic attack can occur with other illnesses, such as hyperthyroidism, coronary artery disease, or COPD. A complete medical checkup may be needed before an anxiety disorder can be diagnosed.

People who have repeated unexpected panic attacks and worry about the attacks are said to have a panic disorder,

Phobias

Phobias, are extreme and irrational fears that interfere with daily life. People with phobias have fears that are out of proportion to real danger. They are not able to control their fears.

Phobias are common. They sometimes occur with other conditions, such as panic disorder or Tourette's disorder. Most

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people deal with phobias by avoiding the situation or object that causes them to feel panic. This is called avoidance behavior.

A phobic disorder occurs when avoidance behavior becomes so extreme that it interferes with your daily activities. There are three main types of phobic disorders:

- Fear of being alone or in public places where help might not be available or escape is impossible (agoraphobia).
- Fear of situations where you might be exposed to criticism by others (social phobia).
- Fear of specific things (specific phobia).

Phobias can be treated to help reduce feelings of fear and anxiety.

If you're feeling any of the above symptoms or feel anxious and nothing is helping you, see your primary care physician.

Blessings,
Your Health and Wellness Ministry



Sunrise Easter Breakfast

I know that everyone enjoys the breakfast served on Easter morning after the Sunrise Service! In typical fashion, our United Methodist Women spoil us.

Mrs. Connie Miller has taken the lead for this event for many years and is hoping that next year someone else would like to take the lead. She would like to take turns, switching back and forth.

All the women do their share and then some but, being lead means you are here earlier and may have to stay later. Do you have the time and energy to assist with this? If so, please contact Connie at csm2250@verizon.net.



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!

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.



Finance Committee Report

Welcome to beautiful spring in Delaware and Ebenezer.

Our church finances are running on the positive side so far this year - both capital offering and total giving.

Thanks to each of you for making this possible. Your gifts are much appreciated.

The trustees have many projects they hope to work on now. Those improvements are possible because of your gifts to the capital campaign.

Again, our thanks to each of you, our members and visitors.

Ann Varey
Finance. Chairperson





**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 (MAY)

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

B Route — (MAY)

4 Mary Ann Menghi
11 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
18 Sherrie Hodgson & Mary
25 Kathy and Doug Gibney

A Route (JUNE)

1 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
8 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
15 Paul & Beverly Shunta
22 Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans
29 Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson

B Route — (JUNE)

1 Mary Ann Menghi
8 Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
15 Mary Minker & Adele Madden
22 Kathy and Doug Gibney
29 Mary Minker & Adele Madden

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

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- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Kay Weeks | 17 Jordan Donovan |
| 3 Vicki Bouchat-Maynard | Brittany Muldowney |
| 4 Gary Dempsey | Don Pruden |
| Kim Feldmann | 18 Garnet Dennis |
| Gail Lloyd | 19 Trevor Bowdoin |
| Linda Mullin | Nicholas Devestine |
| 5 Britni Bosari | Timothy Keeler |
| Anita Gorton | Marybeth Miller |
| 7 Lauren Ashby | Ann Varey |
| Kimberly Lindgren | 20 Jon Klair |
| Jane Sowden | 21 Earl Mote |
| Ruth Templeton | 22 Arabella Brownlee |
| 8 Marc Ashby | Vincent Pugh |
| Joe Kryza | 23 Margaret Badger |
| Skip Leventry | 25 Inez Smoker |
| Russell Lomax | 27 Bella Applegate |
| Chris Pannell | Christo Selvakumar |
| Nancy Williams | 29 Delia Irwin |
| 9 Lamar Smith | 30 Barbara Fritz |
| Ryan Spears | Theodore Salam |
| Dalton Wolf | 31 Diana Bienkowski |
- June**
- | |
|--------------------|
| 1 Sarah Keever |
| 3 Rick Browne |
| 4 Andrew Peffley |
| Dean Spears |
| 5 Kerry Dietz |
| 6 Stephanie Touhey |
| Kate Mills |
| 7 Sharon Keeler |

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital. I would especially like to thank Sharon and Cal Jr. for visiting and picking me up and taking me home and taking good care of me. Thank you Pastor Mary and Cal Sr. for visits and the beautiful flowers to brighten my day. God has given me a wonderful church family.



Peace and Love,
Lori



Join us for an Outback Fundraiser on Monday, May 18th from 12:00 noon to 7:00pm. Fifteen percent of all dine in meals during this time will benefit Outback Steakhouse® Honors Military ...the Ebenezer UMC Vacation Bible School. Hope to see you there! So that we get credit for your purchase, please give your server the flyer. (Available in the Narthex.) Thank you for your support!!!



The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble in concert at Ebenezer UMC

4:00 PM on Saturday May 2
An American Tapestry
Celebrating Our Diverse Origins,
Cultures and Traditions.

Free-will offering.

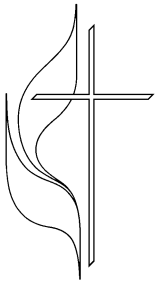
Mr. Kerry W. Dietz
Artistic Director
The Wilmington Handbell Ensemble



- 3 Ashley Wilhelm & Ryan Mullin (11 years)
- 6 Michael & Kimberly Kefauver (20 Years)
- 6 Nicholas & Melanie Merritt (20 Years)
- 7 Arthur & Linda Tressler (20 Years)
- 14 Jarred & Brittany Logan (15 Years)
- 14 Andrew & Christy Thomson (16 Years)
- 19 Andrew & Kathy Zinn (14 Years)
- 20 James & Margaret Tobin (19 Years)
- 23 Ron & Susan Durban (39 Years)
- 29 John & Leanne Phillips (22 Years)
- 31 Dennis & Nancy Williams (12 Years)

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 10:00am AA	<i>2</i> 4:00pm Wil- mington Hand- bells Concert 6:30pm NA
<i>3</i> 5th Sunday of East- er 9:00am Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 2:30pm Grange Meeting 4:00pm BSA50	<i>4</i> 10:00am AA 11:30am Social Sen- iors 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm 2x4 Class 7:00pm NA	<i>5</i> 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Sup- port Group	<i>6</i> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm Admin. Board 7:00pm District Com- mittee BSA	<i>7</i> 11:00am Health & Wellness 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>8</i> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 X 4 Dance	<i>9</i> 9:30am De. Valley Samplers 6:30pm NA
<i>10</i> 6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 9:00am Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	<i>11</i> 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm 2X4 class 7:00pm Ea- gle Scout Boards 7:00pm NA	<i>12</i> 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 4:00pm Trustees 6:00pm Sup- port Group 6:00pm Priscilla Cir- cle	<i>13</i> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 11:00 am Stephen Ministry 4:-00pm Project Linus 6:15pm Good Chimes	<i>14</i> 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>15</i> 10:00am AA	<i>16</i> 8:00am Craft Event 12:00pm Hope Dining Room Tour 12:00pm Pri- vate Event 6:30pm NA
<i>17</i> 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	<i>18</i> 10:00am AA 12:00pm- 7:00pm Out- back Fund- raiser 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2X4 Class	<i>19</i> 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Sup- port Group	<i>20</i> 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<i>21</i> 12:00pm ACOA 4:0pm SPPRC 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>22</i> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	<i>23</i> 6:30pm NA
<i>24</i> Pentecost Sunday 9:00am Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	<i>25</i> 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub scouts 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2X4 class	<i>26</i> 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Sup- port Group	<i>27</i> 7:30am AA 10:00am Hope Din- ing Room 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm Finance	<i>28</i> 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>29</i> 10:00am AA	<i>30</i> 6:30pm NA
<i>31</i> Trinity Sunday 9:00am Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour						



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

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