

The Highlighter



Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Newark, Delaware

2022

*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*

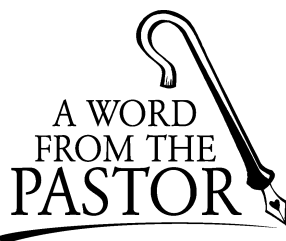
Greetings, Beloved:

Rick did come home from PAM Rehab Hospital at Bayhealth Sussex Campus in Milford, DE on September 20. However, we encountered some additional medical issues on September 21 and on September 22, Rick was admitted to Christiana Hospital for diagnosis and treatment. I may have already and will continue to share updates with you and ask for your continuing prayers of thanks and gratitude for all those who are helping address Rick's ongoing medical issues and for strength and healing.

As I had written in my article for a previous issue of "The Highlighter," the 2020 General Conference of The United Methodist Church has been postponed until 2024, primarily due to COVID-related logistical issues regarding travel visas and travel availability and restrictions for the several hundred international lay and clergy delegates, conference staff and volunteers, visitors, etc. In some nations, wait times for travel visas can be as long as two years. The 2020 General Conference had been postponed until 2021, then further postponed to 2022; on March 3, 2022, the Commission on the General Conference announced the further postponement of the 2020 General Conference until 2024.

As has been widely reported, at the Special General Conference in February 2019, the existing language in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 (BOD16)* regarding human sexuality was maintained and penalties for violation by clergy strengthened for violation. In the following months, within the timeframe when resolutions to be considered at the 2020 General Conference could be submitted, several resolutions regarding the structure of The UMC were submitted for consideration at the 2020 General Conference.

Since the beginnings of the Methodist movement by John Wesley in the mid-18th century, Methodists have been structured for ministry through a connections system. In a connectional system the question is not, "What is best for me or my congregation?" Instead, we consider what is the best for all, the whole connection. As Methodist meeting houses began to be built, John Wesley insisted that the deeds for the



property include a trust clause, a statement included in legal documents declaring that the property and assets of a local church are held "in trust" for the benefit of the entire denomination. The trust clause was codified by John Wesley in the creation of the *Book of Discipline*. It continues today in the BOD16, ¶2501, and ensures that United Methodist property will continue to be used for the purposes of The United Methodist Church.

Another result of the 2019 Special General Conference was the passage of a new paragraph added to the BOD16, ¶2553, which gave local churches a limited right to disaffiliate from the denomination "for reasons of conscience" related to the issue of human sexuality and provision in the BOD16 and provided a process through which disaffiliation could be accomplished and allow the church to retain its property. The paragraph outlines three minimum requirements and allows an Annual Conference to add to the requirements. To complete the disaffiliation process, all requirements must be completed, and the congregation's vote to disaffiliate must be approved by the Annual Conference. Additionally, the congregation would need to go through the process to legally incorporate as an independent organization, conduct a search to hire a pastor, establish its leadership structure, etc. When ¶2553 was passed at the 2019 Special General Conference, it included an expiration date of December 31, 2023, for all provisions of the process for disaffiliation. At that time (February 2019) there was an expectation that General Conference 2020 would be held and an expectation that other provisions might be voted upon.

You may also have heard that on May 1, 2022 the Wesley Covenant Association launched the Global Methodist Church, "a denomination founded on conservative Methodist precepts" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Methodist_Church, accessed September 23, 2022). Congregations which have disaffiliated from The United Methodist Church are welcome to apply for membership in the Global Methodist Church.

No entity of The United Methodist Church is asking any congregation to consider or encouraging any congregation to

(Continued on page 2)



Many thanks to all who took part in making “Back to Church” a time of exciting and memorable worship. It was a team effort to make it happen and at the same time being able to worship.

Our guest musician, Alexander Mitchell, brought a wonderful flare of bluegrass and gospel music. The covered dish dinner, with fried chicken, was craftily set up the UMW.

Pastor Mary was on fire with her sermon.....

Chancel Choir and Good Chimes Handbell choir gave us a preview of the musical offerings to be presented in worship this season.

All in all, this was a time of worship and welcoming one another to an incredible season of worship moving forward. New brochures were created to inform everyone, how active Ebenezer is, the opportunities to serve, and what is going on at Ebenezer to serve, worship and praise God. These brochure (located across from the church office and in the CLC), are for guests, as well as members.

Remember, the chancel choir and the handbell choir are recruiting new members.

Blessings,

Robert, Director of Music
Director of Music



(Continued from page 1)

disaffiliate. The discernment process regarding disaffiliation is not an easy process. It is an extended time of prayer, conversation, discernment, and discussion, guided by the District Superintendent in consultation with the pastor and the church leadership. Our life in community as the body of Christ must be grounded in the basic tenets of our life in faith – we are called to love God with all our hearts, mind, soul, and strength and we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. In the Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul writes, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Eph. 4:2-6).”

As a United Methodist Church, in all our ministry, mission, and organizational tasks, we are guided by Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, these four elements of our communal faith life coming from the leadership of John Wesley in his work forming Methodist classes. Part of our founding doctrinal statements are John Wesley’s General Rules which can be summarized as: Do No Harm; Do Good; Stay in Love with God. These ideals mirror the words of the prophet Micah – “He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (6:8)”

Understanding begins with information. I have contacted our District Superintendent, Rev. Joseph Archie to schedule an information session that will be held in the month of October. You will receive more information about the meeting when it has been scheduled. I hope that many of you took advantage of the opportunity to hear from our Bishop, Bishop LaTrelle Easterling through the virtual town hall meeting that was held on September 28 which also provided information about the current state and future of The United Methodist Church.

There are many opportunities for our faith community to share the love of God, invite people into a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus, and trust God’s work through the Holy Spirit to bring transformation in the lives of each one of us. It is a holy work that we share in together so that our light on the hill can continue to burn brightly for the love of Jesus.

God bless you.

In Christ’s Peace,

Pastor Mary



**A Route — October**

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

B Route — October

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

Substitutes

Stephanie Carpenter	302-731-4308
Mary Anne Menghi	302-234-1544
Jack & Kathy Williams	302-834-6768
Newark Senior Center	302-737-5747
Paul & Beverly Shunta	302-239-7765
(Coordinators)	

Needed - coordinator for Ebenezer's participation in Meals On Wheels

Ebenezer has a crew of people who regularly deliver 2 routes on 4 Mondays a month. Each route usually has between 6 and 10 stops, with good directions for the route. The coordinator doesn't have to deliver meals, just keep the participation organized. Everything can be done with a phone and computer.

- Sometimes the coordinator needs to find a substitute (there's a list), but often people arrange
- their own, trading weeks with someone else.
- Keep track of months that have 5 Mondays and find a volunteer to cover the routes on the 5th
- Mondays. (Currently there are volunteers for the 5th Mondays.)
- Keep track of Monday holidays when there is no delivery.
- Send the route schedule to Diana Bienkowski for the newsletter. (There is a template for
- that info.)
- If someone has to drop out of regular or substitute participation, try to recruit some new volunteers.
- Keep in touch with Stefanie Thomas, MOW coordinator at the Newark Senior Center.

That's it. Easy! Involves less than an hour a month.
 Contact Bev Shunta to volunteer!

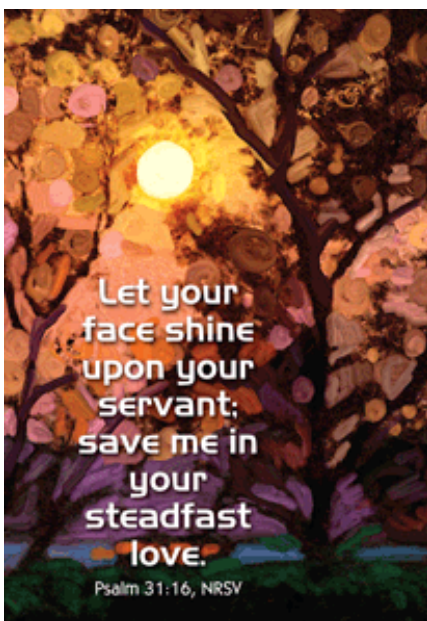


A Humble Servant

For the past 13 year, Paul Kelley has given his time and caring hospitality as one of the drivers from Ebenezer who serve a Meals on Wheels route in the Newark area on a weekly basis. Paul has logged over 6900 miles delivering with his volunteer partner a hot noon time meal to seniors, homebound residents, and disabled residents.

Paul also serves as part of the Ebenezer team that prepares and serves a noontime meal on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Hope Dining Room. Paul has become known as the "spice man" because his responsibility is to measure and add the various spices used to flavor the casserole the team makes each month as the entrée for the meal. Paul was the "spice man" for several years before the onset of the COVID pandemic in March 2020, and then took a hiatus during the months when the team prepared a bag lunch meal instead of a hot served meal. In the past couple of months, the leaders of Hope Dining Room have restarted hot meal preparation and serving, and Paul is back to his task of flavoring the casserole as part of the Ebenezer HDR team.

There are other ways in which Paul serves his Lord Jesus in the family of God at Ebenezer UMC. We thank Paul for his service and give thanks to God for the love and blessings shared with others in each act of service.





I hope each of you had a wonderful summer with family and friends. Fall season at Ebenezer is now starting.

Total income is still running about \$8,656 below budget. Capital campaign giving is now running about \$980 below budget.

Expenses for our church are running in line with budget. Inflation has affected each one of us.

Our church is very important to all of us. I pray you will do what you can to help Ebenezer be able to continue serving our members, the community, and our missions. Thank you.

Ann Varey
Finance chairperson



Stockings for soldiers is now ready to begin. Volunteers are welcome Monday-Thursday evenings between 6:30 - 8:30 beginning October 10 in same location as last year at the Brandywine Town Center near Bob's furniture.

Item suggestions for October are men's crew socks white or black, small containers of fruit, tuna fish, small snack packages.

As always, I thank you for your generous donations. Ebenezer has participated in this endeavor for many years. Our box is in the narthex for your contributions.

If you have any questions reach out to Ann Varey 302-540-7488



Family Promise

Family Promise has officially decided not to return to housing clients in weekly rotation of host churches as had been the model prior to the Covid epidemic. Currently, the churches have instead been providing weekly supplies and delivering dinners to the residents of two cottages at the Hospitality Center (Most of us know this as the former Jesus House Property on Milltown Road. <https://www.familypromisede.org/hospitality-center>.) Planning has begun to transition to serving dinners family style in a dining room. This will enable us to interact more with the residents and provide a more personal touch to the daily meal.

For over ten years, Ebenezer hosted families and many members here participated in a variety of ways to share our hospitality during their stay. Once the transition occurs, possibly as early as January, we will need more volunteers from Ebenezer to be able to handle the additional tasks and time associated with serving dinners. We'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider joining our Family Promise Team so that we can continue working with this important mission. We are responsible for supplying a week of service four times a year. Since our week is shared with Resurrection Parish, that means we only handle three or four dinners each session. It is an excellent way to put our faith into action and the more people involved, the more impact we can have as we share our time together.

Our final week of hosting this year begins October 23. Though we will still be just delivering, we could use a few extra hands for that week also.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Feel free to reach out with questions or suggestions!

Deb August
302-256-6468
daugust8@gmail.com

Kathleen Zinn
302 463-5428
zinn.kk@gmail.com





Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry

On Saturday October 1, 2022, from 10:00 AM till Noon your Health and Wellness Ministry has invited a CPR instructor from the State Fire School. He or she will be certifying our church members on current CPR training and use of the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. If you would please sign up so we have an idea on the number that will be attending.

October is the month you should be thinking about getting your flu shot. Unfortunately, Walgreen's is not able to come to Ebenezer and administer flu shots this year. Any of our local pharmacies have the flu shot available and scheduling an appointment is extremely easy. Remember if sixty-five or older you should be receiving the flu shot for seniors.

Please remember to schedule an appointment to receive the new COVID 19 booster that fights the Omicron variant. All our local pharmacies now have this in stock. You can receive it if it has been 2 months since your last booster. Again, Pharmacies have all this information as well.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Please remember to schedule your yearly Mammogram.

Blessings,

Your Health and Wellness Ministry



Driving Ministry

If you need transportation to doctor appointments, the drug store, etc., please contact the church office at 302-731-9495 Ext 10.

Need a ride?



"The end is reconciliation, the end is redemption, the end is the creation of a beloved community.

"Martin Luther King

WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT? HOW CAN YOU SERVE?

Ebenezer Church and its missions team strive to create and serve a beloved community both to all who enter its church walls but also to ALL people in Pike Creek and beyond. We are God's house that strives to welcome differences in all people-races, ages, ethnicities and cultures into our church family. First, we are bound by love to be a witness to God's healing power and love in ALL lives. After all, God delighted in HIS diverse creation of every living thing and declared it, "Very Good!"

So we are back to church after a busy summer and missions will be in full swing! EUMC supports and is active in more than 30 missions! But where do you want to help and serve? Do you want to start a new group or annual project, open to the community at large in Pike Creek? Where is God tugging at your heart to help a current mission or to start a new small group mission to help build HIS beloved community? There are so many spiritually and personally rewarding ways to serve! If you are not sure, just ask me, Pastor Mary or come to a Mission Team meeting and listen to the many activities to get an idea!

Let the Lord lead you to a mission to serve God's beloved community!! Our goal is EVERY PERSON IN MISSION!!!)

Yours in Mission,

Linda

Linda Heller, Chair, EUMC Mission Team



October

- 1 Taresa Schmidt
- 2 Lindsey Pugh
- 3 Fran Lewis
Daniel Whiteman
George Zebley
- 5 Gavin Fritz
MaryAnne Menghi
- 6 Rick Guretsky
Jessica Roberts
Carla Shows
- 7 Iris Zebrook
- 10 Cooper Barczewski
Shirley Hirst
- 12 Jodi Grabusky
James Hendrickson
- 13 Steven Grant
- 14 Olivia Simmons
- 15 Shirley Amato
- 17 Don Eschenbrenner
Laird Logue

- 18 Grant Barczewski
Nicholas Bey
Justin Dennis
Sue Stewart
- 20 Anthony Ciccaglione
Carole Woodworth
- 21 Aaron Schmidt
- 22 Jeff Applegate
Jennifer Rigg
- 23 Joyce Gasper
Terry Hohman
Emily Mulin
- 24 Alexa Muldowney
- 25 Harry Beasley
Michael Lynch
Allen Sylvester
- 27 Jacob Hafer
- 29 Linda Harmon
Evelyn Lapointe
- 30 Jane Rigg
William Slavik
- 31 Shonie Castle
William Stewart

November

- 2 Fred Dawson
Victoria Mullin
Kevin Murphy
- 3 Thomas Hanus
Charles Sylvester
- 4 Cindy Demsey
- 5 Jennifer Hendrickson
Dimitri Latzko
- 6 Laura DeDeus, Jr.
- 8 Lori Brown



October

- 10 Danny & Carol White (30 Years)
- 11 Deb & Burnie August (42 Years)
- 12 Mike & Helen Lynch (33 Years)
- 20 James & Jennifery Hendrickson (16 Years)
- 27 Joy & Jeff Peoples (10 Years)
- 29 Michael & Nicole Willey (16 Years)

November

- 3 Thomas & Sammie Manchester (10 Years)
- 16 Fred & Cara Beach (21 Years)
- 16 Dan Shelton (21 Years)

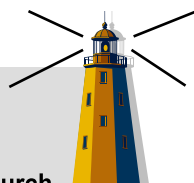


I want to thank everyone who provided food and money for VBS mission project. We had 145 children in the YMCA camp that had food insecurities and we

provided weekend "To Go" bags for each child for the last 6 weeks of camp. We packed 870 bags plus a few extra. I want to thank all of my packers as well. It was a successful VBS mission!

Thanks to all!

Diane Clark



**Recognition of our
50 to 75+ Year Members
October 23rd**

This year we will be inducting **Philip and Shirley Gardner, Richard and Donna Guretsky, Linda Mullin and Carolyn Wilhelm** into our 50 years+ membership club on October 23, 2021.

If you have been a member of Ebenezer for 50 years or more and were not recognized for that milestone, please call Carol Coney in the Church office.

The Highlighter

is a monthly publication of
Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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Newsletter deadline:

The 15th of each month

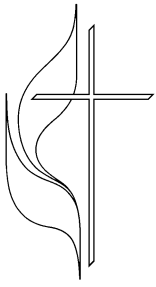
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October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> 10:00am CPR Class 6:30pm NA
<i>2</i> 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 3:00pm Youth Group 3:00pm FCA Baseball	<i>3</i> 10:00am AA 11:30am Social Seniors 5:00pm FCA Baseball 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<i>4</i> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 12:30pm UMW Board 7:00pm COM	<i>5</i> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<i>6</i> 9:15am BSFT 11:45am Health & Wellness 6:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>7</i> 10:00am AA	<i>8</i> 9:00am Kitchen Clean Up 10:30am Volleyball 6:30pm NA
<i>9</i> 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 1:00pm Cub Scouts 3:00pm Youth Group 3:00pm FCA Baseball	<i>10</i> 10:00am AA 5:00pm FCA Baseball 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<i>11</i> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 7:00pm Endowment 7:00pm Priscilla Circle	<i>12</i> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 11:15am S&S/ Naomi Circle 4:00pm Project Linus 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<i>13</i> 9:15am BSFT 6:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>14</i> 10:00am AA	<i>15</i> 10:30am Volleyball 6:30pm NA
<i>16</i> 19h Sunday after Pentecost Laity Sunday 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00 Social Hour 3:00pm Youth Group 3:00pm FCA Baseball	<i>17</i> 10:00am AA 5:00pm FCA Baseball 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<i>18</i> 9:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	<i>19</i> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm SPRC	<i>20</i> 9:15am BSFT 6:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Admin Board	<i>21</i> 10:00am AA	<i>22</i> 10:00am Delaware Samplers Guild 6:30pm NA
<i>23</i> 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 2:00pm Youth Group/ Hayride/ Bonfire	<i>24</i> 10:00am AA 5:00pm FCA Baseball 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<i>25</i> 9:00am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 7:00pm Missions Team	<i>26</i> 10:00am Hope Dining Room 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Chancel Choir	<i>27</i> 9:15am BSFT 6:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<i>28</i> 10:00am AA	<i>29</i> 4:00pm Trunk or Treat 6:30pm NA
<i>30</i> 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 2:00pm Youth Group 3:00pm FCA Baseball	<i>31</i> 10:00am AA 11:30am Social Seniors 5:00pm FCA Baseball 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class					



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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