The Highlighter

SEPTEMBER

Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Newark, Delaware **September 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

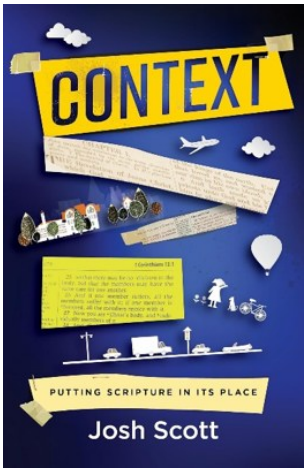
A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him… - Ephesians 1:16-17 (NRSVUE)

Dear Church Family,

After meeting with so many of you, I've heard a desire to see the church grow, and we have a wonderful space to do it. I am excited about the strong ministries Ebenezer has built, and I have been praying about how we can create more pathways for spiritual growth and relationship-building.

I wish to share a few of the things I have focused on:



First, we are returning to bible study on Tuesdays at 9:45am with a study by Josh Scott called *Context*. "*Context* looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these well-known Scripture verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context."

In addition, before coming to Ebenezer, I worked on building a mission involving several United Methodist churches called "Food on the Run." Its main purpose is to deliver food one Saturday a month by going directly into neighborhoods in need. As it is still in the planning phase, I will keep you updated on ways we can help share the love of God in our communities.

Lastly, for many years I have prayed about a spiritual development program called "Movement and Meditation." I am personally passionate about this because I've found in my own life that deepening my prayer life has led to a more profound connection to God. Again, this is still in the development stage, but I hope to tell you more in the next newsletter.

Over the coming months, I hope we can listen, dream, pray, and work together. We don't know exactly what every new ministry will look like, but we can trust in God who does.

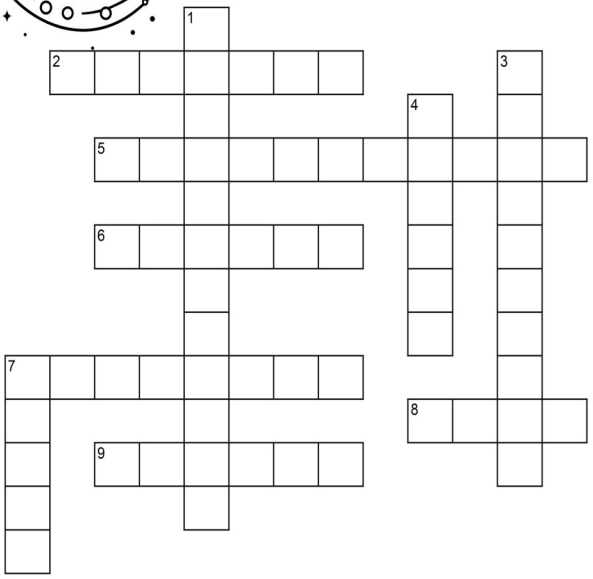
If God has placed a ministry idea on your heart, don't assume it is too small or too impractical to share. Some of the most meaningful ministries begin with one person noticing a need and asking, "What can we do?"

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tracy

Puzzle!

BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the ____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the ___, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pureinheart, 6 Across: hunger
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poorinspirit
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn

FamilyPromise

Family Promise has begun adapting to the new "normal". When we served our meal at the beginning of August, we brought our food as usual, but we served in the all new dining room in the completed Hospitality Center. By the third week of August they transitioned to the new model where food is prepared on-site under the direction and planning of the new Kitchen Manager. They will begin adding additional families to the site as fall progresses.

Our next week is November 1-5. We will be asking for volunteers in different capacities of meal preparation, serving food and cleaning up. We'll have more information about that for you soon. Watch for more details in the next Highlighter issue!

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

Finance Committee Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee thanks you for your donations and support.

Finances are holding up well with our budget.

There are still a lot of projects from Trustees that are in the works.

Please continue to donate for both capitol and current expenses.

Ann Varey
Finance. Chairperson

Our Youth Group starts meeting again on Sunday, September 20. They will meet every other Sunday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Our Youth Sunday School starts up again on Sunday, September 13. Classes are from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

A Route — (AUGUST)
3 - Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
10 - Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
17 - Paul & Beverly Shunta
24 - Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans
31 - Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson

B Route — (AUGUST)
3 - Mary Ann Menghi
10 - Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
17 - Mary Minker & Adele Madden
24 - Kathy and Doug Gibney
31 - Mary Minker & Adele Madden

A Route — (SEPTEMBER)
7- Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
14 - Sharon Keeler & Gail Donaldson
21 - Paul & Beverly Shunta
28 - Donna Sperow and Belita Duncans

B Route — (SEPTEMBER)
7 - Mary Ann Menghi
14 - Ann Sylvester & Sue Stewart
21 - Mary Minker & Adele Madden
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)	

The Highlighter
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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Newark, Delaware 19711

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Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry

Courtesy of the CDC

All about the Cyclospora outbreak

A major outbreak of **cyclosporiasis** a gastrointestinal infection caused by the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis is currently sweeping across the United States. With thousands of confirmed cases across dozens of states, health officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are actively tracking and investigating multiple clusters and product recalls.*

What Is Cyclosporiasis?
Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by *Cyclospora cayetanensis, a single-celled parasite. The parasite infects the small intestine after a person ingests food or water contaminated with microscopic fecal matter.*

Common Symptoms
Symptoms typically appear **1 to 2 weeks** after exposure (ranging from 2 to 14 days). If left untreated, the illness can follow a relapsing-remitting pattern lasting from a few days to several weeks or months.

- Severe, watery diarrhea (the primary symptom)
- Frequent bowel movements
- Loss of appetite and significant weight loss
- Abdominal cramping, bloating, and gas
- Nausea and fatigue
- Low-grade fever and body aches (less common)

Cyclosporiasis is **not directly spread from person to person**. When the parasite is passed in stool, it requires days to weeks outside the body in specific environmental conditions to become infectious.
Every year, *Cyclospora surges during the warm summer months (designated as the May 1- August 31 annual season). However, 2026 has seen a substantial spike compared to previous years.*

Category	National Impact (May 1 - Late July 2026)
Laboratory-Confirmed Domestic Cases	Over 6,700 cases
Additional Cases Under Investigation	11,500+ cases
Affected U.S. States	45 states + D.C.
Hospitalizations	400+ hospitalizations
Primary Recalled Item	Iceberg lettuce sourced from Taylor Farms de Mexico

The Multistate Lettuce Recall
In July 2026, FDA and CDC traceback investigations linked a major cluster of over 1,900 cases across multiple states to recall iceberg lettuce. The recall includes both retails packaged products (such as Marketside brand) and wholesale produce distributed to restaurants and food service providers across at least 27 states.

The Situation in Florida
Florida is among the 45 affected states reporting domestically acquired *Cyclospora cases during the 2026 season. Because Florida is a major agricultural and distribution hub with high summer temperatures, state health officials routinely monitor fresh produce imports and local distribution channels. While specific clusters in the Midwest have drawn primary attention, Florida residents are urged to check local food recall notices for imported leafy greens, basil, cilantro, and berries.*

Historically and in current investigations, outbreaks of cyclosporiasis in the U.S. have been traced to imported fresh produce. High-risk items include:

- **Leafy greens** (iceberg lettuce, romaine, packaged salad mixes)
- **Fresh herbs** (cilantro, basil)
- **Berries** (raspberries, blackberries)
- **Green onions and snow peas**

How to Stay Safe: Prevention Guidelines

1. Check Product Recalls
2. Do not consume recalled iceberg lettuce or pre-packaged salads sourced from Taylor Farms de Mexico.
3. If you have recalled produce in your refrigerator, discard it immediately or return it to the point of purchase.
4. Practice Safe Produce Handling
5. Wash thoroughly: Scrub and wash all fresh fruits and vegetables under cold running water before eating, cutting, or cooking even if the package says “pre-washed”.
6. Refrigerate cut produce: Keep cut produce refrigerated at 40°F (4°C) or colder.
7. Avoid cross-contamination: Use separate cutting boards and utensils for raw produce and raw meats. Clean all counters, knives, and cutting boards with hot, soapy water after preparing food.
8. Seek Medical Attention & Specific Testing
9. Standard stool tests (routine ova and parasite exams) often miss *Cyclospora. If you experience prolonged or relapsing watery diarrhea, contact a healthcare provider and specifically request testing for Cyclospora.*
10. Unlike bacterial food poisoning, cyclosporiasis is treated with a specific prescription antibiotic regimen: trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX).

We are lucky in the state of Delaware, no one has been contaminated yet. Remember it’s also smart to consume peelable fruits and vegetables. It’s an additional layer of security.

Next month we will learn all about Measles again.

Blessings,

Your Health and Wellness Ministry

SEPTEMBER birthdays

1 Ralph Culver
Moonyeen Klopfenstein
Linda Lumb
Patricia Orendorf
2 Don Grimes
3 Adalynn Taylor
Andrew Thomson
4 Teddy Terzian
5 John Gebhart
Sharon Hodgson
Max Walton
6 Alex Hudson
Dawn Tackett
8 Anna Broderick
Andrew Broderick
Ava Washington
9 Jeannie Van Dan
11 Thomas Crescenzo
Joseph Mills, Sr.
Robert Muller
12 Anchor Williams
13 Donald Aiello
15 Donna Smith
Amy Sowden
Robert Sylvester
16 Debra Ablao-Ebalacas
James Dempsey
18 Bob Devestine
19 Matthew Gorton
Michael Sylvester
Ashley Wilhelm-Mullin
20 William Deckman
Shirley Dempsey
Ben Shoop
21 Hazel Apostolico-Martin
Tyler Bowdoin
Grace Lowe
Carol Mills
22 David Sylvester
23 Joy Peoples
24 Christine Harlan
Beth Sowden
28 Charles Hafer
29 Ryder Kennedy
30 Kyle Mullen
Helen Woods

October

1 Taresa Schmidt
2 Victoria Marvel
3 Fran Lewis
Daniel Whiteman
George Zebley
5 Gavin Fritz
MaryAnne Menghi
6 Rick Guretsky
Carla Shows

SEPTEMBER anniversaries

September

16 Mark Jr. & Elyse Miller (14 Years)
22 Jeffrey & Lori Donovan (36 Years)
23 Rick & Mary Browne (48 Years)
24 Evan & Carla Shows (19 Years)
25 Jason & Lindsay Curley (21 Years)

October

3 Calvin Jr. & Sharon Keeler (39 Years)
11 Deb & Burnie August (46 Years)
20 James & Jennifer Hendrickson (20 Years)
27 Joy & Jeff Peoples (14 Years)
29 Michael & Nicole Willey (20 Years)

Our Trustees have scheduled an outside church wide cleanup for Saturday, September 26th, starting at 9:00 am. Please consider joining them, they would very much appreciate any assistance.

Ebenezer UMC Fall Craft & Vendor Show 2026

Saturday October 17th, 2026, 9am- 2pm

525 Polly Drummond Hill Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

CRAFT / VENDOR APPLICATION

Ebenezer UMC is proud to present the 3nd Annual Fall Craft & Vendor Show!

Thank you for your interest in joining us as a vendor. To be considered, please complete this form & send it back by September 27, 2026, to Sharon Bey at: **Beysilly23@yahoo.com** or 525 Polly Drummond Hill Road Newark, Delaware 19711 Attn: Sharon Bey

The fee for vending this year is as follows: ☐ 1 Table - $25 ☐ 2 Tables - $40

Business Name:

_____

Contact Person:

_____

Mailing Address:

_____

City State: Zip:

_____

Work Phone: _____ Alternate/ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address:

_____

Please provide a general product list:

_____

Have you vended at Ebenezer UMC before? Yes☐ No☐

Please provide a description of your vending area and any special needs-space requirements, Add on display area, signs, etc. (Include measurements)

_____

Are you willing to distribute flyers? If so, email your address separately to us with “FLYER DISTRIBUTION” in the subject line.

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 11:00am Social Seniors 12:00pm AA **12:30pm UMW Board** 6:00pm Support Group 6:00pm Creekside HOA	2 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 7:00pm District Committee BSA	3 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	4 10:00am AA	5 6:30pm NA
6 **15th Sunday After Pentecost** 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 6:00pm BSA50	7 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Daybreak Counseling 7:00pm NA	8 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA **4:00pm Trustees** 6:00pm Support Group **6:00pm Priscilla Circle**	9 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir **11:00am Stephen Ministry** **4:00pm Project Linus** **7:00pm Admin. Board**	10 **11:00am Health & Wellness** 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	11 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	12 9:30am De Valley Historis Samplers 6:30pm NA
13 **16th Sunday After Pentecost** 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	14 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts6:00pm Daybreak Counseling 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Eagle Scout Boards	15 **Election Day** 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group 6:30pm Cub Scouts	16 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes	17 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	18 10:00am AA	19 6:30pm NA
20 **17th Sunday After Pentecost** 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour 1:00pm Youth Group	21 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Daybreak Counseling 7:00pm 2x4 Class 7:00pm NA	22 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	23 7:30am AA **10:00am Hope Dining Room** 10:00am AA 10"00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes 7:00pm Drummond Farms HOA	24 12:00pm ACOA 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	25 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	26 9:00am Church Wide Clean UP 6:30pm NA
27 **18th Sunday After Pentecost** 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour	28 10:00am AA 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:00pm Daybreak Counseling 7:00pm NA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	29 9:45 Bible Study 12:00pm AA 6:00pm Support Group	30 7:30am AA 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:15pm Good Chimes	1	2	3

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

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