

Ebenezer United Methodist Church

April 28, 2024



*Ebenezer United Methodist Church is a
Stephen Ministry Congregation*



The Flowers today are presented to the Glory of God and

In Loving Memory of my Dad, Charles Sperry

Presented by Beth Jackson

Participating in Service

Pastor:	Rev. Mary H. Browne
Guest Musician:	Jane Van Valkenberg
Worship Leader:	Youth Group
Media Team:	Bill Clark and Rich Johnson
Greeter:	Youth Group
Usher Coordinators:	Don Grimes and Dick Graper and Youth

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

April 28, 2024

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindly sign our pew register and pass to your neighbor.
If you are visiting with us today, please sign your name and USPS or e-mail address
as we would like to acknowledge you being with us today.

CENTERING MUSIC

"Morning Song of Praise"
Good Chimes Handbell Ensemble

arr. S.E.Rogers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us,
we bear the fruit of Love.

We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community
with God and one another. Amen.**

*PRAISE HYMN (UMH 364)

"Because He Lives"

RESURRECTION

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love;
you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy.
Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears.
Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love,
even in the face of our imperfections.
Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection,
that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.
Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A WORD FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MESSAGE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (*UMH 572*)

“Pass It On”

PASS IT ON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God.
For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us,
that the love of God may grow within.
That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts
and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy,
with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places,
those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear,
those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity
in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or disease—of mind, body, or spirit.
Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—
health as only you, O God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died.
Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn.
Console those who grieve.

May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders,
a hand, to hold our hand.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions, our time, and even ourselves—to extend the gospel witness into the world.

Be generous in your ministry of giving.
You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

OFFERTORY

“Come Christians, Join to Sing”
Good Chimes Handbell Ensemble

arr. A. L. Page

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (UMH 94)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*OFFERING PRAYER

**May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully
and nurtured lovingly. so that God’s way may be realized anew in this world.
Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden.
Amen.**

ORDER OF FAREWELL TO LINDA HELLER

The church is a family.

United by the common recognition of Jesus Christ as our Savior,
we are all brothers and sisters.

And, for a time, Ebenezer United Methodist Church is our home.

Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time:

as members are born, as they die,

as members are adopted into our family,

and as they leave our congregation for a new home in a different place.

For a time, Linda Heller, has lived with us.

We have shared with each other good times and bad, we have shared each other’s joys
and sorrows, we have lightened each other’s heavy loads.

Together we have laughed and cried, together we have worshiped and praised God,
together we have lived.

**We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation
of this new phase of your life.**

**We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives
of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much
to our lives.**

We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.

Let us pray:

O God, you are the strength and the protector of your people.

We humbly place in your hands, Linda Heller, of our faith family
who is about to leave us.

Keep and preserve her, O Lord, in all health and safety, both of body and soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN (UMH 557, vs. 1, 4) "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

DENNIS

*HYMN OF SERVICE (UMH 593)

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches.

If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.

Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you today and always.

Amen.

GOING FORTH

"Andante Maestoso"

Felix Mendelssohn

Please remain seated until the GOING FORTH is concluded.

Following the service, all are welcome to join in a time of fellowship and snacks
at Social Hour in the Christian Life Center.

**please stand, in body or spirit*

bold text indicates congregation response

††This Order of Worship is subject to the direction of the Holy Spirit.††

Lectionary Scriptures for the **Sixth Sunday of Easter**, May 5, 2024:

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17



Next Sunday, May 5th, we will celebrate Holy Communion. The offering plates at the front of the center aisle are there to receive your gift to the pastor's discretionary account used to help members of our community with utility, rent, food, and other appropriate expense assistance.

Blood Pressure Checks will be available on May 5th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Classes at Ebenezer, classes start at 9:00am.

Faith Class

Lounge

Youth/Children's Sunday School

Lower level

Tuesday Bible Study: Meets every Tuesday at 9:45am in Room 204.

Bible Study for Today: Meets every Thursday at 9:15am in GHH and Classrooms.

200th Anniversary

Helen Lynch and Michael Lynch /Co-chairmen 200th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Our next meeting will be May 19th at 11:30am.

Wilmington Handbells Ensemble will be performing a free will offering concert at Ebenezer on Saturday, May 11th at 4:00pm. All proceeds donated are going into our Anniversary Sunday Celebration.



Attention Graduates! If you or someone in your family is graduating from High School or College this spring please contact the church office and let us know the graduate's name, school graduating from and future plans. We will be honoring our graduates in the spring.



Time to dig out your hiking boots, pack your knapsack and fill your water canteen! We're headed to summer camp for Vacation Bible School this year – **Camp Firelight** – where Ranger Browne and her trusty helper Lu (short for Lumen) the lightning bug puppet will help us learn that whenever we're afraid, we should put our trust in God (*Psalm 56:3*). Thank you for your patience as we've worked to finalize a few details. We're sure there will be a lot of happy campers to know that the

Ebenezer/Resurrection VBS is now confirmed for our "normal" week following Father's Day, **June 17-21 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at Ebenezer.**

Our Prayers



Becca Rev. Mary Browne + Phil Gardner Kay Kyler ++ Fran Lewis +	Laird Logue Carolyn Mills + Valerie Rodeheaver Aram Terzian + Melissa Walther +	<u>Ongoing Concerns</u> Jade August Clara Brelsford Roy Brown Rick Browne Ron Case Judy Crescenzo Delia Irwin Jeanette Jarrell Kristin	Laird Logue Gary Pierce Denise Reedy Olivia Richart Louis Simmons Joyce Simpson Zach Trexler Alex Wiant
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In an effort to list all prayer requests each will appear for 4 weeks as indicated by the number of + after the name

Please pray for the family and friends of Jennie May.

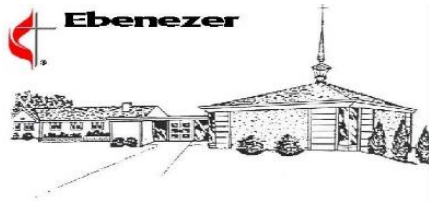
Please pray for all Law Enforcement Officers.

**Please continue to remember all who serve our country in the military,
especially pray for those represented from our congregation.**

Missionaries We Support:

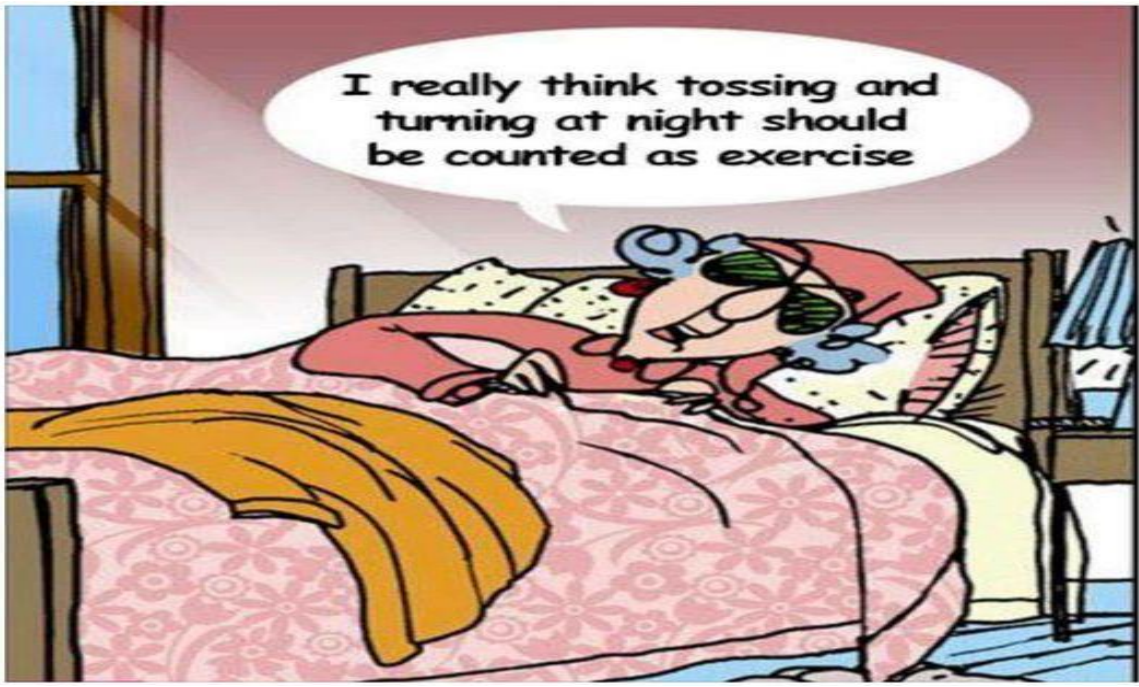
Matt & Erin Reinders	(Unalaska UMC)	Joy & Robert Vargas	(Paraguay)
Catherine & Andy Kellogg	(Florida)	Jeanne Ntambo	(Congo)
Gaston Ntambo	(Congo)		

Our Cemetery Association is in need of additional members. If you are interested and what to discuss joining this committee, please reach out to Paul Shunta at 302-304-1101



On the Calendar, this week....

		5th Sunday after Easter	
Sun	04/28	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship
		11:00am	Social Hour
		1:00pm	Youth Group - CLC
Mon	04/29	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
Tues	04/30	7:00pm	NA Meeting – GHH
		9:45am	Bible Study – Room 204
		12:00pm	AA Meeting – Room 204
Wed	05/01	10:00am	AA Meeting - Room 204
		10:00am	Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
		6:15pm	Good Chimes – Music Room
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
Thurs	05/02	11:45am	Health & Wellness – Room 204
		6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room 204
		7:00pm	BSA50 – CLC
		7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
Friday	05/03	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
Sat	05/04	1:00pm	Private Event - CLC
		6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH



Looking forward...

		6th Sunday after Easter	
Sun	05/05	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship
		11:00am	Social Hour
		2:00pm	Private Event - Sanctuary
		4:00pm	BSA50 – Room 204
Mon	05/06	10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
		11:30am	Social Seniors Club - GHH
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
Tues	05/07	7:00pm	NA Meeting – GHH
		9:45am	Bible Study – Room 204
		12:00pm	AA Meeting – Room 204
Wed	05/08	12:30pm	UMW – Room 211
		7:00pm	COM – Room 204
		10:00am	AA Meeting - Room 204
		10:00am	Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
		4:00pm	Project Linus – GHH
Thurs	05/09	6:15pm	Cub Scouts - GHH
		6:15pm	Good Chimes – Music Room
		7:00pm	2 x 4 Class – CLC
		6:30pm	Al-Anon – Room 204
		7:00pm	BSA50 – CLC
Friday	05/10	7:00pm	NA Meeting– GHH
		10:00am	AA Meeting – Room 204
Sat	05/11	7:00pm	2 x 4 Dance - CLC
		4:00pm	Wilm. Handbell Concert - Sanctuary
		6:30pm	NA Meeting – GHH

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA!



Website: www.EbenezerUMCNewark.org and **Facebook:** [Ebenezer UMC Newark](https://www.facebook.com/EbenezerUMCNewark).
If you have information about an event which you would like featured on the website,
please contact Lori Brown loribrown927@msn.com,

All our members, ministers
Rev. Mary H. Browne, Senior Pastor
contact @ eumc_pastor@verizon.net
Jennifer Willey, Music Director
Calvin Keeler, Sr., Minister of Visitation
Megan & Mike Jones, Youth Ministry
Carol Coney, Administrative Assistant
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