

A WORD

#### 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, Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

FROM THE On March 18, our Peninsula-Delaware PASTOR Conference office announced that Bishop Latrelle Easterling has appointed Rev. Tom Pasmore to be our new District Superintendent for the Delaware District, effective July 1, 2024. Rev. Pasmore currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Asbury UMC in Salisbury, MD. He previously served Avenue UMC (Milford), and Richardson Park UMC (Wilmington) as Senior Pastor. Rev. Pasmore replaces our current District Superintendent, Rev. Joseph Archie III, who has served as District Superintendent since July 2016. I have known Rev. Pasmore for several years and find that he has an engaging personality, a deep faith, and a commitment to help churches live out the mission of The United Methodist Church to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Rev. Archie will serve as the Senior Pastor at Whatcoat UMC (Dover) a position has held for the past few months while continuing to serve as Delaware District Superintendent. Rev. Archie has offered himself as a candidate for the episcopacy office of Bishop in The United Methodist Church. His candidacy has been endorsed by the Peninsula-Delaware clergy and lay delegates to the General Conference and Jurisdiction Conference. Endorsement of his candidacy will be voted on by the clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference at the 240<sup>th</sup> session of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, June 6-8, in Ocean City, MD. If he receives the endorsement of the Annual Conference in June, Rev. Archie will be eligible to be on the ballot at the Northeast Jurisdiction Conference which will be held July 8-12 in Pittsburgh, PA. In my estimation, Rev. Archie will be heartily endorsed by the Annual Conference members. Rev. Archie exudes joy and a passion for justice in leadership and in his life.

Methodist Church is being held April 23 – May 3 in Charlotte, NC. The theme of the GC is "and know that I am God." This GC is actually the 2020 General Conference, postponed in 2020 because of the COVID

pandemic. The 2020 GC was also postponed in 2021 and 2022 due to the ongoing effects of the COVID pandemic and the difficulties for international delegates in obtaining passports and visas to travel to the US. The GC is the highest legislative body of The UMC. It is the representative body that holds the power to revise The Book of Discipline and The Book of Resolutions. It can initiate amendments to the denomination's constitution, which must be ratified by 2/3 vote of the clergy and lay members to the Annual Conferences (AC). For this AC, 1099 petitions have been submitted which will be vetted and discussed in 14 legislative committees before any petitions are brough to the GC floor for a vote. The delegates to the GC from each AC are voted on by the members of the AC. The number of delegates for each AC is determined by a formula. Our *Peninsula-Delaware AC is allotted 2 clergy* delegates and 2 lay delegates, plus 2 alternates for each classification. You can find out more information about the GC on the official UMC website – umc.org; you can also read updates regarding GC on the official news agency of The UMC – umnews.org.

I hope you are getting excited about our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 27, 2024. We have much to celebrate about the people who have loved God and served the community and the world through the ministries and missions that have defined who Ebenezer UMC is. We need to be thankful for the those on whose shoulders we stand as we strive faithfully to live out our call as United Methodists and our call as members of Ebenezer to be "a congregation committed to reaching out with love to all people in the name of Jesus Christ through Bible-based worship, witness, teaching, and

A General Conference (GC) of The United

#### (Continued from page 1)

service." By the time this issue of "The Highlighter" reaches you, our Yard Sale to benefit the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will have been held. The next community-focused event to come is a concert by Wilmington Handbell Ensemble, May 11, 4:00 p.m. It is a benefit concert where all donations will benefit the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration. I have contacted the Bishop's office and Bishop Latrelle Easterling is looking forward to preaching at our 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration service on October 27. I will be reaching out to our new DS, Rev. Tom Pasmore to invite him to the Celebration service and also to come and preach sometime after July 1.

It is my joy and privilege to serve as your Pastor. I have received much love and support from you since the time of my arrival on September 1, 2016. Especially meaningful has been your love, support, and encouragements in the last nearly 2 years as Rick and now I face health challenges. God is good, all the time, an all the time, God is good.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor



### WILMINGTON HANDBELL ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Saturday, May 11:00 4:00 p.m.

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble will present its spring concert, "Songs Around the World."

The repertoire of the concert will include arrangements of some familiar songs, like: "Tarantella," "When the Saints Go Marching In," and "Siyahamba." It will also include original song compositions from several global cultures.

The concert is a benefit concert, all donations received will support our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. You do not want to miss this entertaining and uplifting musical event.

Bring a friend; in fact, bring two!



### EUMC MISSIONS- LOVE IN ACTION! WE SUPPORT SAILORS AT SEA!!

### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SEAMAN'S CENTER

The mission of the Seamen's Center of Wilmington, Inc., is to meet the needs of the seafarers who visit the Ports in the State of Delaware. Our goal is to make their time in port a rewarding one by providing personal, practical and spiritual assistance. A warm welcome is extended to ease the pain of loneliness and isolation and to offer a respite from the hazards of the sea.

Ebenezer has supported the Seamab's Center with special donations for a number of years. The Center has a rich history of helping sailors that arrive in the Port of Wilmington from all over the world. It helps with any needs the sailors might have from Covid Vaccinations, clothes or other items and even connecting them to loved ones back home!

Seamen's Center of Wilmington, a 501(c)3 non-profit, opened its doors and hearts to mariners arriving in the First State on January 1, 1990. Founded by a diverse group of individuals from the maritime, business and religious communities and sponsored in part by the Port of Wilmington Maritime Society, the Center was designed as a non-denominational mission dedicated to offering all seafarers arriving in Delaware a haven from the isolation of life aboard a merchant vessel.

The dedication of the SCW corps of volunteers touches the lives of thousands of seafarers with a commitment to personal, practical and spiritual assistance.

Federally mandated port security regulations prohibit vetted seafarers from walking on Port property; and once again SCW volunteers have risen to the challenge of assisting mariners by providing them escort services on and off of Port property.

In response to the needs of the seafarers and the Center, folks from all walks of life in our surrounding community help to assure that the mission is accomplished through their volunteerism, contributions and participation in SCW programs.



### A Special Message from the Trexler's

On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Zach answered the long standing "request" to walk up to the lectern in the Ebenezer sanctuary and remove the Psalm 23 symbolic wreath.

How and why? ..... Many years ago Elaine and Reed Williams' Sunday school class worked on this craft as part of their daily lesson. Zach announced that he was going to make a "Black Sheep" for the wreath which I'm sure he found amusing. That wreath stayed somewhere in Ebenezer until many years later when upon hearing of Zach's 2013 car accident, the congregation agreed that the wreath would be hung on the lectern until Zach was able to walk up and remove it. This was a wonderful, heart-felt gesture of faith and love by a church that has supported us beyond belief all these years.

10+ years later here we are, and although we wish he could have walked up there on his own many years earlier to complete this task, he did so on Saturday – with some assistance. When he had completed the task and returned to Pastor Mary with the wreath in hand, she offered up a wonderful prayer thanking God for His many blessings on Zach and our family over these many years and for Zach's amazing church family. Reed and Elaine were also there – with a few others – to witness the event.

Cheryl and I wanted to take this opportunity to share our gratitude and thankfulness to our Ebenezer family – a family full of amazing and relentless prayer warriors – for being by our side through what has been a long and difficult journey. Without the support from Team Zach (a large team which includes EUMC) Zach and our family would not be in the improved situation we are today. Your encouragement and prayer support are appreciated more than words can describe. Praises to God for our Ebenezer family for the continued blessing of their love and prayerful support! Thank you all.

Lovingly and in God's great name,

Todd, Cheryl, Zach and Tyler Trexler





### **Greetings from your Health and Wellness Ministry**

The team and I are working on a lecture regarding the FIVE WISHES. We received lecture information from the company who wrote and promotes the FIVE WISHES. At this time, we do not have a date set, but will keep you posted.

Now some information regarding organ donation.

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) was established by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Observed in April each year, National Donate Life Month helps raise awareness about donation, encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

Deceased donation includes organ, cornea and tissue donation.

Deceased organ donation is the process of giving an organ or a part of an organ, at the time of the donor's death, for the purpose of transplantation to another person. Cornea donation restores sight and tissue donation helps save and heal lives.

A person who has sustained a severe brain injury, such as from an accident, stroke or lack of oxygen, is put on artificial support.

Doctors work hard to save the patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

The hospital contacts the organ procurement organization (OPO), which checks the donor registry. If the person is registered, the OPO will inform the family. If not, the family will be asked to authorize donation.

Donation can provide solace to a grieving family.

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation.

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

### **Finding a Match**

A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list.

Blood type, body size, how sick, donor distance, tissue type and time on list are among criteria considered.

Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

### **Saving Lives**

Once matches are found, the wait-listed patients are contacted by their transplant teams.

Organs are recovered from the donor with care and respect and sent to hospitals for transplantation.

Transplants restore lives and return patients as active members of their families and communities.

For a person to become an organ donor, blood and oxygen must flow through the organs until the time of recovery to ensure viability. This requires that a person die under circumstances that have resulted in a fatal brain injury, usually from massive trauma resulting in bleeding, swelling or lack of oxygen to the brain.

Only after all efforts to save the patient's life have been exhausted, tests have been performed to confirm the absence of brain or brainstem activity, and brain death has been declared, is donation a possibility.

The state and national Donate Life Registries are searched securely online to determine if the patient has personally authorized donation. If the potential donor is not found in the Registry, his or her next of kin or legally authorized representative (usually a spouse, relative or close friend) is offered the opportunity to authorize the donation. Once the donation decision is established, the family is asked to provide a medical and social history. Donation and transplantation professionals determine which organs can be transplanted and to which patients on the national transplant waiting list the organs are to be allocated.

#### (Continued from page 4)

Although there have been advances in medical technology, the demand for organ, eye and tissue donation still vastly exceeds the number of donors. Donate Life America is working to increase the number of registered organ donors and develop a culture where organ donation is embraced as a fundamental human responsibility. If you

If you would like to become an organ donator all you need to do is go to the Delaware DMV and tell them, you want to update your license to say you are an organ donor. Also, inform your Primary Care and durable Power of Attorney for your Health Care Decisions of your decision.

Some of you know my Sister-in-Law passed away in mid-January. Jane donated her Cornea's; my other Sister-in-Law received a letter telling her that two people received Jane's Cornea's and were now able to see once again. Death is so hard, but this truly made the whole family feel some joy during this difficult time.

Blessings,



### Finance Committee Report

Happy spring and happy Easter to each one of you.

Our church continues to struggle with balancing the budget. At present total current offering is showing a deficit of \$4,845. The good news is that the capital giving is \$574 above budget. Please remember that Ebenezer church is probably going to invest in solar panels which will help in the long run but will need our funding.

Thanks for your continued giving. If you have any questions, please ask me

Ann Varey Finance chairperson

# Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention



April marks National Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month, This year the theme is "Building A Hopeful Future, Together," focusing on creating a nurturing and supportive environment for children and families across the nation. Child abuse and neglect are preventable, and all communities benefit when children and families are well supported!

The symbol for child abuse prevention is a blue and silver pinwheel. People respond positively to pinwheels, which represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness and a vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities. We will have pinwheels available throughout the month which you are welcome to take and share with family and friends.

Prevent Child Abuse America has designated two special days during the month of April.

<u>Friday, April 5</u> – Wear Blue Day – dress in blue to stand in solidarity with child abuse prevention efforts (#WearBlueDay2024)

<u>**Tuesday, April 16**</u> – Amplify Your Voice for Children – contact your elected representatives in the federal and state government to advocate for increased support and funding for child abuse prevention education and programs.





The 200<sup>th</sup> year Ebenezer United Methodist Church Celebration Committee will probably be meeting every month on Sundays after our Church service approximately 11:30am. By the time this article reaches you the indoor yard sale fundraiser will have been over and done with. Judging by the amount of items donated hopefully it should be successful. When we have the results of the indoor yard sale we should have a better idea of what our budget should be and how much more fundraising we need to do.

There are several other fundraisers being scheduled at local restaurants etc. This committee has discussed at length the costs of the celebration whether or not to charge those that attend for the Luncheon and it was decided that a good will donation was the way to go. We will ask all of those that plan to attend to sign up ahead of time so we know how many to plan for. We are planning on publishing a booklet about The 200<sup>th</sup> with some history and photos in it about Ebenezer. We always looking for anyone that is interested in helping in any way. You can contact Carol Coney in the church office, Helen and Michael Lynch or Pastor Mary. We basically have seven months to get this done and we still would like to incorporate as much history of this church as possible. This is a perfect time to reach out to the community around us and our own members to let them know who and what we are.

We will be letting everyone know what the progress is on planning this celebration when we know it. We appreciate all those that have made donations already and if you feel moved to donate towards this celebration please do so by identifying it by "200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration".

Helen Lynch and Michael Lynch, Co-chairmen 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee



As Trustees we are moving forward at this time with our solar panel project to generate electricity for the church. The structural capacity of our roof for the solar panels is to happen next. Finances for the initial costs will have to be worked out along with rebates etc. coming later would be the savings of not having to purchase as much electricity.

The issues with the entry door to the narthex and the side door that opens to the cemetery have been fixed.

The lighting in the sanctuary is being looked into to be fixed. We are looking to hire an electrician or lighting expert to go up on a lift and find out what is wrong with all of the lights that are out, especially the spotlights

The posts that were installed to allow all of us that go up and down the steps to the altar with something sturdy to hold on to seem to be working very well.

We are also working on making things more handicap accessible by somehow making more space around the piano to allow at least walkers to go through.

Michael Lynch Chairman Trustees





### Save the date!

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza fundraiser for VBS is Wednesday, May 22.

Watch for more details of how you can enjoy a great meal and support Vacation Bible School.



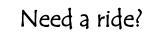
Join us for a Friendly's Fundraiser on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00pm at the Lantana Square Friendly's. Ten percent of all dine in, carry out and delivered purchases during this time will benefit the Ebenezer UMC 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Hope to see you there! So that we get credit for your purchase, please give your server this flyer.

Thank you for your support!!!

Friendly's Restaurant 80 Lantana Drive Hockessin, DE 19707 302-239-3100







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



### Vacation Bible School heads to summer camp with Camp Firelight June 17 – 21

## Time to dig out your hiking boots, pack your knapsack and fill your water canteen!

We're headed to summer camp for VBS 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*).

Mark your calendar now for VBS June 17 - 21 here at Ebenezer from 9 a.m – 12 noon, hosted again this year with our friends from Resurrection Parish, as we experience how we can TRUST GOD to GO with us; LEAD the way; SHARE the wisdom; GIVE us peace and SPARK joy. This many-decade partnership with Resurrection is such a blessing to our congregation and community.

We're always looking for more happy campers to make VBS a success. Children must be at least 4 years old for VBS. Those who will have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher this summer should reach out to Megan and Mike Jones at <u>Youth pastor@verizon.net</u> to sign up as junior counselors. Adults willing to help us set up camp, lead or assist with classes, serve as hall monitors or greeters, or help with set up, clean up and feeding hungry campers at our Friday closing ceremony please email Martha Helojoki at <u>mlodge221@yahoo.com</u>. If you can't pitch your tent the entire week with us, but would still like to be part of the VBS summer camp fun, be on the look-out for our wish list of craft supplies, decorations and snacks you can donate to keep the campfires burning.

Look for camper and volunteer registration forms on the church website, or stop by the church office for a paper copy.

### **Order Subs April 21 to Support VBS!**

VBS is holding a Capriotti's bagged meal fundraiser on Sunday, April 21 to raise funds for Vacation Bible School. Each \$15 bagged meal includes regular-size sub, chips and drink. Kids meals are available for the same price; they include a smaller sandwich and a cookie. Gluten-free options are also offered. A portion of each order will go towards VBS.

Completed order forms and payment (cash or check payable to our VBS partner Resurrection Parish) are due to our church office no later than Sunday, April 14.

On the 21<sup>\*</sup>, pick up your order "drive-up" style in the Resurrection parking lot at 3000 Videre Drive, Wilmington (just off Linden Hill Road) between 4 - 5 p.m. Better yet, stay for dinner and music! Resurrection Parish is hosting a praise and worship music sing-a-long (think Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher) that evening from 5-6 p.m., so you are welcome to pick up your bagged meal and stay to eat and enjoy and the singing.

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Resurrection Parish NOTE: Kid	's sub orders have the option of includ	ling a chocolate chip cookie!
Made out 10 one sub, Resurrection Parish NOTE: Kid Descriptions:		5
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Turkey: Slow-roasted turkey with provole		
	lla, prosciuttini, onions, provolone cheese, lettuce	e, tomato & seasonings
Vegetarian Turkey: Veggle turkey, provo		
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Onion	Sweet Peppers	
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NO MODIFICATIONS OR SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.



#### A Route — April

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

#### **B** Route — April

- 1 Paul Kelley
- 8 Paul Kelley
- 15 Paul Kelley
- 22 Kathy and Doug Gibney
- 29 Paul Kelley

#### 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 Mission Team would like to "Thank You" to everyone who helped back "To Go Bags" for Friendship House on Palm Sunday. A special thanks to Jean Harlan for helping organize the project!

"Thank You" to everyone who helped with the Yard Sale benefiting the 200th Anniversary event.

Your generosity is most appreciated!



### **Congratulations!**



"Shirley and Phil Gardner, 52-year members of Ebenezer, will celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on May 1st, 2024! On Sunday, April 28th, their family would like to invite you to join them in the CLC after the service (during the Social Hour) to have a piece of cake and congratulate them. Thank you!"

### **FAMILY PROMISE**

Our next week of hosting is almost upon us - April 14 -20! We had expected that there would be some significant changes to the hosting process for April but that won't be happening for us until August. (I'll have more information about that in a future Highlighter.) For now, we will continue with our partner - Resurrection Catholic Church - to serve dinners to the families in Cottage One. We are thankful for the support our members give to this project and are always happy to welcome new volunteers.



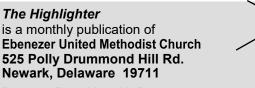
In the past, when we hosted families in our church, there was a committee to coordinate the

Family Promise project. Since Covid, we've been running with two, and for the past year, one coordinator. I really need at least one (preferably two) other members who are willing to commit to helping organize this mission. Please prayerfully consider if you are being called to help in this direct connection with people in our community who need the help and fellowship that Christians can provide. The time commitment is not onerous (a few hours four times a year) and the rewards are great!

Please contact me or call the church office. I will gladly answer any questions you have.

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

Kathy Zinn zinn.kk@gmail.com 302-2635428





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Editor: Diana Bienkowski Newsletter deadline: The 15th of each month Web site: <u>EbenezerUMCNewark.org</u> Email: <u>DianaUMCNewsletter@gmail.com</u>

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	] 10:00am AA 11:30am So- cial Seniors 7:00pm 2x4 Class 7:00pm NA	2 9:30am Bible Study 10:00am AA 12:30pm UMW Exec Board 7:00pm COM	<i>3</i> 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	<i>4</i> <b>11:45am</b> <b>Health &amp; Well-</b> <b>ness</b> 6:30pm Al-Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	<b>5</b> 10:00am AA and Easter Meal	6 6:30pm NA
<ul> <li>7 2nd Sunday of Easter</li> <li>9:00am Sunday School</li> <li>10:00am Worship</li> <li>11:00am Social Hour</li> <li>4:00pm BSA50</li> </ul>	8 10:00am AA <b>5:00pm Friendly's Fundraiser</b> 7:00pm 2 X 4 Class 7:00pm Eagle Scout Boards 7:00pm NA	<i>9</i> 9:30am Bible Study <b>11:00am Ste-</b> <b>phen Ministry</b> 12:00pm AA <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Priscilla Circle</b> <b>7:00pm En-</b> <b>dow. Comm.</b>	10 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 10:30am Naomi Circle/S&S 4:00pm Project Linus 6:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm Finance	<ul> <li>11</li> <li>9:30am BSFT</li> <li>6:30pm AL Anon</li> <li>7:00pm BSA50</li> <li>7:00pm NA</li> </ul>	12 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	<i>13</i> 9:30am DE. Valley Historic Sampler Guild 6:30pm NA
<i>14 3rd Sunday of</i> <i>Easter</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Hour <b>11:30am Anniver-</b> <i>sary Committee</i> 1:00pm Youth Group	<b>15</b> 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>16</b> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA	17 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	18 9:30am BSFT 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	19 10:00am AA	20 6:30pm NA
21 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00 Social Hour	22 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	23 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA	24 10:00 Hope Din- ing Room 10:00am AA 10:00am Chancel Choir 5:00pm Priscilla Pound Auction 6:30pm Good Chimes 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class	25 9:00am BSFT 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm BSA50 7:00pm NA	26 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Dance	27 1:00pm Private Event 6:30pm NA
28 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 10:00am Worship	29 10:00am AA 7:00pm 2 x 4 Class 7:00pm NA	<b>30</b> 9:30am Bible Study 12:00pm AA				



#### **EBENEZER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 525 Polly Drummond Hill Road

Newark, Delaware 19711

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Jesus looked at them and soid, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."	

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