

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Maurice Smith
Pastor
Terry Smith
Secretary

SESSION MEMBERS

Pat Bicehouse
Cathy Donaldson
Shirley Jenkins
Connie Jewell
Ruth McDowell
Jean Walter

DEACONS

Penny Coulson
Don Elliott
Karen Ohler
Lisa Staph

TRUSTEES

Dick Bicehouse
Kent Bicehouse
Phil Coulter
Brian Jewell

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

2426 Scrubgrass Rd
Grove City PA 16127

Phone: 814-786-7411
Email:
ebenezerpresbyterian
churchgc@gmail.com

Thoughts from Pastor Mauri

I doubt if any of you like to think about the possibility of going through persecution for your faith. I don't like to think about it either. It doesn't sound like a lot of fun. We're quite comfortable being insulated here in the U.S., at least for the time being, and especially here in our little corner in Mercer County. We hear stories about things going on around the world, but many of us have not really given it much personal attention.

But I believe we need to get out behind our veils. Do you know that according to recent statistics, between 300 and 400 people will die today because they are identified as Christians? It's true. Several examples of this go on regularly in Kenya, Nigeria, Central African Republic, North Korea, and Pakistan. Others will be imprisoned, tortured, discriminated against, and otherwise put in hardship, because they identify themselves as Christians.

Can you imagine the horror of having armed men break into your home and threaten you with death or torture, then taking one of your family members away, maybe never to be seen again? Folks, it happens all the time around the world. And we can't just stand by and pretend it doesn't really exist.

Persecution is nothing new. Jesus said that the world would hate His followers because they hated Him as well. The Apostle Paul said that all who wish to lead a godly life would be persecuted. That persecution might be as small as a dirty look or insult, to discrimination from a job or promotion, or to death.

Hebrews 13:3 says, “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” And we also read in I Corinthians 12:26, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” The common element of these two passages is the idea that persecution isn’t suffered alone. We are actually called to join in that suffering by remembering and praying for them, understanding that this is our family they are hurting. This isn’t an issue of “those” people far away. It’s not a “them” issue. It’s an “Us” issue. It affects all of us because we’re a part of the body of Christ.



A number of organizations ministering to the persecuted church, such as Voice of the Martyrs, can help you actually correspond with those who are suffering, in cases where it is allowed by the government. Subscribe to newsletters, magazines, etc. from any of the partner organizations involved with the International Day of Prayer. And put your money where your prayers are. Financially support one or more of these organizations ministering to the persecuted church. Terry and I faithfully support Voice of the Martyrs. Oftentimes they are supporting the families of men who are in prison, and the mother has no means to support her children. Other times, the children have been orphaned by the murder of their parents.

So what can we do to be involved with the persecuted church? Pray for those already facing persecution: for strength and courage, limited suffering, protection for their families, and that their lives would serve as a testimony to the truth about Christ. Pray for those taking the gospel to hostile areas. And don’t forget to pray for the church in America—for our leaders, so that we can have peace, and that we would become people of conviction, not just opinion. No one endures suffering for the sake of an opinion, no matter how strong it is. No one dies for an opinion. But people will die for their convictions.

Contact those in prison for their faith.

It takes money to support these people, and Scripture is very clear that that support should come from the family of God. Let’s not insulate ourselves and pretend it doesn’t happen or that it cannot happen here, to us. It can happen here, as you know. Our freedom of speech and religion can be taken away from us like it’s being taken away in Canada and other nations that wouldn’t have imagined it before recent years. Let’s pray for our brothers and sisters around the world, and pray that we would not forget, while also praying that God would spare us from it as well.

Pastor Mauri



Clerk's Corner-Highlights from the July 8 Session Meeting

Financial Report

Balance 6-1-19	13,462.51
Receipts	5,407.00
Total	18,869.51
Less Expenses	3,047.06
Checking Acct. Balance 6-30-19	15,822.45
Funds available for use	3,348.93

Seven **New Members** were received into the church on June 23rd. They are Dave and Joyce Steele, Noel and Mary Ryan, Pete and Marcie Treese and Scott Duncan. We welcome these members into our fellowship at Ebenezer!

We will welcome **Rev. Bill Crooks** to our pulpit on Sunday, September 1st while Pastor Mauri and Terry are on vacation.

Ruth McDowell attended the June 30 Shenango Presbytery Meeting at North Liberty Church and learned that support for the **Sudan** is needed. Mission Chair Cathy Donaldson will look into this project.

Presbyterian Women of Shenango Presbytery are having a “**Shoe Drive**” for those in need. Start collecting now and we will get more info on this asap. They do not have to be brand new shoes.

Church **Directory Photos** will be taken on Sunday, August 11 and August 18 following worship. There are sign up sheets on the back bulletin board for you to choose your date.

Submitted by: Connie Jewell

Sermon Topics for August

August 4	“Defeat Your Depression”	Jeremiah 20:7-12
August 11	Guest Preacher—Rev. Jim Gill (Pastor Mauri will be liturgist)	
August 18	“A Look at the Providence of God”	Matthew 6:25-34
August 25	“Learning from Loneliness”	Genesis 2:15-18

Next Newsletter Deadline is August 18.

Joys and Concerns

- A big thank you to the congregation for donating \$565 to the Grace Family, whose home on Gilmore Rd. was destroyed by fire.
- Welcome to our new members: **Will & Nancy Hoffman**. They were received into the fellowship on July 21 during the morning worship service.
- **Pat Bicehouse**, is home recuperating from her 2nd leg/ankle surgery. Anyone willing to donate an evening meal for Dick & Pat, please contact Lisa Staph.
- **Phil Coulter**
- **Vance Griffin**
- **Shirley Jenkins**
- **Artie Minor**
- **Denny Root**, undergoing cancer treatments.
- **Norm Straub**
- **Jean Walter**
- Remember our shut-ins: Eleanor Sigut (moved to room 311), Betty Swarner & Helene Whitfield



Order your very own **Ebenezer Presbyterian Church mug**. See a sample on the back table and sign-up. Only \$6! (give to Jo Coulter)
Pick up at the church.

Upcoming Events



Brian & Connie Jewell will be participating in the **2019 Ride for Kids** on **August 4, 2019**. This Western PA Ride is one of 23 across the United States. This motorcycle ride raises funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Last year we collected \$2,150 from family and friends. We thank you for your past gifts and we hope you will

Time to Update the Photo Directory!

Terry will be available after church on **August 11 & 18** to take directory pictures following the worship service of all those who are members of Ebenezer (non-member spouses & friends of Ebenezer are welcome too!). It'll only take a couple of minutes. We hope you all will participate to help make the directory a success. Contact information will also be updated at this time. The directory will then be created in-house.



Sign-up now, but if these Sundays don't work for you, please contact Terry Smith — we can arrange a time convenient for you.



Saturday, August 24 — Wiener Roast and “Oldies Night”

Be sure to come out to our last summer picnic at 5:30pm!! Wieners and place settings provided. Please bring a dish to share. Sign-up on the bulletin board.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING “GIVE A HOOT FOR HEIDI!”



A big thank you from Mandi Duncan and Family for your support as she walked in the **2019 Relay for Life** held on July 27. \$250.45 was collected in the water bottles.

From the Kitchen

Cherry Salad or Dessert

- 1 large cherry Jello
- 2 c boiling water
- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 1 can cherry pie filling



Mix the Jello and water together until Jello is dissolved.
Add crushed pineapple and cherry pie filling. Stir this with Jello and mix until all is blended.
Put in dish and refrigerate until well set.

Topping

- 1 c milk
- 1 small box instant vanilla pudding
- 1 regular size cool whip

Mix milk and pudding together until it sets up.
Stir in cool whip and spread it on top.

Very good and easy!

— Shirley Jenkins

Barbeque Sauce

- 1½ c brown sugar
- 1½ c catsup
- 2½ tbl dry mustard
- 2 tsp paprika
- 2 tsp salt
- ½ c vinegar
- ½ c water
- 1 tbl Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients and heat until well blended.

May store in refrigerator.

— Ruth McDowell



Grove City Food Bank & Helping Hands Food Donations for August (we alternate the recipient each month): Ketchup, mustard, pancake mix, regular & light pancake syrup, BBQ sauce, assorted soups, cereal, cinnamon, sugar-free items like Jell-O, pudding, fruit, sugar substitute, etc., bathroom tissue, bar soap, shampoo & conditioner.



AUGUST

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>BEAT THE HEAT!!</p>				1 Amanda McGhee	2 Ruth McDowell	3
4	5	6 John & Joan Shawgo	7	8	9	10
11 Guest Speaker: Rev Jim Gill 11am: Photo Directory Photos Vance Griffin	12 9am: Session 7pm: Deacons	13	14	15	16	17
18 11am: Photo Directory Photos Penny Coulson	19	20	21	22	23	24 5:30pm: Weiner Roast & Oldies Night 
25	26	27	28	29	30 Lee & Charlotte McCoy	31 Paul & Gladys Bengs

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church
2426 Scrubgrass Rd
Grove City PA 16127



CONTACT US

Pastor Mauri Smith
Email: ebenezerpastorgc@gmail.com

Terry Smith, Secretary
Email: ebenezerpresbyterianchurchgc@gmail.com
www.ebenezerpresbyterianchurchgc.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30 am-12:30 pm
Phone: 814-786-7411