

STAFF

Rev. Dick LaFountain
Pastor

Terry Smith
Secretary

SESSION MEMBERS

Paul Bengs
Jo Coulter
Cathy Donaldson
Joyce Steele
Jean Walter-Clerk

DEACONS

Brenda Bengs
Amanda Duncan-chair
Charlene Root
Mary Ryan
Marcie Treese

TRUSTEES

Kent Bicehouse-chair
Phil Coulter
Scott Duncan
Noel Ryan
Dave Steele

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

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From the Pastor's Desk , , ,

Memorial Day is a day to remember those who died serving their country. But it is much more. It is a day to remember friends and family who have left us. It is a time to reflect on the brevity of life and the strength of love that extends beyond the grave.

In 1982 we lost our 12 year-old daughter in a terrible accident while serving as missionaries in Brazil. We buried her in a cemetery in the city where we served. After we returned home to the States friends of ours would periodically go to her graveside and place flowers and remember our dear Aimee. After a few years, we began to wonder what would happen to her grave site once our friends passed on. We imagined that 100 years from now some Brazilian would see her grave marker and wonder who this strange American child was. That is when we decided to bring Aimee's remains back to the States and rebury her in a little cemetery in LaJose, Pennsylvania, where many of Marilyn's relatives are buried. We take comfort in knowing that we can go place flowers on her grave, quietly remember her life and anticipate the day when we will see her again in heaven.



Shortly after agreeing to pastor Ebenezer Presbyterian Church I heard that the church has a cemetery just 3 miles down from our present church building. No one seemed to know much about that cemetery but some recalled that we own the deed to that property. One day I decided to go look at the Ebenezer Church cemetery. It wasn't easy to find. It doesn't even look like a

cemetery. It looked like an abandoned copse of trees and overgrown nettles and thorns. There was no sign. The only indication that it was a cemetery was a few tombstones that weren't toppled over. Someone had recently placed tiny American flags next to fallen soldiers, one from the War of 1812.

As I walked through the thicket and read the markers of former Ebenezer Church members and families I was saddened. I wept as I found several markers of children, like our little Aimee, that have been long forgotten and abandoned. Even as I write this I am tearing up remembering that this would have been the case for our Aimee had we not brought her home to a cemetery that is well cared for and where she will be long remembered.

I thought of those parents who lost children in childbirth, or through diseases and accidents. Later a church member found the listing of all who are buried there—in that forgotten cemetery. As I read through that list I wept again because we have forgotten those who have fallen. They are members of the family of God. That day as I walked through that shamefully abandoned cemetery I determined that these dead will not have died in vain and that they would no longer be forgotten by this church. I decided that even if I had to single-handedly work to clean up the fallen trees and fight back the overgrowth to uncover the fallen markers and tombstones, I would willingly do it for those forgotten families.

Yet, I know I won't have to do that alone. Already some of you have expressed your concern and willingness to make that little spot a haven of rest and respect for the brothers and sisters in Christ who lie there awaiting the resurrection. I envision that little cemetery being a lovely spot with a white picket fence and a covered sign to indicate who owns this spot of ground and cares for it perpetually. I picture the old church sign being raised up on that spot with a dignified listing of all those who are interred there. I see tombstones repaired and replaced, adding a walking path lined with flowers growing instead of weeds and a bench or two for visitors to sit and contemplate the shortness of life. Perhaps one day it can even be a place for Easter sunrise services to be held for the glory of God.

Will you join me this Memorial Day in remembering those of this congregation who have gone home to be with the Lord?

*Let us raise our Ebenezer in this little cemetery
as Samuel raised a stone of remembrance that
"hitherto the Lord has helped us."*



Joys and Concerns

Dick Bicehouse, Tom Clyde, Gay Griffin, Will Hoffman, Evelyn Jones, Artie Minor, Denny Root. Remember our shut-in: Eleanor Sigut

Upcoming Events

**COVID Restrictions Lifted
Beginning June 1!**

This means masks are not required, however, feel free to wear masks and practice social-distancing if you desire. We want you to feel comfortable in church.

**June 6, 10am
Worship Service
& Communion Sunday**

The summertime schedule of 10:00 AM worship services begins the first Sunday of June through the first Sunday in September.

Clerk's Corner—Session Report from May 10, 2021

Report of Actions:

- Approved for the Trustees to have the driveway re-surfaced by Smith Sealing and Asphalt Restoration.
- Approved 2021 Calendar for the Quilter's Guild use of the building for the dates presented by Connie Jewell on a donation basis.
- Approved the removal of COVID RESTRICTIONS as of June 1, 2021. The building reverts to pre-COVID use and availability.
- Approved the Church Doors will remain open during services to avoid visitors being locked out.
- Approved the change to Summer time schedule to 10:00 AM - beginning the first Sunday of June through the first Sunday in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 2021

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$29,065.70
RECEIPTS	\$5633.25
BEGINNING BALANCE PLUS RECEIPTS	\$34,698.95
EXPENSES	\$5139.25
Balance 4-30-2021	\$29,559.70
TRUSTEE FUND	\$10,517.90
MISSION FUND	\$2825.73
GOOD NEWS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	\$369.49
MISSIONS: DESIGNATED	\$5.00
AVAILABLE FUND FOR GENERA USE	\$15,841.58

Joan Coulter, Treasurer

NOTE: Communion Service to be held on June 6, 2021.

Jean Walter, Clerk

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**We support the Grove City Food Bank
& Helping Hands Food Donations**

For June (we alternate the recipient each month): Ketchup, mustard, canned pasta, baking mix, cake frosting, regular & light pancake syrup, pancake mix, cereal, bar soap, bathroom tissue, feminine hygiene products.

Sundays

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Services
June 6—September 5, 2021

Rev. Dick LaFountain

CONTACT US

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