



## **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  
Sonya Glisan

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### Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

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## **Thoughts from Pastor Mauri**

One of the interesting things that struck me this month as we prepare for our Holy Week experience is that God is very much aware of our humanness. He created us as humans. Humanity was God's idea. What's more, our God knows through His own experience what it's like to be human. God became flesh. As the Son of Man, Jesus experienced suffering, peace, unfulfilled desire, relief, exhaustion, hunger and thirst. He knows what it feels like to be alone. He is well-acquainted with grief. And, Jesus confronted death just as each of us will. As the Son of Man, He wished for a way around the suffering. As the Son of God, He submitted to the will of the Father and conquered death forever. Not only did God come to earth to do good and bring healing...not only was He put to death by hanging on a tree, but God raised Him on the third day. Therefore, it is helpful as we look forward to our celebration of Easter once again, that we recognize the miracle of the Savior's new life as set against the backdrop of the disciples' humanness.

As humans, we fear. We are often afraid of what we can't control and what we don't understand. In Luke 24, some women went to Jesus' tomb with spices they had prepared. They went to do what they could to make the best of the difficult circumstances, but they found that the stone was rolled away and Jesus' body was not there. Not only that, but two men in dazzling apparel appeared to them. They reacted in fear, just as we would likely do. Notice that it is right in the



midst of the women’s fear that the word of the Lord speaks. The good news comes to them, not after they had figured everything out, but even as they trembled in fear. “He is not here. He has risen.”

As humans, we forget. Jesus had told them before that He would be delivered into the hands of sinful people and be crucified. He had also told them that He would rise again on the third day. He had spelled it out clearly for them. But, when it mattered the most, they didn’t remember. They needed to be reminded; yet there, at the empty tomb, God’s messengers did not shame them for forgetting. They reminded them gently, “Remember how He told you?” And, thanks to this gentle reminder, they did.

Let us be grateful that God takes our humanness seriously as we once again remember the events of this holy season.

Pastor Mauri 

### Sermon Topics for April

April 7	<b><i>"Is There Life In These Bones?"</i></b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14
<b>Palm Sunday</b> April 14	<b><i>"Palm Sunday Confusion"</i></b>	Matthew 21:1-11
<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 21	 <p><b>8am Sunrise Service</b> (in the pavilion, weather permitting): <b><i>"It Is Finished"</i></b></p> <p><b>11am Service</b> <b><i>"What's the Big Deal?"</i></b></p>	Acts 10:34-43
April 28	<b><i>"It's Okay to Doubt"</i></b>	John 20: 19-31

**Lenten Warmth:** Join us for fellowship and refreshments at 10:30 am before worship each Sunday. April 7 provided by Deacons; April 14 by the Trustees; April 21-Easter Breakfast.

*Next Newsletter Deadline is May 19th.*

## Clerk's Corner-Highlights from the February Session Meeting

- On motion, approval was given for the following financial report:

Balance 2-1-19	10, 988.87
Receipts	10, 503.51
Total	21, 492.38
Less Expenses	4,735.55
Checking Account Balance	10, 756.83
Funds available for use	2,240.54
- The Jackson Center Presbyterian Church Bell Choir will perform at Ebenezer on Sunday, May 26, 2019 during Worship. Mark your calendar and invite a friend.
- On Maundy Thursday, we will have a Pot Luck Dinner with ham, at 5:30 PM, followed by Communion. At 7:00 PM we will have a concert by Dan Schall. Church members are encouraged to attend and the community is welcome.
- Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 8:00 AM on April 21 in the picnic pavilion, weather permitting. A breakfast will follow.
- Pastor Mauri has made hospital visitations and has made progress in visiting former members and current members of our congregation. A Membership Class is in the works.
- The next Session Meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

Submitted by: Connie Jewell

## Worship Assistants: Ushers

April 7: Sonya G, Kent B, Dick B, Bill J

April 14: Sonya G, Kent B, Dick B, Brian J

April 21: Sonya G, Kent B, Dick B, Bill J

April 28: Sonya G, Kent B, Dick B, Brian J

## Joys and Concerns

- Remember our shut-ins: Eleanor Sigut, Betty Swarner & Helene Whitfield
- **Jean Walter & Shirley Jenkins**, who are home recuperating following a hospital stay
- **Vance Griffin**, recovering from surgery.

## Upcoming Events

### **Worship Schedule for Easter Sunday, April 21**



Our celebration of Easter will get underway with an informal **Easter Sunrise Service** in the Pavilion (weather permitting) at 8:00 a.m. It will be a great way to greet the day in a beautiful outdoor setting to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Then at 8:45 the Deacons will host an **Easter breakfast** in the Social Hall. The rest of our morning will follow our normal schedule with the **Sunday School** class meeting in the parlor at 9:45 and our **Celebration of the Resurrection** in the sanctuary at 11:00.

*Let's have a great turnout on this special culmination of the Lenten season.*



### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 18**

**Potluck** (5:30 pm) and **Dan Schall Concert** (7 pm)

Come join us and bring your favorite dish for another delicious potluck dinner, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee, then enjoy some Gospel Entertainment.

In 2001, Dan resigned from his full-time job of 25 years and went into full-time ministry. God uses his music to minister to others or are hurting, having sung almost every weekend for many years and thousands of miles, sharing how God has touched his life.

*Please come out to share in the potluck dinner and to hear Dan's testimony and music.*

## *Mountain Moving Faith*

by Cathy Donaldson



*Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked,  
"Why couldn't we drive it (a demon) out?"*

*He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

— Matthew 17:19,20

*"But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."  
If you can?" said Jesus, "Everything is possible for him who believes."  
Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help my unbelief!"*

— Mark 9:22b-24

Some of the mountains in our lives are of our own making. Many times we see challenges or struggles as massive mountains. Jesus has shown us that if we will believe He is able to move these mountains, they will be moved. He has shown us that we can move our own mountains simply by seeing them as movable.

Bad habits can lead to difficulties. Bad choices can lead us into tough situations. We can remove the obstacles by changing what we do or how we do things. Some mountains in our lives can be shrunk down to small foot hills. Some of the mountains can simply disappear with a lot of prayer and persistence in making corrections in our lifestyles.

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## *Mountain Moving Faith . . .cont'd*

The toughest mountains are those that hit us with no warning. Lost jobs, illness, accidents that make major changes in our lives. These are the most difficult because we have no responsibility for causing them. They just slam into our lives and we have to figure out how to deal with the results.

These are the mountains that test our faith and build our Christian maturity. These are the mountains that can drive us to our knees in prayer or in defeat. The Lord will help our unbelief when we offer it back to Him. He has walked through the same struggles and temptations. He was able to be victorious because He went to the Father frequently.

When you find a mountain blocking your path, turn to the Father like His Son did and He will help you move it. Seek the guidance of the One who moves mountains and He will show you how to believe enough to move mountains too.

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### ***GIVE A HOOT FOR HEIDI!***

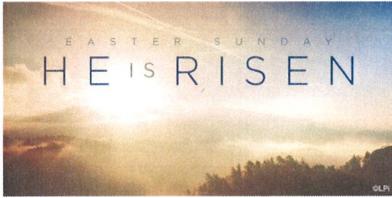


Let's support Mandi Duncan in fulfilling her mother's (Heidi) dream. Heidi Minor wanted to have a team in *2019 for Relay for Life*. Mandi is getting a team together to carry out her mother's dream for the race in July.

How can you help? There are water bottles in the back of the Church marked GIVE A HOOT FOR HEIDI and each bottle is marked for certain coin. So, show your support not only for Heidi's dream, but Cancer Research as well, by putting any extra loose change you have into the water bottles. Once bottles are filled, they will be given to Mandi. Thanks for your support in advance!



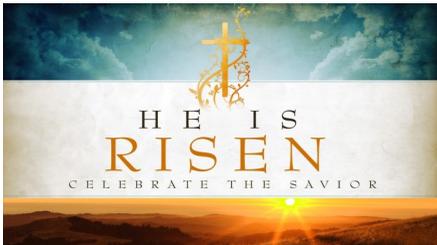
**Grove City Food Bank & Helping Hands Food Donations for April** (we alternate the recipient each month): canned fruit, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, salad dressing, flour, ketchup, mustard, regular & light pancake syrup, pancake mix, cereal, bar soap, sandwich bags, kitchen trash bags, bathroom tissue



# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm: Deacons	2 7-9pm: Quilt Guild	3	4	5	6 11am- 5pm: Kitchen Rental
7 5pm: Lenten Soup Supper & Bible Study	8	9 9am: Session	10	11	12	13
14  PALM SUNDAY 5pm: Lenten Soup Supper & Bible Study	15 Bill & Shirley Jenkins 7pm: Endowment/ Memorial Fund in parlor	16 7pm: Trustees	17	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 5:30pm: Potluck 7pm: Dan Schall Concert	19 GOOD FRIDAY	20
21  EASTER SUNDAY 8am: Sunrise Service 8:45am: Breakfast 9:45am: Sunday School 11am: Easter Worship Service  Pat Bicehouse	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Pastor Mauri on vacation thru May 7				

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## CONTACT US

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