

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

*If You Look for Me
at Christmas...*

Author Unknown



*If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.*

*You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.*

Love,

Jesus

Thoughts from Pastor Mauri

Once again during this season the secular world is staging its attacks against Christmas and what it stands for. It just never seems to end, does it? What I believe is at the root of the controversy is not the season itself, but WHO is the reason for the season—JESUS! Quite honestly, I think that "Jesus" is the most controversial name in the world. It is pretty much outlawed in the classroom of the public school. While its use is permitted as a curse word in the workplace, any other use of it can be considered harassment.

The fact that so many people are offended by the name "Jesus" provides credible evidence that it must be more than just a name. Such names as John, Elizabeth, James, Ruth, or Esther—all biblical names—cause no embarrassment and are offensive to no one. Why, of all the names in the world, is the name Jesus so despised by modern-day cultures? Donald Raub suggests that there are three reasons why the name "Jesus" is avoided and sometimes hated:

1. **Because of its meaning.** Jesus, being the Greek form of Joshua, means Savior. The angel proclaimed, "You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21). Since some of us do not want to admit any need of a Savior, we hesitate to recognize that one exists, for fear that people will think we need saving. Newsflash: **WE DO!** We are all drowning in a "sea of sin" until Jesus, the Savior, rescues us.
2. **Because of the Person.** Jesus is the personification of perfection. He is the light that dispels the darkness. But, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). To be saved, we must be willing to come out of darkness and step into the light of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul told King Agrippa that Jesus came to "turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may have forgiveness of sins..." (Acts 26:18)
3. **Because of its exclusivity.** The Apostle Peter said, "There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). The gospel of

Con't on page 6

Clerk's Corner-Highlights from the November 11 Session Meeting

- Financial Report for October 1-31, 2019

Balance 10/1/19	13,372.73
Receipts	3,479.00
Total	16,851.73
Less Expenses	4,754.49
Checking Account Balance	12,097.24
Funds Available For Use	88.65
- Approval continues for a 50/50 split of endowment interest funds, between trustees and mission committee. This will be re-evaluated each year.
- Shenango Presbytery will be December 3, 2019 at Wurtemberg Church with Ruth McDowell as our delegate.
- Upcoming dates to remember:
 - *Sunday, November 24: Thanksgiving Dinner following worship
Bring a salad or vegetable and a dessert.
 - *Sunday, December 8: Ordination/Installation of new church officers during worship.
 - *Sunday, December 8: Congregation Christmas Dinner following worship. Fourth Quarter Birthdays will be celebrated.
 - *Sunday, December 22: Communion will be observed.
 - *Tuesday, December 24: A 7 PM Christmas Eve Service will be held.
 - *The Advent Wreath will be placed in the sanctuary with participants doing the readings and lighting the candles.

Submitted by: Connie Jewell

Volunteers for Greeters & Christmas Warmth are needed . It's always nice to receive a warm welcome when you arrive at church. Be a part of greeting newcomers as well as our members and friends. You can help prepare some goodies for our 10:30am fellowship time as well. Sign-up and see Connie Jewell if you have any questions.

Sermon Topics for December

Dec. 1	"The Christmas Love of TIME"	Mark 13:32-37
Dec. 8	"The Christmas Love of AFFIRMATION"	Isaiah 40: 1-11
Dec. 15	"The Christmas Love of ACTS OF SERVICE"	Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11
Dec. 22	"The Christmas Love of TOUCH"	Luke 15:20-24
Dec. 24	"The Christmas Love of GIFT GIVING"	Luke 2:1-18
Dec. 29	"Don't Throw Out the Baby with the Tree"	Matthew 2:7-16

Next Newsletter Deadline is December 15.

Joys and Concerns

- **Pat Bicehouse, Gay Griffin, Vance Griffin, Shirley Jenkins, Artie Minor, Denny Root, Norm Straub, Jean Walter**
- Remember our shut-ins: **Eleanor Sigut, Betty Swarner & Helene Whitfield**

Note: Charlene Root's new email address is cwroot1@icloud.com

As you all are aware by now, Pastor Mauri has decided to fully retire as of December 29, 2019. We are both very sad, but feel it is truly the right time. Mauri enjoyed this congregation very much and believes much growth has happened over the past year. I, also, have enjoyed the folk here at Ebenezer and wish to continue to serve you as your secretary and I look forward to meeting your new minister in the new year.

— Terry

Grove City Food Bank & Helping Hands Food Donations for December (we alternate the recipient each month): instant pudding, Jell-O, coffee, canned fruit, pasta, ketchup, mustard, regular & light pancake syrup, pancake mix, cereal, bar soap, toothpaste, adult & kids' toothbrushes.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 8

Sunday, December 8

Installation of new Church Officers will take place during the worship service. Thank you for being willing to serve your church. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for procuring candidates for these positions.

Church Christmas Light Luncheon will follow the worship service. Special music will be provided by some talented young people. Sandwiches will be provided. Please bring a salad and a dessert to share. Sign-up for attendance count.

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service
7 p.m.

Join us for our candlelight service.



Church Officer List — Effective January 1, 2020

Elders

Pat Bicehouse (2020)
Connie Jewell (2020)
Cathy Donaldson (2021)
Jean Walter (2021)
Paul Bengs (2022)

Deacons

Karen Ohler (2020)
Don Elliott (2020)
Penny Coulson (2021)
Amanda Duncan (2022)
Mary Ryan (2022)

Trustees

Ken Bicehouse (2021)
Noel Ryan (2021)
Scott Duncan (2021)
Chuck Coulson (2022)
Dave Steele (2022)

Auditors

Pat Bicehouse (2020)
Lisa Staph (2021)

Nominating Committee

Elder
Elder
Deacon
Trustee
Charlene Root (2020)
Amanda Duncan (2020)
Vance Griffin (2020)



From the Pastor ...

... saving grace is offered to all who will believe, but all must come through Jesus Christ. All the apostles gave their lives to uphold the name of Jesus. Angels said: "This same Jesus shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Like it or not, we will all someday bow before Jesus and confess that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Friends, don't forget that Jesus is the reason for the season. Don't be ashamed to put Him front and center in your celebration of this Christmas season.

—Pastor Mauri



♥ **THE CHRISTMAS HEART**
George Matthew Adams

The Christmas heart is a beautiful heart—for it is full of love and thoughtfulness for others. And Christmastime is a tribute to the most beautiful Heart that ever beat.

It is also the time in which we are reminded of our own inadequacies and helplessness of spirit. For during this season, we are so bathed in Yuletide-inspired unselfishness that we feel our failures and lacks as never before in the entire year. It is well this way, for we may therefore resolve anew to live better and

strong lives for those who mean so much to us.



So let us cherish this Christmas heart and keep it all through the year to come. Let us turn on all the lights in this heart, so that it will be aglow to the world; and let us push up the shades of the windows in this heart, so that everyone who passes may be cheered and inspired. Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first.



The birth of the Baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history because it has meant the pouring of healing love into a sick world, a love that has transformed all manner of hearts for more than two thousand years and given to human service the beauty it would never have had otherwise.



Underneath all the bulging bundles of the season is the beating Christmas heart. Wrapped around even the tiniest gift is this same loveliness of thought and heartfelt expression.



What a happy New Year it would be for all if we would carry this same Christmas heart into every day during the coming year and make it a permanent thing in our lives.

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Begins	2 7pm: Deacons	3	4	5 Jayne Coulter	6	7
8 11am: Install of Church Officers Christmas Dinner Sherry Ligo Charlotte McCoy Jean Walter	9 9am: Session	10 Shirley Jenkins	11 Glady Bengs Mary Lou Riddle	12	13 	14
15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Chuck Montgomery	17	18	19 7pm: Trustees	20	21
22	23	24 7pm: Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27 Don Elliott	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church
2426 Scrubgrass Rd
Grove City PA 16127



JESUS
is the reason for the season!
Merry Christmas!

CONTACT US

Pastor Mauri Smith
Email: ebenezerpastorgc@gmail.com

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

Church Office Hours
Thursdays
9:30 am-12:30 pm
Phone: 814-786-7411