

## STAFF

Rev. Jean Smith,  
*Pastor*

Marci Tenney,  
*Secretary*

## SESSION MEMBERS

Paul Bengs  
Jo Coulter  
Connie Jewell, Clerk  
Noel Ryan  
Lisa Staph

## DEACONS

Brenda Bengs  
Cathy Donaldson  
Karen Ohler  
Mary Ryan  
Marcie Treese

## TRUSTEES

Brian Jewell  
Dave Steele  
Pete Treese

## Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

2426 Scrubgrass Rd.  
Grove City PA 16127

Phone: 814-786-7411

Email:  
[ebenezerpresbyterianchurch  
GC@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerpresbyterianchurchGC@gmail.com)

*Articles and information  
for the next newsletter  
are due the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of  
each month.*



The Beatitudes are among the best-known and best-loved words of Jesus. They form the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49. In eight brief statements Jesus describes the lifestyle that God desires and rewards:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

They are not eight different types of people, some meek, others merciful or peacemakers. God desires all eight qualities in every one of his followers.

Leon Morris writes that “Suffering comes to all, it is part of life, but it is not easy to bear. Yet it is not quite so bad when it can be seen as meaningful.” He points out that Christ endured suffering on the cross because it had meaning. So, for Christians, all suffering is transformed because of the Cross. We serve a Savior who suffered, and we know he will not lead us into meaningless suffering. Christians’ suffering is rightly understood only when seen as God’s fatherly discipline, correcting and directing us. Suffering is evidence, not that God does not love us, but that he does.

Author Matthew Henry tells us that, “We must look unto him, we must set him continually before us as our example. We must consider him, meditate much upon him...”

The Beatitudes turn the world’s values upside down. The world says “Wretched are the poor, for they have so little, wretched are those who mourn, for no one hears their cries, wretched are the meek, for they will be trampled by the powerful.” Yet Jesus asserts that the poor will be rich, the mourners will be comforted, and the meek will inherit everything.

It has been said that the Beatitudes are a ‘right-side up’ guide to living in an ‘upside-down’ world. (excerpts from Joy in Suffering by David Lambert)

Watching as winter gradually evolves into spring is like sitting in front of a warm fire after a day in the snow. We have learned difficult lessons that only winter could teach us, and we are carrying fresh reserves into spring. Barren trees begin to bud, and the warm breeze feels like a gentle embrace as we turn our faces toward the sun. The days grow longer, and our collective mood lifts. Looking around and seeing physical representations of life after a cold, dormant winter, we feel a growing sense of hope – not all is lost, we are not forgotten. Just when we were sure winter would last forever, the breeze warms, the bud breaks forth, and the sun soothes. Winter seems a marathon, but spring is the finish line. Where there was once death, life rises in new form. As we enter spring, we're reminded that the faith we held in other seasons was producing something wondrous all along. Spring invites us to take a breath as our hearts, minds, and bodies find restoration in the beauty bursting forth. We feel strengthened by the hopeful possibilities of spring; it brings the rejuvenation we so desperately need.

*"See the winter is past...flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come."* Song of Songs 2:11-12  
 (excerpt from Seasons of Waiting devotional)

**Clerk's Corner:**

\*Dan Schall Concert Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> for worship service. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. It is always an encouraging service.

\*A 'new to us' copier was purchased from Ford Office Technologies (formerly Hicks) due to issues with the former copier.

\*We still need two Trustees to complete our Nomination List for this year. Please consider and see Connie or Paul.

\*New programs in the making:

- VBS
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Movie Night
- Taco Bar & Bingo

All thanks to the planning of Mandi Duncan and Brooke Deniker.

\*The cracks in the parking lot will disappear this summer.

-Connie Jewell, Clerk

**Treasurer's Report:                      January 2025**

Beginning Balance 1-1-2025                      \$ 8,895.01

Receipts: \$3,767.56

Beginning Balance Plus Receipts                      \$12,662.57

Less Expenses                      \$ 4,387.72

Balance 1-31-2025                      \$ 8,274.85

Balance Includes:

Trustees Endowment                      \$ 823.62

Missions Endowment                      \$ 465.14

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Fund                      \$ 807.74

Deacons Fund                      \$ 1245.68

Missions:

Designated:

Local                      \$ 85.00

Saunders                      \$ 80.00

Schall                      \$ 80.00

Joshua Haven                      \$ 200.00

Available Undesignated Funds

For General Use 1-31-2025                      \$ 4,487.67

-Joan Coulter, Treasurer

**Movie Night at Ebenezer Church:**

Friday, March 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for the free viewing of:

**JESUS REVOLUTION**

Rated PG-13

**Bring your family and guests**

**Refreshments available by donation**





**to benefit our Children's program**

**Childcare is available**

**Mission Focus:**

**The Mission Focus for March is Dan Schall Ministries. Dan will be here at Ebenezer Church on Sunday morning, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to bless us with his music ministry.**

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <i>Women's Worship Workout 9:00 a.m.</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Karen Ohler	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Women's Worship Workout 9:00 a.m.</i>
<b>9</b> SESSION MEETING	<b>10</b> Deacons Meeting 9:00 a.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Chuck Coulson	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Women's Worship Workout 9:00 a.m.</i>
<b>16</b> Paul Bengs Mtg. of Trustees, Deacons and Elders after worship service	<b>17</b>  Ladies Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. at Eat 'n Park	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Clark Deniker	<b>20</b> First Day of Spring! 	<b>21</b> Movie Night <i>JESUS REVOLUTION</i> 6:30 p.m.	<b>22</b> <i>Women's Worship Workout 9:00 a.m.</i>
<b>23</b> DAN SCHALL CONCERT during morning worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Mandi Duncan	<b>26</b> Bev Sloan	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Women's Worship Workout 9:00 a.m.</i>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<u>Birthdays:</u> 4-Karen Ohler 13-Chuck Coulson 16-Paul Bengs 19-Clark Deniker 25-Mandi Duncan 26-Bev Sloan			<b>CHRISTIANITY IS BEYOND COMING TO CHURCH. IT IS THE ABILITY TO REPRESENT CHRIST WHERE EVER YOU ARE.</b>	

**Lent** is the season of 40 days (minus the Sundays) leading up to Easter in which the church universal has traditionally acknowledged as a time to prepare our hearts to embrace the suffering, death and resurrection of our Savior. It is a time to reflect upon our need for forgiveness, our dependence on Christ and how we can live a more Christ like life. It is a time to engage more diligently in study, prayer, fasting, meditation and service to others in the name of Christ. It is a time to contemplate more deeply the suffering of Christ for us and our salvation.

During the Season of Lent, Rev. Smith will be preaching on the Words Spoken from the Cross.

The words our Lord uttered while hanging on the cross reveal deep theological meaning and implications for how we are to respond to Christ's voluntary sacrifice on our behalf. Please join us for this sacred season as we delve deeper into the Words from the Cross.



### Recipe:

### Homemade Clodhoppers

*Ingredients: 2 cups smashed graham crackers (bite-size pieces)*

*1 cup salted cashew pieces*

*12 oz. white chocolate chips*

Combine smashed graham crackers and cashew pieces in a large bowl. Melt white chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl, starting with 45 seconds, stirring and heating until melted. Pour over dry ingredients until well coated. Turn the mixture out onto parchment paper lined baking sheet to cool. Break into bite-sized chunks when cool.

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