

STAFF

Rev. Dick LaFountain
Pastor

Marci Tenney
Secretary

SESSION MEMBERS

Paul Bengs
Jo Coulter
Connie Jewell, Clerk
Joyce Steele
Jean Walter

DEACONS

Brenda Bengs
Marcie Treese
Charlene Root
Mary Ryan
Cathy Donaldson

TRUSTEES

Noel Ryan
Scott Duncan
Dave Steele
Pete Treese
Brian Jewell

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church
2426 Scrubgrass Rd.
Grove City PA 16127

Phone: 814-786-7411

Email:
ebenezerpresbyterianchurchGC@gmail.com

Articles and information for the
next month due the 3rd week of
the month.



From the Pastor's Desk:

A Cure for the "Cheated Heart"

Our hearts are leaky. Someone has asked the age-old question of whether your cup is half-full or half-empty. Many of us live our lives with leaky cups. David says in Psalm 23, "*My cup runneth over.*" But for many Christians the opposite is true. "My cup leaketh." They are believers who cultivate a cheated heart. Cheated hearts are always looking at what is missing and not what is there. They feel that life has been unfair. Other people are better off than they are. The grass is always greener on the other side.

I have, by nature, a melancholy personality. When I first received that analysis of my personality I was rather upset. A melancholy is to me a gloomy person. I don't want to be a gloomy person. But then I discovered that many of the creative great men of the Bible were also melancholies. Moses, Elijah, and Jeremiah were melancholies as are a host of other very productive people. A melancholy is naturally analytical about everything. He is always looking for ways to make things better. A melancholy is never satisfied with the status quo. A melancholy is critical of himself, other people, circumstances, and life in general.

I am a perfectionist. That does not mean that I am perfect, or think that I am. It means that I want and need order. I see the world as fallen and in a state of disorder. I want to put it back into order. So, I straighten every picture that is crooked. I tell my wife how to drive, even when she is doing an excellent job. When I am under stress my perfectionism is exaggerated. I become acutely aware of everything and everyone that is wrong. When I am stressed all of my perfectionist tendencies kick into overdrive. No one wants to live with me. I become a nitpicker. My staff at church humorously calls me Adrian Monk, that eccentric, obsessive-compulsive TV character for whom nothing is ever clean enough, neat enough, or straight enough.

Several years ago I was shocked by a Christian counselor who chided me for my nit-picking spirit by saying, "Dick, even a jackass can find a hole in a fence." That shocked me; mainly because Christians don't use the "jackass" word, much less call someone that. Then I realized that he was not calling me a jackass. He simply used an analogy, a word picture, so I could see myself as God sees me in my most nit-picking moments. What he meant was it takes no intelligence to see what is wrong with the world. Even a jackass, as stupid as he is, can find a hole in a fence and climb through. It takes no intelligence, no skill, and no spiritual giftedness to see what is wrong in the world around you. The world is out of order. Since the Fall the world is wrong from weeds to the womb, it is all broken. Even before the Fall God said upon creating the earth in six days, "It is very good" not, "It is perfect."

continued

What God commends is the mind that can recognize what is wrong in His world, in his life, in his situation, but deliberately focus on what is right. Focus is everything. When you look through binoculars and the world seems out of focus you make some changes. You adjust the glasses so that you can see clearly. You bring things into clear focus. Thanksgiving is putting on the eyes of God to bring life into clear focus. Stop complaining about everything that has gone wrong. Start focusing on what is right and the good God has done. That God-focus brings life into true focus and fills the heart with thanksgiving.

OUR DAILY BREAD devotional booklets are written to help you spend time with God and His Word every day. The *October-November-December* edition is available on the table in the Narthex. They are free. Please pick up your copy today.



November 24



**In Mathew Christ is our Messiah!
In Mark He is our Servant King!
In Luke He is the great Physician
In John He is the Son of God!
In Acts He is the Risen Lord
In Romans He is our Righteousness
In Corinthians He is our Holiness
In Galatians He is our Justification
In Ephesians He is our Perfection
In Philippians He is our Provider
In Colossians He is our Hope
In Thessalonians He is our coming King
In Timothy He is our Shepherd
In Titus He is our Rewarder
In Philemon He is our Encourager
In Hebrews He is our High Priest
In James He is our Wisdom
In Peter He is our Inheritance
In John He is our Lover
In Jude He is our Warrior
In Revelation He is The Alpha and
Omega! Beginning and the End!**



Giving Thanks!

God Is For Us, Not Against Us

Let's turn the Jabez prayer from a moaning and groaning prayer to a thankful cry, *"Oh, God you have blessed me indeed."*

Most of us spend our lives wishing for the favor of God. "Oh that you would bless me!" is often the cry of our hearts when we pray. But in reality we walk about with a mental shroud of gloom and rejection. We don't feel blessed. We often feel cheated and shortchanged by life. We don't feel like God cares all the time.

We are like Joe Btfsplk from the Li'l Abner cartoon by Al Capp:



Joe Btfsplk, the world's worst jinx, had a perpetually dark rain cloud over his head; instantaneous bad luck befell anyone unfortunate enough to be in his vicinity. Though well-meaning and friendly, his reputation inevitably precedes him, so Joe is a very lonely little man. He has an apparently unpronounceable name, but creator Al Capp "pronounced" Btfsplk by simply blowing a "raspberry", or Bronx cheer. Joe's personal black cloud became one of the most memorable images in the Li'l Abner cartoon strip.

Let's get rid of the cloud of gloom and doom that so often follows us around. Let's give thanks for what we do have and what God has done.

We are children of the King. We are joint-heirs with Christ. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places. Let's think like it, act like it, feel like it, live like it. There is a reason God chose to call us "believers."

What is it we believe? Our thoughts betray us. If we are feeling like paupers it is because we are not believing what God says, but rather what the enemy has sown in our cheated hearts.

The Scripture says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."* What are you thinking in your heart today? The Apostle Paul exhorted us to give thanks in everything, and for all men. He goes on to instruct us in having the mind of Christ.

"Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

A great exercise for the grumblers and complainers among us is to begin the day with an extended time of thanksgiving – nothing else. Then covenant with God that for this 24-hour period you will "put a muzzle on it," that is, you will not complain, grumble, criticize, or bemoan anything. What a day that will be! And what a wonderful transformation it will bring to our feelings and our families. Try it, you'll like it!

THE NEXT VERSE

In each issue of the newsletter, there will be a commonly known scripture verse followed by "*the next verse*."

This is a great way to become more familiar with scripture verses.

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

The Next Verse....

Philippians 4:9 - Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

it is not
happy
people who are
thankful
it is
thankful
people who are
happy

Coming up in November:

November 12 – Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers - after worship service

November 13 - Session Meeting at 1:00 pm

November 19 – Thanksgiving Dinner after worship service - *see next page for details*

November 24 – Hanging of the Greens



**THANKSGIVING
DINNER**

**Sunday, November 19
after worship service**

Turkey, dressing, potatoes & gravy will be provided. Please bring a vegetable *or* salad *and* a dessert.

A sign-up sheet is posted. If you are planning to attend please sign the sheet by November 5 – also include any others that will be attending.



Holy Occupations!

The names of 10 occupations that can be found in the Bible are hidden in the sentences below. Can you find and circle them? *Note: The order of the occupations does not correspond to the order of the sentences.*

WORD LIST

CARPENTER

FARMER

HERDER

KING

MERCHANT

PROPHET

SAILOR

SCRIBE

SOLDIER

SPY

1. Sometimes fish like carp enter the stream here.
2. The prop he took was needed on stage yesterday.
3. Madison was milking the cow in the barn.
4. Whenever Elmer chants in the car, his wife groans.
5. When my kitten was sold, I erupted into tears.
6. He had an annoying and raspy voice.
7. His crib extended beyond their bedpost.
8. The queen sponsored her derby in London.
9. You can either sail or go around the town.
10. From you, never keep them far—mercy and kindness.



BLESSING MIX

Bugles represent the cornucopia, a horn of plenty.

Pretzels represent arms folded in thanks and prayer.

Candy Corn reminds us that during the first winter, the pilgrims were allowed only a few kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.

Seeds are promise of future harvest if they are planted and well-tended.

Wheat is a reminder of harvest gifts from the land.

& M's are for memories of those who came before us.

Marsheys Kiss is a reminder of the love of family and friends that sweeten our lives.



When all else fails, God doesn't!

Answers to: Holy Occupations!

1. Sometimes fish like carp enter the stream here.
2. The prop he took was needed on stage yesterday.
3. Madison was milking the cow in the barn.
4. Whenever Elmer chants in the car, his wife groans.
5. When my kitten was sold, I erupted into tears.
6. He had an annoying and raspy voice.
7. His crib extended beyond their bedpost.
8. The queen sponsored her derby in London.
9. You can either sail or go around the town.
10. From you, never keep them far—mercy and kindness.

TRUST IN HIS TIMING
RELY ON HIS PROMISES
WAIT FOR HIS ANSWERS
BELIEVE IN HIS MIRACLES
REJOICE IN HIS GOODNESS
RELAX IN HIS PRESENCE

The BIBLE contains:

The mind of God.
The state of man.
The way of salvation.
The doom of sinners.
The happiness of believers.
Light to direct you.
Food to support you.
Comfort to cheer you.

The BIBLE



It is:

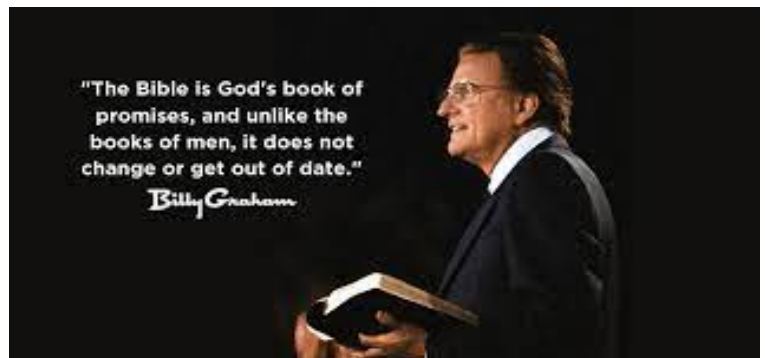
The traveler's map.
The pilgrim's staff.
The pilot's compass.
The soldier's sword.
The Christian's charter.
A mine of wealth.
A paradise of glory.
A river of pleasure.

Its doctrines are holy.
Its precepts are binding.
Its histories are true.
Its decisions are immutable.
Christ is its grand subject.
Our good, its design.
The glory of God, its end.

Read it to be wise.
Believe it to be safe.
Practice it to be holy.
Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully.

"The BIBLE is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals."

- Charles C. Ryrie

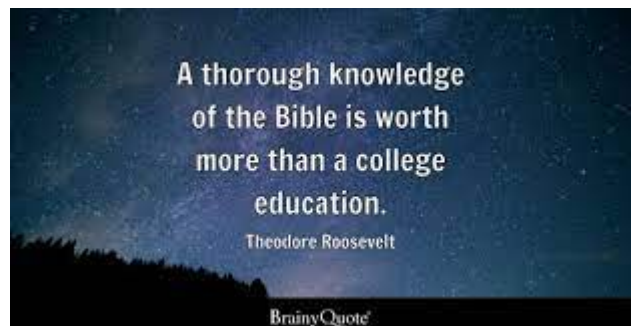


"The Bible is God's book of promises, and unlike the books of men, it does not change or get out of date."

Billy Graham

"I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the BIBLE."

- D. L. Moody



A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

Theodore Roosevelt

BrainyQuote

Clerk's Corner:

- Pastor Dick and Paul Bengs are working on a history of the church.
- Deacons will collect items for Veteran's Stockings for Christmas.
- Trustees continue working on video camera issues.
- Missions Committee will collect items for Joshua's Haven. Needed items will be posted.
- Thanksgiving Dinner plans are in place for November 19th.
- Presbytery members Jim Moose and Jeff Black met with Session members.

-Connie Jewell, Clerk

Treasurer's Report: September 2023

Beginning Balance 9/1/2023	\$ 11,330.21
Receipts:	
Worship Service	\$4,564.00
Beginning Balance Plus Receipts	\$ 15,894.21
Less Expenses	\$ 8,091.95
Balance 9/30/2023	\$ 7,802.26
Balance Includes:	
Ninetieth Birthday Celebration Fund	\$ 45.04
Trustees Endowment	\$ 2,059.89
Missions Endowment	\$ 965.14
Available Undesignated Funds for General Fund Use 9/30/2023	<u>\$ 4,732.19</u>

-Joan Coulter, Treasurer

Mission Moment:

Ebenezer Church sponsors the **Grove City Food Pantry** and **Lakeview Helping Hands**.

Grove City Food Pantry, located in Grove City, PA, provides the opportunity for those less fortunate to get food to eat for no money exchanged in return.

Lakeview Helping Hands, located in Stoneboro, PA, provides food, clothing and help with finding temporary housing.

We are very fortunate to have these two organizations to be of help to those in need in our area.

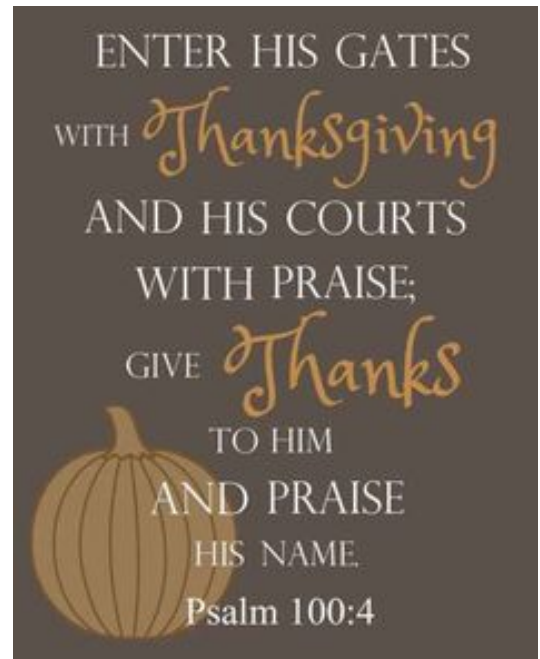
Donations may be placed in the food pantry baskets located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Also: **Feed a Family Campaign** is in progress. If you would like to participate, please check the bulletin board for more information.

-Joyce Steele, Missions Committee

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Liz Wittenberg</i>	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Chuck & Penny Coulson</i>	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Andrew Staph</i> Veterans Day  THANK YOU !
12 Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers – immediately after worship service	13 <i>Session Meeting 1:00 pm</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19 Thanksgiving Dinner after Worship Service 	20	21 <i>Mary Ellen Coulter</i>	22 <i>Helen Hicks</i>	23 	24 	25
26 <i>Phil & Jo Coulter</i>	27	28	29	30	<u>Birthdays:</u> 1-Liz Wittenberg 11-Andrew Staph 21-Mary Ellen Coulter 22-Helen Hicks	
					<u>Anniversaries</u> 6-Chuck & Penny Coulson 26-Phil & Jo Coulter	



**Ebenezer Presbyterian Church
2426 Scrubgrass Road
Grove City, PA 16127**