

Ebenezer
Presbyterian Church

2426 Scrubgrass Rd.
Grove City PA 16127

Phone: 814-786-7411

Email:
ebenezerpresbyterianchurch
GC@gmail.com

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



It's Going to Be Okay

by Sharon Jaynes

Biblical hope is a certainty that our ultimate future rests in God's capable and loving hands.

It was one of the worst days of my life. Tragedy struck our family in the worst way and I was emotionally paralyzed. That's when my friend, Mary, stepped in to do what I couldn't. She made me a hotel reservation, called the necessary people, and said, "It's going to be okay."

"It's going to be okay" is one of the most hope-filled sentiments I can offer to others, and that I can choose to believe for myself. The writer of Hebrews says: "*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see*" (Hebrews 11:1). That's where hope comes from.

Of course, for the Christian, there is the future hope of eternity with God. But there's also hope for the here and now. We have the assurance, the evidence of things not seen, that no matter what happens, God is still on His throne.

What is biblical hope? Hope is tethering what we *do* know about God's faithfulness to what we *don't* know about our future.

In defining faith as '*being sure of what we hope for*,' the writer of Hebrews gives us an insight into hope, but let's chew on it a bit. Biblical hope is not a wish. A wish is something we want to have or to happen. "I *wish* I had a house." "I *wish* I could go to Spain." "I *wish* I had a smaller waistline." Maybe it will happen one day, maybe it won't.

In contrast, biblical hope is a certainty that our ultimate future rests in God's capable and loving hands. It is an assurance that the invisible God has a good plan in my visible life.

One of the ways that we can become hope-givers is to share our stories of how God got us through a difficult time in our lives. Whether it was something done to us or through us, telling others about how God healed the hurt or removed the shame gives them hope that He can do it for them as well. When you tell your story of redemption: Hope becomes conceivable. You become believable.

Sometimes, it may take years to put back the pieces the wrecking ball of pain has caused. The atrocities we've endured may tempt us to believe that someone other than God is writing our stories. **But God has the power to redeem what we consider unredeemable. To heal what we consider fatally wounded. To make our worst chapters our greatest victories.** And then to fashion us into hope-givers who are believable when we tell another, "It's going to be okay."

When tragedy tears our hearts out, when untimely death cracks the foundation of our faith, we mourn. We grieve the loss. But we mustn't allow the story to stop there. I type these words with tears in my eyes because I have lived them. Hear me when I say, **it's going to be okay**—you're going to be okay. God has more to write.

Prayer: God, I trust You. No matter what happens this side of heaven, I know it's going to be okay because You have a purpose and a plan. I might not like the situation or understand the observation, but I trust You without reservation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today will be a great day. (Psalm 118:24)
 I will choose joy. (Psalm 30:5)
 I will encourage someone. (Proverbs 15:23)
 I will trust God completely (Proverbs 3:5)
 I will walk in integrity. (Proverbs 20:7)
 I will walk in love. (Romans 12:9)
 I will walk in God's peace. (Philippians 4:7)
 I will have a thankful heart. (I Thess. 5:18)
 I will be courageous. (Joshua 1:9)
 I will know God in a deeper way. (Philippians 3:10)
 I will walk the path God has prepared. (Psalm 25:4-5)

New hymnals have been ordered and the congregation is invited to purchase them in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The cost is \$20 each. A label will be placed inside the front cover stating who gave the hymnal and who it is in memory or in honor of.
 Order forms are on the back table.

Clerk's Corner:

- Communion was observed June 15th with 32 participants.
- New hymnals (The Celebration Hymnal) have been purchased. Congregation members may purchase hymnals in memory or honor of a family member or friend.
- The Wiener Roast Saturday, September 13th is open to the community. Activities will be available for kids and families including bouncy house and musicians. Please bring food to share as the public is invited.
- There will be a cleanup day (around church, pavilion and grounds) Thursday, July 31st at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Bring garden tools. Cookies & drinks will be provided.

-Connie Jewell, Clerk

Treasurer's Report:

JUNE 2025

Beginning Balance 6-1-2025 \$ 13,035.92

Receipts: \$5,554.26

Beginning Balance Plus Receipts \$ 18,590.18

Less Expenses \$ 5,545.70

Balance 6-30-2025 \$ 13,044.48

Balance Includes:

Trustees Endowment \$ 3,749.12

Missions Endowment \$ 3,390.14

90th Birthday Fund \$ 807.74

Deacons Account \$ 1,118.92

Missions:

Local \$ 100.00

Saunders \$ 100.00

Schall \$ 100.00

Children's Program \$ 36.00

Available Undesignated Funds

For General Use 6-30-2025 \$ 3,642.56

-Joan Coulter, Treasurer

MISSION FOCUS:

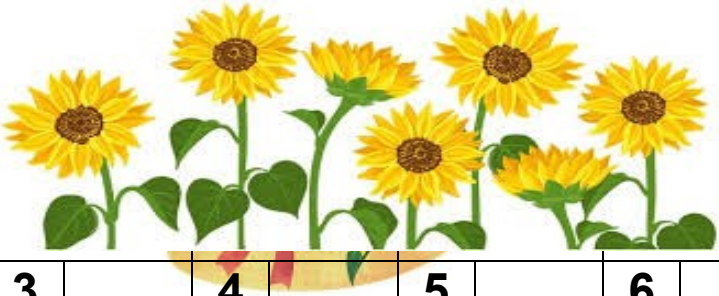

The Mission Focus for AUGUST is:

Brian Saunders, President of SHOW (Shared Hope for Orphans Worldwide)

This organization strives to show the love of God to those in need and help orphans around the world by providing them with food, shelter and an education. They teach people and schools how to be self-sufficient and are focused on teaching the children about Jesus. They empower local Ugandans to become business minded. They work to transform the lives of children and families by being the hands and feet of Jesus. One-hundred percent of the proceeds donated by sponsors, goes directly to the children and families in need.



AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Ruth McDowell	4 SESSION MEETING 5:00 p.m.	5 Evelyn Jones	6	7	8	9
10 Communion Sunday	11	12	13 Mary Ryan	14 Pastor Jean Smith	15	16
17	18 John Park Penny Coulson	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Paul & Gladys Bengs		<u>Birthdays:</u> 3 – Ruth McDowell 5 – Evelyn Jones 13 – Mary Ryan 14 – Pastor Jean Smith 18 – John Park 18 – Penny Coulson	<u>Anniversaries:</u> 31 – Paul & Gladys Bengs			



Ingredients:

graham crackers
marshmallows (S'more Mallows work well)
chocolate bars
dipping chocolate

Place graham cracker bottoms with chocolate bar squares on plate in microwave for 35 seconds just until chocolate is soft. Place graham cracker tops with marshmallows on plate in microwave for 15 seconds. Put both sections together lightly and place in freezer for 5 minutes.

Melt your dipping chocolate and dip half of each graham cracker smore into melted chocolate. Place on waxed paper or parchment paper on plate and freeze until hardened.

The Ebenezer Missions Committee sent \$1,500.00 to Samaritan's Purse designated for Texas Flood & Church Camps.

Samaritan's Purse is working in flood-wracked counties after heavy rains caused intense flooding. Volunteers serve as the hands and feet of our Lord, helping homeowners with property cleanup and mud-outs. Their website states: "In all we do, we aim to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with hurting people."

See Samaritanspurse.org for more information.

EBENEZER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY PICNIC

Saturday, September 13th at 4:00 p.m.



Mark your calendars and invite friends and neighbors for this community outreach event.

Hot dogs, buns, paper products and drink will be provided. This is a potluck event so please bring a favorite dish or two to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the music stand – please sign up how many will attend.

There will be country music provided by Lori Udy, Tom Zenobi (Two veteran singer/songwriters involved in local bands since the 1980's) and Jim Gallagher.

There will be fun activities for the children. Watch for more details soon.

