

# **The Manbeck Messenger**

*"Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me" (Malachi 3:1a)*



**MARCH 2026**

**Monthly Newsletter of  
Manbeck's  
Zion Evangelical Congregational  
Church**

***"Seeking to know Christ and make Him known"***

110 Wild Cherry Road  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
570-345-3545

[www.manbecks.org](http://www.manbecks.org)

## **MANBECK'S "ZION" SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY**

WORSHIP... 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL... 10:40 AM

MANBECKS YOUTH... (Go to [www.manbecks.org](http://www.manbecks.org) for Dates & Time)

### **WEDNESDAY**

Adult Small Group  
PRAYER... 6:00 PM  
BIBLE STUDY ... 7:00 PM

### **FRIDAY"**

Worship Nights... 7:00 PM

*Contemporary praise for all ages, followed by time of fellowship.*



## ***“For Such a Time as This...”***

March is a month of exciting changes! Warmer weather and the color green is on the way. Mid-month we'll commemorate St. Patrick, and the end of the month we'll celebrate Palm Sunday (and host our community Easter Egg Hunt). A not-as-well-known

holiday marks the beginning of this month. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Jewish holiday of Purim. (*which Jesus would have celebrated growing up – “The Chosen” actually depicted this in Season 3, Ep. 7*). In light of current events this feels more relevant than ever.

The backdrop is a Persian King who is persuaded by an enemy of Israel, named Haman, to pass a law calling for the genocide of all Jews.



**SCAN HERE**

*to watch Purim  
in “The Chosen”*

“Purim” is translated as “cast lots”. Strange name for a holiday. It refers to the method Haman used to determine the day that all Jews would be annihilated. God ultimately reversed it to become the day of Haman’s own death -- A reversal that took place through the courageous God-directed actions of Esther.

Interestingly the book of Esther in our Old Testament is only one of two books named after women, and the only book in the Bible that doesn’t mention God by name. Yet, God’s hand is seen throughout the entire story.

Esther, a Jewish woman, orphaned at an early age and raised by her cousin, is taken to be part of the king’s harem. She hides her true Hebrew identity, while finding favor with the king because of her beauty. At a crucial moment, just as the decree is made for the death of her people, Esther faces a critical choice. Revealing her identity and confronting the king would most certainly lead to her own death. But remaining silent and hidden would lead to the massacre of thousands of Jewish people. Her relative Mordecai, challenges her to consider God’s higher purpose for her favored position:

*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)*

After calling the nation to fast and pray for 3 days, she approaches the king. In an amazing turn of events, the king overturns his ruling and executes Haman instead. The question this poses is important – *what if Esther had not remained open to God’s redeeming purposes for her and stepped out in faith?*



A few centuries later, Israel had not only been preserved, but would bring the Messiah, who would redeem all of humanity through His death and resurrection! *How might God use you to bring about His redemptive purposes in this season of new life? -- Journeying with you, Pastor Kyle*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH  
2026**

8

March

MANBECKS YOUTH  
**2026 KICK OFF!**

6:30-8pm

14

March

KIDS MINISTRY GATHERING  
Appreciation Breakfast & *Workshop*

20

March

4TH 3RD FRIDAY  
PRAISE NIGHT

26

March

LADIES  
LUNCHEON

28

March

EC DISTRICT MTG  
– Meet some our EC Leaders!

*from Twin Pines, EC Church Health & Church Planting*

29

March

**Egg Hunt Outreach**  
& Palm Sunday Brunch



## **HOLY WEEK events**

April 2 – **Maundy Thursday**  
Family Passover (“Last  
Supper”) dinner, 6pm



April 3 – **Good Friday**  
Tenebrae Service, 7pm

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Everet Green	
5	Donna Kurtz	
10	Maggie Lehr	
11	Wayne Kurtz	
25	Ashley Sommers	

\*\*\*\*\*

## LADIES LUNCHEON

The next monthly **Ladies Luncheon** will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, @ the Country Restaurant in Friedensburg, 11:00 AM. All ladies are invited to attend.

**NO BOYZ ALLOWED!!!**

\*\*\*\*

## "4<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY" Praise Night

The fourth Friday of most months is usually our "4<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY" Praise Night. This month is no different. Join us on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM for an informal time of singing contemporary praise songs to our Lord. You won't be disappointed. And like most informal gatherings, there will be refreshments and a time of Fellowship.

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## ANNUAL EGG HUNT

**Mark your Calendars!**

The annual egg hunt at Manbeck's is scheduled to be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>, following the Worship Service. Sometimes the kids have to hunt for the candy filled eggs hidden in the snow. Sometimes the weatherman cooperates with sunshine and warm temperatures. No matter what, the kids have a great time! And adults get to have a good time of Fellowship with each other. (The kids are usually occupied with their candy filled eggs to be bothered with Brunch).

**AND** in order to have eggs filled with candy, we need to have help! Would you please volunteer to help fill the plastic eggs (and Donna has a million eggs (I exaggerate a little) to get filled. *Any donations of candy would be appreciated.* The week preceding the egg hunt (Holy Week) has a lot going on, and because it falls on the last week of the month, the usual night we fill the eggs is Friday, which would be "4<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY" Praise Night, we will be filling eggs on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:30 P.M.

1 Timothy 5:18 states, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." That **does not** apply to Easter Egg filling!



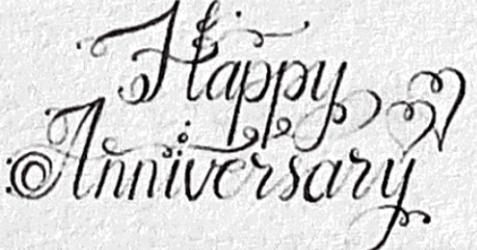
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## FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

Our next Sunday Fellowship Brunch is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>, following the Worship Service. All are invited. There will be no Sunday School that morning. Join us. We'd love to have you attend.

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## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

6	Kenneth & Ardella Newswanger	
<p><b>Celebrating 55 years!</b></p>		

## OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

The Official Board met on Tuesday, February 17.

Items discussed are as follows:

- See Pastor Kyle is you want the password to get resources.
- Possibly a meeting/workshop for Sunday school.
- Maundy Thursday, April 2/celebrate with a Passover Seder and also a Good Friday service.
- Egg hunt: March 29 followed with a brunch
- One Rock, One Community will be held Sept. 19. They are looking for participating churches
- Sunday, April 19 Pastor Kyle will be taking a vacation day. Rosa has dance in NYC.
- Annual District Meeting: March 28 at Reedsville from 9:00 to noon. Open for any interested people.
- Need someone for snow removal since Harold is out of commission for now.
- Fire escape needs a porch of door and deck.
- Discussion on putting a fan light with heater in the ladies bathroom
- A new Christmas tree was bought
- Widow's Coins, \$56.00, will be going to Jewel.
- By-laws will get reviewed for additions and corrections.
- Twin Pines meeting on March 3 at 7:00 to discuss sending children and adults to camp.
- Review Benevolent guidelines
- Discussion on the possibility of a library at church
- Elections were held and officers are as follows:
  - Ernie Reiter, President
  - Mark Lehr, Vice-President
  - Deb Reiter, Treasurer
  - Cathy Nagle, Secretary
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 7.

\* \* \* \* \*

# BUILDING FUND

Date	Description	Category	Amount
<b>BALANCE 12/15/2025</b>			<b>31,506.11</b>
12/21/2025		Building Fund	178.00
12/30/2025	For Ckt# 5780	to checking account	-400.00
12/30/2025	July, August & September	Interest Inc	2.05
1/11/2026		Benevolent Fund	330.00
1/11/2026	Oct. Nov. Dec.	Interest Inc	2.18
2/1/2026		Memorial Gift	350.00
2/8/2026		Building Fund	160.00
2/8/2026		Memorial Gift	200.00
2/15/2026		Memorial Gift	200.00
<b>12/16/2025 - 2/16/2026</b>			<b>1,022.23</b>
<b>BALANCE 2/16/2026</b>			<b>32,528.34</b>

Beginning Balance as of 12-31-2025	\$31,288.34
Ending Balance as of 2-16-2026	\$32,528.34
CD at C.A.C.L. Financial	\$58,640.35
Minus Memorial Funds	\$ 2,935.90
Minus Benevolent Funds	\$ 3,386.00
<b>Total Balance of Building Fund</b>	<b>\$84,846.79</b>

Let's go to church on Easter morning,  
 To that little white church on the hill  
 Where familiar faces of people I knew  
 Seem to live . . . I remember them still.  
 I want to go back Easter morning  
 Where I once spent precious hours  
 Listening in reverence to  
 songs from the hymnal,  
 I want to sing in the choir.  
 I want to listen to strains of church music  
 I recall since I have been gone . . .  
 The sweet recollections of words of praise,  
 Of voices lifted in song.  
 I want to walk down the aisle Easter morning  
 By your side. Let me kneel as I pray,  
 That the peace and the  
 promise of each Easter Sunday  
 Will live in my heart everyday.  
*Laura Hope Wood*

## PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Food Pantry is collecting, cookies and more cookies. The tub will be placed in the foyer.

We are collecting any brand of ink cartridges and used batteries. You can either give them to Cathy or put them back on the desk in the fellowship hall. We will use them for either buying ink for Church School or purchasing church supplies at Staples.

Please continue to pray for the Church School and Council of Churches and all it does for the community.

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### CHURCH CLEANING

A cleaning schedule is posted for 2025 on the inside of the church door in the vestibule. Church cleaning is done by individuals in our church who volunteer for a month. If you would like to volunteer, just sign your name on the sign-up sheet behind the month you would like to clean. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

### GOOD NEWS CLUB

The last Good News Club will be held on Thursday, March 5. Praise the Lord, we had two children receive Jesus this year. And a big thanks to all who supported financially and prayerfully.

Please continue pray for this very important ministry especially for the release time classes that are still meeting and also for getting ready for the day camps this summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

*My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, My Savior  
Has ransomed me*

*And like a flood  
His mercy rains  
Unending love  
Amazing Grace*

# GENERAL FUND

Date	Num	Description	Category	Amount
<b>BALANCE 12/15/2025</b>				<b>22,526.98</b>
12/20/2025	5792	Bill Hrichak	Maintenance	-9.73
12/20/2025	5793	...Pastor Kyle Roth	Christmas	-175.59
			VBS	-224.00
			Continuing Education	-38.15
			Outreach	-154.80
			Youth Ministries	-32.95
12/21/2025	DEP		Church Offering	2,001.00
12/21/2025	5794	Klean Kut Tree Service	Maintenance	-750.00
12/21/2025	ACH	Nationwide	Pension	-400.00
12/21/2025	ACH	PA Dept. Of Revenue	State Taxes	-133.80
12/21/2025	5795	Child Evangelism Fellowship	Special Offerings	-100.00
12/28/2025	DEP		Church Offering	988.00
12/28/2025	DEP	Christmas Missionary	Special Offering	105.00
12/28/2025	5796	VOIDED CHECK		0.00
12/28/2025	5797	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,097.20
12/28/2025	DEP	For Ck# 5780	Other Inc	400.00
12/31/2025	DEP		Interest Inc	5.54
12/31/2025	fee	bank Service Fee	Bank Charge	-2.00
1/3/2026	ACH	Comcast	Telephone-Internet	-199.01
1/4/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,195.00
1/8/2026	ACH	PPL	Electric	-164.92
1/8/2026	5798	Deb Reiter	Decorating & Special Occasion	-274.53
1/11/2026	DEP		Church Offering	3,397.00
1/12/2026	5799	E. C Church	Apportionment	-258.62
1/12/2026	5800	...E. C. Global Ministries	Supported Missionaries	-500.00
			Christmas Missionary Offering	-105.00
1/12/2026	5801	Tevis Energy	Heating Oil	-997.31
1/12/2026	5802	E. C Church	Disability Fund	-100.00
1/12/2026	5803	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
1/16/2026	5804	HAB-EIT	Local Taxes	-90.78
1/16/2026	ACH	PA Dept. Of Revenue	State Taxes	-137.82
1/23/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,670.00
1/28/2026	5805	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
1/28/2026	ACH	Nationwide	Pension	-420.00
2/1/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,687.00
2/1/2026	5806	PPL	Electric	-159.73
2/3/2026	ACH	Comcast	Telephone-Internet	-199.34
2/4/2026	5807	E. C Church	Apportionment	-372.88
2/4/2026	5808	E. C. Global Ministries	Supported Misionaries	-500.00
2/8/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,143.00
2/8/2026	5809	Tevis Energy	Heating Oil	-1,166.15
2/12/2026	5810	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
2/15/2026	DEP		Church Offering	2,553.00
<b>BALANCE 2/16/2026</b>				<b>21,407.48</b>

Beginning Balance as of 12-31-2025	\$21,884.76
Ending Balance as of 2-16-2026	\$21,407.48
CD at C.A.C.L. Financial	\$38,582.16
<b>Total Balance of General Fund</b>	<b>\$59,989.64</b>

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Benevolent Fund Offering will be received on March 8. This offering will help people who may be in need in our Church family and in our community.

The Monthly Special Offering will be received on March 29. This will be going to the E. C. Denomination's Self-Denial. Please give as the Lord leads you to support these ministries. Envelopes are provided in your weekly bulletin. You may also mail your offerings to:

Deborah Reiter  
159 Spittler Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963

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### THE SECRET

I met God in the morning,  
When the day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long His presence lingered,  
All day long He stayed with me,  
And I sailed with perfect calmness,  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
But the winds that seemed to drive them,  
Brought to me a perfect rest.

Then I thought of other mornings  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I too had loosed the moorings,  
With Thy presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way,  
You must seek Him in the morning,  
If you want Him through the day.

Unknown



### ***Where Do You Look for God?***

Where do you look for God, my friend?

Way up in the blue, blue sky?

Do you think He sits on a regal throne

In a body? Like you and I?

How do you pray to God, my friend?

As to a superman

Who may bestow or not bestow

According to His plan?

Perhaps you've searched yet looked in vain

Amid this earthly din,

But have you ever looked for Him

Where He really is – within?

You're as dear to Him as a favored child

As along your way you plod,

And you never can get way from Him

For you're really a part of God.

*V. Deleath*

### ***Your Life***

Your life is a journey— not a home, a road, nor a city of habitation. And the enjoyments and blessings you have along the way are but little inns on the roadside, where you may be refreshed for a moment, that with new strength you may press on to the goal.

Today you will meet ten men or women, perhaps twenty, or perhaps a hundred. Every one of them will have his/her day brightened or darkened by the tone and manner of your greeting. You can put a little more spring into the step and a little more joy into the heart of every one of them by a cheerful, confident salutation.

Every worthwhile accomplishment – big or little – has its stages of drudgery and triumph – a beginning, a struggle, and a victory.

Having a few wise friends with whom to counsel, a few good books to read and absorb, and, with courage and faith, you are well-equipped for the facing of life's difficulties and disappointments, as well as its pleasures and successes.

Your life, too, is a book recording your journey. The book is made up of chapters none of which can be revised. Write each chapter with patience and care – with an eye on eternity. (Romans 14:10b)

*Copied*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Mar. 1 – Rosa Roth	Apr. 5 – Ensemble
Mar. 8 – Ardella & Judy	Apr. 12 – Rosa Roth
Mar. 15 – Eve Kurtz	Apr. 19 – Ardella Newswanger
Mar. 22 – Chris Nickel	Apr. 26 – Ladies Chorus
Mar. 29 – Lisa Dillon	

If you are unable to fulfill your obligation throughout the year, please contact Ardella or Judy. If you would like to be added or taken off for special music, please see Cathy Nagle.

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## USHERS

Mar. 1 – Sandy & Bill	Apr. 5 – Laura & Faith
Mar. 8 – Carol & Harold	Apr. 12 – Roth family
Mar. 15 – Lois & Lisa	Apr. 19 – Larue & Florence
Mar. 22 – Wayne & Bob	Apr. 26 – Kelly & Jason
Mar. 29 – Betsy & Willis	

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## JUNIOR CHURCH AND NURSERY

The children will be dismissed for Jr. Church which is taught by Lori Roth. The nursery schedule for five and under is listed below. We are looking for more volunteers to serve. Please see Lori Roth.

Mar. 1 – Laura Fritz	Apr. 5 – Deb Reiter
Mar. 8 – Chris Nickel	Apr. 12 – Ardella
Mar. 15 – Kelly Brown	Apr. 19 – Wayne & Donna
Mar. 22 – Lisa Dillon	Apr. 26 – Cathy Nagle
Mar. 29 – Jen Flynn	

Internal Revenue agent to taxpayer: "We sympathize with your problems, but they won't fit into our computer."

## NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

### Open Air Ministries

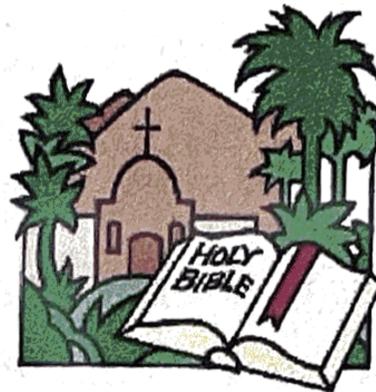
Joe Toy, Jr.

February 2026

Daniel Springs dealing with a man who believes Jesus was not a real person.



REMEMBER OUR  
**Missionaries**



Bringing the gospel to the folks at the Moore Square bus station in Raleigh.



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## SUPPORT LIFE

### Jewel Women's Center

"Baby Bottle" Fundraiser is winding up. If you have a Baby Bottle that you have been filling with coins (and paper currency), it should be returned by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

In March of 2021, Jewel Women's Center began offering medical appointments to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Since then, over 160 women have chosen life after coming to Jewel. **In 2024 alone, 65 women made decisions for life at Jewel.**

Thanks to the generosity of people who are passionate about life, Jewel can provide free services such as:

- pregnancy testing
- ultrasound
- STD testing
- pregnancy options consultations
- pregnancy and parenting education
- post-abortion support

Baby Bottle Boomerang

Each January Jewel kicks off their Baby Bottle Campaign! **When you fill a baby bottle, you fill a need.** It's a simple way to make a difference - fill a baby bottle with spare change and return it to Jewel! If you prefer to "fill" a baby bottle online, simply use the **secure donation form below.** Every gift makes a difference!

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