

The Manbeck Messenger



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

APRIL 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

MANBECK'S "ZION" SERVICES

SUNDAY

WORSHIP... 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL... 10:40 AM

MANBECKS YOUTH... (Go to www.manbecks.org for Dates & Time)

WEDNESDAY

Adult Small Group

PRAYER... 6:00 PM

BIBLE STUDY ... 7:00 PM

"4th FRIDAY"

Praise Nights... 7:00 PM

Contemporary praise for all ages, followed by time of fellowship

*From the
Pastor*



“Nothing ‘Normal’ Here...”

Have you ever thought about how weird Christianity is?! The largest religion in the world is based on a radically strange miracle. Our founder seemed to spend that last several weeks of his life obsessively

talking about his own death, even pursuing a path which guaranteed the most brutal form of execution. THEN, a few days after his followers had buried the body, reports started circulating that his tomb was now empty. The central claim of our faith is that our religious leader, who was so tortured that he was hardly recognizable, is now alive!

The whole story almost sounds as unreal as an oversized bunny that lays colored eggs. I can understand why the average person would have a hard time accepting such a story. From a worldly perspective dead people don't come back to life. Putting your trust in an empty tomb and missing body is not normal.



YET, why would people worldwide have observed this holiday for the past 2000 years, if a resurrection had never happened? If it wasn't true, wouldn't we have figured that out by now?

For 2.64 billion people (1/3 of the entire population), the Risen Savior is not only believable, He has undeniably changed their lives. The Apostle Paul explains it this way: *“IF Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins....we are of all people most to be pitied. BUT Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!” (1 Cor. 15:17-20)*

In essence Paul is saying, if this really is just a fairy tale, then believers are sadly trusting in a false hope. Our sins aren't forgiven, we will face eternal punishment, and we'd still be waiting for a Messiah. However, verse 20 is one

of those many glorious “but”s of the Bible. Not only is it true, but Jesus' resurrection changes everything!! No, it's not normal for a man to rise from the dead – it's extraordinary. Jesus' victory over death is the most incredible news! It confirms that God's promises are true, it shows His power over every enemy, and the same Spirit that raised Jesus lives in us!



As believers of this anything-but-normal reality, we ought to live anything-but-normal lives! Like Christians in the book of Acts, we should have a reputation for courageously living out our faith, radically loving others, forgiving enemies, sharing the Truth, worshipping boldly, & having peace through hardships. Jesus is alive; let's fully live for Him! -- ***Journeying with you, Pastor Kyle***

UPCOMING EVENTS in APRIL & MAY

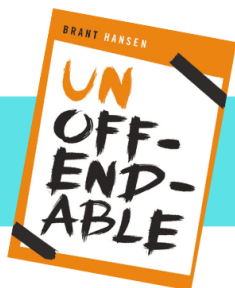


WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY

Starts April 8th at 7pm

In the midst of "cancel culture" and hot tempers, how can we balance the call to love with the need to stand for truth?

Join us for the "UNOFFENDABLE" 6-week study.



"IRISH FEST" CARNIVAL

Sunday, May 17th at 2pm

Join the fun! Face painting, contest games, Ga-Ga, and rershments. All for free as a preview of our upcoming Irish-themed VBS.



Praise Night - April 24

Join us on the "fourth Friday" for a night of worship, prayer, & fellowship.



REGIONAL PRAYER SUMMIT

Saturday, May 16th

WE'RE Hosting this year! Join others from around the county to seek God for CEF, church ministries, families in our area and schools.



V.B.S. -- June 22-26



Scan with phone for more info

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Watch weekly bulletin for times to set-up & prepare decorations. Sign up to help online or in church. Kids can also be registered online.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week



Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

6:30 – 8:00pm

“Last Supper Encounter”



Family-friendly, interactive Passover, following the tradition that Jesus & His disciples shared during his last supper. Join us and discover the meaning of the meal of a Jewish Seder and how they concur with the meal Jesus shared with His disciples on the Thursday before His crucifixion.

Items still needed for this event are:

Grape Juice	2 Quart	Parsley		
Roasted Eggs*	1½ Dozen	Matzah**		
Red Grapes	One Bunch	Charoseth Mixture***		
Horseradish	2 small jars	Yeast	2 Pkts	

* 18 Hardboiled eggs 3 Tbs. olive oil Place the eggs in a single layer in a baking dish. Preheat your oven to 350°F. Drizzle the eggs with olive oil and sprinkle w/ salt and pepper. Cover the baking dish w/aluminum foil. Roast the eggs for 25-30 minutes.

**Available @ Walmart

***Diced apples
Walnuts or Almonds, chopped
Combine Apples & Nuts w/Grape Juice, Honey, and Cinamon.

Good Friday

April 3rd

7:00pm

Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae (noun) ‘te-na-brā’

Service observed during the final part of Holy Week commemorating the sufferings and death of Christ.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 5th

9:00 am

“He isn’t here! He is risen from  the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

Why Palm Sunday is Important

Richard L. Brown

In 1997 I traveled to Pittsburgh to attend a Promise Keepers meeting at Three Rivers Stadium. Men from the Ashland Area Churches rented a bus and traveled there together. As we traveled to the event, we stopped about halfway to have lunch. As we sat in the restaurant, we noticed three well-dressed men talking with the manager. We also noticed them showing their badges and overheard them say that they were police escorts for "The Great American Hero, Bill Jenson." (Fictional name) The news spread through the restaurant like wildfire. Everyone was a-buzz with excitement. People were talking from table to table and booth to booth. Who is this Bill Jenson and how did he become the Great American Hero? After about 10 minutes the door swung open and the policemen made way for the Great American Hero. Everyone's eyes turned to the door...the feeling of excitement was overwhelming, and you could hear a pin drop.

And then, he stepped in. The Great American Hero. But something must have gone wrong. The man standing there did not look like a hero at all. He looked more like Otis Campbell, the town drunk. There stood a very short, balding, overweight, middle-aged man who didn't look like he could save anything. Some people kept looking past him, thinking he was still outside. Surely, this was not him!

But as the officers cleared his path asking people to step aside, you could tell that he was no ordinary man. The way he carried himself, the look of confidence on his face and the aire of mystery that surrounded him made you think... he really is "The Great American Hero."

People were saluting him, and thanking him for his service, and shaking his hand and applauding. But then someone in our group said, "He is not the great american hero. He is Bill Jenson a policeman from Ashland." He was traveling with some policemen separately to the same venue as we. Bill said that they had played this trick several times at different places before. We were fooled and they had fun and a great laugh.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, there, too, was much excitement and even a parade...only Jesus was not the Great American Hero, propped up with a lot of lies. He was the Great I Am, the Hero of all heroes and the Savior of the world, who was bringing salvation to all.

Why is Palm Sunday important? Well, Palm Sunday is iamportant because it is the jumping off place for Jesus, the point of no return. We too must realize that we are at the same place. For Jesus, this was the last week in his earthly ministry, ending in his horrific crucifixion on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday, the most holy day of them all. I think it is important for us to revisit the last week of our Lord's life for not anything else but as a reminder of how much God loves us.

Manbeck's YOUTH GROUP

FUN...GAMES ...FOOD...BIBLE STUDY/LESSONS...WORSHIP

The next meeting for the **YOUTH GROUP** is scheduled for **Sunday, April 12th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**. All youth, grades 5th – 12th are invited to attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS PRAYER GATHERING 6:00 PM

Our Prayer Group is currently studying the Psalms. We tackle one or two Psalms a week. Our group has just completed Psalm 26, only 124 more to go! We close the first hour with Prayer. Prayer and Praise concerns are always welcome.

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

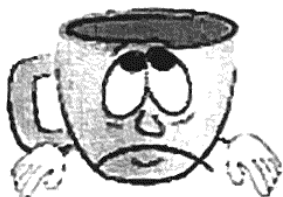
Following the Prayer Gathering.....

We will be studying, starting after Easter, **"UnOffendable"** by Brant Hansen. "In a culture that is quick to make judgments, even to the point of condemning those different from ourselves, how can we still look like Jesus?"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Wednesday Evening Services usually start w/ a joke from someone. This was a recent one.

"What do you call sad coffee?"



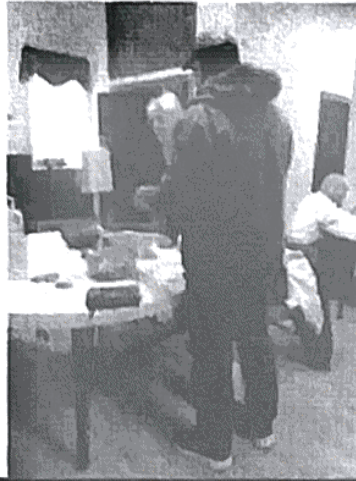
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BUILDING FUND

Date	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 2/15/2026			32,528.34
3/2/2026	For Ck#5811	to checking account	-1,000.00
3/8/2026		Benevolent Fund	405.00
3/8/2026		Memorial Gift	45.00
3/15/2026		Benevolent Fund	110.00
3/15/2026		Memorial Gift	75.00
2/16/2026 - 3/15/2026			-365.00
BALANCE 3/15/2026			32,163.34

MANY HANDS MAKE "LIGHT" WORK

Friday, March 27th, found quite a colony* of volunteers preparing for the annual Egg Hunt held on Palm Sunday in the field northeast of the cookhouse.



There were lots of plastic eggs, lots of candy, lots of banter, lots of co-operation and in a little less than two hours, buckets of plastic eggs filled with sweet treats.

* A group of rabbits is called a colony.

GENERAL FUND

Date	Num	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 2/15/2026				21,400.27
2/22/2026	DEP		Church Offering	735.00
2/22/2026	DEP	Kingdom Extension	Special Offering	70.00
2/24/2026	ACH	PA Dept. Of Revenue	State Taxes	-137.82
2/24/2026	ACH	Nationwide	Pension	-420.00
2/24/2026	5811	Lindsay Kurtz	from benevolent fund	-1,000.00
2/27/2026	5812	...Pastor Kyle Roth	Salary	-2,159.91
			Mileage	-23.85
			Continuing Education	-271.19
			Outreach	-50.10
2/27/2026	DEP		Interest Inc	4.20
2/27/2026	fee	bank Service Fee	Bank Charge	-2.00
3/1/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,867.00
3/1/2026	DEP	Kingdom Extension	Special Offering	35.00
3/2/2026	DEP	For Ck#5811	Other Inc	1,000.00
3/3/2026	ACH	Comcast	Telephone-Internet	-199.34
3/8/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,275.00
3/9/2026	5813	PPL	Electric	-203.20
3/12/2026	5814	E. C. Church Ministry Funds	Apportionment	-408.78
3/12/2026	5815	E. C. Global Ministries	Supported Missionaries	-500.00
3/12/2026	5816	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
3/14/2026	5817	Cathedral Press	Church Bulletins	-88.92
3/14/2026	5818	...Deb Reiter	Paper & Cleaning	-47.54
			Church Supplies	-25.77
			Decorating & Special Occasion	-21.91
3/15/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,360.00
2/16/2026 - 3/16/2026				-1,374.04
BALANCE 3/15/2026				20,026.23



Car Show & **SUMMER CELEBRATION**

Twin Pines Camp Conference and Retreat Center
3000 Twin Pines Camp Rd, Stroudsburg PA

JUNE 13 • 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Gates open for car parking at 10:00 AM

A Day of Family Fun

- Divine Creation Food Truck
- Pixie Chef Food Truck
- Busy Mixer Desserts
- Kid Zone Activities
- Local Vendors
- Pond & Mini Golf Fun!

FREE FOR SPECTATORS

REGISTER YOUR CAR

\$20 Pre-Registration

\$25 Day-Of (if Space Allows)

Limited to 100 Cars – Register Early!

Email to Register:

events@twinpines.org

- **Include:** Name • Vehicle Year/Make/Model
and Phone Number

Scan QR code to
register online!




Interested in Sponsoring?

Message us to learn how you can support the event
and be part of the day!

Now Accepting Vendors

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Abby Farr*		24	JJ Farr*
14	Liam Flynn		25	Rob Rohrer
	Jasmyne Lehr		27	McKenna Hitchens
19	Taylor Lehr		<i>*Missionaries we support</i>	

EC Kingdom Extension

Within the Evangelical Congregational denomination there are several **Church Plants**. Periodically, we'd like to introduce and inform you of them.

Let's begin with **Peoples EC Church[†]** in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. **ECHO**, the name of this church that is meeting in the Virtual Space, is reaching people with the Gospel and making disciples. **Peoples** is also beginning a micro church* that will meet at **Confessions**, a bar (YES, you heard me correctly), in PA, north of Allentown. **"So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'**" (Luke 14:23 NLT). **Peoples** has also planted a micro church that meets in their community center that regularly has 20+ people meeting for prayer, worship, and study.



Please pray for this open door to be a gospel presence for people who need Jesus.

†Their mission is to 'Grow a church the Kingdom by making disciples, who follow alongside God's mission of making disciples.'

* A small spiritual family that purposes to love and glorify God in every area of life, love one another, live the Great Commission, making disciples that make disciples.



Pray that the team will continue to develop and grow.



LADIES LUNCHEON

The monthly Ladies Luncheon will be on April 23rd, 11:00 AM. Location is to be announced. Watch your weekly bulletin or on our website for the location.



"The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table."

Bring a friend.

PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

There will be a community Night at Hoss's on April 26 and a sub sale at Dom's for the month of May. See Cathy Nagle for tickets.

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 2026 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!

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OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

The Official Board met on Tuesday, March 17. Items discussed are as follows:

- Disciple breakfast/workshop meeting will be rescheduled until after Easter. This will be a time to brainstorm ideas and get child protection paperwork updated.
- Outreach: Egg hunt, VBS, movie night and game day in April or May
- Trustee: Roof issue over the fire escape. Get something going.
Snow removal for this year and borrow tractor to fix stones after plowing
- Review and update By-laws
- Twin Pines meeting will be rescheduled until after Easter.
- Install cabinets in the nursery area.
- Surveillance: There were some people having a heated discussion on the church grounds and it was discussed again about getting a ring camera or surveillance cameras around the property. Also for a rotation schedule on a Sunday morning downstairs.
- A CD is maturing and will be rolled over at 3.59% for 6 months.
- Melanie is going on a Mission Trip to Spain and it was discussed about helping her with doing a love or special offering to help her out.
- Sunday, April 19 Pastor Kyle will be taking a vacation day.
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00.

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SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Building Fund Offering will be received on April 12. This offering will help with any future building project.

The Monthly Special Offering will be received on April 26. This offering will go to the PGACOC food pantry. 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

* * * * *

SPECIAL MUSIC

Apr. 5 – Ensemble	May 3 – Lily Flynn
Apr. 12 – Rosa Roth	May 10 – Mother's Day (children/youth)
Apr. 19 – Ardella Newswanger	May 17 – Deb Reiter
Apr. 26 – Ladies Chorus	May 24 – Flutes
	May 31 – Judy & Ardella

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.

* * * * *

USHERS

Apr. 5 – Laura & Faith	May 3 – Deb & Ernie
Apr. 12 – Roth family	May 10 – Kurtz family
Apr. 19 – Larue & Florence	May 17 – Flynn family
Apr. 26 – Kelly & Jason	May 24 – Chris & Cathy
	May 31 – Sandy & Bill

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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.

Apr. 5 – Deb Reiter	May 3 – Sandy Hrichak
Apr. 12 – Ardella	May 10 – Laura Fritz
Apr. 19 – Wayne & Donna	May 17 – Chris Nickel
Apr. 26 – Cathy Nagle	May 24 – Kelly Brown
	May 31 – Lisa Dillon

One young man who thought it would be fun to continually bump into us to knock us over was quickly moved on. I thanked the officers and one responded, "We are glad to help you get the gospel out. These people need it." As hard as an environment it is to share the gospel, I can't imagine what they deal with for hours on end each day. One state policemen stated, "I hate when I have to pull this duty." In the midst of all the revelry, the Lord provides awesome gospel encounters.

A young woman approached me with tears in her eyes, as someone told her that she was going to Hell because she was thinking of becoming Catholic. Here was a young lady seeking to find God albeit in a wrong way, but God in His grace allowed me to share the importance of knowing God through His son Jesus, not a church. She left knowing of her need to repent of sin and trust Christ. The Lord blessed us with many such encounters in New Orleans.

Back on the home front, it is amazing to think that we are arriving at our five year mark of being in the Raleigh area of NC. We continue to press on bringing the gospel to the abortion clinics, bus station, courthouse, events and UNC and NC State. Recently four of us headed to the convention center to share Jesus at a Quilt Convention. The crowds were mostly friendly but a few of those granny types told us to go home or get a job and one even flipped me off, which is just another day in the life of an evangelist.

The Lord is at work on the college campuses, as we are seeing people give their lives to Christ and sticking with it. We are even meeting many believers who are boldly sharing the gospel with their fellow students. I was approached by Nathaniel a few days ago, who said, "I gave my life to Christ and you were the first person that I thought of after that. I had to come tell you. Don't stop coming. You are making a difference." He then bought me lunch as his way of saying "Thanks."

What an awesome blessing to see that God is drawing people to salvation. Our labors are not in vain. Praise the Lord!

**Thanks so much for all your prayers and support.
Continue to pray for us.**

OAM, Inc.

Outreach Prayer Needs

Weekly Outreaches

Subject to Change

Monday-UNC

Tuesday-Jones Franklin Abortion Mill

NC State; Sheetz Gas Station

Wednesday-Office Day

Thursday- Jones Franklin Abortion Mill

-Courthouse

-Sam's Club

Friday-Bus station Outreach

Event Outreaches

Final Four Outreach

April 2-6

Pennsylvania Trip

April 9-12

Kentucky Derby Outreach

April 30-May 3
