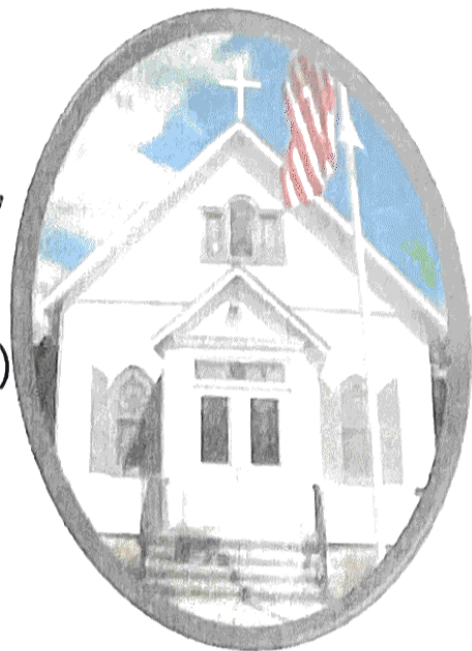


**The
Manbeck
Messenger**

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



MAY 2026

**Monthly Newsletter
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*



“Not by might...”

There is debate among different Christian leaders now about whether we are entering a season of spiritual revival and renewal. Pro-revival voices point to surges of hundreds of baptisms on college campuses, growing church attendance numbers in the UK (which had been historically low), the amount of Christian films and media being produced and thriving at the box office & online, and a large increase in Bible sales.

Non-revival voices suggest that the while we should celebrate the positives, the true mark of revival has yet to be seen – genuine repentance and brokenness over sin. In addition, most polls actually show church attendance declining in America. Not much evidence of hearts truly being transformed (yet).

To be honest, as a pastor, I have a gut reaction to this debate. My initial thought is, “the tools are available, the spiritual interest is obviously there, so revival is coming. We just need to “help” it along, right? Just do everything we can to get people to church, so the revival can come for real.”

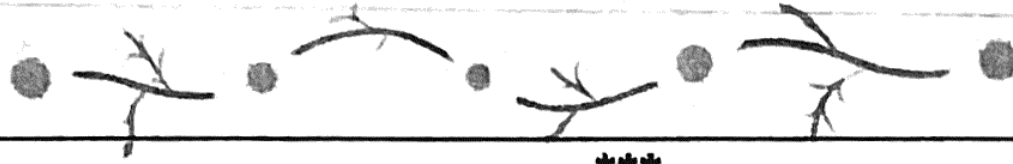
Not exactly. I feel like our church (and most others) are already doing most of what we can to “bring ‘em in.” God has something else in mind. It reminds me of a time in ancient Israel’s history. The people had been taken into captivity by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar. Years later, Persia came to power and King Cyrus was impressed by God to send thousands of Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple that had been destroyed. Two years later, once the foundation had been rebuilt, they had a great celebration. Many of the younger generation shouted for joy, while the older generation wept loudly. Those weeping had seen the glory of the former temple and were lamenting that this reconstruction was much less glorious. This discouragement along with some other opposition put the brakes on the entire project. UNTIL God sent two prophets, Zechariah and Haggai, to correct their perspective.

Zechariah spoke two things directly to Zerubbabel, the project manager. First, “whoever despises the day of small things shall rejoice.” *In other words, this is just the beginning of what God wants to do! It might start small or slow, but He is at work.* Secondly, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit.” *Meaning, the glory of this work will not come because of your own plans or your own strength. This is God’s work; His alone!*

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US? I believe God wants to awaken the spiritual dead all around us. We must remain faithful in serving and worshipping as the body of Christ. AND we need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide the process of renewal in us and around us. Like the great prayer of the revival in Wales at the turn of the 20th century, we can pray, “*Lord, send revival, and start with me!*” — ***Journeying with you, Pastor Kyle***

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

25	Jamie & Anita Farr	25	Brian & Missy Wagner
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MAY BIRTHDAYS

6	Jamie Farr		15	Ethan Reiter
11	Scott Lenge		17	Kathy Price
	Caitlynn Lehr		18	Royale Hardenstine
13	Bobby Winklebleck		30	Debbie Lehr

PENTECOST FOR THE YEAR 2026

...is celebrated/ observed on **Sunday, May 24th.**



Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday or 50 days after **Easter Sunday**. A Christian holy day known also as **Whit Sunday**, **White Sunday** and **Whitsun** (United Kingdom) commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.

“Church services provide an opportunity for the saints to be equipped for their mission work throughout the week at their job sites.”

-Henry Blackall

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22-26

An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23

Preview Day



IRISH FEST

Sunday, May 17th

2pm

Help us to bring this VBS Preview event to our neighbors!

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

PRAYER GATHERING

6:00 PM

At the 6:00 PM session we are continuing our "trek" through the Psalms. We read one or two Psalms and then discuss them. We always close the session with (voluntary) prayer.

BIBLE STUDY

7:00 PM

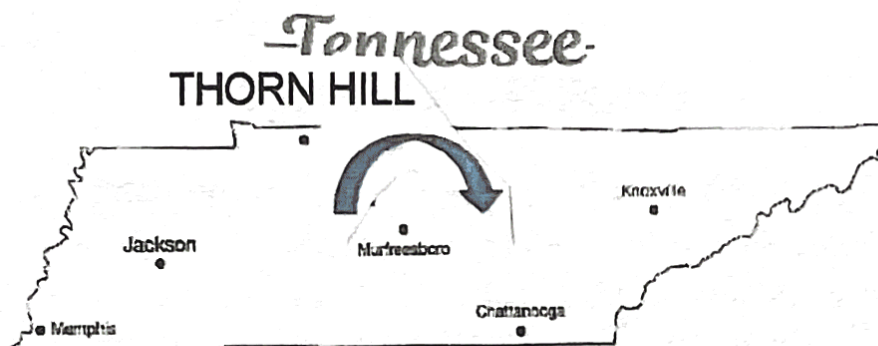
Following the Prayer Gathering.....

We are studying, "**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?"

We begin with a short video, followed by discussion. Why don't you join us some Wednesday?

EC Kingdom Extension

Within the Evangelical Congregational denomination there are several **Church Plants**. This month the Evangelical Congregational Church Plant we'll look at a congregation in Thorn Hill, Tennessee. Tim & Pam Ream are pursuing the opportunity to engage in planting an Evangelical Congregational Church in their new community. Pray that God would begin preparing that community to be receptive to His glorious presence. Pray also for the Reams as they begin building relationships and engaging in discipleship relationships through inviting people into their homes and engaging individuals in their community. They have had much success meeting new people, opening their home to their community, and developing deeper relationships with the potential for expansion of their church planting vision.



Pray that the team will continue to develop and grow.

Greetings from Big Apple...

Rosa's Dance Class

New York School of Urban Ministry, Queens, NY

Rosa and her friend Faith were dancing together in a group from Rosa's school which is taught by Faith's sister Shenan. (Many of you know them, as they frequently attend our church). It was a powerful day of ministry for them, performing several times on stage among other Christian dancers right in the middle of Times Square as part of an event called "Project Dance".

The dancers knew their routines really well. So they represented their Savior with excellence. But they also carried a love for the Lord with them, so onlookers could see their passion and joy. Much prayer went into the event. They had a night of worship the evening before. They prayed backstage before every piece. It was the Kingdom of God at work. A glimpse of Heaven in the midst of the city - many believers with many gifts coming together to give their best in service to the King. Exactly what church should be like every week! We bring our best, working together, each using our unique talents, in the service of the King. It takes preparation - spiritually as well as practically. But it's all for His glory!



PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

A sub sale at Dom's will be held 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.

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!

OFFICIAL BOARD NEWS

The Official Board met on Tuesday, April 21. Items discussed are as follows:

- Issue with deterioration of a flange and cap on sand mound
- Discussion on issue with wasps/church cannot get epipens but will get more wasp spray. Property is always checked before an event.
- Roof issue over fire escape will be addressed.
- Will be getting a cabinet in the nursery
- By-laws are still in the process of being updated and then reviewed
- Security issues were discussed again. Will check with Comcast and see what they have available.
- Twin Pines: Those wanting to go to camp should see Deb Reiter so she has a heads up on cost.
- Surveillance: A security/greeter rotation list will be made up. If interested see Wayne. Also, whoever is down there during Jr. Church should pull the pin on door so it locks.
- A CD is maturing and will be rolled over at 3.44% for 12 months.
- Melanie's mission trip to Spain and it was discussed again and getting a video of her explaining what she will be doing.
- Florence will be attending National Conference as Alternate Lay Delegate.
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May19 at 7:00.

SPECIAL MUSIC

May 3 – Lily Flynn	June 7 – Rosa Roth
May 10 – Mother's Day (children/youth)	June 14 – Ardella & Cathy
May 17 – Deb Reiter	June 21 – Father's Day
May 24 – Flutes	June 28 – Eve Kurtz
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

May 3 – Deb & Ernie	June 7 – Carol & Harold
May 10 – Kurtz family	June 14 – Lois & Lisa
May 17 – Flynn family	June 21 – Wayne & Bob
May 24 – Chris & Cathy	June 28 – Betsy & Willis
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.

May 3 – Sandy Hrichak	June 7 – Jen Flynn
May 10 – Laura Fritz	June 14 – Deb Reiter
May 17 – Chris Nickel	June 21 – Ardella Newswanger
May 24 – Kelly Brown	June 28 – Wayne & Donna
May 31 – Lisa Dillon	

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SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Benevolent Fund Offering will be received on May 10. This offering helps people who may be in need in our Church family and in our community.

The Monthly Special Offering will be received on May 31. This offering is the required Mother's Day Offering, given annually to help with little necessities at Stoneridge Retirement Village. 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

GENERAL FUND

3/15/2026 through 4/19/2026

Date	Num	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 3/14/2026				18,666.23
3/15/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,360.00
3/22/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,415.00
3/22/2026	5819	E. C. Benefits Corporation	Workers Compensation	-144.08
3/22/2026	5820	Tevis Energy	Heating Oil	-485.89
3/22/2026	ACH	PA Dept. Of Revenue	State Taxes	-137.82
3/22/2026	ACH	Nationwide	Pension	-420.00
3/22/2026	5821	Donna Kurtz	Outreach	-254.92
3/26/2026	5822	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
3/29/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,420.00
3/29/2026	DEP	Self- Denial	Special Offering	180.00
3/31/2026	DEP		Interest Inc	4.56
3/31/2026	fee	bank Service Fee	Bank Charge	-2.00
4/1/2026	5823	E. C Church	Apportionment	-450.66
4/1/2026	5824	E. C. Global Ministries	Supported Missionaries	-500.00
4/1/2026	5825	PPL	Electric	-134.56
4/1/2026	5826	E. C Church	Special Offerings	-105.00
4/1/2026	5827	E. C Church	Annual Service Fee	-125.00
4/3/2026	ACH	Comcast	Telephone-Internet	-199.34
4/5/2026	DEP		Church Offering	2,691.00
4/12/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,601.00
4/12/2026	5828	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
4/19/2026	DEP		Church Offering	947.00
3/15/2026 - 4/19/2026				2,339.47
BALANCE 4/19/2026				21,005.70
			TOTAL INFLOWS	9,618.56
			TOTAL OUTFLOWS	-7,279.09
			NET TOTAL	2,339.47

Beginning Balance as of 3-15-2026	\$20,026.23
Ending Balance as of 4-19-2026	\$21,005.70
CD at C.A.C.L. Financial	\$38,947.29
Total Balance of General Fund	\$59,952.99

LADIES LUNCHEON

The Ladies luncheon will gather on Thursday, May 28 at 11:00 A.M. The restaurant will be decided at a later date. Also, let Judy know if you are planning to go so she can make appropriate reservations. This one will be the last one until the fall.

BUILDING FUND

3/15/2026 through 4/19/2026

Date	Num	Category	Amount
BALANCE 3/14/2026			31,978.34
3/15/2026	DEP	Benevolent Fund	110.00
3/15/2026	DEP	Memorial Gift	.75.00
4/12/2026	DEP	Building Fund	282.00
3/15/2026 - 4/19/2026			467.00
BALANCE 4/19/2026			32,445.34
TOTAL INFLOWS			467.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS			0.00
NET TOTAL			467.00

Beginning Balance as of 3-15-2026	\$32,163.34
Ending Balance as of 4-19-2026	\$32,445.34
CD at C.A.C.L. Financial	\$59,181.07
Minus Memorial Funds	\$ 3,055.90
Minus Benevolent Funds	\$ 2,901.00
Total Balance of Building Fund	\$85,669.51

By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend.

"I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby.

"But that shouldn't have taken too long." said the friend.

"Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

Cleaning the house while the children are home
is like shoveling while it's still snowing.

A Prize for Mothers

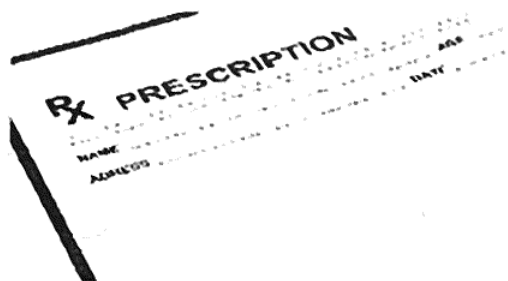
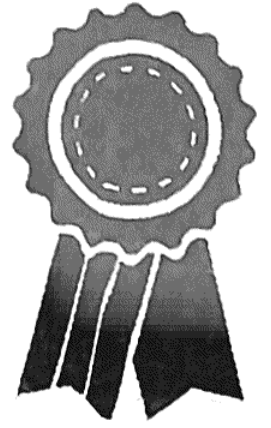
Mom you are a shining star
Though the world doesn't know your name.
You have no fancy title
Like Baroness or Dame.

Mom you really are a star,
My mother, mentor and friend.
A Nobel Prize for motherhood,
Is what I'd recommend!

And if I won the lottery
I'd share my win with you
I'd take you Mom on a spending spree
Each day the whole year through!

You may not be famous,
As your face is known to few.
But Mom I think you are wonderful
And I'm so proud of you!

Anonymous



God's Prescription: Remember

Remembering is the primary prescription God gives us. While there are many things we should do as God's children, remembering is something we **NEED** to do — especially remembering who God is, what He has done for us by sending Jesus to redeem us, and who we are in Christ.

Mother's Day is a special day to remember our mothers. We should remember all they have done for us, all they mean to us, and who we are because of them.

At birth, our mothers were an instrument in God's hand to bring us into this world. God knit together each of us in our mother's womb and placed us in her arms at birth. What a joy and blessing it is for a mother to cradle her newborn child for the first time at birth and then to hold her child's hand throughout life. That's how God intended it to be.

Just as a child is a gift from God to a mother (and father), mothers (and fathers) are gifts from God to the child. There is a bond in the parent-child relationship that should never be broken—and never really can be. One can divorce a spouse but not a parent.

Just as God loves us and has given us spiritual birth, we should honor and love the one who gave us physical birth. That's how God intended it to be.

Shari Abbott

Being a Mother

Being a mother means that your heart
Is no longer yours; it wanders
Wherever your children do.

George Bernard Shaw



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?"

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



Blessed with a lot of great interaction today at the bus station. As we were packing up to leave, a young man approached me and asked, "How do I repent?" My response was, "I can help you with that"



PTL

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23

Preview Day May 17th

June 22-26



NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



“...and to all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

In the month of April this year, Joe Toy and his Team held Outreaches at Moore Square bus station, University of North Carolina and Jones Franklin Abortion Mill.



Blessed with an awesome day of Outreach at the Moore Square bus station today in Raleigh. All the Bibles were taken and almost all the gospel literature was going. We prayed for many people and a number of them stayed around to listen to the preaching.

**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-University of North Carolina

Tuesday- Jones Franklin Abortion Mill & Sheetz Gas Station

Thursday- Jones Franklin Abortion Mill, Courthouse & Sam's Club.

Friday-Bus station Outreach

Blessed to have two UNC students today proclaim the gospel on their campus. Both are graduating this semester and wanted one last time to Proclaim Christ on their campus. PTL

