

The Manbeck Messenger



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

JULY 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

4th FRIDAY PRAISE NIGHT... 7:00PM

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



"Wesley & Whitefield – America 250"

There are a number of good Christian movies that have come out recently to commemorate the founding of our nation. Hillsdale College released a documentary called "Revolutionary America" looking at the faith of our nation's founding fathers. Angel studios is releasing "Young Washington" on July 3rd. About a month ago, Sight & Sound studios released "The Great Awakening" focusing on the relationship between evangelist George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin.

The Great Awakening, in our nation's history, actually started in Oxford, England with John and Charles Wesley in 1741. The Wesleys invited Whitefield to join their "holy club." (Think Bible study on steroids.) As students at Oxford, they would study the Bible together and then hold one another accountable to live out what they had studied, asking penetrating questions to help one another grow as "iron sharpens iron". Through this Whitefield's life was radically transformed. He developed a deep burden to preach to the lost. This led him to travel to America just years before the Revolutionary War. He was known to have developed a friendship with known deist Benjamin Franklin. His powerful preaching reached thousands in Philadelphia and across the colonies. He inspired other pastors to preach more boldly and pray more fervently. At this crucial time for our newly forming nation, God was infusing the colonies with the conviction of his Holy Spirit and the preaching of His Word. I'd hate to imagine what our nation would be like without their Christian influence.

There have been similar movements since that First Great Awakening in our country. A prayer revival across the northeast started by a businessman in New York City in 1857. Evangelistic crusades by tent preachers, Charles Finney and Billy Sunday in the 1830s eventually led to the ministry of Billy Graham in our day. God has been active in the founding and preserving of our nation since its beginning!

Our beginning as an Evangelical Congregational church actually comes out of John Wesley's "methodism." "Methodism" refers to the system or 'methods' Wesley had set up for helping people grow in their faith. This was seen in those "holy clubs" at Oxford that led to George Whitefield's transformation. 300 years later and this is still that way cultures change. There is power in small groups and accountability. I feel like we experienced this is a small way this past week during VBS. Our 6am Zoom devotional meetings were only attended by a few, but those 30-minute gatherings were a great start to the day. *Who is sharpening you? How might our nation be transformed again through the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the powerful Word of God, not just from pulpits, but also in the living rooms and fellowship halls across America?*

-- Journeying with you, Pastor Kyle

PINE GROVE AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Staples has stopped giving reward points for batteries. They now are requesting \$2.00 when I take batteries in. We are still collecting any brand of ink cartridges. You can 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, June 9. Items discussed are as follows:

- Pastor Kyle will be on vacation the last week of July into August.
- Student Sunday in conjunction with VBS review on June 28 followed by a brunch.
- One Rock One Community will be held on September 19.
- Communion will be held on July 5. Carol Lenge in charge of elements.
- Railing at bridge is fixed.
- Still trying to get someone to fix sand mound pipe.
- Still working on cabinets in the nursery room.
- Mark is working on the directory and looking for people to contact those who are not attending.
- Deb Reiter is working on the refrigerator in the cook.
- Church picnic will be held on August 9 at 4. Pot luck covered dish.
- Baptism Service: August 23 though no one express interest yet.
- Homecoming Sunday: September 20 followed by a brunch.
- Pig Roast: September 12. The pig has been ordered.
- D. Reiter received a letter from Twin Pines looking for camp scholarship money. It was discussed to send \$370.00 for scholarship and also discussed was sending the lasagna meal money also. This will be tabled until next meeting.
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 7:00.

SPECIAL MUSIC

July 5 – Chris Nickel
July 12 – Lisa Dillon
July 19 – Rose Roth
July 26 – Ardella Newswanger

Aug. 2 – Lily Flynn
Aug. 9 – Deb Reiter
Aug. 16 – Flutes
Aug. 23 – Judy & Ardella
Aug. 30 – Rosa Roth

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

July 5 – Laura & Faith
July 12 – Roth family
July 19 – Larue & Florence
July 26 – Kelly & Jason

Aug. 2 – Deb & Ernie
Aug. 9 – Kurtz family
Aug. 16 – Flynn family
Aug. 23 – Chris & Cathy
Aug. 30 – Carol & Harold

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.

July 5 – Cathy Nagle
July 12 – Lori Roth
July 19 – Laura Fritz
July 26 – Chris Nickel

Aug. 2 – Lori Roth
Aug. 9 – Kelly Brown
Aug. 16 – Lisa Dillon
Aug. 23 – Jen Flynn
Aug. 30 – Deb Reiter

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Benevolent Fund Offering will be received on July 12. 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 July 26. This offering will be for Twin Pines and goes toward the upkeep at the camp. 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

FOURTH FRIDAY PRAISE NIGHT

Fourth Friday PRAISE NIGHT this month will be outdoors, weather permitting. Join us on July 24th for an evening of contemporary Christian music. Of course, we always have refreshments for Fourth Friday Praise Nights. And who knows, we may even have a campfire!



S'MORES ANYONE?

HOLY COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held during the morning Worship Service on July 5th. Join us in this meaningful Service.

JULY BIRTHDAYS					
1	Norm Dixon		12	Harold Lengle	
	Faith Trout		20	Evan Reiter	
2	Henry Berger		23	Jared Lehr	
3	Ardella Newswanger		24	Lindsay Green	
4	Bob Lemke			Ryder Rohrer	

JULY ANNIVERSARIES		
4	Bob & Sharon Lemke	
14	Bill & Sandra Hrichak	
16	Mark & Debbie Lehr	
17	Jim & Kathy Price	

Local Board Meeting

The Local Board will meet on July 21st, 7:00 PM for their monthly meeting.

Ladies Luncheon

Ladies Luncheons will be on hold until September.

GENERAL FUND

Date	Num	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 5/17/2026				17,745.90
5/21/2026	5840	Deb Reiter	Outreach	-59.30
5/23/2026	ACH	PA Dept. Of Revenue	State Taxes	-137.82
5/23/2026	ACH	Nationwide	Pension	-420.00
5/24/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,171.00
5/26/2026	5841	Pastor Kyle Roth	Pastor Salary	-2,159.91
5/31/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,075.00
5/31/2026	DEP	Stoneridge	Special Offering	98.00
6/3/2026	5842	PPI	Electric	-109.76
6/3/2026	ACH	Comcast	Telephone-Internet	-199.29
6/5/2026	5843	Cathedral Press	Church Bulletins	-83.20
6/5/2026	5844	E. C Church	Apportionment	-375.80
6/5/2026	5845	E. C. Global Ministries	Supported Missionaries	-500.00
6/7/2026	DEP		Church Offering	1,282.00
5/18/2026 - 6/8/2026				-419.08

BALANCE 6/8/2026 **17,326.82**

TOTAL INFLOWS **3,626.00**

TOTAL OUTFLOWS **-4,045.08**

NET TOTAL **-419.08**

Beginning Balance as of 5-18-2026 \$17,745.90

Ending Balance as of 6-8-2026 \$17,326.82

CD at C.A.C.L. Financial \$38,947.29

Total Balance of General Fund \$56,274.11

BUILDING FUND

Date	Description	Category	Amount
BALANCE 4/29/2026			32,445.34
5/10/2026	Benevolent Fund		244.00
4/30/2026 - 6/8/2026			244.00
BALANCE 6/8/2026			32,689.34
TOTAL INFLOWS			244.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS			0.00
NET TOTAL			244.00

Beginning Balance as of 4-30-2026 \$32,445.34

Ending Balance as of 6-8-2026 \$32,689.34

CD at C.A.C.L. Financial \$59,181.07

Minus Memorial Funds \$ 3,055.90

Minus Benevolent Funds \$ 3,145.00

Total Balance of Building Fund \$85,669.51

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Brian & Missy Wagner



-Serving @ Rift Valley Academy, Africa

Looking back over the last few months, give thanks with us for:

> * Gifts and talents of our students to share at schools through testimony, vocal, and instrumental music the theme of Light in the Darkness, John 1:5

> * Encouraging connections and celebrations with alumni and their families

~ Abi and her brothers lived in our dorm 2005-2009

work-related opportunities to visit schools and support families in other places ~ along with extra days together to explore and learn

frequent conversations with others reminding us of the reasons why we do what we do ~ giving us continued joy in teaching and discipling TCKs right where we are

> * Both the good and the hard of living life with the boys entrusted to us ~ speaking Truth, loving, caring, praying, and watching as God works in their hearts and minds, growing them to be more like Him



> * News from afar of our growing family ~ we are joyfully anticipating the arrival of two new grandkids later this year

> * Stepping into the final few weeks of this school year, pray with us for: good health, safety, joy, strength, and patience for each new day ~ Brian is currently stateside scoring AP Calc exams while Missy continues caring for our boys at home

> * Daily opportunities to share Gospel-truth with those around us memorable end-of-year celebrations ~ 6th grade safari (a 4-day trip to the base of Mt. Kenya), dorm parties, music concerts, class parties, alumni weekend, and more

> * The Class of 2026 as they prepare to graduate on July 13, leaving behind everything familiar and moving on to something new

> * Grace in this yearly season of goodbyes and hellos as staff and students come-and-go throughout July and August

> * The gift to welcome college friends and their family to Kenya next month

Thank you for faithfully partnering with us,

Brian & Missy

Farr Flyer

Obedience, Opposition, and an Unexpected Journey

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." — Proverbs 16:9



Sometimes obedience leads exactly where you expect.

And sometimes it leads to six days in the hospital, two surgeries, five IV



antibiotics, a wound vac, and entirely too much time discussing your foot with medical professionals.

May 15th, I traveled to Vanuatu with great anticipation. Our goal was to support the Epau translation community as they moved their Scriptures through community review and review by the Scripture Authentication Elder. It was a significant milestone in a process that places God's Word into the hands of local churches and communities.

What we encountered, however, was a trip marked by extraordinary challenges.

Within the community, three elders passed away. All three of our U.S. facilitators became sick with fevers and or other symptoms. Despite these setbacks, we continued praying and looking for ways God might still be at work and open the door to go to the EPAU community.

When the Epau community initially informed us they could not participate because of the deaths, it seemed as though the training would come to a halt and Satan had won this battle. Yet God had other plans.

Four neighboring language communities joined the training. Senior church facilitators gathered together. Leaders prayed, practiced Scripture review processes, and discussed how they could work together as a cluster of languages. What looked like a setback became an opportunity for broader collaboration and learning. Then, on Thursday, an unexpected breakthrough occurred. The paramount chief of Epau invited us to come.

Chiefs, church leaders, translators, community members and elementary kids gathered to review Scripture together. They established practical routines for future translation work, community review, church testing, and accountability. Leaders, women, and children all engaged with the Scripture passage in their own language and context.

Even more encouraging, the four observing communities witnessed firsthand how church and community leaders could work together to steward God's Word. What seemed impossible only days before suddenly became a model for moving forward.

On Friday, we debriefed everything we had observed. Together we rejoiced. In spite of every obstacle, God had provided a way forward. Leaders were eager to collaborate. Communities were united. Scripture was being reviewed. The work was advancing.

We left convinced that God had accomplished exactly what He intended.

Little did I know the journey was not over. I returned home just in time for two important family milestones—our 30th wedding anniversary and our son JJ's graduation. I expected celebrations, family gatherings, and perhaps a little rest.

Instead, I was introduced to what can only be described as the most attentive concierge service I have ever experienced.

This particular service happened to be provided by the emergency room and hospital.

Within an hour of returning home my fever returned, and it developed into severe infection in my left leg and eventually my foot. The situation escalated rapidly. I made two trips to the emergency room, spent six days in the hospital, underwent two surgeries, received five different intravenous antibiotics, and was eventually discharged with a wound vac and instructions that recovery could take 1½ to 2 months.

My home health nurse prayed with me and shared that he strongly sensed significant spiritual opposition behind what was happening in my body. While we cannot know all that occurs in the spiritual realm, what is unusual is that every culture and test performed by the surgical and infectious disease teams came back negative or inconclusive. To this day, there remains no clear medical explanation for exactly what caused the infection.

Throughout it all, people across the Pacific, in Vanuatu, and here at home were praying. Many of you prayed. Many of you reached out. Many of you stood with us. And God answered. If I am honest, I would have preferred an immediate miracle. I asked God for one. Instead, He gave me something different. He gave me skilled surgeons.

He gave me nurses who cared deeply. He gave me friends who visited.

He gave me a loving family who walked through every step of the journey.

He allowed me to be healthy enough to celebrate JJ's graduation before the worst symptoms appeared. He protected me until I could return home and receive the medical care that ultimately saved my foot—and potentially much more. While this was not our plan, it was not outside of God's plan.

Like many of you, I sometimes ask, "Lord, how will You be glorified in this?"

I don't yet know every answer

But I know this: God is good. God is faithful. God is worthy of trust.

And even in difficult seasons, He continues to direct our steps.

Today, I am recovering far faster than expected and continue to see encouraging progress each week. We are deeply grateful for God's provision, for the prayers of His people, and for the many ways He has carried us through this season.

Thank you for standing with us.

Thank you for praying.

And thank you for helping make it possible for communities like Epau to continue receiving God's Word in their own language.

Love, Jamie and Anita

Prayer Requests

Continued healing and full recovery for my foot and body.

Strength and encouragement for the Epau translation team and neighboring language communities.

Wisdom and protection for leaders serving throughout the Pacific.

Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in the midst of both breakthrough and challenge.

Jobs for our younger two and solid routines this summer.

OAM Ministry

Joe Toy

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

A few years ago, while having group prayer before our outreach, I noticed that one of our men would always say, "Lord bring people our way to talk to." The Lord has impressed this prayer into my heart as we pray to hit the streets. Recently as we set up our signs and literature near a Sheetz gas station a young man approached us.

Samuel turned to me and said, "Look, someone is coming to talk and you did not even pray yet." A lot of times people ask us about the effectiveness of our ministry by saying, "Do you think this really works?" All that I know is that when we go out with the gospel the Lord shows up and we engage people with literature, Bibles and conversation. Many people are getting to hear about Jesus.

One place that we frequent quite a bit is the Wake County Courthouse in downtown Raleigh. We are able to give out lots of gospel tracts, pray for people and have gospel conversations as the word of God is preached. It is surprisingly a great place to do ministry. Just last week a young man approached me and said, "Don't stop coming here. You are helping people." He was facing a weapons charge for trying to kill himself and the charges were dropped. He told me, "Your presence here encouraged me to pray and the Judge dropped the charges." I was able to share Jesus with him and he left with a Bible. Also, in case you are wondering, he is in church and receiving counsel for his depression.

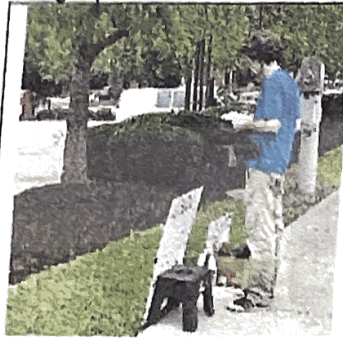
In the same place, a few weeks prior, I passed a gospel tract to a young man who walked on and then came back. He had been involved in a death cult and attempted to kill himself seven times. As the tree branch broke and he fell to the ground and he thought, "I guess that I am not supposed to die?" I was able to share some scripture verses with him from the gospel of John. I explained the gospel to him and he understood and said, "I'm just not there yet." One of our lawyer friends who told us that he worships the Norse gods gave his life to Christ around Easter. PTL

Each May, we head to Myrtle Beach to assist our friend Jason at the Blue Crab Festival. This year about 30,000 people attended the event over a two day period. It is mostly attended by a Boomer crowd and a few young families. Our location is by the main entrance where the folks are left out by the buses or they walk down the street. We were blessed to give out hundreds of gospel tracts and have many conversations and lots of people thanked us for being there. There are a few perks about this event one of which is staying at a ministry compound one block from the ocean, which allowed me to see a beautiful sunrise on Saturday morning. The other is cool Italian place where you can buy an authentic Philly Italian Hoagie,

which was way cool and tasty.

In late May into early June, it was off to Ocean City, MD for the annual High School Grad outreach. We had a smaller team this year, but we were blessed with a good group of seven godly men. The first two nights were really cold as the wind was coming off the ocean and the temps dropped into the low 50's. At around 9 pm, the boardwalk was desolate, more like a ghost town, but on one night a young lady came up for prayer and left with Jesus as she opened her heart to the Lord. One of the things that you learn over the years is to not let the weather stress you, because God is in control and He is still at work.

On our last night on the boardwalk, one of our team preached a message on the Last Days and the return of Christ to a crowd of around thirty people who hung on every word. That was an awesome experience to behold as the Lord gripped their attention. It was a divine moment which led to many gospel conversations. As the outreach was ending, I asked the Lord to give me one last conversation. A young man approached me and said, "I need Jesus ASAP." I responded, "I can help you with that." As I finished sharing the gospel with him. He thanked me and gave me a big hug. God is Awesome.



Pray for us as we proclaim the gospel at the Sheetz Gas Station In Raleigh. A young man approached us before we even started to preach and a gospel conversation was pursued and the young man left with the Bible. PTL
6/9/2026



The Lord has blessed us with three good interactions with people at the abortion clinic today. Pray for the Lord to bring fruit.
6/19/2026



Wake County Courthouse. One young man gave his life to the Lord and said, " my wife is a believer and she is going to be real excited when I tell her that I gave my life to Jesus." PTL
6/19/2026

Keep us in prayer.
God Bless.

Joe

GOOD NEWS CLUB DAY CAMP



Schuykill County 2026

Good News Day Camp

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

July 13—17 ~ Pine Grove Manbeck's E. C. Church, Rock 110 Wild Cherry Road, Sch. Haven

Camp fee is \$35. per child for the week.

There is a \$5. discount if the registration is received in the CEF office 14 days prior to the 1st day of camp.

For Pine Grove Camp there is Bus Transportation to and from Pine Grove.

PINE GROVE Camp Location

Address: 110 Wild Cherry Road, Schuykill Haven

July 13—17

PICK UP BUS STOP DROP OFF

8:45 a.m. Mifflin & Union St. 3:34 p.m.

(Dawn to Dusk Daycare)

8:48 a.m. OIP-High St. 3:31 p.m.

8:53 a.m. Ravine 3:26 p.m.

(Old Schoolhouse Daycare)

8:59 a.m. Pine Grove Com. Church 3:20 p.m.

(Route 443)

Camp Registration Forms are available on Manbeck website.

Mt. Lebanon Camp Meeting Meal

The ladies of Manbeck's will again be providing a Lasagna Meal for Thursday during Mt. Lebanon camp meeting this year. Preparation will begin Wednesday evening, July 15 around 5:30 pm in the kitchen at church. Serving will begin on Thursday, July 16 at 4:00 PM. Any and all help will be appreciated.

