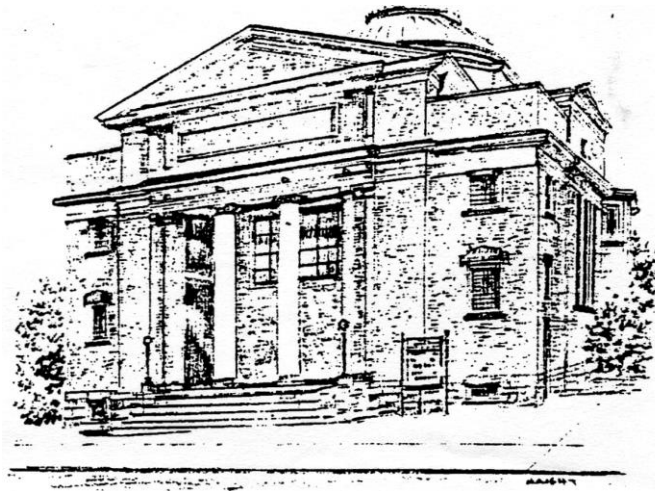


**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 174th  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 26, 2025**



**EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Mission Statement**

**“Ebensburg Presbyterians are Christians giving help and hope to all by sharing God’s love.”**

**The Ebensburg Presbyterian Church**

## **Pastor's Report – 2024**

Dear Members and Friends of Ebensburg Presbyterian Church,

As I reflect on the past year and prepare this annual report, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared together since I began my ministry with you in April. Joining you a few months into the year was a whirlwind, but it was clear from the very beginning that God had something incredible in store for us as a community of faith. The transition may have been swift, but it was filled with evidence of God's providence, care, and abundant blessings.

From my very first day, my family and I have felt deeply welcomed and embraced by this church family. It has been an extraordinary blessing to watch my children connect with their peers and even build meaningful relationships with members of the older generations. The intergenerational love and care that permeate this congregation are truly remarkable, and it is one of the many ways God's love is so clearly on display here. My family feels at home because of your kindness, hospitality, and genuine care, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

This year has been a joy as I have had the privilege of building connections with many of you. Whether through Sunday worship, fellowship gatherings, or one-on-one conversations, I have seen the light of Christ shining in this congregation. I look forward to continuing to nurture these relationships and to watching how God will continue to help each of you flourish in your own faith journeys. As a pastor, it is humbling and inspiring to witness the ways in which you live out your faith and care for one another.

One of the many highlights of this year has been our church-wide events, especially our community outreach efforts. The Potato Patch for the Potato Festival was an incredible success, and it was so heartwarming to see our church actively engaging with the broader community. Events like these are a testament to the spirit of service and generosity that defines this congregation. Your willingness to give your time, energy, and resources demonstrates what it means to live the gospel beyond the walls of the church.

Speaking of generosity, this year has been an extraordinary testament to the giving spirit of this congregation. Both financially and through volunteer efforts, you have shown incredible faithfulness and commitment. This generosity is not only a sign of a healthy and vibrant church but also a powerful witness to our shared mission to embody the love of Christ. On behalf of the session and myself, thank you for your faithfulness and for all the ways you contribute to the life and ministry of this church.

This summer was a particularly memorable time as I had the privilege of spending a week at Pine Springs Church Camp with the youth. It was a week filled with vital encounters with Christ, moments of laughter, deep conversations, and a profound sense of God's presence. Watching our youth grow in their faith and connect with one another in such a meaningful way was truly life-giving. These experiences remind us of the importance of investing in our younger generations and providing them with opportunities to encounter God in transformative ways.

Another deeply meaningful milestone this year was my ordination service. Words cannot fully express how life-changing that day was for me. The love, care, and thoughtfulness that went into every detail of the service made me feel incredibly supported and cherished. Looking out into the sanctuary filled with congregation members, presbytery colleagues, seminary friends, and my family and friends was a profound moment. The Holy Spirit was palpable in that space, and it was a powerful reminder of the community of faith that surrounds and uplifts us. I

will carry the memory of that day with me always, and I am so grateful to all of you for making it such a holy and joyful occasion.

As we moved into the Advent season, I was struck once again by the beauty and joy that this church embodies. The season of waiting and anticipation was marked by meaningful worship, shared joy, and the reminder of God's promises fulfilled in the birth of Christ. Thank you for making Advent such a special time and for journeying together as we prepared to celebrate the coming of our Savior.

This past year has been a testament to the power of God at work among us. None of this would have been possible without the support, collaboration, and dedication of the congregation and session. Your willingness to work together, to dream, and to step out in faith has been inspiring. Thank you for continuing to support my ministry and for embracing the work we are doing together as a church family.

As we look to the coming year, there is so much to be excited about. I believe God has even greater things in store for us, and I am eager to see how we will continue to grow in faith, deepen our relationships, and live out our calling as the body of Christ. Let us move forward with hope and anticipation, trusting that God will continue to guide and bless us in all that we do.

Let us close with a prayer for the year ahead:

Gracious and Loving God,

We thank You for the ways You have been present with us this past year—guiding, blessing, and sustaining us. We thank You for the gift of this church family and for the love and care we share. As we look to the new year, we ask for Your continued presence among us. Help us to remain faithful to Your calling, to serve one another and our community with compassion and joy, and to be a light in the world. May we grow deeper in our faith, stronger in our love for one another, and more committed to living out the gospel in all that we do. We entrust the year ahead to You, confident that Your plans for us are good and filled with hope.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

With deep gratitude and love,

Rev. Danielle Kendig

## Clerk's Report

### I. Church Membership

Active Members as of December 31, 2023	75
Additions: Profession of Faith	0
Letter of Transfer	0
Transferred to Active	0
Total	0
Losses Deaths	2
Transfers	0
Transferred to Inactive	0
Total	2
Active Members as of December 31, 2024	73

### II. Baptisms

Infants	--	0
Adults	--	0

### III. Necrology

Deaths	--	2
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### IV. Weddings -- 0

Respectfully Submitted,

James H. Stratton  
Clerk of Session

## **Worship Committee Report--2024**

We returned to 11:00am Sunday worship services in 2024 since the congregation no longer shared pastor leadership with the Colver church. We were led by Rev. Owar Ojulu until he departed for his new call at Grace Community Church at the end of February. During Rev. Ojulu's vacation in January and following his departure, CRE Bob Sheehan from the Cresson Presbyterian Church led us in worship thru Easter and into April. On April 14<sup>th</sup> student pastor Danielle Kendig led her first worship service at the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church and continued in this capacity with support from Bob Sheehan until her graduation from seminary and eventual ordination. Rev. Danielle Kendig was ordained at a worship service on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary. Other guest leaders during 2024 included Skip Noftzger, Carol Isley Corey, and seminary student Tammy Noss.

The Sunday services during the summer months were held at 10:00 to allow flexibility for family plans and then returned to 11:00am in September.

Communion was served 12 times and Special services included:

The Ash Wednesday breakfast and communion – we invited members from Colver Presbyterian, Revloc Presbyterian, and Ebensburg/South Ebensburg UCC.

During the worship service on Palm Sunday, we played the OGHS Game and learned the ways that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering helps those in need. Rolling the dice then following the directions on the Disaster, Action, and Repair cards the teams moved from the start point to the finish line. Thank you to Bob Sheehan for helping us to engage the congregation and dedicate the Offering.

Easter Sunday was a celebration of resurrection with special music and the sanctuary decorated with Easter lilies and spring flowers given to honor loved ones or as memorials.

On Pentecost Sunday, the sanctuary was decorated with red geraniums which were planted around the church grounds during a coffee conversation gathering following the service.

We were blessed to witness and share in the ordination of Rev. Danielle Kendig during a special afternoon service on August 25<sup>th</sup> with communion.

Other special services included World Wide Communion on October 6<sup>th</sup>, All Saints Sunday on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Veterans Sunday in November.

The sanctuary was decorated for Advent with the traditional greens and the addition of beautiful red, white, and pink poinsettias plus vases of fresh greens for the 7:00 Christmas Eve service.

Music thru out the year was provided by organists Melissa Douglas, Tina Illig, and Kevin McKenrick, and the Adult Choir and the Handbell Choir.

## **Discipleship Committee—2024**

The Discipleship Committee hosted the Easter Eggstravaganza. There were 15 children for games, snacks and an egg hunt. They also participated in donating \$500 through the "Presbyterian Giving Catalog" for education, animals and water.

## **Personnel/Communication/Nominating Committee--2024**

We are pleased to report that in 2025, a Pastor Agreement was entered into with Reverend Danielle Kendig, and a Stipulation and Agreement entered into with Matha O'Brien as secretary with the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church.

We also sent an advisory letter to each member of the congregation in March of 2024 pertaining to an inadvertent disclosure of church members' names and physical addresses. No telephone numbers, e-mail, text or other personal information was accessed. That inadvertent disclosure was reported to both the Cambria County District Attorney and to the Pennsylvania State Police.

Finally, we are pleased to report that Kevin McKendrick has agreed to serve another three (3) year term (2025-2027), Roger D. McGill has agreed to serve another one (1) year term (2025), and Kristine Segear and Tim Forberger have each agreed to serve a three (3) year term (2025-2027) on Session.

## **Family Life Committee – 2024**

The Family Life Committee has the responsibility of helping to care for our congregation.

We sponsored Birthday/Anniversary/Get Well cards, Ash Wednesday breakfast, a farewell dinner for Rev. Ojulu and his family, coffee conversations, Wheels and Wings, Pentecost celebration, Church picnic, with the Worship Committee the ordination dinner for Rev. Kendig, Christmas luncheon, and with the Mission Committee: donations of games, toys, arts and crafts, and personal hygiene items to Central Cambria students.

The Ash Wednesday breakfast had approximately 25 attending, and the Christmas Dinner had 30.

During the Ebensburg Potato Fest our Potato Patch had 174 kids and Mini-Golf had kids and adults. Potato Patch provides funds to support our projects. Approximately \$900 was raised. The donations raised by Mini-Golf were added to the General Fund. Approximately 40 student/athletes from St. Francis University volunteered their time to help make this a success.

To work together with other churches in our area, members of the UCC Congregation, Colver Presbyterian, Revloc Presbyterian, Cresson Presbyterian, and Patton Presbyterian were invited to attend our Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Service. Several members from the UCC Church also attended our picnic and Christmas luncheon. Many of our members attended the UCC Strawberry Festival.

For the year 2024, the Family Life Committee had an income of \$1,068.15 that included specified donations and donations raised by Potato Patch. Also, many generous folk in our congregation donated their time, talents, food, materials for Potato Patch and Mini-Golf and games and hygiene products for the Elementary School.

Expenses were \$633.58. These included cards, stamps, breakfast and dinner materials, donations for items for local students, and the clown and materials for Potato Patch.

## Mission Committee Report--2024

**Many thanks to all who gave generously during 2024. Because of you, the Mission Committee was able to provide financial support to individuals and organizations both locally and worldwide as listed below.**

For detailed information on any of the entries, please ask any of the Mission Committee members:

Amy Brulia  
Judy Carl  
Laura McGill  
Martha O'Brien, chair

Christmas Joy Offering	258.95
Central Cambria School Project (Christmas gifts for needy children)	226.76
Ebensburg Area Clergy - 2540 Project (Support for needy individuals)	500.00
Ebensburg Food Pantry (Saint Vincent de Paul)	1,560.00
First Fruits (Supplement to individual giving to meet our pledge)	16.96
Gambella & Crafts (Donations for our mission partners; sale of crafts)	325.00
Interfaith Food Pantry (Mundy's Corner)	250.00
Local Mission - gas cards	100.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	400.00
PCUSA Giving Catalog	500.00
Peace & Global Witness Offering	250.00
Pine Springs (End-of-Year donation)	600.00
Pine Springs (1/2 Camperships)	827.50
Pine Springs Camp Counselor	70.86
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary	550.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Various specific projects)	848.75
"Shut-ins" gift bags	241.71
South Sudan (A Redstone Presbytery outreach project)	300.00
Women's Help Center	400.00
Total paid out:	8,226.49

**EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**REPORT OF BUDGET, FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE--2024**

The 2025 Budget was adopted by the Session on December 9, 2024. The budget is broken into two parts. The first is the Operating Budget. The adopted Operating budget for 2025 shows operating income totaling \$85,595 and operating expenses totaling \$102,268. This totals a budgeted operating loss (more expenses than the cash coming in to pay the bills) of \$16,673.

The Operating income total is made up of: the “Local Church donations designated on the church envelope, interest earnings, or by other general offerings. In other words, these are the funds used to pay our day-to-day bills. The operating expenses are the day-to-day bills such as utilities, paying for pastoral care, or running the Church Office. A summary of these 2024 expenses is as follows:

Pastor’s Compensation	\$ 51,888
Staff Compensation	15,740
Utilities, Supplies, Maintenance & Insurance	24,365
Church Office	5,675
Christian Education	950
Evangelism	100
Worship Resources	2,050
Fund Raiser Expenses	500
Per Capita	1000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 102,268</b>

The second part of the budget is the “Other Funds” budget. It is separated into funds designated for specific purposes. The Other Funds include: Flowers, Major Repairs, Memorials, and Missions. For each of these funds, the money contributed is set aside and only used for the designated purposes. For example, any funds contributed toward Missions or “Benevolence” is used to promote various mission projects throughout the church community and across the World. The funds contributed toward Major Repairs are used to make certain capital improvements or repairs to the Church Building.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE--2024**

Some of the issues, big and little, which the committee dealt with were:

- 1) The basement fluorescent light fixtures were replaced by Dodson Electric, resulting in a much brighter space. This was accomplished without great expense because much of the preparatory work was done by the Bracken family,
- 2) The maple tree beside the parking lot church entrance was trimmed by Jim Miranda.
- 3) A leak in the basement ladies’ room was repaired.
- 4) Dave Link made improvements to the heating system.
- 5) The snow blower was repaired in time for the snowy weather that was about to hit Ebensburg.