

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

April 2023

**Ebensburg
Presbyterian Church
PO Box 327
200 N. Center Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931**

Mission Statement:

*"Ebensburg Presbyterians are
Christians giving help and hope to all
by sharing God's love."*

Church Office Hours
9:am-1: pm
Monday-Thursday
ebgpresby@gmail.com
814-472-6920

Worship Service

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Church Staff

Pastor
Rev. Owar Ojulu
ojh3o@yahoo.com

Church Treasurer
Kristine Segear

Clerk of Session
Jim Stratton

Custodian
Don Buterbaugh

Organist
Melissa Douglas

Web page:

www.ebgpresby.org

Facebook page:

www.ebgpresby.org

"But the fact is that Christ did actually rise from the dead and has become the First-Fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Friends, it's April! We are approaching Holy Week. I thought it is time to remind us, as Paul stated above, about the Feast of Passover of the Old Testament and the resurrection event on Easter morning of the New Testament. Here, Paul helped the Corinthians to understand the mystery of resurrection using nature's phenomena. It was the best tool for him to utilize for a better understanding since Corinthians were agrarians themselves. Corinthians, like all of us, had theological and doctrinal questions, and the issue of resurrection was one among many. "I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you," Paul reminds the Corinthians that his gospel was a revelation from God. It was original; Jesus was raised and is the First-Fruit lifted up to God in glory and broken in pieces and consecrated for God. Thus, the resurrection of the body is a standard Christian doctrine that has been handed down through centuries. It is enshrined in the Creeds of the ancient church, affirming that Christ's resurrection was foretold by the prophets, engraved in the Torah. That Jesus' resurrection wasn't a myth, neither did it happen in secret, rather his resurrection was witnessed. After he was raised, Jesus was seen by many before ascension to the heavenly realm of God fulfilling the prophecies of the OT.

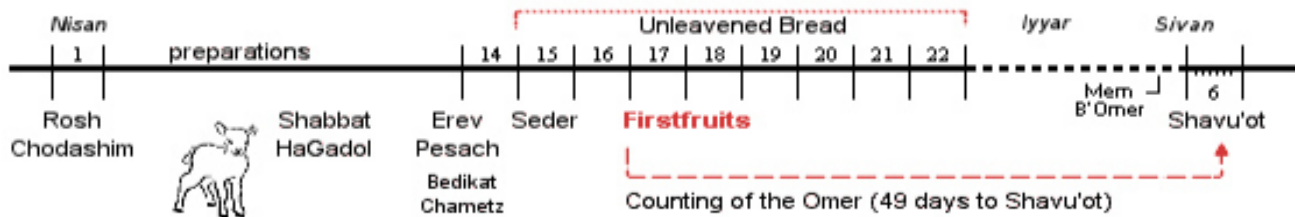
As we begin journeying through the Holy Week to Easter, the Christian church begins to reflect on the fulfilment of the promises enclosed in the Feasts of the Old Testament, where Jesus celebrated figuratively. Palm Sunday marks Day Ten of Nissan, where we begin the feast of Passover that will last for the seven days of the Jewish Passover. On this day, the Passover lamb is chosen and observed and inspected and must be found blameless. "For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses" (Exodus 12:19)—officially the feast of Unleavened Bread begins. The Passover lamb is offered in the Temple at 3pm on Day Fourteen of Nissan (the hour Jesus gave up his last breath). At the twilight of the hour of Day Sixteen, marking Seventh day of Passover, families will weave their own sheaves of harvested barley as the priest weaves the sheaf at the altar, roasts, grinds, and presents it as a peace and consecration offering to the Lord (Lev.23:10-11).

When Paul speaks of Christ as "the First-Fruits of them that sleep" he alluded to Jesus' resurrection, presentation to the Lord and acceptance as a sheaf is woven and the flour of ground barley is presented as a consecration offering to God. When Jesus said to Mary "Don't touch me, for I haven't yet ascended to the Father," (John 20:17) he meant that that he must present himself and be accepted by the Father. He was raised on the Tree as the sheaf is lifted up, roasted on the cross as the barley is roasted on the altar, was crushed as the barley is ground into to flour, only, he needed to present himself to the Lord. "Offering the first fruits actually consecrated the entire harvest to God. If God accepted the first fruits of the harvest, it meant the entire harvest would be accepted by God," said Richard Booker. This means, as the body of Christ, we are accepted as our Passover lamb is offered and consecrated and we will all be raised from the dead with glorified bodies like Christ.

- See page 2, please -

Remember then, whereas the feast of Unleavened Bread teaches us about separation from sin and be found pure in Christ, the Feast of First fruits teach us about consecration or set apart for God. Therefore, let us meditate on this truth of the scripture and celebrate Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as part of Passover and Easter morning as a day of victory. May we make a joyful noise while we sing “He is risen,” and wave our hands to God like Jewish farmers with their barley sheaves, consecrating our hearts to God and Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is risen and we are set apart in Christ and are raised with him in glory!

Season of our Liberation



Happy Easter
Pastor Owar

Cambria-Gambella Collaboration

In addition to our traditional community outreach projects such as the Easter Eggstravaganza, Potato Patch activities for children, and support for the local Food Pantry, we have launched an exciting new initiative aimed at deepening our Matthew 25 commitment by reaching out to mission partners in the Gambella Region of Ethiopia, Pastor Owar's home area.

We have invited several local churches as well as the mayor of Ebensburg to join us in this project. Two recent meetings—one in February and one in March— included representatives from the Revloc Presbyterian Church, the Ebensburg United Church of Christ, the Ebensburg Methodist Church, the Lakeside Nazarene Church, members of our own Mission Committee, and the mayor of Ebensburg, Randy Datsko. At our first meeting, Pastor Owar presented background information on Ethiopia, especially the Gambella Region, and some of the specific local needs in that area. As a result of these meetings, we have chosen the working name “Cambria-Gambella Collaboration” and have decided to explore the possibility of funding one of the needs expressed by our partners in Ethiopia, namely raising funds to install a well. Once Pastor Owar has received further specifics of cost, logistics, etc. , the group will decide how best to go about raising funds for the project.

Pastor Owar hopes to find at least one person who could accompany him to Ethiopia, ideally as soon as this coming August.

If anyone has questions about the project, please feel free to contact Pastor Owar or any member of the Mission Committee.

Major Repair Project

"The God of heaven will give us success. We
his servants will start rebuilding..."
Nehemiah 2:20



Dear Church Members and Friends,
As you have probably read in recent newsletters, the storm windows covering the stained-glass windows of our church need to be replaced. They have served well for many years, but the glass is now very brittle, and the wooden sills and frames are rotting. We have many windows, so this is a major project. The bid from Servpro of \$76,000 was accepted and work will begin this spring as weather allows.

Please be in prayer for the success of this project and prayerfully consider donating to the major repair fund to help preserve the stained-glass windows and make our church building more energy efficient. If you have any ideas for fund-raising, please speak to any session member or Pastor Owar.

Thank You.

Happy
Easter!



**KID'S EASTER EGGSTRAVGANZA
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**



Please reserve your space by contacting the Church Office
(472-6920 or e-mail ebgpresby@gmail.com) by Wed., April 5.

Please invite family and friends to join the fun
including: Crafts, Games and concluding with an
Easter Egg Hunt

**** We are accepting monetary donations and donations of small wrapped candy
that will fit in plastic eggs. Please bring to the church by
Sunday, April 2nd**

One Great Hour of Sharing

The OGHS offering will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023. If you took a fish bank, please bring it in then. Envelopes will also be available for donations.



What's Happening...

Storm Windows Project

The Session Meeting of March 13 opened with a Bible reading of Luke 15:20, the prodigal son. Pastor Owar focused on the servants and their actions. We are to be God's servants and fulfill God's work. The Book of Order teaching was on symbols and it was followed by prayer.

The agenda and February minutes were approved and the treasurers's report was received. Committee reports followed.

Budget, Finance and Stewardship reported that a letter should be sent to members and friends about the window project.

Discipleship –The communion class continues to meet. Easter Saturday will see the Easter Egg-stravaganza party.

Family Life will host coffee hours periodically after the Sunday service.

Mission reported the Cambria-Gambella Collaboration has been confirmed.

Pastor/Parish met February 27th and set the following schedule for joint activities:

Maundy Thursday service 7 pm at Ebensburg. Colver is invited to join.

Good Friday service 7 pm at Colver. Ebensburg is invited to join.

Pentecost: Ebensburg will host a breakfast at 9 am followed by a joint worship service.

Picnic hosted by Colver in August (date tba)

Christmas Eve: Colver early, Ebensburg later

Worship reported that the Easter flowers have been ordered, and may be reserved.

In Old Business, the Servpro window project was discussed.

In New Business, a new member will be welcomed after meeting with Pastor Owar. It was discovered on March 12, that the ceiling in the "Frankenstein room" collapsed. The debris was hauled away and the room cleared thanks to Bob and Becky Bracken, Walter Feath, and Kevin McKenrick.

Communications with the denomination: Martha O'Brien was appointed as our delegate to the March 28th Presbytery Meeting.

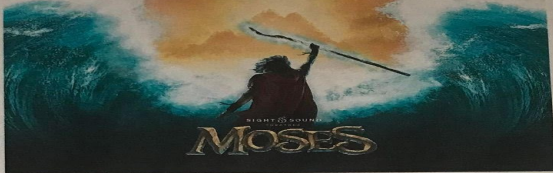
In his Moderator's report, Pastor Owar gave a complete and detailed report of his various activities at the church and with several of our members. He was a presenter at the Enrichment Day in February and chairs the Presbytery Mission committee. He is a member of the Ethiopian Mission Network. He was approved to attend the CREDO Conference in Arkansas from March 14th-20th.

The next Session meeting is April 10, 2023.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.



Sight and Sound Bus Trip
Wednesday July 12, 2023
Sponsored by the
COLVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Total price of \$145.00 (Children 12 and under \$105.00) includes tickets to the Sight and Sound Theatre's production of MOSES, after the show buffet style meal at the Bird-In Hand Restaurant and round trip transportation.

Bus to leave the Church parking lot at 6:00 am and will return at approximately 8:30 pm

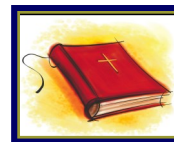
If interested please call 814-244-8026 for reservations.

The Colver Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a bus trip to the Site and Sound Theater in Lancaster on July 12, 2023 to see their performance of "Moses". Norma Cicero is handling all the reservations, so that is whose number is on the poster. We need 55 people to fill the bus. Reservations and payment need to be made by May 16. Not only is this a fundraiser for our church but it is also a way for us to have a community outreach activity as we try to get our church more involved with our community. Norma can answer all the questions you may have about the trip. Her number is 814-244-8026.



April 1	Aubrey Jean Baker
April 8	Eva Tomb
April 11	Tina Taylor
April 13	Clifton J. Harris
April 22	Dan Orr
April 29	Ralph T. Shuey

Sunday/ Holy Day Scripture Readings



April 2, 2023

Palm/Passion Sunday/ Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31:9–16

Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11

Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Matthew 26:14–27:66

After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

or Matthew 27:11–54

[abbreviated reading] Jesus is tried and crucified.

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10), 11–14 Before the exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19

What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.

April 7, 2023

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.

Psalms 22

A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.

Hebrews 10:16–25

Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.

or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9 In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.

John 18:1–19:42

Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.

April 9, 2023

Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43

Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.

or Jeremiah 31:1–6

The prophet proclaims God's everlasting love and faithfulness.

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24

I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made.

Colossians 3:1–4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.

or Acts 10:34–43

Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.

John 20:1–18

At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.

or Matthew 28:

1–10 Women find Jesus' tomb empty; he has been raised from the dead.

April 16, 2023**Second Sunday of Easter**

Lectionary Readings

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Peter addresses the people: Jesus is risen, and we are witnesses.

Psalm 16

You protect me from death, O God, and show me the path of life.

1 Peter 1:3–9

We have a new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.

John 20:19–31

Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.

April 23, 2023**Third Sunday of Easter**

Lectionary Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Peter continues: Repent and be baptized; receive the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19

Death encompassed me, but God delivered me; praise the Lord!

1 Peter 1:17–23

You were saved by the blood of Christ; you have been born anew.

Luke 24:13–35

On the road to Emmaus, two disciples meet the risen Lord.

April 30, 2023**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Lectionary Readings

Acts 2:42–47

The believers share all things, worshiping and eating together.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me.

1 Peter 2:19–25

Like sheep, we go astray; but Christ is the shepherd of our souls.

John 10:1–10

Jesus says: I am the gate for the sheep; enter by me and be saved.

If you need to contact Rev. Owar Ojulu for any pastoral needs below is his contact information:

Email: ojh3o@yahoo.com

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of	February 2023
Actual Operating Income:	\$9,940.54
Actual Operating Expenses:	\$14,034.46
Gain/Loss:	(\$4,093.92)



2023 Per Capita

2023 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.50**. We are a connectional church, and we encourage you to submit your per capita as soon as possible! Just mark your envelope or the memo line on your check. We are then responsible for sending this full amount to the Redstone Presbytery. Thank you!

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<i>1</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Aubrey Jean</i> <i>Baker</i>
2 Palm Sunday <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i> One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>5</i>	6 Maundy Thursday <i>Services at</i> <i>Ebensburg</i> <i>7:00 PM</i> Communion	7 Good Friday <i>Service sat Colv-</i> <i>er</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Kid's Easter</i> <i>Eggstravaganza</i> <i>10:AM to noon</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Eva Tomb</i>
9 Resurrection of the Lord / Easter Sunday <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Tina Taylor</i>	<i>12</i>	13 <i>Happy Birth-</i> <i>day, Clifton J.</i> <i>Harris</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
16 2nd Sunday of Easter <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6-8 PM</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	22 <i>NA Business</i> <i>Mtg. 9:45 AM</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Dan Orr</i> <i>Earth Day</i>
23 3rd Sunday of Easter <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6-8 PM</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Ralph T. Shuey</i>
30 4th Sunday of Easter <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6-8 PM</i>						

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