



**August 2024**



**Ebensburg  
Presbyterian  
Church**

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

**Contact us**  
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**Web page:**  
[www.ebgpresby.org](http://www.ebgpresby.org)  
**Facebook page:**  
Ebensburg Presbyterian  
Church

**Worship Service**  
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

**Church Staff**

Pastor  
Danielle Kendig

Church Treasurer  
Kristine Segear

Clerk of Session  
Jim Stratton

Secretary  
Martha O'Brien

Custodian  
Don Buterbaugh

Organist  
Melissa Douglas



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**CHURCH HOURS**

Monday: 9:30-3:00  
Tuesday: 9:30-3:00  
Wednesday: 9:30-1:30  
Thursday: 9:30-3:00  
Friday: Closed



# From Pastor Danielle's Desk

Dear Beloved Congregation,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is with profound joy and a grateful heart that I write this letter to you. It has been an incredible journey serving as your student pastor over the past few months. Together, we have navigated various challenges, celebrated numerous joys, and grown in faith and unity. As I reflect on our time together, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the love, support, and commitment each of you has shown not only to myself, but to my family as well. We have come to know and love this congregation dearly.

From the moment I stepped into this church, I was welcomed with warmth and genuine hospitality. Your kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith have made a lasting impression on me. I have been touched by the depth of your commitment to one another and to the broader community. It is clear that God is at work in this place, and it has been an honor to witness and participate in the life of this church. During my tenure, I have witnessed the strength and resilience of this congregation. Whether it was through our weekly worship services, community outreach programs, or the simple yet profound moments of fellowship, it is evident that God's presence is very much alive in this church. Your dedication to living out the teachings of Christ and your openness to spiritual growth have been truly inspiring.

As we look to the future, I have been in prayerful consideration about my role within this community. I have been approached by the church session with the possibility of extending my contract and becoming your long-term Covenant Pastor. This is a decision that I do not take lightly.

Firstly, I want to express my deep affection for this congregation. From the very first Sunday, you welcomed us with open arms and hearts, making my family and me feel like true members of this church family. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to embrace new ideas and initiatives have made my time here immensely rewarding. It has been an honor to walk alongside you in your spiritual journeys and to witness the ways in which God is working in and through each of you.

I believe that the foundation we have built together is strong and that there is great potential for further growth and development. We have already seen positive changes and new opportunities for ministry emerge. I am excited about the prospect of continuing this journey with you, building on the work we have started, and exploring new ways to serve our community and deepen our faith.

After much prayer, reflection, and conversations with the church Session, I am delighted to announce that I have decided to accept the offer to become your long-term pastor. This decision was made with a heart full of hope and anticipation for the future. I believe that God has called us together for a purpose, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. Upon making this commitment I have had many confirmations from the Holy Spirit that this is in fact where God is moving me.

As we prayerfully embark on this next step, let us continue to seek God's guidance and wisdom. I am confident that with open hearts and minds, we will discern the path that God has laid out for us. I am committed to serving you with humility, integrity, and love.

Continued ...





# From Pastor Danielle's Desk

Continued...

I look forward to deepening my relationships with each of you, and to continuing the work we have begun. There are many opportunities for growth and ministry within our church and community, and I am eager to explore these with you.

One of my primary goals as your pastor will be to foster an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. I believe that each member of this congregation has unique gifts and talents, and it is my hope that we can work together to create a vibrant and inclusive community where all can thrive. I am committed to listening to your needs, dreams, and concerns, and to leading with a servant's heart.

Furthermore, I am excited about the potential for outreach and service beyond our church walls. There are countless ways we can share God's love with our neighbors and make a positive impact in our community. I look forward to partnering with you in these efforts and to seeing the ways in which God will use us to bring hope and healing to those around us.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I am honored to accept the call to be your long-term pastor and to continue this journey of faith with you. I ask for your prayers, support, and partnership as we move forward together, guided by the Holy Spirit.

May God bless each of you and our beloved church. I am excited about the future and filled with hope for all that we will accomplish together in Christ's name.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Danielle Kendig

## AUGUST PREACHING PLAN

This month we are focusing on a different theme each week. Every Sunday will help shape us into followers of Christ who are built up in the Word. We will recognize our dependence on the Lord, learn the importance of following his word, prepare ourselves for the world around us as people of God, and understand how we are protected to go out into the world and be examples.

**8/4/24**— Sermon: “The Bread of Life”  
Psalm 34:1-10, John 6:24-35

**8/11/24**— Sermon: “Hearing the Word”  
Psalm 25:1-10, Deuteronomy 30:9-14

**8/18/24**— **Back to School Blessing**  
Sermon: “Our Identity is Defined by God”  
Psalm 121:1-18, Luke 2:41-52

**8/25/24**— Sermon: “Armor of God”  
Psalm 144, Ephesians 6:10-20

# WHAT'S HAPPENING...

## *Session Update*

The Session meeting on July 15 opened with prayer and a reading from Ephesians 24: 28-32. It was about getting rid of bitterness. The agenda was approved, and the May minutes were also approved. The Book of Order training (W5.0303), highlighted acts of compassion, service and work with outside agencies.

The Treasurer's report was received. The following committee reports were given:

Budget, Finance and Stewardship discussed a recent memorial donation. The donor requested that the donation be used for children's ministry.

The Family Life Committee set the annual picnic for Aug. 11, following worship.

Mission reported several items: 1) Thanks to generous donations, \$400 was given to the local food pantry. 2) Two \$25 gift cards were purchased for Ellyse, our Pine Springs counselor. 3) Pastor Danielle delivered the in-kind donations to Ellyse. 4) The committee purchased a \$100 Sheetz card for a member of the congregation to help with expenses due to a family medical issue. 5) Judy Carl is working on quilt squares for the Mission Fair at the September Presbytery meeting.

Personnel provided an updated position agreement for the Secretary.

Property management noted that the basement Fellowship Hall lights were replaced.

The Worship Committee set dates for communion: August 25, September 15, October 6, and November 3.

In New Business, a Covenant Pastor Agreement for Danielle Kendig was approved. Her ordination service is set for August 25 at 3 PM, with a dinner to follow. A committee will be formed to prepare the dinner. An invitation was received from the United Church of Christ to attend their Ice Cream Social on July 28.

The next scheduled meeting of the Session will be August 12 at 7 pm.

A brief Session meeting was held following worship on July 21.

Judy Carl was appointed to represent our congregation at the Aug. 1 Presbytery meeting.

*Focus on Our Youth*

# YOU'RE INVITED! BACK-TO-SCHOOL

## SUNDAY SERVICE

10:00 AM at Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

**August 18th**

✓ Blessing of the Backpacks  
(Don't forget to bring your school bag in for the service!)

✓ This service is to recognize all students, school staff, and volunteers. We would like to offer them a special blessing for the upcoming '24-'25' school year!







YOU'RE INVITED

# Church Picnic

AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Immediately following our Sunday Service

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**Bring your favorite potluck  
side dish to share with others  
and join us after church for  
fun, fellowship and games!**

**We will provide the  
fried chicken!**

**Please RSVP to the church office by  
August 7th. 814-472-6920**



August 5      Jack Makosy

August 8 P      hilip Rice

August 15      Kristine Segear

August 24      Phil Brulia

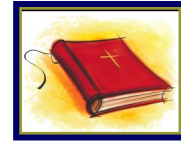
August 25      Duane Mohny

August 27      Mackenzie Magley DeYulis

August 31      Lillian Kendig



# Sunday Scripture Readings



**August 4, 2024**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 13**

Color: Green

**Lectionary Readings**

Exodus 16:2–4, 9–15

Psalm 78:23–29

Ephesians 4:1–16

John 6:24–35

God feeds the people in the wilderness with manna from heaven.

The Lord rained down manna; the people ate and were filled.

There is one body and one Spirit; speak truth and grow in love.

Jesus teaches about the bread of heaven, food for eternal life.

**August 11, 2024**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 14**

Color: Green

**Lectionary Readings**

1 Kings 19:4–8

Psalm 34:1–8

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

John 6:35, 41–51

An angel brings food and drink to Elijah in the wilderness.

I cried to the Lord for deliverance; taste and see that God is good.

Put away bitterness; be kind to one another; be imitators of God.

Jesus says: I am the bread of life that has come down from heaven.

**August 18, 2024**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 15**

Color: Green

**Lectionary Readings**

Proverbs 9:1–6

Psalm 34:9–14

Ephesians 5:15–20

John 6:51–58

Wisdom calls: Come, eat of my bread and drink of my wine.

Those who seek the Lord will enjoy goodness and lack nothing.

Be filled with the Spirit, singing to God and always giving thanks.

Jesus says: My flesh and blood are food and drink for eternal life.

**August 25, 2024**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 16**

Color: Green

**Lectionary Readings**

Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18

Psalm 34:15–22

Ephesians 6:10–20

John 6:56–69

The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live.

Teach me your way, O Lord: to turn from vanity and disgrace.

Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.

A difficult teaching; yet Peter says Jesus has the words of eternal life.



## From the Presbytery

226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GA commissioners and advisory delegates got a lot done in Salt Lake City

A top 10 list of accomplishments between June 29 and July 4

Author: Mike Ferguson | General Assembly News - July 4, 2024

### SALT LAKE CITY



**From Left to Right:** Andrew Wirt ( West Hempfield PC, Irwin), Robin Jennings (First PC, Greensburg) , Skip Noftzger (Executive Presbyter), Brian Kilbert ( Puckety PC, Lower Burrell) and Jackie Eckenrod (Westminster PC, Greensburg)

Commissioners to the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly discerned God’s will in numerous ways during the past six days. What follows are 10 of the most significant things they did at the Salt Palace Convention Center and in neighboring churches between June 29 and July 4.

#### **The Rev. Jihyun Oh is elected, then installed, as Stated Clerk**

With family members laying on their hands and more than 500 commissioners and advisory delegates in full-throated support, the Rev. Jihyun Oh, director of Mid Council Ministries in the Office of the General Assembly, was elected and then installed Monday as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). “I love this church for who we have been, warts and all, and for who we are now, and who we will become as we faithfully discern God’s call for us,” Oh told the Assembly.

#### **The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson are selected as Co-Moderators**

Hailing from adjacent presbyteries in South Carolina, the Rev. Tony Larson and the Rev. CeCe Armstrong were elected on the first ballot on Sunday by a 249-171 count over the Rev. Danny Morales and the Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor. Prior to their election, Larson and Armstrong sported stoles that formed the PC(USA) logo — but only when they stood next to one another. They called that a symbol of working together for the good of the Church and those it serves.

Continued...

## More about GA from the Presbytery

### Both portions of the ‘Olympia Overture’ are approved

[POL-01](#), which had been divided into two parts, will amend the Book of Order to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the categories against which this Church does not discriminate. Lengthy discussions took place on this item. The item will be sent to presbyteries for ratification.

### General Assembly backtracks on complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry

In a surprise reversal on Tuesday, the Assembly made an about-face by deciding against complete divestment from the fossil fuel industry after having voted in favor of it that morning. After tough and lengthy discussion, commissioners voted to disapprove [ENV-02](#) and instead go with an amended version of [ENV-06](#).

### ‘Our ancestors’ wildest dreams’

In a tribute brimming over with affection, admiration, gratitude, tears, laughter and the occasional touch of irreverence, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, the former Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), was joyfully celebrated for changing the denomination that shaped and changed him. Throughout the evening, Nelson — who retired in 2023 — was lauded for cultivating young adult leadership and for his never-ending commitment to addressing social justice challenges including poverty, discrimination and gun violence.

### Next stop: Milwaukee

On Wednesday, the Assembly voted to accept the Presbytery of Milwaukee’s invitation to host the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2026. Commissioners resisted a motion to hold both committee and plenary sessions in person. Instead, they’ll occur just how they did in Salt Lake City: committees meeting online, and plenary sessions occurring in person.



The Rev. Jihyun Oh is joined by her family on the platform to lay hands on her and participate in the litany of her installation as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly during the fourth plenary meeting on July 1, 2024. Photo by Rich Copley.

### The 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly is one for the ages

Commissioners agreed to per capita levels for 2025 and 2026 and approved the unifying budgets for both years. They also paid tribute to the tireless work of the Acting Stated Clerk, the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, and the newly elected Stated Clerk, the Rev. Jihyun Oh.

### Technology, committee support pass the test at General Assembly

Headed into plenary sessions following three days of online committee work, Acting Stated Clerk the Rev. Bronwen Boswell and the Director of GA Planning, Kate Trigger Duffert, lauded preparations by commissioners and advisory delegates to learn how to use [MyGA](#), where the work of plenaries and committees was conducted. “We’ve used these tools before, but learning something new when you’re isolated is a challenge,” Trigger Duffert said.



**Young Adult Advisory Delegates  
participate in GA orientation**

Eighty-two YAADs from across the country received orientation on Saturday led by the Rev. Katrina Pekich-Bundy and Ekama Eni. In part, a YAAD's role is to make commissioners aware of issues and ideas they might not otherwise had known about. The leaders offered the YAADs Zoom debriefs following committee meetings and plenaries.



The procession of the newly elected co-moderators during plenary at the 226th General Assembly. *Photo by Rich Copley.*



If you need to contact Pastor Danielle Kendig for any pastoral needs below is her contact information:

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920

*In this period of vacation adventures, the following prayer seems particularly appropriate:*

*A prayer for safe travels*

*Lord, be our guide and our protector  
on the journey we are about to take.*

*Watch over us.*

*Protect us from accidents.*

*Keep us free from harm to body and soul.*

*Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired.*

*Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way.*

*Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love.*

*Amen*

*(Thank you to Herman Carl for sharing this prayer with us.)*

## **EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Year to Date as of July 8, 2024

Actual Operating Income: \$39,349.55

Actual Operating Expenses: \$38,467.64

Gain/Loss: \$881.91



### **2024 Per Capita**

**2024 Per Capita** - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$44.00**. 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

## AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Worship 10 a.m. and Facebook</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Happy Birthday Jack Makosy</i>	<i>6</i>  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 p.m.</i>	<i>7</i>  <i>Please RSVP for Church Picnic</i>  <i>Potato Patch work session 2 pm</i>	<i>8</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Phil Rice</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>  <i>Worship 10 a.m. and Facebook</i>  <i>Church Picnic following worship</i>	<i>12</i>  <i>Session Meeting 7 pm</i>	<i>13</i>  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 p.m.</i>	<i>14</i>  <i>Potato Patch work session 2 pm</i>	<i>15</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Kris Segear</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>  <i>NA Business Meeting— 9:45 a.m.</i>
<i>18</i>  <i>Worship 10 a.m. and Facebook</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 p.m.</i>	<i>21</i>  <i>Potato Patch work session 2 pm</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Phil Brulia</i>
<i>25</i>  <i>Worship 10 a.m. and Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Duane Mohney</i>  <i>Ordination Service and Communion 3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Makenzie Magley DeYulis</i>  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 p.m.</i>	<i>28</i>  <i>Potato Patch work session 2 pm</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>  <i>Happy Birthday Lillian Kendig</i>

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