

Dear Ebensburg Presbyterian Church Family,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the invitation to prepare a reflection for the church's 175th anniversary service on September 7, 2025. It is an honor to be a part of this important celebration, and I am excited to share my experiences with the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church community.

Reflecting on my time at the church during my first call, I am reminded of how incredibly formative that period was for me, both personally and spiritually. Your warm welcome to me as an African pastor in your midst was a powerful testament to the unity of the Church of Christ. Growing up in a small village in western Ethiopia, I could never have imagined that one day I would stand behind your pulpit. Yet you embraced me and my family with Christian love, demonstrating the true essence of a Christian community.

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church provided me with hands-on experience in leading the Session, pastoral care, and youth programs, which laid a profound foundation that has significantly shaped my ministry.

Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 era, we thrived together through shared leadership and resilience. I will always be grateful for the invaluable lessons I learned, and the love shared during that time.

As we approach this milestone anniversary, I look forward to reflecting on the many ways this community has influenced my journey and the significance of our shared faith. I am eager to connect with all of you, celebrate this momentous occasion, and commemorate the legacy of the church.

Once again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity to contribute to your anniversary celebration. I am genuinely excited to be part of this special event.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu