

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

January 2024

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:

Ebensburg Presbyterian
Church

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25.

It is 2024! We have arrived at a time of transition as always, every year. It's a time when we make resolutions in our lives; a season where we look back and think of what we can do next and differently. A period when we begin planning our vacations and hope to meet new people.

This Hebrews passage resonates with my story when I moved to a small town in December 1994. I moved in with the wife of a relative to continue my studies in a nearby town. In the village they offer first grade to sixth grade only. The curriculum of that time required that a student take and pass the 6th grade matriculation exam. Then an individual would either choose to stay in the village or move to the nearby town for 7th to 9th grades, relocation again to Gambella city for 10th-12th grades. So, for poor villagers, these transitions were steep hurdles, and the majority of young men would choose to stay in the villages as the hope to continue with their education was not an option.

But the few who persisted would face mounting challenges, from transportation, meal expenses, etc. to life experiences in these towns. Yet, what gave strength to many of us at the time was encouragement. Every Friday after classes, we walked back to our villages and would return to the town on Sunday evening to resume classes on Monday morning. Though there was hunger and thirst, the five hours' walk would seem like only two hours. Each of us would share stories, and the expectation of the abundant resources in the villages would lift our spirits, and so we moved with renewed strength till we arrived home in the early evenings.

A friend of mine had already introduced me to church. I began attending church, and this relative's brother-in-law stayed with us. I kept inviting him to go to church with me. Yet, this young man was adamant in his refusal. I didn't understand why he kept refusing to go while many of his friends went to church. One evening he told me the reason he didn't want to attend church. "I don't want to go to church because I do not have good clothes to wear on Sundays and I do not have coins to offer when the offering plate is presented to me. I was embarrassed, at one time, and I don't want that to happen to me again," he said. Yet, with my encouragement, this friend understood that church is not about good attire and offering is not mandated. First, God needs us to give ourselves as a living offering to him, and our tithes and offerings are the outpouring of our faith. The following Sunday, this friend went to church with me and has been attending since.

The Hebrews' text encourages us to spur one another, to never give up fellowship and love, and to make worship a habit in our lives. The author moved from the individual mandates to mutual duties and common goal of community of believers. In our context, many might have lagged in the past year in our faith community or our neighborhood, and like the brother-in-law of my relative may have reasons **NOT** to attend church services or take part in church activities or leadership. An Ethiopian proverb says, "No one builds a house for the winter of last year." Now that we enter a new season, may we consider taking note of one another and stimulating the desires of many Christian friends. The year 2023 has become history and 2024 brings a new beginning. In this new turn of the year, let us build a habit of walking together, strengthening our fellowship and encourage our fellow Christians so that we move far, share our joy and suffering in our faith journey in this year 2024, and beyond. May God grants us this we ask of Him!

Happy New Year, 2024

Pastor Owar

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR



The choir practices for Christmas Eve.

Bob Sheehan, Commissioned Ruling Elder for District 4 of Redstone Presbyterian will be conducting services, moderating the Session and Congregational meetings and assisting with pastoral needs during January while Pastor Owar is on vacation.

His home church is Cresson Presbyterian Church. He is a retired pharmacist from James E VanZandt VA Medical Center. Bob is married with 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great granddaughter.

Save your plastics shown here. The Women's Help Center of Johnstown is collecting plastics for a fundraiser. We will have a donation box at the church after Christmas and send our plastics to them.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

RECYCLED IN AMERICA

NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

Thanks for supporting the joint Family Life and Mission Committees' project.

The Central Cambria School District would like to extend their gratitude for the generous donations of board games, art supplies, card games, play dough, Hot Wheels, calendars, socks, and even batteries for the toys. We were able to make 40 families Christmas a little brighter. Thank You.



What's Happening...

The December 11th meeting of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Session opened with prayer and a selection of bible readings from Isaiah, Romans, and I John, related to the question; How do we plan for the future?

The agenda was approved as were the minutes from the November 13th Session meeting and the October 13th Joint Colver/Ebensburg Session meeting. The Treasurer's report was received.

Committee reports included the following.

Budget, Finance, & Stewardship: Kris Segear presented the budget which was approved.

Discipleship: There was a discussion about how one of the young people can become a member of the church

Family Life: reported that the Christmas luncheon would be catered by Rik-N-Niks.

Mission: End of the year donations were reported.

Pastor/Parish: This committee is disbanded as of December 31,2023 because of the ending of the shared pastorate agreement with the Colver congregation.

Nominating: The committee listed the slate of candidates for the Session. They are Class of 2024 Roger McGill, Class of 2026 Judy Carl and James Stratton..

Worship: Preparations for the Christmas Eve service were mentioned. Bob Sheehan (Cresson) will assist our church in January while Pastor Owar travels to Ethiopia.

In New Business, the date for the Congregational Meeting is set for January 28, 2024.

In the Moderator's Report, Pastor Owar continues to contact and visit with various members of the congregation.



From the Mission Committee:

Thanks for your generous contributions to benevolence and special offerings.

End of the year donations included the following:

1. Central Cambria School District Christmas Project. Up to \$ 350 will be spent shopping for items for students.
2. Ethiopia: \$500. Pastor Owar will decide the exact recipient and arrange for transfer of the funds.
3. Pine Springs Camp: \$500.
4. Ebensburg Ministerium Project: \$350.
5. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary: \$350.
6. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA): \$ 500 also, any Mission funds still remaining at the very end of the year will go to PDA.
7. Christmas Joy Offering: Estimated \$200.
8. PCUSA Gift Catalog: \$500. Specifics will be decided by the youth meeting with Aric Bracken.
9. Salvation Army (local) \$100.
10. Interfaith Community Food Pantry (Mundy's Corner/Vinco) \$250.
11. Women's Help Center: \$250.



Pine Springs Summer Camp Registration is open. You can find information about the 2024 sessions on the website <https://www.pinesprings.org/>



January 1 Marjwok Ojha
January 2 Bodojwok Ojha
January 5 Sandy Magley
January 11 James Cassidy
January 17 Ashley Dixon
January 18 Tim Shamble
January 22 Lauren Rice
January 23 Anthony Taylor
January 24 Micah Magley
January 28 Susan Wolfe
January 29 Ammanuel Ojha

New Prayer List for 2024

We will be starting a new prayer list for 2024. If you have any names you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or drop the names in the Offering Plate.

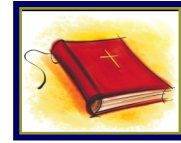
2024 Giving Envelopes

We have prepared the 2024 giving Envelopes and they are available for pickup.

If there are any corrections or additions from last year's information, please notify the church office.

Thank you.

Sunday Scripture Readings



January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord
Color: White

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 1:1–5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1–7
Mark 1:4–11

Over the deep and formless waters, God speaks: Let there be light.
Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters.
Paul baptizes new believers in Jesus' name; they receive the Spirit.
Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: You are my Son.

January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Color: Green

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
1 Corinthians 6:12–20
John 1:43–51

The boy Samuel hears God calling and replies: Speak, Lord.
O Lord, you search me and surround me; I praise you.
Your body is a temple of the Spirit; you were bought with a price.
Jesus calls Philip; Philip in turn calls Nathanael: Come and see.

January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Color: Green

Lectionary Readings

Jonah 3:1–5, 10
Psalm 62:5–12
1 Corinthians 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

God sends Jonah to Ninevah; the people repent and God forgives.
My soul waits in silence for God; God is my rock and salvation.
The present world is passing away; let go of earthly attachments.
Jesus calls four fishermen: Simon, Andrew, James, and John.

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Color: Green

Lectionary Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1–13
Mark 1:21–28

The Lord says: I will raise up a new prophet to speak my word.
Praise the Lord; the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.
Concerning food and idols: knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
Jesus casts out an unclean spirit; all are amazed at his authority.



Here are a few pictures of the manger and poinsettias from Christmas Eve. You can see the video of the service on our Facebook page : Ebensburg Presbyterian Church.

Many of our members enjoyed the Christmas luncheon on December 17th.



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

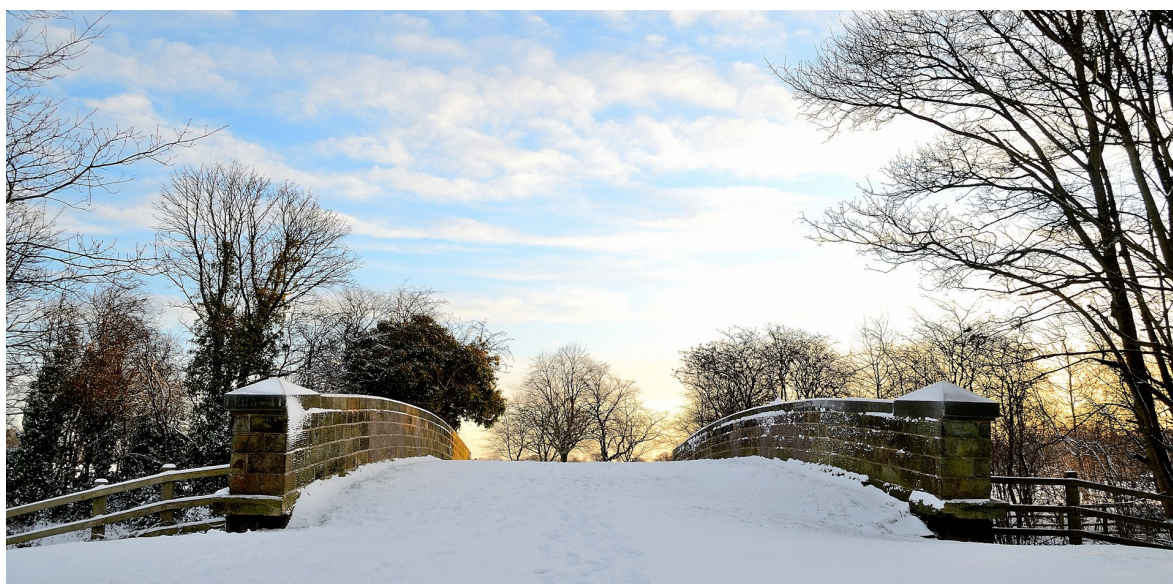
Email: ojh3o@yahoo.com

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920

During January, Contact information for Bob Sheehan for pastoral needs.

My home phone number is 814-886-4394 and my cell is 814-931-1468. My email is bsheehan49@aol.com.



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of December 4, 2023

Actual Operating Income: \$ 65,096.60

Actual Operating Expenses: \$ 74,368.33

Gain/Loss: (\$ 9,271.73)

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 **\$44.60**. 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

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>1</i> <i>Happy Birthday Marjwok Ojha</i>	<i>2</i> <i>Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</i> <i>Happy Birthday Bodojwok Ojha</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Happy Birthday Sandy Magley</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Session Meeting 7 pm</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Happy Birthday James Cassidy</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Happy Birthday Ashley Dixon</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Happy Birthday Tim Shamble</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>NA Business Meeting 9:45 am</i>
<i>21</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Happy Birthday Lauren Rice</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</i> <i>Happy Birthday Anthony Taylor</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Happy Birthday Micah Magley</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> <i>Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</i> Annual Congregation Meeting	<i>29</i> <i>Happy Birthday Ammanuel Ojha</i>	<i>30</i> <i>Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</i>	<i>31</i>			

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