

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
March 2022

**Ebensburg
Presbyterian Church
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
ebgpsesby@gmail.com
814-472-6920

Worship Service
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Church Staff
Pastor
Rev. Owar Ojulu
ojh3o@yahoo.com

Office Manager
Sally Kruley

Church Treasurer
Kristine Segear

Clerk of Session
Jim Stratton

Custodian
Don Buterbaugh

Organist
Melissa Douglas

Web page:
www.ebgpresby.org

Facebook page:
[www.facebook.com/Ebensburg
PresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1-4

There was exciting news from Ethiopia late in February. In contrast to everything I have been sharing about the war and humanitarian needs in the Northern part of that country, Ethiopia has finally celebrated the most awaited project. The Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has finally generated electricity after decades of diplomacy battles between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt. The Blue Nile that sources from Lake Tana in Ethiopia flows downstream about 900 miles to Khartoum Sudan and merges with the White Nile, the shorter feeder where the tributaries form Africa's longest and biggest river, the Nile.

The Blue Nile, which we the Ethiopians call "Abay," supplies 80% of the water to the Nile River during the rainy season. However, during the era of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, when the British were still ruling Egypt and Sudan, the British signed an agreement with countries through which the Niles passes, including Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, and Egypt. The agreement of 1959 gave the 'lion's share' to Egypt and Egypt took the Nile as God's gift, given solely to the Egyptians. Ethiopia was denied the benefits of the Blue Nile for centuries. In the 1960s, Emperor Haile Selassie laid the first stone for the future hydroelectric dam, hoping that the succeeding generation of Ethiopians would build the dam out of their "ጠቀላ ነቀይ" (*prosperity or investment*). On Sunday, February 20, the first power turbine supplied power, and Ethiopia celebrated this major achievement. The dam is believed to bring light to 60% of Ethiopians, most of whom have never seen a lightbulb. It seemed impossible, but this breakthrough came at the right moment.

What is impossible is always made possible by self-giving, self-denial, and by someone who wills to do it for us out of love—God. Now that we are beginning our journey through the season of Lent, Romans chapter eight reminds us of this truth. Something we cannot do, which we are incapable of accomplishing or achieving, is done in the flesh of Jesus Christ for our righteousness. This means we cannot make God happy or live according to his will by keeping the laws. "The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit," the psalmist testified,

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and that God does not despise a humble spirit, a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). Through Christ's self-giving, the legal requirement of pleasing God has been "put-to-death" and now there will be no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because the Spirit of Christ has set believers free and given us life for free.

This encourages us in our faith journey and importantly during our journey through Lent. Lent is a time we turn away from our weakness, life of guilt, and inability and turn towards God, with confidence and in penitence. We trust in his promise of absolute remission and true pardon when we repent with sincere hearts and believe the Good News of the gospel. Like the psalmist we ask God to transform us, create in us a new heart. And in his great kindness and merciful heart, we ask God to have mercy on us, wash us with spiritual hyssop that we become clean. May we beseech him to grant us true repentance and sanctify us through the power of the Holy Spirit that we may rest with him hereafter in eternal joy.

Peace,

Pastor Owar O.



Pray for Ukraine.

Pray for the world.



Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Service

**Join us on Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:00 am for
worship, fellowship and food.**

One Great Hour of Sharing

**The One Great Hour of Sharing boxes will be distributed on
Sunday, March 7th and collected on Palm Sunday, April 10th.**



It is critical for our church records to be accurate and up-to-date.

You will be receiving a letter in the next few weeks asking you to update your information for the Church records.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers this year will be \$15.00 each.

Orders are due by Sunday, March 27th as our flower order deadline is the next day at the greenhouse.



Youth Bell Choir

The Youth Bell Choir will start practicing for Easter. The first practice is Sunday March 6th at 12:00 following the service.

LENTEN PRAYER TREE

The Discipleship Committee is sponsoring a Lenten Prayer Tree, which will remain in the front of the sanctuary throughout Lent.

Beginning March 6th, the congregation is invited to come forward before or after worship and tie colored ribbons on the tree. The color of the ribbon will indicate the type of prayer that you are praying.

As the crucifixion of our Lord is represented by the bareness of the tree, the life that we are given by His resurrection is represented by the “blossoms” of all our weekly prayers.

Purple	Adoration/Praise
White	Courage/Strength
Yellow	Healing/Wellness
Orange	Thanksgiving/Gratitude
Green	Patience/Endurance



What's Happening...



Session met on February 9, opening the meeting with prayer and a bible study based on Matthew 25:31-40. The minutes from the January Session meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was received.

The committee reports included the following:

Kris Segear will attend training for Budget, Finance and Stewardship presented by the Presbyterian Foundation.

The Discipleship Committee reported that the Youth Service will be held on February 27th and a motion passed to have a special offering for the local Food Pantry during the service.

Mission will distribute materials for One Great Hour of Sharing in March and collect the offering on Palm Sunday April 10th.

The Organ Restoration Committee will be meeting to work on a memorial plaque for the organ.

Family Life Committee will deliver Valentine's Day greetings to shut-ins and plans are progressing for an Ash Wednesday breakfast. A motion passed to allow resumption of meals in the church.

Personnel Committee- There was a discussion of policies.

Property Management reported that they are working on replacing lights.

Worship reported that communion was held on February 6th and will be held the first Sunday of every month.

After the Committee reports, communications from Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly included a report on the January 29th meeting of Redstone Presbytery. The next Presbytery meeting will be on March 22.

A thank you note was received from Central Cambria School District.

Rev. Ojulu is resuming bible study and he noted visits and calls.

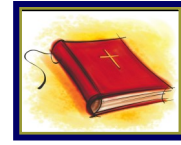
The next Session Meeting will be Wednesday March 9, 2022.


Happy St. Patrick's Day



March 5	Jeff Vietmeier
March 13	James Estep, Jr.
March 15	Leif Vietmeir
March 20	Debra Shamble
March 21	Mara Vermillion
March 25	Samuel Wheeler
March 27	J. Gregory Stratton

Sunday Scripture Readings



March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 We cried to the Lord, God of our ancestors, and God delivered us.
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 The Lord says: I will deliver and protect those who call on me.
Romans 10:8-13 The word is near to you; those who call on the Lord will be saved.
Luke 4:1-13 For forty days in the wilderness, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

March 13, 2022

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Abram believes in the Lord; God makes a covenant with Abram.
Psalm 27 I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Philippians 3:17-4:1 God will transform our humiliation into glory; stand firm in the Lord
Luke 13:31-35 Jesus laments: Jerusalem, Jerusalem the city that kills the prophets!

March 20, 2022

Isaiah 55:1-9 Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; listen to me and live.
Psalm 63:1-8 O God, you are my God, I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Our ancestors crossed the sea; they drank from Christ the rock.
Luke 13:1-9 Lessons from a tower and a fig tree; repent or you will perish.

March 27, 2022

Joshua 5:9-12 The Israelites keep Passover at Gilgal; God rolls away their disgrace.
Psalm 32 Happy are those whose sin is forgiven; be glad, rejoice in the Lord.
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 In Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away.
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The parable of the Prodigal Son; he was lost and has been found.

Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World.....Together!

January Gathering Highlights

- We gathered in Greensburg or by Zoom to begin a new year of shared ministry and mission. Rev. Curtis Paul and Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Jeannette, were installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator, respectively. While we navigated the technical problems of hybrid meetings, nonetheless, God's presence was known among us as people of hope.
- We heard reports and greeted those within the larger church in hearing from Rev. Forrest Claassen, the new Synod Executive and Rev. Doug Portz, representing the Board of Pensions.
- Our worship brought us before our God in hearing the Word proclaimed, recommissioning a group of ruling elders serving as pastors, gathering around the Lord's table presided by Rev. Blank and the remembrance of ruling elders and teaching elders from our congregations who joined the Church Triumphant in 2021.
- In our shared ministry and mission, we were challenged to consider the impact of historic policies that have contributed to the racial wealth gap, encouragement to participate in healing and prayer ministry, and an invitation to join in the upcoming mission trip.
- We celebrated the ministry and honorable retirement of Rev. Susan Blank. Having dismissed Rev. Wakeman and Rev. King, we examined and welcomed Kristen Emrick and approved her pastoral call to serve the Fort Burd and Calvin Presbyterian churches. A new pastoral call with Rev. Tondora with the Cresson and Patton congregations.

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 January, 2022

Actual Operating Income: \$5,019.45

Actual Operating Expenses: \$6,975.48

Gain/Loss: (1,310.00)



2022 Per Capita

2022 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.00**. 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

March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	2 <i>Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Service 9 AM</i>	3	4	5 <i>Happy Birthday, Jeff Vietmeier</i>
6 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> Communion	7	8 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	9 SESSION—7 PM	10	11	12
13 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday, James Estep, Jr.</i> Daylight saving time begins	14	15 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Anniv. Scott & Sandy Magley</i> <i>Happy Birthday Leif Vietmeir</i>	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i>
20 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Debra Shamble</i>	21 <i>Happy Birthday, Mara Vermillion</i>	22 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	23	24	25 <i>Happy Birthday Samuel Wheeler</i>	26
27 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday, J. Gregory Stratton</i>	28	29 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	30	31		

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