

## The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
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](http://www.ebgpresby.org)

### Facebook page:

[www.ebgpresby.org](http://www.ebgpresby.org)

*We make our own plans,  
but the Lord decides where and when we will go.*

*Proverbs 16:9 (CEV)*

It is August already! Time seems to fly away without notice. As the summer nears its end, I am sure many of you are now picking your garden produce and enjoying walks and evening sunset viewing as the sun changes its color and the weather cools down. Some of you must have traveled and enjoyed your vacations. A handful of you may have more activities and travels in August. However, a few of you might have your schedules disrupted and totally changed your plans. I hear you! I am in the same boat as you.

My travel has changed, and my plans are disrupted. It has been over a year since I planned my trip to Ethiopia. There were countless thoughts and activities planned for this trip. I was going to see my family as my father passed away in November last year. There were plans for a short Bible training for leaders, a spiritual conference for women, work on a house Apay and I started building since last year so that we have a place to stay when we go for a visit. Moreover, I was going to take water filters that were aimed to change lives. The Mission Committee's initiative that collaborated with other local churches, acquired water filters that were going to be vital for the villages' community water purification efforts to obtain pure water and improve the health of children and many in the villages.

My trip is canceled, and all of these are not going to take place, at least for this year. The folks on the ground advise me not to come to Ethiopia this year due to unrest and insecurity in the region. I have been thinking about this over and over, and about what God has for each and everyone of us. God's plans for our course of living and our plans are immutable. They are beyond our timing and planning. This reminds me of Proverbs 16:16. This verse affirms that we are, indeed, God's sheep of his pasture. He knows our going out and coming in. He decides where and when we make the move. We make the plan, but he is the executor. No wonder James brought these facts to the attention of his readers. James wants us to understand the sovereignty and providential care of God. That always we ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" James 4:13-16.

In another way, this reminds us to remain in prayer and to not be dismayed when things change and do not go the way we plan them. Thessalonians 5:16-17 expresses the "state" of continual joy and of prayer. It seems impossible to be joyful and to be in prayer always when we are overwhelmed with disruption and pain. That is true. We find ourselves more often worrying because we have bucket lists of things that burden our souls. Many things around us and around the world occupy our thoughts and make us worry and be dismayed. We are uneasy and burdened with trials and troubles. Excitement, let alone joy, sometimes seems to exist only in a rearview mirror, and we are thirsty for peace and calm. That tells us about the need for prayer. In prayer we invite God into our disruptions. Disciples had to rush to ask Jesus when their crossing the river was disrupted by wind, storm, rain, and lightning. Upon Jesus' response, there was silence, and they were at peace (Mark 4:39). In prayer, we ask God for help, assurance, and guidance in our spiritual journey. In that, we are granted of God's gift of peace that surpasses all understanding filling our hearts (Phil. 4:7). Therefore, I encourage you to always rejoice in every circumstance. Pray constantly. And always be joyful!

Happy summer!  
Pastor Owar

**-Volunteer for:**

## **Kid's Potato Patch and Mini Golf 2023**

**Saturday September 30, 2023**

There will be a planning meeting in August for Kid's Potato Patch Crafts and Activities – look for the time and date in Sunday announcements or call the church office to add your name to the committee. **Miniature Golf Course**

**Potato Fest September 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 4:00**

Outdoor Holes and Inside the church Sanctuary and Overflow Room

(Tickets Sold at the Potato Patch Tent – parking lot entrance)



**We need your help and ideas!**

### **Design or Adopt A Hole?**

Plan the layout from the tee to the hole

- plan and build obstacles to make the hole more interesting.
- If you would like, we will provide the standard platform, teeing off point, ramp and the bumpers for your layout.
- Please let us know by September 10<sup>th</sup> the theme (Including a Short Title) and general layout-size requirement along with any parts you will need.

### **Set up Thursday Evening**

Thursday September 28, 2022 from 6pm until 8pm

- haul platforms, rails, and accessories from furnace room up to main sanctuary.
- Move Furniture from overflow room and in sanctuary as needed.
- Set up holes

### **Volunteer on Saturday**

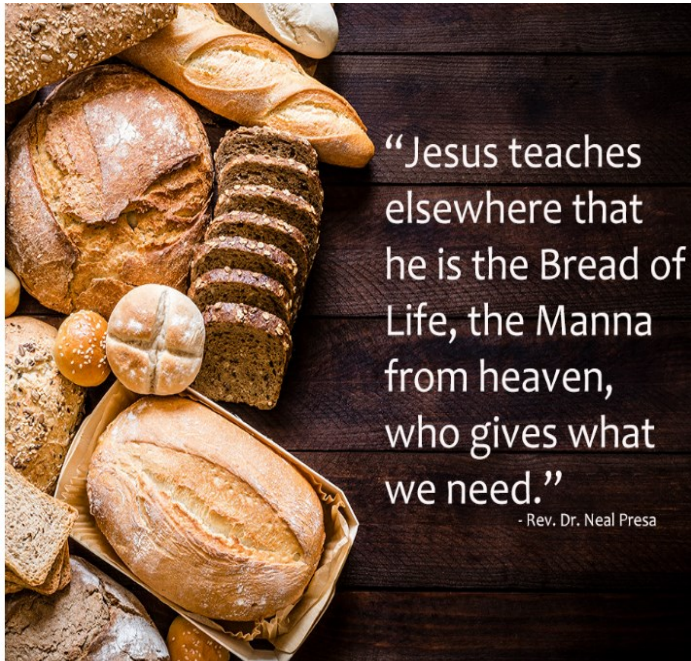
- Sign up to help sell tickets
- hand out and collect putters and balls
- Time slots available between 9 and 4
- Help tear down course and stack parts in the overflow room starting at 3:30PM
- Set up sanctuary for Sunday Service

**August 6, 2023 – Genesis 32:22-31 and Matthew 14:13-21**

July 20, 2023 by Rev. Dr. Neal Presa

Enter house left, Jacob. Enter house right, God in human form as an unnamed man. Director's rubric: wrestle until daybreak.

This well-known story of Jacob and his household crossing Jabbok and in his time of rest and reflection an unnamed man wrestled with him and he with the man. This is theatrics akin to the World Wrestling Federation. Jacob, we're told, was unrelenting in holding on to this man. As Jacob was being given the new name Israel, the unnamed man said to Jacob, "You shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Indeed, we know of Jacob's life before and after this dramatic scene – it's one of continual striving and wrestling with Laban, with Esau, with himself, with God. It's unrelenting. His was a grappling of the divine-human drama.



As with the familiar scene of Jesus and the thousands of hungry families and individuals and the disciples, there is divine-human dramatic wrestling. There's a vast crowd of hunger in front of them and the disciples only see what they see: scarce resources, the limitations of what is visibly possible, the disciples exhortation to Jesus to have him send the hungry away so they could fend for themselves. The disciples are striving/wrestling/grappling with themselves and with Jesus. Jesus, the ever compassionate and wise Teacher, grappled and strived with them. Don't lean on your fear of the scarcity, don't cast aside the hungry who are right in front of you, don't be so quick to send them away. Jesus teaches elsewhere that he is the Bread of Life (John 6:35), the Manna from heaven, who gives what we need.

God has always wrestled with humans because of our tendency towards pride, prejudice, fear, violence, greed. Had Jacob been at a revival meeting or a confessional booth, he would have had to come to God multiple times for his deception, his conflicts with his brother and his father in-law, and so much more. God wrestled with Jacob. Jesus wrestled with those who call him Teacher, who proclaim him Lord. Jesus wrestles with the reality that when thousands are hungry and his knowledgeable disciples should know better than to respond with "send the crowds away **so that** they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

The Lord has a different "so that." God has an alternative "now what." It's this: Jacob, because you have wrestled, because you have seen the face of God, you are renamed Israel, which means your life is changed forever, which means be reconciled to your brother, reckon with the truth, confess, repent, make amends, and teach your own family about the arduous and necessary work of restoring right relationships with humanity. The righting of relationships is called justice.

That's the "now what" for Jesus and his disciples. Disciples, care for and love the hungry. See to it that even when the values of Caesar and Pilate cast aside the hungry and the vulnerable, that's not the way of kingdom of God, that's not the way of Jesus Christ. Feed the hungry. Welcome them because all are welcome in the kingdom of God. Work towards re-ordering the wrong priorities and misplaced values of a world that allows so many to go hungry. The righting of systems and values towards God's kingdom goals so that all are fed is called justice.

**From the Mission Committee:**

Thanks for your generous donations to the local food  
pantry

**From the Youth Group**

**Youth Program will resume in September 2023  
Confirmation and YOUTH service is scheduled  
on Sunday, September 17, 2020**





August 5                      Jack Makosy

August 8                      Philip Rice

August 15                     Kristine Segear

August 24                     Phil Brulia

August 25                     Duane Mohney

August 27                     Mackenzie Magley DeYulis

# Presbytery of Redstone eNews

## July 27, 2023



The Redstone Mission Team has been approved for a mission work trip to St. Alban's, VA from October 22 - 28, 2023. If you would be interested in being a part of this trip, please contact Phyllis Frye for more information - [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net) or 724.468.3740.



The Nominating Committee of Redstone Presbytery is looking to fill some vacancies among various committees. If you are a Ruling Elder

interested in serving with the Presbytery, or if you have questions about serving, please contact Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter at 724.837.6767 or [executive@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:executive@redstonepresbytery.org).

Pastor and Elder Training Workshops  
Presented by Inter-Presbytery Leadership  
Formation (IPLF)



Workshops are again being offered for the Fall of 2023. Workshops include:

- Pastoral Care - August 12, 2023 - Rev. Becca Siddle, Instructor
- Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders - September 9, 2023 - Rev. Matt Camlin, Instructor
- Being and Leading Presbyterian Polity - October 14, 2023 - Rev. Randall Clow, Instructor
- Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership - November 11, 2023 - Michelle Snyder, Instructor
- Learning to "Exegete" the Community - December 9, 2023 - Rev. Dr. Scott Hagley, Instructor

All workshops are from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; are FREE; and will be offered in person at the Redstone Presbytery office along with an online option via ZOOM. To register for any of these workshops, please contact Bobbie Shaffor at Redstone Presbytery at 724.837.6737 or [secretary@redstonepresbytery.org](mailto:secretary@redstonepresbytery.org).



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**SAVE THE DATE: HENDERSON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** - September 24-26. This fall, Will Willimon will look forward at the future of congregations during the Henderson Leadership Conference at PTS. During this event, we'll ask: What is the future of small congregations (the fastest growing segment of North American Christianity)? Participants will enjoy lectures, workshops, worship, and conversations that will inspire their leadership; and receive practical, usable wisdom for giving their congregation a future. [Click here](#) for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

### HYBRID DEGREE PROGRAMS

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary **LAUNCHES HYBRID DEGREE PROGRAMS** - Beginning in fall 2023, Pittsburgh Seminary will offer all its masters and certificate programs in a hybrid format—allowing PTS to be your neighborhood seminary regardless of your neighborhood location. The Seminary's hybrid model allows students living on campus and students living at a distance to be part of one community of learning and formation. [Click here](#) to learn more about these programs.



Unity Chapel of The Latrobe Presbyterian Church, 113 Chapel Lane, Latrobe, PA 15650 - **SUMMER CONCERTS**

Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm - Beo String Quartet  
Jason Neukom ~ Violin - Sean Neukom ~ Viola - Andrew

Giordano ~ Violin - Ryan Ash ~ Cello ~ Cello

**Tickets: \$15 – General Admission**

All proceeds benefit the Westmoreland Youth Symphony Program

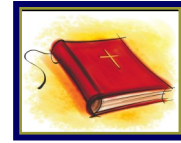
Pre-Concert performance by a Youth Symphony Member at 7:15 pm.

Post-Concert evening prayer service, 10 minutes after the concert ends.

The chapel is air-conditioned and fully handicap accessible: parking, ramp and restroom.

For more information or questions: Michael Long, Minister of Music & Organist  
[music@latrobepc.org](mailto:music@latrobepc.org) ~ 724-537-3631 X15

# Sunday Scripture Readings



**August 6, 2023**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 13**

Semicontinuous

Genesis 32:22–31

Psalm 17:1–7, 15

Jacob wrestles with a man from God, and receives a blessing.  
Visit and test me in the night, O Lord; I will behold your face.

Complementary

Isaiah 55:1–5

Psalm 145:8–9,  
14–21

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; eat and be satisfied.  
The Lord is gracious and merciful, giving food in due season.

Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:13–21

Paul struggles with the issue of Israel's relationship to the church.  
With five loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds a great multitude.

**August 13, 2023**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 14**

Semicontinuous

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Psalm 105:1–6,  
16–22, 45b

Out of jealousy, Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt.  
God sent Joseph to Egypt to save the people in a time of famine.

Complementary

1 Kings 19:9–18

Psalm 85:8–13

Romans 10:5–15

Matthew 14:22–33

Elijah hears the word of the Lord—not in the storm, but in silence.  
Let me hear what the Lord will speak; God will speak peace.  
Proclaim the word of faith: confess Jesus as Lord, and be saved.  
Jesus walks on the water to meet his disciples, and calms a storm.

**August 20, 2023**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 15**

Semicontinuous

Genesis 45:1–15

Psalm 133

Complementary

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

Matthew 15:(10–20) 21–28

Joseph is reunited with his brothers; the family will move to Egypt.  
How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

The Lord will welcome foreigners along with the outcasts of Israel.  
God's saving power is known among all the nations of the earth.  
God has not rejected Israel, but desires to show mercy to all.  
Debate about what defiles; a Canaanite woman shows great faith.

**August 27, 2023**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper**

Semicontinuous

Exodus 1:8—2:10

Psalm 124

Complementary

Isaiah 51:1–6

Psalm 138

Romans 12:1–8

Matthew 16:13–20

Pharaoh orders the drowning of Hebrew boys, but Moses is spared.  
Were the Lord not on our side, the water would have consumed us.

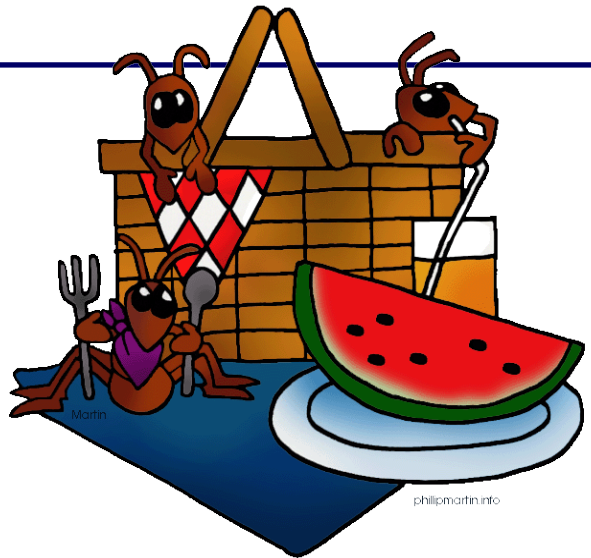
Look to the rock from which you were hewed; God will deliver.  
I sing your praise, O Lord; do not forsake the work of your hands.  
Offer yourselves to God as a living sacrifice; one body, many gifts.  
Who is Jesus? Peter answers: You are the Messiah, the Son of God.



## News from Pine Springs Camp

Several of our members joined with friends from the Presbytery of Redstone for a joint service, picnic and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Log Chapel at Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown, PA on July 16th. The rainy weather moved the service and picnic inside at the Refuge,

### Joint Worship & Picnic August



13th

### Ebensburg and Colver Congregations

Join us for worship and communion at the Colver Presbyterian Church  
Service at 10:00 AM followed by the picnic.  
Potluck with chicken provided

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 June 30, 2023

Actual Operating Income: \$ 36,254.54

Actual Operating Expenses: \$ 44,830.09

Gain/Loss: (\$ 8,575.55)



### 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

## August 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	2	3 <i>Happy Anniv. Jack &amp; Sue Makosy</i>	4	5 <i>Happy Birth- day, Jack Mo- kosy</i>
6 <i>Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</i>	7 <i>Happy Anniv. Ed Baker &amp; Carol Carlisle</i>	8 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Phillip Rice</i>	9 <i>Happy Birth- day, Ajalc Oman</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>Joint Service Worship and Pic- nic at Colver Pres- byterian Church</i>  <b>Communion</b>	14	15 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Kristine Segear</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i>
20 <i>Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</i>	21	22 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	23	24 <i>Happy Birth- day, Phil Brulia</i>	25 <i>Happy Birth- day, Duane Mohney</i>	26
27 <i>Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birth- day, Mackenzie Magley DeYulis</i>	28	29 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	30	31 <i>Happy Anniv. Susan &amp; Matt Wolfe</i>		

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
200 North Center Street  
PO Box 327  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

