

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
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:

www.ebgpresby.org

"For he is like a blazing fire refining precious metal, and he can bleach the dirtiest garments!"³ Like a refiner of silver he will sit and closely watch as the dross is burned away." (Malachi 3:2 TLB)

Gambella, is one of the regions with tropical savanna climate in Ethiopia. "The hot season lasts for 2.6 months, from January 27 to April 15, with an average daily high temperature above 97°F. The hottest month of the year in Gambēla is March, with an average high of 100°F and low of 78°F. The cool season lasts for 4.3 months, from May 30 to October 6, with an average daily high temperature below 86°F. The coldest month of the year in Gambēla is July, with an average low of 71°F and high of 83°F" (weatherspark.com).

In the months of May through August, Gambella receives an annual rainfall of 600mm or 2.66 inches. During this time everything turns green, and an elephant grass would grow more than ten feet after four months of growth. Yet, in late January, Gambella would go through a rough and rigorous process and things start to change again. With the heat starting to climb, the grass begins to dry, here and there people begin to witness pockets of fire throughout the savanna. People of the area clear the savanna for two reasons: make it accessible for hunting, collect firewood, or/and to **help the savanna regenerate and regrow fresh grass for their livestock.**

It was my first time traveling in the month of January to Gambella in my fifteen years in America. And seeing the burning tall grass of savanna became new to me. Beside seeing my old habit of fishing for redtails during this season, witnessing a burning savanna became fresh to my memory. It was late afternoon, and we were coming back from the village where my dad was buried. Suddenly, I saw dark smoke and birds of prey hovering over, hunting for flying insects on flight from the fire. Oh wow! I was awestruck! These are my childhood experiences, where we would go hunting for small animals. Yet, "my father has been renewed through his death," flashed through my mind. And I was also reminded of Malachi's text as well.

The Bible uses fire as a symbol of purification, renewal, and transformation. The concept of the "refiner's fire" is used to describe the process of spiritual purification that we undergo as believers. God as a refiner, purifies his people through fire, separating them from impurities and refining them like gold and silver. This process comes in different forms, including spiritual tests, challenges, and trials, and reveals our spiritual identity and trust in Christ as we endure, mature in faith, and develop a heart that is eager to serve God. Paul said, "we can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance" (Romans 5: 1-5)

(continued on page 2)

Fire doesn't only destroy but also renews and brings newness. One way to endure and renew our relationship with God, is to draw near to God. As we approach Lent season, let us open our hearts; "rend" our hearts "not" our "garments," as Joel called upon Israel to renew their covenantal relationship with their God (Joel 2:13). Let us give up anything that might have hindered us to seek God's face. God is ready to make such "dross" fall off in the process of renewal and we claim victory with Jesus on Easter morning.

Pastor Owar Ojulu



Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...Together!

January Gathering Highlights

- In our annual meeting of the ecclesiastical and corporation of the Presbytery of Redstone, we were pleased to be hosted by First Presbyterian, Johnstown in “spring-like” weather. Presbyters from across the four counties and around the world (Ethiopia) joined us for the gathering. Rev. Noftzger proclaimed the Word, Rev. Teshome presided at the Table, and we were led in music by First Presbyterian Church choir.
- New leadership of Moderator Len Morgan and Vice Moderator Susan Keaney were installed to begin their service. Ruling Elders serving in particular pastoral service were re-commissioned for the upcoming year. We celebrated five-year anniversary intervals for Ministers of Word and Sacrament in our Presbytery. During memorial report, we honored all those faithful elders who joined the Church Triumphant in 2023.
- **Through another video journey with “On the Road with Redstone,” we caught a glimpse into the ministry that God has and is doing at the Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell.**
- Pine Springs Camp ministry shared their news both about upcoming retreats with Winter ReMix and Women in the Woods, along with prayer requests for the Summer 2024 program.
- **As a Presbytery, we were pleased to hear of the report from the Grace Community Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee and the congregation with their desire to call Rev. Owar Ojulu to serve as their next installed pastor. The Presbytery was excited and pleased to approve this pastoral call, giving thanks to God for the Lord’s leading.**
- We had opportunity to hear about the mission work and support of the host congregation and all local church mission teams were encouraged to share their activities through the Presbytery shared database, using the Google form.
- **With the start of 2024, we begin the 20 year anniversary of our the partnership between Redstone and the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. Partnership stories were told and will be celebrated throughout this year.**

ENRICHMENT DAY
PRESBYTERIAN LEADERS & MEMBERS
AT WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - JOHNSTOWN
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024

10:15 - 11:15	Clerks of Session Review of 2023 Session Minutes.	
11:15 - 11:40	Registration & Refreshments.	Presbytery & WPC
11:40 - 12:00	Opening Worship	Rev. Hyiwot Teshome
12:10 - 12:25	Pine Springs Camp Update	Greg Davis
12:30 - 12:45	Introduction of Classes	Rev. Bernard Nti
12:45 - 1:45	Session #1	
1:45 - 2:00	Break for Fellowship and Snacks	
2:00 - 3:00	Session #2	
3:00 - 3.15	Closing gathering	Rev. Skip Noftzger

ENRICHMENT DAY CLASSES

Picture Tour of Mission Trip to Ghana	Students from PTS
Training for Elders and Deacons	Rev. Skip Noftzger
Dealing with Conflicts Creatively and Biblically	???
Introduction and Life Story	Rev. SaraEllen Sadler
How the Church Can Thrive in Tough Times	Rev. Alice Tondora
Faith and Life Story/Discipleship	Pastor Bob Sheehan
Healthy Boundaries	Presbytery

Cost is Free. Each church or volunteers can contribute a food item for refreshments if able.

Pre-Registration:

We need an idea of numbers for snacks, handouts, and room assignments.

To pre-register: Phone Westmont Presbyterian (814) 536-0796 and say: "Our church is _____. We think (#) will likely attend."

Also, try to have your participants fill out the list below.

Courses I think I will take: Name _____ Church _____

Session #1	Session #2
_____ A. Picture Tour of Mission Trip to Ghana	_____ A. Picture Tour of the Holy Land
_____ B. Training for Elders and Deacons	_____ B. Training for Elders and Deacons
_____ C. Dealing with Conflicts	_____ C. Dealing with Conflicts
_____ D. Introduction and Life Story	_____ D. Introduction and Life Story
_____ E. How the Church Can Thrive in Tough Times	_____ E. How the Church Can Thrive in Tough Times
_____ F. Faith & Life Story/Discipleship	_____ F. Faith & Life Story/Discipleship
_____ G. Healthy Boundaries	_____ G. Healthy Boundaries

Babysitting available? Please call 814-536-0796

Mail this registration form to:

By Monday, February 6, 2023

www.westmontpc.org

Westmont Presbyterian Church

601 Luzerne St. Johnstown, PA 15905

Pass the word! You don't have to be a Presbyterian to participate.

Ebensburg Presbyterian: If you would like to go, email or call the office. We can register together and carpool if desired.

What's Happening...

The Ebensburg Session met on January 8, 2024, with CRE (commissioned ruling elder) Bob Sheehan serving as moderator while Rev. Owar was in Ethiopia. Bob Sheehan filled our pulpit during January and will also fill it in the month of March as Rev. Owar transitions to his new role as full time pastor at Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell, PA. Our church will continue to work with the Presbyterian leadership to explore pastoral options moving forward. Timely exchanges of information between the Session and congregation remains instrumental to a successful outcome.

Prayer, a Bible reading from James 3: 13-18 and approving the agenda were followed by reading about Christ's ministry in the book of order and approving minutes from December Session and Congregation meetings. Then the Treasurer's report was received.

Committee reports included:

Discipleship: A brief discussion about communicants was held.

Family Life: An Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Communion Service is scheduled for February 14th at 9 AM. Our sister churches will be invited to attend.

Mission: We continue to evaluate projects for this year.

Property Management reported that the boilers will be adjusted following the heating season.

Worship: Communion is scheduled for Jan. 28, Feb. 14, Mar.3, and Mar. 28 with other dates to be determined. Collecting the offering during worship was discussed.

New Business saw several actions:

1. Jim Stratton was elected as Stated Clerk.
2. Kris Segear and Laura McGill were elected Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer respectively.
3. Amy Brulia and Judy Carl were elected counters, with Aric Bracken elected as a substitute counter.
4. Judy Carl was elected as our representative to Presbytery for the January 27th meeting.
5. The committees were reformed as follows:

Budget & Finance, Stewardship: Scott Magley and Kris Segear - co-chairs

Discipleship: Jim Stratton and Kevin McKenrick - co-chairs

Family Life: Judy Carl and Aric Bracken - co-chairs

Mission: Martha O'Brien and Amy Brulia – co-chairs

Personnel / Communication / Nominating: Roger McGill – chair

Property – Aric Bracken - chair

Worship – Becky Bracken – chair

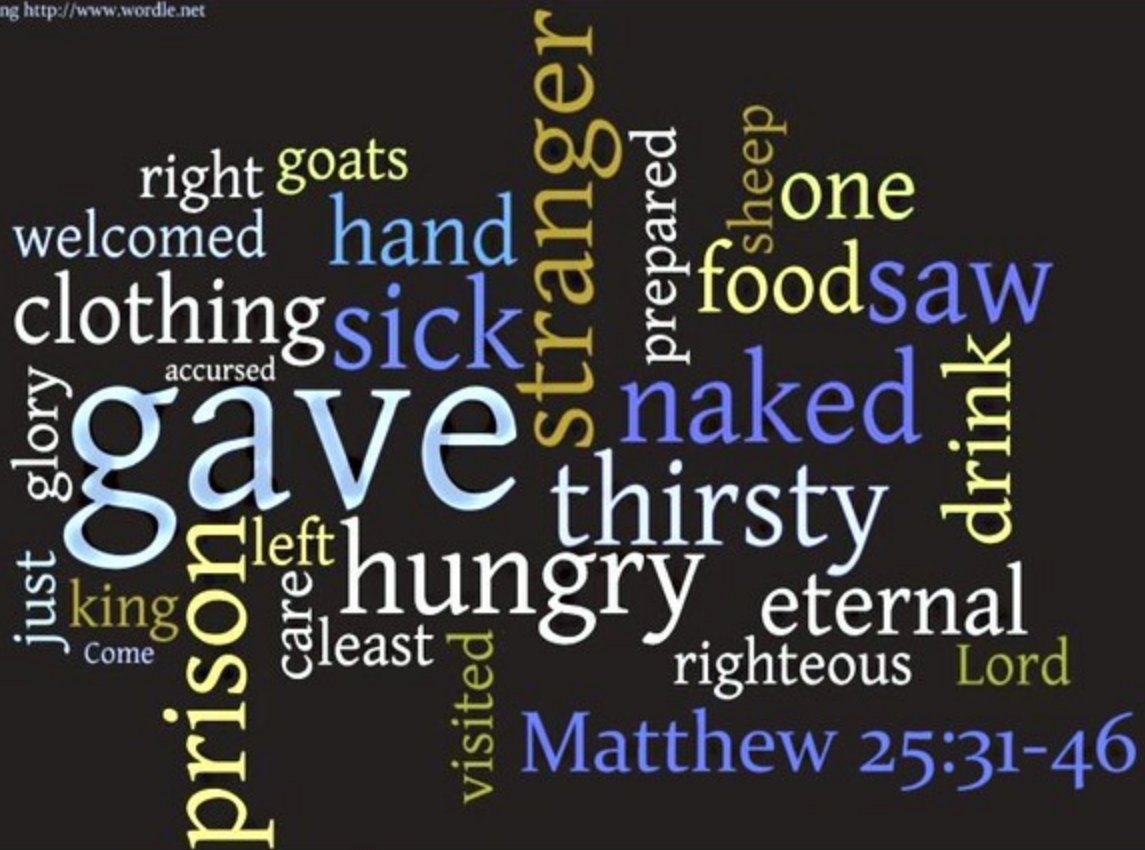
The meeting adjourned with prayer.

The next stated Session Meeting will be held on Mon. February 12 at 7 pm.

From the Mission Committee:

We will be collecting donations for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Ebsenburg on February 18th and 25th

Created using <http://www.wordle.net>



Boy Scout Troop 2095 of Patton is hosting a craft and vendor show March 23. Vendors that are interested in more information should send an email to

bsatrop2095@gmail.com.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**You are invited to join us for our 2024 Ash Wednesday
breakfast and fellowship.**

**It will be held at 9:00 AM February 14th in the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church social hall.**

To help us know the number attending, please sign up by placing this form in the offering plate, or by emailing or calling the Ebensburg church office at (814) 472-6920 by noon Monday, February 12th.

_____ (name) will attend the
Ash Wednesday breakfast.

_____ number attending.

I can help with:

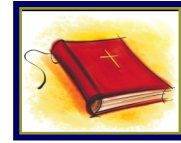
_____ Preparation

_____ Clean up

WE NEED YOU

Please fill out the volunteer form available at church or on our website:
www.ebgpresby.org

Sunday Scripture Readings



February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Color: Green

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

Have you not heard? The Lord strengthens those who are weak.

Sing praise to the Lord, who gathers, heals, and feeds us.

Paul says: Everything I do is for the sake of proclaiming the gospel.

Jesus heals many people; in the morning he steals away to pray.

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of the Lord

Color: White

Lectionary Readings

2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalm 50:1–6

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

After crossing the Jordan, Elijah ascends to heaven in a chariot.

From the storm and fire, God calls: Gather up my faithful ones.

We know the glory of God through the face of Jesus Christ.

On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

or Isaiah 58:1–12

Psalm 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.

The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.

Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!

Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 9:8–17

Psalm 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

God's covenant with Noah: I will never again flood the whole earth.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin.

The flood of former days prefigures the sacrament of baptism.

After his baptism, Jesus is tested in the wilderness for forty days

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalm 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

Mark 8:31–38

or Mark 9:2–9

God's covenant with Abraham: I will make of you a great nation.

In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.

Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness by God.

Jesus says: Deny yourselves; take up your cross and follow me.

On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured



February 1	Max Magley
February 3	Susan Makosy
February 3	Marsha Krug
February 7	Tim Forberger
February 15	Jamie Mazzarella
February 17	Eva Vietmier
February 23	Laurel Lyons
February 25	Amy Brulia
February 28	Jani McKenrick Stratton

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



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of December 31, 2023

Actual Operating Income: \$ 77,797.37

Actual Operating Expenses: \$ 78,810.55

Gain/Loss: (\$1,013.18)



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

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<i>1</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Max Magley</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Susan Makosy,</i> <i>Marsha</i> <i>Krug</i>
<i>4</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tim Forberger</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Session—7 PM</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Happy Anniversary:</i> <i>Jim & Laurel Lyons</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Breakfast & Ser-</i> <i>vice 9 am</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <i>NA Business</i> <i>Meeting -</i> <i>9:45 AM</i>
<i>18</i> <i>First Sunday of</i> <i>Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>19</i> <i>President's Day</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Laurel Lyons</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Amy Brulia</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jani McKenrick</i> <i>Stratton</i>	<i>29</i>		

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