

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

July 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

Facebook page:

www.ebgpresby.org

It is in the wake of the Fourth of July, and the last Sunday in June, that I prepare my sermon on the story of Abraham's attempt to offer his only Son, Isaac (*Genesis 22:1-14*). Like the story of Abraham attempting the impossible, it seems insane for the revolutionaries deciding to take on England and the King for their independence and freedom.

The revolutionaries were less in number, lacked training, resources and their chain of governance was officially unorganized. Yet, they prevailed. Their mystery was their commitment, trust, and strength in their faith, that they were indeed fighting for their right and the cause of justice.

It is the nature of faith and Christian journey that we step forward trusting God's guidance and provision. Like Abraham, we're called to trust, obey and go the distance, though it seems impossible. Abraham embarked on a three-day journey yet didn't see God intervening until the last moment when he reached for the knife and was about to sacrifice the only thing he had,—Isaac his Son. At that moment the Angel of God shouted to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Lay down the knife; don't hurt the lad in any way..." God was convinced, Abraham became a trusted partner and a friend of God; "for I know that God is first in your life—you have not withheld even your beloved son from me," said the Lord.

What God had asked of Abraham was the hardest thing we could imagine—sacrificing his only son. He was asked to go the distance. You can imagine the many thoughts running through his mind for all those three days and three nights. Yet, he did. This is what it means to trust in God who is present before us and asks of us unconceivable loyalty.

Like Abraham and the revolutionaries, you might be going through some challenging times with perplexing thoughts while you're making a lasting decision. But are you willing to go the distance? Do you believe that God would provide for our needs? Remember, God asks and does this for his own Name's sake. He cannot give up on you, as he promised Israel, saying, "how can I give you up, my Ephraim? How can I let you go? How can I forsake you like Admah (*dust*) and Zeboiim? (*Valley of hyenas*). My heart cries out within me; how I long to help you!" Hosea 11:8

God is always near to helps us with our weaknesses. He is our strength and provider. As the scriptures testify to us, the Lord won't give you a test that is beyond the level of your faith: no temptation has overtaken you except what is common to everyone. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, the Lord himself will provide a way out, like he did for Abraham, so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 13:10

Remember, no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. Like Abraham and the revolutionaries, let us trust in the strength of God, believe him in all our decisions, and take a leap to go the distance for our faith. The Lord needs you to heed the call to follow, serve and abide in him.

Happy Fourth!
Pastor Owar

From the Mission Committee

According to a May 31st CBS news report on food insecurity in the U.S, “Anti-hunger advocates say the U.S. is facing an “unprecedented” rise in food insecurity amid persistently high inflation in the grocery aisle and cuts to the food-stamp program earlier this year.” And cuts to the food-stamp program earlier this year [reduced benefits](#) at a time when groceries are 20% costlier than two years ago. That caused food insecurity to jump to “unprecedented levels” in May among food-stamp recipients, according to a [new survey](#) from Propel, which makes an app for beneficiaries to check balances for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, (formerly known as food stamps).”

What can we do to help? The Mission Committee will be collecting funds for the local food pantry during July. Please designate food pantry on the memo line of a check or use the envelopes included in the bulletins this month.



God requires patience, whether its in tending tomatoes or our lives

June 21, 2023 by Rev. Philip Beck

There is an unofficial, but very competitive race where I live in western Pennsylvania. For home gardeners, it is the race for the first home-grown ripe tomato. The goal is to have your first ripe tomato by July 4th and, of course, bragging rights with all the other neighbors. The first person to harvest that beauty is sure to post a picture on social media and expound on the loveliness of that first ripe tomato.

Many of us will do what we can to have the early tomato. We might gauge the weather and decide to risk it and plant early. We have different tricks to warm up the plant in the late spring and early summer to encourage it to grow more quickly. Varieties like “Early Girl” and “July Fourth” are planted, all promising to be early in production.

I do have to say that most years, in fact, almost every year, the ripe tomato by the Fourth of July is not to be. Most years, the tomatoes don't begin to ripen until late July. Yet, when the time comes, it is typically a bumper crop of ripe tomatoes.

I wonder if this is a chance for us to learn and grow as the church. I wonder if the first ripe tomato is a lesson for us individually as well. I wonder if in our fast-paced culture, with orders to our door the next day, grocery shopping from our homes, and messages that come in both day and night that pushes us to respond immediately; I wonder if there is there a place for community, congregation, and church in the midst of an “I want it now” society? A place and people that do not push but hold fast to the promise that abundance will come in due season.



No matter the speed, desire, or want, in due season, when the time is right, God comes. I wonder if the church can model a different way that allows for breath and rest, a time for silence and prayer, and a time for worship and music. That we model a non-anxious presence that is counter to a world where we have to respond right now, everything is a crisis mentality. I wonder if we can pass on to our communities and those who connect with us in worship and the myriad of other ways that expectant waiting, loving presence and thoughtfulness of action and reply are important.

The disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem after Christ's ascension. In time, the promised advocate would come. So they waited and worshiped and ministered — until the Holy Spirit arrived, in God's time.

We are called into the ministry of Jesus Christ, but we cannot make God speed up or slow down the time and timing. We might be impatient, we might ask when, like the Psalmist, “How long O Lord, how long?” or like those in exile in Babylon who wanted to return immediately, but were told by the prophet Jeremiah, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:4-7 NRSV).

In God's time, God's action and presence will be made known.

In time, the tomato harvest comes. Soon home gardeners in western Pennsylvania and other areas will be enjoying the delights of a tomato fresh from the garden. In time, the harvest comes for the church as well. In God's time. Until then, we tend, we water, we breathe, we worship, we sing, we pray, we expectantly wait, knowing that we are the beloved of God. May the blessings of God who comes in God's time be with you.

May you enjoy the first ripe tomato — I will be having mine on some toasted white bread with mayonnaise and a little salt and pepper.

What's Happening...

The Session opened their June 12th meeting with a reading of Galatians 6: 9-10: So, let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued with doing good ... let us work for the benefit of all. Prayer followed.

The agenda was approved and the book of order training was about leadership in worship and ordered ministries and shared responsibilities. The May minutes were approved. Then, the treasurer's report was given.

Committee reports included the following:

Discipleship reported that the members of the Communicant's Class will join the church during the September 17th worship service.

Family life provided refreshments for the May Presbytery meeting and prepared breakfast for Pentecost.

Mission gave a report on the Cambria-Gambella Collaboration meeting. Possible projects and a trip to Ethiopia were discussed.

The Pastor/Parish committee reported that Colver will host our joint service and picnic in August.

Property Management had good news. The water pipe into the church is copper, not lead and does not need to be replaced. Also, recent electrical problems were traced to a tripped breaker.

Worship- The committee proposed developing an online survey to help to determine why church members and friends have stopped attending and supporting our church.

It was MSP to receive the committee reports.

In Old Business, regarding the Major Repair Project for the windows, it was decided to not accept the agreement with ServPro and repair only the windows that face south. Only \$3650 has been collected, which is far short of the \$76,000 estimate to repair all the windows. A new contractor is being obtained to do the repair work.

In New Business, several items were considered.

An outside workday for the church grounds will be Saturday June 17th.

It was MSP to allow the borough to use our parking lot for Wheels & Wings on Thursday June 22.

Joint Worship Service and Picnic at Pine Springs Camp is scheduled for July 16th. We will not hold a service at Ebensburg on that Sunday.

It was MSP to change the date of communion from August 6th to August 13th. Rev. Skip Noftzger will officiate.

It was MSP to again have our Potato Patch and mini-golf during the Potato Fest on September 30th.

In the Moderator's Report, Pastor Ojulu gave thanks for leadership, time, and resource given by the elders. Contacts with members and shut-ins were noted. The pastor continues to serve the community and the larger church with various activities. His vacation is planned from Jul. 31-Aug. 31.

The Session will not have regular scheduled meetings during July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023.

From our family of Redstone Presbytery



Are you a
Ruling Elder
who God might
be leading to
greater
service?

**CONSIDER JOINING
THE INTER-
PRESBYTERY
LEADERSHIP
FORMATION
PROGRAM.**

**CONTACT REDSTONE
PRESBYTERY OFFICE.**

**724.837.6737
executive@
redstonepresbytery.org**

Addiction Ministry Network Project for National Recovery Month

Each September is designated as National Recovery Month throughout the U.S. where stories of addiction recovery are shared and celebrated. The month is intended to help individuals make the difficult decision about entering treatment.

The Addiction Ministry Network in cooperation with the HOPE IN A BAG Project are once again joining together to provide support to individuals who are entering treatment and we are asking your congregation to participate in this project. Making the choice to enter treatment for addiction is a big step. Unfortunately, many people try to "get clean" without the simple things like soap, razors, or a toothbrush. The Addiction Ministry Network of Redstone Presbytery is sponsoring a presbytery-wide collection by asking congregations to contribute some or all the items listed below and bring them to our Presbytery meeting on September 26 in Latrobe.

Your congregation can decide to concentrate by supplying a small or large amount of two or three of the items below or you can collect multiple sets of all the items. Either decision your congregation makes will be a blessing to this project. In recognition of National Recovery Month, we ask you to bring the items you have collected to the Presbytery meeting in Latrobe on September 26. Attached is a [bulletin insert](#) to share with your congregation.

Please consider donating the following items for recovery:

Small bible ~ Pens and pencils ~ Journals ~ Playing Cards ~ Daily Devotionals, old copies are fine, i.e., Upper Room, Daily Bread ~ Shampoo/Conditioner
Toothbrushes ~ Toothpaste ~ Deodorant ~ Razors ~ Feminine hygiene products
Soap/Body wash ~ Dental floss ~ Nail clippers ~ Q-tips ~ Small blankets
Hardtack candies

For further information or assistance, e-mail redstonetogether@gmail.com

Addiction Ministry Network
of the Presbytery of
Redstone and

HOPE IN A BAG



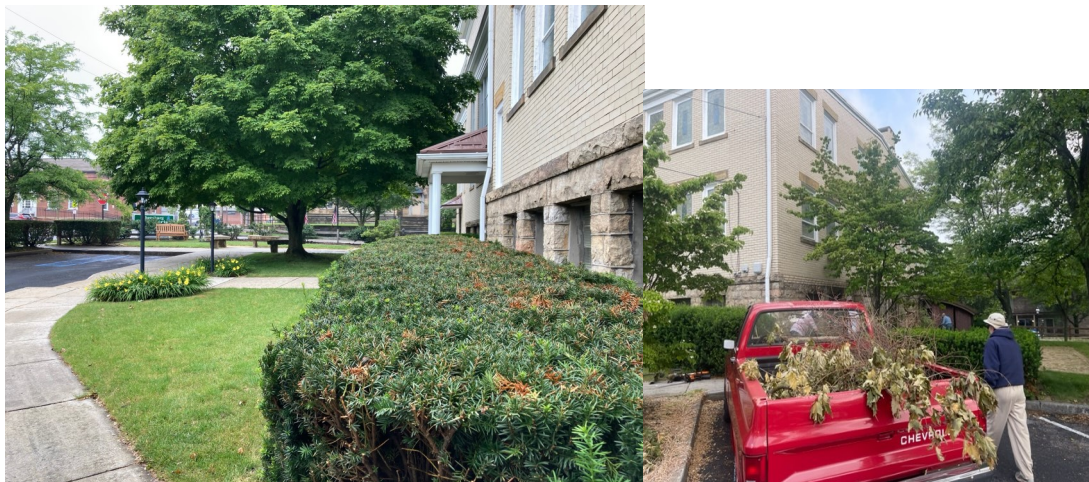


Judy, Aric, and Kris greeted customers.

Thanks to everyone who baked, donated beverages, and helped at our parking lot booth for Wheels & Wings. It was a great success! Despite the cool temperature (for the 2nd day of summer), wind and drizzle, we had a great time. The last minute addition of coffee and hot chocolate to our beverages was a big hit, and the baked goods were going fast.

Church Grounds Clean-up

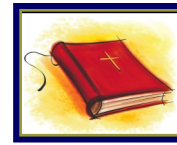
Thanks to the church members and friends who showed up with rakes, saws, weed whackers and trucks on Saturday June 17th to help spruce up the outside of our church. It looks great!





July 1	Bill Carlisle, Sr.
July 7	Bennett Vaughn
July 8	Walter Feath
July 13	Marcus Magley
July 16	Luke Vietmeir
July 26	Richard "Nik" Nikolishen
July 28	Judy Carl
July 29	Pat Mohnney
July 30	Aric Bracken

Sunday Scripture Readings



July 2, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 8

Semicontinuous

Genesis 22:1–14 Obeying God, Abraham prepares to sacrifice his son Isaac.
Psalm 13 How long, O Lord? Still I trust in your steadfast love.

Complementary

Jeremiah 28:5–9 Jeremiah speaks to Hananiah about the promises of prophets.
Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18 I sing of God's steadfast love, God's covenant with David.
Romans 6:12–23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life in Christ.
Matthew 10:40–42 Jesus sends disciples: whoever welcomes you welcomes me.

July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 9

Semicontinuous

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67 Isaac finds a wife, Rebekah, in the homeland of his father.
Psalm 45:10–17 A royal love song; come with joy to the palace of the king.
or Song of Solomon 2:8–13 One lover calls to another: Arise, my love, and come away.

Complementary

Zechariah 9:9–12 Rejoice, O people; the humble king is coming to set you free.
Psalm 145:8–14 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love.
Romans 7:15–25a Paul confesses his inner conflict with sin; only God can save.
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30 Jesus says: Come to me; my yoke is easy, my burden is light.

July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 10

Semicontinuous

Genesis 25:19–34 Esau trades his birthright to Jacob for bread and lentil stew.
Psalm 119:105–112 Your word is a lamp to my feet; I have promised to observe it.

Complementary

Isaiah 55:10–13 The word of the Lord will go forth to flourish and bear fruit.
Psalm 65:(1–8) 9–13 Praise is due to God, who blesses the earth with abundance.
Romans 8:1–11 The Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death.
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 Jesus tells and explains the parable of the sower and the seeds.

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 11

Semicontinuous

Genesis 28:10–19a Jacob dreams of a ladder and hears the promise of the Lord.
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24 O Lord, you have searched me; if I ascend to heaven you are there.

Complementary

Isaiah 44:6–8 I am the first and last, says the Lord; there is no god besides me.
Psalm 86:11–17 O Lord, give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
Romans 8:12–25 The whole creation waits for redemption with the children of God.
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 Another parable of the kingdom; weeds grow among the wheat.

July 30, 2023

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 12

Semicontinuous

Genesis 29:15–28 Tricked by Laban, Jacob first marries Leah, then Rachel.
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b Children of Jacob, give thanks for the promise of the Lord.
or Psalm 128 The one who fears the Lord will enjoy progeny and prosperity.

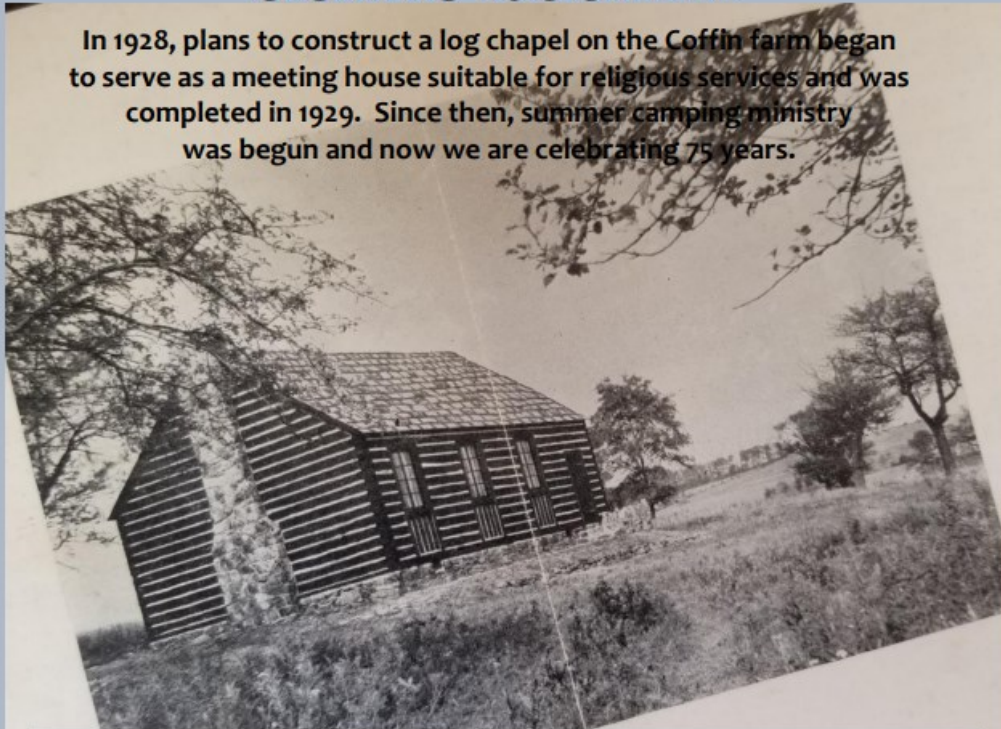
Complementary

1 Kings 3:5–12 The young king Solomon asks God for wisdom and discernment.
Psalm 119:129–136 Your law is wonderful; the unfolding of your words gives light.
Romans 8:26–39 The Spirit helps us; nothing can separate us from God's love.
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52 God's kingdom is like a tiny seed, yeast, a treasure, a pearl, a net.

REDSTONE @ PSC

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP PICNIC JULY 16; 10:00 A.M. C. C. HAYS LOG CHAPEL

In 1928, plans to construct a log chapel on the Coffin farm began to serve as a meeting house suitable for religious services and was completed in 1929. Since then, summer camping ministry was begun and now we are celebrating 75 years.



**JOIN US AS A CONGREGATION OR FAMILIES OR AS
INDIVIDUALS IN THIS CELEBRATION IN THE STYLE OF
THE EARLIEST MINISTRY AT CAMP.**

(bring your lawn chairs for outdoor seating)

RSVP—PRESBYTERY CENTER

724.837.6737 or secretary@redstonepresbytery.org

This will be our worship service for July 16 at Pine Springs Camp. Please join us. We need to send a number coming from our Congregation so let us know if you will be attending, and also if you need, or can provide a ride. Please call the church office or sign up at the worship service July 2nd or 9th. The service begins at 10:00 AM, so we need to leave at 9 AM. Anyone who signs up to ride or give a ride please meet at the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church parking lot at 8:50AM.

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

Actual Operating Income: \$ 29,482.23

Actual Operating Expenses: \$ 35,117.55

Gain/Loss: (\$ 5,635.32)



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

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Happy Birthday, Bill Carlisle, Sr</i>
2 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> Communion	3	4 Independence Day  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	5	6	7 <i>Happy Birthday, Bennett Vaughn</i>	8 <i>Happy Birthday, Walter Feath</i>
9 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Happy Anniv. Herman & Judy Carl</i>	10	11 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	12	13 <i>Happy Birth- day, Marcus Magley</i>	14	15 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i> <i>Happy Anniv. Tim & Kristy Forberger</i>
16 <i>Joint Worship Service & Picnic 10:00 AM Log Chapel Pine Springs Camp</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Luke Vietmeir</i>	17 <i>Happy Anniv. Tim & Debra Shamble, Owar & Apay Ojulu</i>	18 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i>	24	25 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	26 <i>Happy Birthday, “Nik” Nikolishen</i>	27	28 <i>Happy Birthday, Judy Carl</i>	29 <i>Happy Birthday, Pat Mohney</i>
30 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Aric Bracken</i>	31					

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