

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

**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
(in search)

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](http://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch)

Have pity upon me and take away the awful stain of my transgressions. Wash me, cleanse me from this guilt. Let me be pure again. For I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night. Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Ps. 51

It’s March! We begin to experience new life in March in our physical sphere by beginning to wear lighter clothing, for instance. In the spiritual sphere, we continue to be conscious of Lent and our journey of drawing near for a spiritual renewal. “If we claim to be Christian, we must be like Christ” said John Stott, in his small book titled “Radical Discipline: *Some neglected Aspects of our calling.*”

Many of us must be aware of the problem of identity theft. Identity theft happens through your credit card, driver license and anything that contains your personal information. It happens when your identity is being compromised and someone claims to be you because they hijacked some information that represents your identity. *Identity theft can also happen in the spiritual realm.* Sin distorts our desires, and the devil steals our identity to kill and destroy our spirits and relationship with God, but Christ presents to us how our identity can be restored (John 10:10).

Think of the people you know of or might have heard about who had trodden different paths but became change agents after they found their identity in Christ. Apostle Paul was one of them. He was a persecutor of the Christian church but later claimed that his old self was crucified with Jesus and wore a new self and walked in the newness of Christlikeness (Galatians 2:20). What about Charles Colson, who was given the name “evil genius” and mastermind of the Watergate scandal. When he was put behind bars, Mr. Colson became a born-again Christian and founded Prison Fellowship Ministries, Justice Fellowship, the Break Point radio show and founded a research and networking center for Christian apologists. He lived life filled with dedication, renewal, inspiration and continued to spread the gospel of salvation until his death. Another was Michael Franzese. Born into the Colombo Crime Family of Brooklyn, Mr. Franzese dropped out of university and followed in the footsteps of his notorious father, Colombo Underboss John “Sonny.” Convicted of racketeering, extortion, counterfeiting and jailed many times, Mr. Franzese found his stolen identity in Christ and left the Mob life. He was born into— *a new person* in Christ. He later founded “Breaking Out Foundation” and continued to tour colleges and Churches, sharing his new life experience to inspire young adults and empower seminarians.

“For I admit my shameful deed—it haunts me day and night...Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires,” was the cry for restoration from the psalmist and everyone. David acknowledged his guilt and his inability to restore a right relationship with God. He needed God. We need God. We are encouraged to admit our wrong deeds, ask God for forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration. We are Christians because we humble ourselves every day and surrender our wrongful wishes and desires to the power of the Holy Spirit as we are continually being sanctified from within.

The remedy to claim your identity is to acknowledge your sins and sincerely repent from your old path and walk in Christlikeness. And godliness and Christlikeness is an internal work of the Holy Spirit that brings regeneration of our human spirit to Christ-centered Christian living. Through these forty days we humble ourselves so that we may be reformed, restored and renewed in Christ. Be encouraged to take steps every day for a spiritual renewal and let us be reminded of God's assurance of presence as we journey through Lent toward Easter.



Pastor Owar

From the Mission Committee:

You shall be called Repairers of the breach— Isaiah 58

One Great Hour of Sharing

We will be collecting an offering for OGHS on Palm Sunday,
April 2

Fish Banks are available at the church.

Checks can be made out to our church with OGHS on the
memo line.

There will also be envelopes with the bulletin on Palm Sunday.
Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and sup-
port for the poor and oppressed.



What's Happening...

The February 13th meeting of the Session of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church opened with prayer and a reading from Luke 9:46-50. Praying and caring for others is caring for Jesus

The agenda was approved. The January 9th Session minutes and the January 29th Congregational minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was received, followed by the committee reports.

Discipleship reported that the Young Disciples continue to work on a project for those not able to attend in person.

Family Life- The Ash Wednesday Service and breakfast is February 22. Several sister churches are invited to join us.

Property Management After discussion, it was MSP to enter into a contract with Servpro for the replacement of the current window covering and sill at the revised cost of \$76,000. Fund raising efforts will begin to defer some of the costs from our investments

It was MSP to receive the reports.

In New Business:

1. The session approved removing several names from the membership roll at their request.
2. The session declined a request from a Gideon representative to speak at worship.

Communications from Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly:

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training is scheduled for March 4th in Westmont. The statistical report for 2022 was approved. We discussed our responsibilities for hosting Presbytery of Redstone meeting on May 23. This will be an evening meeting.

In the Moderator's Report, Pastor Owar commented about difficulties with email communications. The cancellation of communion for February 5th was approved.

A few items from the Clerk included : a recent visit with a member, a letter of thanks to Dave Lamar for plowing the parking lot, and transfer of several members from inactive to active.

The next Session meeting is Monday April 13th. The meeting adjourned with prayer.



 **Happy** 
St. Patrick's Day



LENT



*Journeying ROUGH
LENT=EASTER*



Youth Bell Choir

Bell Choir has started practicing for Easter. Practice is every Sunday following the service.



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

Please notify the church to update your information for the Church records.

Rev. Ojulu will be on a study leave from March 14th thru 20th .

*For any question please contact James Stratton or one of the ruling elders.
Thank you*



Pray for Ukraine.

Pray for the world.



March 5

Jeff Vietmeier

March 13

James Estep, Jr.

March 15

Leif Vietmeier

March 20

Debra Shamble

March 21

Mara Vermillion

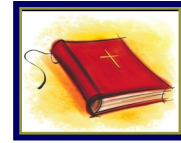
March 25

Samuel Wheeler

March 27

J. Gregory Stratton

Sunday Scripture Readings



March 5, 2023

Genesis 12:1–4a
tions.

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

John 3:1–17
it.

or Matthew 17:1–9
ured.

Romans 5:12–19

Matthew 4:1–11

The Lord says to Abram: I will make you a blessing to the na-

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Consider Abraham; the promise of God depends on faith.

Those who seek God's kingdom must be born of water and Spir-

On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfig-

Sin and death came from Adam; grace and life come from Christ.

Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness and is tested by the devil.

March 12, 2023

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

The people thirst and quarrel; God gives them water from a rock.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, the rock of our salvation.

Justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.

March 19, 2023

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

Samuel anoints David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be king.

The Lord is my shepherd; I will live in the house of God always.

Live as children of light; awake and rise, Christ will shine on you.

Jesus heals a man born blind; the Pharisees question him about sin

March 26, 2023

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6–11

John 11:1–45

In a valley of dry bones, Ezekiel has a vision of hope for Israel.

Out of the depths I cry; the Lord has power to forgive and redeem.

Set your mind on the Spirit, not the flesh; God will give you life.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, raises Lazarus from the dead.

Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World.....Together!

January Gathering Highlights

- **With the beginning of a new calendar year, the Presbytery conducted its corporation meeting, installed the Moderator Dawn Sherwood and Vice Moderator Len Morgan, established voting members of the Presbytery and re-commissioned ruling elders serving in particular pastoral service.**
- In our worship together, we have begun to consider the “Great Ends” beginning with the ***“proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.”*** We were led in music by the Westminster choir and gathered at the table under the leadership of Rev. Jenn Frayer-Griggs, pastor of the host congregation. We remembered the elders and ministers who joined the Church Triumphant in 2022.
- **Westminster and Community representatives shared their own stories of mission. Upcoming short-term mission trips to West Virginia and to Kentucky were promoted (if interested contact Presbytery office). We heard about the exciting plans for the 75th anniversary of Pine Springs Camp.**
- The Committee on Ministry recognized ordination anniversaries in 2023, based upon five-year intervals. ALICE training for critical incident preparation will be taking place within the Presbytery divided by districts. Look for the one in your area.
- **Union Presbyterian PNC introduced Rev. Robert Ruefle as their pastoral candidate. Bob was examined on the floor of the Presbyter and his pastoral call to Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville was affirmed.**

Next Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 - In Person at West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, Irwin, 6:00 p.m. This will also be a ZOOM meeting

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 31, 2023

Actual Operating Income: \$ 4,937.06

Actual Operating Expenses: \$ 7,923.08

Gain/Loss: (\$ 2,986.02(\$1,956.03))



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

March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6–8 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jeff Vietmeier</i>	6	7 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6–8 PM</i>	13 <i>Session—7 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>James Estep, Jr.</i>	14 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	15 <i>Leif Vietmeir</i>	16	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i>
19 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6–8 PM</i>	20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Debra Shamble</i>	21 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mara Vermillion</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Samuel Wheeler</i>
26 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6–8 PM</i>	27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>J. Gregory Stratton</i>	28 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	29	30	31	

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