

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

Facebook page:

www.ebgpresby.org

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16-17

Recently, a friend of mine shared a brief yet inspiring story of his experience. Pastor Gnigwo was born in the southwest part of Gambella, but he moved to the northeastern Gambella with his mother when he was very young. Since his father did not accompany them to the northeast, Pastor Gnigwo has few memories of his father. In speaking of that time of his life, he says:

It was my mother whom I really knew more than my father. This is because my father was not around me until a certain age. He never took me to the river to bathe, only my mother used to bathe me. But one day I would go back with him to the country/village of his origin.

On one occasion my father came to the village where my mother and I lived. He started taking me around and to the river Openo to bathe for the first time. While in the waters, he started taking me to a deep place in the river. It was unusual for me to get to this deeper part of the river. My mother and I usually bathed at the shallow edge of the river. My father assured me that he would not let the water sweep me away. But even though I had a lot of fear inside of me, I trusted him because his presence was around, and his hands held me. But suddenly he let loose his grip on me so that I could practice swimming. In my struggle to stay afloat I sipped water three times. But my father was alert and knew, instantly, that I was struggling. Then he grabbed me and held me above the water when I was already thinking of death in the deep waters. For him, the waters reached only as far as his chest, but for me it was an immeasurable depth that threatened to engulf me. Then my father washed me with a very expensive soap that smelled very nice and made me feel fresh.

When the time came, my father told me he had come to take me home where I was born. He said, "After this we will go to our country. There are cattle, goats, and sheep that I have kept for you. I have built houses and beautiful fences for you. You have the best cow that I have kept especially for you so that you can milk her alone all the time." Then my heart began looking up to the country my father promised me. Yet, my father did not give detailed information or any hint about how difficult the journey was going to be, especially for me as a young boy.

I didn't know that the trip would take two weeks, which seemed like two years to me at the time. There was much thirst along the way. There was a lot of darkness on the road. There were many sounds of hyenas on the road, especially when we were traveling at night. The road was deserted and scorching. There was thirst, tiredness, and you would fall asleep while walking on this road. There were rivers with crocodiles, forests, and deserts to cross and so much cold at night. There were robbers, murderers, child kidnappers on the same road. As we continued our journey, we had to leave behind many people including young children of my age. There were many obstacles on the way.

While everything was strange to me, my father knew very well all the circumstances because he had trodden this road before. Yet he did not tell me about all those obstacles in our path, but only told me about the milk, the cattle, the goats, and sheep. My father was confident, while it was a nightmare for me. For my father, those problems were under his control. He had faced them before. But for me it was very stressful, scary, and frustrating. However, in the end, under the leadership of my father, we arrived safely in the country of our origin.

were under his control. He had faced them before. But for me it was very stressful, scary, and frustrating. However, in the end, under the leadership of my father, we arrived safely in the country of our origin.

The Book of Hebrews that we are currently journeying through in our sermon series, brings to us a story like that of my friend. That you are safe with Jesus and Jesus is enough for you, is the message! Jesus came to be one of us, he has experienced our pain and he is near always to hold us when we fall. He is the high priest who always sympathizes with us. Jesus promises to take us home, but in this journey of faith we pass through rivers, forests, deserts, etc. of life circumstances and there are spiritual hyenas lying low on the road to snatch us away from the path or weigh us down in our journey, but Christ promised us security. He has come from the Father and has trodden this path before (John 6:46.). Therefore, we are encouraged to approach the throne of God's "grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." *Christ is our good Father!*

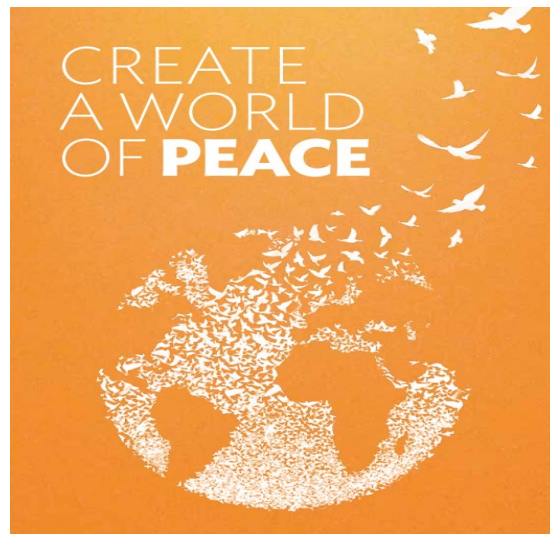
Happy Reformation Day!

Pastor Owar

JOHN CALVIN (1509 – 1564)



- FRENCH SCHOLAR AND THEOLOGIAN
- JOINED THE REFORMERS IN GENEVA (SWITZERLAND) AND DEVELOPED THE FORM OF PROTESTANT BELIEF CALLED CALVINISM
- REGARDED THE BIBLE AS THE SUPREME AUTHORITY IN MATTERS OF FAITH
- ATTACKED ABUSES BY THE CLERGY
- EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH IN SALVATION
- BELIEVED IN PREDESTINATION, THE BELIEF THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE WERE CHOSEN BY GOD FOR SALVATION
- WROTE "INSTITUTE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION"
- HIS FRENCH FOLLOWERS WERE CALLED HUGUENOTS



confronting hopelessness, thwarting division
**Empowering congregations
and individuals to become
peacemakers themselves.**

“YOU ARE WITH ME””

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, not feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which He looks

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

~Teresa of Avila

Welcome our new members



Lauren Rice



Addy Bracken



Marjwok Owar Ojulu



Kaija Graham

What's Happening...

The Session resumed their monthly meetings on September 11, 2023. At 6:30 pm, the four members of the Communicants Class came for a time to become better acquainted with the elders. The elders explained their duties and there was a sharing of two faith statements. Pizza followed.

The meeting opened with a scripture reading. The agenda and minutes were approved, and the treasurer's report was received.

Committee reports followed. The Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee reported that a final invoice from Elias Painting has been received. A vote authorized the property committee to inspect the work and report to the treasurer, Kris. Family Life held a reception to welcome the new members (communicants). Mission reported donations to the Ebensburg St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, Presbyterian Disaster Relief and Redstone Presbytery. Pastor/Parish, Personnel, Communications, Nominating noted the annual joint service and summer picnic held at Colver Presbyterian in August. The Property Committee reported that Elias Painting recently completed the painting of all window frames and iron work at a total cost of \$17,000. Aric Bracken explained and showed a 2' x 4' LED lighting panel that may be a cost-effective fix for our basement lighting. All of the committee reports were received.

In New Business there were three items:

1. Money counters— Pat Mohney is no longer able to serve as the second counter so Judy Carl was appointed as second counter (with Amy Brulia) with Aric Bracken as the back-up.
2. It was MSP to allow the Cub Scout Pine Wood Derby to move to our parking lot during Potato Fest and use power from the church if needed.
3. It was MSP to appoint James Stratton as our representative to the Sept. 26th meeting of Redstone Presbytery.

Pastor Owar reported on visits with members, sick calls and various activities.

The next Session Meeting is set for October 9, 2023 at 7 PM.



From the Mission Committee:

The PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS special offering for peacemaking and reconciliation will be received on October 1st.

From the Youth Group:



Lauren Rice, Kaija Graham, Aria Graham, Marjwok Owar Ojha, and Addy Bracken were worship leaders on September 17th when Lauren, Kaija, Marjwok, and Addy were confirmed as members of our congregation.



October 12 Addyson Bracken

October 14 Averì Bracken

October 14 Effriam Vietmeier

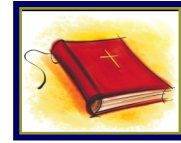
October 20 Laura McGill

October 20 Alex Jeffers

October 24 Shannon McGill

October 27 Apay Okello Ojulu

Sunday Scripture Readings



October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 21

Exodus 17:1–7	The people thirst and quarrel; God gives them water from a rock.
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16	God made streams flow from rocks, giving water to the people.
Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32	Is the way of the Lord unfair? Turn away from your sin and live.
Psalm 25:1–9	Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin.
Philippians 2:1–13	Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.
Matthew 21:23–32	Leaders question Jesus' authority; he answers them with a parable.

October 8, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 22

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20	At Mount Sinai, the Lord gives the Ten Commandments to Moses.
Psalm 19	The law of the Lord is perfect; God's commandments are clear.
Isaiah 5:1–7	Isaiah sings of a vineyard that has failed to produce good fruit.
Psalm 80:7–15	Restore us, O God of hosts; have regard for the vine you planted.
Philippians 3:4b–14	All that I have is nothing; knowing Jesus Christ is everything.
Matthew 21:33–46	A parable about a vineyard, wicked tenants, and the owner's son.

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 23

Exodus 32:1–14	Aaron makes a golden calf; Moses intercedes with the Lord.
Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23	We have sinned, exchanging the glory of God for graven images.
Isaiah 25:1–9	God will make a feast for all peoples, destroying death forever.
Psalm 23	The Lord prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies.
Philippians 4:1–9	Rejoice in the Lord; do not worry; God's peace will be with you.
Matthew 22:1–14	The kingdom is like a banquet; many are called, few are chosen..

October 22, 2023

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 24

Exodus 33:12–23	Moses watches from the cleft of a rock as God's glory passes by.
Psalm 99	Like Moses, worship at God's mountain; the Lord is holy.
Isaiah 45:1–7	The Lord anoints Cyrus: I alone am God; I call you by name.
Psalm 96:1–9 (10–13)	Declare God's glory among the nations; all other gods are idols.
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10	Paul writes to the Thessalonians: We give thanks and pray for you.
Matthew 22:15–22	The Pharisees test Jesus with a question about paying taxes.

October 29, 2023

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 25

Deuteronomy 34:1–12	After seeing the promised land from Mount Nebo, Moses dies.
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17	Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18	Be holy, as the Lord is holy; love your neighbor as yourself.
Psalm 1	Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8	We came to you to share the gospel; we also share ourselves.
Matthew 22:34–46	Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World...Together!

September Gathering Highlights

- In "On the Road with Redstone," the Presbytery was graciously hosted by the Latrobe Presbyterian Church. With inspiring music and liturgy, we offered worship to our God and received the Word as proclaimed by Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- In recognition of Addiction Recovery month, we heard a personal testimony to the healing grace of Jesus Christ in on person's ongoing journey of recovery. Redstone congregations responded and many boxes of supplies were received in a very successful "Hope in a Bag" project. For congregations still having collections, those can be received in the Presbytery Center.
- **We elected those called to serve in leadership within the Presbytery and the larger church for next year. Susan Keaney, (RE, Newlonsburg) was nominated to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery . Additionally, Rev. Brian Kilbert, Rev. Andrew Wirt, Ruling Elders Robin Jennings, and Jackie Eckenrod were called to serve as GA commissioners. A great number of people within our congregations have also answered the call to serve in leadership roles within the Presbytery on standing committees.**
- Pine Springs Camp ministry shared their final progress report on the 2023 season of summer camp. Through resident and day camps, along with the "Mission Ex" experience, there were over 1000 campers this summer who had the opportunity to have their lives transformed by encountering Jesus Christ through this camping ministry.
- **Executive Presbyter Rev. Noftzger welcomed Lynn Mance and Rich Zoltak to service as o commissioned pastors in Avonmore and New Hope/ Redstone Highlands, respectively. Having been recently ordained and installed, Rev. Sara Sadler and Rev. Becka Abbott were invested with Redstone stoles as symbols of their joining us in the shared ministry of the Presbytery.**
- Both the Latrobe Presbyterian and Latrobe United Presbyterian shared some of their particular ministry and mission projects where the Lord has been at work in their midst. They included Presbyters were reminded of the opportunity to participate in the mission trip to St. Alban's, WV on October.

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 August 31, 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

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> World Communion Sunday	2	3 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	4 <i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i>	9 <i>Session – 7 PM</i>	10 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	11 <i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i>	12 <i>Happy Birthday Addyson Bracken</i>	13	14 <i>Happy Birthday Effriam Vietmeier</i>
15 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i>	16	17 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	18 <i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i>	19	20 <i>Happy Birthday, Laura McGill, Alex Jeffers</i>	21 <i>NA Business Mtg. 9:45 AM</i>
22 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i>	23	24 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Shannon McGill</i>	25 <i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i>	26	27 <i>Happy Birthday, Apay Okello Ojulu</i>	28
29 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i>	30	31 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>				

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