

# The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
*September 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)

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another, to love and good deeds. (Heb 10:23–24).*

It’s September! Each of us knows what comes next. We celebrate Labor Day as usual, but most importantly we will soon feel the change of the weather: shorter days, longer nights, and less warmth before daylight saving time officially ends on November fifth, 2023. We will then get ready for some clothing appropriate for the cooler weather, and soon our summer attire will be only a memory. Those outfits will be shoved in closets until the next cycle of the seasons. Each of us has a different preference of season. While some of us favor summer, countless people cherish winter and thrive through it and a handful loves spring and fall. Yet the combination of four seasons makes up the year. A year includes all four seasons. No matter how much the seasons change, alternate or, occasionally do not yield to the expectations, (too much heat, cold, less flowers, less rain, less colors in the fall etc.), a year remains as the “Year!”

Ethiopians have a good proverb for this: “ለሌላው ክረምት ቤት አይሠራም” meaning, *no one builds a hut for the last winter*. That is the message of the Book of Hebrews! (We will be journeying through the book of Hebrew in this new month of September and will hear more about this great and resourceful book of faith!)

The Book of Hebrews calls on the messianic Jews and all of us to not turn from Christ to the old way of life, but fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), who is the culmination, better, and greater than all the angels, patriarchs, matriarchs, priests, and prophets before him. The author encourages us to cling to Jesus with perseverance (Hebrews 12:7). He demonstrates the theme of the supremacy of Jesus throughout the book.

Jesus is superior to the Angels, Moses, Aron, and the OT priestly ministry. He is superior to the angels because he is the divine king (Heb 1:4-8). While Moses was the servant of God, Jesus Christ is the son of God (Heb 3:3–4). Jesus is greater than Jeshua, all the Judges, and liberators of the OT because he has given greater rest to the people of God, including the people of Israel. To the high priests through the line of Aron and King David, Jesus is sinless and came through the order of Melchizedek, the king of Salem and Righteousness (Heb 7:26–28).

Therefore, as the year caps all the seasons, Paul said, Christ Jesus is the culmination of the law and the promises, “*that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes*” (Romans 10:4-11). As it encouraged its first audience of messianic Christians to not return to temple sacrifices and practices but press on and persevere, the book of Hebrews calls us to hold on and rely on Christ Jesus and to not turn away from the faith as we persevere through our 21<sup>st</sup> century hurdles against the church and our faith (Heb 4:14, 10:23). And the way we do this, is by “stimulating one another,” meaning *actively* demonstrating faith, love, service, obedience, harmony, justice, and thanksgiving with/to one another (Heb 10:24). And since Jesus is one of us, though we fail, we must not hesitate to “. . . approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Come let’s go!

Pastor Owar

## Property Committee

### Major Repair Report

Fellow Congregation Members,

We would like to update you in regards to the window project that was announced earlier this year. The original plan was to replace the 50-year-old storm windows but at a great cost. The enormity of the expense weighed heavily on our minds, and after prayerful consideration we looked for a more thrifty plan. Elias Painting agreed to honor the terms of their proposal from a year ago to scrape, seal and repaint the window trim and to also replace/repair any wood sills that had rotted. It is this effort that you may have witnessed if you encountered their workers outside these past few weeks. Session is pleased to announce to you that while only spending 25% of the amount needed to replace the storm windows, we believe the work performed by Elias Painting will protect our windows for the foreseeable future.

Taking into consideration that approximately one third of our liquid assets would have gone to protecting the windows, the dire state of our financial endowments, and ever decreasing revenue combined with increasing costs, the Session decided to cancel the project with Servpro. We do want to thank the local manager of Servpro, Jeff Kuncelman for the many hours that he and his leading men spent assessing the work, educating the session on the scope of work, and presenting their proposal. Their proposal made concessions to save us money and would have minimized their profit for performing the work. The professional reputation of ServPro, their manager, and their workers should not be questioned because we decided to cancel their contract in consideration of our financial position.

To those of you who have made gifts to the project, thank you, and please know that this money will be used for its intended purpose of protecting the windows. We will publish a financial accounting of monies spent on the project and continued need in the near future. The situation we find ourselves in, regarding our finances, is ever more depleted each year, but the heart and generosity of its members beats on. As stewards of the body of the church, we weighed the overall survival of Ebensburg Presbyterian Church against the longevity of the windows and feel the amount of money saved could be used towards insuring more years of worship together. We all know the hardship that organized religion endures in these times as well as the challenges that weigh on each generation in our congregation and we place importance on maintaining resources enough to feed the soul of the church, which are its colorful members who give so much. Together we will find a way to go forth. Enlightening new members about the culture of music and worship together at EPC is the ultimate goal, and it is up to each of us to reach out to the few as we are able; to share the burden of our calling to enrich the lives of the many. May the Lord bless us and keep us, until we shall meet together again to praise His name.

# Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbytery of the Pacific respond to deadly fires on Maui

The Red Cross has asked PDA to be on standby with a team of spiritual care providers *by Mike Ferguson / Presbyterian News Service*



Two Hawaii Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook perform aerial water bucket drops on the Island of Maui to assist the fight of wildfires, Maui, Hawaii, August 09, 2023. The two air crews performed 58 total bucket drops in five hours in up country Maui totaling over 100,000 gallons dropped on the fires. (U.S. National Guard Video by Air Force Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the [Pacific](#) following this week’s fires that killed at least 111 people in Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui and also burned portions of south Maui and the island’s Upcountry region. Earlier this week fires also burned brush on the Big Island of Hawaii, but those fires have been largely controlled. After seeing the devastation in Lahaina, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green called it “the worst national disaster that Hawaii has ever faced.”

CBS News reported on Sunday that hundreds of people remain unaccounted for. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s administrator, Deanne Criswell, said that 150 FEMA personnel were on the ground in Maui, with more search and rescue teams on their way.

“It’s clear there will be significant long-term recovery needs,” said the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA’s Associate for National Response. For the people who want to respond and don’t have the opportunity to provide donations or commodities right away, “there will be opportunities in the months and years ahead. That is hard for people to hear, because everyone wants to do something right now. The best thing to do right now is to wait and respond down the line.”

The Presbytery of the Pacific has submitted an application for an initial assistance grant. In addition to portions of Los Angeles, the state of Hawaii is part of the presbytery.

In a Facebook post, the Presbytery of the Pacific asked for prayers for Presbyterian pastor and minister member the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Fong and for her congregation, Po’okela Church in Makawao, in the north-central portion of the island.

*Please find the link below for more information*

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbytery of the Pacific respond to deadly fires on Maui 2023.pdf](#)

## A Journey through the Book of Hebrews

Chapters 1-4 Instructions

Chapters 5-9 Institutions

Chapters 10-13 Exhortations

### **Sunday, September 3, 2023**

Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

Jesus Christ is better and Greater

Hebrews 1:1-14

### **Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Jesus is one of us, yet Divine

Hebrews 2:1-18

### **Sunday, September 17, 2023**

Jesus Christ is better and Greater

Hebrews 3:1-19

### **Sunday, September 24, 2023**

Promises fulfilled; not nullified

Hebrews 4:1-19

*Dear God,*

We come to you in prayer, lifting up the sorrow, the loss and the trauma of our siblings in Hawai'i. Our hearts feel the weight of their suffering.

For those whose homes and communities are damaged and destroyed by these fires, we ask for relief and courage.

For those who are grieving loss, working to mend bodies and lives, weary and weighed down, we ask for strength and hope.

For those still in danger, we ask for shelter and safety.

Help us all to be part of your healing and respond with compassion and generous hearts.

*Amen*



The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, offered this pray-

**Volunteer for:**

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

**Saturday September 30, 2023**

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**

Wednesday September 27, 2023 6:30 PM Mini Golf Prep

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

**Thursday, September 28:6:00PM**

- Set up mini Golf holes

**Saturday, September 30:, 9:00 AM Kids Potato Patch Mini Golf**

- 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

## **From the Mission Committee:**

Thanks to your generosity, donations have been sent to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in Ebensburg (\$500) and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (\$200). You can read about the Presbyterian response to the Maui wildfires on page 3 of this newsletter.

## **Confirmation**

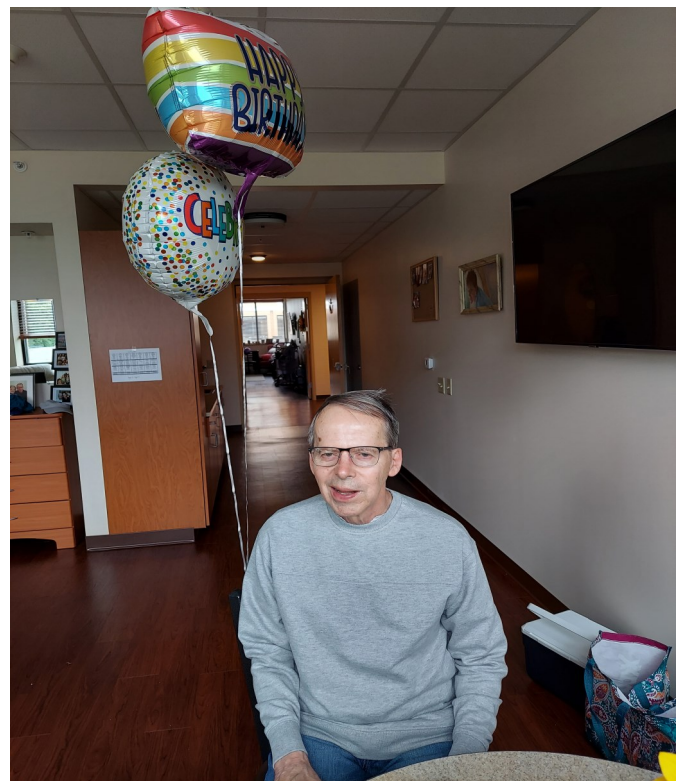
Please join us as we welcome the youth joining the church.

The Confirmation service is set for September 17th.

A reception will follow the service.

## **Phil enjoyed his Birthday at his new location**

The Villa Crest  
1451 Frankstown Road  
Johnstown, PA  
Room 122





September 5

Dave Lamer

September 16

Mary Ellen Harris

September 17

Becky Carlin

September 18

Stephen Magley

September 23

Roger McGill

Melissa Douglas

September 26

Doug Mohny

September 28

Arlene McKim

## **"Being Justified freely by His Grace" Romans 3:24**

IT was a solemn question which was proposed in the days of old, "How can man be just with God?" Man is without righteousness, he is chargeable with many crimes, he is brought in guilty, and condemned by God's holy law; and he has no excuse to make. His mouth is stopped. We feel this to be our situation by nature. But the Lord who is our Judge, hath devised a way by which He can be just, and yet justify us. It is by grace. He justifies, or acquits us from all charges, pronounces us righteous, accepts us, and introduces us into His Favor, friendship, and fellowship, freely, without anything being done or suffered by us. He presents us with the work of Jesus, by which all our debts are paid; our righteousness is wrought out; the law and government of God are honored; and a good title to eternal life is made out; we receive this work by faith, which He also bestows, and we are "justified from all things." Not one charge remains. There is no condemnation. But we are justified freely by grace without the works of the law.

*Slain in the guilty sinner's stead,  
Jesus, Thy righteousness I plead,  
And Thine atoning blood:  
That righteousness my robe shall be;  
Thy merit shall avail for me,  
And bring me near to God.*

*A Bible Deviation by James Smith*



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.



# Sunday Scripture Readings



**September 3, 2023**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper**

Semicontinuous

Exodus 3:1–15                      Moses meets the Lord in a burning bush, and learns God's name.  
    Psalm 105:1–6,                Give thanks to the Lord, who sent Moses to set the people free.  
    23–26, 45b

Complementary

Jeremiah 15:15–21                Jeremiah laments his calling, but God promises to redeem him.  
    Psalm 26:1–8                    Vindicate me, O Lord; I have trusted you and walked in integrity.  
Romans 12:9–21                    Love one another; seek what is good; live peaceably with all.  
Matthew 16:21–28                 Jesus says: If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross.

**September 10, 2023**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 18**

Semicontinuous

Exodus 12:1–14                    Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.  
    Psalm 149                        Let the faithful praise the Lord with tambourine and dancing.

Complementary

Ezekiel 33:7–11                    The Lord desires that the wicked turn away from evil, and live.  
    Psalm 119:33–40                Teach me your way, O Lord: to turn from vanity and disgrace.  
Romans 13:8–14                    Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.  
Matthew 18:15–20                 Jesus says: seek reconciliation; when you gather I am with you.

**September 17, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 19**

Semicontinuous

Exodus 14:19–31                    At the sea, God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptian army.  
    Psalm 114                        The earth shakes and the sea retreats in the presence of the Lord.  
    or Exodus 15:1b–11,          Moses and Miriam sing praise to God, who has delivered them.  
    20–21

Complementary

Genesis 50:15–21                 Joseph's brothers seek forgiveness; God turned their evil to good.  
    Psalm 103:(1–7)                Bless the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, forgiving our sin.  
    8–13  
Romans 14:1–12                    Refrain from judgment; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.  
Matthew 18:21–35                 A lesson in forgiveness from a parable about debts and debtors.

**September 24, 2023**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost / Proper 20**

Semicontinuous

Exodus 16:2–15                    The people complain of hunger; God gives food in the wilderness.  
    Psalm 105:1–6,                Give thanks to the Lord, who gave food and drink in the desert.  
    37–45

Complementary

Jonah 3:10—4:11                 God's mercy angers Jonah; God teaches a lesson through a bush.  
    Psalm 145:1–8                    The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.  
Philippians 1:21–30                Living is Christ, dying is gain; live in a way worthy of the gospel.  
Matthew 20:1–16                 The parable of laborers in the vineyard; the last will be first.

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 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

## September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<p>3 Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</p> <p><b>Communion</b> Happy Anniv. Bob &amp; Becky Bracken</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Dave Lamer</p>	6	7	8	9
<p>10 Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</p> <p>Happy Anniv. Phil &amp; Amy Brulia</p>	<p>11 <b>Session-7:00 PM</b></p> <p>Happy Anniv. Melissa Douglas &amp; Jerry Kline</p>	<p>12 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p>	13	14	15	<p>16 Happy Birthday Mary Ellen Harris Krumenaker</p>
<p>17 Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</p> <p><b>Confirmation</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday, Becky Carlin</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Stephen Magley</p>	<p>19 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p>	20	21	22	<p>23</p> <p><b>First Day of Autumn</b></p> <p>Happy Birthday Roger McGill, Daniel Stefan- owski, Melissa Douglas</p>
<p>24 Worship 11:00 AM &amp; Facebook</p>	25	<p>26 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p> <p>Happy Anniv. Aric &amp; Alyssa Bracken</p>	<p>27 Mini Golf Prep 6:30 PM</p>	<p>28 Happy Birth- day, Arlene McKim</p> <p>Mini Golf Set up 6:00 PM</p>	29	<p>30 <b>Kids Potato Patch 10:30— 2:20 and Mini Golf 9:00 AM</b></p>

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