



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
200 North Center Street
P. O. Box 327
Ebensburg, PA 15931
Phone: 814 472-6920
ebgpresby@gmail.com
www.ebgpresby.weebly.com

Join Us Each Week!

Worship @ 11:00 AM

Bible Study Sundays at 6pm

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men^l said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Luke 24:1-12

This story brings a promising hope to the disciples who were bewildered, covered by fear, and in a state of disbelief. It was a tough journey with a joyful ending! In Mandela’s words, it was a “long walk to freedom.” Finally, the light of hope shone. It was and it is a long walk to Easter. The power of resurrection prevails over the sting of death, the weight of the Stone, and the obscurity of the grave.

The women in the story were already in a perplexing situation. They worried about the “big stone” at the mouth of the tomb. Then they saw the stone was removed and the body wasn’t there.

The sudden appearance of two persons in dazzling attire triggered their fear, worsened their situation, and the women were terrified.

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? This was the affirmative statement spoken to the women who were despairing. The voice whispered hope, brought light in the midst of darkness, and affirmed new life and a bright future (Jeremiah 29:11).

Like these women, the world worries, all of us are in despair and waking up every day to the latest disquieting news. Like the disciples we feel defeated, the valley seems darker and filled with death— We are spiritually dry like the dry bones of Ezekiel. The news we hear, the rising cases of Coronavirus have placed us in an emotional valley of hopelessness. ***Our faith has been shaken.***

Like the women, we are filled with personal and corporate questions regarding our current situation. Many are asking

when would this pandemic be over? Or can world function again? Or can our communities celebrate again? With a sign of a cold, we are filled with doubts and fear that we are already infected with this virus. Or, we ask, will I be? How? When? What if? Many of you might have not missed a single Easter celebration in your lives and you are filled with questions. It’s a hard truth to swallow. Going back to normal life seems impossible when judged by our current situation.

There is always an Easter! I was tempted to take a picture of our daffodils and share on our Facebook page. Those daffodils were covered with snow and passed through the severe cold of the winter. Now, they are blossoming and thriving. I was reminded of *Hope. Hope is a kept faith, trusting God and having confidence in the divine promises. Hope is seeing the light in the midst of darkness.* God always speaks to our emptiness, affirming a victory over our threats.

As we continue with social distancing, keep your head high, keep doing things that you enjoy; what gives you joy. Fill your life and your world with beauty. Maybe go back to your closet, your basement, or your storage shed. Bring back the objects, maybe a rugged cross, a cloth, or a childhood picture with those funny faces and laughter. Objects brings meaning to life. Be reminded and remember!

Holy Week and Easter are very special to our Christian beliefs. We reflect on passion and resurrection—defeat and victory! I plan to conduct Maundy Thursday outside of our Church. If you like to sing while sitting in your car, you are most welcome. For Maundy Thursday and Easter morning, we will continue with our virtual worship and administer communion virtually if the Session vote approves it on Wednesday, April 8th. You may need to prepare your grape juice and a nice bread as we experience partaking communion virtually. *Remember, Christ is!*

You are all in my prayers! And may this year’s Easter bring the hope of resurrection and new life again. May the Lord take up in victory the spirit of death that is lurking at our doors. May He shame the devil and claim victory over Coronavirus on Easter morning. God creates new life and is a living hope in the world of hopelessness.

Rev. Owar Ojulu

THE FELLOWSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2020

What's Happening . . .



The Session of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church a scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. The meeting opened with prayer. The study passage was Mark 5:25-34. It describes the woman who was healed by faith when she touched Jesus' clothes.

The agenda was approved. Book of Order training was about the church government (G20102). Church members pick deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders. Our responsibilities were highlighted.

The Communications Committee will check with the Mountaineer Herald and make sure that our pastor's name is included in the page with church information.

The Discipleship Committee held a meeting to set plans and goals for the year. Plans are proceeding for the Easter Eggstavanza. Donations of candy for the egg hunt will be solicited from the congregation. This has been changed to a "Take out Easter Egg Hunt." Bags with crafts, games and prefilled eggs will be available for pick up at the church on Friday, April 10th so that families can have their Eggstravanza at home. Please make your reservation by calling or emailing the church office ebgpresby@gmail.com by Monday April 6th. Include the following information: Name and age of each child

Name and phone # for person who will pick up.

(we will have limited slots for delivery if you are local and unable to pickup).

In February, the Mission Committee sent a \$50 gift card to a member of the congregation who was hospitalized. They also sent donations of \$150 each to Presbyterian Disaster Relief (Australian Wildfires) and the Ebensburg Area Support Ministry. On Sunday March 1st, Fish Banks were handed out for OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) to be returned on Palm Sunday. On Sunday March 7th, the Food Pantry collection took in \$136.

A brief discussion was held about the Organ Restoration Committee holding a meeting in the future.

The Property Committee received one estimate for the PA (public address) system at approximately \$9500. A second estimate is expected shortly.

The Worship Committee reported Communion was held February 23. Communion will be held Sunday March 15, 2020.

In Old Business a gift of an office chair was received for the pastor's office.

In New Business – Rev. Owar would like to get a Keurig for the main floor and asked for donations of coffee and tea cups. Laura said that she might know of one that could be donated. Owar's trip- It was moved and seconded to permit Rev. Ojulu to take some of his vacation time after Easter if he can arrange it. He has a pastor for one Sunday arranged and will arrange coverage for the second Sunday.

Building Use Request- A request for use of the sanctuary for a wedding was received from Dave O'Hara, lay pastor of the Revloc Presbyterian Church for June 6, 2020.

The committee will check the building use request form and make sure that it is correct and includes approved organist language. It was approved to grant the building use request upon receipt of the completed request form.

What's Happening . . . continued

It was reported lights have been left on after some meetings. Organizations using the building will be reminded to check the lights before leaving.

The next Presbytery Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 24th in Uniontown. No representative was appointed at this time, as no one can attend.

Rev. Owar presented information about the following: (1) Women in the Woods retreat at Pine Springs, (2) a retreat about Thomas Merton, (3) The Presbyterian Mission Networks meetings and contact information, and (4) Healing Patch Volunteer Open House. Rev. Owar also reported that he conducted a home visit and a hospital visit.

The next Session Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8th.

Sunday Scripture Readings



Palm Sunday—April 5, 2020

Isaiah 50:4–9a The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31:9–16 Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11 Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Matthew 26:14–27:66 After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

April 12, 2020—Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43 Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24 I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made.

Colossians 3:1–4 If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.

John 20:1–18 At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.

April 19, 2020

Acts 2:14a, 22–32 Peter addresses the people: Jesus is risen, and we are witnesses.

Psalms 16 You protect me from death, O God, and show me the path of life.

1 Peter 1:3–9 We have a new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.

John 20:19–31 Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.

April 26, 2020

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 Peter continues: Repent and be baptized; receive the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 116:1–4, 12–19 Death encompassed me, but God delivered me; praise the Lord!

1 Peter 1:17–23 You were saved by the blood of Christ; you have been born anew.

Luke 24:13–35 On the road to Emmaus, two disciples meet the risen Lord.



Kids Eggstravaganza changes to: "Take out Easter Egg Hunt"

Bags with crafts, games and prefilled eggs will be available for pick up at the church on Friday, April 10th so that families can have their Eggstravaganza at home.

Please make your reservation by calling or emailing the church office ebgpresby@gmail.com by **Monday April 6th**.

Include the following information:

Name and age of each child

Name and phone # for person who will pick up.

(we will have limited slots for delivery if you are local and unable to pickup).



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

Reminder !!

INFORMATION UPDATE

It is time to update the church records for 2020.

Please provide the following information for all members of your family.

Return the form to the church office or email your information to the church ebgpresby@gmail.com.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of February, 2020:

Actual Operating Income: \$9,970.84

Actual Operating Expenses: \$12,364.52

Gain/Loss: (\$2,364.52)



2019 Per Capita

2020 Per Capita – Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$42.50**. 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!



NEW:

Bible 2020—Bible Study
on Zoom
at 6:00 PM every Tuesday.

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

April 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 <i>Happy Birthday, Aubrey Jean Baker</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <i>Worship 10:45 AM (Zoom and Facebook)</i> PALM SUNDAY <i>Happy Birthday, Diane Carlisle</i> | 6 | 7 <i>Happy Birthday, Mary Carol Carlisle</i> <i>Bible 2020— 6 pm Zoom</i> | 8 SESSION MEETING - 7 PM (ZOOM) <i>Happy Birthday Eva Tomb</i> | 9 <i>Maundy Thursday—Ebg. Live on Facebook and Zoom</i> <i>Virtual Commu- nion for Ebensburg</i> | 10 <i>Good Friday Service—Live on Facebook and Zoom</i> <i>Virtual Com- munion Service for Colver.</i> | 11 <i>Happy Birthday Tina Taylor Noelle Shay</i> |
| 12 <i>Worship 10:45 AM - Joint Wor- ship w/ Colver and Communion (Zoom and Facebook)</i> Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday | 13 <i>Happy Birthday Clifton J. Harris</i> | 14 <i>Bible 2020— 6 pm Zoom</i> | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 <i>Worship 10:45 AM (Zoom and Facebook)</i> | 20 | 21 <i>Bible 2020— 6 pm Zoom</i> | 22 | 23 <i>Happy Birthday, Phyllis Morrison</i> | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>Worship 10:45 AM (Zoom and Facebook)</i> | 27 | 29 <i>Happy Birthday, Ralph T. Shuey</i> <i>Bible 2020— 6 pm Zoom</i> | 30 | | | |

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