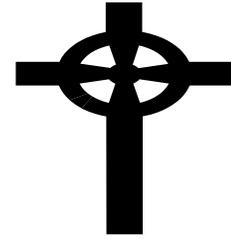
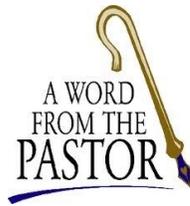


The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
April 2021



**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
Sally Kruley

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/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch

Now finally, all of you should be like-minded, and live-in harmony with one another and demonstrate affectionate love, sympathy, and kindness toward others. Let humility describe who you are as you dearly love one another. Never retaliate when someone treats you wrongly, nor insult those who insult you, but instead, respond by speaking a blessing over them—because a blessing is what God promised to give you. 1 Peter 3:8-9

Dear Christians in Ebensburg Presbyterian Church,

It is April! A month in which we undertake many changes and welcome sunshine, and we are renewed and rejuvenated! The old saying is right: “April showers bring May flowers.” April is the month of new beginnings. We start to clean our clutters, clear our yards, and wash our winter attire so that everything that we put into storage is fresh and purified. Not only in America where we emerge from snow and a dreary season, but even in Ethiopia with 13 months of sunshine, April is a special month. At this time, farmers start cultivating and will soon sow seeds and hope for an abundant harvest. In the lowland of Gambella, Ethiopia, the rainy season begins, and the weather starts to cool down. A new season begins, and life goes on.

What makes this April different is the fact that we are now hopeful in the fight against COVID-19. I am confident that many of you have now received the first or both vaccinations. As your pastor, I encourage you to get your shots if you're eligible. While we trust in God's protection, we should also have faith in our scientists as God works through them to make the vaccine possible. I am glad that many of you are taking this step. It makes us happy to see many of you back in the

pews and participating actively in our journey as believers and one community of faith. This too, is part of our rejuvenation and new beginning!

Also, Apay and I would love to thank you all for being part of our new beginning as well. This is because in this month we will have a new addition to our family, a little girl, about whom one of our friends said, “Surprise!” Though we are still exploring names, we are leaning toward calling her, “BeenyJwøk”— meaning “His Goodness.”

It is, indeed, God's goodness that we are here with you and having a new baby in Pennsylvania, after we had decided not to have another. It is only God's goodness when Apay and I look back to our lives and how God has brought us this far from poor tiny African villages and through life struggles. God's goodness has led us to this loving, kind, generous, embracing, and likeminded Christian community of yours. From our two Churches to the school district, we have been welcomed and loved. God is good, and it's indeed a privilege to be enfolded in God's Goodness. THANK YOU!

Also, as we emerged from the Lenten season, we reach the climax of Jesus' ministry on earth. He was arrested, wrongly judged, and crucified. Yet, beyond comprehension,

Christ was raised from the dead and claimed victory over death. On Easter morning, we celebrate victo-

Christ is Risen!

ry, claim a new beginning and new life through Jesus Christ. Scriptures testify that the intended purpose of the Feasts of the Old Testament that the Jewish people celebrated for one thousand five hundred years have now been fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Through the death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has brought a new meaning to life and given us a new commandment of love. God who foreknew and called us, has also destined us in order to fulfill in us His desired and designed purpose, which is "to share the likeness of His Son" (Romans 8:28-29). God has called us to walk in the newness of life. Christ was mistreated, suffered, but loved his enemies and forgave them. He leaves us an example to follow in His steps.

The religious leaders once asked Jesus who their neighbor might be after trying to defend their expertise in the law. Jesus' answer reflects a selfless love toward others (Luke 10: 25-37). Contrary to the current trend of hate in our country, I encourage you to continue to love, live in harmony, and speak blessings, rather than ill toward others. Our prayers and sympathy are with the victims and the families of the past two shooting incidents in Georgia and Colorado. Let us pray for healing for our country and ask that our "righteousness" surpass that of unbelievers because we have been called to be children of the heavenly Father.

During our Maundy Thursday service, we will practice a symbol of washing, cleansing, and renewal. We will have a bowl of water, index cards, and RED washable markers. We ask that you write on the index card with the red marker whatever you want to leave behind in Lent: anything that has stuck in your heart for so long but that are ready to get rid of, or maybe an addiction, or the initials of someone you want to forgive, etc. As we see the ink of the markers dissolve into the water, turning the bowl red, it will symbolize the washing and cleansing of our iniquity through Christ's blood. That will motivate us as we go home, knowing that we are being renewed and sent to keep following Jesus' example.

Therefore, friends, "do not allow yourselves to be weary in planting good seeds" (Galatians, 6:9). But let us keep our light of faith and love shining despite any changes in our cultural norms, that all may see God through us and glorify Him as loving Father of all!

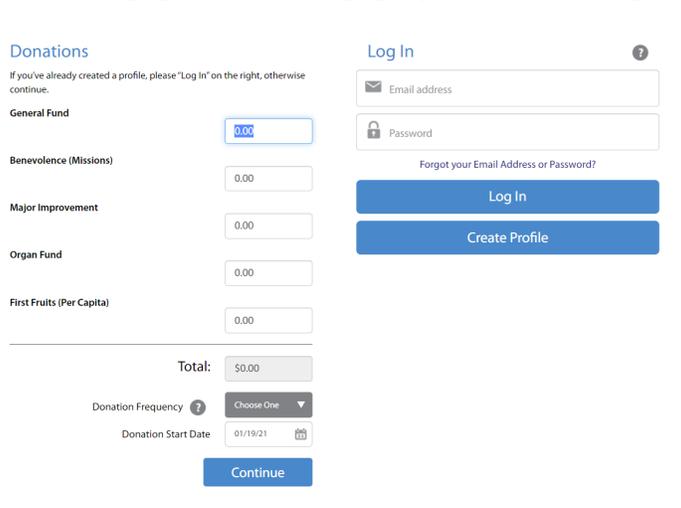
May Christ rise in you anew and may He make his dwelling in your hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. May you be encouraged, strengthened, and the Holy Spirit sanctify you and keep you from falling now and unto eternity. Amen

Christ is Risen!

Rev. Ojulu

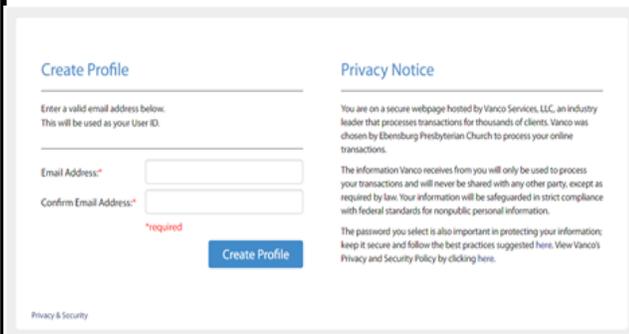
Our new online giving Donation webpage

As highlighted in January's newsletter, our church is now accepting online payments through the Presbyterian Foundation in addition to gifts through regular donations either through direct donations in the offering plate or mailed donations. A new  button has been added to the Church's website (<https://www.ebgpresby.org/>) at the bottom of the main page. When you click on the button, you will be taken to our new donations page. From this page, you can create a profile or just make an online payment.

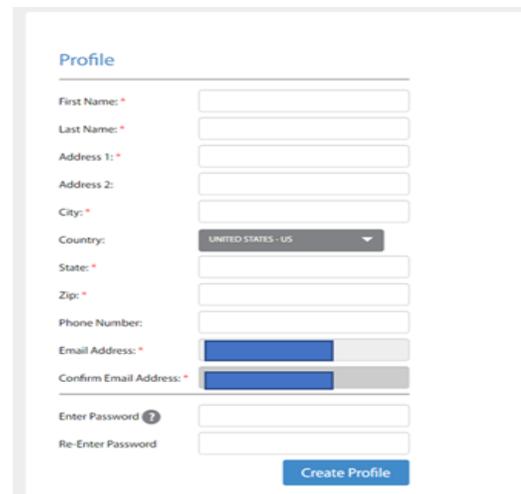


The screenshot shows the 'Donations' page. On the left, there are five donation categories with input fields: General Fund (0.00), Benevolence (Missions) (0.00), Major Improvement (0.00), Organ Fund (0.00), and First Fruits (Per Capita) (0.00). A 'Total' field shows 50.00. Below these are 'Donation Frequency' (Choose One) and 'Donation Start Date' (01/19/21). A 'Continue' button is at the bottom. On the right, the 'Log In' section has fields for 'Email address' and 'Password', a 'Forgot your Email Address or Password?' link, and 'Log In' and 'Create Profile' buttons.

If you click “create profile”, you will enter your email address twice and click “Create Profile”. You will be directed to the “Profile” page. Enter your personal information and a password you would like to use. Click the Create Profile button.



The 'Create Profile' page has two main sections. On the left, 'Enter a valid email address below. This will be used as your User ID.' There are two input fields for 'Email Address' and 'Confirm Email Address', with a red asterisk and 'required' text below the second field. A 'Create Profile' button is at the bottom. On the right, the 'Privacy Notice' section explains that the page is hosted by Vanco Services, LLC, and that information is used to process transactions and is safeguarded in compliance with federal standards. It also mentions that the password is important for security.



The 'Profile' page contains several input fields: 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Address 1', 'Address 2', 'City', 'Country' (a dropdown menu set to 'UNITED STATES - US'), 'State', 'Zip', 'Phone Number', 'Email Address', and 'Confirm Email Address'. There are also fields for 'Enter Password' and 'Re-Enter Password', each with a help icon. A 'Create Profile' button is at the bottom right.

Once logged into your personal page, you can click on  to add a donation. You will select which fund or funds you want to give towards. We currently have 5 funds:

General Fund – this fund is used to pay our day-to-day expenses for running the church including paying the Pastor, Secretary, Custodian and all the normal utility bills and general maintenance of the church.

Benevolence (Missions) - this fund is used to provide money toward local mission work (e.g. Salvation Army, Food Pantry, helping families in need, etc.) or domestic and international missions through either the Presbyterian sanctioned Missions or other related organizations (e.g. One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, etc.)

Major Improvement – this fund is used to make more substantial repairs or improvements to Church property. A recent repair was the replacement of the roof on the back section of the Church over the offices and Sunday school rooms.

Organ Fund – this fund is used to continue to support the process paying off the purchase of the new Organ and its future proposed enhancements.

First Fruits (Per Capita): this fund is given to the Redstone Presbytery since churches are encouraged to make a First Fruits Pledge based upon stewardship and our commitment to the larger church. Our 2021 suggested donation is approximately \$42.50 per member.

Your donation frequency can be set up to automatically pay this designated amount: one time; weekly; monthly; quarterly; or annually. You select your donation start date and then click continue. You now designate how your donation will be made: Checking account; Savings Account; or Credit/Debit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express). This information will be securely saved so it can be used for future transactions.

You can adjust your donations or how they are paid at any time by logging back into the system and changing how much you are donating, how often your donations are made, what account or credit card is being used, or even deleting a scheduled donation. You are in control of how and when your donations are made to the Church.

All donations made through this online system are forwarded from the Presbyterian Foundation to our church at least monthly minus a 2% administration fee.

If you are interested in seeing a YouTube video showing this process a little more, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>.

If you prefer using an app on your smartphone, you can download the GivePlus Church app from either the App Store or Google Play Store – look for **GIVEPLUS⁺**. The app will request the church's zip code (15931) and then you just select our church name (Ebensburg Presbyterian Church). Now you can access your account through the app in addition to the above donation site.

At the end of the calendar year, you will receive 2 giving statements – one directly from our church for those donations made directly to the Church and a second statement for all donations made through the online system.

Thank you for your continued gifts to our ministry.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Treasurer, Kristine Segear.



Organ Restoration Committee Fundraiser

March 10, 2021

The Organ Restoration Committee held a hoagie/pizza sale fundraiser on March 10, 2021. Proceeds totaled approximately \$1,100. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this fundraiser a success!



Take Out Easter Egg Hunt

Again this year, the Kids Eggstravaganza will be a **“Take Out Easter Egg Hunt”**.

Bags with crafts, games and prefilled eggs will be available for pick up at the church on Saturday, April 3rd so that families can have their Eggstravaganza at home.

Donations of candy to fill the eggs are needed, and can be dropped off at the church Monday – Thursday from 9 – 1 pm.

Please make your reservation by calling or emailing the church office ebgpresby@gmail.com by Monday, March 29th.

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 pick up.)

The Discipleship Committee



What's Happening...



The Session met virtually on March 10, 2021. The meeting opened with prayer and a study on Matthew 14: 22-23. The story of Jesus walking on the water and Peter walking to him until he starts to look around in fear and sinks reminds us that we need to focus on Christ and trust him to save us.

The agenda was approved. Book of Order Training was about form and freedom in worship. The minutes of the February meeting were approved with minor changes.

The treasurer's report was presented, discussed, and received.

Committee reports included the following.

The Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee is working on the Payroll Protection Plan loan forgiveness forms. So far 6 individuals are using the online donation portal.

Communications answered a question about the Church Facebook page.

Discipleship is preparing for the Eggstravaganza. Because of Covid, they plan to have a drive-through pick up of treats and craft bags as they did last year.

The Mission Committee listed donations to Haiti and the Ebensburg Food Pantry and they are collecting Fish Banks and donations for One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday.

The Organ Restoration Committee thanked all who helped with the hoagie/pizza sale. Approximately \$1,100 was raised. They are also planning to have a t-shirt sale soon.

Pastor/Parish Relations met and decided that Ebensburg will host the Maundy Thursday service and Colver will host the Good Friday service. Other joint services and activities may be planned for this year. They also discussed the shared pastor agreement.

Property Management is working on improving the audio feed for virtual services and Session voted to spend up to \$600 for a dedicated camera system that can tie into the audio. They are also working on replacing lights, repairing a vacuum cleaner and a toilet.

The Worship Committee announced that the Maundy Thursday service will be at 7 pm both in-person and live-stream on Face Book.

All of the committee reports were received.

In New Business, a request to speak by the Gideon Society was tabled until Fall. Presbytery Meeting will be March 23rd by Zoom. Martha O'Brien was appointed as our representative to Presbytery for that meeting.

It was decided to keep the Session Meetings on Zoom for the time being.

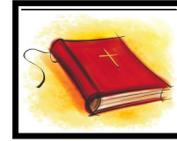
Presbytery is praying for the Colver church and Rev. Ojulu.

Reverend Ojulu reported on his Lenten weekday Zoom meetings and fasting, and problems in Ethiopia of unrest, war and starvation.

The Deacons received thank you notes from recipients of their Valentine's Day gifts.

The next Session meeting is Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

Sunday Scripture Readings



Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

April 4, 2021

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.

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Remember the good news of Jesus Christ, by which we are saved.

John 20:1–18

At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.

April 11, 2021

Acts 4:32–35

The disciples share everything and testify to Jesus' resurrection.

Psalms 133

How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

1 John 1:1–2:2

Walk in the light of God; confess your sins and be forgiven.

John 20:19–31

Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.

April 18, 2021

Acts 3:12–19

Peter speaks of Jesus' rejection and calls the people to repent.

Psalms 4

Answer me when I call, O God; in you I will find joy and peace.

1 John 3:1–7

See what love the Father has given us; we are children of God.

Luke 24:36b–48

The risen Lord eats with the disciples and interprets the Scriptures.

April 25, 2021

Acts 4:5–12

Filled with the Spirit, Peter challenges those who have arrested him.

Psalms 23 T

The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me.

1 John 3:16–24

Love means laying down one's life for those who are in need.

John 10:11–18

Jesus says: I am the good shepherd; I lay down my life for my sheep.

HAPPY EASTER



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 February, 2021

Actual Operating Income: \$11,825.53

Actual Operating Expenses: \$11,819.23

Gain/Loss: \$ 6.30



2021 Per Capita

2021 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!

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Chaplaincy in a Pandemic



Rev. Becca Siddle, Redstone Highlands As a chaplain in long-term care, there's a lot of variety to my day! Visiting over a kitchen table, singing old hymns with a friend who has dementia, supporting an employee struggling with mental health. The pandemic has expanded pastoral ministry from "spiritual" conversations to opportunities like explaining menu options or delivering packages. Spending time showing residents how to Zoom opens up portals into life stories that might otherwise have gone unheard! Being receptive to openings and journeying with folks - when they're separated from who/what normally shores them up (in this pandemic) – has been a lifelong calling that brings me much joy!

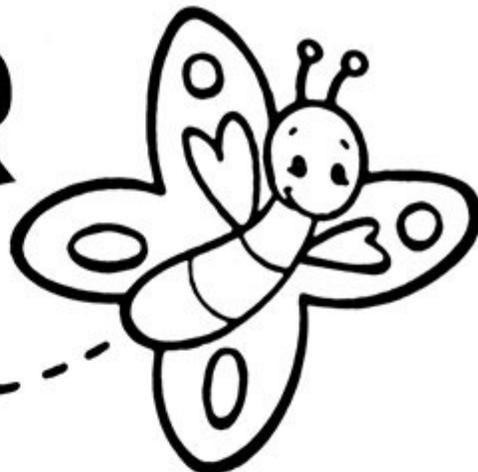
Rev. Sue Blank, Presbyterian Senior Care I begin each day here with a



Covid screening and mandatory testing. My work begins with the reading of the day's nursing reports, to keep a close watch on residents who may need some spiritual support. I am now providing worship and morning devotions by broadcasting over our in-house cable channel. Communion is taken to residents individually. During these months of isolation, I spend even more time making one-on-one visits with residents, helping them to stave off loneliness, and to find purpose. My goal is that everyone thrives. It is a privilege to remember, respect, and honor the life of another even in a Zoom memorial. Feeling called to this ministry, it is a pleasure to serve these long-time faithful saints of the church.

Communicate the Word... Carry on the Work... Change the World

**EASTER
LAMB**



Jesus Is Risen!



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

April 2021

				1 Maundy Thursday COMMUNION In-person & Facebook live 7:00 PM Happy Birthday, Aubrey Jean Baker	2 Good Friday - Services at Colver 7 PM	3 Kids Easter Eggsravaganza Happy Birthday Donna Huttenhower
4 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Worship 11:00 AM In-person & Facebook live	5	6 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM	7 Bible Study—7 PM	8 Happy Birthday, Eva Tomb	9	10
11 2nd Sunday of Easter Worship 11:00 AM In-person & Facebook live Cub Scouts 5 –7 Happy Birthday, Tina Taylor	12	13 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM Happy Birthday, Clifton J. Harris	14 SESSION—7 PM	15	16	17 NA Business Mtg.—9:45 AM
18 3rd Sunday of Easter Cub Scouts 5—7 Worship 11:00 AM In-person & Facebook live	19	20 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM	21 Bible Study—7 PM	22 Earth Day Happy Birthday Dan Orr	23	24
25 4th Sunday of Easter Worship 11:00 AM In-person & Facebook live COMMUNION Cub Scouts 5—7	26	27 Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM	28 Bible Study—7 PM	29 Happy Birthday, Ralph T. Shuey	30	

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
200 North Center Street
PO Box 327
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