



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

Join Us Each Week!

Worship @ 11:00 AM

Bible Study Tuesday at 7 PM

*“Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

Dear Church family,

I hope everyone has celebrated thanksgiving in any way possible. It is a different thanksgiving as we all know. In the ten months of the pandemic, the virus has changed our way of life and many people around the country have abandoned everything they loved to do. It seems there is no end to this dreadful time. Yet we are hopeful as we await the promised vaccine. It is my prayer that everyone continues to be safe and God will protect, comfort, and sustain us until vaccination becomes possible.

Our lectionary reading for first Sunday of Advent this year is found in Mark 13:24–37. In this passage, Jesus calls our attention to the Second Advent. That he is returning not as a Baby born in a manger in Bethlehem, but as King who comes to judge and reward those who remain “watchful” and “faithful stewards.” I relate this message to our current situation and the hope for a vaccine. We are hopeful that soon the scientists will deliver a vaccine to help contain the virus. Yet, the vaccine will not help those who are not willing and prepare to be vaccinated, only those who are ready to receive it. The ones who are ready, will have confidence in the protection of the vaccine. They will be confident and secure in the face of the virus and will remain careful, but not fearful.

Advent is a time of a new beginning in the church’s calendar year. It is a season when the fullness of God’s whole plan is disclosed. During this season, we begin to anticipate the beauty of what is about to come. It is a period where we bow in prayer for hope, peace, joy, and love as the dawning light of the promised child approaches. Yes, “it’s this time of the year” where we once again feel the urgency to prepare our hearts for Jesus’ return on Christmas day.

December has been my best month in America as I have said before. And you may think I may be crazy because I am from Africa and December is not one of the warm months in the North American calendar. You are right, but it is my best month anyway. My love for December is based on the effort put forward by neighbors. In December everyone decorates their yards with Advent and Christmas themes. And with the snow on the ground, the reflection of lights on snow make evenings in December

look dazzling and appealing. It reminds us that the special day of Christmas is at hand.

Therefore, as Jesus reminds us to live everyday life as advent, I encourage everyone to remain hopeful and watchful, while waiting. I plan to continue praying for you and visiting you through phone calls or emails. The Session will continue to work on your behalf to keep you safe while taking care the business of the Church. In this waiting, remember that God did not leave us empty-handed. Paul said God has blessed us with hope that rests on the conviction that we are destined for life eternal, not for his wrath and destruction. God equips us with discernment, knowledge; and has sanctified us through the blood of Christ.

Christ’s Second coming is to motivate believers, not to terrify. It is to complete their redemption, not to condemn. His coming is to encourage Christians to trust in the saving grace of God. Thus, the church should welcome the Second Advent the same as when the church first receives Baby Jesus.

Let us be motivated this season and wait with hope of renewal and a new beginning on Christmas day. May



Christ be born in our hearts anew as we celebrate Christmas. May God continue to sustain us and “keep you strong” in the face of our circumstances.

Let us continue to live our lives as if we are on the eve of the day of the Second Advent. Whether we celebrate Christmas Eve in-person or while socially-distanced over Zoom or Facebook, remember that Christ remains with you as he is born as “Emmanuel—God with us!” He is a savior and sustainer of our faith. Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Owar O.*



*Merry Christmas!*



## *What's Happening . . .*



On November 11, the Ebensburg Presbyterian Session met by Zoom. The opening included prayer and a scripture reading from Hebrew 10: 23-25. It commands us to hold fast to our hope in Christ Jesus and to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. The agenda and minutes from the October meeting were approved.

We then took time to study and discuss stewardship for our church using the book "Kitchen Table Giving". We broke into small groups to brainstorm and discuss our congregations' mission and giving in the current times.

Following the study time, the treasurer's report was received.

Church Committee reports were presented.

Budget, Finance, Stewardship Committee- presented the draft of the 2021 budget for session members to study. It will be acted upon in the December meeting

Communications- Disabling a no longer used website and fixing an incorrect web address were discussed.

Mission- The committee helped to recognize first responders during Red Ribbon Week. On October 29, items of appreciation were delivered to the District Attorney's Office. They included thank-you cards from our congregation and Cambria Elementary students, masks, hand sanitizers, Kleenex, disinfectant wipes, gloves, Life Savers candy and other snacks.

Nominating- Nominations and/or volunteers for Elders and Deacons are needed from the congregation.

Organ Restoration – The final profit from the Spaghetti fundraiser held in October was \$1673. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Pastor/Parish Relations – The time for the Ebensburg Christmas Eve service is 5:30 pm and the Colver service will be at 7:30 pm.

Personnel – There was a brief discussion about salaries for next year. Any action will be in conjunction with the budget to be adopted in December.

Property Management – Several small repair jobs and maintenance items were set including fixing timers for lights, replacing a flush valve for a toilet, and the need to keep the sidewalks cleared of snow. The P.A. system will be addressed in December.

Worship- It was decided that this year, with so many of us attending worship virtually, people may buy Christmas poinsettias, or chose to donate to the Christmas Joy Offering in memory or honor of loved ones. The list of honorees will be included in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

The Committee reports were received.

The Presbytery meeting for November will be held by Zoom on November 21.

In the Moderator's Report, Rev. Ojulu reported that he held phone meetings with some of the Congregation members and attended a Mission Network meeting.

The next Session meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9, 2020.

## Sunday Scripture Readings



### **December 6, 2020**

#### **2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1–11	Comfort my people; a voice cries: prepare the way of the Lord!
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13	God will speak peace; faithfulness and righteousness will meet.
2 Peter 3:8–15a	God is patient with us, but the day of the Lord is coming.
Mark 1:1–8	In the wilderness, John baptizes and proclaims the one to come.

### **December 13, 2020**

#### **3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I will rejoice in my Savior.
Psalm 126	When the Lord restored our fortunes, we shouted with joy.
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24	Rejoice, pray, give thanks; may God keep you until Christ's coming.
John 1:6–8, 19–28	John came to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

### **December 20, 2020**

#### **4th Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16	The Lord will build a house for David and his descendants.
Luke 1:46b–55	My soul magnifies the Lord, who has done great things.
Romans 16:25–27	Glory to God for the mystery now revealed to all peoples!
Luke 1:26–38	The angel Gabriel appears to Mary; her child will be God's Son.

### **December 24, 2020**

#### **Nativity of the Lord**

Isaiah 9:2–7	Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us.
Psalm 96	Sing a new song to the Lord, all the earth; declare God's glory.
Titus 2:11–14	The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)	Jesus is born in Bethlehem; angels tell shepherds the good news.

### **December 27, 2020**

#### **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10—62:3	The Lord will give you a new name; you will be a crown of beauty.
Psalm 148	Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth.
Galatians 4:4–7	Through the Son and the Spirit, we may call God Abba, Father.
Luke 2:22–40	Jesus is presented in the temple; Simeon and Anna rejoice.

If you need to contact Rev. Owar Ojulu for any pastoral needs below is his contact information:

Email: [ojh3o@yahoo.com](mailto:ojh3o@yahoo.com)

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920

### New Prayer List for 2021

We will be starting a new prayer list for 2021. If you have any names you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or drop the names in the Offering Plate.

### 2021 Giving Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2021 giving envelopes.

If there are any corrections or additions from last year's information, please notify the church office.

Thank you.



The Presbytery of Redstone is happy to report that Rick Watson has received a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Vandalia, Missouri. Both in the congregation and within the presbytery, he was approved unanimously. The Missouri Union Presbytery has requested, and the Presbytery of Redstone Committee on Ministry has agreed, to ordain Rick on their behalf and then transfer him to their presbytery. The service of ordination will take place on November 8; 3:00 p.m. @Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown. The service will also be streamed on Facebook.

You are invited to attend and support Rick as he begins this next chapter after many years of both service as a commissioned pastor and this journey through seminary, ordination exams and his first call as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament. Even if you are not able to attend, I would encourage you to reach out to Rick in some way to affirm this call and his journey. You can contact Bobbie or Skip at the Presbytery office to get Rick's contact information.



The Mission Committee will be sending Christmas cards to the local nursing homes this year. Christmas cards are located on the table in the Meeting Room. Stop by and sign the cards! The cards will be mailed to the Cambria Care Center/Amber Hills and Cambridge Ebensburg Senior Living on December 14th.



**EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Year to Date as of October, 2020

Actual Operating Income: \$55,587.57

Actual Operating Expenses: \$60,487.38

Gain/Loss: (\$4,899.81)



**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!

# Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

## December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	2	3	4 <i>Happy Birthday, Teagan Vaughn</i>	5
6  <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Paige Forberger Cub Scouts 5—7</i>	7	8  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	9  <b>Session 7 PM</b>  <i>Happy Birthday, John Kinkead</i>	10  <i>Happy Birthday, Roxanne Lamer</i>	11	12
13  <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Cub Scouts 5—7</i>	14	15  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	16	17	18  <i>Happy Birthday Martha O'Brien, Holly Lyons</i>	19  <i>NA Business Mtg.— 9:45 AM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Sylvan Vietmeier</i>
20  <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>  <i>Communion</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Cub Scouts 5—7</i>	21  <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22  <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	23	24  <i>Christmas Eve Service—5:30 PM</i>  	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Carol Vaughn</i>	26
27  <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>    <i>Happy Anniv. Bennett &amp; Carol Vaughn</i>		

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
200 North Center Street  
PO Box 327  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

