

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

December 2022

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
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.facebook.com/Ebensburg
PresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace—Isaiah 9:6

A journey through Advent is a renewed walk with God and anticipation of the coming of the awaited promise of restoration and the gift a Savior. For this reason, we light the Candle of *Hope* on the *first Sunday* of Advent to remind us of God’s continued presence “Jehovah Shalom,” Judges 6:24, in our awaiting. We light the candle of *Peace* as we pray for world peace while anticipating the day when peace covers the world, and creation lives in harmony. And *Joy*, as we continue to rejoice in our ongoing circumstances until the fullness and complete rejoicing in God’s realm is at hand. Lastly, we light the candle of *Love* on the *fourth Sunday* of Advent as we await the celebration, the time when God’s love is incarnated in Christ and *unto us is given*.

Two years ago, I asked you to pray for Ethiopia as the country plunged into civil war. The war broke out on November 3rd, 2020, and the Tigray region in the north, with about six million population, was left in the dark. They were cutoff from the rest of the country and the world. There was no electricity, telephone communications, transportation, or banking services, and the price of commodities skyrocketed. The whole region was in total blackout—they were left in the dark. For two years, peace was far from sight in the homes and hearts of Ethiopians; hate toward ethnic Tigrayans mounted and the country was divided.

And this time last year, I asked the church and the Christian friends in Cambria County to remember Ethiopia in Advent prayers as you lit your candles. I was certain that with prayer Ethiopia would indeed be restored. I believe in the power of prayers! You did partner and continued to remember Ethiopia in your prayers. **God has heard your prayers!** Thank you!

Today, I bring you the good news, and I want you to celebrate with the Ethiopians together. On November 2nd, 2022, the peace deal between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front combatants was signed in Pretoria South Africa. The TPLF agreed to lay down their weapons and continue as a peaceful party. Since the peace deal was signed, the people of Tigray have breathed the fresh air of peace; their hope has been restored, and everyone is able to walk freely to visit relatives and attend church services. Electricity and telephone services have been restored in a few cities. Yet they await the full implementation of the peace deal and the day where they can travel and reunite with the families in other part of Ethiopia.

The word of the prophet comes to life in this that, “the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16

Therefore, this year I ask you to light your candle in celebration of peace and rejoice with Ethiopia, as we await to sing with the multitude of the heavenly host on Christmas Day exclaiming, “Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth who please Him.” Luke 2:14

Christ is our peace by grace through faith—Jehovah Shalom.

Come Now *Prince of Peace!*

Pastor Owar

Family Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18, Immediately Following Wor-
ship



Please invite friends and family to our Annual Christmas Meal and Party Sunday December 18, immediately following the service and congregational meeting. The church will provide the main dish. Please bring any of the following items. Salad, Dessert, Vegetable

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Yes, I will be attending the Church Family Christmas Dinner.

Name: _____

No. Attending _____

Please fill out the bulletin insert at worship and place in our offering basket. We will need an approximate count. Or you may call the office and leave a message.



A Special Congregational Meeting of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday, December 18th to be held immediately following the worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

1. Elect elders for Session
2. Endorse the 2023 budget that is approved and submitted by Session



Congregational Meeting, December 18th

What's Happening...



The November 9th Session meeting began with a presentation by Gerry Gittings from Servpro of Ebensburg and Indiana County. They repaired the storm window covering the stained-glass window closest to the parking lot entrance. They found that the old glass is a textured, leaded glass and it is very brittle so it could not be reused. They replaced the rotted wooden sash with vinyl and installed new glass. They also checked the other windows around the building. The windows on the parking lot (weather) side are in the worst condition with rotted sashes and the windows on the other sides of the building are also in need of repair. After discussion, The Session decided to table any action until the next meeting.

The bible study was Isaiah 65: 17-18. God is about to change the state of things for Israel. We also saw a video about what now after Jesus and the challenge to the Church. Then the Scot's Confession was noted. We are called to the continuance, increase and preservation of the Church.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved. And the Treasurer's Report was received. Committee reports followed.

Budget Finance and Stewardship presented a tentative budget. Presbytery terms of call recommendations were discussed.

Communications discussed computer issues and will investigate an energy efficiency grant/loan to help with window repairs.

Discipleship requested a member of Session to speak to the Confirmation Class about Christian Life.

Family Life will sponsor a Christmas Dinner for the congregation. They are also planning to collect items for the local school district students.

Mission led a discussion about Matthew 25 and voted to support exploring a sister city/region partnership with a community/area in the Gambella region of Ethiopia.

Nominating- The idea of changing the day of the week for Session meeting next year was discussed. At least one potential candidate for elder could serve if this occurred.

Pastor/Parish Relations scheduled a zoom meeting to plan for Advent and Christmas Eve services. A joint Session meeting for the Colver and Ebensburg boards is scheduled for December 14, 2022. Ebensburg session will meet at 6 pm, Colver session at 6:30 and Joint meeting at 7pm.

Personnel reported that Ebensburg Presbyterian is still looking for a secretary.

Worship discussed plans for Advent/ Christmas decorating.
All Committee reports were received.

In Old Business, a review of By-Laws revision was tabled until next Month.

In New Business, vacation leave for Rev. Ojulu for the week of November 20th was approved.

In the Moderators Report Rev. Owar Ojulu thanked everyone for their prayers and support. He made visits/calls to several congregation members.
The next stated Session Meeting is Wednesday, December 14th at 6 pm.





Paige Forberger	December 6
Sylvan Vietmeier	December 9
Roxanne Lamer	December 10
Holly Lyons	December 18
Carol Vaughn	December 25

New Prayer List for 2022

We will be starting a new prayer list for 2022. 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.

2022 Giving Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2023 giving envelopes.

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

Christmas Cards for Wounded or Ailing Veterans

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take a few minutes to remember our veterans by sending a card to the following :

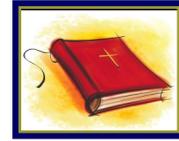
V.A. Medical Center
Volunteer Services Dept.
2907 Pleasant Valley Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602

Hollidaysburg Veterans Home
Volunteer Services Dept.
500 Municipal Drive
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Mail the cards yourself or bring them to the church by December 15th and we will send them.



Sunday Scripture Readings



December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 11:1–10	From Jesse’s root, a child will come with the spirit of the Lord.
Psalms 72:1–7, 18–19	May the king rule with righteousness and defend the poor.
Romans 15:4–13	Trust God’s promises in Scripture; rejoice and live in hope.
Matthew 3:1–12	John calls for repentance; prepare the way of the Lord.

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 35:1–10	The desert will blossom; God’s people will return with joy.
Psalms 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55	The maker of heaven and earth gives justice and reigns forever. Mary rejoices in God, who helps the poor and lifts up the lowly.
James 5:7–10	Be patient; have courage; the coming of the Lord is near.
Matthew 11:2–11	Jesus praises John, the messenger who has prepared the way.

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 7:10–16	The young woman will bear a child and name him Immanuel.
Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19	Restore us, O God; let your face shine, and save us.
Romans 1:1–7	Paul greets the saints in Rome; Jesus is the promised Son of God.
Matthew 1:18–25	Mary is with child; an angel visits Joseph; Jesus is “God with us.”

December 24, 2022

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 9:2–7	Light shines on people in darkness; a child has been born for us.
Psalms 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.



Journeying through the Season of Advent - Jesse Tree
Isaiah 11:1

FROM YOUNG DISCIPLES

On November 13, 2022, the Youth Group led a spirit-filled Sunday Service that focused on dealing with temptation. The youth wrote the skits and developed the entire service based on what they learned during their meetings. They will continue with their regular Youth program, take confirmation classes, and plan for more Sunday services next year 2023. Thank you for your Support.

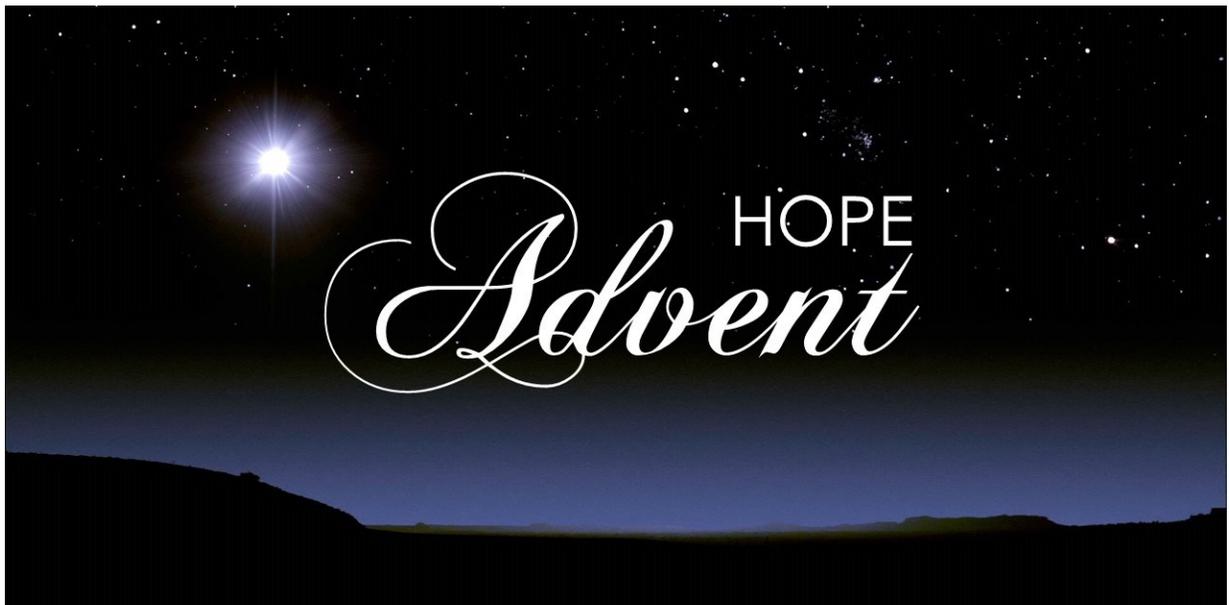


If you need to contact Rev. Owar Ojulu for any pastoral needs below is his contact information:

Email: ojh3o@yahoo.com

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of November 2022

Actual Operating Income:

Actual Operating Expenses:

Gain/Loss:



2022 Per Capita

2022 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.00**. 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!

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent Communion</i>	5	6 Point of Service NA meeting 6pm	7	8	9	10
11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	12	13 Point of Service NA meeting 6pm	14 Session 6pm-Ebg 6:30-Colver	15	16	17 NA Business Meeting 9:45 am
18 <i>Congregational Meeting and Christmas Dinner starting at noon</i>	19	20 Point of Service NA meeting 6pm	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service 5:30 pm
25 <i>Christmas Day No Service</i>	26	27 Point of Service NA meeting 6pm	28	29	30	31

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