

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
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[www.colverpresbyterian.org](http://www.colverpresbyterian.org)

Join Us Each Week!

Sunday School 10:15 AM

Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Colver :

Morning Worship 9:00 AM

## Ebensburg and Colver Pres, Church.

I don't know how to begin as I write this article in the wake of THANKSGIVING. I have a lot to say, but little space to fit this overflowing and heartfelt thank you to all of you and to God the almighty.

My wife and I are touched by your love, kindness, acceptance and are grateful for your inspiring welcome. We appreciated your gifts to our needs, and your time and talents as you support us in many ways to settle in Ebensburg.

I'm privileged and blessed to be your pastor and a friend in the service for the Lord. There is nothing a human being needs more in this world than to seek God's will and to be loved by their neighbors. You're my neighbors and fellow ambassadors in Christ's kingdom. I am grateful!

In the last four weeks, I have come to know how effective all of you are in the life of the Church. You are ready to pick up the pieces to fix the puzzle based on your gifts in service to the Lord. The Church doors are open for the community of Ebensburg and beyond to come and conduct their programs in the basement. You are, indeed, the Church of God for the people!

As we begin this new journey together, let's pray that the Lord adds more servants to the harvest as we seek more gifts to fill different committee spots (1 Cor. 3:9). May the Lord guide us in discernment as we aspire for inspiring future of our

Advent is here! Advent is when we anticipate "His Coming," where we start lighting candles of hope, peace, joy and love while awaiting Christ's Birth on Christmas. From Advent through Christmas is my favorite time of the year and am sure many of you would agree with me. Despite of the winter cold, snowy evenings and when we yearn for warmth, our eyes stare at the outdoor lights and sometimes we see glimpse of candle lights through windows in the neighborhood. It feels as if the Lord speaks into the "formless void" once again saying "let there be light," and there we see lights! It's a favorable time of the year because we are reminded of God's mercy and faithfulness in renewing promises. We are also prompted to do the housing-keeping businesses of our lives. At Christmas, Christ finds space and he is born new in the Inns of our hearts.

Jim and I went to the last Presbytery meeting for this year held in Laura Blank's Church in Smock, Pa. As Jim was driving back from the meeting, I kept gazing at trees and the beautiful landscape in your area. I snapped some pictures along as I marveled at the wonders of God's creation. I remembered how green this place was in August when I first visited Ebensburg and Colver. This time, trees have given up and changed to grayish color and/or no leaves at all. It's the season, but trees await another season. Everything in this world passes through seasons and awaits the fulness of glamour of

life.

As I looked at trees dropping their



leaves, I was reminded of God's promising prophesy to Israel in the Book of Isaiah. The Jesse dynasty was long gone, laid bare and considered dead. Nonetheless, the Lord visited Jesse with favor. God promised a new stem shooting up from that lifeless trunk. That a "new Branch bearing fruit from the old root" will be born. Like trees, our hearts long for "Scepter arise" and shine in our darkness and light up the manger where Jesus is found. As the Lord renewed Israel's hope and gave life to spiritless experience of Jesse, the Lord shall visit us and remains in our hearts as we celebrate Christmas. The Lord will guide, shower us with mercy, and give us a renewing spirit.

Let us remember in our prayers, our nation and our young generation that the light of Christ shines in their world. May the Lord lead us into the year 2020, with renewed hope and aspiring spirit!

Genesis 1:1-2  
 Numbers 24:1  
 Isaiah 11:1  
 Matthew 2:10-11  
 1 Cor. 3:9



# THE FELLOWSHIP

A JOINT NEWSLETTER OF THE EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND THE  
COLVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019

## What's Happening...

The November Session meeting opened with a prayer and reading of Ephesians 3:16-19, which stresses the importance of being rooted in the love of Christ.

The agenda was approved by acclamation after the addition of several items of new business.

Section F-01.02 of the Book of Order speaks of the authority of Christ, especially pertinent at this time, as we approach the feast of Christ the King, the “bridge” between liturgical seasons.

The treasurers’ report was received with a brief discussion.

Budget, Finance, and Stewardship Committee presented the proposed budget for 2020, which will be voted on in December.

The Mission Committee will again send Christmas cards to the local VA hospital. Cards are available to be signed, and the address of the hospital is also included in this newsletter in case anyone wishes to send cards individually.

There was a collection for the local food pantry on November 17.

The Mission Committee will meet after Thanksgiving to decide about end-of-year donations. If there are particular needs that you are aware of, please inform Judy Carl, Kris Segear, or Martha O’Brien.

The Organ Restoration Committee reported that a plaque and display case are being prepared in memory of Tom Nagy. The display will include some stops from the old organ, something that was dear to Tom’s heart. The plaque and display case will be presented to his family.

The Dickens recital will be bigger than ever this year, including as many as 13 members of the Altoona Brass Collective as well as local organists, choir, and bell choir. Final rehearsal will be December 6 for the December 7 performance. Proceeds from the recital will be given to the Organ Fund in memory of Tom Nagy.

The Organ Restoration committee plans to send an update letter to all members of the congregation and donors before the end of the year.

The Parish Life committee will plan the traditional Christmas lunch to be held after worship on December 15.

It was decided that we should also offer coffee and hot chocolate on the front porch during the Christmas parade and request donations rather than charging a set price.

The Session voted to dissolve the Pastor Nominating Committee since it is no longer needed.

In terms of Property Management, members of Session are evaluating items in the filing cabinets in the office and will investigate scanning items for future reference and destroying the paper copies to consolidate space.

## What's Happening...(continued)

Worship Committee reported that members of the committee have been discussing Christmas decorations and Christmas Eve worship plans with Pastor Ojulu and will be reaching out to the congregation for help with decorating.

Communion is scheduled for December 15.

In Old Business it was decided that the computer system, Internet access, and the PA and audio-visual possibilities need to be upgraded. Both of these are large, ongoing projects which will need careful attention and consultation.

Pastor Ojulu expressed his and his family's gratitude for the gracious welcome that they have received.

The Deacons reported several philanthropic projects aimed at needy children in the Central Cambria School District. These projects include purchasing coats and mittens, games, and hygiene products.

The Session meeting adjourned with prayer.

There will be a Congregational meeting on December 22 following worship to elect officers for 2020.

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

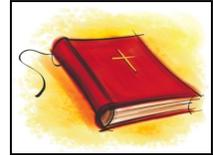
Email: [ojh3o@yahoo.com](mailto:ojh3o@yahoo.com)

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920



# Sunday Scripture Readings



## **December 1, 2019—1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1–5 Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.  
 Psalm 122 I was glad when they said, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”  
 Romans 13:11–14 Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.  
 Matthew 24:36–44 The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.

## **December 8, 2019—2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1–10 From Jesse’s root, a child will come with the spirit of the Lord.  
 Psalm 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 15, 2019—3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1–10 The desert will blossom; God’s people will return with joy.  
 Psalm 146:5–10 The maker of heaven and earth gives justice and reigns forever.  
 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 22, 2019—4th Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10–16 The young woman will bear a child and name him Immanuel.  
 Psalm 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, 2019—Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Eve**

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 29, 2019**

### **1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

Isaiah 63:7–9 The people were saved not by an angel, but the Lord’s presence.  
 Psalm 148 Let everything in the whole creation praise the name of the Lord.  
 Hebrews 2:10–18 Jesus calls us brothers and sisters; he became human to save us.  
 Matthew 2:13–23 Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt to escape persecution from Herod.



## Christmas Poinsettias



Once again Poinsettias will be available to decorate our sanctuary. A listing will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The donation this year will be \$9.00 per plant. Please place order with payment in the offering plate or send to the church office no later than Sunday, December 1, 2019.

Plants may be in memory of an individual or couple, or "Loved Ones". They may also be in honor of some occasion such as a birthday or anniversary.

I would like to order a total of \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Poinsettias.

Please list the information as follows:

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

XX

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

XX

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick them up following the Christmas Eve Service or leave them to brighten the season for someone else. (Use back for additional orders.)

If you have any questions regarding ordering Christmas Poinsettias, please call the church office Mon.—Thurs. 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. This form is available as a bulletin insert or at the church office.

**EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# *A Christmas Organ Recital*

Please join us  
for our 3rd annual  
Christmas Recital

**Love  
Peace  
& Joy**

**Free Admission December 7th, 2019**

**3:30 - 4:30 P M**

**200 N. Center St. Ebensburg, PA**

**EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Year to Date as of October, 2019:

Actual Operating Income: \$53,252.48

Actual Operating Expenses: \$34,380.42

Gain/Loss: \$18,872.06



**2019 Per Capita**

**2019 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!

2020 Giving Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2020 giving envelopes.

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

Thank you.



### **Christmas Cards for Wounded or Ailing Veterans**

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take a card and send to this address:

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

Mail a card yourself or bring them to the church by December 16th and we will send them.



### **Porch Refreshments during Ebensburg Christmas Parade**

Again this year, the church will be having coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts available for a donation during the Ebensburg Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2019. The Christmas parade starts at 11:00 a.m.

# Stories of Redstone

*Christ at work in our midst*

## *“A Spirit Gift to the Community”*



For the 36<sup>th</sup> year, First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown will be offering a “gift” to their community. Initiating the season by steeping the community in the “sights and sounds” of the celebration of Christmas, it engages many members of the congregation.

They come together to bring nativities, greet guests, prepare and serve refreshments, work with children, sing in the three-day music program and to pray. It becomes a source of joy both to the congregation and to the community.

Along with the over 100 nativities on display, choirs from both schools and congregations will perform sacred songs of the season. The Festival concludes on the third day with a mass combined choir in the final performance, concluding with a rousing rendition of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus which always brings the audience to their feet to join in. Truly, this is a *“Spirit Gift to the Community”*

### **2019 Festival of the Nativity Schedule**

--- Friday, December 6; 6:00-9:00

---Saturday, December 7; 6:00-9:00

---Sunday, December 8; 1:15-3:00; 6:00-9:00

*Communicate the Word... Carry on the Work... Change the World  
Together!*

*Family Christmas Lunch*  
*Sunday, December 15, 2019*  
*Following Worship*



Please invite friends and family to our Annual Christmas Meal and Party Sunday, December 15 immediately following the Service The church will provide meat, potato, rolls, drinks and place settings.

Please bring one of the following dishes:

- Salad
- Vegetable
- Dessert

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the above information and place in our offering plate as it is passed to you. We will need an approximate count in order to purchase the meat and rolls.

*Hope to see you at the Family Christmas Lunch! Any questions, please call the church office Mon.—Thurs. 9:00 am—1:00 pm.*

# Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

## December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Worship 11:00 AM 1st Sunday of Advent  Girl Scouts - 7 PM</p>	<p>2 ACRP—3—8</p>	<p>3 Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30—5:30 PM  Point of Freedom 6 PM</p>	<p>4 ACRP—3—8 Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Bell Ringing- Walmart 4-9 PM Happy Birthday Teagan Vaughn</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6  Happy Birthday Paige Forberger</p>	<p>7  Christmas Organ Recital 3:30 PM</p>
<p>8 Worship 11:00 AM 2nd Sunday of Advent  Cub Scouts - 6 PM</p>	<p>9 ACRP—3—8  Happy Birthday John Kinkead</p>	<p>10 Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30—5:30 PM  Point of Freedom 6 PM Happy Birthday</p>	<p>11 <b>SESSION MEETING - 7 PM</b>  ACRP—3—8</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Worship 11:00 AM Communion  Church Family Christmas "Dinner"  3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>16 ACRP—3—8</p>	<p>17 Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30—5:30 PM  Point of Freedom 6 PM</p>	<p>18 ACRP—3—8  Happy Birthday Martha O'Brien, Holly Lyons</p>	<p>19  Happy Birthday, Sylvan Vietmeier</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21  Counselor— 9:45—12 N  NA Business Meeting—9:45 AM</p>
<p>22 Worship 11:00 AM  4th Sunday of Advent  Congregational Mtg. after Worship Services</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Service—5 PM  Point of Freedom 7:00 PM</p>	<p>25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day  Happy Birthday Carol Vaughn</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship 11:00 AM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Point of Freedom 6 PM New Year's Eve  Happy Anniv. Bennett &amp; Carol Vaughn</p>				

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