

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
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Dear friends in Christ,

Time slips by in seconds, seconds turn to minutes, hours to days, days weeks, then months, and then a year. January has just passed by, and it has been thirty long days since the New Year celebration. Many of you might have achieved goals for your New Year resolutions, but some of us are still lingering behind. February always is a new reminder for unmet goals!

In January, we were blessed with a new Session, made plans for the new year, and the Lord added a faithful member to our congregation. The Lord showered us with waters of the covenant during Epiphany as we remembered the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River and were all reminded of our own Baptisms.

Guided by a sermon theme on “church in motion,” we have journeyed through the book of Exodus. We have reflected on circumstances, strengths, gifts and interpreted those aspects to our lives as individuals and as a congregation that has been called to carrying on God’s mission locally and beyond.

It’s February! February means we are going to observe Valentine’d Dat (Valentine Day) and Ash Wednesday. While we celebrate the love of Valentines, we also reflect on the greater LOVE OF GOD. Then Ash Wednesday reminds us of our fragile nature as human beings.

Ash Wednesday has a personal meaning for me: On August 28th, 2018 I was partially hit by a car while crossing a road in Minnesota. My survival was a miracle. A few weeks after healing from bruises and fractured teeth from that fall, something struck my heart—Fragile! “Oh yes,” I said this in complement to that voice running deep in my heart. The car hit me so fast and I could have died in a matter of seconds. I have had frightening experiences in the past. At one time robbers attacked our bus, shooting at us. I was also caught in the middle of a tribal war back in Africa, but none of those scared me. The car accident became the scariest experience of my life—I am fragile. Yet, this experience was a wakeup call and a miracle to witness God’s grace in my life.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent. During Ash Wednesday, when receive the sign of the cross, marked in ashes, we are Assured of God’s grace that has come by way of the Salvific action of Christ Jesus and are justified by faith and made Holy through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. As we move on to the Lenten season, we are again encouraged to Withdraw from our noisy environments that interfere with our spiritual life directions. The invitation is to humble ourselves; to Exalt God while we Direct our desires and thoughts to him who

is able to Nurture our faiths.

Therefore, as we observe Ash Wednesday, take heed of Job’s thoughtful advice that reminds us that our “maxims are proverbs of ashes; [our] defenses are defenses of clay.” Job 13:12. Let us Examine our Selves before the Lord; be Determined and meditate on God’s Word; Allow God to mold us as we are of Ashes; that we Yearn for Christ’s transformation, resurrection and glorification in God’s realms.

In February, we will focus on justice, love and God’s will as we transition to the Lenten season and explore more about redemption and adoption.

Please find my wordplay secrets from within the article.

Yours in Christ

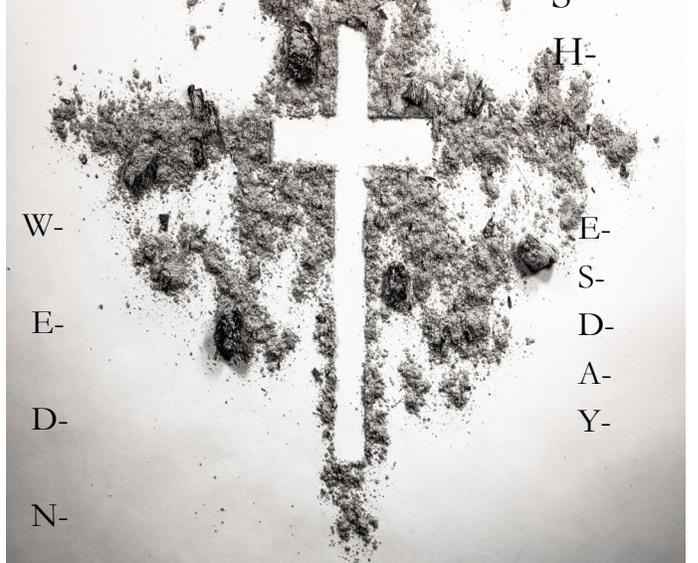
Rev. Owar Ojulu

Happy Valentine



WORDPLAY

ASH WEDNESDAY



THE FELLOWSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2020

What's Happening...



Our first Session meeting of the new year opened with prayer on January 8, 2020. The agenda was approved. A brief study of Psalm 23 dealt with God's providence, leading and guidance. The Book of Order training detailed the duties and responsibilities of church officers.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved and the Treasurer's report was accepted.

The Budget, Finance and Stewardship committee reported that one change, an increase in medical insurance payment, needed to be made to the budget for this year because of the way that the pastor's medical insurance must be calculated for each church. This was passed.

Communications reported that the new computer and external hard drive were set up and connected with the printer/copier and all is working well. A new cordless phone was installed in the office.

The Mission Committee reported on their recent meeting and detailed several donations.

Due to a problem with a key on the organ, the keyboard was replaced under warranty. Parish Life sponsored the Christmas Luncheon.

In Personnel matters, a review was completed for the Secretary, and a request for time off was noted.

Property Management reported about the new computer and phone and installation of new doorknobs and locks for the offices.

The Worship Committee set communion dates for the rest of this year. Communion will be held the third Sunday of each month except for February 23 (closest to start of Lent), April 12 (Easter) and October 4 (Worldwide Communion). An Ash Wednesday breakfast and worship will be held February 26 and an invitation will be extended to the Colver and Revloc Presbyterian congregations to join us. In April Rev. Ojulu will be away for one Sunday after Easter.

In Old Business, information is being gathered to update the 1971 era PA system. A motion was passed to spend up to \$200 to purchase stands for the TV's that were donated to the church.

In New Business, committees were reformed with chairs from Session and the congregation will be invited to join committees. A motion passed to purchase a new chair for the pastor's office. It was moved to receive Phil Brulia into membership during worship January 12. Rev. Ojulu will have business cards printed. The Gideons can set up a card display in our church. Kris Segear and Laura McGill were retained as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively. Amy Brulia, Pat Mohney and Judy Carl were approved to be money counters.

Judy Carl was named as the representative for the Presbytery meeting to be held on January 25.

Jim Stratton, Clerk of Session, reported that he is preparing the annual report to the denomination. Session members are preparing reports for the annual Congregation Meeting to be held on February 2, 2020 immediately following worship.

The Deacons had a meeting scheduled to work on Valentine's Day gifts for shut ins. The next Session meeting will be held Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7pm.

Welcome



Phil Brulia was received into our membership during Worship Service on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

Ash Wednesday Breakfast
February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Fellowship will be held in the Church Hall at 9:00 AM.

We invite all members to attend, as well as members from the Colver and Revloc congregations.

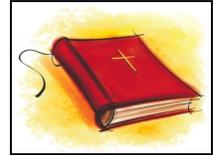
If you need to contact Rev. Owar Ojulu for any pastoral needs below is his contact information:

Email: ojh3o@yahoo.com

Phone: 507-304-5958 (cell phone)

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church: 814-472-6920

Sunday Scripture Readings



February 2, 2020 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1–8 What does the Lord require? Justice, kindness, and humility.

Psalms 15 Those who do what is right live in the presence of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18–31 The foolishness of the cross shames the wisdom of the world.

Matthew 5:1–12 Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes.

February 9, 2020—5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.

Psalms 112:1–9 (10) Those who do God's will and seek what is right will be happy.

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16) Paul preaches Christ, crucified; the Spirit reveals God's wisdom.

Matthew 5:13–20 Jesus says: You are salt and light; I have come to fulfill the law.

February 16, 2020—6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 A choice between life and death, prosperity and adversity.

Psalms 119:1–8 Happy are those who keep God's law and follow God's way.

1 Corinthians 3:1–9 Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God is the source of growth.

Matthew 5:21–37 Jesus interprets the laws on murder, adultery, and making vows.

February 23, 2020—Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 24:12–18 The glory of God settles on Sinai, where Moses spends forty days.

Psalms 2 God says: You are my son; the nations will serve the Lord.

2 Peter 1:16–21 The apostle recounts Jesus' transfiguration, fulfilling prophecy.

Matthew 17:1–9 On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

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



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Presbytery Leadership for the Future

Belinda is a member and Clerk of Session of the Colver Presbyterian Church. She works as a Guidance Counselor at Purchase Line High School. Along with her work, she has trained people in various vocations how to recognize and respond to someone expressing suicidal behaviors and/or thoughts.

Having worked with people of all ages who have struggled with thoughts of hurting themselves and those survivors who have been left behind, she was encouraged when the General Assembly (2018) took steps to encourage congregations work in the area of suicide prevention. Belinda comments:



Belinda Lambie
Vice Moderator

“We are all God’s children and many of us have hurts that go unnoticed.”

Noting the Matthew 25 initiative (Presbyterian Mission Agency), she affirms its relevance in the congregations of Redstone Presbytery. *“I see so many children and families who are in need physically, emotionally and spiritually. Because I am so blessed having received the greatest gift of all in Jesus, I need to demonstrate the love that God has shown to me to them.”*

Welcome Belinda Lambie to the leadership of the Presbytery of Redstone as Vice Moderator in 2020!

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

Together!

EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of December, 2019:

Actual Operating Income: \$69,019.66

Actual Operating Expenses: \$49,133.65

Gain/Loss: \$19,886.01



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!



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Happy Birthday, Max Magley</i>
2 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting after Worship Services Cub Scouts 5-7 PM Girl Scouts 7-8 PM</i>	3 <i>ACRP-3-8 Happy Birthday, Susan Makosy, Marsha Krug</i>	4 <i>Point of Freedom 6 PM Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30-5:30 PM</i>	5 <i>ACRP-3-8</i>	6	7 <i>Happy Birthday, Tim Forberger</i>	8
9 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Cub Scouts 5-7 PM</i>	10 <i>ACRP-3-8</i>	11 <i>Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30-5:30 PM Point of Freedom 6 PM Happy Birthday, Martha Krumenaker</i>	12 <i>ACRP-3-8 SESSION MEETING - 7 PM</i>	13 <i>Happy Anniv. Jim & Laurel Lyons</i>	14 	15 <i>NA Business Meeting- 9:45 AM Happy Birthday, Jamie Mazzarella</i>
16 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Girl Scouts - 7 PM</i>	17 <i>President's Day Happy Birthday, Eva Vietmeier</i>	18 <i>Point of Freedom 6:00 PM Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30-5:30 PM</i>	19 <i>ACRP-3-8</i>	20	21 <i>ACRP 3-8</i>	22 <i>Counselor 9:45 am-12 Noon</i>
23 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Communion Girl Scouts 5-7 PM</i>	24 <i>ACRP-3-8</i>	25 <i>Point of Freedom 6 PM Church reserved for Music Lessons 3:30-5:30 PM</i>	26 <i>Ash Wednesday - Breakfast & Fellowship 9:00 AM ACRP-3-8</i>	27	28	29

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ASH

WEDNESDAY

