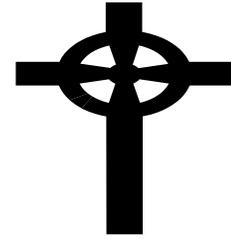
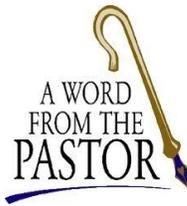


# The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church



## 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 Douglass

## Web page:

[www.ebgpresby.org](http://www.ebgpresby.org)

## Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch](https://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2833971690>

*Lord, you delight to set your truth deep in my spirit. Come into my secret heart and teach me wisdom. Purify my conscience! Make this leper clean again! Wash me in your love until I am pure in heart. Satisfy me in your sweetness, and my song of joy will return. The places within me you have crushed will rejoice in your healing touch. Psalm 51:6-8*

Dear Ebensburg Church family,

It is already February, and I cannot believe that January is now behind us. I'm sure everything that happened in January-- New Year celebrations, the change in the leadership of our country, and our sermon series of "discovery"-- contributed to the swift transition to February. Whatever it might be, we are now in February, a month, where besides Valentine's Day, we begin to observe the season of Lent.

Historically, Lent was the time set apart for the new converts ready for baptism. The candidates would prepare themselves by spending time in fasting, refraining from food from sunrise to sunset before baptism. Over time, Lent became a time for general penance and abstinence. Reflection and contemplating on gracious acts of God and spiritual renewal become the emphasis of the season. As the psalmist noted, this is the time to humble ourselves, seek the face of God and invite him to our innermost secrets. We ask God to show us his love, purify our consciences, and heal us, that we rejoice in the covenant promise again. We are invited to walk the path of Jesus to Calvary and encouraged to observe the season with fasting and self-emptying in our spiritual practices (Mark 1:13). We ask the Lord to occupy our hearts, our minds, and our whole being and nurture our faith to begin a new journey.

Even if many believers pay less attention to Lent these days, we are convinced that the Christian church can restore the importance of Lent in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. The first step is to acknowledge the purpose of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus on the Cross. Christians need to take seriously the act of faith and the importance of the Cross as part of the divine correlation for redemption. Second, believers ought to ask who we are. As we are called and chosen to be Christians, we are encouraged to lead this life and commit ourselves and exercise our faith. Paul urged the Ephesians to put off their old selves and put on their new humanity "created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" Ephesians 4:22-24.

Therefore, starting on Ash Wednesday we ob-

serve Lent, imitating Jesus, because his temptation mirrors our path as everyone carries their own crosses in this life (Mark 8:34). In observing, we also encounter God in our prayers. We are called to empty ourselves, sacrifice our needs, and pursue God's presence in repentance. We practice self-discipline as we direct our attention away from ourselves and our needs and toward God.

The scripture refers to fasting as abstaining from food. Strictly speaking, that means refraining from solid and liquid foods until sunset. It also abstaining from animal products as we can read in Daniel where they ate vegetables only and to John the Baptist eating locusts and wild honey (Dan 1:12; Mark 1:6). We will not try this extreme fasting practice this year.

However, I ask everyone to join in observing twenty-one days of Lent with prayer. Let us



Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins

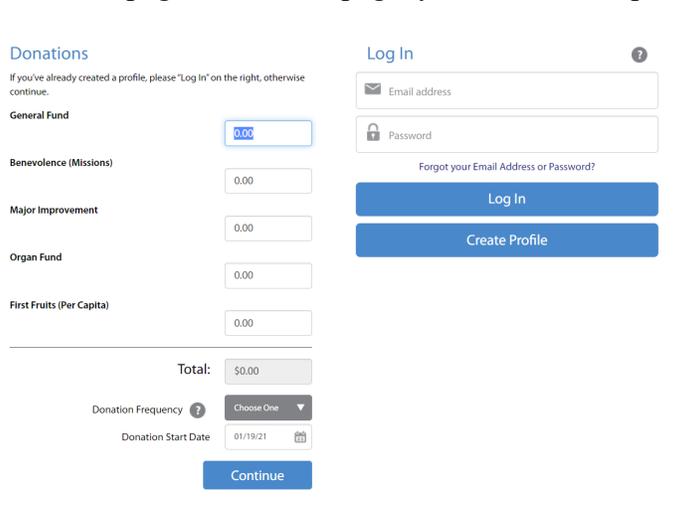
begin with the simple step. Let us try fasting from technology, social media, leisure activities (nonfood fasting), etc. and make an intentional focus to God. We will try a partial fasting by skipping breakfast (if you are able or take a light meal if you are taking medications). You're allowed to drink water during this time. You can try abstaining from all those nonfood fast ideas above, if you cannot commit to food fasting. Then we will break the fast at 12 pm everyday from Friday February 19 until Friday, March 26 for 21 days, (weekends excluded). You are welcome to log-on to Zoom as we plan to break the fast virtually with a short devotion or scripture reading and prayer. Also, you may end your personal fast without joining the group and maybe with a brief personal prayer or scripture reading. You can choose when you would fast and end the fast if fasting until noon does not work for you.

Above all, I encourage you to take time with your God. Set a time throughout the day, whether in the morning, at noon or evening, and read a scripture passage or pray. Remember how the LORD your God has walked with you all these years and how he strengthened you and showed you his gracious love through your hard times (Deuteronomy 8:2-3). As our Psalms states, may God *come into your secret hearts, purify your conscience, strengthen you; may he heal you and restore us.*

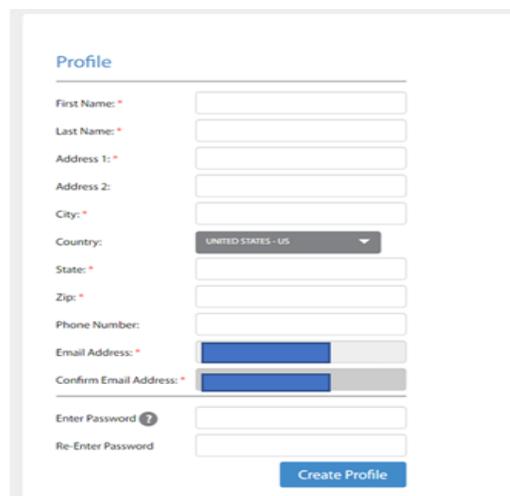
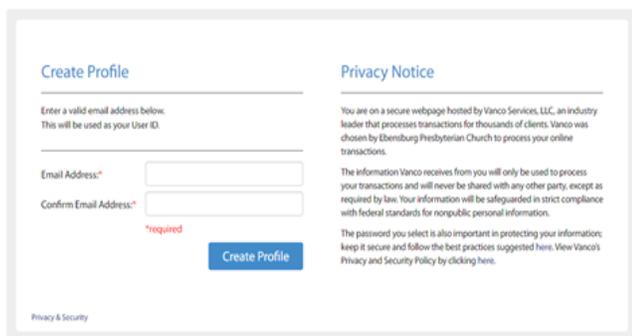
Rev. Owar Ojulu

## 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.



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.



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<sup>+</sup>**. 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.



## *Stewardship Pledge Cards*

Happy New Year to our wonderful church family. For 2021, the Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee has been requested to prepare pledge cards to better estimate our giving by members and regular guests. A “My gift from Blessings Received for 2021” card was put with each set of giving envelopes or distributed to those who have been at our in-person services. If you have not received yours, you may use the form below:

### *My Gift from Blessings Received for 2021*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In the spirit of love and service, I/we prayerfully make the following financial estimate to the mission of Ebensburg Presbyterian Church in 2021 as designated into each of the following funds:

**General Fund for Operating Expenses:** I/We estimate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: week month year (Please circle one)

**Property and Building Fund:** I/We estimate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: week month year (Please circle one)

**Mission Fund:** I/We estimate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per: week month year (Please circle one)

**Per Capita Fund:** I/We estimate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$42.50 per member annually)

I understand that this estimate may be increased or decreased due to changing circumstances

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15*

Please kindly take a moment and complete your card and return to the church office or place in the offering baskets located near each of the front entrances.

The card is your estimate of your anticipated giving in 2021 but may be increased or decreased due to changes in your personal circumstances. We hope you will prayerfully consider your donation for 2021. Thank you for your continued support of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church.

## 2021 CARING-SHARING RESPONSE FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Okay to publish in church directory? Yes No  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Okay to publish in church directory? Yes No

**Service Opportunities:** Please place an "X" to the left of the areas where you would be willing to volunteer your time to serve the church. It is not a specific commitment. Please return this form with your pledge card by February 14, 2021. Thank you for sharing your talents and time!

### **Administration**

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist in office –Office sitting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assist in office-Telephoning  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assist in office-typing/computer

### **Nominating**

\_\_\_\_\_ Help to secure deacons and elders  
\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer to serve as deacon or elder

### **Budget & Finance /Stewardship**

\_\_\_\_\_ Help prep budget for next year  
\_\_\_\_\_ Participate in financial review  
\_\_\_\_\_ Encourage giving  
\_\_\_\_\_ Manage memorial funds

### **Parish Life**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prepare food for activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Provide food for activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help in kitchen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help with fundraiser/outreach events

### **Caring Ministries**

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide rides on Sunday mornings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Visit shut-ins  
\_\_\_\_\_ Take communion to shut-ins  
\_\_\_\_\_ Participate in Prayer Chain

### **Property (Building and Grounds)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Painting and building repairs  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yard work  
\_\_\_\_\_ General maintenance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assist church custodian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Landscaping/gardening

### **Communications**

\_\_\_\_\_ Proofread letters, directory, newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help update website/Facebook  
\_\_\_\_\_ Take photographs of church events

### **Worship Activities**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lead worship (liturgist)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Offer children's message  
\_\_\_\_\_ Greeter-circle months you are able here  
Ja Fe Ma Ap My Jn Jy Au Sp Oc No De  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help with sound system/video tape  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help to decorate for Christmas & Easter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sing in choir  
\_\_\_\_\_ Provide special music  
\_\_\_\_\_ Play an instrument

### **Discipleship**

\_\_\_\_\_ Teach Sunday School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lead Bible Study  
\_\_\_\_\_ Teach Summer Bible School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with Youth activities  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help with Christmas program

### **Mission**

\_\_\_\_\_ Help disburse benevolence funds  
\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with special offerings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Seek out new mission opportunities

# *What's Happening . . .*



The January 13<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting of the session began with prayer and a short bible study. New Session members Jim Dixon and Martha O'Brien were welcomed, the roll was formed, and the agenda was approved.

Book of Order training was about the Great Ends of the Church. The great ends of the Church are: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Following the approval of minutes for the Congregational/Corporation meeting and a special session meeting for approval of the sound system, the Treasurer's Report was received. It showed that there was a year-end deficit of approximately \$3,760.

Committee reports included the following.

Budget, Finance, and Stewardship reported that the online giving option is now available through the Presbyterian Foundation.

Communications reported the website is now [ebgpsesby.org](http://ebgpsesby.org) with no ads and more features. On the Facebook page, the Christmas Eve Service had 69 people reached and 37 engagements.

The Mission Committee listed December donations of \$200 each to South Sudan Education Mission, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign, Ebensburg Food Pantry, Dorothy Day Outreach Center, Pine Springs Camp, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Also, the Christmas Joy Offering collected \$210.

The Organ Restoration Committee is meeting to set up fundraisers for 2021.

Property Management purchased and set up the new sound system for the sanctuary.

Worship reported that communion was held December 20 and set dates for communion for this year.

In Old Business, the Caring/Sharing Volunteer form was accepted.

New Business included approval of a vacation request from Rev. Owar Ojulu for February 1st to February 7th.

The set up for streaming Facebook was discussed.

Judy Carl was appointed as representative for the Jan. 26 Presbytery Meeting.

In the Moderator's Report, Rev. Owar had several phone meetings with members and friends of the congregation.

The Clerk discussed a need to revise some by-laws.

The Deacons sent donations of supplies to the Central Cambria School District. They will meet to set up projects for the year.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7 pm.

# Sunday Scripture Readings



## February 7, 2021

Isaiah 40:21–31

Have you not heard? The Lord strengthens those who are weak.

Psalms 147:1–11, 20c

Sing praise to the Lord, who gathers, heals, and feeds us.

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Paul says: Everything I do is for the sake of proclaiming the gospel.

Mark 1:29–39

Jesus heals many people; in the morning he steals away to pray.

## February 14, 2021

2 Kings 2:1–12

After crossing the Jordan, Elijah ascends to heaven in a chariot.

Psalms 50:1–6

From the storm and fire, God calls: Gather up my faithful ones.

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

We know the glory of God through the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2–9

On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

## February 17, 2021—Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.

Psalms 51:1–17

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

## February 21, 2021

Genesis 9:8–17

God's covenant with Noah: I will never again flood the whole earth.

Psalms 25:1–10

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord; do not remember my sin.

1 Peter 3:18–22

The flood of former days prefigures the sacrament of baptism.

Mark 1:9–15

After his baptism, Jesus is tested in the wilderness for forty days.

## February 28, 2021

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

God's covenant with Abraham: I will make of you a great nation.

Psalms 22:23–31

In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.

Romans 4:13–25

Abraham's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness by God.

Mark 8:31–38

Jesus says: Deny yourselves; take up your cross and follow me.



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

### 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 place the names in the Offering Baskets near each of the front entrances. Thank you.



### EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of December, 2020

Actual Operating Income:	\$70,581.54
Actual Operating Expenses:	\$74,339.03
Gain/Loss:	(\$3,757.49)



### 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!

# Presbytery of Redstone

*Communicate the Word...*

*Carry on the Work...*

*Change the World.....Together!*

## January Gathering Highlights

- **With the beginning of a new year, Moderator Belinda Lambie (Colver) and Vice Moderator Rev. Curtis Paul (Newlonsburg) were installed as leaders in 2021.**
- Pine Springs Director Greg Davis promoted upcoming family and single-day retreats at the camp. Plans are underway to conduct a 2021 summer camping season within safety guidelines.
- **Participants had the opportunity to network together around topics such as peacemaking, addressing poverty, tackling issues of racism, and revitalizing congregations in mission.**
- Addictions Ministry network previewed video snippets from the curriculum. The complete video curriculum is available in a variety of digital media by request through [redstonetogether@gmail.com](mailto:redstonetogether@gmail.com).
- **Rev. Donna Havrisko brought a message on our need to be constantly refined by God. After eighteen years of faithful service at Westminster, she was honored by Rev. Sue Washburn and was designated "Honorably Retired."**
- Ruling Elders Russ Baird and Doug Yauger were welcomed and commissioned for service in Reunion and Calvin United, respectively. Rev. Bill Youmans was received from Pittsburgh to serve as the new Interim Pastor of Westminster, Greensburg.
- **Rev. Sylvia Carlson reported on initiatives by our own congregations to focus on food insecurity in our communities. She also updated us on SSPEC(South Sudan) and the offering was received to support the partnership.**

**February 17—April 4, 2021 (Lent)**

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

**In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression**

**Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

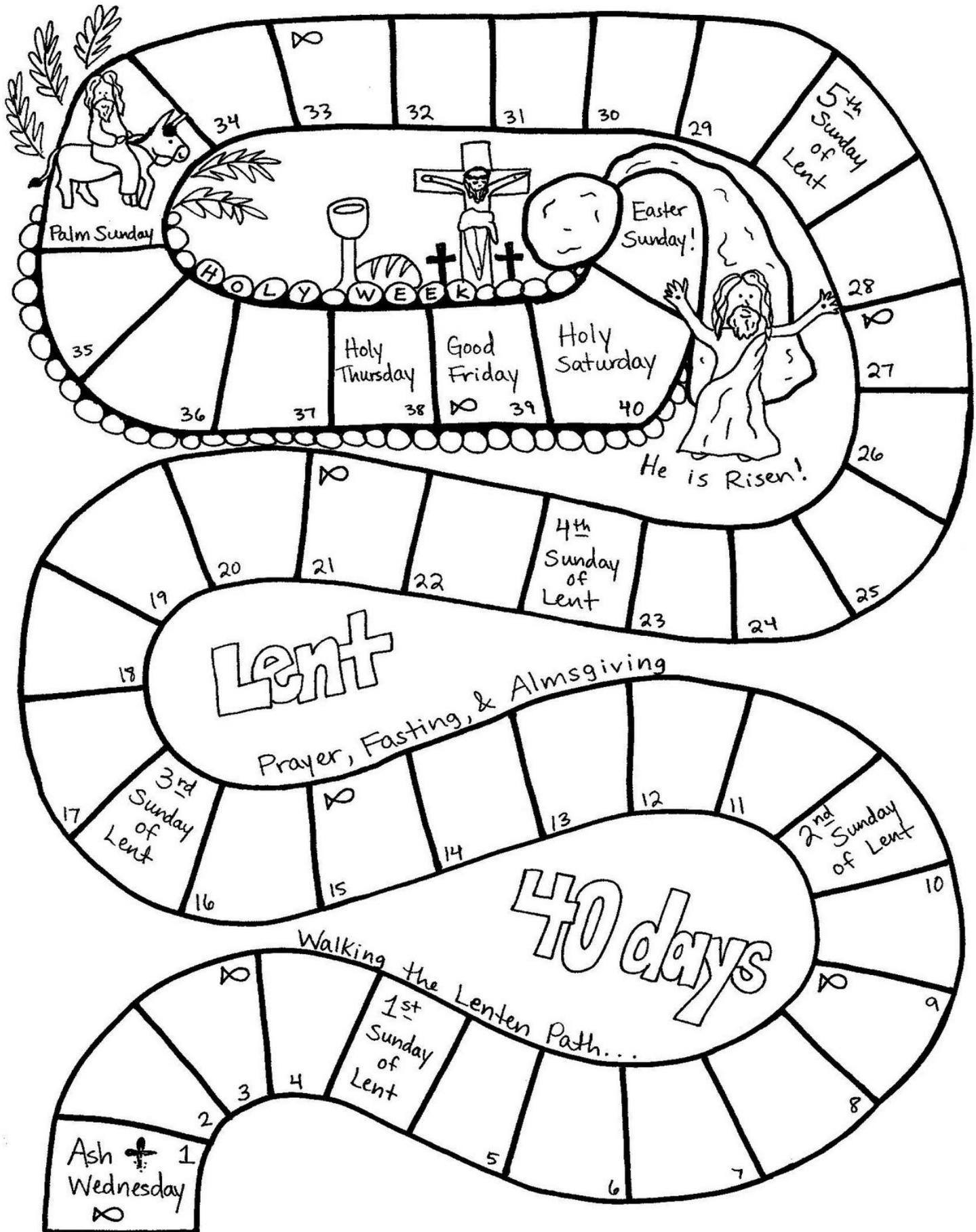
**Your impact**

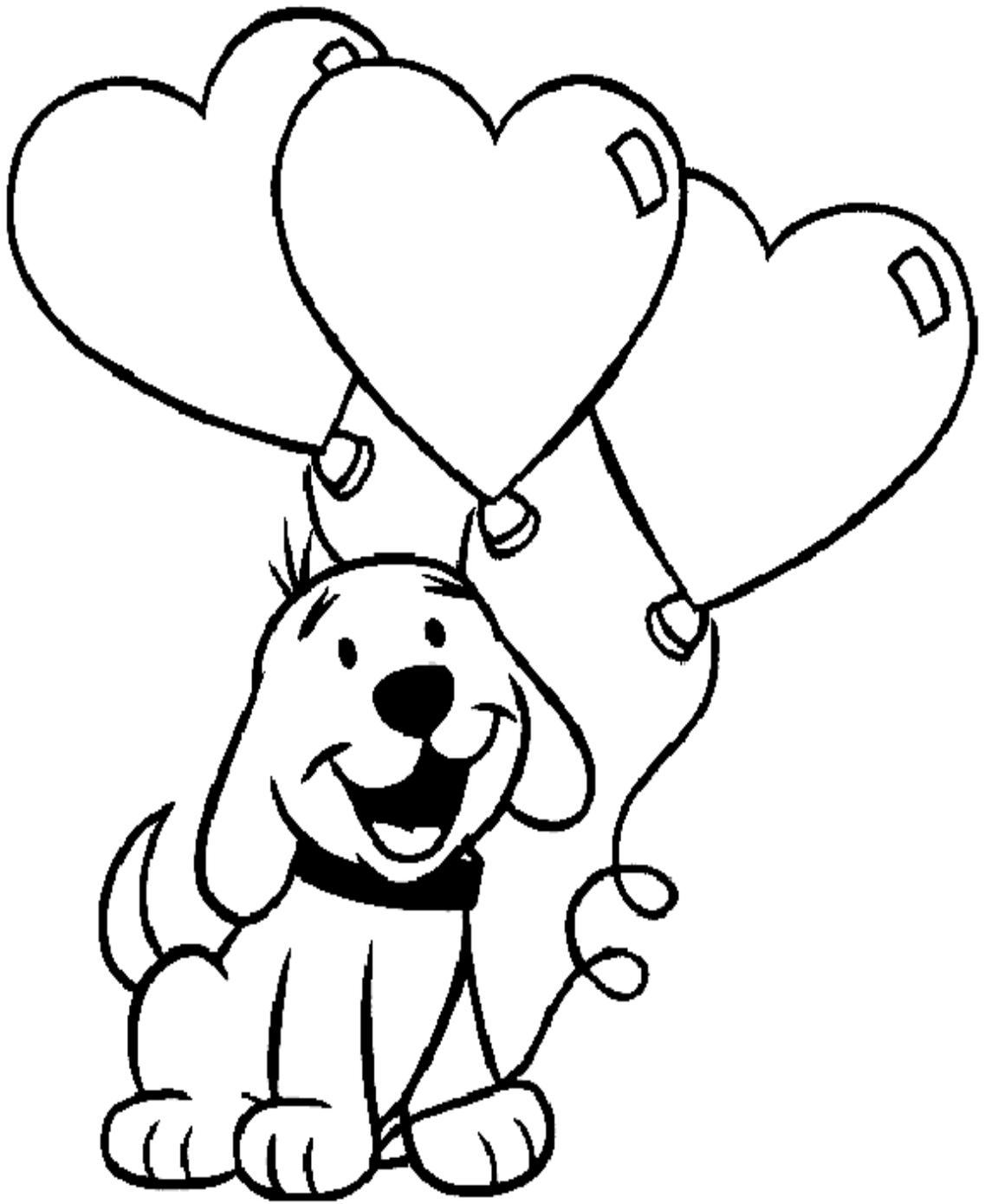
**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

FISH BANKS will be available at church or you can just make a donation to the church and indicate that it is for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

We will COLLECT the FISH BANKS on PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021





# Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

## February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Happy Birthday, Max Magley</i>	2 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	3 <i>Happy Birthday, Susan Makosy, Marsha Krug</i>  <i>bl</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Tim Forberger</i>	8	9 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	10  <b>SESSION—7 PM</b>	11	12	13 <i>Happy Anniv. Jim &amp; Laurel Lyons</i>
14 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 <i>Happy Birthday, Jamie Mazzarella</i>  <i>Presidents' Day</i>	16 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	17 <i>Ash Wednesday Service—7 PM Virtual</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Eva Vietmeier</i>	18	19 <i>Lenten Devotions—Zoom 12:00 Noon (2/19 to 3/26)</i>	20  <i>NA Business Mtg.—9:45 AM</i>
21 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>  <i>Communion</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>	22	23 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Laurel Lyons</i>	24  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	25  <i>Happy Birthday, Amy Brulia</i>	26	27
28 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Jani McKenrick Stratton</i>	29	30 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	31  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>			

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

