

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
February 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
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 Douglas

Web page:

www.ebgpresby.org

Facebook page:

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

Dear Church family,

A person of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a sibling (Proverbs 18:24).

It seems January did not stick around very long. I guess that snowstorms, Covid-19, and everything that took place around us, made the time fly swiftly. We hope that February is going to be better as we take Dr. Fauci at his word that he believes that it looks as if the U.S. COVID wave is "going in the right direction." Moreover, we look for the day where Covid-19 and its variants are no longer a threat to our everyday lives. Scriptures assures us that there is a season and an end for everything under the sun (Prov. 3).

The Book of Ruth, which we will be journeying through in February, reflects on such themes. Ruth represents a life that is surrounded with emptiness, devastation, and loss, but redeemed and rescued by profound faith. The famine, dryness, scarcity, and emptiness that drove her family away from Bethlehem was replaced with full harvest when she returned to *Beth-lehem*—"the house of bread." While the story of Ruth is one of sadness and brokenness, it tells us about resilience and faithful obedience. Naomi was remorseful; Naomi thought she was not worthy of returning to Bethlehem, but then she rejoiced as things began to settle in—with God rests life and restoration.

Here is how the story goes:

Elimelech—the Lord is King
Naomi—Delight/Pleasantness
and their sons:
Mahlon—Sickly
Kilion—Pining/longing

They left:

Bethlehem—House of Bread,
to Moah—an appealing land
**Elimelech died and his sons married
Moabite women:**
Orpah—Neck/kiss or rain cloud
Ruth—Friend/beauty

The sons died as well. Three women, all were widowed, and a reset to the story.

We can learn the meaning of the whole story by retelling it using the meanings of the names. "In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So, a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him," the story begins. Because of scarcity, which was temporary, "The Lord is King" (Elimelech) decided to leave "House of Bread" (Bethlehem) to go to "An Appealing Green Land in the Midst of the Desert (Moab). Then "The Lord is King" died, meaning now there is no fear of God and "Delight" (Naomi) was left with her two sons, "Sickly" and "Pining" (Mahlon and Kilion.) While "Sickly" married "Kiss" (Orpah), "Pining" married "Friend" (Ruth,) both of whom were Moabites.

continued— see page 2

Now “Delight,” “Kiss,” and “Friend” remained. The decision was left with “Delight,” who then decided to return to “House of Bread.” “Kiss” wanted to follow “Delight” but changed her mind, kissed her mother-in-law, and returned to her home, “The Appealing Land.” However, “Friend” continued to accompany “Delight” saying, “Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and wherever you are buried, I will be buried.” That is the story of “Friend” and “Delight.” There is always delight in friendship and beauty in pleasantness.

Fast-forward: “Friend” became the ancestor of David and Jesus, who is the friend of sinners and outsiders. He came to restore, show love, and win victory over the spiritual famine that pushes us to seek fullness from other sources. He came to fill everyone who returns and draws near to the throne of mercy of God with blessings of eternal life. (John 6:68).

May we all be reminded of such love and friendship when we celebrate Valentine's Day!

Pastor Owar Ojulu



All Call scheduled for January and February

Sometime this month you will get a call from a Session member or other volunteer. We want you to know about this call ahead of time so that you have time to pray and think about what you would like to discuss. We want to know how you're doing, and what you would like to see the church do this year. Do you have any suggestions for worship or activities? If we do not have your current phone number, you may be receiving an email from the church. In this case, please call the church office at 814-472-6920 with your current phone number as we would like to update our records for the New Year.

Ash Wednesday Breakfast March 2, 2022

**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.**

Youth Group

Central Cambria's High School Musical



Averri Bracken, Addyson Bracken, and
MarJwok Ojulu



Averri Bracken, Addyson Bracken and MarJwok
Ojulu



BodoJwok Ojulu and MarJwok Ojulu

After 35 Years of Ringing, Our Handbells Need Refurbished

The estimate for Essential Refurbishment of our 4-octave set plus new table pads is \$3,900.

The Ebensburg session has approved fundraising to cover this expense.

We will gratefully accept any monetary donations on behalf of the bell fund to help make the refurbishment possible.

There is a **Marianna's Hoagie and Pizza** fundraiser planned with proceeds going to the bell refurbishment. Hoagies and Pizza sell for \$9 each. Orders with payment need to be turned in by Sunday, February 27th. The hoagies/pizza will be delivered to the church Wednesday, March 9th at 9:30AM and will be available for pick up by 10:30.

Thank you for supporting our music ministry! We plan to deliver the bells to Schulmerich after Easter and pick them up 6 to 8 weeks later.



LENTEN PRAYER TREE

The Discipleship Committee is sponsoring a Lenten Prayer Tree, which will remain in the front of the sanctuary throughout Lent.

Beginning March 6th, the congregation is invited to come forward before or after worship and tie colored ribbons on the tree. The color of the ribbon will indicate the type of prayer that you are praying.

As the crucifixion of our Lord is represented by the bareness of the tree, the life that we are given by His resurrection is represented by the “blossoms” of all our weekly prayers.

Purple	Adoration/Praise
White	Courage/Strength
Yellow	Healing/Wellness
Orange	Thanksgiving/Gratitude
Green	Patience/Endurance



What's Happening...



January 19th saw the first session meeting of 2022. We opened with prayer and a study based on Matthew 13: 47. The fishermen cast a wide net, catching all sorts of fish. The Kingdom of Heaven is inclusive, welcoming all people. The Church too, should be welcoming to all. The Book of Order training was about the form of government of the Presbyterian Church.

After approving the agenda and December minutes, the Treasurer's report was received.

Session members signed up for committees. We want to encourage others in the congregation to also sign up for committees.

Committee reports were next on the agenda.

Budget, Finance and Stewardship reminded us that purchase orders should be used.

The Mission Committee reported their end of the year donations.

Organ Restoration Committee reports that the Phase 1 fund raising is complete. Thanks to all who donated and helped with the fundraisers.

Pastor/Parish Relations – The committee met and set joint services with Colver and Ebensburg for 2022. Ebensburg will host Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, summer picnic and service, and the early Christmas Eve service. Colver will host Pentecost, Good Friday, and the late Christmas Eve service. Communion will be the first Sunday each month for the remainder of 2022.

Property Management Committee reports that a second company has been contacted and will come in March to estimate outside window painting and repairs.

Worship Committee – Following a presentation from Rebecca Bracken- Handbell Choir Director, the session passed a motion to approve raising funds to refurbish the handbell set which was purchased in 1985 and replace foam bell table pads. It is estimated that this would cost \$3900. The refurbishment will not be scheduled until at least \$3000 is raised.

A motion to receive all committee reports passed.

Old Business included two items. First, session members are encouraged to submit articles and interesting items for the monthly newsletter in a timely fashion. Second, session members divided the list of congregation members so we can contact as many as possible to check on how they are doing and receive suggestions for worship and activities this year.

New Business: After failing to obtain any nominations for vacancies on the Board of Deacons and discussions with current Deacons, the Session voted to present a motion to the Congregation to dissolve the Deacons as a separate board and transfer their work to a Session Committee to be called Family Life. This would replace the current Parish Life committee.

Clerk of Session, Jim Stratton, is working on a letter that will be sent to help update our rolls and contact information. He presented thank-you notes received from the local food pantry and other missions which received donations.

In the Moderator's report, Rev. Ojulu reported on contacts with several members of the congregation. He continues to work on his dissertation.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next stated meeting for Session is Wednesday February 9, 2022.

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Happy Birthday!



February 1	Max Magley
February 3	Susan Makosy
February 3	Marsha Krug
February 7	Tim Forberger
February 15	Jamie Mazzarella
February 17	Eva Vietmier
February 23	Laurel Lyons
February 25	Amy Brulia
February 28	Jani McKenrick Stratton

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.

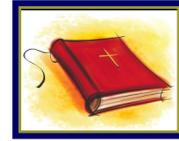
2022 Giving Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2022 giving envelopes.

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

Thank you.

Sunday Scripture Readings



February 6, 2022

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1–11
Luke 5:1–11

Isaiah sees the Lord in the temple and says, “Woe is me! I am lost.”
I give you thanks, O Lord; I bow down toward your holy temple.
Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day.
A miraculous catch of fish; Peter says, “Lord, I am a sinful man!”

February 13, 2022

Jeremiah 17:5–10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12–20
Luke 6:17–26

Curses and blessings; those who trust in the Lord are like trees.
Happy are those who delight in God’s law, like trees by the water.
If there is no resurrection of the dead, our faith has been in vain.
In his sermon on the plain, Jesus speaks of blessings and curses.

February 20, 2022

Genesis 45:3–11, 15
Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40
1 Corinthians 15:35–38,
42–50
Luke 6:27–38

Joseph tells his brothers, “God sent me before you to preserve life.”
Trust in the Lord and do good; you will live in the land and be secure.
How are the dead raised? There is a spiritual body, raised in glory.

Jesus says, “Love your enemies. Be merciful. Do not judge, but forgive.”

February 27, 2022

Exodus 34:29–35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28–36 (37–43a)

Moses returns from Sinai with the law, and his face is shining.
The Lord is holy, a lover of justice; worship at God’s mountain.
With unveiled faces, we see the glory of the Lord reflected.
On a mountaintop, Jesus is transfigured; God says: This is my Son.



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 December, 2021

Actual Operating Income:	\$74,026.11
Actual Operating Expenses:	\$81,157.44
Gain/Loss:	(\$7,131.33)



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!

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<i>1</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Max Magley</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Susan Makosy,</i> <i>Marsha</i> <i>Krug</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tim Forberger</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Session—7 PM</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM &</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i> <i>Happy Anniv.</i> <i>Jim & Laurel</i> <i>Lyons</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jamie Mazzarella</i>	<i>16</i> <i>Session—7 PM</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Eva Vietmeier</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>NA Business</i> <i>Meeting -</i> <i>9:45 AM</i>
<i>20</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM &</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i>	<i>21</i> <i>President's Day</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Laurel Lyons</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Amy Brulia</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>& Facebook</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jani McKenrick</i> <i>Stratton</i>					

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