

# The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Ebensburg  
Presbyterian Church  
January 2021

**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

Office Manager  
Sally Kruley

Church Treasurer  
Kristine Segear

Clerk of Session  
Jim Stratton

Custodian  
Don Buterbaugh

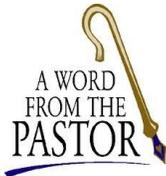
Organist  
Melissa Douglas

### Web page:

[www.ebgpresby.weebly.com](http://www.ebgpresby.weebly.com)

### Facebook page:

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



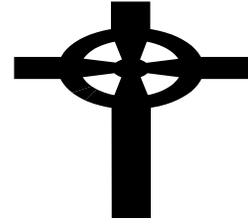
*You crown the year with your bounty;  
wagon tracks overflow with richness.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with  
flocks,  
valleys deck themselves with grain,  
shout and sing together for joy. Psalm  
65:11-13*

Dear Ebensburg Church Family,

As we welcome the New Year 2021, the words of the psalmist speak clearly into our experiences as we look back to 2020. We can feel God assuring his presence in the tumultuous journey and our life circumstance. It was, indeed, a year filled with chaos, disturbance, confusion, and scarcity. Yet, like David, we are grateful to God for his divine comfort, encouragement, and protection. God continued to ease our minds and our worries are cast onto the cross with Christ. The Holy Spirit has been and still is whispering hope in our despair; God's provision has been substantial and overflowing.

As for our ministry, many of you were able to reach out to others and comfort them in their sorrows and fear as we responded to this confounding situation. We continued to worship God on Sundays and celebrated Easter and Christmas safely and successfully. Our Mission, Worship, and Discipleship Committees were super angels. We are thankful for our Session members and Deacons for doing a great work, touching many lives through their respective ministers. Now, we welcome the new Session members as they take up the torch of the gospel to serve our members and Ebensburg community at large.

I am sure we will continue to thrive spiritually, grow in faith as we navigate and find better ways to serve God in 2021. Like many other pastors and religious leaders in our country and around the world, the Session members and I will



continue to visit you by phone and letters. I promise to keep you in my prayers and always am open to a visit, insights, and input from you. As stated last year, I'll continue to pray, that the Lord almighty gives us strength, peace, and joy as we live through the virus. I pray for the leaders for God to grant us wisdom and discernment in our leadership.

Many of us aim for a few resolutions every year. Resolutions are easy to make but hard to keep. However, resolutions are vital and serve as reminders to keep us alert physically, mentally, and spiritually. Our spiritual resolutions help bring us close to God and see God's grace fulfilled in our lives if remembered and kept.

In the text above, the psalmist acknowledged his shortcomings, yet was certain of Yahweh's visit to surprise his people with kind blessings. So, as we admit our limitations in keeping our resolutions, let us also invite God to sow abundance and crown the year 2021 with bounty. May God bring success, redemption, and atonement through Christ Jesus anew and remind us of our salvation. The Psalm says, "happy are those whom God has chosen. They live near to him because they shall be satisfied with God's goodness (v. 4)."

Therefore, may God renew our hope and may the Joy of Christmas rest in our hearts. May God bring union with him afresh, that we have access to the presence of Yahweh Adonai. May our faith be nurtured and strengthened through 2021 and beyond.



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Pastor Owar O.

### *Coming Soon: New Online Donation Option*

We are in the process of setting up an online donation option through the Presbyterian Foundation that will allow members and guests to make your weekly or monthly donations electronically. This will allow for more options for giving and will not replace the church's normal donations through check or cash. The church would then be able to accept electronic funds transfer (EFTs) and credit/debit card payments at any time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Donors may also set up recurring gifts so their giving continues even when they are on vacation and cannot attend services. For anyone interested in this new option, more information will be coming in February once we have the account set up and active. A giving button will be added to the Church's website to allow easy access for those who are interested in this new donation option.

### *From the Mission Committee*

The Mission Committee would like to thank our generous congregation for their support during this difficult year. We were able to help out members of our congregation, our community, our nation and beyond. We sent over \$800 to the Ebensburg Food Pantry, \$500 to Pine Springs Camp when they decided to cancel all their camps for the summer, \$200 to the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign when none of our local churches could help with ringing the bells, \$200 was given to Rik 'n' Nik's so they could feed students and seniors during the lock down. We provided gas cards for members traveling to medical appointments, we gave a gift card to a fire victim, we made donations to First Responders, and provided art kits to needy students learning virtually. In addition, we made a donation to the South Sudan Education Project and several Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief efforts. This past year had many challenges but this did not put a damper on your willingness to help those in need. Thank You!

## *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.

# Sunday Scripture Readings



## January 3, 2020

Jeremiah 31:7–14 God will bring the people home, turning their mourning into joy.

Psalms 147:12–20 The word of the Lord goes forth; God fills us with good things.

Ephesians 1:3–14 We were chosen in Christ from the beginning to give glory to God.

John 1:(1–9) 10–18 Those who trust in Christ have power to become children of God.

## January 10, 2020

Genesis 1:1–5

Over the deep and formless waters, God speaks: Let there be light.

Psalms 29

Give glory to God; the voice of the Lord is over the waters.

Acts 19:1–7

Paul baptizes new believers in Jesus' name; they receive the Spirit.

Mark 1:4–11

Jesus is baptized; the Spirit descends; a voice says: You are my Son.

## January 17, 2020

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20) The boy Samuel hears God calling and replies: Speak, Lord.

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18 O Lord, you search me and surround me; I praise you.

1 Corinthians 6:12–20 Your body is a temple of the Spirit; you were bought with a price.

John 1:43–51 Jesus calls Philip; Philip in turn calls Nathanael: Come and see.

## January 24, 2020

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

God sends Jonah to Nineveh; the people repent and God forgives.

Psalms 62:5–12

My soul waits in silence for God; God is my rock and salvation.

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

The present world is passing away; let go of earthly attachments.

Mark 1:14–20

Jesus calls four fishermen: Simon, Andrew, James, and John.

## January 31, 2020

Deuteronomy 18:15–20 The Lord says: I will raise up a new prophet to speak my word.

Psalms 111

Praise the Lord; the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Concerning food and idols: knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Mark 1:21–28

Jesus casts out an unclean spirit; all are amazed at his authority.



## *What's Happening . . .*



The December 9th Session meeting opened on Zoom with prayer and a study of Psalm 26. It tells us that God will restore and strengthen us.

The Agenda was approved with one addition. Book of Order training was about Councils of Church and their responsibility to care for congregations. The minutes of the November Session meeting were approved.

Then the Treasurer's Report was reported, discussed, and received.

Committee reports received included the following.

The Budget, Finance, Stewardship Committee presented the final budget for 2021. It was approved following discussion.

Communications addressed the website, and it will be changed to a .org site soon. Also, a new header for the newsletter was discussed and modified per the discussion.

The Discipleship Committee has an advent devotional available in the sanctuary. They are also preparing a virtual Nativity Festival.

The Mission Committee is finalizing end of the year donations to several agencies and programs such as the Food Pantry, Salvation Army and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. A donation was made to a fire victim and the Christmas Joy Collection will be continued to Sunday, December 20. A donation is also being made to South Sudan Mission.

Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for the Deacons and the Session. Eva Tomb resigned as an Elder and her resignation was accepted with regret. Thanks for your service, Eva.

The Organ Restoration Committee will hold a Zoom meeting after Christmas. They are working on designing T-shirts.

Property Management reported that a part has come in for repair to a toilet. The PA system was again discussed.

Worship reported that music is being worked on for Christmas Eve.

In Old Business, an office chair was discussed and approved.

Kris Segear and Laura McGill were reappointed as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for 2021 and Amy Brulia and Pat Mohny as money counters and Judy Carl as substitute money counter.

In New Business the Session considered several items.

After reviewing our Covid-19 response it was passed to require face masks in the church.

The bylaws should be amended to specifically permit electronic meetings at the annual Congregational Meeting.

A Ministry Response form was introduced and approved with changes to align with committee descriptions.

The use of an online giving platform from the Presbyterian Foundation was discussed.

Rev Ojulu was unable to use his vacation this year because of the unprecedented travel problems caused by the Covid-19 virus. He requested to transfer vacation time to next year. Considering the very unusual circumstances, the Session approved transfer of three weeks not to be used consecutively with the 4 weeks of vacation already in his contract for next year.

Rev. Ojulu reported on the meeting of Presbytery. He reported the death of Martha Krumenacker. He also noted contacts with congregation members and visitors.

The Deacons have delivered donations to the local school district.

The next stated Session meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

Using email, the Session voted to purchase a sound system. It will be installed when it arrives.

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 Plate. Thank you.



### EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of November, 2020

Actual Operating Income:	\$62,203.71
Actual Operating Expenses:	\$66,328.93
Gain/Loss:	(\$4,125.22)

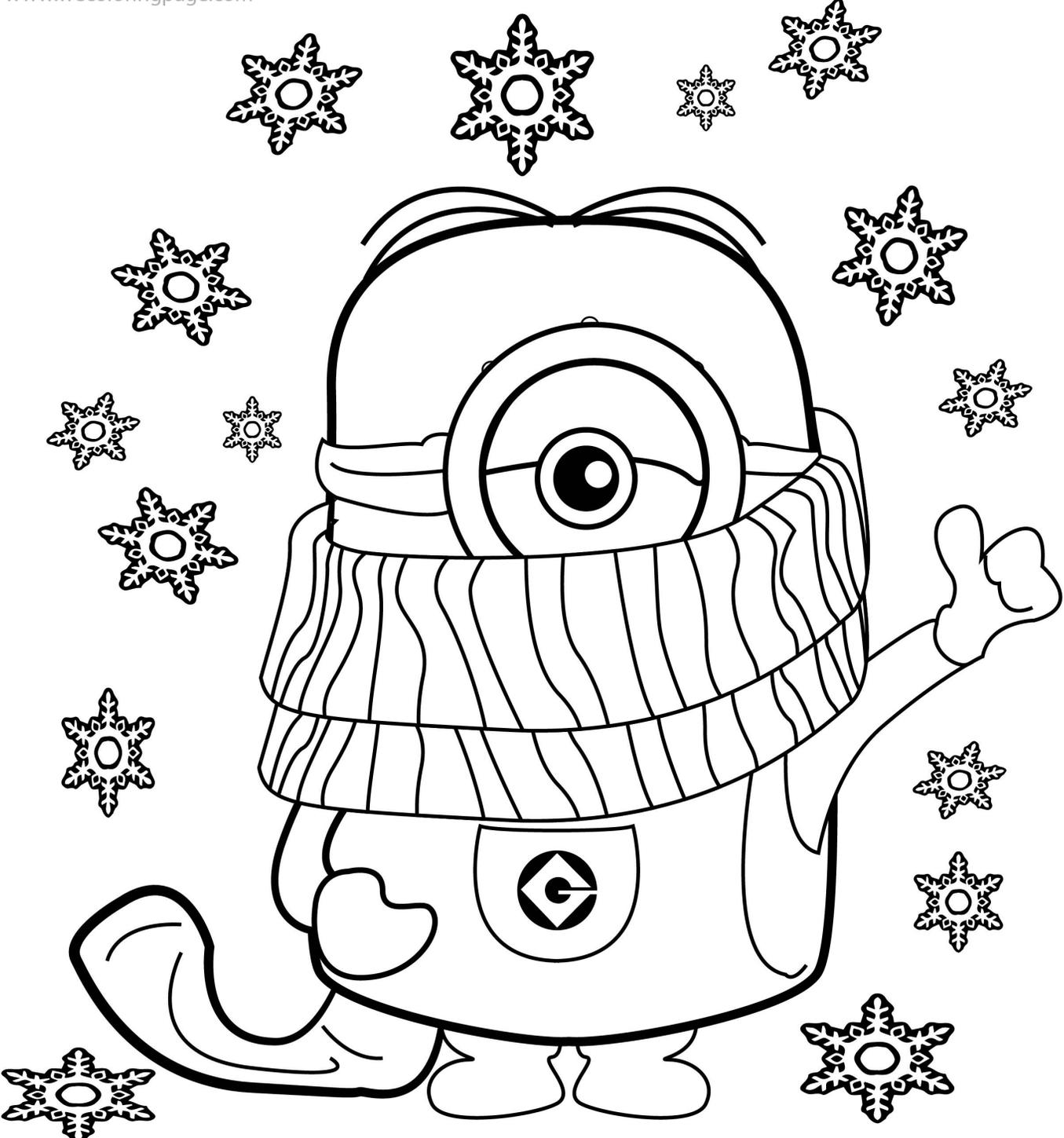


### 2021 Per Capita

**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!

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

[www.wecoloringpage.com](http://www.wecoloringpage.com)



# Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

## January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Happy Birthday, Marjwok Ojha</i>	2 <i>Happy Birthday, Bodojwok Ojha</i>
3 <i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>	4	5 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Sandy Magley</i>	6 <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	7	8  <i>Happy Birthday, Michelle Carl</i>	9  <i>Happy Birthday Ed Huttenhower</i>
10  <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>	11 <i>Happy Birthday, James Cassidy, Salvatore Tiracave</i>	12 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	13  <i>SESSION—7 PM</i>	14	15	16  <i>NA Business Mtg.—9:45 AM</i>
17 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Ashley Dixon</i>	18  <i>Happy Birthday, Tim Shamble</i>	19 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	20  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	21  <i>Happy Birthday, Margaret McKenrick</i>	22  <i>Happy Birthday, Lauren Rice</i>	23  <i>Happy Birthday, Anthony Taylor</i>
24 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday, Micah Magley</i>	25	26 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	27  <i>Bible Study—7 PM</i>	28  <i>Happy Birthday, Susan Wolfe</i>	29  <i>Happy Birthday, Ammanuel Ojha</i>	30  <i>Happy Birthday, Santino Tiracave</i>
31 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Congregational Mtg. after Worship Services</i>						

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PO Box 327  
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