



The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

January 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
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 Douglass

Web page:

www.ebgpresby.org

Facebook page:

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

Dear Church family,

We are going on three years of living in this pandemic and though we are used to its experiences, Covid-19 still presents threats to our livelihood here in America and around the globe. A funny thing I recently read about Covid variants was that there has been a Greek letter assigned to each whenever it appears. And the scientists had skipped Xi to "O"micron, assigned to the South African's variant to avoid political tensions. This was because, "Xi" is the name of the Chinese president, Xi Jinping. So, in all the worries and concerns, people find ways to politicize or create funny stories to alleviate withering souls.

Regardless of the challenges we have faced, we thank God for sustaining our lives and comforting us through our ups and downs all these years. What a fabulous year of 2021! We had amazing events with remarkable sounds of music. We participated in "Dickens of a Christmas" by hosting an organ recital where we heard, in addition to organ music, extraordinary sounds of bells, flute, trumpets, and trombones. It was an amazing celebration with sweet voices echoing of choirs above.

Just as the scientists studying COVID chose to "skip Xi" when naming the variants, we sometimes choose to skip some of our prayer commitments. Despite these personal "Xis," I assume many of us look forward to renewed inspirations to achieve some personal resolutions while being mindful of some spiritual "variants" lurking around to distract our attention from our purposes in life. For that, we need to focus our attention by fixing our spiritual eyes on Jesus, the pioneer, the author, the champion, the founder, the finisher, the originator, and the perfecter of our faith to maintain our personal relationship with God our Father (Hebrew 12:20).

I wish you ALL a happy and joyful New Year of 2022. I hope and pray that this new year comes with healing rays to refresh our souls and rejuvenate our strength as we continue our faith journey. Even though we are still in the midst of the Covid era, let us, with confidence, continue singing psalms with King David, saying:

Yahweh is my best friend and my shepherd.

I always have more than enough.

He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love

His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near *the quiet brook of bliss.*

That's where he restores and revives my life.

He opens before me the right path

and leads me along in his footsteps of righteousness

so that I can bring honor to his name (Psalm 23:1-3).

- continued, see page 2 -

There is always untapped confidence and unspeakable hope when we maintain our dwelling and relationship with God like David. The Holy Spirit reminds us in our meditations of God's continued presence. Therefore, as your friend, and a coworker in the service of the Lord, I will continue preaching God's Word and pray for all and everyone. And as I have been saying, it's my job to pray and bring you God's words through the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray that the Lord almighty will give us strength and peace as we pass through the hurricanes of our life's circumstances. If Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease, I will resume home and hospital visits and continue with phone calls to check on our members.

The Lord continues to call leaders to the service of God's Kingdom and the new Session will take its leadership this month. And we say "Thank you" to our Session members who have dedicated their time and talents in the year past. I pray for our new team that God grant us wisdom and discernment as we lead the church and minister to our neighbors and our communities. I pray that the Lord will expand our territory, bring new people to the kingdom, call and equip many leaders for ministry as our youth takes a leap of faith to engage in Sunday services.

As it has been a custom, I will soon go through a sermon series both topically and where I focus on a Book of the Bible. Lord willing, we will resume our Bible Study in early February. I will continue to reach out and making connections with church leaders in our town, and other agencies.

I am blessed to be your pastor and am thankful for the many suggestions, great ideas, and spirit-lifting encouragements concerning how we continue this ministry. I depend on the Holy Spirit and thrive on your input and great ideas to lead our church. As I mentioned in my October 2021 newsletter, we cannot encourage ourselves to jump onto a wagon that doesn't belong to us when we see others giving up or closing their church doors. But we see a bright future, a future full of hope and goodwill as we continue, motivated to "tell it on the mountain" and to all who believe. I need your participation, your continued support. If you have not been to the church for a long time, please consider visiting us again on a Sunday or on Easter. You'll be amazed of the sound of the music and voices of our choir.

It is true that New Year resolutions are often buried with routines or skipped like "Xi" for some reason. But I ask that you hold on to something that continues to remind you of God and God's friendship as he continues to lead you to "an oasis of peace near the quiet brook of bliss" sourcing from the heavenly throne.

Happy New Year, 2022

Pastor Owar O.



From the Worship Committee

All Call scheduled for January and February

Sometime this month or next 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.



Youth Group

The Youth Group will be meeting in January either the 23rd or the 30th. The dates for meeting in February will be either the 13th or the 20th. We will be in touch to confirm the dates and time. Additional information about these meetings and the Youth Group activities for the winter months will be coming soon!

Brass & Organ Recital

On December 4, 2021, the Altoona Brass Collective and several church musicians performed a Christmas Recital during Ebsenburg's Dickens of a Christmas Festival. The recital was well attended by visitors, leaving standing room only. Organists Melissa Douglas, Tina Illig and Kevin McKenrick performed. The bell choir under the direction of Rebecca Bracken and choir members also performed during this recital.



The Ebensburg Presbyterian Church Bell Choir



Kevin, Micah, Aric, Judy, Sandy, Max, Sarah, Becky, Marjwok, Kaija, Addy, Kris and Walter

What a wonderful performance by the Bell Choir as a prelude to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service!



Christmas Eve Ebensburg Presbyterian Church



What's Happening...



The December 8th meeting of the Session began with prayer and a short study about John the Baptist. The agenda and minutes from the November session meeting were approved and the treasurer's report was received.

Committee reports included the following.

Organ Restoration reported that the Dickens Concert raised \$220 and the fund drive for restoring the organ is nearly complete. The members will meet in January to make certain that all memorial and honor designations are attributed correctly.

The Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee presented the 2022 budget, and it was approved. Kristine Segear and Laura McGill were appointed to continue as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively. Amy Brulia and Pat Mohny were appointed as money counters and Judy Carl as substitute counter.

Discipleship reported about the youth group trip to Pittsburgh. There was discussion about a communicant's class for 2022.

Mission collected offerings for the local Food Pantry in November and December and sent a total of \$300. A collection for the Christmas Joy Offering was received December 19. This helps to support retired clergy and future church leaders.

The Nominating Committee places the following names for Session: Aric Bracken, Martha O'Brien, and Kevin McKenrick. They were not able to secure any nominations for the Deacons. It will be discussed at the next session meeting.

Property Management again discussed the windows. Only one bid has been received to date. They will try to get at least one more bid so that the repairs can be made.

In New Business, two items were discussed.

First, the payment of the budgeted amount of study funds will be made to Rev. Owar Ojulu on receipt of supporting documents. Second, the membership roll review is proceeding.

The Redstone Presbytery will meet January 29th. Judy Carl was appointed as representative.

Correspondence received included three letters. The Salvation Army is not holding the local Red Kettle Campaign this year. The Narcotics Anonymous group which meets in our church would like to remove old, unusable and unsafe items from the nursery and replace them with newer safe items. This request was approved. A thank you note was received from the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry of Ebensburg.

In the Moderator's Report, Rev. Ojulu told of sick calls and prayer concerns for members and friends of the congregation. He also attended the Presbytery meeting and had worship service. There are mission trips and Synod activities planned.

The Session will meet January 19, 2022.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy Birthday!



January 1 Marjwok Ojha
January 2 Bodojwok Ojha
January 5 Sandy Magley
January 8 Michelle Carl
January 11 James Cassidy, Salvatore Tiracave
January 17 Ashley Dixon
January 18 Tim Shamble
January 21 Margaret McKenrick
January 22 Lauren Rice
January 23 Anthony Taylor
January 24 Micah Magley
January 28 Susan Wolfe
January 29 Ammanuel Ojha
January 30 Santino Tiracave

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



January 2, 2022

Jeremiah 31:7–14
Psalm 147:12–20
Ephesians 1:3–14
John 1:(1–9), 10–18

God will gather the scattered people and turn their mourning into joy.
Praise the Lord! God protects, blesses, and gives guidance.
God adopted us, making us heirs through Christ Jesus.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

January 9, 2022

Isaiah 43:1–7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14–17
Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Do not fear, I am with you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
Glorify the name of the Lord, who reigns over the waters.
People previously baptized in Jesus' name receive the Holy Spirit.
John baptizes Jesus; the Spirit descends; God says: You are my Son.

January 16, 2022

Isaiah 62:1–5
Psalm 36:5–10
1 Corinthians 12:1–11

The nations will see God's faithful love when Jerusalem is redeemed.
The steadfast love of the Lord is great; in God is the fountain of life.
Each of us has gifts from the Spirit, given for the common good.

January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6,
8–10 Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a
Luke 4:14–21

Ezra reads God's law to the people; they weep to hear God's words.
The heavens tell God's glory; the law of the Lord is perfect.
Christ's body has many different members; in the Spirit we are one.
Jesus reads from Isaiah: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

January 30, 2022

Jeremiah 1:4–10
Psalm 71:1–6
1 Corinthians 13:1–13
Luke 4:21–30

The Lord knew and called the prophet Jeremiah before he was born.
Be my refuge, O God; I have trusted in you since my birth.
Without love, I have nothing; the greatest gift is love.
A prophet is not welcome at home; a crowd tries to attack Jesus.

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 November, 2021

Actual Operating Income: \$65,334.68

Actual Operating Expenses: \$70,634.67

Gain/Loss: (\$5,299.99)



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

January 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Happy Birthday, Marjwok Ojha</i>
2 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Bodojwok Ojha</i>	3	4 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	5 <i>Happy Birthday, Sandy Magley</i>	6	7	8 <i>Happy Birthday Michelle Carl</i>
9 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i>	10	11 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthdday, James Cassidy, Salvatore Tiracave</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i>
16 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i> Communion	17 <i>Happy Birthday, Ashley Dixon</i>	18 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Tim Shamble</i>	19 <i>Session—7 PM</i>	20	21 <i>Happy Birthday, Margaret McKenrick</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday, Lauren Rice</i>
23 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i> <i>Happy Birthday, Anthony Taylor</i>	24 <i>Happy Birthday, Micah Magley</i>	25	26	27	28 <i>Happy Birthday, Susan Wolfe</i>	29
30 <i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook Congregational Mtg. after Worship Happy Birthday, Santino Tiracave Deacons Offering</i>	31					

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