

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

January 2023

**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

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)

Jesus told him "This shows that salvation has come to this home today. This man was one of the lost sons of Abraham, and I, the Messiah, have come to search for and to save such souls as his."
Luke 19:9-10 (TLB)

Happy New Year 2023 everyone! As we reflect on the year past, we're now looking forward to a new beginning, aiming to accomplish a new set of resolutions, anticipating a brighter, delightful, and harmonious New Year. And I pray that your wishes will be fulfilled, and that the Lord will walk with you and be by your side throughout the New Year and beyond.

Besides the story of my being lost in the African savanna, this statement of Jesus reminds me of one of the incidents that happened to me when I was young and naïve. Our village has a lot of mangos and the best way to harvest mango fruits from the highest tip of the mango tree was a young boy like me, fearless, climbing up to the tree. But the branches of mango trees break easily. When there are few mangoes left on the tree and the end of the harvest season approaches, falling from mango trees is inevitable, and it happens frequently in our area.

One late afternoon, I spotted a freshly ripe mango on the top of our mango tree. As it was appealing to my eyes, I was tempted to climb. As I was hidden in the bushy branches, I heard a loud sound of a breaking branch and suddenly saw myself hanging on a branch above my head. The branch I was standing on while leaning to pick the mango fruit had broken. It broke far down to the trunk or larger branch, making it hard for my feet to reach any branch beneath for a foothold. Suddenly a group of my village men rushed to the tree and spotted me hanging on a branch. I was high on the top of the mango tree, and I was scared. While others encouraged me to release my grip from the tree and promised to catch me upon falling, my oldest brother risked it all. He attempted climbing up the same tree. When he came close to where I was, he offered his hand encouraging me to stretch my leg far enough to reach his arm.

Calmly, he supported my leg and placed it on the stump of the branch as I managed to move closer to him. With his support and encouragement, I was able to climb down, avoiding my big and deadly fall. It was certain that I would have broken a leg, an arm or some part of my body had I heeded the voices that were urging me to release my grip from the top branch for a freefall.

In this story, Zacchaeus was not falling physically, but socially and spiritually he was far away from the norm, far away from his Lord and sliding away from God's presence. He was lost. He needed a savior to guide him back to God and renew his covenantal relationship—he was one of the sons of *Abraham*. When Jesus found him hanging in the bushy sycamore tree, Jesus offered him the loving arm of God. Jesus pronounced to those who were jeering and mocking Zacchaeus as tax collector, that "the Son of Man is come to seek and save the lost."

This tells us that Jesus always finds us wherever we are and whichever state of life we might be in. We're all falling and need a loving arm to support us and guide us to the right path in our faith journey. May you be encouraged by this message as you begin the New Year. May the Lord Jesus find us, and may his salvation abound in us; may the Messiah refresh our souls and shield them for eternity.

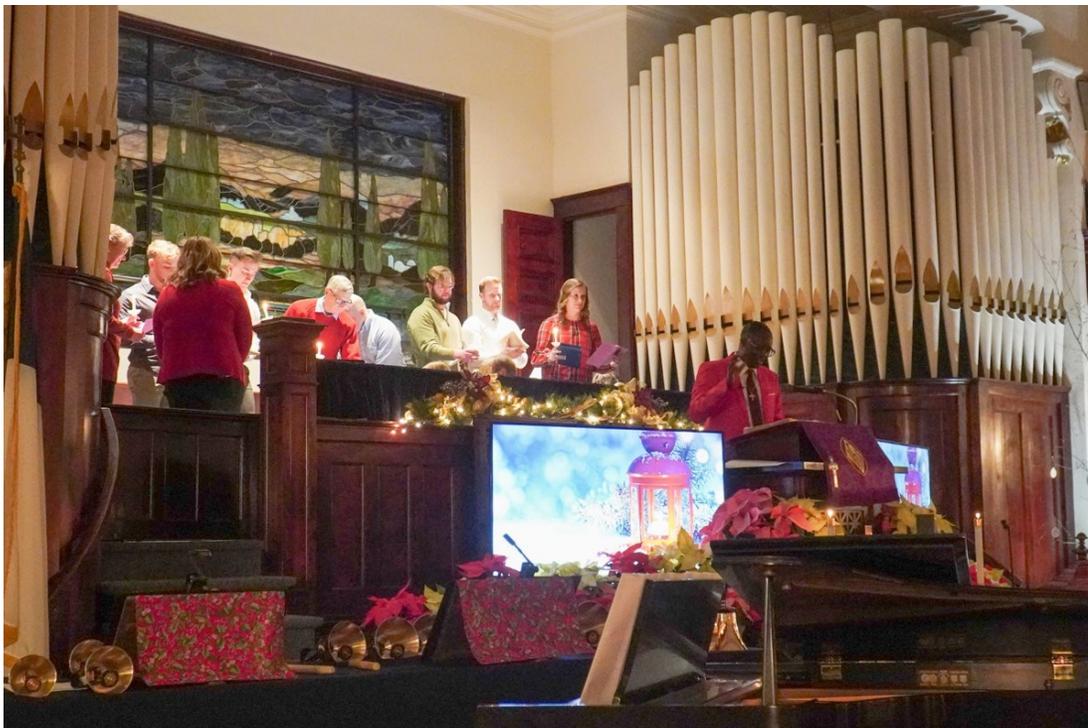
I look forward to journeying with you together in our spiritual voyage as a faith community as my family and I mark the 4th year as part of your faith family. We will begin our New Year with the gospel of Luke and meet Jesus of Nazareth as presented by Luke, the only Gentile author in the entire Bible. Luke wrote his two volumes, which scholars term Luke-Acts to gentile believers like us of his time. Luke 19:10 is the bond that holds together the whole gospel. It presents to the readers the sole purpose of Jesus: He came "to seek and save." May Jesus find you and your family and renew your relationship with God afresh.

Happy New Year, 2023

Pastor Owar



Christmas Eve Service





Here are some of the Handbell Choir members warming up for the Christmas Eve Service

FAMILY LIFE

The Family Life Committee delivered the donated games and hygiene products to the Central Cambria Middle School Guidance department to help local students. Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously.

Many of our members and friends enjoyed the fellowship at our Christmas Dinner on December 18th. We shared soups, Ethiopian food, side dishes, and desserts.

Session Meetings

Will be held on

The Second Monday of each month.

We will host the Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

At 6pm , In person and zoom.

What's Happening...

The Ebensburg Presbyterian Session met for a short meeting December 14, 2022. After opening in prayer, the Book of Order training was about Preparation for Ministry as a Ruling Elder.

The Treasurer's Report was received. Then the 2023 Budget was reviewed and approved.

The Young Disciples are working on a project for shut-ins and helping with the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Communion Dates for 2023 were approved.

It was voted to pledge \$1000 for the Congregations donation to the Presbytery "First fruits" (per capita). All donations received for this will be sent to the Presbytery.

Kris Segear was approved as treasurer and Laura McGill as assistant treasurer. Amy Brulia and Pat Mohny were approved as money counters.

In his Moderator's Report, Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu reported in-person or phone visits with several members of the congregation. The Mission Committee of Redstone Presbytery is planning a short-term mission trip to Kentucky, and all of our congregations are invited to consider participation in the trip from June 5-10, 2025. The highlight of the November 19th Presbytery meeting was the call and reception of two teaching elders. Hyiwot Teshome (Ethiopian by birth and moving from Maryland) was called to First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown and Latrobe Presbyterian Church called Rev. Ron Durika. Both were affirmed by the Presbytery. Rev. Dr. Ojulu also thanked the Session members for their support throughout the year.

The next stated session meeting is Monday January.

There was also a joint meeting with the Colver Presbyterian Church Session following this regular meeting on December 14th.

From the Mission Committee:

These donations were sent. Thanks for your generous support to Benevolence and Special Offerings.

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|--|----------|
| Christmas Joy Offering | \$200 |
| St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry | \$338.65 |
| Bethesda Evangelical Reformed Church, Gambella, Ethiopia | \$360 |
| Ebensburg Area Ministerium | \$360 |
| Pittsburgh Theological Seminary | \$360 |
| Pine Springs Camp | \$478.70 |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance | \$360 |
| American Heart Association | \$ 300 |

From the Youth Group:

Members of our group helped by reading scripture, lighting candles and participating in the Choir and Handbell Choir for Christmas Eve.





| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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 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 2023

We will be starting a new prayer list for 2023. 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.

2023 Giving Envelopes

We will be preparing the 2023 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 1

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isa. 63:7-9 and Ps.148;

Heb. 2:10-18; Matt. 2:13—2

January 8

Isa. 42:1-9 and Ps. 29;

Acts 10:34-43; Matt. 3:13-17

January 15

Isa. 49:1-9 and Ps. 40:1-11;

1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 22

Isa. 9:1-4 and Ps. 40:1-11;

1 Cor. 1:10-18; Matt. 4: 12-23

January 29

Micah 6:1-8 and Ps. 15;

1 Cor. 1:18-31; Matt.5: 1-12

The Youth Group and Confirmation Class will continue in January, and they will be working on projects for our shut-ins.

Learning

Serving

Praying

Helping



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

Actual Operating Income: \$110,745.69

Actual Operating Expenses: \$74,841.82

Gain/Loss: \$35,903.87



2023 Per Capita

2023 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.50**. 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

January 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|--|---|------------------|---|
| <p>1 Worship 11:00 am & Facebook "Cozy Sunday"</p> <p>Happy Birthday Marjwok Ojha</p> | <p>2 Happy Birthday Bodojwok Ojha</p> | <p>3 Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 Happy Birthday Sandy Magley</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8 Worship 11:00 am & Facebook Installation Ser- vice For new elders Holy Communion</p> <p>Happy Birthday Michelle Carl</p> | <p>9 Session Meeting 7 pm</p> | <p>10 Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</p> | <p>11 Happy Birthday James Cassidy Salvatore Tiracave</p> <p>Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> |
| <p>15 Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17 Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Ashley Dixon</p> | <p>18 Happy Birthday Tim Shamble</p> <p>Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 NA Business Meeting 9:45 am</p> |
| <p>22 Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</p> <p>Happy Birthday Lauren Rice</p> | <p>23 Happy Birthday Anthony Taylor</p> | <p>24 Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</p> <p>Happy Birthday Micah Magley</p> | <p>25 Bible Study 7 pm</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 Presbytery Meeting Westminster Presby- terian Church Greensburg Happy Birthday Susan Wolfe</p> |
| <p>29 Worship 11:00 am & Facebook</p> <p>Happy Birthday Ammanuel Ojha</p> <p>Annual Confronta- tion Meeting</p> | <p>30 Happy Birthday Santino Tiracave</p> | <p>31 Point of Service NA meeting 6 pm</p> | | | | |
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