

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church  
 200 North Center Street  
 P. O. Box 327  
 Ebensburg, PA 15931  
 Phone: 814 472-6920  
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Join Us Each Week!

Worship @ 11:00 AM

Bible Study Sundays at 6pm

Dear Church and people of God, we are now beginning a new month in lockdown due to the Coronavirus. This is a new normal, if not a new world order, and it is becoming our new daily reality. Our way of life has changed, where greetings are either online or over the phone. We all miss how we greeted each other in person, passing peace and sharing joys and concerns as an in-person community of believers.

May is the month when we see the reality of a new beginning and new life after celebrating the RESURRECTION of Christ—Easter morning! Flowers show



off their beauty, trees bring forth their true nature, and the sky turns blue. We celebrate the beginning of the restoration of the Kingdom of God on Pentecost, observe Mother Days, Memorial Day, and come together for the National Day of Prayer. This year, most of those celebrations will probably take place virtually rather than in person.

Even if there would be a relaxation of the lockdown in May, it would be too soon to start our normal life and activities at full capacity. We would be partially open. This is real and we are not daydreaming. This is the reality of our current life. Yet, we are also informed that the main purpose of Easter is the assurance OF THE REALITY OF God, his resurrecting power and life. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he has risen!” says the angel (Luke 24:5-6).

As I once mentioned, resurrection is a confirmation of a new life. It is an affirmation and validation of real life after death. Hope is the new beginning and we always look at our challenges in a different perspective. In the words of my friend pastor Shannon, “If we spend all our time in the reality of suffering, worry, anxiety, the virus, and all things negative, we may lose sight of the power of the Good News of Jesus.” She is right!

It is our human nature to ask why, what, etc., but we neither have an answer nor know the mystery of this virus. Coronavirus has threatened the foundation of this world and confounded even the wise, the strong and the smart. We cannot waste time and keep asking why? Or be consumed with negative thoughts. Well, could it be a wakeup call? Could it be that God wants to bring back our attention to Himself? Could it be that humanity has been worshipping false gods of its own? Whatever it

might be, there is always a “hidden hand” of God as Luther said. And God, in his providence, can ultimately turn evil to good purposes (Genesis 50:19-20).

There is much that is bad about this virus, but maybe we need to look at the positive side of it as well. It might have moved us back to 1990s America if not 1960s. Parents are home together and have more time with their children. We have not heard any news about a school shooting. As an unknown author has said, “TRAFFIC is gone. GAS is affordable...Hectic SCHEDULES replaced by NAPS, REST, and RELAXATION. The AIR seems CLEANER. The WORLD quieter. PEOPLE are conscious about HYGIENE and HEALTH. MONEY does not seem to make the WORLD GO ROUND anymore. DOCTORS AND NURSES are being praised and recognized instead of athletes and celebrities...” Maybe many are now thinking about God as well when they see the inability of human endeavors to contain this virus.

Whatever reason it might be, with prayer and sharing love let us maintain our joy in the face of this storm. May God come near and spare us and strengthen us as He fulfills His highest purpose and ultimate good with this evil.

We are called to be witnesses to the reality of the new life in the resurrection and restoration of the Kingdom of God. Considering this, we will begin a new sermon series on Acts as we follow the footsteps of the Apostles. We are a community of believers, who are alert and ready to act. This is the reason we always reach out in sharing God’s love and minister to the needs of our members and our communities at large. We are



Church in Action! Thank you for continuing to live your lives as witnesses to God’s gracious mercy in this season of turbulence. As your pastor, I assure you that you are all in my prayers, that the Lord of hopes continues to sustain your faith, hopes, keep you strong and safe.

As Paul said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who comforted us in all our distress, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any distress by the comfort wherewith we are ourselves comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Pastor Owar

## Psalm 124 (TPT)

What if God had not been on our side?

Let all Israel admit this!

What if God had not been there for us?

Our enemies, in their violent anger,  
would have swallowed us up alive!

The nations, with their flood of rage,  
would have swept us away

and we would have drowned,

perished beneath their torrent of terror!

We can praise God over and over that he never left us!

God wouldn't allow the terror of our enemies to defeat us.

We are free from the hunter's trap;

their snare is broken and we have escaped!

For the same God who made everything,

our Creator and our mighty maker,

he himself is our helper and defender!

Almighty God,  
you have given us this good land as our heritage.  
Make us always remember your generosity  
and constantly do your will.  
Bless our land with honest industry,  
sound learning, and an honorable way of life.  
Save us from [this virus], from violence, discord, and confusion;  
from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.  
Make us who come from many nations  
with many different languages a united people.

Defend our liberties and give those whom  
we have entrusted with the authorities of government  
the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land.  
When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful;  
And, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.  
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for our Country  
Book of Common Worship





## What's Happening . . .

The Session of Ebensburg Presbyterian Church met on April 8<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. The opening study used the passage I Corinthians 1: vs 18-31 about God and Christ on the cross seeming foolish to humankind. We were reminded of the difficulty of trying to minister to all our members without face to face contact.

The agenda was approved and the minutes from the March meeting were also approved. It was confirmed that all services from Palm Sunday until at least May 10<sup>th</sup> will be conducted on Facebook and Zoom. At that time session will determine whether to return to in-person worship or continue with online services.

The treasurer's report was received, and various committee reports followed.

Budget, Finance and Stewardship- The Board of Pensions of Presbyterian Church USA sent an email about forgoing dues during the current Covid-19 crisis. The session voted to apply for this relief. Also, following discussion, it was voted to apply for a Payroll Protection Plan loan from the Small Business Administration. A discussion was held about whether Kris Segear, our treasurer, could act on behalf of both congregations in these matters.

Communication- the Mountaineer Herald was contacted to put the name of our pastor on the church listings. Also, a correction was made to the link to our website on the Downtown Ebensburg webpage and a notice posted about our online services.

The Discipleship Committee explained the plans for the "Easter Eggstravaganza" to be held as a takeout event this year. They attempted to contact all families interested in attending so they could arrange to pick up take-out bags with candy and crafts for all the children. Thanks for being creative.

Mission reported that they sent a \$100 gift card for a local family in need and \$200 check to Rik 'n Niks to help provide free meals to students and seniors. They asked that any donations for One Great Hour of Sharing be sent as a check made to the church with OGHS marked on the memo line. This committee is also accepting donations of cloth masks to be sent to Central Cambria School for the student meal program.

Pastor/Parish Relations – The committee was to meet the week after Session meeting. A brief discussion was held about compensation for organists during the joint services.

Personnel – It was voted to continue with reduced hours for the secretary and janitor during the time that the church is not being used for worship and meetings.

Property Management- A second estimate for updates to the audio-visual system was received. It is slightly higher than the first but includes more equipment. Outside spring cleanup was discussed.

Worship- It was explained that the services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were to be on Facebook only, not Zoom. Easter Sunday would be broadcast using both platforms.

In Old Business Rev. Owar reported that he would try to change his travel plans to sometime during June.

New Business - A request was granted from Melissa Douglas that the date of her official appointment as organist should be stated as September 2016.

## What's Happening . . . continued

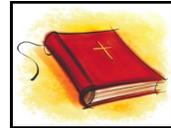
In the Moderator's Report Rev. Owar thanked everyone for what is being done to care for the congregation such as checking up on each other, the Eggstravaganza, face mask donations, . . . He reported that the pastors in the Redstone Presbytery are meeting virtually each week to support each other during this unprecedented crisis.

The Clerk of Session reported a member asked to be removed from the rolls as she has moved from the area. We received a letter of thanks from Skip Noftzger, executive presbyter, for our donation of first fruits.

The Deacons reported that they will not continue the Silver and Gold recognition this year because of lack of response from honorees for the past few years.

The Session will meet Wednesday May 13, 2020. If necessary, the meeting will be virtual.

### Sunday Scripture Readings



#### May 3, 2020

Acts 2:42-47      The believers share all things, worshiping and eating together.  
 Psalm 23          The Lord is my shepherd, leading, protecting, and feeding me.  
 1 Peter 2:19-25    Like sheep, we go astray; but Christ is the shepherd of our souls.  
 John 10:1-10      Jesus says: I am the gate for the sheep; enter by me and be saved.

#### May 10, 2020

Acts 7:55-60      An angry crowd stones Stephen; he prays: Jesus, receive my spirit.  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Deliver me, O Lord; into your hand I commit my spirit.  
 1 Peter 2:2-10    Now you are God's people, built into a temple like living stones.  
 John 14:1-14      Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; he prepares a place for us.

#### May 17, 2020

Acts 17:22-31     Paul introduces the Athenians to their "unknown god": the Lord.  
 Psalm 66:8-20    Bless God, who hears our prayers and keeps us among the living.  
 1 Peter 3:13-22   Do not fear; testify to the hope that is in you through Christ.  
 John 14:15-21    Jesus says: the Father will send the Spirit, who will abide in you.

#### May 24, 2020

Acts 1:1-11        Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascends into heaven.  
 Psalm 47          Clap, shout, and sing with joy: the Lord reigns over all the earth.  
 Ephesians 1:15-23 Christ is seated at God's right hand, above every earthly power.  
 Luke 24:44-53    Jesus interprets the Scriptures; then he is carried up into heaven.

#### May 31, 2020

Acts 2:1-21        On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth.  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b The Lord of creation sends forth the Spirit to renew the earth.  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 In the body of Christ there are varieties of gifts, but one Spirit.  
 John 20:19-23    The risen Lord appears to the disciples and gives them the Spirit.

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

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!**



**Thank you to the volunteers who are sewing masks for our community, church members, families, and friends.**

**Stay healthy! Stay safe!**

Ebensburg Colver is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Ebensburg /Colver Joint Virtual Worship Sunday, May 3

Time: May 3, 2020 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/896752166>

Meeting ID: 896 752 166

Join by Phone

+13126266799

Meeting ID: 896 752 166

**Enter #** each time after the meeting ID and password

## INFORMATION UPDATE

It is time to update the church records for 2020.

Please provide the following information for all members of your family.

**Return the form to the church office or email your information to the church [ebgpresby@gmail.com](mailto:ebgpresby@gmail.com).**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER**

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_



# Kids' Eggstravaganza

This year the Kids Eggstravaganza was changed to a “Take out Easter Egg Hunt”. Bags with crafts, games and prefilled eggs were prepared by church volunteers. The bags were then picked up at the church on Friday, April 10th so families could have their Eggstravaganza at home. Nineteen children from the church participated in the “Take out Easter Egg Hunt.”



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## Pine Springs Camp

Pine Springs Camp will be operating this summer, but on an abbreviated schedule. Please check [Pine Springs.org](http://PineSprings.org) for additional information.

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**EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Year to Date as of March, 2020

Actual Operating Income: \$14,896.27

Actual Operating Expenses: \$22,872.70

Gain/Loss: (\$ 7,976.43)



**2019 Per Capita**

**2020 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!

# Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

## May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Happy Birthday, Mar Jwok Owar Ojha</i>	2 <i>Happy Birthday, Matthew Feath, Bodo Jwok</i>
3 <i>Worship 10:45 AM Facebook and Zoom  Happy Birthday, Renee Stratton Janzen</i>	4	5 <i>Happy Birthday, Ryan McGill, Daniel McGill  Bible Study on Zoom Bible 2020</i>	6	7 <b>National Day of Prayer</b> <i>Happy Birthday Lucas Taylor</i>	8 <i>Happy Anniv. Becky Carlin &amp; Ralph Shuey</i>	9
10 <i>Worship 10:45 AM Facebook and Zoom</i>	11 <i>Happy Birthday Kayt Makosy Williamson</i>	12 <i>Bible Study on Zoom Bible 2020</i>	13 <b>Session—7 PM ZOOM</b>	14 <i>Happy Birthday Rev. Owar Ojha Ojulu</i>	15 <i>Happy Birthday, Dave Wesley</i>	16
17 <i>Worship 10:45 AM Facebook and Zoom Communion</i>	18 <i>Happy Birthday, Denise Lloyd</i>	19 <i>Bible Study on Zoom Bible 2020</i>	20	21 <b>Ascension of the Lord</b>  <i>Happy Birthday, Ojha Owar Ojha</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday, Benjamin Wesley</i>	23 <i>Happy Birthday, Kevin McKenrick, Chase Forberger</i>
24 <i>Worship 10:45 AM Facebook and Zoom Happy Birthday, Neil McKenrick</i>	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26 <i>Happy Birthday, David Sowers  Bible Study on Zoom Bible 2020</i>	27	28 <i>Happy Anniv. Roger &amp; Laura McGill</i>	29 <i>Happy Birthday, Sarah Segear</i>	30 <i>Happy Anniv. Barry &amp; Kris Segear</i>
31 <i>Worship 10:45 AM Facebook and Zoom Day of Pentecost Happy Birthday, Jim Stratton</i>						

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