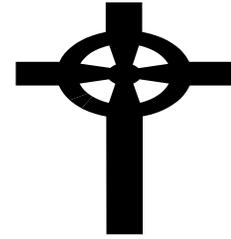
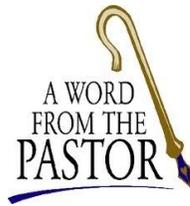


The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

May 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.org

Facebook page:

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

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!

Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

*You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalms 139:13-16)

As I read this psalm and pondered it, one story came to my mind about a father of a girl who wanted to give away his daughter without dowry if any young man could build a hut for him. The old man instructed that the hut must be built in the air without touching the ground. Young men in the village were confused and disturbed by the old man's idea. One young man thought on how he could build the old man's dream hut. Three days later, he came up with an idea and went to the father-in-law-to-be.

He asked the old man to mark the line for the hut. In the Anyuwaa area, or in most African settings, the huts are built in a circle and the owner has the right to mark the circle depending on how big or small the size of the hut they want to build. As you can imagine, the young man knew that no one could mark anything in the air. Even smoke would not last and be sticking to its mark until the hut was finished. Smoke always vanishes with a puff of air. So, the old man failed to mark the circle in the air because you cannot make such a thing in the void. Then the young man took his wife for free. This is contrary to God and God's ability to create, form, and build his project of creations. God is omnipotent and limitless. The

old man's aspirations were frustrated because he could not build anything in a void. His expectations were totally unrealistic.

I need to admit that am being touched and something stuck with me about God's creation mystery when BeenyJwok was born. When she emerged to the world, the first thing I heard was her cry, then saw her toothless gums, and few minutes later she started wanting to eat. Then I started wondering and marveling at God's work. Before that, I was in tears as Apay was going through labor. I wish African fathers, including my dad, had been beside my mother when I was born. In the Anyuwaa and in the most cultures in Ethiopia, men are not allowed beside women when a mother delivers a baby. Even right now when they have hospitals, a husband is not allowed to enter the delivery room. For this reason, the Anyuwaa men do not know how exhausting and yet extraordinary a childbirth is.

"You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb," the psalmist admired God. God is all knowing, omnipotent, and all caring. He miraculously, "wonderfully and fearfully" creates us.

His "workmanship is marvelous " and complex. No one can fathom this deep mystery of God, but we burst with joy like the psalmist. We celebrate this gift and cherish the smiles that come with it. I am sure Matt and Jamie can relate to this wonder as they welcomed their first precious gift—Baby Lena.

I can hear from the psalmist's voice, how Baby Lena and BeenyJwok are in their vulnerable state right now. They cannot talk or walk, nor are they able to express their concerns. One thing they *can* do, is cry to voice their needs. Their parents use their instinct to determine the response to their needs. Also, as Lena and BeenyJwok are born into the family of our believing community, they also look forward to our guidance, love, and support. We are their spiritual parents and are called to continually pray for them.

As I ponder this psalm further, I think of us with God. That we are still children who depend on God and God's providence (Psalm 104:27). We are vulnerable in the We are vulnerable in the eyes of God like newborn babies—Baby Lena and BeenyJwok. When we pray, we are crying like babies, because we do not

know what we ought to pray, yet the Spirit helps us in our weakness (Romans 8:26). God has laid before us every moment in our life and helps us get through our experiences every single day that passes.



As we rejoice and celebrate the gift of Baby Lena and BeenyJwok, we are also celebrating Mother's Day and Pentecost this month, May 2021. This is remarkable! Pentecost is the gift of power. It was on this day that the new movement was born—the church of Christ. It was only with God's power and gift of courage the disciples were able to continue proclaiming the gospel message.

In the light of Mother's Day, I'll be preaching on courage in the eyes of women. This is because women are at the center of everything in this world and their courage has brought the world and the church thus far. Women's courage brings a child to the world, women seek to see Jesus on Easter morning, women are in the divine plan. The Anyuwaa would say, "Mīō-Jwøk" meaning, a mother, is divine! She is bestowed and bequeathed with God's mystery, which men do not have.

Therefore, let us ponder God's work and celebrate God's mystery in creation, his courage, love, and care!

Happy Mother's Day!

Peace,
Pastor Owar

Eggstravaganza—2021

Twenty-two Easter Eggstravaganza treat bags were handed out on Easter Saturday. Parents and grandparents picked up bags with crafts and treats for their children.

Easter Sunday April 4, 2021



On Easter Sunday, the choir of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church did an outstanding job.



**Women in the Woods at Pine Springs Camp
Saturday, April 24, 2021**

Judy, Martha, Kris, and Roxanne had a great day of fellowship, bible study, and outdoor activities at the retreat.

**21st Annual
PINE SPRINGS
GOLF OUTING**
Golf at the Beautiful and Historic
Arnold Palmer's
LATROBE COUNTRY CLUB

Early Start Time!
Monday, 24, 2021
9:00 Registration
10:30 Start

Additional information can be found at
www.pinesprings/golf.



NEW ARRIVALS



Baby BeenyJwok born to Owar and Apay
Ojulu on Monday, April 5, 2021.



Baby Lena born to Jamie and
Matt Mazzarella on April 15,
2021.

From the Deacons

The Deacons from the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church purchased a decorative basket and filled it with gift cards and donations received from the church members for Baby Lena.

Congratulations to Jamie and Matt Mazzarella on their new baby girl!



From the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee would just like to remind anyone who is considering going to PINE SPRINGS CAMP this summer that we pay for 1/2 camperships.

Organ Fund Committee Fundraisers

Applebee's, Ebensburg

The Organ Committee will hold a fundraiser through Applebee's in Ebensburg, PA. Members/Friends of the church are asked to order from Applebee's website on Sunday, May 16th for take-out. The orders will be placed on-line and please use coupons when you place your order. For those who are not able to place an order through the computer, Melissa will help these individuals before or after services. The individual will go pick up their order. 15% of every purchase will be donated to the church. Thank you for your continued support.

DelGrosso's Marianna's Hoagie and Pizzas Fundraiser

The Organ Committee will be selling Marianna's hoagies and pizzas to be delivered to the church at 9:30 am on June 9th. All orders and money will be due Sunday, May 30th. Order forms can be picked up at the church, beginning May 2nd or printed from the Church's website.

We celebrate the birthday of Christ's Church at Pentecost

Come and join our joint Colver/Ebensburg service at 11:00 am, Sunday May 23, 2021 at the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church.

Wear something red! We are also requesting donations of red flowering plants such as geraniums for the service.

They will be planted around the church afterwards.



Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World...Together!

March Gathering Highlights

Led by Moderator Belinda Lambie (Colver), presbyters assembled both in Greensburg and from remote locations, *including some out of the area*. Inspiring music was provided by John Salvesson and Robin Jennings of the host congregation.

Interspersed in the meeting and connecting various parts was the use of the hymn, *"Each Christian Has A Calling"* by David Gambrell, associate for worship in the PCUSA.

Network activities and updates were reported from Healing/Prayer Ministry, Addictions Ministry and the newest network, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

Rev. John Welch, from Pittsburgh Presbytery, proclaimed the Word, entitled "The Theology of a Climber" and based upon the story of Zaccheus reflecting the power of both sin and redemption in individuals and social groups.

Council encouraged consideration of the Matthew 25 initiative with a video offering where a few of the current congregations spoke of their experience and desire for other churches to join as well.

Eric Glisan was welcomed back into service as a ruling elder commissioned by the Presbytery to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Masontown.

Rev. Philip Obang of the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church brought greetings during the worship service. The offering was collected for this partnership.

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, on behalf of the Mission requested information from congregations on how they are extending local mission during this pandemic period.

What's Happening...



The Session met on April 14, 2021 by Zoom. After an opening prayer and check in, we had a study on Nehemiah 4: 10-14. Nehemiah was the leader after the Israelites returned from captivity in Babylon. They had to continue to fight and be strong.

The agenda was approved, and the Book of Order training was from G-2.01.01 about Christ's ministry and the ministry of the church.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved followed by the Treasurer's Report. Currently expenses are exceeding income by \$3,834. The report was received.

Committee Reports included the following:

For the Organ Restoration Committee, Melissa Douglas reported that the recent hoagie/pizza sale raised \$1266. Future fundraisers will include Applebee's dining, church t-shirts and another hoagie/pizza sale. The fundraisers were approved. The sum of \$4714.55 remains to reach the goal.

The Budget Finance and Stewardship reported that the online giving platform is working well and being used. The paperwork for forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Plan loan has been submitted. The 19 month CD that matured was moved into the Money Market account since that account is paying a little better interest rate currently.

Discipleship held the drive-through Eggstravaganza for 22 children. Parents and grandparents picked up bags with crafts and treats for their children.

The Mission Committee sent \$500 to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Property Management reported on need for repair of the vacuum cleaner. One toilet in the Ladies room has been repaired. A second toilet may need some parts replaced also. Some things left from "yard sales" need to be removed from the church basement.

In New Business, the session reviewed the Covid-19 response by the church and made a few changes reflecting the current practices. Rev. Ojulu's request for 4 weeks of vacation beginning May 31 was approved. A request to use the church for individual voice lessons was approved.

Communications from Presbytery: Martha O'Brien represented our church at the April Presbytery meeting and told us about the outstanding sermon given by Rev. John Welch at the worship service. She reported that groups in the Presbytery are involved with several ministries and missions that we could work with and that we need to let others in the Presbytery what we are doing at our church. Laura McGill was appointed as representative for the May 25 Presbytery meeting.

Spring cleanup for Pine Springs Camp will be held on May 15th. The Presbyterian Women spring meeting will be held at Pine Springs on May 18th.

Rev. Ojulu gave the Moderator's Report. He has held hospital and phone visits and thanked Session and the Church for their support.

Jim Stratton, Clerk of Session, shared a request for use of the Sanctuary in case of inclement weather for the Ebsburg Memorial Day program. It was approved.

The Deacons have restructured. Roxanne Lamar is heading up the deacons and Christie Forberger is the treasurer.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7 pm.

Sunday Scripture Readings



May 2, 2021

Acts 8:26–40

Psalms 22:25–31

1 John 4:7–21

John 15:1–8

Philip meets an Ethiopian eunuch, who asks to be baptized.

In the great congregation I will praise the Lord, my deliverer.

Let us love one another; we love because God first loved us.

Jesus says: I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me.

May 9, 2021

Acts 10:44–48

Psalms 98

1 John 5:1–6

John 15:9–17

Gentiles receive the gift of the Spirit; they should be baptized too.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord; give thanks for God's victory.

Trust in Jesus, who came by water and blood, and be born of God.

Jesus says: This is my commandment, that you love one another.

May 16, 2021

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

Psalms 1

1 John 5:9–13

John 17:6–19

Matthias is chosen as one of the twelve apostles, replacing Judas.

Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord.

Whoever believes in the Son of God has the gift of eternal life.

Jesus prays for the protection and sanctification of his followers.

May 23, 2021 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21

Psalms 104:24–34, 35b

Romans 8:22–27

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

On the day of Pentecost, God pours out the Spirit upon the earth.

The Lord of creation sends forth the Spirit to renew the earth.

Creation groans in labor pains; the Spirit intercedes for us.

Jesus promises: I will send you an Advocate, the Spirit of truth.

May 30, 2021

Isaiah 6:1–8

Psalms 29

Romans 8:12–17

John 3:1–17

Isaiah has a vision of the Lord and cries: Here I am; send me!

In the wilderness and in the temple, give glory to the Lord.

By the Spirit we are children of God and joint heirs with Christ.

We must be born of the Spirit; God sent the Son to save the world.



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 March, 2021

Actual Operating Income: \$18,818.98

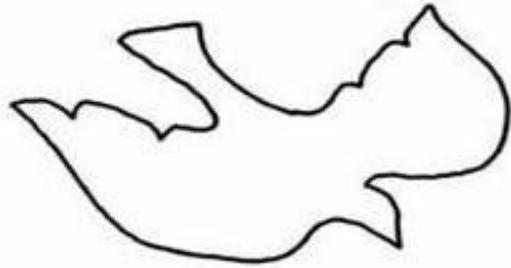
Actual Operating Expenses: \$22,653.10

Gain/Loss (\$3,834.12)

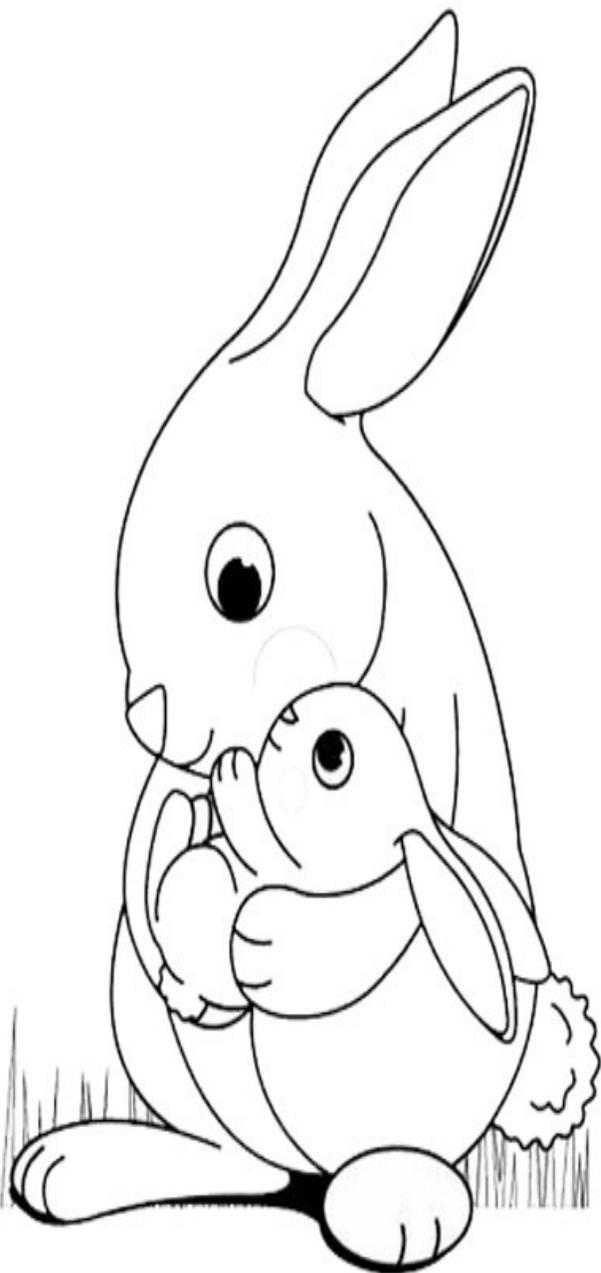


2021 Per Capita

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
Mother's
Day



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

May 2021

						1
2 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Cub Scouts 5—7 Happy Birthday, Matthew Feath	3	4 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	5 Bible Study—7 PM Happy Birthday, Ryan & Daniel McGill	6 <i>National Day of Prayer</i>	7 <i>Happy Birthday, Lucas Taylor</i>	8 <i>Happy Anniv. Becky Carlin & Ralph Shuey</i>
9 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Mother's Day	10	11 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> Happy Birthday, Kayt Makosy Williamson	12 SESSION—7 PM	13 <i>Ascension of the Lord</i>	14 Happy Birthday, Rev. Owar Ojha Ojulu	15 <i>NA Business Mtg.—9:45 AM</i>
16 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Organ Fund Raiser - Applebee's Cub Scouts 5—7	17	18 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i> <i>Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat</i>	19 Bible Study—7 PM	20	21 <i>Happy Birthday, Ojha Owar Ojha</i>	22
23 Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Day of Pentecost COMMUNION Cub Scouts 5—7 Happy Birthday, Kevin McKenrick Chase Forberger	24 <i>Happy Birthday Neil McKenrick</i>	25 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	26 Bible Study—7 PM Happy Birthday, David Sowers	27	28 <i>Happy Anniv. Roger & Laura McGill</i>	29 <i>Happy Birthday, Sarah Elizabeth Segear</i>
30 Trinity Sunday Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Deacon's Offering Happy Anniv. Barry & Kris Segear	31 Memorial Day <i>Happy Birthday, Jim Stratton</i>					

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
200 North Center Street
PO Box 327
Ebensburg, PA 15931

