



Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
 200 North Center Street
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Join Us Each Week!

Worship @ 11:00 AM

Bible Study Tuesday at 7 PM

"Let everyone render due obedience to those who occupy positions of outstanding authority, for there is no authority which is not allotted its place by God, for the authorities which exist have been set in their places by God." Roman 13:1-17

"Everyone must submit to the governing authority?" What...? Everyone? This was the feeling of the first readers of this passage. It was extremely surprising. It is a "big political statement" as we would say in our contemporary language. Yet, for Paul, this was Biblical and he needed Roman Christians to fulfill their duties as citizens.

Like many church leaders and many Christians, I often hesitate to express political views and comment on political issues, let alone in today's polarized political atmosphere. In fact, this time four years ago, I was reluctant of who I was going to vote for. I was waiting for the right moment, my own "fullness of time" so to say.

This year, my "MOMENT" came through a yard sign that I saw on Facebook, that says, "Jesus 2020." It was my "Ah-Ah moment!" I am reminded of Romans 13 and reflected on it. I was encouraged, as your pastor to remind you of the Biblical truth, that *"there is no authority which is not allotted its place by God..."* For Paul, this was not a mere statement, rather a "commandment which runs through the whole New Testament," said William Barclay.



It is our responsibility to make decisions about who to vote for, but the verdict belongs to God. According to Paul, ALL *"authorities which exist have been set in their places by God."* We find this truth throughout the Scriptures: "the living will know that the Highest is ruler over the kingdom of mankind and **gives it to whom He wishes...**" (Daniel 4:17). By God "kings reign, and rulers enact just laws" (Proverbs 8:15); the Lord removes the kings and establishes them (Daniel:2:21).

Therefore, we shall come to the conclusion that God chooses, appoints, and elects the leaders for his own agenda, whether good or bad (Jeremiah 18:5-10). We have seen this when we studied Minor Prophets, the rise and fall of Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, etc.

For Paul, like your spiritual gift, authority is a gift; an endowment of power invested by God in the people whom he wishes. Jesus passes such authority to his disciples, saying, "I have given you authority" (Luke 10:19). How someone utilizes their gift, either in the church or in the society, is their choice. Also remember, gifts are conditional depending on how we utilize them (Revelation 2:5).

I have experienced difficult styles of government such as Communism and corrupt Democracy regimes during the time I lived in Ethiopia. Yet, the truth remains; those leaders were given the gift of power, but they misused their authority. Nevertheless, we are urged to pray for and intercede on behalf of those in power (1 Timothy, 2:1-2). The WILL of God is a double-edge word. It either enhances the power or takes away the authority if it is not exercised properly.

"Jesus 2020" might have served as my motto to vote, but Jesus is not on the ballot this year, neither in the past and will never be. He is on the throne exalted! Yet, you can ask Him for discernment as you carry out your responsibility of voting. I encourage you to vote. It is your obligation and your right. But leave the verdict to God!

As we approach the election, emotions are running high on both sides, and people sometimes express their political views in a harsh and unchristian manner. Let us remember that, as Christians, we are obliged to love one another. Our love toward our neighbors is our Christian way to "fulfill the requirements of God's law." (Romans 13:8).

After November 3rd, when the winner is declared, this chaos will be behind us. We will all remain as Americans—as brothers and sisters despite who wins the election Whoever the winner might be, will carry-on the purpose of God for the next four years in America—bad or good. For why we should submit to bad authorities, we will come back to that question next time.

But remember, our will and desire to accept authority as a gift, will help us love our leaders, honor them, and accept everyone as fellow citizens and children of God (1 Peter 2:13-17). I encourage you to pray and discern your "moment and your fullness of time."

Moreover, remember that in November, we will be celebrating "Thanksgiving," acknowledging God's providence and blessings in our lives. Then comes Advent, where we anticipate the coming of the ONE whose

"authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace...

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." Isaiah 9:6-7

MARANATHA, O Lord!



Blessings!
 Pastor Owar O.

**A Prayer as I
put on my
mask.**

Creator,

as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of the cloth—

let it be “an outward sign
Of an inward grace”—
a tangible and visible way of living
love for my neighbors,
as I love myself.

Christ,

since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
In the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.

— Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United
Church of Canada.

Holy Spirit

as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully—
and full of care—
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth be
shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.

In your Name and
In that love,
I pray
Amen.



THE FELLOWSHIP

A NEWSLETTER OF THE EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020

What's Happening . . .



On October 14, the meeting of the Session opened with prayer and a short study of I Thessalonians Chapter 1. Both the Gospel and the Church are essential.

After formation of the roll, the agenda was approved with a minor change in order. The topic for the Book of Order training was the role of the Church as the Body of Christ and the community of faith and hope demonstrating the gifts of the spirit.

The September minutes were approved, and the treasurer's report was received.

Committee Reports were received.

The Organ Restoration committee reported about the plans for the Spaghetti takeout dinner.

The 2021 budget will be presented at the November Session meeting by the Budget, Finance and Stewardship Committee

The Mission Committee is requesting donations of items for the Central Cambria School District and the Deacons will also participate in collecting and purchasing items.

The Pastor/Parish Relations Committee will be meeting to prepare for Advent and Christmas.

Property Management reported that a tree was removed and issues with the speaker system and lights are being addressed.

The Worship Committee reported that communion was held at the beginning of October.

In New Business, a request from the Girl Scouts for the use of the church was approved. Bell Choir will be able to begin practicing following social distancing regulations.

The Ebensburg Presbyterian Church pledged \$1,000 to Presbytery and will send all funds received for Presbytery from the envelopes.

Because of Covid-19, the breakfast to honor first responders and those on the front line of the fight against the drug epidemic was not held this year. We were asked to supply thank you notes when the food will be delivered to the DA and County Detectives Office.

The next meeting will be held Nov. 11, 2020.



Sunday Scripture Readings



November 1, 2020

Joshua 3:7–17

Psalms 107:1–7, 33–37

1 Thessalonians 2:9–13

Matthew 23:1–12

Joshua leads the people through the Jordan to the Promised Land.

Give thanks to the Lord, who delivered us from the wilderness.

We give thanks that you have received and believed God's word.

The greatest will become servants; the humble will be exalted.

November 8, 2020

Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Psalms 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Matthew 25:1–13

Choose this day whom you will serve; we will serve the Lord.

O Lord, make haste to help me, for I am poor and needy.

The dead in Christ will rise first; then the living will meet the Lord.

The parable of ten bridesmaids; keep awake, the Lord is coming.

November 15, 2020

Judges 4:1–7

Psalms 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Matthew 25:14–30

The Israelites cry to the Lord; God sends Deborah to deliver them.

Have mercy on us, O Lord; we have had our fill of contempt.

Be ready: the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

The parable of talents; good and trustworthy servants are rewarded.

November 22, 2020

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15–23

Matthew 25:31–46

I will be the shepherd of my sheep, says the Lord; I will save them.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord; we are the sheep of God's pasture.

Christ is seated at God's right hand; all powers are under his feet.

The king will judge: just as you did it to the least, you did it to me.

November 26, 2020

Deuteronomy 8:7–18

Psalms 65

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

Luke 17:11–19 J

The Lord is bringing you into a good land; do not forget your God.

Praise God, who answers prayer, sends rain, and blesses the earth.

God loves a cheerful giver; thanks be to God for the gift of grace.

Jesus heals ten people with leprosy; only one returns to give thanks.

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

ONLINE SCHAFF LECTURES - Nov. 10-12, 2020, 7:00 p.m. (ET)

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley will present the 2020 Schaff Lectures during a three-evening webinar series exploring racism, sin, and the transformative possibilities of contemplation.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Nov. 10 *In the Jail: Systemic Racism, Contemplation, and the Problem of 'Seeing'*

Nov. 11 *Reconsidering the Fall: Desire Gone Awry and Its Consequences*

Nov. 12 *On the Way to Union? How 'Divine Darkness' Convicts the Sin of Racism*

All sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. (ET). The Rev. Dr. Coakley will lead a Q&A session following each evening's presentation. The lecture series is free and open to the public. To receive the link for the series, please register online.

SPEAKER

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Coakley is the Norris-Hulse Professor Emerita at Cambridge University and a professorial research fellow at Australian Catholic University. At present, she is the assisting priest and theologian-in-residence at Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes in Washington, D.C. She is also an honorary fellow of Oriel College, Oxford; an emeritus fellow of Murray Edwards College, Cambridge; a fellow of the British Academy (since 2019); and a member of the European Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Coakley holds honorary degrees from the universities of Lund, St. Andrews, Toronto (St. Michael's College), and London (Heythrop College). She has authored numerous volumes on systematic theology and is the author of the forthcoming *Spiritual Healing: Science, Meaning, and Discernment*.



QUESTIONS

412-924-1345 | ConEd@pts.edu | WWW.PTS.EDU/SCHAFF-2021

Reports from Church Committees

From the Organ Restoration Committee:

On October 20th, 2020, the Organ Restoration Committee held a curbside pick-up spaghetti dinner event. The event was a success with almost 250 dinners sold! Our committee would like to thank all the volunteers, ticket sellers and those that purchased tickets for this event. Rick Ardini, owner of Rik-n-Niks, prepared the food that was purchased by DelGrosso's and donated his time and many supplies/food for this event. Thank you to everyone for your support and we hope to continue fundraisers like this in the future.



Curbside pick-up Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



Reports from Church Committees

From the Mission Committee:

The Central Cambria School District would like to thank the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church members and the Board of Deacons for the generous donations for our students. More than 34% of our students are economically disadvantaged and it is a struggle for these families to provide basic school supplies. Covid-19 also increases and complicates these issues. We have students who are here at the district in-person learning and many students at home learning virtually. The needs of the families vary greatly and any additional support by the school district with supplies or warm winter clothing is appreciated by all. As of this writing your church has supplied Clorox Wipes (very hard to find), Kleenex, 28 pairs of gloves, 13 winter hats, 23 boxes of crayons, 96 pencils, 30 pairs of pants and 104 pairs of socks. I also suspect there are more donations in the collection box in the sanctuary.



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year to Date as of September, 2020

Actual Operating Income: \$48,651.91

Actual Operating Expenses: \$56,738.50

Gain/Loss: (\$8,086.59)



2020 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

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Cub Scouts 5-7 M</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Election Day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Anne Makosy</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Sally Tiracave</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook and Zoom</p> <p>Cub Scouts 5-7 PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Happy Birthday, David Feath</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p> <p>Bible Study—7 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SESSION—7 PM</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Cynthia Pugh Dybeck</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>24th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook and Zoom</p> <p>Cub Scouts 5– 7 PM</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p> <p>Bible Study—7 PM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Happy Anniv. Dave & Roxanne Lamer</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>NA Business Mtg.— 9:45 AM</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Christ the King/ Reign of Christ</p> <p>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook and Zoom</p> <p>Happy Birthday, Michele Rice</p> <p>Cub Scouts 5 –7 PM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</p> <p>Happy Birthday, William McKim</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Deacon's Offering</p> <p>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook and Zoom</p> <p>Happy Anniv. Bill & Mary Lou Carlisle</p>	<p>30</p>					

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*Happy
Thanksgiving*

