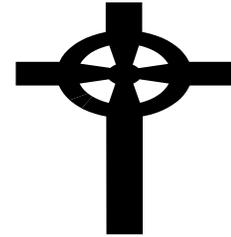
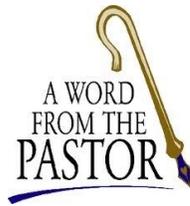


The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church
November 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)

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. " Philippians 4:4-7

I remember this time last year, when both the news of Covid-19 and the pressure of the upcoming election created a constant wave of uncertainty throughout our communities. Our thoughts were wandering here and there while the Internet and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter were fueling disagreements because of varying viewpoints and perspectives throughout the country. Many felt that our society had come to an irreconcilable point because of intense political differences. Like many pastors, I remembered doing a brief devotion on Romans 13 on the gifts of authority. I shared that as part of my duty as your pastor to try to ease some pressures and provide insights for your discernment process as mine came on a yard sign I saw on Facebook: "Jesus 2020."

Truly, the Lord had crossed us over and Jesus Christ is still on the heavenly throne forever and beyond. This is the reason behind Paul's encouragement to the Philippians. He wanted them to immerse in the joy, not of the things, occasions, or of people, but of the Lord. This is because the joy that descends from above is rich and limitless. Was Paul suggesting that as Christians we live without worries? Of course not. Paul knew, as he himself was in the Roman prison cell, that there is something beyond our dark days; there is joy beyond suffering, strength beyond fear, hope that surpasses confusion, etc. He wanted them to be joyful "always" because we are limited and our time on earth is short. We live here temporarily and should be mindful of how we spend our precious time—because "the Lord is near!"

This reminds us that life is lived in anticipation—we live in joy as we await the advent or coming of Christ Jesus. If we do so, we can never lose hope and joy but await his appearance patiently, hopefully, and graciously. Christian joy is a delight and there is elation to be found in Christ and in the presence of God in our weary times. We are asked to draw near and surrender ourselves to God in the season of Advent, where we anticipate the coming of the redeemer, our city of Refuge as symbolized by Joshua's cities of Refuge of ancient Israel. The Lord comes to us in advent as,

"Bezer"—*Fortress for the weak*
"Golan"—*Refuge in times of trouble*
"Hebron"—*Friend of the sinners*
"Kadesh"—*The Holy One of God*
"Ramoath"—*Exalted in the highest*
"Shechem"—*Mighty shoulder*

*Christian joy is independent of
all things on earth because it
has its source in the continual
presence of Christ." William
Barclay.*

(continued on page 2)

As Paul urge the Philippians, may we too rejoice and keep rejoicing in the face of our circumstances and draw near to God in prayer and meditation in this season of Advent. Remember that our joy is *“independent of all things on earth because it has its source in the continual presence of Christ.”* William Barclay. Therefore, as you journey through advent, I encourage you to:

BE prayerful—try to light a candle every evening and sit quietly, meditate, and pray

BE thankful—for God's gifts of life and focus on an object that you have received as a gift

BE joyful—find something valuable to you and place it where you can see it often

BE on guard—remember how far you have come and keep your pace in your faith journey

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Owar



PIVOT POINTS

"I wish I had more control of my life," my friend said. "I feel so anxious. I make decisions constantly in my life, but I have no idea how they will turn out. I wish I could see the future. Life feels so...risky."

My friend was facing a "pivot point" in life. She was just offered her dream job. She would need to move to a new city. But on the same day, she got a call from her mother telling her she had been diagnosed with a challenging health condition. She was in a tough bind.

Each of us faces pivot points that change everything suddenly in our lives. Simple phrases redefine our whole reality... We can look back on our lives and see moments where our decisions set us on certain paths that determine the conditions for the next set of decisions. Some of our choices bring us regret and some great joy. All of them teach us. So much of our lives are changing right now. That has always been true, but the safety nets that we use to protect us from the impacts of change are crumbling around us - job security, housing security, health security, family security.

Life does indeed feel risky. It's why I'm grateful to be a person of faith. Romans 14:8 says, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." No matter what the "pivot" brings, we are not alone. We are not abandoned. We should not be afraid.

Good theology is rooted in the conviction that, on the whole, all things are at work for our well-being. Of course, that does not mean that bad things don't happen. But I believe that the long arc of the universe bends towards love, justice, healing, and peace. That impulse is built into the very source code of life. While bad things may happen, I trust that the flow of life is ultimately working for the common good.

Pivot points are part of life. They are the moments that define us, strengthen us, change us. Perhaps we should welcome that.

Embrace the pivot - God will meet you there.

~ Rev. Cameron Trimble

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sally Tiracave

November 5th

David Feath

November 9th

Michelle Rice

November 22nd

William McKim

November 24th



Our new Youth Group has been meeting each month. Youth have been working on becoming more familiar with the Bible and applying lessons to real life situations. As the youth group progresses, they will be developing a church service they will run in February 2022. The youth will also be participating in service opportunities and traveling to Pittsburgh in November.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Did you know that one in 7 children in Pennsylvania struggle with hunger? These numbers increase in the rural areas of Pennsylvania. Our area is particularly in need of food for struggling families. At our local school district more than 33% of our students are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. November is the month for being **Thankful** and an opportunity to provide for those less fortunate.

Matthew 25: 35-40 (NIV)

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The Mission Committee will be collecting for our local food pantry on 3 Sundays in November: the 7th, 14th & 21st. Specially marked envelopes will be available. **Please make your checks payable to Ebensburg Presbyterian Church AND put Food Pantry in the memo line.**

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE AND DEACONS

Christmas Cards for Wounded or Ailing Veterans

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take a few minutes to remember our veterans by sending a card to the following :

V.A. Medical Center
Volunteer Services Dept.
2907 Pleasant Valley Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602

Hollidaysburg Veterans Home
Volunteer Services Dept.
500 Municipal Drive
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Mail the cards yourself or bring them to the church by December 15th and we will send them.

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church Presents



Christmas

Brass & Organ

December 4, 2021

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Featuring:

Altoona Brass Collective

*Melissa Douglas *Tina Illig *Sarah Kirsch

*Kevin McKenrick *Ebensburg Presbyterian Handbell Choir

200 North Center St * Ebensburg, PA



Christmas Poinsettias

Once again Poinsettias will be available to decorate our sanctuary. A listing will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The donation this year will be \$9.00 per plant. Please place order with payment in the offering plate or send to the church office no later than Sunday, November 28, 2021.

Plants may be in memory of an individual or couple, or "Loved Ones". They may also be in honor of some occasion such as a birthday or anniversary.

I would like to order a total of _____ Christmas Poinsettias.

Please list the information as follows:

In Loving Memory of _____

Or

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

XX

In Loving Memory of _____

Or

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

XX

In Loving Memory of _____

Or

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

You may pick them up following the Christmas Eve Service or leave them to brighten the season for someone else. (Use back for additional orders)

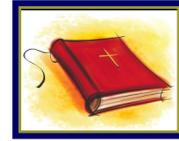


Ebensburg and Colver Presbyterian Churches
Joint Session Meeting

A joint Session Meeting was held on October 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM. to review the Joint Pastorate Agreement. The Agreement was reviewed, a few changes were made to the terms, conditions and provisions. The joint session agreed for both churches to work on joint projects in the future. The Joint Pastorate Agreement was accepted and will be reviewed again next year.



Sunday Scripture Readings



November 7, 2021

Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17 Ruth and Boaz have a son, who will become an ancestor to David.
Psalm 127 Unless the Lord builds the house, the workers labor in vain.
Hebrews 9:24–28 Christ entered the sanctuary of heaven; he will come again to save.
Mark 12:38–44 Jesus criticizes the scribes and praises the gift of a poor widow.

November 14, 2021

1 Samuel 1:4–20 Hannah prays for a son; she conceives and gives birth to Samuel.
1 Samuel 2:1–10 Hannah's song of thanksgiving: My heart rejoices in the Lord.
Hebrews 10:11–14 Let us hold fast to our faith, preparing for the day of the Lord.
(15–18) 19–25
Mark 13:1–8 Jesus speaks of the temple's fall, and other signs of what is to come.

November 21, 2021

2 Samuel 23:1–7 The last words of David: God has made an everlasting covenant.
Psalm 132:1–12 Remember your covenant with David, O Lord, and bless us.
(13–18)
Revelation 1:4b–8 Jesus is coming with the clouds; the Lord is Alpha and Omega.
John 18:33–37 Pilate asks: Are you a king? Jesus answers: I came to show the truth.



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

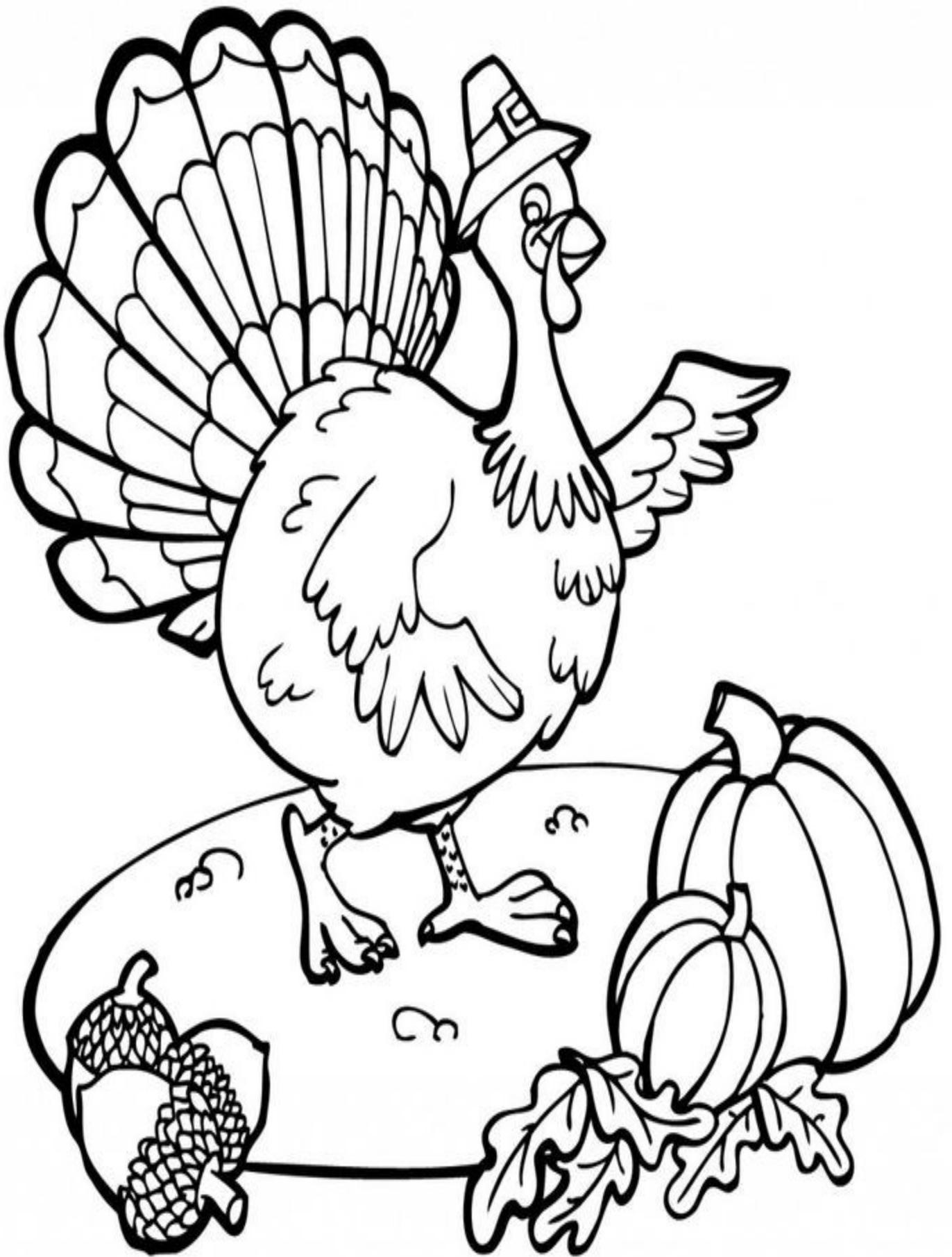
Year to Date as of September, 2021

Actual Operating Income:	\$53,016.66
Actual Operating Expenses:	\$59,889.64
Gain/Loss:	(\$6,872.98)



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!





Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Happy Birthday, Sally Tiracave</i>	6
7 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Girl Scouts—Juniors 5–6 pm Boy Scouts 6—8 pm Daylight Savings Time ends</i>	8	9 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM Happy Birthday, David Feath Hoagie/Pizza orders & money due—Organ Fund- raiser</i>	10 <i>Session—7 PM</i>	11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 	12	13
14 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Boy Scouts 6—8 pm</i>	15	16 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	17 <i>Hoagie/Pizza Delivery—Organ Fundraiser</i>	18	19 <i>Happy Anniv. Dave & Roxanne Lamer</i>	20 <i>NA Business Meeting - 9:45 AM</i>
21 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook Girl Scouts—Juniors 5—6 pm Boy Scouts -6 -8 pm</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday, Michelle Rice</i>	23 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>	24 <i>Happy Birthday, William McKim</i>	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 	26	27
28 <i>Worship 11:00 AM Facebook</i>	29 <i>Happy Anniv. Bill & Mary Lou Carlisle</i>	30 <i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i>				

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PO Box 327
Ebensburg, PA 15931



 Thankful  