

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

November 2022

**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

The Rev. Dr. Ojulu
ojh3o@yahoo.com

Office Manager
(*Searching*)

Church Treasurer
Kristine Segear

Clerk of Session
Jim Stratton

Custodian
Don Buterbaugh

Organist
Melissa Douglas

Web page:

www.ebgpresby.org

Find Us On Facebook

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

ONLINE GIVING

[Donation
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Jesus said, "Get up, take your bedroll, start walking." The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off." John 5:18

It was spring in Gambella Ethiopia, in May 1992. May and June are the months when food becomes scarce in our villages. This is because the harvest in February does not last and give the community supplies enough for five months. The villagers would face hunger in the spring while waiting for crops planted in late April to be ready for consumption in early July. During this season, the villagers survive on hunting, fishing, and wild collections of fruits and roots that are deemed eatable. This specific season was worse than the seasons in previous years. The war and the regime change in Ethiopia in May 1991 came with devastating effects and displacements.

Our villages in the southwestern part of the region were destroyed, and all of us were displaced by the Nuers from the border and those who previously were part of the SPLA/M (Sudan People Liberation Army/Movement). Due to safety concerns, my mother encouraged me to leave the area to live with her sister in the Southern part of the region where she originally came from.

On one occasion, two men decided to go to hunt for wild honey. This part of the region is known for honey hunting and their method of hunting was different from where I came from. These two gentlemen invited me to go hunt with them. After a few hours in the bush, the men spotted elephant trails. Then they instructed me to wait while they pursued the herds. As I was waiting, thoughts started racing in my head: If I hide in a hole could the elephants stamp me down if they run in my direction? If they knock me down, should I climb a tree? If I run away, would I get lost? Could these elders fail to locate me? *I was nervous, anxious, helpless, distressed and more over, I was stuck and trapped.*

Then I heard a gunshot and elephants wailed as they fled. After a dreadful silence, I heard the shouting, (the sound they usually make when looking for someone lost in the forest). I knew I was lost. But I had climbed and hidden in a big bushy tree. That was my secure place. I was convinced that I wouldn't fall to my death and at least the leaves and branches would guard me should the elephants knock me out of the tree.

Soon after we left the area, we found some wild honey in a hole in a big tree. But we failed to harvest it because bees kept chasing us away from the hive. We had to wait until for the cover of darkness to harvest the honey. It was too late in the evening when we finished collecting the honey, so we decided to spent the night in the bush. We were thirsty, hungry and exhausted. We were lost! At daybreak, we attempted to leave but we did not know the direction to the village. And we were afraid that we would encounter a lion, having heard one roaring nearby before daybreak and having come upon the carcass of its prey.

(continued... Page 4)



Another successful Kids' Potato Patch was held during Ebersburg's PotatoFest.

The 175 children were engaged in potato-themed activities and crafts. The painting of pumpkin-shaped gourds was a huge hit this year. The Mr. and Mrs. Potato Bag craft was also well-liked. Once again many members of our church and the Interact Club of Central Cambria gave children lots to smile about. Donations were received from McDonald's, Jim Lyons Family, Bureau of Forestry, Smorto, Persio, Webb, & McGill Law Office, Melissa Douglas, Becky and Aric Bracken, Judy Carl, Connie Datsko, and Kristy Forberger Family. Many thanks to those and everyone involved.

By Janis Stratton



Presbyterian Church

Over the years, many Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops have met in our fellowship room, and this year is no exception. During the month of October, one of these groups kindly provided some service in return, as you can read below.

On October 9th, Webelos Scots from Cub Scout Pack 2016 who meet at the Presbyterian Church, helped perform a Fall Cleanup, cleaning debris and garbage from the landscaping and getting 3 contractor bags filled with beer bottles, paper, food wrappers, etc., and cleaning up leaves which they piled at the side of Sample Street for the Borough to collect.



They did this under direction of their Den Chief, Liam O'Brien, who is a Boy Scout in Troop 2098 working toward his final requirement of Conservation service hours to Conservation service hours to become a Life Scout, one rank below Eagle Scout.

Liam planned the event, and explained the objectives and safety concerns to the boys. The boys then cleaned around the Church grounds, some picking trash, others helping with leaves, and pulling weeds; they finished at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park cleaning trash.



Then, we boldly decided to get up and just start moving in any direction in hopes of finding a path that might lead us to “a village” even if it might not be our own. By taking the leap, fortunately we found the path leading to our village.

In this story in John, Jesus met different people at the pool, people with different chronic conditions. They were all waiting for a cure and restoration. One of the men had been paralyzed for 38 years and his hope for gaining strength had vanished; “*I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in*” he said. Even if Jesus presented him with opportunity, the man shifted the blame onto others. He needed someone to struggle and race for first place for him. Knowing that the man failed to acknowledge his moment, Jesus told him to get up, take his bedroll with him, and start walking. Thus began his healing process.

When was a time you felt nervous, anxious, helpless, confused or trapped in a situation like mine in the savanna? You are not alone. Everyone has a condition. Everyone has a moment of hopelessness. But it takes the leap of faith to step forward. The Lord presents us with opportunities and encourages us to seize the moment. Like the paralyzed man, we sometimes think that others are better than we are. Or as church, that the neighbor church is doing better than ours. Even if this might be true, remember that each challenge comes with an opportunity. May we remember the words of and just “Get up, pick up your mat, and keep moving.” As a faith community, we are encouraged “NOT” to get chained by our circumstances, financial problems, etc., rather to use the opportunities presented to us. We are encouraged to name and know what we have in our hands and carry with us as we continue in ministry.

What is your *bedroll*? Could it be your story?

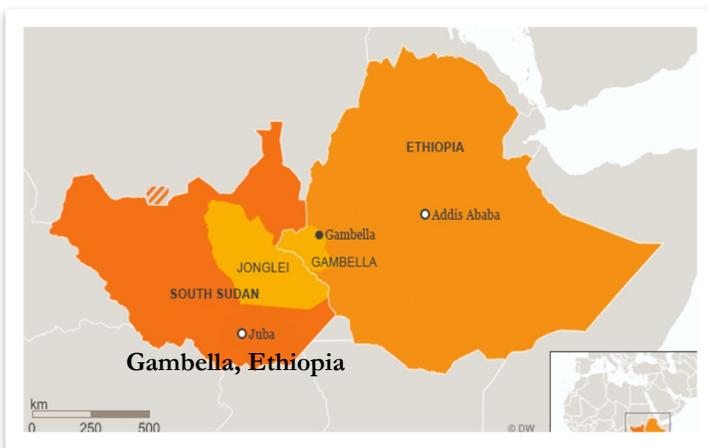
Faith? Love for others? Etc.

Pick it up, partner with Jesus

who called us to ministry, and keep your faith journey.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Dr. Ojulu



“Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called *Bethesda*, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, “Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.”

Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.”

From the Mission Committee

Thanks to those who made donations to the Peace and
Global Witness Offering



Our new Youth Group has been meeting on every other Sunday for their regular program and *Confirmation* classes. They have been working on becoming more familiar with the Bible, applying lessons to real life situations and how to become a faithful member of the church. Currently, our youth group is developing a church service they will run on Sunday, November 13,



What's Happening...

The October 12th meeting of the Session opened with prayer and a study of Psalm 22. Although we are amid strife and suffering, we are still to cast ourselves upon God and trust in his salvation.

After the approval of the agenda and the minutes from the September meeting, the treasurer's report was received.

Committee reports included the following.

Budget, Finance and Stewardship: All committees are to estimate a budget for next year and turn it in to Kris so the 2023 budget can be prepared. First Fruits collection this year totaled \$823. So that we can meet our pledge to Redstone Presbytery of \$1000, the remaining \$177 will be sent using mission funds.

Communications: Judy will help with the newsletter for November.

Discipleship: Confirmation class has begun. The youth group will lead the service November 13th.

Family Life: Thanks to the volunteers who help to make the Potato Patch and Mini-Golf a success. Both were well attended, and the children had a great time. A Christmas dinner will be planned.

Mission: The committee is working on the Matthew 25 commitment. Donations of \$300 each were made to the local food pantry, an Ethiopian church, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for hurricane relief.

Nominating: A meeting was held to prepare for elections. If any member of the congregation is willing to serve as an elder, please contact Rev. Ojulu or Martha O'Brien. The bylaws need to be updated to reflect the number of elders on the session and the dissolution of the Board of Deacons.

Personnel: The Session is seeking a secretary to work 3 (4 hour) days per week. An ad was placed in the local paper.

Property Management: The window above the parking lot door has been repaired. The contractor will now make an estimate on the cost of repairing the others. Some questions for the contractor were noted. An electrician will check the exit sign box above the northwest stair entrance.

Worship: The committee met and discussed items including- 1. Covering secretarial needs. 2. World Communion Sunday. 3. Advent and Christmas.

Session voted to accept the committee reports.

In New Business, a task force was formed to study the committee structure after the past 9 months since the deacon board dissolution.

The September 27th Presbytery of Redstone meeting was held in Westmont. Jim and Owar attended in person and Judy attended by Zoom. The worship service included a call to discipleship and blessing of the hands for service.

Rev. Ojulu reported that the Wednesday night bible study resumed. He made sick and shut-in calls, officiated at a wedding and a funeral. He continues to work with the Ethiopian Mission Network.

The next stated session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

Matthew 25

We are a Matthew 25 church! Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus: • Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed • Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color • Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.

Our congregation will be concentrating on “Building congregational vitality.” In the coming weeks and months, we will be highlighting some of our ongoing projects as part of our commitment to being a Matthew 25 congregation.

Further information on the Matthew 25 initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can be found by following this link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Matt25-big-brochure-2021.pdf>



HELP WANTED!

We are looking for a **part-time Office Manager/Church Secretary** to assist with general office tasks. The candidate must be a multi-tasker with verbal and written communication skills and positive presence in the office. Experience in computers and Microsoft office skills is required. Please call 814-472-6920 or email your resume to ebgpresby@gmail.com come



Sally Tiracave **November 5th**

David Feath **November 9th**

Michelle Rice **November 22nd**

William McKim **November 24th**

Special Date

All Saints Day, Nov.1, 2022

Daylight Saving time, Nov. 6, 2022

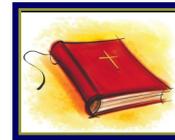
Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022

Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 20, 2020

Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24, 2022

First Sunday of Advent, Nov.27, 2022

Sunday Scripture Readings



November 6, 2022

Haggai 1:15b—2:9
Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21
2 Thessalonians 2:1–5,
13–17
Luke 20:27–38

I am with you; do not fear; I will restore the splendor of this house.
I will extol you, my God; great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.
Do not be deceived; stand firm and hold fast to our traditions.

The Sadducees ask Jesus a question about marriage and resurrection.

November 13, 2022

Isaiah 65:17–25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6–13
Luke 21:5–19

God promises a new creation, where all creatures will live in safety.
In that day, I will give thanks and say: surely God is my salvation.
Do not be idle; follow this example and work for your daily bread.
The temple will fall; a great trial is coming; God will supply wisdom.

November 20, 2022

Jeremiah 23:1–6
Luke 1:68–79
Colossians 1:11–20
Luke 23:33–43

I will gather the remnant of my flock and raise up good shepherds.
Blessed be the Lord, who has raised up a savior for the people.
Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
Crucified with Jesus, a criminal says: Remember me in your kingdom.

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1–5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11–14
Matthew 24:36–44

Turn swords into plowshares; walk in the light of the Lord.
I was glad when they said, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Salvation is near: wake up; live honorably; put on Jesus Christ.
The Lord is coming; keep awake; no one knows the day or hour.



Bequest:

Our church received a blessed donation this year by long time members Fremont and Margaret McKenrick through a bequest from their estate. Fremont and Margaret's generosity has allowed the church to continue doing the Lord's work this year and will allow us to bridge the gap between our operating income and expenses for hopefully years to come. We joyously celebrate their lives and are humbled by their gifts to our church over their many years.



EBENSBURG FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Overview – September 30, 2022

Operating Income*	\$ 50,919.37
Operating Expense	\$ 63,075.66
Net Gain/(Loss) *	(\$ 12,156.29)

*Income and net gain/loss amounts doesn't include an estate bequest received



2022 Per Capita

2022 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.00**. 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!



If you need to contact pastor Owar 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 Presbyterian Church

November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 All Saints Day Point of Free- dom—6pm	2 Bible Study Program— 7pm	3	4	5 Happy Birthday Sally Tiracave
6 Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook Communion Sunday Youth program and Confirmation Class —5-7 <i>Daylight Savings</i>	7	8 Point of Freedom—6pm	9 Bible Study Program— 7pm Happy Birthday David Feath	10		
13 Youth led Worship Service 11:00 AM & Facebook Girl Scouts— 7 - 8:30 Boy Scouts—5-8	14	15 Point of Freedom—6pm	16 Bible Study Program— 7pm	17	18	19 Happy Anni- versary Roxanne & Dave Lamer NA Business 9:45
20 Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook Christ the King/Reign of Christ	21	22 Happy Birthday Michelle Rice Point of Freedom—6pm	23 Bible Study Program— 7pm	24 Happy Birthday William McKim	25 Thanksgiving Day 	26
27 Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook 1st Sunday of Advent	28	29 Happy Anniversary Bill & Mary Lou Carlisle Point of Freedom—6pm	30 Bible Study Program— 7pm			

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