

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

October 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
Rev. Owar Ojulu
ojh3o@yahoo.com

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](http://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch)

"By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion." Psalm 137

Friends, we are officially in the fall season, and we've already been witnessing signs of change. During fall, we see the beginning of change when leaves first change color then eventually drop off. In winter trees lie bare, and their green leaves and the beauty of flowers disappear with the change of season. Many creatures will go into hibernation. Then spring comes, bringing new features of the season. Earth shows off the splendors of nature, and in the summer every beauty of life is on display. We enter another season, and life goes on in an endless circle.

Certainly, seasons come with change, and that symbolize the tumultuous nature of life on earth. This, too, represents our spiritual journey in the world. The seasons of life vary in nature and essence. Some come about as a result of natural causes; others are imposed on individuals. In any season we long for change, freedom, and the desire for liberty. Even if many of us like summer we usually long for a change of weather, and in winter we yearn for warmth and wish that the snow would end.

However, while there are seasons with relative stability, some present danger or cause disaster. In the last week of September, hurricane Ian ravaged the Caribbean and the cost of Florida. It is winter, the rainy season in Ethiopia. The Gambella in west Ethiopia, all the way to South Sudan, has been experiencing severe flooding due to excess rainfall on the hills and mountains of the highlands of Ethiopia. Though people are used to the rainy season, when waters often overflow the riverbank, this year's flood has been out of control. It destroyed farms before the harvest. The church I was baptized in stood in the waters; chairs church furnishings were not spared.

Psalm 137 was one of the readings suggested for World Communion Sunday and "By the Babylonian Rivers," by David Cherwien, was an option for choir anthem. My mind switched when I read the psalm and I began thinking about Itang, where my previous church is and my village where it used to be circled by waters during this season.

The psalmist expressed the inner struggle of the exiles with the persisting situation where they felt homesick. They desired to be reunited with the homeland, to sing in their old temple, and to rejoice in the Lord. But they were far away from home. Yet, they held on to one thing, —hope. They were certain that any situation is temporary and there would soon be a different season. They promised to keep Jerusalem in their hearts and preserve the memories alive.

As we celebrate World Communion Day and continue to gaze at the beauty of nature through fall, I ask you to reflect on your faith journey, the challenge of life and the opportunity to remember our good old days. Be hopeful and assured that your situation and circumstance are seasonal. Lastly, as Jesus refrained from asking the Father to take us out of the world (John 17), remember that we are called to partner and strive with others, in communion with fellow Christians here and beyond, and to be keepers of others both in prayers and acts of love.

Thank you
Pastor Owar

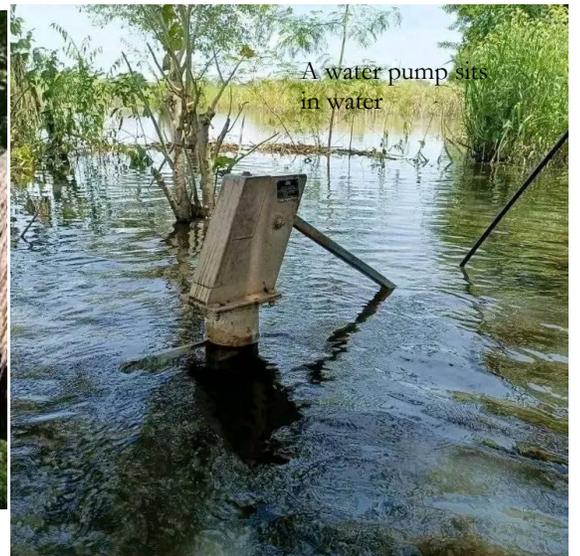
Flood in Gambella Ethiopia



Itang Congregation



Village in Water



A water pump sits in water

Mini Golf



Tonka Construction



Wizard's Castle



Candy Land



Setting up for Mini Golf

POTATO PATCH 2022



What's Happening...



The regular Session meeting on September 14, 2022 opened with prayer and a study of three passages (Galatians 6:1-2, 1 Peter 3:8-10, and Matthew 25:34-40) that remind us to care for each other and our neighbors.

The amended agenda passed, and the Book of Order training was about the mission of the congregation.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved with a minor change, and the Treasurer's Report was received.

Committee reports included the following:

Budget, Finance and Stewardship - The budget will be prepared in October. Each committee is asked to suggest an amount for their expenses for next year to help set the budget.

Discipleship - Advent devotion booklets have been purchased, the Youth Group continues to meet and a Communicant's class will begin in October.

Family Life - Preparations are ongoing for Potato Patch/Mini-golf. A Coffee Conversation will be held following the October 2 Sunday worship service.

Mission - The vote to become a Matthew 25 Church was affirmed. We are working on Congregational Vitality and being actively and joyfully engaged with the community.

Nominating - This committee will prepare a slate of candidates for the session. If any member of the congregation is interested in serving on Session, please tell Rev. Owar or a Session member.

Organ Restoration - Choir is starting up again. If anyone would like to join, we practice at 10:30 on Sunday morning.

Pastor/Parish Relations - A meeting is scheduled for October 20th.

Property Management - A new dehumidifier will be purchased to replace the nonworking one. Insurance and an audit were discussed.

Worship - Preparations for World Communion Sunday and Advent are proceeding.

All Committee reports were received.

In New Business a TV monitor will be installed in the choir loft. Sally Kruley is retiring as secretary at the end of September. Her resignation was accepted with thanks for her dedication and hard work. Discussion was held about another letter received.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 12, 2022.



From the Mission Committee:

\$300 was sent to the local Food Pantry and \$300 was sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Puerto Rico.

From the Youth Group:

The Young Disciples have been working together to create another Sunday service. The topic the youth have been learning about is temptation and using God's Armor to help them through tough situations. They have been studying Bible passages with stories related to this topic and doing games related to Biblical stories. The youth are also developing plans for a future service project they will be presenting to the congregation in November. They are also studying what it means to be a Christian during their confirmation classes with Dr. Rev. Ojulu.



Our church secretary, Sally Kruley, retired on September 29, 2022.

We thank her for her service and wish her well in the next chapter of her life.

With God's blessing,
Dr. Rev. Owar Ojulu



October 5 Giovanni Tiracave

October 12 Addyson Bracken

October 14 Averì Bracken

October 14 Effriam Vietmeier

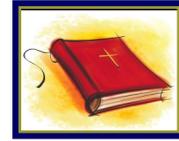
October 20 Laura McGill

October 20 Alex Jeffers

October 24 Shannon McGill

October 27 Apay Okello Ojulu

Sunday Scripture Readings



October 2, 2022

Lamentations 1:1-6
Lamentations 3:19-26
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

How lonely is the great city now; majesty had departed from Zion.
Even in my affliction, I remember the steadfast love of the Lord.
Rekindle your faith; guard the good treasure entrusted to you.
If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could uproot this tree.

October 9, 2022

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66: 1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Build houses and plant gardens in exile; seek the welfare of the city.
Make a joyful noise to God, who brought us out to a spacious place.
Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead; that is my gospel
Jesus heals ten people with leprosy; only one returns to give thanks.

October 16, 2022

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:9-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4.5
Luke 18:1-8

I will make a new covenant; I will write my law on their hearts.
I love your law; it is always with me, sweeter than honey to me.
Continue in your faith; be persistent in proclaiming the gospel.
The widow and the unjust judge: pray always and do not lose heart.

October 23, 2022

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; I will save those who call on me.
Praise God, who answers prayer, sends rain, and blesses the earth.
I have fought the good fight and kept the faith; God stands by me.
Jesus tells a parable: the prayers of a Pharisee and a tax collector.



Presbytery of Redstone

Communicate the Word...

Carry on the Work...

Change the World.....Together!

- **September Gathering Highlights**

Gathering as disciples commissioned by Jesus and servants of God's kingdom, we practiced "dwelling" in Luke 10.

With inspiring worship and great music from our host, Westmont Presbyterian Church, the call by our Lord was acknowledged and included the "blessing of our hands" that they might be used in God's service for God's glory.

- Representatives of the Patton and Westmont shared their own stories of calling, ministry and mission. Whether "noisy buckets," farmers' markets, engaging people with special needs, or the critical support of prayer using prayer quilts, each testified to God's grace through us when we offer ourselves as God's hands and feet.
- **The Committee on Ministry recommended, and the Presbytery affirmed, the need to address pastoral salaries during this period of increased inflation and approved the minimum standards for any pastoral call in 2023.**
- The Rev. Jenn Frayer-Griggs was examined and received. Her call to serve as the next installed pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church was approved. Both she and the congregation were supported through the collective prayers of the gathered presbytery.
- **Danielle Kendig, inquirer (Westmont/Pittsburgh Seminary) shared further validation of her calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Upon hearing her, the Presbytery welcomed her as a candidate under care for preparation.**
- With not only ongoing conflict, but now flooding during the rainy season, an offering was collected for our South Sudan partners. Offerings may still be received at the Presbytery.

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 August, 2022

Actual Operating Income: \$93,844.37

Actual Operating Expenses: \$55,501.11

Gain/Loss: \$38,343.26



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!

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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<p>2</p> <p><i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i></p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Giovanni Tiracave</i></p> <p><i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p><i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Columbus Day</p> <p><i>Voice Lessons 5:30 PM</i></p> <p><i>Wee Kirk, Small Church Conference —</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>Session—7:00 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Addyson Bracken</i></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Averi Bracken</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>NA Business Mtg. 9:45 AM</i></p>
<p>16</p> <p><i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Laura McGill, Alex Jeffers</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Happy Anniv. Michael & Erika Pizur</i></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p><i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Shannon McGill</i></p> <p><i>Voice Lessons 5:30 PM</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Point of Freedom NA Group—6 PM</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Bible Study - 7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday, Apay Okello Ojulu</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p><i>Worship 11:00 AM & Facebook</i></p>	<p>31</p>					

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