



## The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

September 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  
ebgpsesby@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

### The beauty of cultural contextualization: 1 Cor 9:19-23

I want to share with you my experience at a wedding in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota last month. I was in Minnesota on my two-week vacation and officiated at a wedding of one of our friends and saw something remarkable. American, Anyuwaa cultures, and Christian tradition seamlessly presented during the wedding, the events that preceded it, and those that followed. "Contextualization" was the only word that kept coming back to my mind. This is because contextualization is the process by which we make Gospel practices possible in every cultural context.

I have witnessed the Anyuwaa maintaining their culture in a noteworthy fashion: their culture is defined through the lens of the Gospel, and they have embedded American culture into their own. Back in the Anyuwaa villages a wedding started the evening before the day of the wedding ceremony. Groomsmen would go to the village of the bride. The bride mothers (wives of her father's relatives) would demand a sum of money or live animals to release the bride and they would only release her when the demand was met. Groomsmen would accompany the bride under the cover of the dark. The host mother (a wife of a close relative of the groom) would wash the feet of the bride and her bridesmaid as a sign of welcoming them to a new home with clean feet. In a typical Anyuwaa culture, a *bride is not wed to her husband's home, rather to a host mother. The groom won't see his bride for days after the wedding. She would continue to sneak to his hut at night, but she wouldn't officially move to his home even if she was already in the same village until certain customary practices were carried out.*



The morning of the wedding would start with celebration and the bride showing her dance skills. However, the celebration won't start without the bridesmaid's agreement. They must be offered something as an invitation to partake with the villagers. Unless they agreed to the offered price, the food would remain untouched, and the wedding would not take place. The following day, women from the bride's village, except for her biological mother, would follow the bride in a customary practice called "dhööhö" literally, breastfeeding. They will come with ground flour, fermented drinks and a goat, a sheep, or some cattle to show off how this daughter of theirs was breastfed and taken care of while she was still with her family and now wishes the same in her husband's family.

To counter this, mothers of the groom would also show off their belongings and offer to the visiting mothers more goods than what they had brought with them. This encounter will continue with both parties increasing their offerings until the matter was settled. bride finally takes full responsibility in her own home.



- continued page 2 -

On the third day, the new wife would be placed in the kitchen, “c̄ip b̄aat k̄eeno.” She would cook for the first time for her husband’s family. At this time, she would be accompanied by the host mother or wives of the husband’s relatives and her bridesmaids. An Anyuwaa wedding celebration would last for a full month until the

Weddings of the Anyuwaa diaspora in America are noteworthy because the cultures and practices are blended. What happened in Minnesota was a typical Anyuwaa wedding but with slight differences. The bridegrooms went and initiated the release of the bride on Friday evening, August 19<sup>th</sup> and the bride was released to them after they had paid satisfying amount of money. There was a host mother, but instead of the host mother taking in the bride and her maids, they went straight to the hotel. The next morning, the bride, her maids and groom and his grooms-men were transported to the church in a limousine. The wife and the husband exchanged rings as a sign of their promised covenant of marriage.

Saturday morning was the church service, and that evening was a huge celebration with a room filled with many Anyuwaa who had traveled from all over the world. We had people from Canada, Europe, Australia, and the washing of feet was performed. The bride performed her dance to typical Anyuwaa traditional music. On Sunday, it was the return of mothers. It was a big show (even if I did not see a live animal brought to the celebration hall!) The bride mothers took their daughter and returned her with a stack of money and goods. The groom’s mothers did the same after the bride returned. It was exhilarating to see excitement in everyone’s faces as they enacted this custom in the land far away from their home in Africa.

It was Paul, the father of contextualization, who identified himself with the context of others and adapted to their positive lifestyle to win people or extend the message across the cultures of his contemporary Roman empire. Without compromising the value of the gospel, Paul was able to convince both the Jews and the Gentiles and reconcile them with the message of the gospel of Christ Jesus.

I thank God for all that he has done and that the Anyuwaa in America, though adapted to America’s lifestyle, did not forget their cultural practices but contextualized them to fit their current context and will pass their heritage on to the Anyuwaa generation in America.

Besides my experiences in Minnesota, I ask that we draw near to God with prayers as we begin this new month of September, that the Lord God change the course of the world. That the world learns how to cherish differences and celebrate unity. Pray for relief for those continuing to suffer in Ukraine. Please pray for the people of Ethiopia, where war has resumed, and for the people of Ethiopia and South Sudan, where there is flooding, as well as and the people of Mississippi. The LORD our Rock is trustworthy, dependable, reliable, and justice is His garment (Deuteronomy 32:4). May God protect and shield our nation and our children as they resume school.

Pastor Owar



Sept  
24<sup>th</sup>

\$4 DONATION

# KIDS Potato Patch

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.



Activities

Prizes

Snowflake the Clown

Crafts

...and much more!

Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

200 N. Center Street

# Pine Springs Camp



From the Mission Committee

There will be a Food Pantry Offering on Sunday, September 11th. The continued support of your neighbors in need is greatly appreciated.

The Youth Group will continue to meet during the school year.

*Confirmation classes will begin in late September.*

Further information will be shared with the families.



The Youth Group enjoyed an afternoon at DelGrosso's Amusement Park on August 4,

## What's Happening...



Though the Session did not schedule a meeting in July, there were three special called meetings to vote on specific items that came up before the regular August meeting. On June 17, a request for leave on June 26th for Rev. Ojulu to attend a Celebration of Life and Witness of Resurrection for a family member in Winnipeg, Canada was passed by email vote. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held by email to consider two bids for sealing and line-painting the parking lot. The motion to accept the bid of \$2,500 from Mosholder Seal Coating passed and the parking lot has been sealed and painted. The final special meeting held by email on July 27<sup>th</sup> was to change the meeting date for the regular August meeting to Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda was modified. It began with a presentation by representatives from Servpro of Ebensburg and Indiana County about fixing the exterior windowsills. It included samples of materials and information about timelines and cost.

Then the regular meeting continued with prayer and a short study from I Corinthians 13: 22-23 about the role of tongues and prophesy in the church. Next Rev. Ojulu gave us the Handbook for Ruling Elders and Deacons in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a few points were reviewed.

Minutes from the June and special meetings were approved. The Treasurer's Report was received. A bequest from Margaret McKenrick estate was received and as directed is being used for general daily purposes for the church. We thankfully accepted this generous bequest.

Committee reports included the following.

The Budget, Finance, Stewardship Committee made a motion to move funds in the General Memorial Account into Capital Improvement to cover the cost of the parking lot sealing work. The Wheels and Wings baked goods and beverage booth brought in \$559 for the General Fund.

Discipleship reported that the youth group went to Del Grosso Amusement Park. Also Confirmation Class will begin in the fall.

Family Life reported that preparations for the picnic (held Aug. 14) and Potato Fest (Sep. 24) continue. Sign-up sheets for helpers will be available at church.

Donations from the Mission Committee included \$150 to a local family that were fire victims, \$150 to the local food pantry, and \$300 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief for Kentucky flooding relief. The Matthew 25 initiative will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

The Organ Restoration Committee reports the handbells are back after their refurbishment. Thanks to Becky for picking them up and all those who donated for the restoration.

Pastor/Parish Relations noted that the combined worship with Colver is scheduled for Aug. 14 with the picnic to follow.

Property Management discussed problems with the furnace and a radiator.

Worship Committee reported that communion is scheduled for Aug. 7 and the joint worship Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to receive the committee reports.

*(see next page)*

***What's Happening—continued***

Three items were discussed in New Business. First, after discussion it was decided to approve the repair of the windowsill that is in the worst condition, by Servpro. A revised quote will be considered from Servpro for the remainder of the project once this initial repair is done. Second, a vacation request was approved (Aug 18-29) for Rev. Ojulu to attend and officiate at a wedding in Minnesota. Third, the resignation of Jim Dixon from the Session was accepted with thanks and regret.

Communications from Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly- Judy Carl reported on General Assembly and she was also appointed as representative for the Presbytery Meeting Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Westmont Presbyterian Church.

Moderator's Report- Rev Owar Ojulu reported that he was able to visit with several of our shut-ins and also gave information about some of our members and friends who were in the hospital or scheduled for surgery. He is planning for confirmation class for the fall. He is working with the Sudan and South Sudan Mission Network.

The reports were received. The next stated session meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2022.

**Coming in October:**

Wee Kirk 2022 Northeast Small Church Conference

October 10, 11, 12, 2022

Laurelville Mennonite Church Center

941 Laurelville Lane

Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666



September 5	Dave Lamer
September 16	Mary Ellen Harris
September 17	Becky Carlin
September 18	Stephen Magley
September 23	Roger McGill Daniel Stefanowski Melissa Douglas
September 25	Kerrie Krug
September 26	Doug Mohny
September 27	Ann Dixon
September 28	Arlene McKim

# Sunday Scripture Readings



## September 4, 2022

Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

At the potter's house, God says: Like clay, the people are in my hand. O Lord, you have formed me; I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Paul writes to Philemon about Onesimus: welcome him as a brother.  
Speaking of towers and battles, Jesus explains the cost of discipleship.

## September 11, 2022

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28  
Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

God warns that a fierce wind of judgment will lay waste to the land. Fools say there is no god; there is no one who does what is right. Christ came to save sinners; God's grace has overflowed for me. Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.

## September 18, 2022

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

My joy is gone; my heart is sick; is there no balm in Gilead? The nations have defiled your holy temple; deliver us, O God! Instructions on prayer; there is one God, and Jesus is our mediator. The story of a dishonest manager; you cannot serve God and wealth.

## September 25, 2022

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

Buy the field at Anathoth; houses and vineyards will one day return. The Lord says: Do not fear; I will deliver those who call on my name. The love of money is the root of evil; be rich in good works instead. Jesus tells the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Hades.



SEPTEMBER

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 July, 2022

Actual Operating Income: \$86,384.20

Actual Operating Expenses: \$50,716.99

Gain/Loss: \$35,667.21



### 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

## September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Happy Anniv.</i> <i>Bob &amp; Becky</i> <i>Bracken</i>
<b>4</b> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&amp; Facebook</i>  <b>Communion</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Labor Day</b>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Dave Lamer</i>	<i>6</i>  <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>7</i>  <i>Voice Lessons</i> <i>4:30—6:30</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <i>Happy Anniv.</i> <i>Phil &amp; Amy</i> <i>Brulia</i>
<b>11</b> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&amp; Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Anniv.</i> <i>Melissa Douglas &amp;</i> <i>Jerry Kline</i>  <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Offering</b> <i>Girl Scouts—7 -</i> <i>8:30</i> <i>Boy Scouts—5-8</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>Session—7:00</b> <b>PM</b>  <i>Voice Lessons</i> <i>4:30—6:30</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Mary Ellen</i> <i>Harris</i> <i>Krumenaker</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Becky Carlin</i>
<b>18</b>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&amp; Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Stephen Magley</i>  <i>Girl Scouts—7-8:30</i> <i>Boy Scouts -5—8 pm</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>  <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<b>21</b>  <i>Voice Lessons</i> <i>4:30—6:30</i>	<b>22</b>  <b>First Day of</b> <b>Autumn</b>	<b>23</b>  <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Roger McGill,</i> <i>Daniel Stefan-</i> <i>owski, Melissa</i> <i>Douglas</i>	<b>24</b>  <b>Kids Potato</b> <b>Patch and</b> <b>Mini Golf</b> <b>10:30—2:20</b>
<b>25</b>  <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&amp; Facebook</i>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Kerrie Krug</i>  <i>Girl Scouts—7-8:30</i> <i>Boy Scouts—5-8 pm</i>	<b>26</b>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Doug Mohney</i>  <i>Happy Anniv.</i> <i>Aric &amp; Alyssa</i> <i>Bracken</i>	<b>13</b>  <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<b>28</b>  <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Arlene McKim</i>  <i>Voice Lessons</i> <i>4:30—6:30</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

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