

The Fellowship

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

February 2023

Ebensburg

Presbyterian Church
PO Box 327
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.ebgpresby.org

I thought it might be interesting for you to learning more about my family and my background so that you'd know us better. So, I want to share with you a brief story about the Anyuwaa people, a tribe to which we belong. Apay and I belong to an ethnic group called the Anyuwaa people. The Anyuwaa (or Anuak as known by others), lives both in Ethiopia and South Sudan, separated by the borderline imposed by the two countries, yet with one culture and traditions.

Largely, the Anyuwaa is a subgroup in the "Luo" community. In the present days, the Luo people are scattered all over eastern and central Africa as a result of a hundred years of migration. The Luo are grouped by anthropologists and linguists into "Nilotic family,"— people of the Nile. There are Luo of Kenya (to which president Obama's father belonged); those of Tanzania, the Acholi of Uganda, Shilluk, Pari, JoLuo etc. of South Sudan; and Acholi, Alur, Jo Padhola etc. of Uganda and those in the Congo. Before the Luo dispersed all over east and central Africa, oral history placed the Anyuwaa's original place in Egypt, worshipping "Anuk," meaning "Embracer," the goddess of the Nile River. Then they moved to the present-day Khartoum— from the Anyuwaa term "Kartum" fishing pool, referring to river Nile and later moved to the South before they migrated east to their present day Gambella, Ethiopia and Pochalla, South Sudan.

The name Anyuwaa comes from "Nyuwaak" meaning, "Embracing, or Sharing." Unlike the Anyuwaa of today, historically, the Anyuwaa shared their resources to enhance the wellbeing of the community. In any Anyuwaa cultural setting, an individual person is regarded as part of the whole community. That, he/she exists because the community exists. Therefore, everyone is responsible and strives for the betterment of the tribe and its community. Like other African communities, the Anyuwaa community is organized from a simple core to the largest whole: Child-family-relatives-village, geographical clan, and the larger community. In those days, in a single village there were many places designated only for men, situated at the gates of a village. They called this place "Wimaac" sort of a campfire place. More than a simple campfire, at Wimaac, issues are discussed and matters with contentious nature are solved. It was a place of learning for young boys. A boy stayed in the women's court until he was old enough when he could join Wimaac (unlike some African communities, the Anyuwaa do not perform a ritual for a boy to advance to "manhood", but only for a girl transitioning to "womanhood").

At Wimaac, men of relative households shared their food while their wives ate together, and their children partook in the women's court (moving from one relative's home to the other for lunch and dinner with each bringing their own meal—a like a potluck style in our American culture). Widows and Orphans were considered as part of the whole and are supported by relatives and the community at large. Even if there might be slight changes, to this present day, everything associated with the home falls on the woman's shoulders while the man belongs outside of the home. *(continued on page 2)*

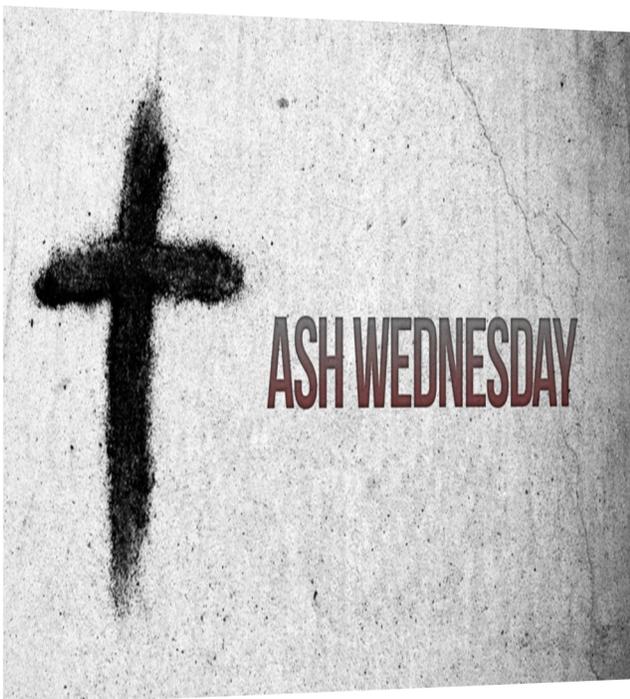
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In 2009, when I started cooking while in America, my food got burned, the next day the oven burned my arm, and then a week after, the food dropped on my foot. I had to call Apay often to guide me on what goes first while cooking; I was not trained to take on household duties. But now I enjoy cooking and taking care of my children, “I’m a part”.

Naming children is quite interesting in this culture. The first three children born in the family have “given” names: Omod, Ojulu and Obang respectively for boys. Girls are named Ariet, Ajulu and Abang. If a boy is born in between girls, he is named Oman— “belongs to girls.” If she is born between the boys, she is Awili or Akiic— “exchange.” Traditionally, any child born after the three, is given a name by spirits or are named after older family members who are alive or had departed the family (died), but now live in an ancestral world. There are no last names in this culture. The Anyuwaa use their grandfather’s name as a last name and their father’s name as a middle name. Therefore, in one single village you’d find many men with similar names: Omod Omod Omod, Ojulu Ojulu Ojulu, or Obang Obang Obang if their fathers and grandfathers are first, second or third born. This is confusing to a visitor, but nicknames are used to distinguish people in the village.

This month, we begin our journey through Lent. A season of drawing near to the throne of the almighty God. A time where we deny ourselves, give up “something” and submit to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Unlike the Anyuwaa familial structure, our nickname is “Christians.” We all “belong” to this home, dedicated to journeying with faith. At this time, we are encouraged to humble ourselves, confess our wrong doings, and imitate the path of Christ. Like the Anyuwaa people we are called to embrace one another. And our God requires of us, in this voyage, the perfect fast: to do justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly as Christ asks of us (*Micah 6:8*) Then ours will be sunshine; we are restored and walk in the newness of salvation as we claim victory on Easter morning (*Isaiah 58:1-8*).

Pastor Owar Ojulu



Join us for Ash Wednesday Service and Breakfast. Come for worship, fellowship and food at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall, Ebensburg Presbyterian Church on February 22nd. Please sign-up at worship on Sunday or call the office (814-472-6920) to let us know how many will attend by February 15th

What's Happening...

The January 9th meeting of the Session of the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church opened with a reading from 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and prayer. We are called as leaders and trusted with the gospel to tell the truth.

The agenda was approved. Book of Order training was about Ruling Elders as members of the Session, specifying their duties and other requirements. The December Session minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was received, followed by the committee reports.

Budget, Finance, Stewardship reported the 2023 budget was finalized.

Communications: An article reporting on the session meeting will continue to appear in each newsletter.

Discipleship reported that the youth group and Confirmation class will resume in January and the Young Disciples continue to work on a project for the shut-ins.

Family Life- The Christmas luncheon went well.

Mission gave the details of the December donations and discussed the Matthew 25 survey.

Christmas Joy Offering- \$200 St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry- \$338.65

Bethesda Evangelical Reformed Church, Gambella, Ethiopia-\$360

Ebensburg Area Ministerium-\$360 Pittsburgh Theological Seminary-\$360

Pine Springs Camp-\$478.70 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-\$360

American Heart Association (in memory of Matthew Feath)-\$300.

Nominating- Thanks for preparing the slate of nominees.

Pastor/ Parish Relations reported a meeting scheduled for January.

Personnel- There is still no secretary. Please continue to spread the word and look for candidates.

Property Management is waiting for an estimate from ServPro for storm window refurbishing.

It was MSP to receive the reports.

In Old Business, the revised By-Laws will be submitted at the January Congregation meeting. We are still awaiting the window estimate.

There were several items in New Business.

1. A new committee structure was presented and approved.
2. The 2023 Committee Sign-up sheet was circulated among Session members.
3. The Annual Enrichment Day is February 11th at 11:15 am at Westmont Presbyterian Church.
4. Jim Stratton was appointed as the delegate to the Jan. 28th Presbytery meeting.
- 5.. Two purchases were approved: a Nest thermostat for the basement and a third microphone for the sanctuary PA system.

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Pastor Owar presented his report to begin the new year. He welcomed the new and returning members of Session. Then he detailed several visits (in-person, by email and phone) with members and friends of the congregation.

The next stated Session Meeting is Monday February 13, 2023.



We need you! As Christ's hands on earth, we need to work together to do God's will.
Join one or more of our committees now.

The Session of Ebensburg Presbyterian Church recently revised our committee structure to reflect the dissolution of the Board of Deacons and our decreasing numbers. Formerly we had eleven committees and seven now, by spreading the Deacon's duties among several existing committees which have been retained, but with additional duties. Each committee will have at least one session member, who is not automatically the chair and one or more members "from the pews". Please volunteer and sign-up when the sheet is circulated at a Sunday service, or call the office and ask to join one or more of these committees.

Budget & Finance/Stewardship– Reviews the financial policies and financial records of the congregation and prepares the budget for the coming year. This committee also facilitates the yearly audit of the financial records. Promotes and encourages giving as a spiritual practice, manages memorial funds, tracks giving patterns.

Discipleship– Provides opportunities for growing our faith, through Christian Education (Sunday School, Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Youth Group), encouraging spiritual disciplines (Prayer tree, Lent and Advent devotionals), evangelism and fostering new disciples. **Easter Party, Valentines gifts for Shut-ins, Shared Leadership of Kid's Potato Patch & Mini Golf .

Family Life- Supports the hospitality and fellowship opportunities of the church, including meals and coffee hours, as well as our engagement with community events (Wheels & Wings, etc.) Shared Leadership Kid's Potato Patch & Mini Golf *Invite visitors to attend fellowship opportunities

Mission- Oversees the disbursement of mission giving to various organizations, facilitates the PCUSA Special Offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, Christmas Joy) and seeks out new mission opportunities (especially ones with "hands on" participation). **School project (clothing or specific needs of students)

Pastor / Parish / Personnel / Communication / Nominating -Pastor/Parish A joint committee with representatives from Colver and Ebensburg Presbyterian Churches. The primary purpose of the committee is to coordinate regular and special service times and any other issues that arise due to the shared pastorate. **Communication** Responsible for communications between Session and the congregation. It will also develop policies for social media used in the church. **Nominating Committee**– Recruits nominees for vacant officers. **Personnel** - Develops job descriptions for all staff members, to advertise, interview, and fill positions as needed. This committee will work closely with the staff and the congregation to ensure a healthy working relationship.

Property Responsible for the church building and grounds. General Maintenance - Schedule and Oversee *Spring Clean-up *Grass Cutting Schedule *Fall Clean-up *Snow Removal *Insurance Coverage *Legal Issues **Musical Instrument Maintenance (Organ, Piano, Bells)

Worship Provides for: *Weekly worship needs (pulpit supply in event of absence, supporting the choir and bell choir) *Worship Space (paraments, candles, seasonal flowers and decorations) *Communion (elements, table setting, servers) *Special Worship *Create a welcoming environment, greet visitors, share information for follow up, encourage church growth

From the Mission Committee:

The Committee continues to work on the Matthew 25 initiative. Meetings are scheduled for this month.

From the Youth Group:

We continue to meet every other Sunday from 6-7:30 pm for the youth group and the conformation class. In February it will be the 12th and 26th.



Enrichment Day for Presbyterian Leaders & Members at Westmont Presbyterian Church— Johnstown
Saturday February 11, 2023 Registration and Refreshments 11:15-11:40 Opening Worship 11:40-12:00

Workshops—2 sessions of each

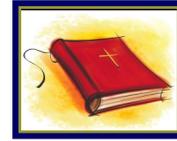
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|---|-----------------------------|
| A. Picture Tour of the Holy Land | Rev. Jim Farrer and Friends |
| B. Training for Elders and Deacons | Rev. Skip Nofrzger |
| C. Dealing with Conflicts Creatively and Biblically | Rev. Carole Isley Corey |
| D. Introduction and Life Story | Rev. Hyiwot Teshome |
| E. Evangelism | Rev. Dr. Owar Ojulu |

If you would like to go, call the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church Office by Sunday Feb. 5 so we can let Westmont know how many are going. Leave your name and your choice of 2 workshops.



February 1	Max Magley
February 3	Susan Makosy
February 3	Marsha Krug
February 7	Tim Forberger
February 15	Jamie Mazzarella
February 17	Eva Vietmier
February 23	Laurel Lyons
February 25	Amy Brulia
February 28	Jani McKenrick Stratton

Sunday Scripture Readings



Sunday, February 5

Isaiah 58:1–9a (9b–12) The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.
Psalm 112:1–9 (10) Those who do God’s will and seek what is right will be happy.
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16) Paul preaches Christ, crucified; the Spirit reveals God’s wisdom.
Matthew 5:13–20 Jesus says: You are salt and light; I have come to fulfill the law.

Sunday, February 12

Lectionary Readings

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 A choice between life and death, prosperity and adversity.
Psalm 119:1–8 Happy are those who keep God’s law and follow God’s way.
1 Corinthians 3:1–9 Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God is the source of growth.
Matthew 5:21–37 Jesus interprets the laws on murder, adultery, and making vows.

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 19

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 24:12–18 The glory of God settles on Sinai, where Moses spends forty days.
Psalm 2 God says: You are my son; the nations will serve the Lord.
or Psalm 99 The Lord reigns; worship God on the holy mountain.
2 Peter 1:16–21 The apostle recounts Jesus’ transfiguration, fulfilling prophecy.
Matthew 17:1–9 On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

Ash Wednesday—February 22

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.
or Isaiah 58:1–12 The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.
Psalm 51:1–17 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.
2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 Don’t flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

First Sunday in Lent—February 26

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 The man and woman disobey God, eating forbidden fruit.
Psalm 32 My sin tormented me; but when I confessed, God forgave me.
Romans 5:12–19 Sin and death came from Adam; grace and life come from Christ.
Matthew 4:1–11 Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness and is tested by the devil.

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. Dr. 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 December 31,2022

Actual Operating Income: \$118,576.84

Actual Operating Expenses: \$80,962.88

Gain/Loss: \$37,613.96



2023 Per Capita

2023 Per Capita - Our Per Capita offering, which supports the work of the presbytery, synod and general assembly, has been set at **\$43.50**. 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

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<i>1</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Max Magley</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Happy Birthday,</i> <i>Susan Makosy,</i> <i>Marsha</i> <i>Krug</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM</i> <i>&</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6 –8 PM</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Tim Forberger</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM &</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Session—7 PM</i>	<i>14</i> <i>Valentine’s Day</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>NA Business</i> <i>Meeting -</i> <i>9:45 AM</i>
<i>19</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM &</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i>	<i>20</i> <i>President’s Day</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>	<i>22</i> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Breakfast & Ser-</i> <i>vice 9 am</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Happy Birth-</i> <i>day, Laurel</i> <i>Lyons</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Amy Brulia</i>
<i>26</i> <i>First Sunday of</i> <i>Lent</i> <i>Worship 11:00 AM &</i> <i>Facebook</i> <i>Boy Scouts 6—8 PM</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Jani McKenrick</i> <i>Stratton</i> <i>Point of Freedom</i> <i>NA Group—6 PM</i>				

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