

# THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS IS GREATER

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
September 3, 2023

**EBENSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931

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### **Mission Statement**

"Ebensburg Presbyterians  
are Christians giving help  
and hope to all by sharing God's love."

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER

\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup> (*Responsively*)

God calls us each by name  
as we gather on holy ground.

**We come to this place,  
seeking to know the great I AM.**

\* HYMN# 416 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (vs 1-3)

### CALL TO CONFESSIONS

*Roman 12:21*

Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.

For the times we have failed to do this,  
let us confess to God; let us seek forgiveness.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (*in unison*)

**Sometimes it sounds too hard:**

**deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior,  
but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are  
overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory  
but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be  
patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are  
slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. Amen (silent Prayer)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (*Responsibly*)

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us  
still. This is the good news that prevails!

**In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (*responsively*)

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

*(Please share the peace of Christ with those around.)*

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<sup>1</sup> CTW 561A

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Faithful God, how blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit so that we may glorify you in the company of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: Hebrews 1:1-5 *Page 970-71*

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:9-21 *Page 971*

The Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Who is Jesus?

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMNS#507 I come with Joy

### GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: Your name is a secret that cannot be uttered; your glory is a fire that cannot be put out. Yet you come to us in mercy; you speak to us with love.

Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him— letting go of fear, setting our minds on holy things, and giving our whole lives for the sake of the gospel. Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast. **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. By your Spirit, help us to love and honor one another, living in the grace of Christ that binds us together and sends us forth to witness and serve. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray without ceasing, saying: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful— those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### INVITATION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### SENDING

\*HYMNS#142 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Vs 1-2, 4)

### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 1:3*

Praise be to the God  
and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in the heavenly,  
realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **Amen**

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Major Repair Project is in its last phase!**

Please continue praying for the project and prayerfully consider donating to this cause—The Lord God will give us success. Please, contact pastor Owar or one of our leaders for more information.

**Bible2020 Program**

Bible Study Program will resume on September 20, on Wednesday @7pm

**Confirmation Sunday:**

September 17, 2023. Please plan to attend and a reception will follow the service.

**Youth program:**

Sunday, September, 10, 2023 @5-7:30

**Session Meeting:**

Monday, September 11, 2023 @7pm

**Kids Potato Patch and Mini Golf**

***September, 30, 2023 @10:30—2:20***

**SEPTEMBER Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday**

September 5	Dave Lamer
September 16	Mary Ellen Harris
September 17	Becky Carlin
September 18	Stephen Magley
September 23	Roger McGill
	Melissa Douglas
September 26	Doug Mohney
September 28	Arlene McKim

**Happy Anniversary**

Sept. 3	<i>Bob &amp; Becky Bracken</i>
Sept. 10.	<i>Phil &amp; Amy Brulia</i>
Sept. 11	Melissa Douglas & Jerry Kline
Sept. 26.	<i>Aric &amp; Alyssa Bracken</i>

**You may join our church in one of three ways:**

Transfer from another congregation; Reaffirm your faith if you have not been an active church member recently; Profess Jesus as Savior and Lord. Please talk to the pastor or one of the leaders

**PRAYER LIST**

If you have any names, you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or place the names in the Offering Baskets near each of the front entrances. Thank you.

Eva Tomb  
Ray McKim  
Jim Estep  
Ramona McKim  
Candi Elam  
Ben & Patricia Tuchi  
Peter & Margaret Funch  
Albie  
Tom R.  
Erin M.  
Marty F

Claudette Segear  
John Fedora  
Gloria P.  
Father Pat Kirsch  
Family of Richard McKim  
Phil Brulia

## **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbytery of the Pacific respond to deadly fires on Maui**

The Red Cross has asked PDA to be on standby with a team of spiritual care providers by *Mike Ferguson / Presbyterian News Service*



Two Hawaii Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook perform aerial water bucket drops on the Island of Maui to assist the fight of wildfires, Maui, Hawaii, August 09, 2023. The two air crews performed 58 total bucket drops in five hours in up country Maui totaling over 100,000 gallons dropped on the fires. (U.S. National Guard Video by Air Force Master Sgt. Andrew Jackson)

LOUISVILLE — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the [Pacific](#) following this week’s fires that killed at least 111 people in Lahaina on the Hawaiian island of Maui and also burned portions of south Maui and the island’s Upcountry region. Earlier this week fires also burned brush on the Big Island of Hawaii, but those fires have been largely controlled. After seeing the devastation in Lahaina, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green called it “the worst national disaster that Hawaii has ever faced.”

CBS News reported on Sunday that hundreds of people remain unaccounted for. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s administrator, Deanne Criswell, said that 150 FEMA personnel were on the ground in Maui, with more search and rescue teams on their way.

“It’s clear there will be significant long-term recovery needs,” said the Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA’s Associate for National Response. For the people who want to respond and don’t have the opportunity to provide donations or commodities right away, “there will be opportunities in the months and years ahead. That is hard for people to hear, because everyone wants to do something right now. The best thing to do right now is to wait and respond down the line.”

The Presbytery of the Pacific has submitted an application for an initial assistance grant. In addition to portions of Los Angeles, the state of Hawaii is part of the presbytery.

In a Facebook post, the Presbytery of the Pacific asked for prayers for Presbyterian pastor and minister member the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Fong and for her congregation, Po’okela Church in Makawao, in the north-central portion of the island. *Please read more from the link below*

The Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble, mission catalyst for the Presbytery of the Pacific, said the presbytery heard from Fong over the weekend. Fong reported she is safe and along with her congregation is responding to the needs of neighbors in their community, which is nearly an

hour east of Lahaina.

Worthen Gamble said churches and the presbytery have unfortunately had “a lot of climate-produced fires here in California over the last five years. We are familiar with how to partner with PDA to begin to access things and set up a response.”



The Rev. Heidi Worthen Gamble

“We understand our role in the disaster response ecosystem is we are not first responders,” Worthen Gamble said. “At this acute stage, I encourage people to be donating and to be praying. We really do want people to give to PDA to develop capacity.”

The Red Cross has asked PDA to be on standby to provide a team of spiritual care providers who could be embedded with the Red Cross for their ongoing response on Maui. On Friday, PDA was making calls to names on its roster of about a dozen such providers to see who might be available should the need arise. The spiritual care providers will be among the few people authorities are allowing into the Lahaina area. “They have a specific task and they have been invited in,” Kirk said of the spiritual care providers, who are members of PDA’s National Response Team. “In addition to the physical needs, there will also be emotional and spiritual needs. It’s a devastating disaster given the scope of the damage and the number of lives lost.”

On Thursday, Kirk was one of about 140 people affiliated with Voluntary Organizations [Active in Disaster](#), a group that provides the opportunity for nonprofit organizations, many of them faith-based, to coordinate, communicate, cooperate and collaborate. “The message was clear,” Kirk said of those organizing the call. “People should not deploy unless they have a specific role to play, and they’ve been invited to be engaged.” Authorities are still working to evacuate residents and tourists off the island, he said. “It’s still an active disaster. Search and Rescue is taking place. There are places rescue folks can’t get to yet.”

A disaster on a relatively isolated island like Maui makes transportation and lodging more challenging than it might be on the mainland, Kirk noted. “On an island, where can you go? There are a lot of logistical challenges. It’s an unfolding disaster,” he said, “and it’s important to let those with a specific role to play to be able to do that.”

Kirk has read reports of people donating food to Maui shelters. But without refrigerated storage available following the fires, much of the donated food is going to waste, “and it puts more cars on the road in an impacted area,” he said. “Interested volunteers will have opportunities in short-term and long-term recovery. It’ll be important for people interested in helping to think about how they can be helpful once the emergency is over. Certainly, praying for those impacted is important.”

There are no PC(USA) churches on Maui or on the Big Island, and a half-dozen on Hawaii’s



most populated island, Oahu. Kirk has been in touch with the pastor serving one of the Oahu churches affiliated with the PC(USA).

Hawaii is home to a larger number of United Church of Christ congregations. Kirk said he's spoken to his UCC counterpart "to discuss how Presbyterians could be supportive of their efforts."



The Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, offered this prayer.

In a Thursday letter to churches in the Presbytery of the Pacific, Worthen Gamble reminded Presbyterians "we are a people of prayer. Offering our cries to God is an act of faith. We are not alone and believe in a God who is with us in our suffering." She suggested people use this list of "Prayers for Times of Trouble and Disaster" developed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Theology and Worship.