



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
April 28, 2024 • Fifth Sunday of Easter • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Dive In: The Ethiopian Eunuch" | Lauren Wright Pittman | Faces of Our Faith by Sanctified Art

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation – "Be surprised by joy, be surprised by the little flower that shows its beauty in the midst of a barren desert, and be surprised by the immense healing power that keeps bursting forth like springs of fresh water from the depth of our pain." ~ Henri Nouwen

Prelude *Flute Solo* Thomas Arne

Welcome

Moment for Mission Kindergarten Academy Clothing Marybeth Hummel, Lara Frymark

Response #240, v. 1 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* Alleluia No. 1

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. Alleluia...*

***Call to Worship**

It is very good for all of us to be here...

To celebrate the richness of our lives together;

To rediscover, and to discover for the first time, the depth of God's grace;

To gather so that we may be reminded of the goodness of God!

It is very good for all of us to be here...

To pour out the love that God has given to us.

So let's gather, let's discover, let's celebrate, and let's worship God!

It is with joy that we give the Lord our thanks and praise!

***Hymn #667**

When Morning Guilds the Skies

Laudes Domini

***Prayer of Confession**

Why do we confess our sin?

Because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

But why do we do this together?

Because we are a community, a covenant people.

Then, let us confess our sin.

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we ignore the cries of the oppressed, and are indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord... (time of silent confession).

***Assurance of Pardon**

We pour the water into the baptismal font to symbolize the faithfulness of God and the washing away of sin.

***Response #589**

Alleluia

Honduras Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Now the Lord is Risen indeed.

Proclaiming the Word

We experience the Word of God.

Beloved Children of God Moment

We invite children to remain in worship. The nursery is available with parental supervision.

Welcome New Members! (11am)

Today we celebrate and welcome the newest members of our community of faith!

WELCOME! Marti Derr and Tricia Krebs

Response #48

Rain Down

Cortez

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

1 John 3:18-24

Common English Bible

The story of God for the people of God... **thanks be to God.**

Anthem (8:15)

For the Beauty of the Earth

MPC Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Second Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

NT pg. 126

The story of God for the people of God... **thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Expect the Unexpected

Unexpected Beauty

Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston

Selah: A Holy Pause for Silent Reflection

A chime will sound to mark the transition to the next element of worship.

Responding to the Word

We affirm our faith and commitment to the Word of God.

***Hymn #526**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead

***Declaration of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

*The following is the Apostles' Creed, which dates to 180 CE.
The word 'catholic' means universal; 'quick' means living.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Response: In your mercy Lord, hear our prayer...

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.

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory

Christ You are My Life

Johann Gottfried Walther

***Doxology #609**

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known. Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing & Following the Word

We declare the Word of God throughout the week.

***Hymn #14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Dix

***Charge & Benediction**

***Response**

Thank You Lord

Spiritual

Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, I just want to thank you Lord! Praise You Lord...

Postlude

Finale Jubilante

Healey Willan

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bold print indicates congregational reading or response.

An asterisk * indicates when to stand in body or in spirit.

Offerings are welcome! Place in the plates at each of the entrances or give online.

New here? Check out our website: mechpresby.org

The yellow rose symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

The flowers this morning are placed in honor of Phyllis Weber's 100th birthday!



Mark McKeever, our Director of Music, will celebrate seven years of service on May 1. It's also his birthday! Please join the Church Staff Committee in congratulating him and extending our thanks and appreciation for his service to MPC. His artistry enhances and enriches our worship!



GIVING + \$5



WE'VE DONE THE MATH!!!

**JUST \$5 MORE P/WEEK
CLOSES THE DEFICIT!**

Giving +\$5 WILL make a difference!

We saw an *immediate* response to our +\$5 per week request. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED!!! Once we "close" the books on the month of April, we will report back to you where we are in our quest to close the operating budget deficit!

We approved our 2024 budget with a significant deficit. Yes, we did this on purpose. We know we can overcome this deficit and so we did the math. If everyone gives just \$5 more per week in their offering (or \$25 monthly or \$200 for the year) – we can close the gap on the deficit!

JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS

Today! –We will learn how to be respectful of gender diversity and how to talk about it. And, if you are thinking about volunteering with B.O.W., this class is an opportunity for some introductory training.

Next Week – Celebration or Appropriation? The US celebrates lots of "holidays," like St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras, adopted from other cultures. When are we celebrating another culture and when are we appropriating it? We will start our discussion with Cinco de Mayo.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Accidents and spills are a daily part of kindergarten life for the 300 full-day students at Mechanicsburg's Kindergarten Academy. How can you help? You can support this Deacon ministry by donating new underwear, socks, sweatpants, shorts, and shirts. You may also contribute gently used sweatpants/shorts. All clothing should be sizes 4 through 7. Donations may be made before or after worship on **May 5** and **12** in the box in the Gathering Area, or outside the church office during business hours. If you have questions, contact Marybeth Hummel. Thank you for your support of Mechanicsburg's youngest students!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5/5 – 8:15 & 11am - *Expect the Unexpected* – Pastor Kathryn

5/12 – 8:15 & 11am – Pastor Emily

5/19 – 8:15 & 11am – Pentecost! Music Appreciation! Confirmation Class! Sunday School Party!

5/26 – 9:30am – Trinity Sunday - Pastor Kathryn

6/2 – 9:30am – Pastor Kathryn's Sabbatical Send-Off – BRUNCH at 10:30am

Our Worship Leaders

Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston – Pastor | Rev. Emily D. Sutphin – Associate Pastor
Cathay L. Snyder – Christian Education Director | Mark G. McKeever – Director of Music
Lara Frymark (8:15), Taylin Russaw (11:00) – Readers

Ministers

All members of the congregation

Senior Pastor/Head of StaffRev. Kathryn Z. Johnston (she/her) kjohnston@mechpresby.org
Associate Pastor Rev. Emily D. Sutphin (she/her) esutphin@mechpresby.org
Christian Education Director Cathay L. Snyder (she/her) csnyder@mechpresby.org
Director of Music Mark G. McKeever (he/him) mmckeever@mechpresby.org
Church Administrator Angela J. Weir (she/her) aweir@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director Karen P. Taylor (she/her) playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.com

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SESSION

Class of 2024

Dan Alex, Bob Bell, Katie Chase,
Becky Giovagnoli, Lori Heenan

Class of 2025

Amy Berry, Ted Foor, Sue Karakantas,
Larry Stoner, Rick Whitcomb

Class of 2026

Nils Hagen-Frederiksen, Kelli
Scurfield, Ran Singiser, Jenn
Thomson, Tim Wonder

DEACONS

Class of 2024

Marybeth Hummel, Ken Kleinert, Rich
Marlin, Cathy Petko, Kim Savidge,
Jan Whitcomb

Class of 2025

Martie Bricker, Shannon Hammel,
Grace House, Bill Klebe, Judy Klebe,
Keni Melphis

Class of 2026

Heather Barto, Jan Burrows, Dave
Donat, Lara Frymark, Debi Gross,
Patti Hinkson



Church Office Hours

9-4:30 Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays

4/28/2024

WELCOME TO MPC

More People Caring

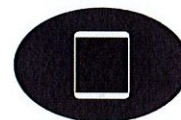
Whether you're a first time visitor, a long time member, or
anywhere in between—

We're glad you're here!

3 WAYS TO GIVE



IN SERVICE
Offering stands
by doors



TEXT
Text "MechPresby"
to 73256



ONLINE
MechPresby.org
Click "Give"



WEEKLY SERVICES & THINGS TO KNOW

Sundays: 8:15 & 11am Worship; 9:35 Sunday School

Summer Worship begins May 26 – 9:30am



Children are welcome in worship and are invited to participate in Communion. Activity packets can be found in the back and there are children's tables in the front and back of the Sanctuary.

Restrooms with baby changing stations can be found through the middle Sanctuary door, to the left of the kitchen. Non-gendered restrooms are located through the front right Sanctuary door, down the hallway and on the right.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (9:35am)

Age 2—K | Center Room (Nursery Wing)
 1st-5th grades | Lower Fellowship Hall
 6th-8th | Confirmation Class | Mission & Student Center
 9th-12th | Chat & Chew | Mission & Student Center
 Joyful Hearts | P.W. Conference Room
 Women's class, Philippians
 Dave Petko Class B | Library
 Bible study currently looking at the Wisdom of Solomon
 Thoughtful Christian | Upper Fellowship Hall
 Short-term studies focused on current events & issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mechanicsburg Friday Market | May 3 | 4:00-7:00pm | MPC Parking Lot
 Join us for the first Mechanicsburg Friday Market! There will be fruits, veggies, flowers, plants, and crafts for sale.

CARES Tour | May 5 | 1:00pm |
 Mission Committee is planning a tour of Community CARES. If you would like to join us, please contact Cindy Gorski, cagoski59@gmail.com

Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | May 7 | 5:30pm
 It's the last Tuesday Nights @ MPC of the year! ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. Children's choir rehearsal @ 6pm.

Mothers & Others UFH | May 11 | 9:30-11:30am |
 Join PW for a guided *Prayer Through Watercolor* session led by Spiritual Director Pam Clayborne - no experience needed! Sign up in the Gathering Area. Cost is \$10.00. Children 12 and under are free. All materials provided.

Spring Fling Square Dance | UFH | May 11 | 7:00-9:00pm |
 We will learn easy square dance, line dances, and choreographed ballroom dances. No experience necessary, lessons are provided! All are welcome!

6th—12th Grade Events Friends Are Always Welcome!

Today! |4th @ 304| 6pm-7:30| M&S Center

5/19 |4th @ 304 Pentecost Celebration| Time TBD

April 28 - May 4, 2024		
Sunday	8:15 AM	Sunday Worship Service
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service
Monday	6:30 PM	4th @ 304, M&S Center
	8:30 PM	AA, LFH
Tuesday	MATE FORMS DUE	
Wednesday	3:30 PM	B.O.W., M&S Center
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday	12:00 PM	Pastors' Bible Study
	1:30 PM	Mah Jongg, UFH
Friday	6:15 AM	Men's Fellowship, PWCR
	4:00 PM	Mechanicsburg Friday Market, Parking Lot
Saturday		
Sunday	8:15 AM	Sunday Worship Service
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service
	2:00 PM	Mah Jongg, UFH

Race & the Church |PWCR | May 14 | 6:30pm
 We discuss Chapters 8-11 of *The Color of Compromise*. Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder!

Courageous Conversations | May 19 | 6:30-8:00pm | Monaghan Presbyterian Church
 The topic for this conversation will be "Grief." Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

Midwest Food Bank | May 21 | 5:00-7:00pm |
 Come volunteer at Midwest Food Bank in Middletown with the Mission Committee. Midwest Food Bank is an independent, faith-based food bank that works to alleviate hunger locally and throughout the world. Sign up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Michael Heindel or Susan Van Zile.

MATE TRIP:

Join us July 20-27 as we travel to western Maine with Camp Hill Presbyterian Church to serve with Mission at the Eastward. Registration is due **April 30!** This trip is for anyone age 14 or older. Whatever your skill level, there is something you can do! The registration form is in the back of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

By entering an event or program on these premises, you are entering an area where photography, audio and video recording will occur. Your entry and presence constitute your consent to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and to the release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction of any and all recorded media of your appearance, voice, and name for any purpose whatsoever in connection with Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church and its initiatives, including, by way of example only, use on websites, in social media, and advertising.