



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
March 10, 2024 • Fourth Sunday in Lent • 8:15 & 11:00am



"A Choice" | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*
Lauren Wright Pittman | 2018 | A Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation –

"God loved us before God made us; and God's love has never diminished and never shall. And all God's works were done in this love; in this love, God has made everything for our profit; and in this love our life is everlasting." ~ Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*

Prelude

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Karl Osterland

Welcome

***Introit #313, v. 4**

Lord Make Us More Holy

African American Spiritual

***Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful; Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again: faithful, faithful, faithful, until we meet again. (repeat 3x)***

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 103:1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, for they are good;

Their steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those the Lord redeemed from trouble;

**The Lord has gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.**

***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.

Holy God, giver of all that is good, we rejoice that you are the source of all that is. The breath of life is a gift from your generous hand. The food we eat is grown in the world you sustain. The community that supports us is called into being by your saving activity. Everything we have is a gift from you. Why, then, do we worry? It is surely our sin that causes us to live as though we do not trust your goodness. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us again to put all our trust in your promises that never fail. Remind us that we are always in your loving care. Fill us with grace, so that our lives might show forth the fullness of your love for all people... (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**

Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual

Wade in the water, wade in the water Children, wade in the Water, God's gonna trouble the water.

If you get there before I do, God's gonna trouble the water. Tell all of my friends I'm coming too!

God's gonna trouble the water. Wade in the water...

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.

Response #753, v. 4

Prayer of St. Francis

Prayer of St. Francis

***Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

NT pg. 192

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

Anthem (11am)

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

MPC Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

John 3:14-21

NT pg. 94

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

Sermon

Promises for All

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 #829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Olivet

*Declaration of Faith

The Confession of Belhar 10.5

The Confession of Belhar was approved in 2016. The Confession names unity, reconciliation, and justice as God's call to the church.

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ, that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity. We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

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

Calvary

Janet Correll

*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 #826

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

*Charge & Benediction

*Response #209, v. 4

My Song is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

Unheeding, we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.

Yet steadfast he to suffering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

Postlude

Out of Deep Distress, I Have Called to Thee, O Lord

Johann Christoph Bach

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.

JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS

Today! – The Thoughtful Christian class will continue its study and reflection on the Belhar Confession.

TUESDAY NIGHT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Tuesday, March 19 for a very special intergenerational Evening Prayer Service led by our Joyful Noise Choir. This is a part of our Tuesday Night @ MPC program with dinner served at 5:30pm. If you can't make it to dinner, Evening Prayer will begin around 6:15pm.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

3/24 | Palm Sunday | 8:15 & 11:00am

3/24 | Easter Egg Hunt | 3:00pm

3/28 | Maundy Thursday | 5:30pm Dinner, & 6:00pm Worship

3/29 | Good Friday | 7:30pm

3/31 | **Easter** | **9:30 & 11:00am**

4/7 | 10:30 am Worship & Baked Potato Brunch

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
Cindy Gorski (8:15), Wayne Yost (11:00)– Readers

Ministers

All members of the congregation

Senior Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. 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

**MECHANICSBURG
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

mechpresby.org



300 E. Simpson St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-697-0351

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

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**Church Office Hours**

**9-4:30 Monday-Thursday**  
**Closed Fridays**

3/10/2024

**WELCOME TO MPC**

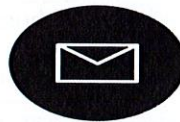
**More People Caring**

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

**We're glad you're here!**

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**3 WAYS TO GIVE**



**IN SERVICE**  
Offering stands  
by doors



**TEXT**  
Text "MechPresby"  
to 73256



**ONLINE**  
MechPresby.org  
Click "Give"

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**WEEKLY SERVICES & THINGS TO KNOW**

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

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**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, Lenten study  
 Dave Petko Class B | Library  
 Bible study currently looking at the Book of Esther  
 Thoughtful Christian | Upper Fellowship Hall  
 Short-term studies focused on current events & issues.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays 7 PM  
 Continues on Tuesday, March 12**  
 We will be discussing Chapters 4-5 of *The Color of Compromise* covering the antebellum years after the American Revolution and the onset of the Civil War. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

**Ukrainian Easter Eggs | UFH | March 12 & 13 |  
 6:00-8:00pm**  
 Join the Fellowship Committee for an Easter craft event. This is a beginner class on decorative eggs. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Please note the class is limited to 25 participants. No art degree required!  
 Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

**Courageous Conversations | March 17 | 6:30-  
 8:00pm | Camp Hill Presbyterian**  
 Join us for our third Courageous Conversation. The topic will be "Justice in Gender & Sexuality."  
 Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

**Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
 Next one: Tuesday, March 19 | 5:30pm Dinner**  
 Join us for an intergenerational Evening Prayer Service led by our Joyful Noise Choir. ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. The service will begin at 6:30.

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

3/24 | 4th @ 304 | 12:00-3:30  
 Pizza & Stuffing Easter Eggs! | UFH

4/14 | Rummage Sale | UFH

4/28 | 4th @ 304 | 6pm-7:30 | M&S Center

## March 10 - March 17, 2024

|           |          |                                        |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service                 |
|           | 9:20 AM  | Joyful Noise Choir                     |
|           | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                          |
|           | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service                 |
| Monday    | 3:45 PM  | Boy Scouts, LFH                        |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Committee Night                        |
| Tuesday   | 8:30 PM  | Alcoholics Anon, LFH                   |
|           | 6:00 PM  | Ukrainian Egg Fellowship,<br>UFH       |
| Wednesday | 7:00 PM  | Race & the Church, PWCR                |
|           | 3:30 PM  | B.O.W., M&S Center                     |
|           | 5:30 PM  | Bells of Celebration                   |
|           | 6:00 PM  | Ukrainian Egg Fellowship,<br>UFH       |
| Thursday  | 7:00 PM  | Chancel Choir                          |
|           | 12:00 PM | NO Pastors' Bible Study                |
| Friday    | 6:15 AM  | Men's Fellowship, PWCR                 |
| Saturday  |          |                                        |
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service                 |
|           | 9:20 AM  | Joyful Noise Choir                     |
|           | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                          |
|           | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service                 |
|           | 6:30 PM  | Courageous Conversations,<br>Camp Hill |

**Dinner & a Movie Night | UFH | Fri, March 22  
 5:30pm (movie begins @ 6pm)**  
 Our movie this month once again comes from Disney (Rated PG—for a little violence and language), *Glory Road*. Just in time for March Madness—*Glory Road* is based on the true story of the events leading up to the 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship when the head coach of what is now the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), Don Haskins, coached a team with an all-black starting line-up, a first in NCAA history.

**Singles First Friday | April 21 | 2:30pm**  
 We will be attending the matinee performance of *Forever Plaid* at the Mechanicsburg Little Theater. (MLT)

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.



## Upcoming Spring and Summer Opportunities:

### 2024 Spring Rummage and Bake Sale

Come out and support our Spring Rummage and Bake Sale! Items donated for the rummage sale should be brought to the Upper Fellowship Hall Sunday, April 13, 12:00-8:00pm and Monday, April 15, 9:00am-8:00pm.



**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** Small functional household appliances, dishes, books, toys, games, sports equipment, tools, bedding and linens, curtains, shoes, clothing, house plants, etc.

**NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** Children's car seats, partially used cosmetics, torn or soiled clothing or shoes, toys & games with missing pieces/parts, appliances that don't work, large heavy furniture, televisions, computers, and printers. If it looks bad, smells bad, or needs repair, do not donate it, throw it away!

If you need someone to transport items to the church, please call Paula Logan, 717-697-3798 or Jessica Antenucci, 717-602-6198 who will arrange for a convenient pick-up time on either Sunday, April 14th or Monday, April 15th.

**BAKE SALE ITEMS:** Should be brought to the church by 8:30 AM Friday April 19th or may be left in the kitchen on Thursday April 18th, labeled "Bake Sale."

There will be a special congregation-only sale Thursday, April 18 6:00-7:30pm. The Rummage and Bake Sale will be open to the public Friday, April 19, 9:00am-6:00pm and Saturday, April 20, 8:00am-12:00pm. All proceeds fund MPC and PW mission projects!

We will need **many volunteers** for setup and cleanup! Please sign up to help on the clipboards in the Gathering Area (early April) or call Jessica Antenucci (717-602-6198) or Paula Logan (717-697-3798). Thank you for your support!



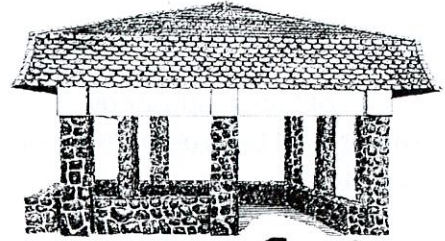
### April Spiritual Retreat

Mark your calendars to join us for an upcoming Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, April 27, 10am to 4pm at Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Spiritual retreats are an opportunity for us to take a break from our routines, slow down, and commune with God. We will spend time together in silence, prayer, and meditation. This retreat is open to all ages and is free to attend. Limited to 30 participants. For more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Emily.

"Lenten Labyrinth" by Mike Moyers, *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

## June Middle School Summer Conference

Rising 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us for a Middle School Conference in Massanetta Springs on June 25 through 28. Participants will attend keynotes, recreation, workshops, small groups, worship, and more! This retreat is an opportunity for youth to fellowship with one another, make friends from all over the country, and worship God. If you plan on attending, a \$50 deposit is due April 3. For more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Emily.



**Massanetta Springs**   
CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER



## July Serving and Learning Trip to Mission at the Eastward (M.A.T.E.) with Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

July 20-27 is our week to send a joint Camp Hill Presbyterian Church/Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church work team to Mission at the Eastward. Our team will volunteer our time doing home repairs in western Maine. Registration is due by April 30! We encourage anyone age 14 or older to join with us on this intergenerational Serving and Learning Trip. Whatever your skill level, there is something you can do to serve Christ by helping those in need during this very special week. You can find the registration form on the resources page of the church website or in the back of the Sanctuary. Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

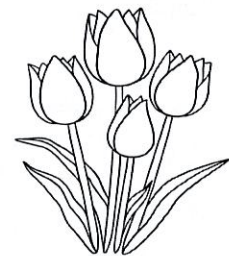


### **Easter Flowers**

Tulips and Daffodils \$11 each  
May be reclaimed after the 11am Easter service.

*Please make checks payable to MPC.*  
# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as it should appear in the bulletin:



In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_