



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
March 24, 2024 • Palm Sunday • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Palm Branch"

Tim Mossholder | 2020 | found on Unsplash

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation –

"I am sure as I live that nothing is so near to me as God. God is nearer to me than I am to myself; my existence depends on the nearness and the presence of God."

~ Meister Eckhart, German theologian and mystic (1260-1328)

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor

JSB, BWV 555

Welcome

***Introit #313, v. 1**

Lord Make Us More Holy

African American Spiritual

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

***Call to Worship**

based on Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

Let the people say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Swing wide the city gates! We will come in and give thanks to God!

Thank you, God, for answering us; thank you for being our salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

We give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

***Hymn #196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Valet will ich dir geben

***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.

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you:

we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's,

our faith is often more show than substance,

our hearts are in need of cleansing.

Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives.

**Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful,
to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own...**

(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.

Jordan's river is chilly and cold, God's gonna trouble the water. It chills the body, but not the soul.

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

Philippians 2:5-11

NT pg. 197

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

Anthem

Behold the King

Joseph M. Martin

MPC Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

John 12:12-16

NT pg. 106

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

Sermon

Palm Promise

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 #197

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

*Declaration of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith 11.2

A Brief Statement of Faith was adopted in 1991. It was written during the reunification of the PCUSA.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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

Les Rameaux (The Palms)
MPC Chancel Choir

Jean-Baptiste Faure

*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 #198

Ride On! Ride On In Majesty

St. Drostane

*Charge & Benediction

*Response #227

Jesus, Remember Me

Remember me

(3x) Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

JSB, BWV 578

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.



EASTER EGG HUNT – TODAY!

Come out and join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! 5th through 12th grade students are invited to stay after church today for lunch and to help set up for the Easter Egg Hunt. All children and their families are invited to join us at 3:00pm for the Easter Egg Hunt!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Life is better together! Our next New Member Class is on April 7 after worship (10:30am). This class is an opportunity for you to enjoy a yummy lunch and learn more about MPC, what being a member means, and if that's right for you! After the class, you can join our church officially, or if you aren't 100% sure that's okay - you can wait! Sign up using Starting Point online (under the "I'm New tab") or on forms found at the back of the Sanctuary! Need childcare or have food allergies/restrictions? Contact aweir@mechpresby.org

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, & 6:30pm 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 Walters (8:15), Logan Lichy (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

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PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
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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

The office will be closed April 1.

3/24/2024

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

04/07/2024: 10:30 Worship & Baked Potato Brunch

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 Wisdom of Solomon
 Thoughtful Christian | Upper Fellowship Hall
 Short-term studies focused on current events & issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Next one: Tuesday, April 2 | 5:30pm Dinner
 ALL ages are invited for dinner and an evening of fellowship and activities. *CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL AT 6PM.* Bring a friend!

Camp Krislund | April 6
 Join us at Camp Krislund for a service opportunity! We will be volunteering together to sort caps. We will be delivering 300 pounds of caps from MPC! There are two volunteer sessions: 9:00am to noon, and 1:00pm to 3:00. Contact Pastor Emily Sutphin to sign up.

Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays 7 PM
Continues on Tuesday, April 9
 We will be discussing Chapters 6-7 of *The Color of Compromise* covering white supremacy in the Jim Crow era and studying complicity in the northern U.S. We will be doing research into our own history. Please bring your laptop with you. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

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

Today! | 4th @ 304 | 12:00-3:30 |
 Pizza & Stuffing Easter Eggs! | M&S Center
4/07 | Baked Potato Brunch Fundraiser | Kitchen
4/14 | Rummage Sale | UFH | Volunteering!
4/28 | 4th @ 304 | 6pm-7:30 | M&S Center

March 24 - March 31 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
	12:00 PM	4th @ 304, M&S Center
Monday	3:00 PM	Easter Egg Hunt
	3:45 PM	Boy Scouts, LFH
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Session, UFH
	8:30 PM	Alcoholics Anon, LFH
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Book Club, PWCR
Wednesday	3:30 PM	B.O.W., M&S Center
Thursday	12:00 PM	Pastors' Bible Study
	5:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Dinner, UFH
	6:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	6:15 AM	Men's Fellowship, PWCR
	7:30 PM	Good Friday Service
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship Service
	Easter! 11:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service

Prison Ministry Breakfast | UFH | April 13 | 7:30am-11:30

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Prison Ministry Breakfast. People are needed to help with transportation, bookmark making, food preparation, and clean up. Sign up sheets are located in the Gathering Area.

Singles First Friday | April 21 | 2:30pm

We will be attending the matinee performance of *Forever Plaid* at the Mechanicsburg Little Theater. (MLT)

Courageous Conversations | April 21 | 6:30-8:00pm | St. Paul's United Church of Christ

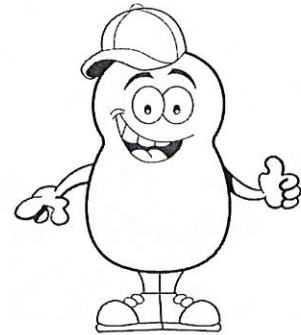
Join us for our fourth event in our Courageous Conversation. The topic will be "White Christian Nationalism." Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

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.

Upcoming Spring and Summer Opportunities:

Annual Baked Potato Brunch

Join us for our yummiest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Baked Potato Brunch! The brunch will be on Sunday, April 7, after the one worship service at 10:30am. We will be serving baked potatoes and all the fixins! Youth will meet before worship at 9:30am to help prepare for the brunch. Donations are welcome and appreciated. All proceeds will go toward supporting youth activities and service trips.



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 on Sunday, April 14, 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!



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

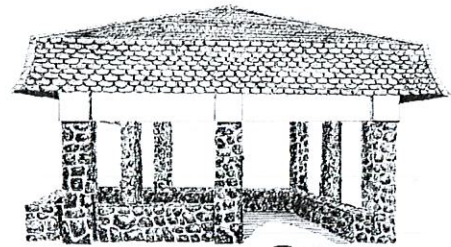
April Spiritual Retreat

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.

June Middle School Summer Conference

Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th 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. The total cost is \$100. Scholarships are available.

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 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.