

# The Cornerstone

Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, April 2020  
300 E. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
717-697-0351 \* mechpresby.org



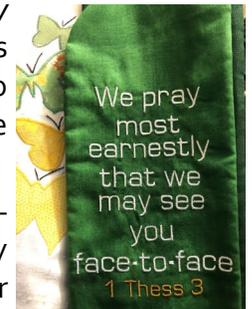
Beloved Children of God,

A few weeks ago a package came in the mail for me that I wasn't expecting. The return address gave very little clue so carefully I opened it and there was a beautiful stole with a verse that brought tears to my eyes, "*We pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face.*" The verse is from 1 Thessalonians and the stole was a gift from Pastor Mark who had also ordered one for himself so that we could continue to look like a team during a time when we are leading the same worship service, but from two different spaces, and apart from all of you.

I'll admit that as much as I was paying attention to the spread of COVID-19 in the beginning of the year, when we made the quick decision to move to online worship only on March 12th, I had no idea that we'd still be apart in May with no definitive date for our return.

At the Session meeting on May 18th the Session decided that **while Cumberland County remains in the red or yellow phase, MPC will not hold indoor worship and the building will remain closed.**

Although the yellow phase allows for gatherings of 25 people or less, the protocols that would need to be in place to ensure everyone's safety would be overwhelming for our staff, volunteers, and resources. We believe the safest choice for our congregation is to continue our online presence as well as utilizing other ways to keep the congregation connected. **(Continued on next page)**



***The Session of Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, June 7th at 11am for the purpose of approving the sale of 303 Shepherdstown Rd.***

The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. At 11am we will begin to admit people into the meeting and will aim to start the official business of the meeting by 11:15. To access the meeting you can click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89564162392?pwd=ejBUejRvTTNzcXdDZ2ZtaGNEeFpiUT09>

Meeting ID: 895 6416 2392

Password: 186666

OR you can access the meeting using your telephone. It is a toll call:

1-646-558-8656 or 1-301-715-8592 Password: 186666

We know this is unconventional but there is real concern that there will be a significant downward trend in the housing market and we'd like to get ahead of it. Although in Pennsylvania votes cannot be made by proxy we want to make sure everyone is heard so if you have any objections/questions/affirmations they can wait until the meeting or be mailed or emailed to Clerk of Session, Lorrie Weber (email: webz(at)verizon.net.).

## *Continued from front page...*

The Session has also elected a Task Force to bring to Session suggestions and guidelines for MPC's daily and Sunday activities as we move through this COVID-19 era. The members of the Task Force are: Lori Heenan (Christian Education), Nickie Shaddock (Communications & Marketing), Rick Whitcomb (Finance), Lanny Nesbitt (Property & Maintenance), Tim Wonder (Security), and Jim Honafius (Staff).

I have been in conversations with many of the area pastors and although some will open earlier than others, the majority of us have agreed on three values that will help us make decisions moving forward:

**Safety:** We are committed to taking appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of every person in every activity related to our congregations. We are aware that our interactions are not the same as in a business. Even with the same safety protocols in place (at least 6' physical distancing, face masks, hand washing and hand sanitizing, etc...) a faith community's purpose for coming together in those spaces are entirely different than for a business, and our purposes create a bigger risk.

**Hospitality:** We are committed to providing community, care, and comfort to our congregation members and our community of Mechanicsburg. We want as many as possible to participate in what we do. If we begin worshiping publicly with 25 people or less, then who gets left out? If we open our doors will the ones who are most vulnerable – either due to age or compromised immune systems – feel pressured to attend? We are concerned that our children, those who are intellectually disabled, and those with dementia might not understand the safety guidelines that we will have to put in place and then might feel unwelcome when we must enforce them.

**Clear Communication:** We will work with our congregations to provide resources for gatherings that are meaningful and safe. We will do our best to communicate what we believe are best practices moving forward, keeping in mind that due to the nature of hot spots and flare ups of the virus that are expected, we will need to be flexible. We will encourage our congregation members to continue to reach out to one another, their families, and friends. We will provide resources for those in our congregation and community that need physical, mental, financial, and/or emotional help.

MPC, this COVID-19 era is like nothing we've ever seen. I'm so grateful for your flexibility and commitment to taking care of one another even if we can't all be in the same space at the same time. Please continue to reach out to one another using all of the technology available to us—including pen and paper! Are you not sure where to start? Think about the people whose hands you usually shake during the Passing of the Peace—I'm sure they'd love to hear from you.

We miss you, MPC, and yet we know that God is with us and that whether we are in the building or not. We are still More People Caring!

Peace be with you,



Here's where you can find us:

**Worship is posted on both of these sites at 10am on Sunday mornings:**

Facebook.com/mechpresby.org

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaJzmPxSUDpTvZAsCSNfcEg> or just go to YouTube.com and type "Mechpresby" into the search engine

You can watch the videos any time you want after they post.

**A snippet of the sermon can be heard by calling this number: 717-896-0131**

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & FINANCIAL UPDATE

Exciting news from Capital Campaign headquarters as we have received a \$20,000 donation from a non-member in memory of his sister who occasionally attended MPC. We are grateful for their gift!

If you get a chance, drive by the church as WE HAVE NEW DOORS! We are hoping to get the rest of the doors replaced in July. The new HVAC system is slated for later in the summer.

Angie Stevens, with the guidance of the Finance Committee, is busy converting our former accounting program into Quickbooks with the goal of "going live" June 1st. This will allow us to more easily communicate where MPC's operating budget and capital campaign stand at this point. We are SO GRATEFUL for everyone who has continued to give to MPC, and have been humbled by the support from nonmembers who are watching our worship services online.

We expect the needs in our faith community and in Mechanicsburg to grow with the economic crisis so we are especially thankful that your generosity will allow us to continue to support those who need it.

In other financial news, our application was approved for the Federal Government's Payment Protection Plan. We will use these funds to cover payroll for MPC employees, including Playful Beginnings. Angie and Scott Rogers (Finance Committee) have sat in on a webinar explaining how to make sure the loan turns into a grant. The funds will begin to be used for the second May payroll.

### BUDGET REPORT

January 1-April 30th 2020

	<u>Actual</u> (YTD)	<u>Budget</u> (YTD)
<b>INCOME</b>		
Pledges	\$174,101.90	\$174,268.00
Sanctuary Offering	6,061.45	6,408.00
Other Income	4,587.31	2,643.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$184,750.66</b>	<b>\$183,319.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$122,074.44	\$126,608.00
Program Expense		
Worship & Music	750.09	1,828.00
Youth/Young Adults	1,675.36	1,180.00
Christian Education	3,132.67	3,063.00
Church Office	11,954.30	8,400.00
Utilities & Maintenance	40,680.42	32,797.00
Committees	2,097.81	1,897.00
Mission	21,766.00	18,693.00
Per Capita Apportionment	5,456.75	4,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$209,587.84</b>	<b>\$198,466.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$184,750.66</b>	
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$(24,837.18)</b>	<b>\$(15,147.00)</b>

### THANK YOU DON HOPPER!!!

On March 31, 2020 Don Hopper retired after almost 40 years as Treasurer of MPC.

Don began his service with MPC as Treasurer on June 1, 1980. One of the wonderful things about working with Don was he had a Treasurer's head, but a pastor's heart. One of our Finance Committee members said it best when she wrote, "His honesty, integrity, and discretion are beyond my simple words of gratitude."

Enjoy retirement!



#### Find us online!

www.mechpresby.org • Twitter: @mechpresby •  
Facebook: Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church or  
Mechpresby Members and Friends

## Congratulations 2019-20 Confirmation Class!

The following Confirmation Class members were welcomed into full church membership during our online worship service on Sunday, May 10:



**Tawona Chiwaka**  
**Joslyn Fry**  
**Trevor Fry**  
**Keira Giovagnoli**  
**Ian McCurdy**  
**Tyler Rogers**  
**Savannah Thomson**

And, thank you to their Confirmation Class teachers: Mark Allio, Lori Heenan, and Tim Wonder.



Graduate	School	Future Plans
Judy Chiwaka	Cumberland Valley High School	Planned to attend Radford University but due to pandemic will begin her studies in the fall at HACC towards her goal to be a Physicians Assistant
Kyle Gebhardt	Mechanicsburg Area High School	University of Pittsburgh, School of Business
Wyatt Hammel	Northern York High School	Plans to take a gap year and join the working world before heading to a technical school
Sarah Moll	Mechanicsburg Area High School	The Pennsylvania State University, Main Campus, Pre-Med major
Justin Rulapaugh	Cumberland Valley High School	The Pennsylvania State University, Main Campus, majoring in Industrial Engineering
David Zink	Mechanicsburg Area High School	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL, majoring in Spaceflight Operations
Tommy Marlin	Salisbury University, Bachelor degree in Interdisciplinary Studies	Ordinance Officer in the U.S. Army, he was commissioned on May 19 as a Second Lieutenant and is scheduled to report to Fort Lee in January.

If we missed your graduation information, please contact Angie Stevens, [astevens@mechpresby.org](mailto:astevens@mechpresby.org)

JULY 27-31, 2020  
More Information Coming Soon!

**JOIN US FOR**  
**AN AT-HOME/VIRTUAL VBS**



Want to hear a sermon snippet?  
**Dial 717-896-0131.**  
The message will change weekly.

*Please let your family members who are not able to watch the worship services know.*

If you and/or your family would like to get out of the house to do a little yard work, have we got the opportunity for you!

Contact Kevin Breen (email: [kevinjohnbreen@gmail.com](mailto:kevinjohnbreen@gmail.com)) and he will guide you to the festival of fun that best matches your skills and abilities.

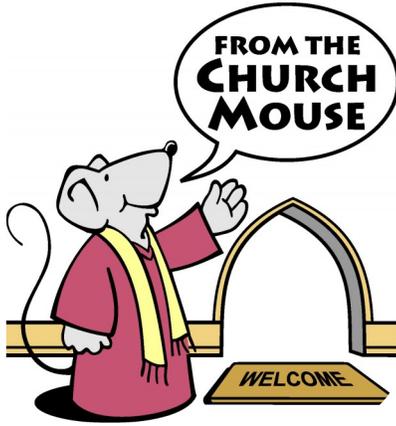


This is a great opportunity to give back AND to get outdoors!

### **CHANGES IN THE OFFICE—WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

We are currently in the process of changing our membership database and our accounting program. We are so grateful to Angie Stevens as she has been working diligently to help make this transition as smooth as possible.

You will be receiving a Giving Statement from the church at the end of May. **PLEASE CHECK THIS STATEMENT CAREFULLY!** If there are any discrepancies between your records and ours, please call the office—717-697-0351. At the end of June you will be receiving another statement, this one will be from the new system. Please check this statement over as well to make sure your records match and your personal information, including envelope numbers, are accurate. **THANK YOU!!!!**



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Ruth Lotz, Rebecca Lotz, and Mary Soltys** on the death of their mother **Joan "Jo" Lotz** on March 18, 2020. *Blessed are those that meet the Lord face to face.*

**Ran and Andy Singiser** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on May 14. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Kaitlyn (Knott) and Mike Kern!** They were married on April 25, 2020.

The Knott family have had much to celebrate. Besides Kaitlyn and Mike's wedding, **Coen Michael Knott**, all 7 lbs., 13 ounces, joined the family on May 10. Coen's proud parents are **Kevin and Lauren Knott**, proud grandparents are **Mick and Liz Knott**, along with proud **Aunt Kaitlyn** and **Uncle Kolin**. Welcome Coen!

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jim Speedy** who is retiring on May 29th from his position as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle. Jim has served in this position for 12 and 1/2 years—well done good and faithful servant!

Thank you for all your support through cards, prayers and meals as I recovered from knee surgery. It has uplifted my spirits and appreciate all your care and concern. *Sharon Chizar*

"Thank you everyone for you prayers, well wishes and all the wonderful food. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful Church family." *Bob & Joann Paré*

**Mark McKeever, Director of Music**, celebrated 3 years of service on May 1. Please join the Church Staff Committee in congratulating him and extending its thanks and appreciation for his service to MPC with special appreciation for his artistry that enhances and enriches worship.

**Angie Stevens, Office and Communications Manager**, celebrated her 1st year of service on May 20. Please join the Church Staff Committee in congratulating her and extending its thanks and appreciation for her gifted and dedicated service to MPC and its members.

Address Changes:

**Allio Family**  
35 Oakwood Avenue  
Mechanicsburg, PA. 17055

**Jo Walton**  
150 North 12th Street  
Lemoyne, PA. 17043

**Doug & Lin Baer**  
26 Diane Court  
Oakley, CA 94561  
602-413-3065

# Mental Health Help During COVID-19

## Crisis Text Line



Text 'PA'  
to 741741

## National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



1-800-273-8255

## Preventing suicide in PA



preventsuicide  
pa.org/

## Disaster Distress Helpline



800-985-5990

## Get Help Now for substance use disorder



1-800-662-4357

## Veterans in crisis



veterans  
crisisline.net

## PA's support helpline



855-284-2494

## Coping with COVID-19 stress



bit.ly/covid-coping

## COVID-19 resources



mhanational.  
org/covid19

## Pennsylvania 211: Get Connected. Get Help.™

There is a new helpline in Pennsylvania that you may not be aware of. If you need to connect with resources in our community, but don't know where to look, Pennsylvania 211 is a great place to start.

From help with a utilities bill, to housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, emergency food, job counseling, suicide prevention, and more, you can dial 211 or text your zip code to #898-211 to talk with an operator for free. The specialists will listen to your needs and give you information on programs in your community that might be able to help.

The PA 211 system is a free, confidential dialing code to quickly help connect Pennsylvanians to health and human service needs. It is the one-stop-shop for services, whether public or private, available in communities across Pennsylvania. Currently, the PA 211 system is funded by a combination of United Way support, state funding, grants and private contributions, and contracts.

To learn more about the PA 211 system, please visit <https://www.uwp.org/programs/2-1-1>.



## *The Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church*

300 East Simpson Street  
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-6596

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U.S. Postage  
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Mechanicsburg, PA  
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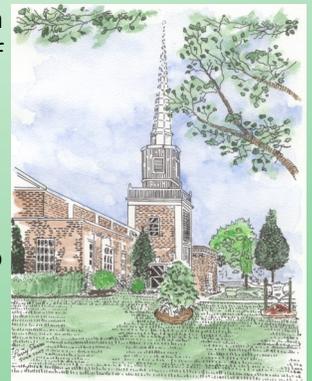
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Special Edition

## MPC Mission Statement

The Mission of the **Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church** is to glorify and serve God as a community of believers, and to bring people into the transforming presence and power of Jesus Christ through:

- **Worship** – Worship expresses our love for God through praise, prayer and proclamation.
- **Christian Education** – Christian Education invites us to risk opening our minds to transforming possibilities.
- **Christian Nurture** – Christian nurture puts a human face on God's Love.
- **Mission Calling** – Our ministry to others sets our feet in Christ's footprints.
- **Welcoming the Stranger** – Welcoming everyone into a relationship with God, not just into our building.



**In order to be faithful to this Mission, we will be:**

- A welcoming, diverse and hospitable community of faith,
- Committed to open communication within the community of faith, and
- Willing to risk our time, talent and financial resources trusting in God's faithfulness