



**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)  
March 17, 2024 • Fifth Sunday in Lent • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Time of the Season" | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*  
Lauren Wright Pittman | 2016 | A Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

**Gathering Around the Word**

*We gather knowing God is with us.*

**Quiet Meditation –**

"Life throws a variety of experiences at us, but if we continue to root ourselves deeply in our foundation and stretch out in openness to others and new experiences, we will stand firm through all seasons."

~ Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

**Prelude**

*Thanks Be to Thee*

GF Handel

**Welcome**

**Moment for Mission**

**\*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**

from Psalm 51

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**According to your abundant mercy, wash us from our sin.**

Teach me wisdom in the heart of my heart.

**Let us hear your joy and gladness!**

Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

**Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Let us worship God!**

**\*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.

**Living Christ, with whom and alongside whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to "me and mine." Yet you offer the promise of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be... (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.***

***See the Host all dressed in white, God's gonna trouble the water. The leader looks like an Israelite.***

***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**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

OT pg. 735

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

**Anthem (11am)**

*This Do in Remembrance of Me*  
MPC Chancel Choir

Judy Hunnicutt

**Second Lesson**

John 12:20-33

NT pg. 106

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

**Sermon**

*Promises Seen*

Rev. Emily D. Sutphin

**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 #223

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Hamburg

\*Declaration of Faith

The Confession of Belhar 10.6

*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 revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged. We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering. We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right. 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

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Robert Buckley Farlee

\*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 #247

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

Noël Nouvelet

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Response #209, v. 5

*My Song is Love Unknown*

Love Unknown

***Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.***

Postlude

*They Who Allow Dear God to Lead Them*

JSB, BWV 642

## 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](http://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 Tuesday night 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.



### EASTER EGG HUNT

Come out and join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to stay after church on March 24 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, & 6:00pm 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  
Marybeth Hummel (8:15), Bonnie Zink (11:00) – Readers

#### **Ministers**

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

#### **All members of the congregation**



**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

~~~~~

**Church Office Hours**

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

3/17/2024

**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**

**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:

### Courageous Conversations | Today! | 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.

### 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.

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

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

4/07 | Baked Potato Brunch Fundraiser | Kitchen

4/14 | Rummage Sale | UFH

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

## March 17 - March 24, 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    | 6:30 PM         | Courageous Conversations,<br>Camp Hill         |
|           | 8:30 PM         | Alcoholics Anon, LFH                           |
|           | 5:30 PM         | Tuesday Nights @ MPC,<br>UFH                   |
| Tuesday   | 6:15 PM         | Intergenerational Evening<br>Prayer, Sanctuary |
|           | 6:30 PM         | Girl Scouts, LFH                               |
|           | 3:30 PM         | B.O.W., M&S Center                             |
| Wednesday | 5:30 PM         | Bells of Celebration                           |
|           | 7:00 PM         | Chancel Choir                                  |
|           | 12:00 PM        | Pastors' Bible Study                           |
| Thursday  | 7:00 PM         | Word and Wine, Zoom                            |
|           | 6:15 AM         | Men's Fellowship, PWCR                         |
| Friday    | 5:30 PM         | CESJ Movie Night, UFH                          |
|           | 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                         |
|           | 12:00 PM        | 4th @ 304                                      |
|           | 3:00 PM         | Easter Egg Hunt                                |
| 3:45 PM   | Boy Scouts, LFH |                                                |

### 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.

### 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 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!



### April Spiritual Retreat

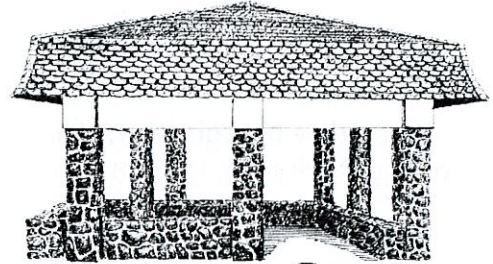
Mark your calendars to join us for an upcoming Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, April 27, 10am to 4pm at Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Spiritual retreats are an opportunity for us to take a break from our routines, slow down, and commune with God. We will spend time together in silence, prayer, and meditation. 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. 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_