



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
April 7, 2024 • Second Sunday of Easter • 10:30am



Rev. Heather Thum-Gerber | 2018 | Seeking Truth Designs

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation –

“God’s kingdom is the place of abundance where every generous act overflows its original bounds and becomes part of the unbounded grace of God at work in the world.”

~ Henri Nouwen, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*

Prelude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Welcome

Moment for Mission

PW Rummage Sale

Jessica Antenucci

***Introit #243**

Be Not Afraid

Berthier

(Sung 6x) Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

Written by Tim Graves, *LiturgyBits*

We gather as people on a journey.

We believe and we have doubts, we do good and we sin. We are imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.

Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.

We seek forgiveness and grace from the One and from those we’ve harmed.

Assured of that grace, we are ready to grow again.

We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.

Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here.

Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.

*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 are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and 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 #582

Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Vasile

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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 #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...

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

John 10:7-10

NT pg. 103

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

Anthem

Go and Tell

Anna Laura Page

MPC Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

NT pg. 122

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

Communion Meditation

Unexpected Abundance

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 #157 *I Danced in the Morning* Lord of the Dance

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory *O Sons and Daughters* Paul Sjolund
MPC Chancel Choir

*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!

The Lord's Supper – Please see insert

After the Words of Institution, you are invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive the gluten-free bread, then to the table on the side to receive the cup. There are also gluten-free individual packets in the back.

Bearing & Following the Word

We declare the Word of God throughout the week.

*Hymn #254 *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* Puer Nobis Nascitur

*Charge & Benediction

*Response *Thank You Lord* Spiritual
Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, I just want to thank you Lord!

Postlude *Toccata in Seven* John Rutter

Welcome to worship this morning!

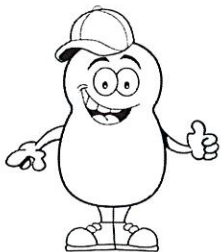
Bold print indicates congregational reading or response.

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.



Annual Baked Potato Brunch – Today!

Join us for our yummiest fundraiser of the year, the Annual Baked Potato Brunch! After worship today, we will be serving baked potatoes and all the fixins! Donations are welcome and appreciated. All proceeds will go toward supporting youth activities and service trips.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – Today!

Life is better together! Join us after worship for our New Member Class. 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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

GIVING + \$5



WE'VE DONE THE MATH!!!

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

As you know, we entered 2024 with a deficit budget of \$53,899 (okay, you might not have known the exact number). This budget reflects our commitment to an increase in programming and staffing that will help us carry out our mission of being More People Caring, fulfill our Matthew 25 initiative, and seek to make a difference in the world from the corner of Shepherdstown and Simpson.

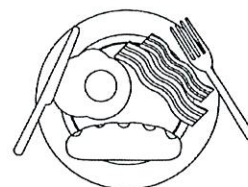
The good news is, we've done the math! If everyone who gives to MPC, adds just \$5 per week to their offering beginning April 7 (\$195 for the year) we will cover the deficit! Directions on how to access your online giving are below. We'll keep you posted on progress towards our goal.

Forget how to change your online gift? See below:

- 1) Go to mechpresby.org and click "Give" and then "Give Now" in the pull-down menu.
- 2) If you already have an account, on the top right-hand corner, click "Sign In".
- 3) Use your email address and password to sign in. Please note, the MPC office does not have this information.
- 4) Once logged in, click on "Giving" on the left-hand side of the screen.
- 5) Your current pledge should show up on the screen. To increase your amount, click on the 3 dots on the right-hand side (...) and then choose "Edit."
- 6) This will give you access to your current pledge donation so that you can easily add \$5 more per week.

Prison Ministry Breakfast

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the Prison Ministry Breakfast on Saturday, April 13 from 7:30-11:30 am. People are needed to help with transportation, bookmark making, food preparation, and clean up. Sign-up sheets are located in the Gathering Area.



Power-Wash Palooza

Do you have a power washer and like to blast away years of grime? Well, if you do, the MPC Property and Maintenance Committee needs your help on Sunday afternoon April 14 from 1:00- 2:30 pm to remove algae and dirt from brick walls, fencing, and siding at the mission center and the manse. Many hands make light work. If you can help, please contact Kevin Breen or Rick Whitcomb.

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
Ed Boggs (10:30) – Reader

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

Communion Liturgy

The Invitation to the Table

One: This table is where we practice being one – the longtime member, the visitor, the child, the friend, and the stranger. We are all welcome to eat at this table. This is not a Presbyterian table – it is for all members of the church universal. This is not a table for those who have not sinned – for no one would eat.

All: We come to this table, not because we must, but because we may. We come to testify not that we are righteous, but that we sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ and desire to be his true disciples. We come, not because we are strong, but because we are weak. We come to this table, not because of any goodness of our own, but because we need God's mercy and help. We come to this table not to testify that we are righteous, but to sincerely declare that we love God.

One: Beloved Children of God, come to the table of our Lord. All are welcome here...

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

One: The Lord be with You

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give our thanks and praise!

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. One God, holy and good, we have been united with you through the life and ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now may we who are united by your Spirit experience your presence in a bold and new way. Bless us who have gathered here out of love for you. Strengthen us by these gifts to serve you in the world and to share your love with everyone we meet. You welcome us and proclaim to the world that we all are connected, that we all belong.

And, so we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Hear our prayers for...

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him. Give us who are fed at his hand, grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God. We pray these things in the name of your Son. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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*

Word of Institution

*After the Words of Institution, you are invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive the gluten-free bread, then to the table on the side to receive the cup.
There are individual gluten-free Communion packets available in the back.
If you cannot come forward, Communion will be brought to you.*

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

God has set the table, has gathered us around it, and will transform us to see the world with the eyes of Jesus, hear the world with the ears of Jesus, speak to the world with the words of Jesus, to be the body of Christ in this hurting world.

The gifts of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

All: Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to help one another mature and grow as disciples, practicing life together, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**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**

4/07/2024

**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

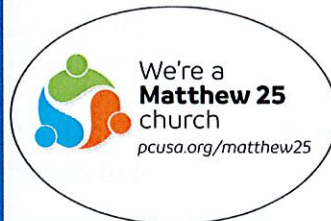


**TEXT**  
Text "MechPresby"  
to 73256



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

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**WEEKLY SERVICES & THINGS TO KNOW**

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

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

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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 Wisdom of Solomon

Thoughtful Christian | Upper Fellowship Hall

Short-term studies focused on current events & issues.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays 6:30pm 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.

### Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays Next one: Tuesday, April 16 | 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!

### 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

The topic will be "white Christian Nationalism." Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

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

4/07 | Baked Potato Brunch Fundraiser | Kitchen

4/14 | Rummage Sale | UFH | Volunteering!

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

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

## April 7 - April 14, 2024

|           |          |                                |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 9:30 AM  | Sunday School                  |
|           | 10:30 AM | Sunday Worship Service         |
|           | 11:30 AM | Youth Baked Potato Brunch, UFH |
|           | 11:30 AM | New Member Class               |
|           | Monday   | 7:00 PM                        |
|           | 8:30 PM  | AA, LFH                        |
| Tuesday   | 6:00 PM  | Girl Scouts, LFH               |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Race & the Church, PWCR        |
| Wednesday | 3:30 PM  | B.O.W., M&S Center             |
|           | 5:30 PM  | Bells of Celebration           |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Chancel Choir                  |
| Thursday  | 1:30 PM  | Mah Jongg, UFH                 |
| Friday    | 6:15 AM  | Men's Fellowship, PWCR         |
| Saturday  | 9:00 AM  | Prison Ministry Breakfast, UFH |
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service         |
|           | 9:35     | Sunday School                  |
|           | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service         |
|           | 1:00 PM  | Rummage Sale Collection        |
|           | 1:00 PM  | Power-wash Palooza             |

### Election Day Soup Sale | UFH | April 23 | ??? pm

The Women of MPC will be making chicken corn and hamburger vegetable soups for sale on Election Day. Sandwiches and desserts will also be available for purchase. Quarts of soup at \$8.50 and bowls are \$3.00.

### Dinner & a Movie Night | UFH | April 26 | 5:30pm Dinner

Come join the Christian Education and Social Justice Committee's Dinner & A Movie Night in UFH on Friday, April 26. Dinner will be ready at 5:30, movie will begin at 6. Our movie this month is *Hidden Figures*, rated PG. Bring a friend!

### 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, including singles, couples, and families! A free will offering will be taken.

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 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

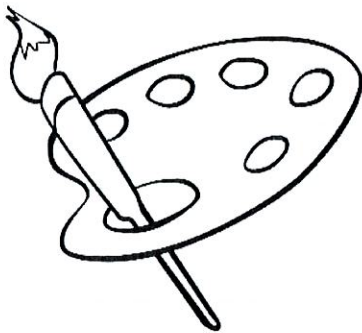
Mark your calendars to join us for an upcoming Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, April 27, 10am to 4pm at Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Spiritual retreats are an opportunity for us to take a break from our routines, slow down, and commune with God. We will explore trees as a spiritual metaphor and spend 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.



**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.

**Mothers and Others**



Everyone is invited to join MPC-PW in a special spiritual gathering on Saturday, May 11 from 9:30-11:30am to celebrate spring and all the strong, influential women in our lives. Pam Clayborne, Spiritual Director and Artist, will lead our group in a session called Prayer through Watercolor. Pam will guide us in ways that allow our hearts and imaginations to see what God may have to say to us. No experience, artistic talent, or flair is required! School-aged children are invited to attend along with their families. Reservations will begin in the Gathering Area after each service on April 21, April 28, and May 5. All drawing and painting materials will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Come join us for inspiration, fellowship, and fun!

**Snyder Scholarship**

**Attention High School Seniors & College students!**

Money for your college education is available through the Snyder Scholarship Fund of MPC! Ms. Anne M. Snyder, a teacher and member of MPC, left an endowment for both mission and for education. Each year, the Christian Education and Social Justice Committee awards scholarships to new and returning college students to help with the costs of their education. Forms to apply for this scholarship will be available from the Christian Education Director, csnyder@mechpresby.org. This year, the deadline to apply for a 2024-2025 scholarship is May 5. Questions? Contact Cathay