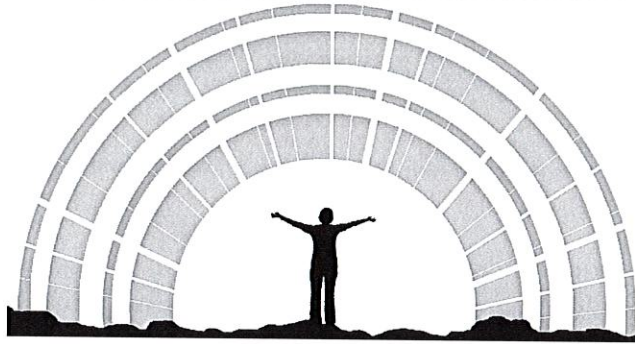




**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)  
April 14, 2024 • Third Sunday of Easter • 8:15 & 11:00am



**Gathering Around the Word**

*We gather knowing God is with us.*

**Quiet Meditation –**

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1, NRSV

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

**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...***

**\*Call to Worship**

based on Psalm 40, written by Nancy C. Townley

In times of trouble, when all seemed hopeless, I cried out to God.

**And the Lord heard my pleas and answered me.**

When I felt lost and alone, I looked for God.

**And God found me and brought me home.**

When my life was filled with joy and blessing, I danced and praised God.

**And God danced and rejoiced with me.**

**\*Hymn #234**

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

St. Kevin

**\*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 ignore the cries of the oppressed, and are 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 #589**

*Alleluia*

Honduras Alleluia

***Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***  
***Now the Lord is Risen indeed.***

**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 #48**

*Rain Down*

Cortez

***Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your people.***  
***Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.***

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Acts 3:1-10

NT pg. 120

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

**Anthem**

*Hallelujah*  
MPC Bells of Celebration

Leonard Cohen, arr. Joel Raney

**Second Lesson**

Acts 3:11-16

NT pg. 120

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

**Anthem (11:00am)**

*O Sons and Daughters of the King*  
MPC Chancel Choir

Paul Sjolund

**Sermon**

*Expect the Unexpected*  
*Unexpected Attention*

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 #610**

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Azmon

**\*Declaration of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.**

## 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

*Gaudeamus, Let Us Be Joyful*  
MPC Bells of Celebration

Arnold B. Sherman

### \*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

*Thank You Lord*

Spiritual

*Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, I just want to thank you Lord! Praise You Lord...*

### Postlude

*Tuba Tune*

Craig Sellar Lang

#### 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.

**The white rose is in memory of David J. Walter.** Dave joined MPC in 1955 and joined the Church Triumphant on April 2, 2024. Please keep his wife, Sally, and his family and friends in your prayers.

**The white rose is in memory of Roberta Mowery.** Roberta joined MPC in 1967 and joined the Church Triumphant on April 6, 2024. Please keep her son, David, and her family and friends in your prayers.

*Blessed are those who see the Lord face to face.*

Pastor Kathryn will be out of the office starting April 15 and will return April 22.

#### JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS

**Today!** – The Thoughtful Christian class will look at the story of Easter according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John!

**Next Week!** – The Thoughtful Christian class will be looking at Creation Care & Matthew 25. Since 1970, Earth Day has been observed annually on April 22. As Christians, we know that the Earth is a gift from God, and we are called to be good stewards of this creation. In this session, we'll explore how creation care is a part of our Matthew 25 calling as we act out boldly and compassionately to serve "the least of these."

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

### GIVING + \$5



WE'VE DONE THE MATH!!!

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

**Bumping up your giving just \$5 per week WILL make a difference!**

- \$5 helps buy snacks for Be Out Wednesday (BOW).
- \$5 is one copy of music for the choir.
- \$5 is sugar and cream for Coffee Fellowship.
- \$5 is nametags for Courageous Conversations.
- \$5 is caulk for a fixed leak.
- \$5 is a slice of pizza for 4<sup>th</sup> @ 304!

**\$5 per week or \$25 per month or  
\$200 for the year WILL make a difference!**

**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 OR text "MechPresby" to 73-256.
- 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.

### Power-Wash Palooza – Today!

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.

### Mulch Madness

Join us on Sunday, April 21 starting at 1:00pm for our Spring clean-up of the MPC gardens! Please plan to come out for fresh air and fellowship as we prepare for the growing season. In case of bad weather, the rain date is Sunday, April 28.

#### 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  
Maggie Stern (8:15), Karen Vandrew (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)..... mmmckeever@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](http://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

4/14/2024

# 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](http://MechPresby.org)  
Click "Give"



## 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 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 16 | 5:30pm Dinner**  
 We are taking Tuesday Nights on the road to the Harrisburg Senators' game! ALL ages are invited!  
 Contact Cathay Snyder if you plan on attending.

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

**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.

**Election Day Soup Sale | UFH | April 23 |**  
**10:00am-6:00pm**  
 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. Dinner will be ready at 5:30, movie will begin at 6. Our movie this month is *Hidden Figures* (PG)

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

**Today! | Rummage Sale | UFH | Volunteering!**

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

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

## April 14 - April 21, 2024

|           |          |                               |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service        |
|           | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                 |
|           | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service        |
|           | 1:00 PM  | Rummage Sale Collection       |
| Monday    | 1:00 PM  | Power-wash Palooza            |
|           | 8:30 PM  | AA, LFH                       |
| Tuesday   | 9:00 AM  | Rummage Sale, UFH             |
|           | 6:00 PM  | Tuesday Nights @ MPC          |
| Wednesday | 3:30 PM  | B.O.W., M&S Center            |
|           | 5:30 PM  | Bells of Celebration          |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Chancel Choir                 |
| Thursday  | 12:00 PM | Pastors' Bible Study          |
|           | 6:00 PM  | Rummage Sale Open to MPC, UFH |
| Friday    | 6:15 AM  | Men's Fellowship, PWCR        |
|           | 9:00 AM  | Rummage & Bake Sale, UFH      |
| Saturday  | 8:00 AM  | Rummage Sale, UFH             |
| Sunday    | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service        |
|           | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                 |
|           | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service        |
|           | 12:30 PM | Spring Clean-Up               |
|           | 3:45 PM  | Boy Scouts, LFH               |

**CARES Tour | May 5 | 1:00pm |**  
 Mission Committee is planning a tour of Community CARES. If you would like to join us, please contact Cindy Gorski, cagoski59@gmail.com

**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.

**Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays**  
**6:30pm**  
**Continues on Tuesday, May 14**  
 We will be discussing Chapters 8-11 of *The Color of Compromise*. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

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 **TODAY**, 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

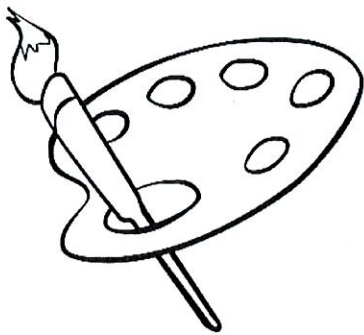
Mark your calendars to join us for an upcoming Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, April 27, 10am to 4pm at Monaghan Presbyterian Church. Spiritual retreats are an opportunity for us to take a break from our routines, slow down, and commune with God. We will explore trees as a spiritual metaphor and spend 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](mailto:csnyder@mechpresby.org). This year, the deadline to apply for a 2024-2025 scholarship is May 5. Questions? Contact Cathay