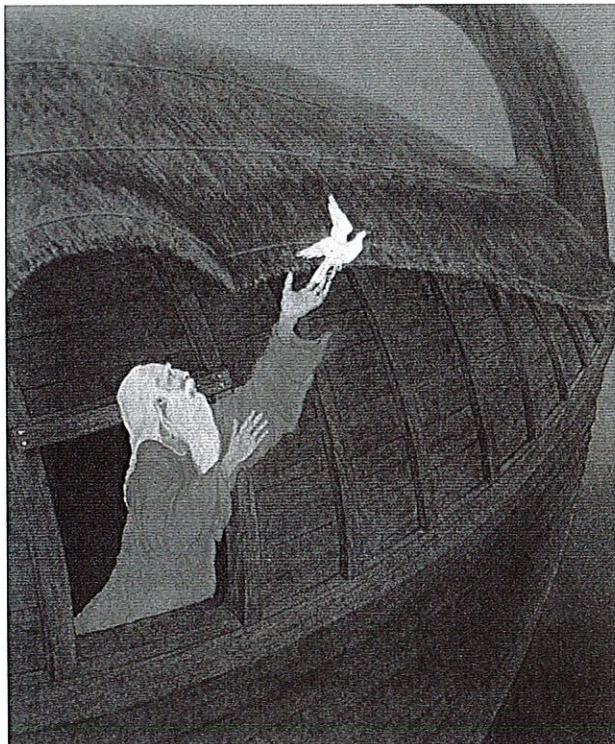




**MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351 • [www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)  
February 18, 2024 • First Sunday in Lent • 8:15 & 11:00am

*Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church is a marvelous mixture of God's people. We are strong and weak, sad and joyful, faithful and sinful, graced and searching, young and old, married, single, divorced and widowed. Regardless of who we are, we need one another and we need to celebrate Jesus Christ who lives within us. We're glad you're here!*



"Noah" | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*  
| Frank Wesley | A Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

### **Gathering Around the Word**

*We gather knowing God is with us.*

#### **Quiet Meditation –**

"The Crucified One is God's standing solidarity with the suffering, the tragedy, and the disaster of all time, and God's promise that it will not have the final word. The Risen One is God's final word about the universe and what God plans to do with all suffering." ~ Richard Rohr, *Immortal Diamond*

#### **Prelude**

*Andante from the Second Sonata for Solo Violin*  
Cindy Gorski, Guitar

JSB, BWV 1003

#### **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 3 times)*

**\*Call to Worship**

adapted from Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**In you, O Lord, I place my trust.**

Make me to know your ways,

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,**

For you are the God of our salvation,

**For you we wait, for you we worship.**

**\*Hymn #250**

*In the Bulb There is a Flower*

Hymn of Promise

**\*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.

**There are times, O God, that we forget all that you have given us. We have forgotten that rainbows are reminders of your great love. Your promises come in a variety of colors and shapes, and in our confused nature, we want to push everyone and everything into one box, one shape, and one size stating that this is how you would want things; as if we can control you. How wrong we have been. Remind us that you cannot be boxed up, that your promises cannot be controlled. Forgive our hubris and restore in us the assurance that trusting in you is a good thing. We pray these things confident in your love... (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 S. Francis*

Prayer of S. 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**

Psalm 25:1-10

OT pg. 502

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

**Anthem**

Create in Me A Clean Heart

John Carterr

MPC Chancel Choir

**Second Lesson**

Genesis 9:8-17

OT pg. 7

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



Sermon

*Promises, Promises*

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 #438

*Rock of Ages*

Toplady

\*Declaration of Faith

The Confession of Belhar 10.1-10.3

*The Confession of Belhar was approved in 2016. The Confession names unity, reconciliation, and justice as God's call to the church.*

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects, and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another (...) We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered. 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**

*Lonesome Valley*

George Lachenaureur

\*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 #166

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

S. Flavian

\*Charge & Benediction

**Response #209, v. 1**

*My Song is Love Unknown*

Love Unknown

***My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.***

***O who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?***

**Postlude**

*Fugue in E Minor*

Johann Pachelbel

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**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 begin its study and reflection on the Belhar Confession, using *Lenten Reflections on the Confession of Belhar*. These devotionals will take us daily through Lent as well as allow us to study and discuss how we are called to act through this Confession on Sunday mornings. Contact Cathay Snyder if interested in purchasing this book (\$10).

**2/23** The Thoughtful Christian class will continue its study and reflection on the Belhar Confession, using *Lenten Reflections on the Confession of Belhar*. We will be reflecting on the theme of unity found throughout the confession. These devotionals will take us daily through Lent as well as allow us to study and discuss how we are called to act through this Confession on Sunday mornings. Contact Cathay Snyder if interested in purchasing this book (\$10).

**A Different Kind of Fast**

Join Rebecca Langer for discussion on Sunday mornings during Lent. We will be using a book by a former student of Rebecca's, Christine Valtner Paintern's *A Different Kind of Fast: Feeding Our True Hungers in Lent*. Sign up with Cathay Snyder and let her know if you would like a copy of the book (\$10).

**Game Night!**

Join us for Game Night on Sunday, March 3 at 3:00pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games and friends for an evening of fellowship, fun, and friendly competition! If you are new to the world of Mah Jongg or want to sharpen your skills, come at 2:00pm to learn how to play. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you would like to participate in the Mah Jongg lessons. Mark your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you there!

**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  
Karen Weigel (8:15) Daniel Hajnik (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



# 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

The office will be closed  
February 19th.

2/18/2024

# 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



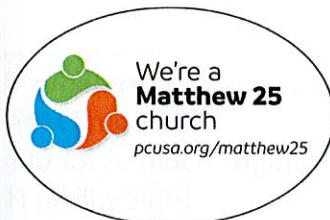
**IN SERVICE**  
Offering stands  
by doors



**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.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped pack Gift of the Heart kits for Presbyterian disaster Assistance. We made 84 kits!

Thank you for your participation in Margie's Love Sunday, we received over 700 food items for Stop the Violence!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays**  
**Next one: Tuesday, February 20 | 5:30pm Dinner**  
 ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. Cathay will share an overview of the inaugural Matthew 25 Summit.  
**CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL AT 6PM.**

**Untapped Conversations | Thursday, February 22 | 7:00pm | Appalachian Brewing Company**  
 Join us for some lively conversation and lots of laughter! Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder!  
 Address: 6462 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

**Dinner & a Movie Night**  
**UFH | Friday, February 23 | 5:30pm Dinner**  
 Come join us for dinner and a movie! Dinner will be ready in 5:30pm, movie will begin at 6:00. Our movie will be *Ruby Bridges*, it is good for the whole family!

### 6th—12th Grade Events

***Friends Are Always Welcome!***

**2/25|4th @ 304| 6pm-7:30| M&S Center**

**3/10|Escape Room!| 6:00pm-8:00| M&S Center**

**WE NEED TO RESERVE OUR SPACE SO PLEASE LET PASTOR EMILY KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE GOING!**

**3/24|4th @ 304| 6pm-7:30| M&S Center**

### February 18 - February 25, 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    | 9:00 AM  | Joyful Stitches                 |
|           | 8:30 PM  | Alcoholics Anon, LFH            |
| Tuesday   | 5:30 PM  | Tuesday Nights @ MPC            |
|           | 6:00 PM  | Girl Scouts                     |
| Wednesday | 2:00 PM  | Soul Journey, Library           |
|           | 3:00 PM  | B.O.W., M&S Center              |
|           | 5:30 PM  | Bells of Celebration            |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Chancel Choir                   |
| Thursday  | 12:00 PM | Pastor's Bible Study            |
|           | 7:00 PM  | Untapped, ABC                   |
| Friday    | 6:15 AM  | Men's Fellowship, PWCR          |
|           | 5:30 PM  | Dinner & a Movie, 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          |
|           | 6:00 PM  | 4th @ 304, M&S Center           |
|           | 6:30 PM  | Courageous Conversations, McBic |

**Courageous Conversations | February 25 | 6:30-8:00pm | Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church**  
 Join us for our second Courageous Conversation. The topic will be Human Trafficking in the Mid-State Area. Questions? Contact Pastor Emily Sutphin.

**Race & the Church | PWCR | 2nd Tuesdays 7 PM**  
**Continues on Tuesday, March 12**  
 We will be discussing Chapters 4-5 of *The Color of Compromise* covering the antebellum years after the American Revolution and the onset of the Civil War. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

### Holy Week & Easter Schedule

**3/24 | Palm Sunday | 8:15 & 11:00am**  
**3/28 | Maundy Thursday | 5:30pm Dinner, & 6:30 Worship**  
**3/29 | Good Friday | 7:30pm**  
**3/31 | Easter | 9:30 & 11:00am**

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.