



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
February 25, 2024 • Second Sunday in Lent • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Starry Night" | from *Art in the Christian Tradition*
| Vincent van Gogh | 1888 | A Project of Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation –

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?" ~ *The Summons*

Prelude

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn, Op. 37

Welcome

*Introit #313, v. 2

Lord Make Us More Holy

African American Spiritual

*Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving; Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again: loving, loving, loving, until we meet again. (Repeat 3 times)*

*Call to Worship

adapted from Psalm 22

As the weak realize their strength; as the poor eat and are satisfied,

God's love abides in us.

As the stranger finds a friend; as the family offers forgiveness,

God's love abides in us.

As the ends of the earth know of Christ's grace,

God's love abides in us.

*Hymn #49

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

***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.

In the community of Christ's church and in the presence of all God's people, we confess to God that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved God, cared for God's world, or respected God's people as we should. Though you desire us, we often miss you trying to connect to us. We own our responsibility and pray for your forgiveness... (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.

Jordan's water is chilly and cold, God's gonna trouble the water. It chills the body but not the soul.

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

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***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

Genesis 17:1-7

OT pg. 13

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

Anthem (8:15)

Create in Me A Clean Heart
MPC Chancel Choir

John Carter

Second Lesson

Genesis 17:8-16

OT pg. 13

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 #726

The Summons

Kelvingrove

***Declaration of Faith**

The Confession of Belhar 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 the unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another, that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another. That we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another. That we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope. 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

Near the Cross

John Barr

***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 #39**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

***Charge & Benediction**

Response #209, v. 2

My Song is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

***He came from heaven's throne salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.***

***But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!***

Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin

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.

Rev. Emily D. Sutphin will be out of the office from February 27th through March 4th

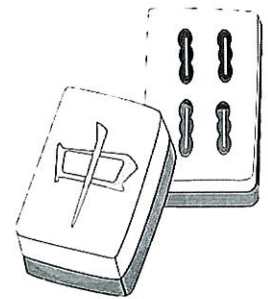
JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS

Today! – 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).

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 what it means for a church to confess. Contact Cathay Snyder for more information.

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!



For the Beauty of the Earth...

This week's tip for caring for God's Creation:

There are only 24 more days until the official start of Spring! Here is a tip for an **eco-friendly garden**: consider planting plants that are native to the Central PA area. Native plants tend to be lower maintenance because they are more adapted to the local climate, they require less water, and they are beneficial to the local wildlife!

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
Bryan Zerbe (8:15), Willow Riel (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

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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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

2/25/2024

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



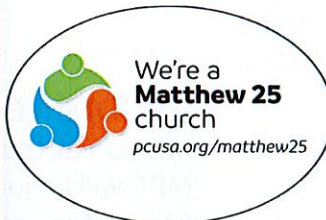
IN SERVICE
Offering stands
by doors



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 | Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ

Join us for our second Courageous Conversation. The topic will be Human Trafficking in the Mid-State Area. Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Next one: Tuesday, March 5 | 5:30pm Dinner
 ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. *CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL AT 6PM.*

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.

Ukrainian Easter Eggs | UFH | March 12 & 13 | 6:00-8:00pm

Join the Fellowship Committee for an Easter craft event. This is a beginner class on decorative eggs. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Please note the class is limited to 25 participants. No art degree required! Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

February 25 - March 3, 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
	6:00 PM	4th @ 304, M&S Center
	6:30 PM	Courageous Conversations, McBic
Monday	7:00 PM	Session, UFH
	8:30 PM	Alcoholics Anon, LFH
Tuesday	7:00 PM	Book Club, PWCR
Wednesday	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
Friday	6:15 AM	Men's Fellowship, PWCR
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
	2:00 PM	Mah Jongg Lessons, UFH
	3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Game Night, UFH

UPCOMING SERVING & LEARNING TRIP:

Mission at the Eastward (M.A.T.E.)

MPC will be joining with Camp Hill Presbyterian Church for a serving and learning trip to Mission at the Eastward in western Maine **July 20-27**. Registration opens next Sunday, March 3 and is due by April 30! This trip is for anyone 14 years old or older. 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.

6th—12th Grade Events

Friends Are Always Welcome!

Today! | 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

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.