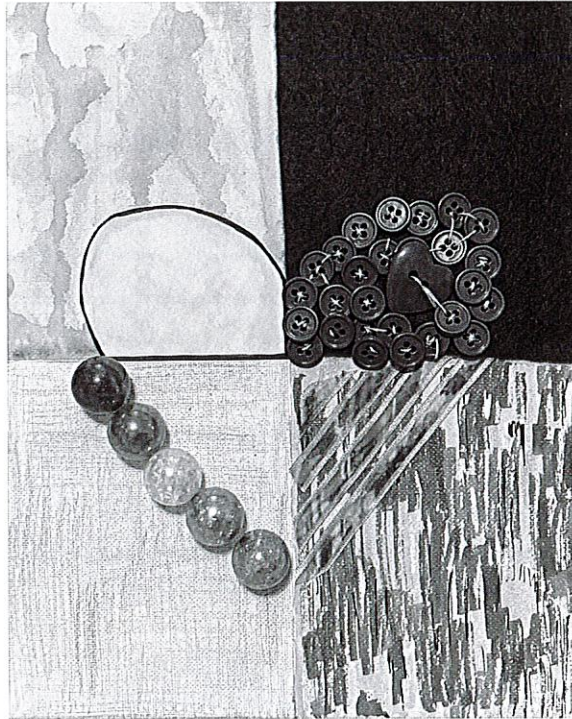




MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
300 East Simpson Street • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596
717-697-0351 • www.mechpresby.org
May 5, 2024 • Sixth Sunday of Easter • 8:15 & 11:00am



"Pieces of Love" | Sadie Gass

Gathering Around the Word

We gather knowing God is with us.

Quiet Meditation – “The Gospel is before all else a call to *live* differently so that life can be shared with others.” ~ Richard Rohr

Prelude

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Welcome

***Response #466**

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Confitemini Domino

(Sing 3x) Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

adapted from Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done wonderful things!

God has shown us steadfast love and faithfulness throughout all generations.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Rejoice and sing your praises!

Let the sea and everything in it roar!

Let all the rivers clap their hands and the mountains sing out!

For the Lord has come to establish justice on earth.

It is with joy that we give the Lord our thanks and praise!

***Hymn #263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Coronation

***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 10:44-48

NT pg. 130

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

Anthem (11:00)

Go Ye Into All the World

Eugene Butler

MPC Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

John 15:9-17

NT pg. 109

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

Communion Meditation

Expect the Unexpected

Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston

Unexpected Welcome

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 #405 *Praise God for this Holy Ground* Heymonystraat

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Offertory *Come Holy Spirit, Lord God* Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

*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 #318 *In Christ There is No East or West* St. Peter

*Charge & Benediction

*Response #601 *Amen* Danish Amen

Postlude *Toccata Real* Antonio Soler

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 boxes located at each of the Sanctuary 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.

The white rose is in memory of Jean George. Jean joined the Church Triumphant on April 25, 2024. Please keep her husband, John, friends, and family in your prayers.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5/12 – 8:15 & 11am – Pastor Emily

5/19 – 8:15 & 11am – Pentecost! Music Appreciation! Confirmation Class! Sunday School Party!

5/26 – 9:30am – Trinity Sunday - Pastor Kathryn

6/2 – 9:30am – Pastor Kathryn's Sabbatical Send-Off – BRUNCH at 10:30am

JOIN US IN THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN CLASS

Today! – Celebration or Appropriation? The US celebrates lots of “holidays” adopted from other cultures.

When are we celebrating another culture and when are we appropriating it?

5/12 – Pastor Kathryn will provide more information and answer questions about her upcoming sabbatical.

GIVING + \$5



WE'VE DONE THE MATH!!!

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

Giving +\$5 WILL make a difference!

We saw an *immediate* response to our +\$5 per week request. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED!!! Once we "close" the books on the month of April, we will report back to you where we are in our quest to close the operating budget deficit!

We approved our 2024 budget with a significant deficit. Yes, we did this on purpose. We know we can overcome this deficit and so we did the math. If everyone gives just \$5 more per week in their offering (or \$25 monthly or \$200 for the year) – we can close the gap on the deficit!

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Accidents and spills are a daily part of kindergarten life for the 300 full-day students at Mechanicsburg's Kindergarten Academy. How can you help? You can support this Deacon ministry by donating new underwear, socks, sweatpants, shorts, and shirts. You may also contribute gently used sweatpants/shorts. All clothing should be sizes 4 through 7. Donations may be made before or after worship on **May 5** and **12** in the box in the Gathering Area, or outside the church office during business hours. If you have questions, contact Marybeth Hummel. Thank you for your support of Mechanicsburg's youngest students!

Vacation Bible School @ MPC

"S.O.S: Sending Out Servants"

Join us for VBS August 5-9, 9:00am-noon. Registration is now open for preschoolers through fifth grade and can be found on the church website.

Teens and adults, please let us know if you are interested in volunteering!

Some of the items needed for VBS this year include:

Chapstick
Fabric Crayons/Markers
Handwarmers
Masking Tape
Socks
Washable Markers

Cotton Balls
Fall Flower Seeds
Highlighters
Pool Noodles
Washcloths
White Crayons

Travel Size: Soap, Deodorant, Toothbrush/paste, Sunscreen, Tissues, & Shampoo.

Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder.

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
Gary Andersen (8:15), Esther Mullen (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) mmckeeper@mechpresby.org
Church Administrator Angela J. Weir (she/her) aweir@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director Karen P. Taylor (she/her) playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.com

Communion Liturgy

One: Together, we are all adopted into God's family. We are all siblings in the family of God. Today, we gather around this table with everyone God has created, beautifully and wonderfully made, and we are united in how much God loves us. Everyone is invited to communion – there is no test to pass. God's table is not just for Presbyterians or adults – it is for everyone.

Many: This is the Lord's table. Our God invites all of us to the feast which has been prepared.

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

The Lord be with You

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks and praise!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. We praise you for those who came before us, for the faithful in every age who have followed your Son and witnessed to his resurrection. From every race and tongue, every people and nation, every gender and social status, you have gathered them into your kin-dom. You have shown them the path that brings life and filled them with the joy of your presence.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful in every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Many: *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: O God, remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer our very selves to you, listening to your encouragement to become hearers and doers of your Word. Great is the mystery of faith:

Many: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. God of abundant mercy and love, hear our prayers we offer to you in the name of your Son, Jesus, saying: In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God of joy and peace, we thank you for life and fresh air, for morning and evening, for rain and sun, for all you give us to sustain life and all you give us so that we may thrive. We thank you for the unexpected abundance you have bestowed upon us. Most of all, thank you for Jesus, who died and rose again to make real the promise of new life. We thank you for your unfailing mercy. In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We ask, God, that we might be shaped into a church that ministers every day to bring people together in your name, for hearts that will not judge, for minds that recognize injustice and oppression in all its forms, and for spirits that are open to answer your call. Teach us to pay attention to the world around us and help us to use our power in unexpected ways to help others. Hear us, God, and help us to be your church. In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our hearts, Holy One, to respect and honor those we think are different than us. Let us see in peoples of every nation the beauty of the diversity you have created. Help us to see unexpected beauty in new relationships. Hear us, O God, and help us to love the world as you love. In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for bodies and spirits in need of healing, for those who are in pain, for those awaiting new life. Hear us, God, and help us be compassionate. We pray for all those on our hearts and minds today and all who have needs only you know... In your mercy, Lord, **hear our prayer.**

As we gather around God's table, we give thanks, we break bread, and we share with everyone around us. All are welcome here. With thanksgiving for all your good gifts and the opportunity to gather here, we pray in the name of the one God, creator of us all, and through Christ Jesus, who taught us to pray saying, saying:

**Many: 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.**

Words of Institution

*You are invited to come forward using the center aisle. After receiving the **gluten-free** bread, move to the table on the side, drink from a cup, and place it in the receptacle. There are also individual gluten-free Communion packets available in the back.*

Prayer after Communion

All: Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Give us joy to receive it fully and courage to live it fully, through Jesus Christ, your Wisdom and Word. 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

~~~~~

**Church Office Hours**

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

5/5/2024

**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**

**Summer Worship begins May 26 – 9:30am**

-----

**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, Philippians  
**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:

### 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, cagorski59@gmail.com

### Tuesday Nights @ MPC | UFH | May 7 | 5:30pm

It's the last Tuesday Nights @ MPC of the year! ALL ages are invited for dinner, fellowship, and activities. Children's choir rehearsal @ 6pm.

### Mothers & Others | UFH | May 11 | 9:30-11:30am |

Join PW for a guided *Prayer Through Watercolor* session led by Spiritual Director Pam Clayborne - no experience needed! Sign up in the Gathering Area. Cost is \$10.00. Children 12 and under are free. All materials provided.

### 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!

### Race & the Church | PWCR | May 14 | 6:30pm

We discuss Chapters 8-11 of *The Color of Compromise*. Questions? Contact Cathay Snyder!

### Courageous Conversations | May 19 |

6:30-8:00pm | Monaghan Presbyterian Church

The topic for this conversation will be "Grief." Questions? Contact Pastor Emily.

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

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

| May 5– May 12, 2024 |          |                                          |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|
| Sunday              | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service                   |
|                     | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                            |
|                     | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service                   |
|                     | 2:00 PM  | Mah Jongg, UFH                           |
| Monday              | 9:00 AM  | Men's Breakfast, Brother's               |
|                     | 7:00 PM  | Deacons                                  |
|                     | 8:30 PM  | AA, LFH                                  |
| Tuesday             | 9:30 AM  | PW Circle                                |
|                     | 5:30 PM  | Tuesday Nights @ MPC, UFH                |
|                     | 7:00 PM  | PW Circle                                |
| Wednesday           | 3:30 PM  | B.O.W., M&S Center                       |
|                     | 7:00 PM  | Chancel Choir                            |
| Thursday            | 12:00 PM | Pastors' Bible Study                     |
|                     | 1:30 PM  | Mah Jongg, UFH                           |
| Friday              | 6:15 AM  | Men's Fellowship, PWCR                   |
|                     | 4:00 PM  | Mechanicsburg Friday Market, Parking Lot |
|                     |          |                                          |
| Saturday            | 9:30 AM  | Mothers & Others, UFH                    |
|                     | 7:00 PM  | Spring Fling Dance, UFH                  |
| Sunday              | 8:15 AM  | Sunday Worship Service                   |
|                     | 9:35 AM  | Sunday School                            |
|                     | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship Service                   |
|                     | 2:00 PM  | Mah Jongg, UFH                           |

### Midwest Food Bank | May 21 | 5:00-7:00pm |

Come volunteer at Midwest Food Bank in Middletown. MFB is an independent, faith-based food bank that works to alleviate hunger locally and throughout the world. All are welcome! Sign up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact Michael Heindel or Susan Van Zile.

## Thank you!!!

On April 13th, the Upper Fellowship Hall was filled with meaningful conversation and lots of good food as we hosted our Community Connection Reentry Breakfast for incarcerated individuals getting ready to leave the prison system. A huge thank you to everyone in our congregation for your help with all aspects of the breakfast.

You truly are More People Caring!

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.