

## MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596

[www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org) • 717-697-0351

August 20, 2017 • 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • 9:30 AM

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*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!*



*If you have a prayer request you would like to share with the pastors, please fill out a card from the pew rack and pass it to the center aisle where an usher will collect it during the first hymn. The Prayer Chain and staff pray for those you have mentioned and others throughout the week. Please let us know of any changes.*

### **Gathering Around the Word**

*We gather knowing God is with us.*

"Mission keeps the church alive. The things that we believe are really important, but doctrines are hard things to love. What's going to draw people in is our love and our community and our compassion."

– Shane Claiborne

### **Prelude**

*Largo in G Major*

G. F. Handel, HWV 40

From Xerxes, Edited by Diane Bish

### **Welcome & Concerns of the Church**

*During this time, please take a moment to sign the pew pad and pass it along the pew, taking note of the persons sitting with you so you can greet them warmly by name.*

### **\*Introit #399 (3x)**

*God Welcomes All*

***God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.***

**\*Call to Worship**

The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears.

**Call us into your way of life, O God.**

The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision.

**Lead us into your vision of life, O God.**

The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts.

**Guide us in your example of living for others, O God.**

Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with Your love, O God.

**Let us be your hands and feet in the world, O God. Let us worship you together.**

**\*Hymn #733**

*We All Are One in Mission*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEN

**\*Prayer of Confession**

I was shopping for high thread-count sheets when a neighbor said,

**I have no bed.**

I stood at an appliance store comparing consumer reports on microwave ovens when a neighbor admitted,

**I have no food.**

I hired a decorator to remodel my kitchen and add more cabinets when a neighbor begged,

**I have no cup.**

I dreamed of building a getaway place, a cabin in the woods, a country place. Across the street came the whisper,

**I have no country.**

I bought a larger television for a loved one's pleasure when a neighbor murmured,

**I have no loved ones.**

**May God forgive us when we don't hear or see the suffering around us. Help us move toward a wealth not dependent on possessions, a wisdom not based on books, a strength not bolstered by might, toward a God not confined to heaven... (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.*

*Remember your baptism!*

God says to us: You are my chosen ones. I love you. Know that I have forgiven you; I call you by name; you are mine. I have entered into covenant with you and will stand by you in all times and all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*Response #581**

*Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;***

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

**\*The Passing of God's Love and Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you... **And also with you.**

**Thanksgiving for Service**

Cathay Snyder

## Moment with the Children

## Blessing of the Backpacks

*All children are welcome to stay in worship. There is a nursery available for children up to age 5.*

O Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As these your children begin their studies, we ask a blessing on their backpacks in which they carry the books and notebooks, markers and pens and pencils they will use to learn. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days and weeks and months. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, all school administrators that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to their care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, each one gathered here that we will seek every opportunity to grow in our knowledge and love of you – in our church school classes, all our classes for youth and students and adult learners. Grant that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

And bless, O God, these our cherished children, those whom we have promised to love and nurture at their baptism. Keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them ever seeking to learn more and to develop their gifts. Grant that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, these backpacks and the children who carry them. O Lord of Life and Love,

**Hear our prayer. Amen.**

## Prayer for Illumination

### First Lesson

Matthew 28:18-20

N.T. p. 34

This is the Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

### \*Hymn #697

*Take My Life*

HENDON

We invite children to remain in worship. There is a nursery available for infants through 5 year olds.

### Second Lesson

Matthew 15:10-28

N.T p. 17

This is the Word of the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

*Lord Help Us*

The Reverend Drew Stockstill

### Responding to the Word

*We affirm our faith and commitment to the Word of God.*

## Commissioning of Madison Neimer as a Young Adult Volunteer (see insert)

### \*Declaration of Faith

#### \*Hymn #481

*I Believe in God the Father*

GENEVAN 42

## Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer (debt...debtors)

### Offering of Tithes & Gifts

*Worshippers: Please place the top sheet of the fellowship pads in the offering plates.*

#### Offertory

*Harpichord Suite No. 8 in G Major  
Allemande, Courante, Aria*

G. F. Handel, HWV 441

#### \*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

##### **Bearing & Following the Word**

*We declare the Word of God throughout the week.*

#### \*Hymn #726

*The Summons*

KELVINGROVE

#### \*Charge & Benediction

#### \*Choral Response #541, v.1

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

RANDOLPH

***God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.***

#### \*Postlude

*Trumpet*

J. Barr

\*\*\* Please greet one another in Christ's name \*\*\*

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**VISITORS:** Welcome! Information about MPC can be found in the packets in the pews. If you are interested in additional information, please ask anyone around you or contact one of the pastors. Fair trade coffee and snacks are served after worship in the Gathering Area just outside the Sanctuary doors. This is also where you will find the restrooms, including baby changing stations. Children's worship kits are located in the back of the Sanctuary.

The flowers are placed to the glory of God and in honor of our grandchildren, Ava and Thomas, by Rick and Jan Burrows; and in memory of loved ones by Larry and Janet Sharer. The yellow rose in the Sanctuary symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

We welcome the Rev. Drew Stockstill as our guest pastor this morning. He is the Director of Health Ministries at Christ Lutheran Church in the heart of Harrisburg's vibrant Allison Hill neighborhood. An ordained PC(USA) pastor, Drew has served as associate pastor at Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and as Presbyterian Campus Minister at Emory University and Agnes Scott College. Drew is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Presbyterian College. Before seminary Drew served the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in Kenya with The Outreach Foundation. Drew grew up in Thomasville, Georgia and is married to Dr. Ellen Stockstill, Assistant Professor of English at Penn State Harrisburg. They have a daughter, Lydia Grace and two Bernese Mountain Dogs.

The two red roses are placed in celebration of the birth of Felicity Marilyn and Freya Camille Russaw to Starro and Alison Russaw on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Taylin and Makenzie are the twins' sisters, Jack and Jan Eger their grandparents, and Darin and Sarah, Glavin and Julia, their extended family. Congratulations!

The white rose on the communion table is placed in memory of Velma E. Wollett. Velma joined MPC along with her husband, Eugene H., on December 27, 1961 and entered the Church Triumphant August 12, 2017. Velma served as a Deacon from 1986 – 1989 and donated the harpsichord in memory of Gene and her mother, Mary E. Thomas. She is survived by a niece and nephew. Jesus said: *I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.*

The third red rose is to celebrate the birth of William Francis Savidge on August 11<sup>th</sup> to Chris and Jean Savidge. William is the little brother of Abby, grandson of Rod and Kim Savidge, nephew to Matt and Brandy, and cousin to Jackson.

Madison Neimer will soon begin her call to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer in Chicago, IL for a year through the Presbyterian Church (USA) alongside a partnering organization called DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). Through the YAV program she accepted the position as an Engagement Specialist at a nonprofit women's service called *New Moms*. *New Moms* supports women between 13 – 24, and their children, who are experiencing poverty and homelessness. She will be working as a liaison between full time staff, frequent volunteers, and the women and children, in the program. She is thrilled to be working for an organization with over 30 years of community experience in a field so close her heart.

Thank you for your prayers and unconditional support for Madison within this MPC Community. For more information, you can contact Madison (717-576-9069 or [mneimer26@gmail.com](mailto:mneimer26@gmail.com)).

Thank you, MPC, for the cards and phone calls of concern on the loss of my daughter. ~ Barbara Showers  
Pastor Mark is attending a conference today through August 23.

**HEALING & WHOLENESS** – If you wish to receive prayers, the laying on of hands and/or anointing with oil for you or another, walk up to the waiting church leaders by the prayer room at the left side of the Sanctuary during the postlude and express your need. Petitions are offered for healing and wholeness (physical, mental and spiritual) for ourselves and for others. This time is for concerns, burdens and grief, as well as for the need of feeling God's presence in one's life.



## Peach Festival

### Saturday, August 26, 4-6:30 PM

### Pre-Peach Festival Help Needed

**SIGN-UP TODAY TO VOLUNTEER** with Peach Festival preparations and/or help the day of the Festival.

**Tuesday, August 22** – 1 PM in the church kitchen – chicken pickin'

**Friday, August 25** – beginning at 9 AM in the church kitchen – pare peaches and bake pies

**Prior to Friday, August 25** – Make pie shells at home (tin pie plates provided in kitchen) and return by **9 AM**

**Friday**. Any questions call Pat Heintzelman (717-766-2001 or 717-802-2880).

**Saturday, August 26** – 3:45 - 6:45 PM – shifts of an hour and a half to serve, clean tables, etc.

If you are interested in helping, PLEASE just "**SHOW UP!**" Any questions – contact Suzy Brenner (717-497-2745 or email [suzy2745@gmail.com](mailto:suzy2745@gmail.com)).

**Soup sign-up sheets are available** in the Gathering Area.

We are taking **Pre-Orders** for the Chicken Corn Soup. The cost is \$6/quart (limit 2 qts.). You may pre-order soup today following services or contact Suzy Brenner. Let us know if you are bringing a container (marked with your name) for your soup or if we need to provide containers. ***Due to limited refrigerator space, orders MUST be picked up at the Peach Festival by 6 PM.*** You may also call **Suzy Brenner (717-497-2745)** to place your order. Soup **will NOT** be sold by the quart at the Peach Festival.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S PROGRAMS!**

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**Joyful Hearts** – We welcome all who love Jesus and want to know Him better. Our next study would be the Book of Acts beginning **Sunday, September 17 at 9:30 AM**. We meet in Rm. 102 of Upper Fellowship Hall. This Bible study involves reading approximately two chapters of Acts a week with a study guide. If you want to join us, please contact **Suzy Brenner by September 3** ([suzy2745@gmail.com](mailto:suzy2745@gmail.com) or 717-497-2745) so she can order a study guide for you to have for the first class. Come and join us and be excited to learn more about the Holy Spirit, who can **CHANGE your life**.

# More People Caring

**Participating in Worship:**  
**Greeters:** Nancy Craine, Prudy Taney, Karen Weigel  
**Ushers:** Dan Hajnik, Ed Rogers, Scott Rogers, Rich Heeter  
**Reader:** Renée Breen  
**Nursery:** Sunny Podolak, Riley Nelson, Danielle Martin  
**Fellowship Host:** Rick & Jan Whitcomb  
**Church to Pray for:** Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA

## WEEK OF AUGUST 20 - 27, 2017

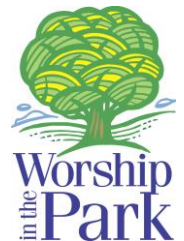
SUN	9:30 AM	Worship/Blessing Backpacks
<b>Cornerstone Deadline</b>		
MON	9 AM/7 PM	Joy Stitchers
	11:30 AM	Downtown Daily Bread
TUE	9:30 AM	Playful Beginnings Staff
	1 PM	Chicken Pickin', Kitchen
	7 PM	Book Club, Library
	7 PM	ReGifted
WED	9 AM	Presby Peelers
THU		
FRI	6:15 AM	Men's Friday Fellowship
	9 AM	Pie Baking for Festival
SAT	4 - 6:30 PM	Peach Festival
SUN	9:30 AM	Worship - Deacon's Sunday
	10:30 AM	Meet & Greet Gatherings
	10:30 AM	Blood Pressure Screening

**You're Invited Next Sunday at 10:30: MPC Caring Teams Meet & Greet** – This past spring, all MPC members were contacted to join a Caring Team. The purpose of these groups is to develop caring relationships to treasure our connection to each other in the body of Christ. **Join your MPC Caring Team on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30 service, for a special fellowship opportunity.** Through these groups, we will grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, following his commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Join us next Sunday and connect with your Caring Team.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY** – Please plan to join us on Tuesday, September 12, at 11:30 AM for our Fall Kick-Off Luncheon and introduction to this year's study, *Cloud of Witnesses – The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. If you have not been a participant in one of our circle groups, come check us out! There is friendship, fellowship, and so much to learn. Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Area on August 27, September 3 and 10 so we may plan for the luncheon. You may also contact Sharon Chizar at [sechizar@aol.com](mailto:sechizar@aol.com) or Margie Fealtman at [mfealtman@juno.com](mailto:mfealtman@juno.com). Hope to see you there.

### Special Worship Service:

**September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM** – As summer comes to an end, we are moving outside! We will have worship and a picnic at Memorial Park. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share! We'll have chairs available, but you might want to bring a chair of your own! A special thank you to the Fellowship Committee for providing the hot dogs and drinks!



**The new photo directories** are here! See a member of the Fellowship Committee in the Gathering Area to pick up your copy. Members who were photographed receive a free directory. Directories are available for \$5.

**Address changes – MPC does a lot of communication** with our members via email. We are receiving many emails returned as "non-deliverable." If your address has changed, please inform the office of your new address.