



MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

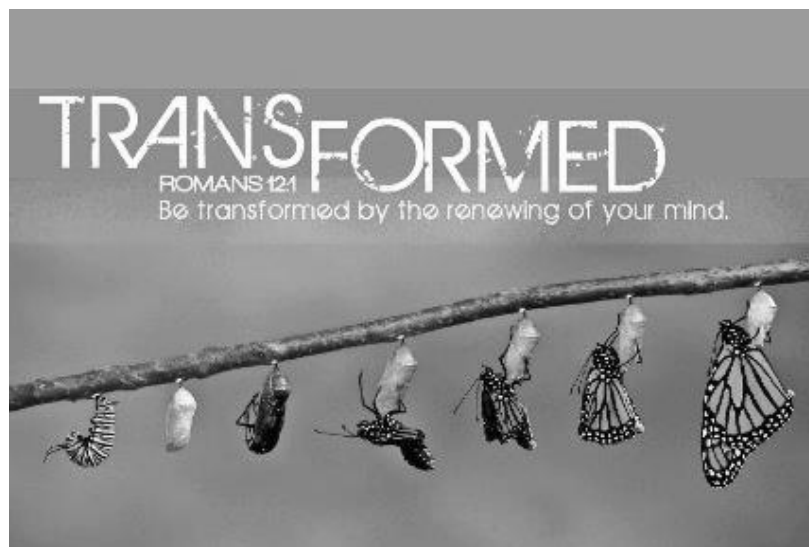
300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596

www.mechpresby.org • 717-697-0351

August 27, 2017 • 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • 9:30 AM

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.

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God

—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **6** We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; **7** ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; **8** the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

- Romans 12:1-8

ENTER TO WORSHIP – DEPART TO SERVE

Prelude

After a Dream
From Three Melodies, Op. 7

G. Faure
Arr. P. Gouin

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.*

Moment for Mission

Board of Deacons

Joanne Miller, Moderator

Centering Prayer

*Introit #413

Come into God's Presence

COME INTO HIS PRESENCE

*Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
who comes to our aid in times of need,
who gives us the courage to do what we know is right,
who invites us to turn away from the influences of the world around us
and confess Him alone as Savior and Lord.

This is our God!

Let's worship together.

*Hymn #716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

*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.

We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen's backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks ... (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!*

It's not money, but our generosity with it; it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves; it is not our efforts, but Christ's gift, which forgives and transforms us into God's children.

It is more than just how we think. In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits are transformed and made new. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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.**

Proclaiming the Word

We experience the Word of God.

Moment with the Children

Sharon Chizar

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Matthew 16:13-20

N.T. p. 18

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

Duet

O Lord Most Holy

C. Frank, Op. 12

Cindy Walters and Mary Lynne Mulligan

Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8

N.T. p. 161

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

Sermon

Conformed or Transformed

Mark Allio

Responding to the Word

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

***Declaration of Faith**

***Hymn #481**

I Believe in God the Father

GENEVAN 42

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

(debts...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

G. F. Handel, HWV 441

Allegro and Menuetto

Lo! For behold! There is a Harpsichord in the closet! I am grateful to Pastor Mark for his help. After the last day of VBS, we carried the instrument out of the back and placed it in the Sanctuary. Our harpsichord lives again! I was quite excited, having not played the harpsichord since college. I let it "live" for a few days in the Sanctuary to grow accustomed to its environment, re-learned how to tune it (hopefully well enough) and reacquainted myself with harpsichord technique. Every four to six weeks, I'll include a harpsichord tune in our worship, like I am doing today. What a blessing to be able to play the harpsichord again – we own this lovely instrument, it should be used. I sincerely hope this music transports you to another time and place, and lifts up your heart to almighty God!

***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 #320**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

***Charge & Benediction**

***Choral Response #320, v.5**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

***We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.***

***Postlude**

Tuba Tune

C. S. Lang, Op. 15

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 in loving memory of Lawrence and Claire McVitty by their family; and in loving memory of Daniel L. Schaeffer by his family. The yellow rose in the Sanctuary symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

The red rose is in honor of our first great grandchild, Annabell Rose born on August 16, 2017, by Dick and Kay McDonald. Annabell's parents are Ben and Ashley McDonald.

We honor and thank the Board of Deacons this morning. They are serving as worship assistants today. A complete list of Deacons is below. The Deacons deliver flowers, visit and provide transportation and holiday gifts for our hospitalized, ill and shut-in members; send cards on behalf of the congregation; prepare communion; provide recordings of the services; are liaisons to New Hope, Ecumenical Food Pantries and Downtown Daily Bread.

A very heartfelt thank you to our MPC "Village" who have watched Madison grow throughout the years and supported her spiritually, emotionally, and financially from baptism to her commissioning as a YAV in Chicago.

Blessings, Joanne and John Niemer

KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Charlene Bojalad – ManorCare, Camp Hill

We welcome Mary Lynne (Walters) Mulligan "home" and thank her and Cindy Walters for providing the special music for this morning's worship service.

The flowers in front of the communion table is in loving memory of Velma E. Wollett from her family. Her memorial service will be held here this afternoon at 2 PM with family visitation beginning at 1 PM. Velma joined MPC along with her husband, Eugene H., on December 27, 1961 and entered the Church Triumphant August 12, 2017. She served as a Deacon from 1986 – 1989 and donated the harpsichord in memory of Gene and her mother, Mary E. Thomas. 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.*

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.

Ministers.....	All members of the congregation
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.....	Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston.....kjohnton@mechpresby.org
Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults.....	Rev. Mark A. Allio.....mallio@mechpresby.org
Director of Music	Mark G. McKeever
Playful Beginnings Director	Karen P. Taylor.....ktaylor@mechpresby.org
Deacons	(Class of 2017) Sharon Chizar, Jeff Hummel, Elizabeth Knott, Bonnie Savage, Richard Startzel, Karen Weigel
	(Class of 2018) Amy Berry, Grace House, JoAnne Miller, Cindy Walters, Carol Winston, Lynne Zerbe
	(Class of 2019) Laura Bricker, Marybeth Cauffman, Gail Foor, Sue Karakantas, Mary Love, Joanne Neimer
Mission Relations.....	www.pcusa.org/missionconnections
Find us online!	www.mechpresby.org • Twitter: @mechpresby • Facebook: Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church

More People Caring

Participating in Worship:
Greeters: Joanne Neimer, Amy Berry, Bonnie Savage
Ushers: Grace House, Sue Karakantas, Carol Winston, Rich Heeter
Reader: Mary Love
Nursery: Mike, Laura, Danielle & Lucy Martin
Fellowship Hosts: Board of Deacons
Church to Pray for: Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA

WEEK OF AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

SUN	9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Worship – Deacon’s Sunday Meet & Greet Gatherings
MON	7 PM	Session Meeting
TUE	12 PM 7 PM	Ecumenical Food Pantry ReGifted
WED	9 AM 5 & 7 PM	Presby Peelers Harrisburg Bike Club
THU	9:30 AM	Cornerstone Mailing
SUN	9:30 AM	Worship CROSS Paper Drive
MON	11:30 AM	Church Office Closed Downtown Daily Bread

**You’re Invited Today at 10:30:
MPC Caring Teams Meet & Greet**

Join your MPC Caring team today after the 9:30 service for a special fellowship opportunity. In an effort to be in better touch will all members of the congregation, everyone has been placed into a More People Caring Group. Come out and meet your group members! Meeting locations are listed below. **Don't know which group you are in? Or visiting with us this morning? No worries! Caring team leaders and members of the steering committee will be on hand to help you find your group!**

- Group 1 Parlor
- Group 2 Conference Room
- Group 3 Fellowship Hall near the stage
- Group 4 Fellowship Hall near the Sanctuary
- Group 5 Nursery Room 113 (2nd room on Left)
- Group 6 Nursery Room last room on Right
- Group 7 Sunday School Rm 203/205
- Group 8 Sunday School Rm 209/211
- Group 9 Choir Room

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.

Blood Pressure Screening will not be held today. The screenings will resume on September 22nd.

Special Worship Service:
September 10th 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!



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 today, September 3 and 10 so we may plan for the luncheon. You may also contact Sharon Chizar at sechizar@aol.com or Margie Fealtman at mfealtman@juno.com. Hope to see you there.

A BIG thank you to the many volunteers who once again helped make the Peach Festival a huge success! A final accounting will be in next week’s bulletin.

Attention MechPresby: Laura Martin is in **desperate** need of 8:15 nurse volunteers. If you are willing to volunteer in our early morning nurse, please contact Laura.

Home: 717-691-3627

Cell: 717-554-4140

Email: mburgmom@verizon.net

Joyful Hearts – We welcome all who love Jesus and want to know Him better. Our next study will 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** (717-497-2745 or suzy2745@gmail.com) 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**.

Health Ministries Collection: Thank you for your generous response to the collection for the Health Ministries Program at Christ Lutheran Church in

Harrisburg. The collection is ongoing until the end of August. Please put donations of medical supplies in the box on the stage in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

Annual Paper Drive for CROSS Begins Next Sunday: CROSS (Christian Residential Opportunities and Social Services) provides a homelike environment for adults with developmental disabilities. MPC will be collecting paper products for CROSS from September 3 - 17. The homes are in great need of paper towels so we are asking this year that each family donate paper towels. Toilet paper and napkins will also be accepted. Please bring in these paper items and help our friends at CROSS. Donations can be dropped off at the front of the stage in Upper Fellowship Hall.

Mix 'n Mingle/Pep Set, the 55+ social group, will be going to Boiling Spring Tavern for lunch. Meet at the church on Wednesday, September 20, at 12:30 PM to carpool. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area – contact Rich Trout (717-697-1608) if you have any questions.