



## MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596  
717-697-0351  
[www.mechpresby.org](http://www.mechpresby.org)

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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!*



**November 19, 2017**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Thank Offering Service**  
**8:15 & 11:00 AM**

*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.*

### **Quiet Meditation**

As you prepare your hearts and minds for worship this morning, please meditate on this prayer attributed to theologian N. T. Wright.  
"Earthly beauty creates in us a longing for heavenly beauty, Lord. Open our eyes each day to the beauty surrounding us, so that our hearts are regularly drawn toward the new heaven and the new earth. Amen."

## ENTER TO WORSHIP – DEPART TO SERVE

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### Prelude

*Prelude in G Major, from Three Preludes and Fugues*

F. Mendelssohn, Op. 37

### Welcome & Concerns of the Church

Cathay Snyder

*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 #466 (3x)

*Come and Fill Our Hearts*

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

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

Holly Andersen (8:15); Cathy Petko (11:00)

You are the Surprise from whom all discoveries grow;  
**the Delight of whom each victory sings,**  
the Joy to whom all lasting pleasures flow,  
**the Search out of whom all science springs,**  
the Truth, who surfaces when all seems lost,  
**the Love, who will not count the cost.**  
Creating God, high above our understanding,  
**we worship your Mystery!**  
Redeeming God, deep beyond our deserving,  
**we worship your Mystery!**  
Inspiring God, who challenges us,  
**we worship your Mystery! Amen! And again we say Amen!**

### \*Hymn #367

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

### \*Prayer of Confession

Suzi Souder

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.

**God of Creation, you have given us resources to sustain life on this earth, our first home. Teach us to use them carefully. When we fall short, forgive us, and remind us of all the generations that are yet to come. We can be so thoughtless and wasteful. Show us how to recycle your good gifts. So many times, we fall short of your expectations. Hear our prayers for a recycling of our personal lives as well as corporately as a community of faith. By the grace of your Christ, and the rejuvenation of your Spirit, recycle in us those gifts and virtues that may have become ragged or even cast aside. Recycle our faith, that we may run and not be weary, walk and not faint. Recycle our hope, so that we may rise up from pessimism like the flight of eagles. Recycle our love, so that justice may roll on like a flood, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Loving God, help us to model our approach to recycling on your grace, which regards no gift as trivial, and no person as redundant.....(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!*

For by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing;

**It is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast.**

For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Beloved children of God, rejoice! (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**We are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen!**

\*Response #581

*Glory be to the Father*

***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.*

**Children's Moment**

Sharon Chizar

We invite children to remain in worship. There is a nursery available for infants through 5-years old.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Margaret Mielke (8:15); Mary Polson (11:00)

**First Lesson**

Ezekiel 47:6-12

p. 817

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

**Anthem** (11:00)

*O Lord, How Manifold are Thy Works*

J. Barnby

Chancel Choir

O Lord, how manifold, how manifold are Thy works:  
In wisdom hast thou made them all, the earth is full of Thy riches.  
The valleys stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing.  
Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.  
Chancel Choir

**Second Lesson**

Revelation 22:1-5

p. 260

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

**Sermon**

We Are

Suzi Souder



Sunday School Word of the Day: Talents

The 'word of the day' is used in the Sunday School classrooms and they are encouraged to listen for it during the worship service. The footprints are the symbol they are using for the current liturgical season: Ordinary Time.

**Responding to the Word**

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

\*Affirmation of Faith

JoAnne Miller (11:00)

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus or Lord. Amen.**  
(Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

\*Hymn #375

*Shall We Gather at the River*

HANSON PLACE

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

Katie Chase (8:15); Suzy Brenner (11:00)

**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**

Katie Chase (8:15); Suzy Brenner (11:00)

*11am worshipers: Please place the top sheet of the fellowship pads in the offering plates.*

**Offertory**

*Andante Religioso from Sonata No. 4 in Bb Major*

F. Mendelssohn, Op. 65

**\*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 (unison)**

Marion Eichinger (8:15); Lori Heenan (11:00)

**Beloved Lord, you offer us a precious gift. Your invitation to salvation through Jesus Christ frees us from so many unnecessary fears. As children of your light, we present these gifts, so that others may share in the timeless message of your love. Encourage us to reflect your love to others, today and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Bearing & Following the Word**

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

**\*Hymn #643**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

**\*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**

*Allegro from Sonata No. 4 in Bb Major*

F. Mendelssohn

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

**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. Worship aids are available from the ushers. We're glad you're here!

**The flowers are placed** to the Glory of God in honor of those in our MPC family who are courageously fighting cancer and in memory of those we have lost by Kim and Jim Parent; and in memory of our parents Claude and Dorothy Conley and Harold and Ethel Bressler by Dave and Mary Bressler. The yellow rose in the Sanctuary symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

**Congratulations to Mandy (Pepper) and William Werts** on the birth of their son, Jacob William Werts, born November 5, 2017. Jacob's siblings are Lydia, Hannah and Samuel and his grandparents are Lisa and Tom Pepper. The Werts family resides in Drexel Hill, PA.

**A time of personal prayer** is offered following both services. If you would like to pray with a pastor and one of the officers of the church, please meet them by the prayer room near the pulpit following the worship service.

<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All members of the congregation</b>
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.....	Rev. Kathryn Z. Johnston..... kjohnston@mechpresby.org
Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults	Rev. Mark A. Allio ..... mallio@mechpresby.org
Director of Music	Mark McKeever ..... mmckeever@mechpresby.org
Christian Education Director	Cathay Snyder ..... csnyder@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director	Karen P. Taylor..... playfulbeginnings.mpc@gmail.com

# More People Caring

**Participating in Worship:**  
**Greeters:** Katie Chase, Keni Melphis, Bonnie Savage (8:15); Sue Karakantas, Paula Logan, Jaci Scott (11:00)  
**Ushers:** Becky Trout, Carol Winston, Carolyn Wepfer, Andrea Singiser, Mary Speedy (8:15); Joyce Lackey, Pat Heintzleman, Esther Mullen, Pat Schaal (11:00)  
**Nursery:** Lorrie Weber, Deb Williams (8:15); Jenny & Dan Hajnik, Pat Heintzleman (11:00)  
**Fellowship Hours:** Taylor Eisenberger & Keni Melphis (8:15); Suzanne Nixon (11:00)  
**Pray for:** Lend a Hand

**Suzi Souder** is a Ruling Elder in MPC and has served the Presbytery of Carlisle as the Associate for Communication and Office Management since 1986. In 2004 she completed the Commissioned Ruling Elder program through Dubuque Theological Seminary, and serves as a lay preacher throughout the presbytery. She has also performed as a mezzo soprano soloist for many church and civic organizations for more than 35 years and is an instrumentalist in the musical ensemble ReGifted. We are pleased and grateful that she is our lay preacher today for our Thank Offering service today.



**Nov. 26 – Youth Cookie Baking** for College Students – 5-8 PM – Join us in Upper Fellowship Hall as we bake cookies to send to our college students. We'll get pizza! Please bring nut free cookie dough! Questions or comments contact Mark Allio ([mallio@mechpresby.org](mailto:mallio@mechpresby.org) or 717-697-0351).

**Youth and adult mission trip to Wimauma, FL** in cooperation with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Beth-El Farmworker Ministry – **July 9 – 16, 2018**. See registration form in this bulletin.

<b>WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19 - 26, 2017</b>		
SUN	8:15/11 AM	Thank Offering Service
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	9A-12:30 P	Book Fair, Gathering Area
	9 AM	Westminster Choir
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
		1 PM
<b>Cornerstone deadline</b>		
MON	9AM/7 PM	Joy Stitchers, McVitty's
	11:30 AM	Downtown Daily Bread
TUE	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, LFH
WED	No choir or bell rehearsals	
THU	12-3 PM	Community Dinner
FRI	Office Closed	
SAT		
SUN	8:15/11 AM	Worship
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	9 A-12:30 P	Book Fair, Gathering Area
	9:15 AM	Blood Pressure Screen., Lib
	5 PM	Youth Cookie Bake

**If you or a family member is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care,** call **717-896-0131** at any time. It will connect you to the church office and one of the pastors.



## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### November 19

**Adult Topics—Mission Spotlight & Mini-Mission Sunday**--Chaplain Craig from Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry joins us in Upper Fellowship Hall where he will update us on this ministry to the thousands of truckers who pass through the area each year. Our mini-mission will be decorating and packaging cookie bags to be handed out to truckers during the holiday season.

**The Dave Petko class** (Conference Room) is continuing Philippians.

**Joyful Hearts** will be attending Adult Topics today.



**Kids Club Christmas Party—**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 6, 5:30-7**  
**PM—**Fun for the whole family!  
We'll hear the Christmas story,  
play some games, and eat pizza.  
Santa will visit us too! Bring a  
new book that we can give to  
Bethesda Mission. Parents,

please let Cathay ([csnyder@mechpresby.org](mailto:csnyder@mechpresby.org)) know  
if you plan to attend with your child(ren).

**Book Fair--November 19-December 6--**Just in time  
for Christmas gift giving! We are hosting a Spark  
House Family Book Fair with creative,  
contemporary, award winning books for children  
and tweens, ages 0-12. To check out some of the  
books for sale and to pick up an order form, stop by  
our display in the Gathering area on Sundays,  
November 19, 26, and December 3 from 9 AM to  
12:30 PM or Monday-Thursday during church office  
hours. Contact us for more information:  
[csnyder@mechpresby.org](mailto:csnyder@mechpresby.org) or 717-697-0351. Orders  
are due by December 6 so that the books will arrive  
in time for Christmas gift giving. It's a win-win as  
we'll help you with some of your Christmas  
shopping while you help us update our library!

**The Giving Tree**, MPC's Advent mission project,  
began over 24 year ago and is still going strong. The  
Tree contains tags with gift requests for over 250  
people in need in our area. Attached to each tag is a  
white card to sign your name and phone number and  
place in the silver box beside the tree. This helps  
us keep track of the gifts. You will find specific  
instructions on each tag as to whether to wrap the  
gift or not. On December 3, the gifts are to be  
returned to the Sanctuary for In-Gathering Sunday.  
The gifts go to Allison Hill Community Ministry,  
DELTA Housing, Stop the Violence, Safe Harbour,  
CROSS Cumberland Vista and HELP Ministries.  
Please visit the tree TODAY and take a tag. If you  
have questions, please call Sue Karakantas (215-  
859-8959) or Joanne Neimer (717-691-0882).

**TODAY at 1 PM - Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up –**  
PennDot provides bags and vests. Our route is  
Hogestown Road from the borough line to the  
Carlisle Pike. Please meet at the church to help with  
the project. Questions? contact Laura Martin (717-  
691-3627 or [mburgmom@verizon.net](mailto:mburgmom@verizon.net)).

**Save the Date! — Christmas Pageant—Sunday,**  
**December 17, 3 PM—**Plans are underway for our

annual pageant. Any child or youth that plays an  
instrument and would like to participate by playing  
a seasonal piece, please let Cathay know.

**Advent Devotional Now Available—**Pray, journal,  
and color your way through Advent this year with  
this daily devotional from Sanctified Art. Parents  
and grandparents, invite your children or  
grandchildren to help add color to the pages while  
you discuss the daily scriptures and journey through  
Advent together. Devotionals are available in the  
Gathering area and in the back of the Sanctuary.

**MPC's Free Thanksgiving Community Dinner is**  
**Thursday, November 23 from 12-3 PM!** Today is  
the last Sunday to sign up in the Gathering Area as a  
volunteer for the Community Dinner. All turkeys  
donated should be thawed and delivered Monday,  
Nov. 21 or Tuesday, Nov. 22 by 9:30 AM depending  
on which day you signed up for. Call Pat  
Heintzelman (717-766-2001) if you have questions  
regarding turkey. After today you will need to call  
Suzy Brenner (717-497-2745) about volunteer sign  
up.

**Christmas & Greeting Cards, and Calendar**  
**Collection for Prison Ministry:** Please put new  
Christmas cards, greeting cards, and 2018 calendars  
to the bin marked "Prison Ministry Card and Calen-  
dar Collection" by December 1<sup>st</sup> so they can be given  
out for this year's holiday season.

**Mix 'n Mingle/Pep Set – The Susquehanna Chorale**  
**on Friday, December 15 –** The Susquehanna  
Chorale will present their Christmas program *A*  
*Candlelight Christmas* on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>,  
8–9:30 PM, at Messiah College. Tickets are available  
from Michael or Karen Zang for \$12.50. Please  
contact the Zangs (717-790-9103) – sign-up in the  
Gathering Area.

**Calling All Cookie Bakers –** During Advent, the  
Truck Stop Ministry distributes bags of cookies and  
greetings to hundreds of truckers who visit the  
ministry trailer in Carlisle. We have generously  
supported this effort in the past. Please start your  
Christmas baking early and share your cookies for  
this ministry. Please label cookies "Truck Stop  
Ministry" and put them in the church kitchen near  
the freezer. Volunteers will bag cookies today  
during the Adult Topics Class and at 10:35 (before  
the 11 AM service) on November 26. To help with  
bagging cookies, come to Adult Topics this morning  
and also hear about the work of the Carlisle Truck  
Stop Ministry from Chaplain Dave Braithwaite. To  
help bag on the 26<sup>th</sup>, come to the Conference Room.



**CHURCH OFFICERS**

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, November 26** for the purpose of receiving the report from the 2018 Nominating Committee. The nominees are:

### **Ruling Elder Class of 2020**

**\*Lori Heenan** lives and works in Mechanicsburg and has been a member of MPC for over ten years. This is her second term on Session and she also teaches the Confirmation Class and Sings in the Chancel Choir. She has three adult children and a middle schooler Griffy, who attends MPC with her. She and her husband Jim are enjoying their new status as grandparents and will be welcoming grandchild number two in January of 2018.

**Patti Hinkson** and her family (Tom, Hannah, Elena) have been members of MPC since 2002. She is currently a guest teacher for the Mechanicsburg Area School District after having worked 20 years in corporate America. She's excited about, and looking forward to being part of the Ruling Elder Class of 2020.

**\*Margaret Mielke** will be serving her second term on Session. A new Sunday School teacher (grades 3-5), she also participates in musical activities and Presby Peeler. With her friend Loretta Smith, she enjoys making stuffed animals.

**\*Kevin Moyer** and his wife, Jennifer joined MPC and were married here in 1988. They have 4 adult children Adam, Jered, Amanda, and Rachel. Kevin enjoys the fellowship and camaraderie during his first term as an elder and looks forward to new experiences and challenges as part of the leadership team of MPC.

**Lanny Nesbitt** - After spending 42 years in Strasburg, PA we moved to Mechanicsburg in 2011 to be close to our daughter and family. We are blessed with two children Lisa and Jeff and six wonderful grandchildren. Some of my activities in what spare time I have are biking (human power), tennis, woodworking and general fix-it projects.

**\*Melissa Rulapaugh** - MPC has been a very important part of her life since she was 6 years old. Melissa is happily married to Randy and is the mother of four wonderful children, Katie, Sara, Marie and Justin. She presently serves as an elder and is a member of the Welcoming Committee.

Melissa looks forward to serving MPC for another term as Ruling Elder.

**\*serving a second term**

### **Deacon Class of 2020**

**Kevin Breen** is active on the Property and Maintenance Committee; he loves gardening and the outdoors. His wife is Renée; their two sons, Peter and Scott, were raised as part of the MPC family. Kevin works as an environmental geochemist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

**\*Sharon Chizar** - I've been a member of MPC since 1977 and have enjoyed serving the church in a variety of roles since that time. Presently I work part time at a local orchard since retiring from elementary ed as a kindergarten teacher for 37 years. For enjoyment, I love baking and spending time with family.

**Nat League** and his wife, Barbara, have been members of MPC for almost 5 years. They were members at St John's Luther Church in New Freedom, PA for about 27 years where Nat served on the church council for 7 years and was chairman of the W&M committee for about 10 years. He also served as the call committee co-chair for one of the pastors. He and his wife have two grown sons, both married, and one beautiful granddaughter.

**Dianne Nesbitt** has been at MPC for six years. She and her husband Lanny were previously members and quite involved in First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg for many years. Though it was difficult to leave Strasburg they are very grateful that Mechanicsburg and MPC has been a wonderful transition! Dianne's hobbies include cooking, baking, gardening, reading - but mostly being a wife, mom and Mimi to 6 wonderful grandchildren!

**Tracy Olson** lives in the Winding Hill Development in Mechanicsburg with her spouse, Judith of three years of marriage, but together for a total of 22 years and their two kittens, Gracy Lynn and Faith Ann! She has been part of the Peace and Justice Committee this past year. Her hobbies are reading, sitting by a fire and she enjoys being with friends.

**Rod Savidge**

**\*serving a second term**