

## MECHANICSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 East Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6596

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

September 17, 2017 • 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time • 8:15 & 11am

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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.*

### **Quiet Meditation: We Quietly Think About God**

With reference to the forgiveness of sins let me say, that you will not find anything in your heart with which you can pay them off, nor raise any funds for which God might recognize you and cancel the debt in the ledger. But if you seize Christ as the one who has become your substitute, who has taken your sin upon himself, and who has given himself with all his merit and worthiness for you, no sin can avail anything against you. If I am a sinner, he is holy, and is Lord over sin, death, Satan and hell, so that no sin can harm me, because he has been given me as my righteousness and salvation.

- Martin Luther, *Sermon for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity; Matthew 9:1-8 (2nd sermon)*

## ENTER TO WORSHIP – DEPART TO SERVE

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**Prelude: We Prepare our Hearts to Worship God**

*Prelude*

D. Buxtehude, BuxWV 137

**Welcome & Concerns of the Church: We are Welcomed**

*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**

MPC Choirs

Mark McKeever

**Centering Prayer: We Prepare our Hearts to Worship God**

**\*Introit #405, v. 1: We Pray By Singing**

*Praise God for This Holy Ground*

***Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.***

***Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.***

**\*Call to Worship: We Name Who God is and Say Why We Are Worshiping God**

based on Psalm 114

When Israel was delivered from Egypt unbelievable things happened—the sea fled, and the River Jordan turned back.

**The mountains seem to skip like rams, and the hills to frolic like little lambs.**

What awesome power caused river and sea to change their course—mountains and hills to jump and skip?

**The whole earth was surely trembling in the presence of God.**

Praise God who sets people free in unexpected ways and sustains them through unexpected acts of grace.

**\*Hymn #641**

*When in Our Music God Is Glorified*

ENGELBERG

**\*Prayer of Confession: We Tell God What We Have Done Wrong**

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.

**O Lord we seek your mercy yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, still we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items. We are eager to do your judging. And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our hearts. Save us Lord from the sins we hide... (time of silent confession)**

**\*Assurance of Pardon: We Hear That God Forgives Us**

*We pour the water into the baptismal font to symbolize the faithfulness of God and the washing away of sin. Remember your baptism!*

**\*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: We Share God's Love with Others**

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

## Proclaiming the Word

*We experience the Word of God.*

### **Children's Moment: We Talk About God** (8:15 & 11)

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

### **Bible Presentation: We Give Bibles to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders and the Confirmation Class**

#### **Response #458**

*Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet*

THY WORD

### **Prayer for Illumination: We Ask God to Help Us Understand**

#### **First Lesson: We Listen to God's Story**

Romans 14:7-12

N.T. p. 163

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

### **Anthem: Music is Played to Thank God**

8:15am \*Hymn #626

*As the Deer*

AS THE DEER

11:00am

*I Will Sing Praise*  
Chancel Choir

J. Martin

*I will sing praise to the Lord, my God,  
Lift up my voice in the sanctuary.  
I will sing praise to the Lord, my God;  
I will sing Alleluia, and praise His Holy Name.*

*Sing the glory of His name  
I will praise His name forever,  
Oh, the Name above all Names.  
Oh, the Glory of His Name.  
I will sing praise to Him, give all my life to Him.  
I will sing praise to the Glory of His Name!*

We welcome the MPC Chancel Choir back to the Sanctuary after summer recess! Please join them in song! Our anthem today is *I Will Sing Praise* by Joseph Martin. On December 17th at both worship services we will present his *Tapestry of Light, A Celtic Christmas Celebration*. Prayerfully consider joining the choir this year, all are welcome.

#### **Second Lesson**

Matthew 18:21-35

N.T. p. 20

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

#### **Sermon: We Listen For What God is Saying to Us**

Kathryn Z. Johnston

*Why Today is the Best Day: Forgiveness*

## Responding to the Word

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

#### **\*Hymn #443**

*There Is a Redeemer*

GREEN

#### **\*Declaration of Faith: We Say What We Believe**

The Apostles' Creed

*Our church states its faith and bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ by using eleven creeds and confessions.*

*In these confessional statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes and what it resolves to do. These confessional statements are subject to the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The following is the Apostles' Creed, which in its earliest form dates back to 180 AD.*

*The word 'catholic' refers to the entire Christian church; 'quick' means living:*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer: We Pray for the World and Other People**  
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: We Give Money**

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

**Offertory: We Listen to Music that Praises God**

*Fugue*

D. Buxtehude, BuxWV 137

**\*Doxology: We Sing Thanks to God for What God Has Given Us**

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: We Ask God to Use Our Gifts**

**Bearing & Following the Word**

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

**\*Hymn #450**

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

**\*Charge & Benediction: We Are Asked To Go Out Into the World and Tell People About God's Love**

**\*Response #450, v.1**

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Walking or sleeping, they presence my light.*

**\*Postlude**

*Chaconne*

D. Buxtehude, BuxWV 137

A chaconne is a composition of a series of varying sections in triple time, over a short repeated theme in the bass.

\*\*\* 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 memory of our father Joe Dean by Norma White and Andrea Singiser; in memory of Anna Louise Pavidonis from her daughter, Joanne Neimer and family. The yellow rose on the communion table symbolizes the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.


**Receiving the Common English Bible** this morning are **3<sup>rd</sup> Graders:** Lily Gulde, Logan Tran, Cole Dinsmore, Abbey McGinnis, August Murray and Joshua Steele; **the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders** are: Tawona Chiwaka, Claire Fegan, Joslyn Fry, Trevor Fry, Keira Giovagnoli, Adam Lepley, Ian McCurdy, Tyler Rogers and Savannah Thomson.

<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All members of the congregation</b>	
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 .....	mmckeever@mechpresby.org
Director of Christian Education .....	Cathay L. Snyder .....	csnyder@mechpresby.org
Playful Beginnings Director.....	Karen P. Taylor.....	ktaylor@mechpresby.org
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:** Katie Chase, Lori Banzhoff (8:15); Rich & Pat Richardson (11:00)  
**Ushers:** Esther Mullen, Dick & Kay McDonald, Jim Hutchison (8:15); Terry Cornish, Gary & Pat Heintzelman, Larry Lichty (11:00)  
**Readers:** Gary Andersen (8:15); Missy Rulapaugh (11:00)  
**Liturgy:** Moira Laidlaw (CtW), Bill Wessner (Confession)  
**Nursery:** Debby Williams, Keni Melphis (8:15); Sunny Podolak, Riley Nelson, Lucy Martin (11:00)  
**Fellowship Hours:** Karin Marlin (8:15); Jaci Scott (11:00)  
**Church to Pray for:** Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, Mechanicsburg, PA

**Giant Gift Cards** – If you ordered Giant gift cards this month, you may pick them up this morning or in the church office through the week.



**Youth Group**

**Today** – Progressive dinner, 5-8 PM  
**September 24** – Youth Group, 6-8 PM  
 Questions or comments contact Mark Allio (717-697-0351 or [mallio@mechpresby.org](mailto:mallio@mechpresby.org))

**CROSS Paper Drive:** MPC’s paper drive for CROSS concludes TODAY, but you still have time to participate. We thank everyone who brought paper items to help our friends at CROSS. Donations can be dropped off at the front of the stage in Upper Fellowship Hall.

***The Anonymous People  
Addiction and Recovery***

**Panel Discussion:** Local experts will discuss the journey to recovery on **Friday, September 22 at 6 PM** in Upper Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 - 24, 2017

SUN	8:15/11 AM	Worship
	8:15/11 AM	Bible Presentation
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	5 PM	Youth Group Progressive Dinner
<b>Cornerstone Deadline</b>		
MON	9AM/7PM	JOY Stitchers
	9:30 AM	Playful Beginnings
	11:30 AM	Downtown Daily Bread
TUE	1:45 PM	Playful Beginnings Staff
	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts, LFH
WED	9 AM	Presby Peelers
	12:30 PM	M'n M/PS Luncheon
	6:30 PM	Bells of Celebration
	7:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
THU	12 PM	Pastor's Bible Study
	7 PM	HeBrews, Al's of Hampden
FRI	6:15 AM	Men's Bible Fellowship
	6 PM	<i>The Anonymous People</i>
SUN	8:15/11 AM	Worship
	9:15-11 AM	Blood Pressure Screening, Lib.
	9:35 AM	Sunday School
	3 PM	Boy Scouts, LFH
	6 PM	Youth Group Meeting

**Pastor's Bible Study** – Join Pastor Kathryn Thursdays at noon in the Conference Room for lunch (BYO) and Bible study. We will spend about an hour with the time divided between discussing the Scriptures from the previous Sunday and the Scriptures for the next Sunday.

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

Home: 717-691-3627  
 Cell: 717-554-4140  
 Email: [mbergmom@verizon.net](mailto:mbergmom@verizon.net)

**Sunday School News!** Come one and all and join us TODAY in Upper Fellowship Hall at 9:35 AM for this special class on changes and plans for the upcoming year! We will be discussing Children, Youth, and Adult ministries and classes. There will be opportunities for all to share ideas and ask questions. Please don't miss this opportunity.

**Sunday School Classes Kick-off Today:** Here are the locations of the classes and their teachers:

Under Two	Nursery	Rotation
<b>The Cherubs Toddler 2's, 3's</b>	Rm. 110, Nursery Wing	Carrie Allio Shannon Hammel Susan McCurdy
<b>Tot's Tales Pre K &amp; Kindergarten</b>	Rms. 203-205	Barbara Bell Kristina Bell
<b>Jax's Pack 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	(LFH)	Janice Daft Kim Parent
<b>The Deep Blue Crew 3rd, 4<sup>th</sup>, &amp; 5th</b>	Lower Fellowship Hall (LFH)	Larry Lichy Margaret Mielke Amy Zullo
<b>6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Class</b>	Youth Center Basement	Mark Allio Lori Heenan Tim Wonder
<b>9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Sr. High</b>	Youth Center	Kelli Scurfield Jennifer Thomson
<b>Joyful Hearts</b>	Parlor	Suzy Brenner
<b>Dave Petko Class</b>	Conference Room	Class Participants
<b>Adult Topics</b>	Upper Fellowship Hall	Various Programs

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.

**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.



**Rummage Drop Off** Sun., Oct. 15, 1-8PM  
*These days only* Mon., Oct. 16, 9AM-8PM  
**Sale Set-up** Tue., Oct. 17, 9AM-2PM  
**Sale days** Wed., Oct. 18, 9AM-8PM  
 Thur., Oct. 19, 9AM-12PM  
**Bake Sale** Wed., Oct. 18, 9AM – Sold Out  
 (Baked goods available until sold out on Wed. only.)  
**Clean-up** Thur., Oct. 19, 12-2PM

We will need LOTS OF HELP to make this mission fundraiser a success. Please plan to donate items for the Bake Sale *and your time*. **You can sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Area.** See the October *Cornerstone* for further details. Contact Paula Logan (717-697-3798) if you can help, need to have rummage picked up, or have any questions. **WANTED: Paper Grocery Bags.** Thank you for your support.

**HeBrews** – We'll meet THIS THURSDAY at 7 PM, at Al's of Hampden. We will begin our study in October. Send Pastor Mark any ideas you have that you'd like to discuss.

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

**Adult Mission Trip Opportunity** – The members of HeBrews and Untapped Conversations have planned a mission trip to Pittsburgh October 5-8, 2017. We will be working with the Pittsburgh Project, who will house us and assign us with mission work around the city. The cost is \$135 per person plus food cost. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Pastor Mark.

**Harvey & Irma Help** – For those who wish to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and recovery efforts, you can give through Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church (Memo Line: PDA).

