

4150 HIGHLAND AVE
BUTLER, PA 16001
WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG
724.482.2630

February 2024

Meridian

Presbyterian Church

The Light of Meridian

The Lens and Mirror

²⁰ ***But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***
Matthew 6:20-21

It feels like I finally have been able to put all our Christmas stuff away, so it's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner, yet here we are. There is always an interesting tension around the season of Lent for us Presbyterians. From the outside Lent can appear as an empty religious practice, where we go through the motions of "giving something up" for the season. Maybe worse, that sacrificing in the season of Lent, we begin to think we contribute something to our salvation. Both are wrong.

Lent is not an opportunity for me to make things right with God through good works. It's a season to reflect on what has been done for us, rather than by us. Tim Keller wrote, "There are, in the end, only two ways to read the Bible: is it basically about me or basically about Jesus? In other words, is it basically about what I must do, or basically about what he has done? Unless I see that Jesus made the big sacrifices for me, I will never be able to make the normal sacrifices of life. Unless I can see him forgiving me on the cross, I won't be able to forgive others."

Lent is not about what I do for God, but what God has done for me through his Son. It's not some mechanical abstention from things we enjoy in life, but a season that provides us an opportunity to grow deeper in the heart of the only thing we can rely and depend on, Jesus Christ. Fasting during Lent is intended to remind us of one simple truth, only Jesus can satisfy the deepest longings of our souls. Whether you fast or not in this season, may we all be reminded to trust our hearts to the only one who is enough.

In Christ, Pastor Steve

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Debbe Picerno

Custodian
Tom Perschke

Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Murtha

What's Happening at

Notes From Session

- Met for our annual retreat on January 20th.
- Approved a motion from the Trustees to move forward with a capital campaign for renovations on the sanctuary level, reconstruct the bathrooms on the sanctuary level, and expand the single use bathroom next to Parker Hall to make it handicap accessible. There will be more information to follow.

THANK YOU

Meridian Church Family,

Thank you for your support as we mourn the passing of our dad. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

- Don and Lori Smith

Thank you for the loan of your handbells during the Advent and Christmas seasons!

- Your brothers & sisters in Christ at Old Union Church

Meals on Wheels would like to thank MPC for your donations throughout the past year!

SOUPER BOWL FOOD DRIVE



The Super Bowl is right around the corner and as many will celebrate with lots of snacks and good food there are many who will go to bed hungry. So we will be collecting canned goods (soup and other items) NOW through February 4th. All of these items will be donated to our local food pantries to help feed the hungry. Please bring your items and drop them off on the table in the library. Thank you!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 10th at 9 AM. All men are invited to a breakfast at Mac's Route 8 Cafe for a time of good food and good conversation!

faith and **finances**

December 2023

Giving \$48,134.23

YTD Actual \$403,101.53

YTD Budget \$314,114.00

Over (Under) \$88,987.53

Victim Outreach Intervention Center would like to thank MPC for their generous donation to their organization.



Hosanna Industries would like to thank you for your generous support so that we can convey God's love to those who need it most desperately.

February 4th

Title – **“Where Were You?”**

Focus Passage – Job 38:1-7

Secondary Passage – Colossians 1:15-20

Synopsis – Job challenges God through his lamenting. The Lord does not respond in the way you might think. Instead of comfort, God says to Job, “Were you there when I created all of this?” It’s a reminder that all creation belongs to God and that includes us. We often put the created in place of the creator. Suffering unites us to Christ and in that we are reminded of the Lord who holds the world in his hands.

February 14th—Ash Wednesday

Title – **“Neither Do I”**

Focus Passage – John 8:1-11

Synopsis – A woman is caught in adultery and brought before Jesus for public shame and stoning. Yet, Jesus in all of his holiness, does not condemn her. Though the law demands punishment, Jesus sets her free. As we enter into the Lenten season we do so on a journey with Jesus and his words to us, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.” Grace lays the foundation for our journey to Calvary, and ultimately the empty grave.

February 18th

Title – **“Stepping Out in Faith”**

Focus Passage – Genesis 11:29-12:5

Secondary Passage – Hebrews 11:1-6

Synopsis – God calls Abraham. That’s the story. The promise is great, but the details are slim. The Lord tells Abraham, “I will show you where to go, but in order to get there you’re just going to have to go.” We’d like a plan or an itinerary, it would make faith so much easier. God promises to make a great nation out of Abraham, but there’s just one problem, his wife can’t have children. In the impossible promise, will you step out in faith?

February 11th

Title – **“God is Good”**

Focus Passage – Job 42:1-12

Secondary Passage – Romans 8:28-39

Synopsis – Through all the trials and storms of Job’s life, God has redemptive purposes. Suffering is part of life and the Christian faith offers us a unique perspective through him who loves us. May we trust the Lord is working all things for his glory.

Sermon Series

Abraham: Into the Unknown

Abraham may seem like an odd focus for the season of Lent. However, as you dig deeper into his story and his life you begin to see how God was bringing about his salvation for us. Abraham is called into the wilderness with nothing but a promise. It will be a long time before the promise is fulfilled and he is tempted along the way to take matters into his own hands. In the end, the Lord provides the sacrifice. As we journey into the unknown, may we trust in the God who will provide the sacrifice for us.

February 25th

Title – **“Faith and Righteousness”**

Focus Passage – Genesis 15:1-7

Secondary Passage – Mark 11:19-26

Synopsis – The promise seems as impossible as it does implausible. Yet, the Lord continues to encourage Abraham to faith. According to Jesus, “Abraham believed God and it was accorded to him as righteousness.” We don’t always have to understand, but we do have to believe.



MERIDIAN YOUTH GROUP!

⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

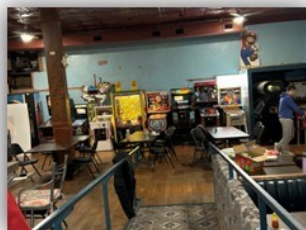
THINGS ARE HEATING UP IN JANUARY!

2023 was a wonderful year and we saw so much growth over the last year! We are thrilled to have so many new faces at each of our events. 2024 has arrived and we already have so many awesome things planned for the year! The youth mission trip in June (23-29) will be to Cleveland Ohio, our youth group spring retreat has been registered for April 12 - 13. We are also planning a lock in here at the church in March! All of these events provide excitement when we get to spend time together as a group and worship and study about God and all his wonder!

January kicked off with three youth group meetings in a row in which we studied about the walls that we put up in order to create safety, however this false safety leads a lack of trust in God.



WE LAVA YOUTH GROUP



Club 35 @ TOKENS!

YOUTH & CLUB 35 CALENDAR

February 2024:

Youth Group:

2/4: Youth Group 6-8 PM

2/11: Youth Group 6-8 PM

2/21: (Wednesday) Faith and Fellowship Nights
Youth Group moves to Wednesdays! 5:30-7 PM

2/28: (Wednesday) Youth Group @ Faith & Fellowship! 5:30-7 PM

Club 35: Faith and Fellowship begins 2/21 and there will be events every Wednesday! Dinner at 5:30 followed by bible study, games, & crafts 6:15-7 PM



Save
the
Date

**Youth Group Lock In
Friday March 8th**

Meridian Kids



Monthly Bible Verse

1 Peter 5:7

**Cast all your anxiety on him
because he cares for you.**



While we are still knee deep in snow, it is crazy to think Lent is right around the corner!

Lent is a special time that we set aside for reflection and preparation. We seek the Lord who willingly gives up everything for a relationship with us. What an amazing and beautiful gift we are given. But what can we offer back?

Please join us on Wednesday nights as we venture deeper into the story of Daniel and learn what it is like to have

COURAGEOUS FAITH.



**We are always looking for
Helpers to assist with:**

- Junior Church
- Sunday School
- Sound Booth
- Faith & Fellowship
- Fellowship Hour
- Easter Programs
- VBS

If you are interested in getting plugged in, please reach out to Laura Franklin or Mike Barton.



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Evenings

February 21st– March 20th

Dinner 5:45

Classes following 6:15-7:00

We will need one volunteer for each week (5 total) to assist Laura Franklin with kids from PreK through 5th grade in our craft and games. Please call or email her at kidsmin@meridianpres.org (724)312-4647 if you are willing.

February Celebrations

Birthdays!

02/01 Laura Jordan

Alicia Palmiero

02/02 Jeanne Gamble

02/03 Gavin Barnett

Levi McGeeney

02/05 Amy McGeeney

02/06 Aaron Sproule

Joseph Hauser

02/09 Jeff Orsborn

02/13 Elizabeth Rishor

02/14 Mitchell Kwiatkowski

02/15 Honey Royer

02/17 Scott Longdon

02/18 Susan Hilliard

Alyssa Smith

02/19 Michael Barton

02/20 Julie Barton

Azara Johns

Amy McCombs

02/21 Joshua Boettner

02/23 Dale Lyons

Jeff Woller

02/24 Matt Barnett

Lori Henderson

Cynthia Palladino

Marly Jo Scherder

02/26 Sue Freund

Adam McGeeney

02/28 Mark Jordan

Anniversaries!

02/02 Dave & Leslie Spinneweber

02/07 Richard & Sue Boettner

02/12 Rick & Carol McClean

02/25 Jack & Mary Jane McDowell

02/27 Bob & Jackie Wells

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please call the office (724-482-2630) or email Kala at secretary@meridianpres.org so it can be corrected. Thank you!



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	5	6 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Deacon/Trustee Meeting	7 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Choir	8	9	10 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
11 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School & Care Team Meeting 12-2 PM Youth Grp	12 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	13 1 PM Quilt	14 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17
18 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	19	20 1 PM Quilt	21 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7 PM Choir	22	23	24
25 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	26 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	27 1 PM Quilt	28 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7 PM Choir	29		

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4150 Highland Avenue
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SERVICE FEB 14TH @ 7 PM

Faith & Fellowship Nights

Wednesdays Feb 21st-March 20th

Dinner served @ 5:30 & Bible Study for all ages 6:15-7