



Meridian

Presbyterian Church

The Light of Meridian

March 2024

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Butler, PA 16001
www.MeridainPres.org
724-482-2630

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Tom Perschke

Nursery Coordinator
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From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

Recently, after getting the entire family in the van on our way toward Ohio to visit family, we were just a few minutes away when we realized that we had forgotten something we needed. We essentially had two options. The first option was to keep going and go on without it. The second option, which we opted for, was to turn around and return home to get it. With 4 little kids, you can probably imagine, this is a constant dilemma in our lives, do we keep going or do we return to get what we need?

The season of Lent is a time of repentance. It's an annual reminder that we need Jesus in our lives to navigate this often dark and difficult world. It's a spiritual season where we are faced with this same question: Do we keep going on about our lives, knowing that we have left something behind? Or do we return home to get the thing we know we need and are supposed to have?

I have always understood repentance as just saying sorry for our sins. However, recently that view has been challenged by author and speaker Allen Hirsch. He notes, "Repentance is the first word Jesus uses to invite people into the kingdom. It's more than sorry, it's a reorientation of our lives toward God." The call to repentance is a challenge to return our lives to Jesus. It's a challenge to reorient our entire being around the risen Lord. As we walk this spiritual journey toward Resurrection Sunday, may we return home to Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve



Sermon Series

Abraham: Into the Unknown Continued

March 3rd

Title- “When God Takes Too Long”

Focus Passage- Genesis 16:1-16

Secondary Passage- James 1:3-4

Synopsis- Sarah can no longer wait for God’s promise, and can we blame her? She’s of old age. She’s barren. None of it makes sense to her. She has Abraham take matters into his own hands and he gets a servant girl pregnant. This is Abraham’s son, but he’s not the promise. The Lord, in his grace will care for this child and mother, but the story isn’t over and Abraham’s lack of faith will cause reverberations throughout the generations to follow. What do we do when God takes too long?

March 10th

Title- “The Sign of the Covenant”

Focus Passage- Genesis 17:12-21

Secondary Passage- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Synopsis- God directs Abraham in the sign of the covenant, a symbol that the Hebrew people have been marked by God. Abraham still hasn’t received the promised son, but he has received the promise of the covenant. God makes a binding contract with Abraham and with us. In communion, we join in the new covenant sealed in the blood of Christ. Even in the unknown, we have the assurance of the promise.

March 17th

Title- “A Faithful God”

Focus Passage- Genesis 21:1-13

Secondary Passage- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Synopsis- Finally, after years of waiting, the Lord delivers his promise to Abraham and Sarah gives birth to a son named Isaac. This doesn’t solve any of Abraham’s problems, it actually creates more for him. However, the Lord was faithful, even when Abraham was not. Do we trust in the faithfulness of God?

March 24th- Palm Sunday

Title- “Where is the Lamb?”

Focus Passage- Genesis 22:1-14

Secondary Passage- John 12:12-19

Synopsis- Abraham was given the impossible and now he is asked to give it up. It seems like a cruel joke. However, Abraham knows that all things belong to God. Isaac asks a question that should ring deep in our souls as we prepare for Easter: “Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” The Lord provides the lamb. This is our story of redemption. God provides the lamb, his Son, who will go to the cross for us.

March 28th- Maundy Thursday

Title- “At the Foot of the Cross”

Focus Passage- Mark 15:33-39

Synopsis- One of the most remarkable moments of the crucifixion is the centurion at the foot of the cross. He was a Roman soldier, physically responsible for the death of Jesus. Yet, as he watches everything unfold, he makes a bold proclamation, “Truly this was the Son of God.” There’s no resurrection. Nothing miraculous has happened, yet the Holy Spirit opened his heart at the foot of the cross.

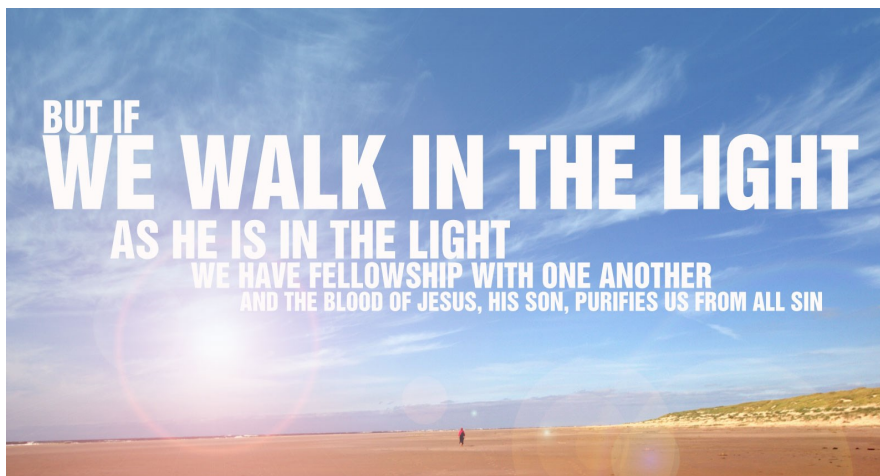
March 31st- Easter

Title- “Because He Lives”

Focus Passage- 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Secondary Passage- Job 19:25-27

Synopsis- The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. No one person has more of an impact on the course of human history than Jesus and those who follow him. The old hymn says, “Because he lives I can face tomorrow, because he lives all fear is gone.” Because Jesus lives we can live with joy, hope, and love.



**JOIN US AS FAITH & FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS CONTINUE WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS DURING LENT. DINNER SERVED AT 5:30 PM
FOLLOWED BY BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES 6:15-7 PM**

**Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt
Following Worship
March 24th**



**Friday, March 29th at 7:00 AM for our
Good Friday Breakfast followed by
guest speaker
Tammy Summers as she tells her
"Story of Hope Out of Heartbreak."**

**NOVEMBER 15-17, 2024
ALL CHURCH RETREAT
@ CRESTFIELD CAMP &
CONFERENCE CENTER**

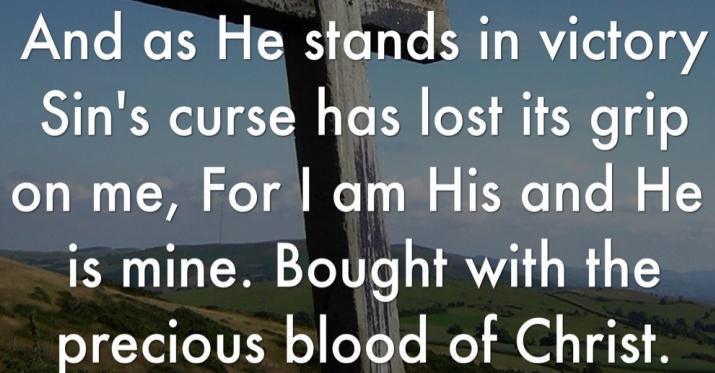


Note from Session:

We did not meet in February and will return to regularly scheduled meetings in March.

Conno Meals on Wheels

Is in need of volunteers to assist in the delivery of meals to our residents in the Meridian and Conno areas. They would need transportation and be available from about 11 AM-1 PM on the determined day. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen at 724-256-8158 or 724-789-7868.



And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip
on me, For I am His and He
is mine. Bought with the
precious blood of Christ.



January 2024

Giving \$29,936.06

YTD Actual \$29,936.06

YTD Budget \$29,750.00

Over (Under) \$186.06

Alice Gilliland Fund

If you are planning on sending your children to Christian camp this summer, the Church has scholarships available. Please see the Church office for scholarship forms and more information.



Mission & Outreach



We were grateful to have Anna and Tom worship with us on Sunday, February 11th. They shared a wonderful update on the ministry going on at Fishbone and what Meridian is doing to help them reach their community!

Isaiah 117

changing the way foster care begins

We received a wonderful update from our Isaiah 117 House! The update below was shared on their Facebook page! We will be connecting with them soon to get an official update and again ask how we can help them achieve their goals in helping children in the foster care program. The gift Meridian Presbyterian sent in November of 2023 helped make this happen! Thank you for your support!

Butler County, you did it again!

During the week of our fundraising lunch and dinner, YOU donated over \$180,000 for the Butler County Isaiah House! IN combination with the generous donations previously received, we are officially able to BUY THE HOUSE!!!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

What's next for ministry needs?

** Funding remodeling*

** Raising the first year's budget*

** Contractor Lunch: February 28th (for all contractors, suppliers, DIY-ers, and volunteers who would like to contribute to house renovations)*

God has provided for each step of this journey,

*The Sandra Lee Foundation and Paul Allen's Closet
proudly present
Prom Giveaway 2024*

Saturday March 16th 10am - 5pm

Sunday, March 17th 1pm - 5pm

*St. Bartholomew's Church Social Hall
311 West Ridge Avenue, Sharpsville, PA*

This is a completely free event for any high school student from any school who needs a gown or suit. One per person and student must be present. Shoes and accessories will be available.



*Sandra Lee Foundation
Non Profit 501(c)3
www.sandraleefoundation.com*



Dear Meridian Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your donation for the Kids' Weekend Backpack Program that send food home with children to fight hunger. We appreciate your support.

**Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation,
Kid's Weekend Backpack Committee**



Thank you for your donation made to our food pantry. You are truly a blessing.

God Bless You,

**Bruce & Barb Thompson
Family Life Ministries**



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

Souper Bowl, Super Bowl & Lenten Preparation

The youth group helped in providing a giant food collection and donation to one of our local food pantries! The youth collected close to \$400 in food donations and \$600 in cash donations! This \$1,000 gift of resources was donated to Family Life Food Pantry off Mercer Road.

The following week the youth group got together for a Super Bowl Tail-gate party! Good pizza and food and we completed our series about the walls we put up to protect ourselves but in reality we need to trust in the protection God gives us because our walls only end up leaving God on the outside of those walls.

The rest of the month youth group changed to Wednesday evenings as we started out Faith and Fellowship nights as a whole church!

Lastly our youth started to fundraise for this summer's mission trip to Cleveland Ohio! Make sure you check out our table in the library for more information! This years mission trip is through Next Step Missions!



YOUTH & CLUB 35 CALENDAR

March 2024:

3/6 (Wed.) - 5:30 PM Dinner & Youth Group

3/13 (Wed.) - 5:30 PM Dinner & Youth Group

3/20 (Wed.) - 5:30 PM Dinner & Youth Group

3/22 (Fri) - Youth Lock -in 7:00 PM

Club 35: Faith and Fellowship begins 2/21 and there will be events every Wednesday until 3/20

Club 35 Update!

Club 35 will be meeting weekly during our Faith and Fellowship nights! Children are encouraged to come and learn about our biblical character of Daniel!

We are also having our annual Easter Egg Hunt in March 24th after worship!

Normal Club 35 Events will return in April!

Meridian Kids

Monthly Bible Verse

Joshua 22:5b

Be careful to love the Lord your God, walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all of your heart and with all of your soul.

HEARTS for KIDS

This year we are challenging our congregation to spend some extra time in prayer for the children of our church. These magnets were created to serve as a reminder to pray for a child every day throughout Lent. We encourage you to join us in this mission and connect to a child that you may not know. If you would like more information about the child you chose, please feel free to reach out to Laura Franklin at kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Thank you for your prayers and for filling Easter eggs for all of our kids to enjoy this special season.



Upcoming Events:

Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday Nights

5:30-7:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt

3/24 -Palm Sunday

Outside following
Worship

Good Friday
Breakfast

3/29- 7:00am in
Fellowship Hall

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Evenings

February 21st– March 20th

Dinner 5:30

Classes following 6:15-7:00

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have signed up to help in our kids program and to provide meals each week. Please join us as we deepen our understanding of courageous faith through our study of Daniel.



Photo from the ECO National Gathering with Missionaries Caleb, Summer & Hezekiah Shocklie from Edinburgh, Scotland.



March 1st - Stephanie Toniolo

March 3rd - Diane Sweet, Pat Doult

March 7th - Hannah Gregor

March 9th - Ruth Monnie, Russell Forsythe

March 10th - Gary Schneider

March 11th - Rodney Doult, Jim Winterhalter,

March 12th - Robert Myers, Melissa Rudolph

March 13th - Debbe Picerno, Reba Longdon

March 14th - Nicole Sproule

March 18th - Cora Murtha

March 19th - Philip Kearns

March 20th - Ernie Oesterling, Louise Bush

March 21st - Martha Kummer

March 23rd - Crew Siefker, Jesse Titus

March 24th - Eric Shiever & Ben Mason

March 25th - Lori Campbell

March 26th - Peg Morrison, Brielle Siefker

March 27th - Bob White

March 28th - Tyler Karner

March 29th - Robyn Freund

March 30th - Harriet Sanderson,

Timmi Longdon, Cole Lyons



March 10th - Mark & Laura Jordan

March 18th - Mark & MaryAnn Kaminsky

March 20th - John & Linda Oesterling

March 25th - Scott & Timmi Longdon

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

March 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School | 4 | 5 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Deacon/Trustee Meeting | 6 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir | 7 | 8 | 9 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe |
| 10 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School | 11 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study | 12 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Session Meeting | 13 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School | 18 | 19 1 PM Quilt | 20 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir | 21 | 22 7 PM Youth Group Lock In  | 23 |
| 24 10 AM Worship 11 AM Easter Egg Hunt | 25 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study | 26 1 PM Quilt | 27 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Choir | 28 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service | 29 7 AM Good Friday Breakfast | 30 |
| 31 7 AM Sunrise Service 10 AM Easter Sunday Worship |  | | | | | |

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UPCOMING HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

PALM SUNDAY—March 24th, Easter Egg Hunt following worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY— March 28th, Worship & Communion at 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST—March 29th at 7:00 AM

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE—Service at 7:00 AM

EASTER SERVICE—10:00 AM

