



Meridian Presbyterian Church

www.meridianpres.org

The Light of Meridian April 2024

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

Years ago, when I was visiting my sister in Cleveland, we decided to check out the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. There were some cool things in the museum, but if you've never been, there were a number of collectables that appeared to be just ordinary things. For example, there were clothes on display from famous singers, a pair of shoes from an artist, or a coat someone wore once. It seemed odd to me that these normal, average, everyday articles of clothing were worthy of display.

What makes those ordinary articles valuable is who they belonged to. As children of the resurrection, through this lens, we begin to see and understand our value. You are special because, as Peter says, we are a people belonging to God. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we find out just how much God values us.

This Easter we will boldly and joyously declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness and into his wonderful light. That is what Resurrection Sunday is all about. The church gathers together to make the audacious claim that Jesus is alive, has redeemed our very souls, and calls us to live in his light in this dark and hurting world. May we reflect his wonderful light in this season of new life!

In Christ,
Pastor Steve

4150 Highland Ave
Butler, PA 16001
724-482-2630

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin
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Choir Director & Musician
Debbe Picerno

Custodian
Tom Perschke

Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Murtha

~Sermon Series~

Pillars: What the Church is Built On

After the disciples receive the Holy Spirit they go out and preach the gospel. They experience rapid growth as 3,000 were added to their number that day. This is the birth of the Church and Acts tells us that there were 6 key things the early church devoted themselves to. These are the pillars on which the church was built and to be the church today, we must continue to build on them. This series will focus on Acts 2:42-47 as we continue to build on the pillars of faith.



April 7th

Title- **“Resurrection means Revelation!”**

Focus Passage– Luke 24:36-49

Secondary Passage– Isaiah 29:18-19

The disciples are living in fear, and confusion after the resurrection. The death and now resurrection has left them first in pain then in jubilation. Who was this man that they had been following all these years? Now they face a whole new life. A life as witnesses. A life of service, a new confidence in Christ.

April 14th

Title – **“The Apostle’s Teaching”**

Focus Passage – Hebrews 4:12-13

Secondary Passage – Isaiah 40:6-8

Synopsis – “They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching,” is the first pillar of the early church. The teaching of the Apostle’s are actually the things that Jesus commanded them to teach in the great commission. They are committing themselves to the very Word of God, both the Old Testament and what will become the New Testament. To be a healthy church we must be committed to the teachings of Jesus.

April 21st

Title – **“Fellowship”**

Focus Passage – 1 John 1:1-10

Secondary Passage – Proverbs 27:17

Synopsis – The early church committed themselves to fellowship and the breaking of bread. This doesn’t just mean they were nice to their neighbors. They built community together around a unifying creed, that Jesus is Lord. The gospel calls us to fellowship, not only with each other, but with God. We need community if we’re going to live on mission for the kingdom.

April 28th

Title – **“Prayer”**

Focus Passage – Matthew 6:5-15

Secondary Passage – 2 Chronicles 7:14

Synopsis – In Acts 2 we learn that these disciples committed themselves to prayer. Prayer can sometimes be a hard spiritual discipline to follow and many of us don’t know how to pray. Jesus gives us a clear understanding of how we are to approach God. If we’re going to be a healthy church in the 21st century, we need to pray.

WHAT'S HAPPENING....



AED TRAINING

April 17th: 10-12 & 6-8

April 21st: 11-1

April 24th: 10-12 & 6-8

Led by Tim Rausch & Scott Longdon

Sign up in the Library or call the office.

NOTES FROM SESSION:

- Approved Alice Gilliland camp funds for Sadie & Molly Tarr and Luke & David Barton.
- After studying the architect's proposal, approved the next steps to discover feasibility of the project to renovate the sanctuary level with new bathrooms.
- Scheduled Discovery Night (new members) for April 18th at 6 PM.

Blood Drive

Friday, April 12th from 12-5 PM
at Meridian Firehall Signup at
redcrossblood.org

New Members Discovery Night

If you are interested in joining the church or just learning more about who we are and what we do come on Thursday, April 18th from 6-8 PM. Dinner will be provided, signup in the Library or call the office.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 15TH-17TH

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

@ CRESTFIELD CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Chili Cookoff Winners



1st Place: Ed & Ruth Monnie



2nd Place: John Sproule

Pastor Steve's Sabbatical

At November's congregational meeting the session announced that it had approved a time of sabbatical for Pastor Steve. We know there are many questions surrounding this issue and over the next few months we will attempt to answer them through the newsletter, a frequently asked questions page, and congregational announcements during worship.

The session appointed a sabbatical team in the fall of 2023 to help with the planning, budgeting, and approval of coverage for Steve's absence. We are the members of that team: Peg Morrison, Mark Jordan, and Don Smith. If you have any questions or concerns about the process or plan, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The word sabbatical derives from the Hebrew word, sabbath. To clarify a few things, in view of what a sabbatical is, the church is not funding a vacation for Steve and his family. The purpose is for our pastor to care for his soul in order to be renewed, restored, and refreshed to better serve the kingdom and our congregation to the fullest. The focus of Steve's time away will be spiritual renewal. He will spend a week with his mentor and a spiritual advisor, a week retreating with other pastors, and a week building up his marriage on a faith-based marriage retreat.

Steve is committed to the church after the sabbatical, with every intent on continuing his ministry at Meridian. He will be away from July through September of 2024. However, if he is in town, he will be available to cover funerals and major emergencies. In the meantime, we will be relying on our care teams, ministry staff, and a host of volunteers to cover the duties of the ministry. We know this may cause some anxiousness in our congregation. Over the next several months we will do our best to answer your questions and share all of the information we have with you.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
The Sabbatical Team



Thank you for your generous donation to Butler & Connoquenessing Meals on Wheels! Your thoughtfulness to our program is greatly appreciated!

Dear Meridian Presbyterian Church,

I am writing to let you know that we have relocated Kay from Sunnyview to a facility only 15 minutes from my home in Bel Air, Maryland. She is doing well and the facility is very nice. She has her own room and bath. We want to thank the members of your congregation for your support and kindness while she was in Sunnyview. Her new address is:

**Kathryn Lewis
Unit 315
Forest Hill Heights
1 Colgate Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050**

Sincerely,
Raymond Lewis



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

March was a big month for our youth group! During Lent we switch youth group to Wednesday evenings which allows us to switch things up! Youth are invited to join us at dinner at 5:30 PM with youth group starting at 6:00 PM. The youth also helped with clean up on several occasions. During Bible study we took a dive into God's love and the depth of the love that he has for us.

The youth group also participated in a Lock-in right before Holy Week! We started the evening at Token's Arcade then it was back to church for a nerf battle and some snacks! The youth also spent time in prayer that evening as we reflected on the significance of the week ahead as we journey to the cross and to the resurrection and what that means for our faith.

Lastly we have had a wonderful youth mission trip fundraiser! This year we have received close to \$7,000 in mission giving towards our trip! We have twelve youth and three adults for our largest mission trip from Meridian since I have been the youth pastor in the last six years! We are excited for what God is planning in Cleveland in June!



YOUTH & CLUB 35 CALENDAR

April 2024:

4/7: Youth Group 6 PM - 8 PM

4/12 - 4/14: Youth Group Retreat

4/21: Youth Group 6 PM - 8 PM

4/28: Youth Group 6 PM - 8 PM

Club 35: April 21: Lego Event 12 PM - 1:30 PM

Club 35 Update!

Club 35 had a wonderful March! Laura hosted the group during Faith and Fellowship nights as they learned about Daniel! The evenings consisted of dinner, the Bible lesson, games, crafts, and other activities.

They finished out the month participating in the Easter Egg Hunt!



CALEB & SUMMER SHOCKLIE—Missionaries with Antioch Partners in Scotland!

It was a joy to meet with Caleb, Summer, and Hezekiah, while we attended the National Gathering last month. Steve, Laura, Mike Barton, Mark Jordan, Charlotte Smedley, and Dave Freund enjoyed a quick lunch with the Shocklie family and were touched by their story and all that is going on in Scotland. Here is the newest update from Caleb, Summer and Hezekiah!



Hello Meridian Presbyterian Church. We are working hard to build a church plant in Edinburgh, Scotland. You may be wondering why we are planting in Scotland, considering its rich Christian heritage and strong missional history. About 70 years ago Scotland was considered "The land of the Book," that book being the Holy Bible. Nowadays you'd be hard pressed to find anyone who read the Bible recently! We have a vision to see a thriving church network planted here in Edinburgh with the hopes to multiply worshipping communities throughout the city. We have established ourselves in the community of Meadowbank, which sits just north-east of the city center. We have built relationships with our neighbors through community service, community meals and just general chats around the neighborhood. We've begun hosting regular community meals in our homes as we aim to deepen relationships with our neighbors and invite them to follow Jesus.

We've also recently begun exploring a missional opportunity at Edinburgh University. We have four university housing halls situated in our neighborhood and we would love to be able to connect with, serve them, and share the love of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Would you join us in prayer for Meadowbank and for our opportunity at Edinburgh University? Thank you so much for your support, we truly cannot do this work without you praying and supporting us as we seek to share the love of Jesus Christ with a city that does not know Him.

Sincerely,

Caleb, Summer and Hezekiah



Meridian Kids



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

We've had so much fun learning about Daniel and his friends over the last 5 weeks. The fellowship we've had during dinner followed by games, crafts, and laughs has been a blast. I've been so impressed with the amount of knowledge the children have gained and the new friendships that are being built. We hope the lessons we have learned turn into **COURAGEOUS FAITH!**



SAVE THE DATE

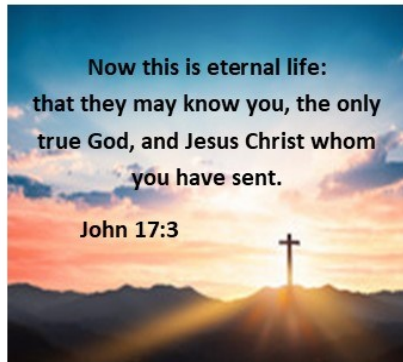
Mark your calendars for this summer's special events.

SUMMER BLAST
July 8th-12th

VBS
July 29th-August 1st
VICTORY

Now this is eternal life:
that they may know you, the only
true God, and Jesus Christ whom
you have sent.

John 17:3



THANK YOU

To all the participants who made this year's Faith and Fellowship evenings and Easter Egg Hunt a success.

We couldn't do it without you!





Time to



- 04/01** Bob Minich
Connie Winterhalter
- 04/02** Gail Raley
Darlane Thompson
- 04/04** Sally Cooper
- 04/05** Ciera Kaminsky
- 04/09** Dorothy Tack
- 04/12** Joan Gumpp Ferringer
- 04/13** Carolyn Street
- 04/14** Colton Franklin
- 04/17** Kelley Hibbs
- 04/18** Ed Garrison

- 04/19** Cole Siefker
Ann Marie Monnie
John Kearns
- 04/20** Grace Smith
Scott Raley
- 04/21** Brooks Wickline
- 04/22** Ron Sweet
Philip Mason
- 04/24** Christine Mikan
Kelsey Schneider
- 04/26** Luke Hitchcock
- 04/27** Riley Douth
- 04/28** Sue Mutz
Bill Raley



- 04/02** Jerry & Beverly Dambaugh
- 04/06** James & Jody Ola
- 04/08** Gary & Leanne Cygan
- 04/11** Russell & Martha Kummer
- 04/21** Kevin & Sue Hilliard
- 04/25** Les & Kay Freehling
- 04/26** Doug & Lori McCann

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.

April 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Deacon/Trustee Meeting	3 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Choir	4	5	6
7 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	8 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	9 1 PM Quilt 6:30 Session Meeting	10 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Choir	11	12 12-5 PM Blood Drive @ Meridian Firehall Youth Grp Retreat @ Ligoneer	13 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
14 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	15	16 1 PM Quilt	17 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 10-12 AED Demo 6-8 AED Demo 7 PM Choir	18 6-8 PM New Member's Discovery Night	19	20
21 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11-1 AED Demo 12-1:30 PM Club 35 6-8 PM Youth Grp	22 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	23 1 PM Quilt	24 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 10-12 AED Demo 6-8 AED Demo 7 PM Choir	25	26	27
28 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	29	30 1 PM Quilt				

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001



**Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 10 AM
& Sunday School at 11 AM**