



Meridian Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2025
4150 HIGHLAND AVE
BUTLER, PA 16001
WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG
724.482.2630

The Lens & Mirror

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Romans 13:11-12 (NIV)

It's been years since we could say this, but we've actually had a traditional western Pennsylvania winter. We've had record streaks of cold, with little to no warm ups. It's been cloudy, snowy, and wet. I don't know about you, but during this time of year I have a hard time getting out of bed. It's hard to leave the warmth of your blanket when it's so dark and cold outside. It's easy to hit snooze, pull the covers back over your head, and sleep just a little longer.

This doesn't just happen in our physical world, but also in our spiritual lives. We can easily slip into the darkness, the warmth of the covers, and fall into a spiritual slumber. The world can often be a dark and dreary place. Pope Francis once said that "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." The season of Lent is not just a time to remember we are sinners, but a season to shake us awake, to be reminded of the Lord's goodness and grace.

As Paul writes to the Romans, so I challenge you this season, "wake up from your slumber!" May we use the opportunity of Lent to reignite our faith, dive deeper into his Word, and to grow in our spiritual lives. Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light, as we prepare our souls to celebrate the resurrected Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin
pastorsteve@meridianpres.org

Dir. of Youth & Family Min.

Mike Barton
mbarton@meridianpres.org

Children's Discipleship Dir.

Laura Franklin
kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Secretary

Kala Siefker
secretary@meridianpres.org

Treasurer

Honey Royer
treasurer@meridianpres.org

Choir Director & Musician

Debbe Picerno

Custodian

Tom Perschke

Nursery Coordinator

Sarah Murtha

Sunday Services

SERMON SERIES

March 2nd

Title – **Full Circle**

Focus Passage – Genesis 48:8-20

Secondary Passage – Ephesians 1:3-13

Synopsis – As Jacob’s life on earth is coming to an end, he reminds his son Joseph that their home is in the Promised Land. Then everything comes full circle. Like his father, he’s losing his sight and blesses Joseph’s younger son, over the older. Like Abraham with Isaac, Isaac with Jacob, and now Jacob with Ephraim. God’s redemption is not bound by earthly rules. He will use who he chooses to bring about his purposes.

March 5th – Ash Wednesday

Title – **Did God Really Say?**

Focus Passage – Genesis 3:1-7

Synopsis – The Splitter whispers into our ears, “Did God really say?” The work of the devil in our lives is not some big, marvelous display but in the gentle whisper that causes us to doubt the Lord’s instruction for our lives. As we begin our Lenten journey, we are reminded of how sin works its way into the human heart.

Lent

THE TABLE

Lent is a season of repentance, but it is also a journey with God in which we experience his grace in the wilderness of life. Repentance is not just feeling sorry for the wrong things we do, it is understanding what Christ has done for us. Repentance leads to forgiveness and in the Christian life, forgiveness is forged at the table. In this series that leads us to the resurrection, we will discover how God provides for his people in the wilderness at the table.

March 9th

Title – **The Tempter**

Focus Passage – Matthew 4:1-11

Secondary Passage – Deuteronomy 8:1-3

Synopsis – After the baptism of Jesus he is led into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. At the end of the fast he’s visited by the Tempter. In the wilderness of life, we’re the most vulnerable. The lies of the Tempter are most appealing. Jesus shows us how to trust in the God who provides.

March 23rd

Title – **Running for Your Life**

Focus Passage – 1 Kings 19:1-8

Secondary Passage – Philippians 3:10-14

Synopsis – Ahab and Jezebel are on a mission to destroy all the people and prophets of God. The last one left is Elijah, and they are after him. He flees for his life into the wilderness. He’s ready to quit and pleads with the Lord to take his life. Instead, God feeds him and equips him to do his work. The wilderness can serve as a respite of safety if we are willing to trust in the Lord.

March 16th

Title – **Bread from Heaven**

Focus Passage – Exodus 16:1-12

Secondary Passage – Matthew 6:9-13

Synopsis – Freedom is not enough for the people of Israel. As they journey through the wilderness toward the Promise Land, they are without food. Some begin to argue that it would be better to be slaves in Egypt, where at least they sat around pots of meat.

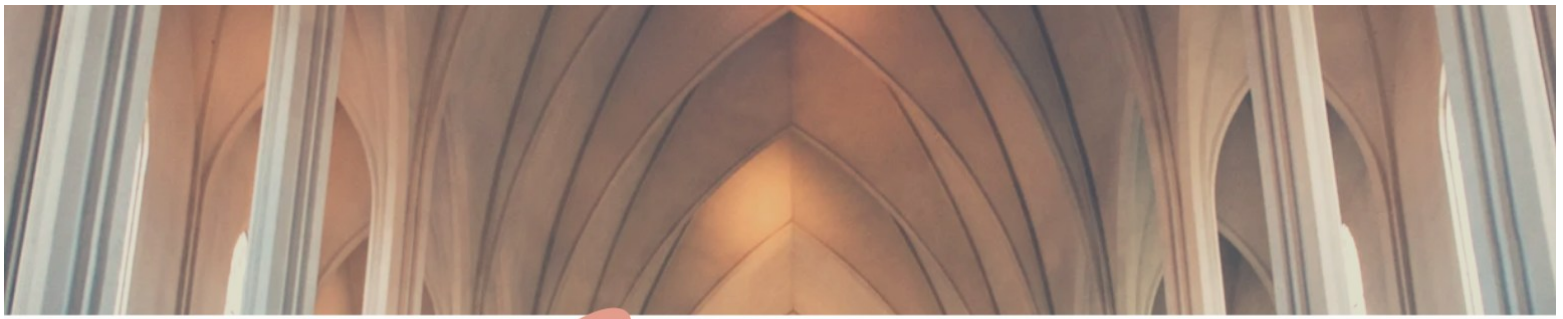
March 30th

Title – **Not Enough**

Focus Passage – Matthew 14:13-21

Secondary Passage – Genesis 22:13-18

Synopsis – In this familiar story, Jesus is teaching the crowd out in the countryside. The disciples want to send them away to eat, but Jesus has other ideas. He tells them, “You give them something to eat.” The problem is that they don’t have enough. Jesus will multiply our offering in the wilderness and use it for his glory, if we’re willing to give it.



JOIN US

Ash Wednesday Service
March 5th @ 7 PM

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 12TH AND
CONTINUING WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT.

DINNER SERVED AT 5:30 PM

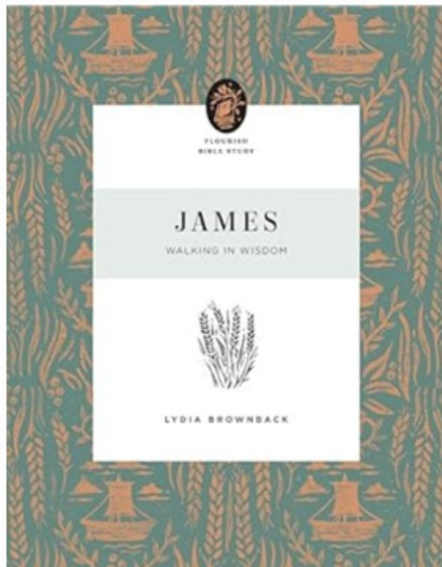
FOLLOWED BY BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES 6:15-7 PM

Grief Fellowship Hour

Scripture instructs us to care for and support anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. Whatever part of the journey you are on, we invite you to attend a time of sharing, memories, prayers, friendship. We meet every other Saturday at 10 AM in the Library.

New Members Discovery Lunch

Anyone who may be interested in joining the church or learning more about Meridian is invited to lunch on March 23rd following worship.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

We are working our way through the book of James. We will continue to meet in Parker Hall every other week. We'll see you on Thursdays at 6 PM or Fridays at 10 AM, March 6th & 7th and March 20th & 21st. Email Laura Franklin with any questions: kidsmin@meridianpres.org

3 SO I TURNED TO THE LORD GOD AND PLEADED WITH HIM IN PRAYER AND PETITION, IN FASTING, AND IN SACKCLOTH AND ASHES
DANIEL 9:3

ALICE GILLILAND FUND

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

Conno Meals on Wheels

Desserts needed, please have your dessert labeled & freezer ready on March 16th.



JANUARY 2025

GIVING \$35,527.02

YTD ACTUAL \$35,527.02

YTD BUDGET \$32,807.50

OVER (UNDER) \$2,719.52

CAPITAL UPDATE

\$97,934 OF \$100K GOAL

Thank You

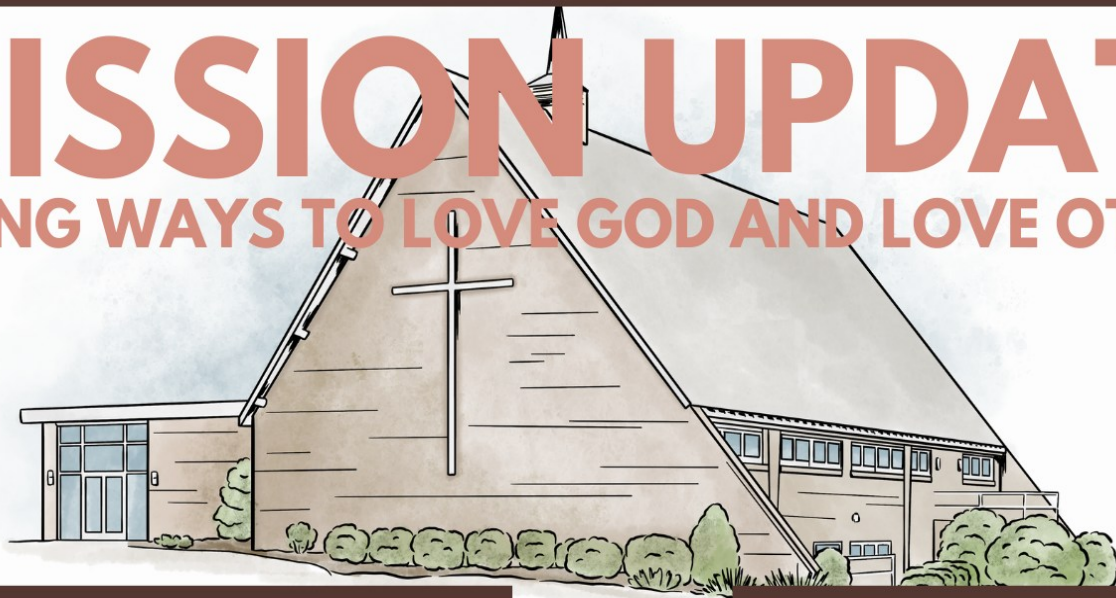
Thank you for all the thoughts, cards, and prayers that I received since my knee surgery. The wonderful caring phone calls really helped keep my spirits up. May God Bless all of you!

- Marion Eckstein



MISSION UPDATE

FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS



FEBRUARY FISHBONE DINNER & MARCH

February was a busy month in mission for our church.

- Our adult mission trip went to Whitesville North Carolina with the Praying Pelican Mission Organization. We served the Facts of Life Church helping with their food ministry and several others helping to build wheelchair ramps and other needs for the community. We had 11 adults on the trip! We look forward to sharing with all of you our stories and experiences.



**THERE ARE ALWAYS
WAYS TO GET
INVOLVED IN OUR
MISSION PROJECTS!
CHECK OUR SIGN
UP TABLE OR
CONTACT THE
CHURCH OFFICE!**

- Our church also served dinner at Fishbone on February 16th! We signed up to fill an empty spot for them and the church responded in a big way. We had over 23 people involved in either helping to cook or provide the food while others went and served the dinner. This is a great ministry and way to help out.



YOUTH

GROUP

MARCH 2025

YOUTH GROUP REPORT!

February youth group was great! We went ice skating, and during youth group we learned about the where the Bible came from and how we can trust the Bible. The youth group also got a chance to celebrate Valentines Day early with a dinner out to Eat'n Park!

YOUTH GROUP SPRING RETREAT:

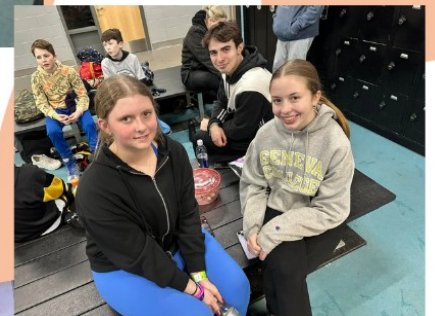
The youth group Spring Retreat is coming back this year! We will be in a new location at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center. Dates are April 25 - 27th.

2025 YOUTH MISSION TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT!

The youth group is headed to Ashville Tennessee to help with the hurricane relief! Dates: June 15 - 21st. We will begin our annual envelope fundraiser in March looking to raise money to help with the cost of the trip.

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS!

Weekly beginning March 12th at 5:30 - 7:00 PM until April 9th, Club 35 & Youth Group will switch to Wednesdays to join in with our adult ministry studies through the season of Lent! The evening includes dinner and Bible studies and activities! We hope you can join us for this weekly journey.



MARCH 2025

CLUB 35: FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS (WEDNESDAYS) 5:30 - 7:00 PM (WITH DINNER!)

YOUTH GROUP:

- MARCH 2 (SUN) YOUTH GROUP 6 - 8 PM
- MARCH 12 (WED) YOUTH GROUP 5:30 - 7
- MARCH 19 (WED) YOUTH GROUP 5:30 - 7
- MARCH 26 (WED) YOUTH GROUP 5:30 - 7

COLLEGE AND CAREER:

BEGINNING MARCH @ FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Meridian Kids

SAVE THE DATE

Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday's in Lent ~ 5:30-7:00pm

*Dinner followed by programs for all ages.

See Laura if you are able to assist with our children's program one week.

SummerBlast

July 7th-11th ~ 10:00-3:00pm

Day Camp for 3rd - 5th graders

VBS

July 20th-24th ~ 5:30-7:30pm

Evening program for PreK - 5th graders

*I'm looking for some volunteers to start working on decorations for our MAGNIFIED VBS this year. If you are interested see me, Laura Franklin (724) 312-4647

Monthly Bible Verse:

**The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him,
and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.**

Psalm 28:7



ON THE CASE

Faith & Fellowship begins on March 12th!

It's one of my favorite times of the year because we get to enjoy dinner together as a church family and then spend time diving into God's word. This year we will be discovering the mysteries behind Jesus' parables. You won't want to miss this series.



Thanks for coming out to our Meridian Mingle game night.





CELEBRATE
March
BIRTHDAYS



March 1st - Stephanie Toniolo

March 3rd - Diane Sweet, Pat Douth

March 7th - Hannah Gregor

March 9th - Ruth Monnie, Russell Forsythe

March 10th - Gary Schneider

March 11th - Rodney Douth, Jim Winterhalter

March 12th - Robert Myers, Melissa Rudolph

March 13th - Debbe Picerno, Reba Longdon

March 14th - Nicole Sproule, David Todd

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, Greyson Werth

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

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour</i>
2 <i>10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp</i>	3	4 <i>1 PM Quilt 5:30 PM Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting</i>	5 <i>9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Ash Wed Service</i>	6 <i>6 PM Women's Bible Study</i>	7 <i>10 AM Women's Bible Study</i>	8 <i>9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe</i>
9 <i>10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11 AM Hospital Care Team Meeting</i>	10 <i>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</i>	11 <i>1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Session Meeting</i>	12 <i>9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship</i>	13	14	15 <i>10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour</i>
16 <i>10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 12 PM Community Lunch St Andrews</i>	17	18 <i>1 PM Quilt</i>	19 <i>9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship</i>	20 <i>6 PM Women's Bible Study</i>	21 <i>10 AM Women's Bible Study</i>	22
23 <i>10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11 AM Discovery Lunch</i>	24 <i>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</i>	25 <i>1 PM Quilt</i>	26 <i>9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship</i>	27	28	29 <i>10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour</i>
30 <i>10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School</i>	31					

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4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

JOIN US

Service March 5th @ 7 PM

Faith & Fellowship Nights
Wednesdays March 12th-
April 9th
Dinner served @ 5:30 &
Bible Study for all ages
6:15-7 PM

