

May 2025

Meridian Presbyterian Church

4150 HIGHLAND AVENUE

BUTLER, PA 16001

WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG

724.482.2630

The Light of Meridian

The Lens & Mirror

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

Those words, “Do not be anxious about anything,” can often feel like a pipe dream. When we think about the world and our lives, there is so much to be anxious about. We’re anxious about our political climate, the economy, our investments in the market, and global tensions. We’re anxious about the future, our families, and what might come of the world and culture we’re in. That’s just on a macro, big picture level. When we break it down day to day, we’re anxious about our schedules, our commitments, and all the things that need to get done that we don’t have time for.

When we read those words again, “Do not be anxious about anything,” it seems almost impossible. That’s where the resurrection comes into view in the Christian life. The worst thing that could ever happened in history is that the Son of God would be crucified, and yet it is also the greatest thing that has ever happened. The things that worry us, cause us great fear, that we lose sleep thinking about are nothing compared to the tomb. That doesn’t make them less meaningful, those things matter. However, it does change our perspective about such things.

Sadhu Sandar Singh once wrote, “In comparison with this big world, the human heart is only a small thing. Though the world is so large, it is utterly unable to satisfy this tiny heart. Our evergrowing soul and its capacities can be satisfied only in the infinite God. As water is restless until it reaches its level, so the soul has no peace until it rests in God.” Through prayer and petition, let us find our rest and hope in the resurrected Lord. Then, and only then, will we truly know his peace.

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 Morning Services

May 4th

“Creation”

Focus Passage: Genesis 1:26-2:3

Secondary Passage: Colossians 1:15-20

Synopsis: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Scriptures point us to our creator and our savior. All of creation belongs to the Lord and has extended his invitation for us to come and dwell with him. We know that the world is not as it should be, so we work for what it can be again.

May 11th

“Fall”

Focus Passage: Genesis 3:9-24

Secondary Passage: Romans 8:18-27

Synopsis: We like to think if we were in the garden, we would not have fallen for Satan’s tricks. However, we would not have fared any differently. Sin is when the will of the human heart comes in conflict with the will of God. This is a constant tension for us, a curse we all must carry. However, we are not dead in our sins, for we have hope in Christ.

May 18th

“Redemption”

Focus Passage: Hebrews 9:11-15

Secondary Passage: Isaiah 53:4-12

Synopsis: The heart of the gospel message is very simple; Jesus does for us that which we could not do for ourselves. Many wonder why the cross was necessary. Why couldn’t God just forgive us without having the sacrifice his Son? Atonement requires sacrifice, so Jesus bared it all for you and for me.

May 25th

“Called by Name, Sent with Purpose”

Focus Passage: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Secondary Passage: Romans 12:1-2

Synopsis: God is calling each of us to something greater. Are we listening? When we answer His call, we step into a life of purpose, transformation, and ongoing surrender—living each day as an act of worship.

Women's Ministry

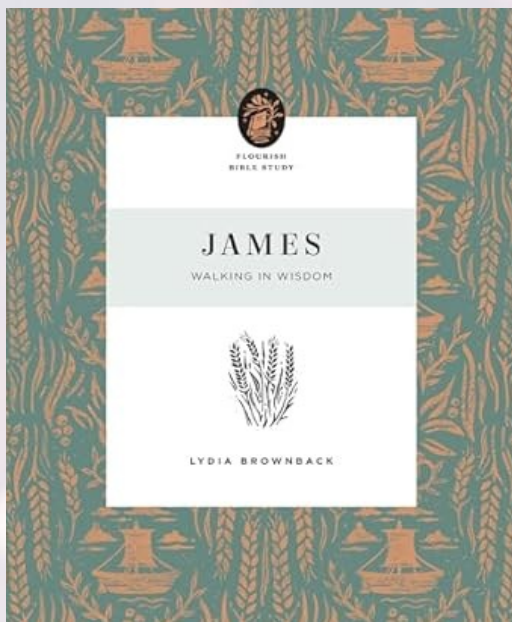
BIBLE STUDY

Only a few more meetings left! See you on
Thursday, May 1st at 6:00pm ~or~
Friday, May 2nd at 10:00am.

We will be discussing Week 7 & Week 8’s homework
and will be in Parker Hall.

May 15th & 16th we will wrap up and make some
fun summer plans!

Email Laura Franklin with any questions:
kidsmin@meridianpres.org



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

1 Peter 5:7

faith and **finances**

March 2025

Giving	\$ 74,113.77
YTD Actual	\$152,352.30
YTD Budget	\$98,422.50
Over (Under)	\$ 53,929.80

Notes from Session:



- We have commissioned a discernment team to study possible solutions to our issues surrounding parking and capacity on Sunday mornings.
- Approved new covenant partners.



- ◆ May 23rd– Family Night at the Pirate Game
- ◆ June 1st - Graduation Sunday. Please notify the church office if your child is graduating high school this year.
- ◆ June 7th - Summer Block Party 4-7 PM
- ◆ June 15th to June 21st- Youth Mission Trip
- ◆ July 7th-July 11th– Summer Blast 3rd-5th Grade
- ◆ July 20th to July 24th - VBS for Preschool to 4th Grade
- ◆ July 30th– Youth Group Lake Day

VOLUNTEERS for VBS and/or SUMMER BLAST can contact Laura Franklin or Pastor Mike.

Thank you for your donation to Connoquenessing Meals on Wheels, we appreciate your help very much.



We would like to thank you for your generous donation to Butler Twp Volunteer Fire District. Your donation will help us fulfill our mission of providing emergency services to our community.

Thank you for all the work you did at my home. May God bless you all and keep you in his care.
Sincerely,
Audrey Kennedy

Dear Ladies of Meridian Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the delicious lunch you served following the funeral of Marie Basehore. Your kindness is much appreciated.

-The Basehore Family

Extending our appreciation for the use of McCaslin Hall to celebrate the upcoming marriage of our son, Jared. We truly had a wonderful afternoon and appreciate all of our church family.

Blessings, The Schneiders

Our Church Family has been very good to me with prayers, calls, visits, and food. The Wednesday Lenten dinners were especially appreciated and enjoyed by son Frank and I. Thank you for all of you for all you do!
-Irene Fair

Dear brother and sisters in Christ,
Thank you for allowing me to come and share my story. I enjoyed the Good Friday breakfast and being the guest speaker for your wonderful congregation.

Love in Christ,
Melody Hooks

MISSION UPDATE

FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

APRIL 2025 was a busy month for our mission team!

SPRING CLEAN-UP! We had fourteen volunteers grab rakes, wheelbarrows, and shovels and visit three homes on Saturday, April 12th. We cleaned up leaves, mulched, and picked up sticks. We cleaned up three yards and had much fun doing it!



GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST:

We had a wonderful turn out for our Good Friday breakfast! We are grateful for Melody Hooks and all of the volunteers who helped make this breakfast a success!

CONNECTIONS:

During the year, I enjoy connecting with our mission partners. This month, I connected with Caleb and Summer, who recently had to move to a new flat but were able to stay in the same area! The ministry that they have been working on can continue. Below they are pictured below at their park ministry.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED THIS SUMMER!

- **JUNE 7TH - MERIDIAN BLOCK PARTY!** WE NEED HELP RUNNING THE EVENT. DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!
- **TOOL TRAILOR!** WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER A TOOL TRAILOR THAT CAN BE USED BY OUR MISSION TEAMS! HAVE TOOLS TO DONATE? TALK TO MIKE BARTON OR ANDY TARR!

Meridian Kids



Welcome
to our new Covenant Partners
and congratulations Tommy on
your recent Baptism!



Monthly Bible Verse:

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



HE IS RISEN!!!

Thank you to all volunteers who make our Kids programs so fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 11th: Mother's Day Kids Singing in Church
- May 18th: Last Day of Sunday School before Summer Break
- June 1st: Volunteer Sunday
- June 7th: Block Party
- July 7th - 11th: Summer Blast
- July 20th - 24th: VBS

For more information see Laura Franklin or call (724) 312-4647



May Celebrations

Birthdays

05/01	Gladys Martin	05/14	Shirley Minich
05/02	Jerry Dambaugh	05/15	Kevin Minich
	Larry Miller	05/17	Dave Hilliard
	Dan Rearick	05/18	Bill Mueller
05/03	Terry Whitesell	05/19	Bob Cordray
05/05	Tina Cygan		Richard Boettner
	Ed Monnie	05/20	Marion Eckstein
05/07	Jack Hitchcock		Jody Ola
	Haley Holtgraver	05/21	Ellie Palmiero
05/09	Sally Baker	05/22	Jared Schneider
05/11	Joshua Karner	05/23	Abbey Statzer
	Don Gamble	05/24	Kala Siefker
05/12	Sadie Tarr	05/27	Carol McClean
	Kris Wickline	05/29	Vicki Georgic
	John Sproule	05/30	AJ Statzer
05/13	Todd Schultz		

Anniversaries

05/01	Tim & Cherie McNulty	05/16	Mike & Harriet Sanderson
05/06	Zach & Alyssa Smith		Bill & Donna Esper
05/10	Ken & Sue Mossgrove	05/20	Barry & Maria Coley
05/11	Jeff & Elizabeth Orsborn	05/21	Ed & Ruth Monnie
	David & Judy Todd	05/24	Larry & Paula Miller
05/15	Thomas & Linda Smith	05/28	Scott & Lori Henderson
	Ken & Chery Wehr		John & Stephanie Toniolo

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6 PM Women's Bible Study	2 10 AM Women's Bible Study	3
4 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 12-2 PM Club 35 6 PM Youth Grp	5	6 1 PM Quilt 5:30 PM 55+ Dinner 6:30 PM Trustees Meeting	7 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	8	9	10 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
11 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	12 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	13 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Session Meeting	14 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	15 6 PM Women's Bible Study	16 10 AM Women's Bible Study	17
18 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 12 PM Community Lunches	19	20 1 PM Quilt	21 6:30 PM Choir	22	23 <i>Family Night at the Pirate Game</i>	24
25 10 AM Worship	26  MEMORIAL DAY	27 1 PM Quilt	28 9 AM Coffee & Conversation	29	30	31

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY, JUNE 7th 4-7 PM—COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY