

*July 2025*

*The Light  
of Meridian*

# **Meridian Presbyterian Church**

4150 HIGHLAND AVENUE

BUTLER, PA 16001

WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG

724.482.2630

## *The Lens & Mirror*

***<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love  
endures forever.  
Psalm 107:1***

It's hard to believe, but June 27th marks my 15th anniversary of being ordained and installed to the of pastor at Meridian Presbyterian Church. I'll be the first to admit that when I arrived here 15 years ago as a 26 year old, newly graduated seminarian, I had no idea what was in front of me. In no way did I have plans to stay for so long. Not one part of me would have guessed the ways in which the Lord would restore and renew this place for his glory.

To say that I am grateful to continue in this ministry as your pastor would be an understatement. My life and ministry is proof that God's ways are far better than our plans. As I reflect back on these 15 years one thing comes to mind, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." That's all I can really say or do each year when this anniversary comes, give thanks to the Lord.

I strive to be a humble servant of a glorious Lord. I'm not always perfect, but you have shown me so much grace. I pray that as we continue to seek the Lord that he would use us and this church to further the kingdom. Let us give thanks and praise to the only one who is worthy of it, Jesus Christ! To him be the glory and honor forever!

*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 Director  
Laura Franklin**

**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

## July 2025



### July 6th

#### “Who Touched My Clothes?”

**Focus Passage:** Mark 5:25-34

**Secondary Passage:** Isaiah 40:28-31

**Synopsis:** Jesus is on his way to help a father who is desperately trying to save his sick daughter. As he makes his way through the crowds, a woman who had been bleeding and unclean for 12 years reaches out and touches his clothes. Jesus knows someone has been healed. He exposes her, not to shame her, but to set her free. Do we have faith to reach out to Jesus?

### July 20th

#### “Why Are You Afraid?”

**Focus Passage:** Mark 4:35-41

**Secondary Passage:** Joshua 1:7-9

**Synopsis:** The disciples are tirelessly racing to save themselves against the storm, as Jesus sleeps in the stern of the boat. They wake him up with a question, “Lord, don’t you care if we drown?” While Jesus calms the storm, it’s the question that should grab our attention, “Why are you so afraid?”

### July 13th

#### “Has No One Condemned You?”

**Focus Passage:** John 8:1-11

**Secondary Passage:** Psalm 103:8-12

**Synopsis:** A woman has been brought before Jesus who was caught in adultery. It’s a trap, set by the religious elite, to catch Jesus in heresy. The woman is a pawn in their game. Jesus challenges anyone who is without sin to cast the first stone. Knowing that they have all left, he asks a simple and freeing question, “Has no one condemned you?” The only one who has the power to condemn us, goes to the cross for us.

### July 27th

#### “Why Do You Call Me Good?”

**Focus Passage:** Mark 10:17-27

**Secondary Passage:** Deuteronomy 11:18-21

**Synopsis:** A man runs up to Jesus and asks him the age-old question: What must I do to inherit eternal life? It’s really a question we all want to know, what must I do. Jesus responds with a challenge, “Why do you call me good?” It’s not because he’s saying he isn’t good. It’s because if you’re calling him good, you’re calling him God, for God alone is good. The answer to the man’s question is found, not within himself and what he accomplishes, but in the God that is right before him.



*But our citizenship is in heaven.  
And we eagerly await a Savior  
from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”  
-Philippians 3:20*



## What's Happening

### *Notes from Session:*

- **Please fill out the all church survey sent by our discernment team by July 15th. This is a vitally important step in our process to discover our future as a church.**

## *Announcements*

### Fishbone Ministries

Tonya Reynolds will be collecting new and gently used clothing and backpacks for boys and girls grades K-12 at Fishbone Ministries from now through July 25th. Please see her with any questions.

## *faith and finances*

**May 2025**

**Giving \$39,337.41**

**YTD Actual \$232,151.98**

**YTD Budget \$164,037.50**

**Over (Under) \$68,114.48**

### Clothed & Loved

I wanted to thank everyone who has donated coats, blankets, clothing, etc to my coat mission "Clothed and Loved." I was able to provide so many people with items to keep them warm all winter. I saw many new faces each month, some people who were truly in desperate need for items. Because of your generosity and giving hearts I always had what people needed. Please know every item that you donate is so appreciated not only by me but those who are receiving them. As I try to restock for this coming winter, I wanted to remind you that I collect all year long. If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to call me at 724-272-4703.

Thank you so very much,

Tonya Reynolds

Clothed & Loved



*Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness with the funeral lunch. Hope you know how much you're appreciated.*

*Cheryll Wehr & Family*

# Volunteer Opportunities



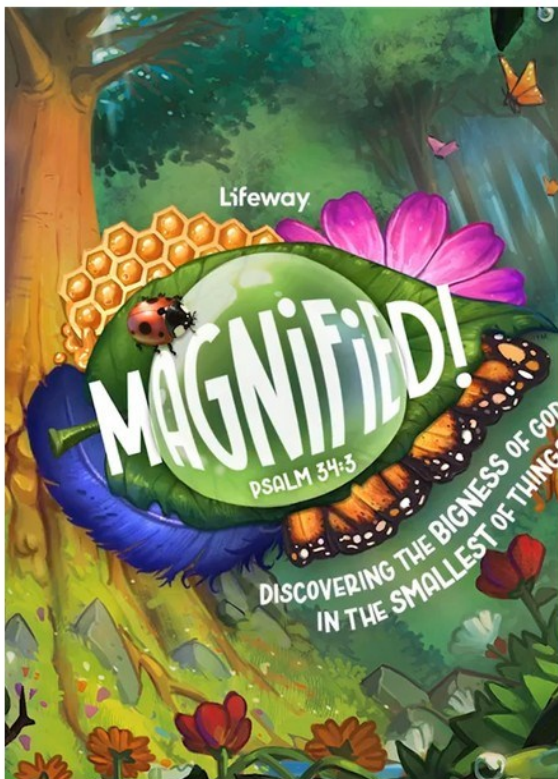
Our craft day had to be postponed because of a great opportunity to partner with another church and share VBS decorations. What a blessing! Our needs have shifted so I hope you can help in one of the following places:

## **FORTIFY FISHBONE**

**Friday, July 25th ~ 10:00am**



Our VBS mission this year will be collecting items for Fishbone Ministry. We will fill back packs for kids in Butler and provide other necessary items for this local mission. If you would like to help, we will be collecting items in the children's Sunday school room throughout the month of July. A specific list will be made available soon. I would love to include some hand written notes and have a time of prayer for these children as we fill these back packs on Friday, July 25th. We will gather in the Youth Room and have a time of prayer and fellowship for our city. Bring a snack to share, all are welcome!



## **VBS DECORATION DAY**

**Sunday, July 20th following worship-Noon**

We are excited to celebrate a wedding the Saturday before we start VBS on Sunday night. It will be all hands on deck transforming our church into a magnified wonderland.

Email Laura Franklin with any questions:  
[kidsmin@meridianpres.org](mailto:kidsmin@meridianpres.org)

# Mission update



## Youth Mission Trip to Asheville, Tennessee!



GUESS WHAT? WE GOT OURSELVES A SHINY NEW TRAILER FOR OUR HEARTS AND HANDS MISSION! 🚚 THE TOOL WISH LIST IS OUT, AND THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN EPIC! WE'RE UP TO OUR ELBOWS IN DONATIONS AND LOVING IT. BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE! 🙌



FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD  
AND LOVE OTHERS

# Youth Group NEWS



## JUNE HAPPENINGS!

June was a whirlwind for the youth group! We launched our summer escapades at Kennywood with our Youth and Family Kennywood day and had a blast with 34 thrill-seekers in tow! Just a few days later, we packed our bags and set off on a Youth Mission Trip to Asheville, TN! We rolled up our sleeves and got busy with hurricane relief in the Great Smoky Mountains area. Check out the avalanche of photos we've shared for some epic memories!



# Meridian Kids



**Monthly Bible Verse:**  
**And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.**

**Ephesians 3:17b-18**



## HELP

Thank you for filling out our interest forms at the Taste & See event following worship. If you have any questions about our ministries and how to get involved please see Laura, Mike or Katie Schultz.



We are in need of Junior Church helpers and Nursery workers this summer. Please sign up in our Kids Binder to give our parents a much needed break. Remember, you can always rewatch the sermon from the comfort of your own home while still discipling our young people.



## SUMMER EVENTS:

### SUMMERBLAST

July 7th -11th

\*10:00am -3:00pm

Mon-Thurs

10-1 Friday at the Slear Property

### VBS

July 20th - 24th:

Sunday -Thursday

5:30-7:30pm

### Church Picnic

August 10th



Sign up to help with VBS

## MAGNIFIED:

Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things

Psalm 34:3

**WE NEED GROUP LEADERS!**



# **JULY CELEBRATION BIRTHDAYS!**

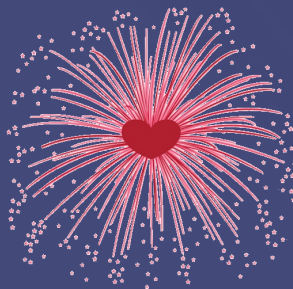


7/02 Julie Freehling  
 Jessie Hitchcock  
 7/03 Valerie Mueller  
 Nancy Kummer  
 7/05 J.D. Franklin  
 7/06 Adam Longdon  
 7/07 Katie Schultz  
 Ruth Spack  
 7/08 Max Palmiero  
 7/09 Gary Cygan  
 7/11 Jeff Olen  
 7/10 Lauren Schettler  
 7/11 Maxine Boarts  
 7/12 Nova Freund  
 7/14 Tim Rausch  
 Heather Zeigler

7/15 Grace Barton  
 Molly Tarr  
 7/19 Barbara Double  
 Gale Fair  
 7/20 Karolina Karner  
 7/24 Rhonda Hough  
 7/28 Arthur Eckstein  
 Cathy Woller  
 Lydia Kwiatkowski  
 Jim Ola  
 7/29 Cayce Bowser  
 Mike Sanderson  
 7/30 Nancy Rettig  
 7/31 Les Freehling  
 Charlotte Smedley  
 Laura Mason  
 Lincoln Fair

## *Anniversaries!*

7/02 Bob & Krista Wickline  
 Randy & Vicki Georgic  
 7/07 Neil & Bonnie Morris  
 7/10 Jon & Alicia Palmiero  
 7/17 Mike & Julie Barton



07/23 Jim & Sarah Preston  
 Gary & Sharon Schneider  
 7/25 John & Nicole Sproule  
 7/26 Greg & Emily Wickline










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





# July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <u>1 PM</u> Quilting	2 <u>9 AM</u> Coffee & Conversation	3	4 	5 <u>10 AM</u> Grief Fellowship Hour
6 <u>10 AM</u> Worship & Communion	7 	8 <u>1 PM</u> Quilting	9 <u>9 AM</u> Coffee & Conversation	10 	11 	12 <u>9 AM</u> Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
13 <u>10 AM</u> Worship <u>11:30 AM</u> Youth Group Lunch & Mini Golf 	14 <u>6:30 PM</u> Men's Bible Study	15 <u>1 PM</u> Quilting	16 <u>9 AM</u> Coffee & Conversation <u>7 PM</u> College & Career Bible Study	17	18	19 <u>10 AM</u> Grief Fellowship Hour
20 <u>10 AM</u> Worship <u>11 AM</u> - VBS Decorating Day <u>12 PM</u> Community Lunch @ St. Andrews	21  <u>5:30-7:30 PM</u> VBS!!!	22 <u>1 PM</u> Quilting  <u>5:30-7:30 PM</u> VBS!!!	23 <u>9 AM</u> Coffee & Conversation  <u>5:30-7:30 PM</u> VBS!!!	24  <u>5:30-7:30 PM</u> VBS!!!	25 <u>10 AM</u> Fortify Fishbone	26
27 <u>10 AM</u> Worship	28 <u>6:30 PM</u> Men's Bible Study	29 <u>1 PM</u> Quilting	30 <u>9 AM</u> Coffee & Conversation <u>7 PM</u> College & Career Bible Study	31 Youth Group Lake Day @ Moraine 		

Meridian Presbyterian Church  
4150 Highland Avenue  
Butler, PA 16001

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, August 10th**

