



August 2025

Meridian Presbyterian Church

4150 HIGHLAND AVENUE
BUTLER, PA 16001
WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG
724.482.2630

The Light of Meridian

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

Over the last 15 years the Lord has blessed this congregation with significant growth. There has not been a net year of covenant partner decline since 2009 at Meridian. This is a statistical anomaly, particularly in denominational churches, across the country. According to Lifeway Research, the churches that are reporting growth are experiencing 2-4% annually, on the high side. To put that in perspective, Meridian has averaged 12.5% growth each year, for the last 3 years.

This is a blessing. However, it also comes with challenges. That is why our session commissioned a discernment team. Our church is a wonderful place, made up of wonderful people. Church growth is never linear, but if we continue to see the Lord add people to our congregation, we need to be prepared to strategically address these issues. The team is not making decisions for the moment, but looking forward to what might lie ahead.

I want to make something very clear. Our discernment team has taken this task seriously. They are deliberately looking at all possible solutions. Not one decision has been made. They are sincerely seeking the Lord for guidance. Also, the discernment team can only make recommendations for our session to consider. Ultimately, where we go from here is up to those you have elected, and the Lord has ordained, for service in His church.

I know that the growth has caused some anxiousness in our congregation about what the future holds. But as the Scriptures remind us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." We do not know what the future holds, we simply know the one who holds the future. Pray with us.

**In Christ,
Pastor Steve**

The Lens & Mirror

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

AUGUST

August 3rd

Title – “What Reward Will You Get?”

Focus Passage – Matthew 5:43-48

Secondary Passage – Psalm 103:1-5

Synopsis– What good is it if we gain the whole world, but lose your soul? The soul is the part of you that is eternal and we’re so easily willing to trade it for the material and finite things of this world. CS Lewis once wrote, “We keep playing in the mud of the slums, when a holiday at the beach is before us. We’re far too easily pleased with this world.”

August 10th

Title – “Why Do You Worry?”

Focus Passage – Matthew 6:25-34

Secondary Passage – Psalm 56:3-4

Synopsis – There are so many things to worry about in this life. We worry about our future, our families, homes, jobs, finances, and so much more. Why don’t we seem to understand that God cares for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, and aren’t we worth more to him than that? Jesus wants to know, why do you worry?

August 17th

Title – “What Do You Want Me to Do for You?”

Focus Passage – Mark 10:46-52

Secondary Passage – Mark 10:35-45

Synopsis – Jesus asked this question in back-to-back stories, with different circumstances. James and John want him to elevate them to the highest position. Blind Bartimaeus wants to see. What is it that we want Jesus to do for us?

August 24th

Title – “What Things?”

Focus Passage – Luke 24:15-32

Secondary Passage – Isaiah 53:4-6

Synopsis– After the resurrection two men walk the road to Emmaus. They were followers of Jesus and they had heard the tomb was empty, yet they didn’t believe. Jesus comes along the road with them and asks them questions. They will see Jesus and they will tell the story. What things have happened?

August 31st

Title – “The Supremacy of Christ”

Focus Passage – Hebrews 1:1-14

Secondary Passage – Psalm 45:6-7

Synopsis – Throughout history God has given his people glimpses of the kingdom. He has shown pieces of himself, but in Christ he has revealed himself to us in his fullness. Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory, the one who reigns above all things.



Meridian Care Team Update:

If you are not part of the Meridian Care Team, you most likely have heard about it. Let me take this opportunity to introduce it and the people who are such a blessing and make it such a valuable tool. The team consists of four sections.

The home visitation team, the facility visitation team, the hospital visitation team, and the *special care team* whose members are Nancy Rettig, Rhonda Hough, Janie Myers, Lori McCann, Debbie Rose, and Audrey Kennedy. This team has a variety of functions including attention to shut-in by mailing cards on holidays and special occasions, delivering Christmas packages, providing communion, and meal train delivery. As many young Christians drift away from their spiritual roots after graduation from high school, this team is embarking on a new adventure. They are in the process of developing of a program to maintain contact with our youth who have recently graduated and will be moving on to colleges, trade schools or vocations.

These teams are in a constant state of adjustment to provide the best possible spiritual support and community to our Covenant partners. If you are interested in becoming part of this dynamic group, or would like more information, contact me or any team member. Chances are, we can use YOUR specific talent to furthering the Kingdom.

- Tim Rausch

DISCERNMENT TEAM UPDATE

Our discernment team is calling for a meeting of the College of Elders. Anyone who has ever served as an elder at Meridian Presbyterian Church is invited to join our discussion and discernment process on August 28th at 6:30 PM in Parker Hall. We hope you will join us to hear from the team, ask questions, and offer feedback.

faith and
finances



June 2025

Giving \$38,023.83

YTD Actual \$270,175.81

YTD Budget \$196,845.00

Over (Under) \$73,330.81

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.

****Friendly reminder****

Pastor Steve is off on Mondays. Please honor this day of rest by reaching out to Pastor Mike for any non-emergent needs on Mondays. Thank you for your understanding!

BAKERS NEEDED!

We will be providing desserts for Conno Meals on Wheels.

Please bring your freezer ready dessert labeled in the hallway outside the Library on Sunday, August 3rd.

There is a signup sheet in library, many slots still need filled!



AUGUST 10th, 2025

12 PM @ The Slears

Please bring a side or dessert to share!

**Sunday School Kickoff
September 7th after
worship starting at 11 AM!**

THIS FALL:

Communion Class-2nd Grade & Up

Confirmation Class-5th Grade & Up

See Pastor Mike or Laura for details

Dear Meridian,

Thank you for coming to serve in western North Carolina, we had a great time with you! The mission site was hard work and y'all did great! You built a fence and that is amazing. We hope you are proud of how you served Paula! I know your impact will last beyond your week of camp. As a staff, we are so thankful that you chose to give up a week off your summer to make a difference in the life of some. We enjoyed servings with y'all!

-TEAMeffort Missions

THANK YOU from all of the youth who received funds from the Alice Gilliland Camp Scholarship Fund. They all enjoyed their time at camp this summer!



Connoquenessing Meals-On-Wheels wishes to thank you for your generous gift of \$375. We are thrilled to have your continued support. Through your donation we have been able to prepare hot, nutritious meals to the homebound of Butler!

Mission update

MISSION PARTNER UPDATE: HOSANNA INDUSTRIES



A quick note from our mission partner, Hosanna Industries!

Hosanna and volunteers installed a new roof alongside our wonderful friends from Nicklas Supply, Inc.

Many of our volunteers become friends and come back to serve with us year after year. We are truly grateful for these friendships, which are formed through acts of service and nurtured by our mutual love and respect for one another.

We also had a group of youth serve with us recently. Little hands can be just as powerful as those with experience; in fact, they may possess even greater strength due to their spirited nature! Last week, Christ United Church in New Castle PA volunteered to serve those in need, and it was a privilege to witness their enthusiasm for learning and giving back to the community. We are truly honored to help facilitate such meaningful opportunities for them.

We are always interested in seeing how our mission partners are working to further the kingdom of God.



**FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD
AND LOVE OTHERS**



WE ARE THRILLED WITH THE RESPONSE OF TOOLS AND THE BLESSING OF GETTING A TRAILER FOR OUR NEW MINISTRY! WE ALSO APPRICIATE YOUR PATIENCE AS WE WORK IN THE BACKGROUND TO INVENTORY ALL OF THE TOOLS THAT WE HAVE RECIEVED AND DONATIONIS MADE! WE WILL LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT ELSE WE NEED SOON!



YOUTH GROUP!

JULY A time of REST and Lots of Ministry!

The Bartons took a trip to Tennessee! Our family enjoyed spending time together in the Great Smoky Mountains. Taking a sabbath and a rest from daily activities and responsibilities to recharge the batteries is essential. From hiking to waterfalls to checking out Dollywood and trying unique restaurants, it was a fun getaway for everyone! If you're looking for a vacation spot, Gatlinburg is a great choice! Once we got back, we dove into SummerBlast and our College and Career Bible study, and prepared for Vacation Bible School. This time of year is packed with activities for all ages in our ministry!



SUMMERBLAST 2025! We had a wonderful week with 42 campers and 14 volunteers who helped out throughout the week! The group learned that God never leaves us, whether it is in good times or difficult times. The story of Joseph twists and turns, but Joseph remains faithful to God, and God gives Joseph refuge and strength to face adversity!

Meridian Kids



Monthly Bible Verse:

O Magnify the Lord with me. Come exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Junior Church Helper

During worship, you'll lead the kids (prek-2nd graders) in a prepared lesson with a video and activity sheet and then return before the end of worship.

Sunday School Teacher

We need helpers to invest in our kids after worship. We have different age groups and we need YOU! All curriculum is provided. See Laura if you are able to help.

Email: kidsmin@meridianpres.org



MAGNIFIED VBS 2025

Discovering the Bigness of God in the smallest of things. We had a wonderful week full of learning, snacking, singing and fun. Thank you to all of the kids and volunteers that made our VBS so great!

THANK YOU!

We were able to make a large donation to Fishbone Ministries because of your generosity. Thanks for helping our community!



COMING this FALL

Sunday School

Communion Class

Confirmation Class

See you in September!





AUGUST CELEBRATION BIRTHDAYS!



8/03 Joseph Scherder
 8/04 Judy Todd
 8/07 Deborah Schettler
 Benjamin Hauser
 Vincent Statzer
 8/09 Dennis Clever
 8/12 Tonya Reynolds
 Kathy Wolabaugh
 8/13 Jim Woller
 Maria Coley
 Joy Zalar
 8/14 Kristopher Smith
 Isabella Wickline
 Bowan Watterson
 8/17 B.J. McKean
 Barry Coley

8/18 Shelly Hromyak
 8/19 Sarah Tarr
 Sharon Schneider
 8/21 Dave Freund
 Nathaniel Kwiatkowski
 8/22 Carl Rose
 8/23 Wayne Clark
 Stephen Franklin
 8/24 Michelle Raley
 8/26 Gregory Wickline
 8/27 Jim Fiel
 8/28 Wyatt Harrison
 8/29 Laura Franklin
 Gary Moore
 Carol Orsborn
 8/31 David Spinneweber

Anniversaries!

8/01 Melissa & Mike Graham
 8/02 Don & Lori Smith
 8/07 Dale & Jennifer Lyons
 8/08 Adam & Amy McGeeney
 8/16 Lewis & Karen Lyons
 Bob & Vickie White



8/19 Dave & Suzanne Freund
 8/20 Joseph & Marly Jo Scherder
 8/26 Michael & Loraine Bowser
 Jackson & Donna Grimm
 8/27 Nathan & Abbey Statzer

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!



August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10 AM Grief Group
3 10 AM Worship & Communion	4	5 1 PM Quilt	6	7	8 11 AM Fortify Fishbone	9 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
10 10 AM Worship 12 PM Church Picnic @ Slears 	11 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	12 1 PM Quilt	13 7 PM College & Career Bible Study	14	15	16 10 AM Grief Group
17 10 AM Worship 12 PM Community Lunch	18	19 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Youth Group	20	21	22	23
24 10 AM Worship	25 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	26 1 PM Quilt	27 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM College & Career Bible Study	28 6:30 PM College of Elders Meeting in Parker Hall	29	30 10 AM Grief Group
31 10 AM Worship 5 PM Fishbone Dinner						

**COME
WORSHIP**
with us!

10:00 AM

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