



Meridian Presbyterian Church

The Light of Meridian

October 2025

4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001
724-482-2630
www.meridianpres.org

The Lens & Mirror

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32

It's been a difficult and dark few weeks in our country. The truth is we have just taken notice of the darkness that is always present. As Americans we like to believe that these things are not supposed to happen in our culture. We want to believe that we're better than this and our values of freedom are upheld by all people. Whether it's the school shooting of the kids starting the year with Catholic mass or the assassination of Charlie Kirk, we know deep down there is something wrong. We know the world is not as it should be.

In these moments the natural human instinct is to get revenge, fight back, or take a stand. While I understand that impulse, the call of Christ requires something entirely different. I was struck by the words of Kirk's widow, Erika, as she called on us to forgive this young man who took the life of her husband. It's incredible in the sense that it goes against every instinct we have. She should be angry, bitter, and after justice. Instead, she called for forgiveness. That's a distinctive marker of the Christian life and the exact calling that each of us carry.

CS Lewis once wrote, "If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having." Evil is part of this world. Our response is not anger or rage, but love. In a world on the brink of madness, we must not compromise the command of Christ to respond with radical grace and radical love.

*In Christ,
Pastor Steve*

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin
pastorsteve@meridianpres.org

Assistant Pastor
Mike Barton
mbarton@meridianpres.org

Children's Discipleship Dir.
Laura Franklin
kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Director of Care
Tim Rausch
care@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

Sermon Series: Jesus is Greater continued

A study on the book of Hebrews

Hebrews is one of the most challenging, but beautifully crafted books in the Bible. This book is filled with deep theology, mixed with practical understanding of who Jesus really is. As we dive deep into this letter we will find a powerful message for today's church, one that is simple: Jesus is greater.

October 5th—World Communion Sunday

Title- **“Entering His Rest”**

Focus Passage— Hebrews 4:1-13

Secondary Passage— Exodus 20:8-11

Synopsis— Rest is part of the ordered human life, it's what God has made us for. We've lost the art of Sabbath. However, the holy life still requests rest. The Word of God is living and active, it cuts to the heart. Let us make every effort to enter his rest.

October 12th

Title- **“Our Great High Priest”**

Focus Passage— Hebrews 4:14-10

Secondary Passage— Leviticus 21:6-8

Synopsis— The priest stood between God and man. They offered a representation of humanity to the Lord along with the sacrifices necessary for atonement. In Jesus we have the great high priest, the one who fulfills it all on our behalf. Through him we have confidence to approach the throne of grace.

October 19th

Title- **“An Anchor for the Soul”**

Focus Passage— Hebrews 6:13-20

Secondary Passage— Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Synopsis— Two things that are important in the Christian life are maturity and perseverance. The modern church and American culture suffers greatly in both areas. Often in our spirituality we're still drinking milk, when we should be eating solid food. Instead we should flee to take hold of the hope set before, which we have as an anchor for the soul.

October 26th

Title- **“Our Eternal Priest”**

Focus Passage— Hebrews 7:11-28

Secondary Passage— Genesis 14:17-20

Synopsis— Who is Melchizedek and why does he matter? He was a priest and a king, one whom Abraham gave a tenth of everything as a tithe in Genesis. He was a priest before the line of Levi. It wasn't because of his blood line, but his anointing. Jesus isn't our eternal priest because he's from the priestly order, but because God has anointed him to take up our sin so the sacrifice is no longer necessary.



During the month of October, we take time to recognize and honor the dedication and sacrifices our pastors and their families make in service to our church community. Boxes will be placed in the fellowship room outside the office to collect cards or notes of thanks for Pastor Steve and Pastor Mike if you would like to express your gratitude.

What's Happening at Meridian...



Join us Sunday, October 5th as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. We will be packing hygiene kits to aid in disaster recovery and having a soup cookoff immediately following worship. Gluten free communion bread is now available for those who need it.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

**Friday, October 14th from
12-5 PM at Meridian Fire
Hall Register Online at
Redcrossblood.org**

DISCOVERY NIGHT

The elders will be hosting a discovery night for anyone who may be interested in joining the church or learning more about Meridian on Thurs. October 2nd at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be provided.



Community Event

Trunk or Treat

**Saturday, October 18th 4-6
Fun for all...**

**Decorated Trunks, Candy,
Face Painting, Bounce
House, & Food!**

We need volunteers to help make this event a success.

Let us know if you would like to help with setup, cleanup, kitchen, parking, or donating cookies.

**Adult Sunday School information and discussion on
Sunday, October 12th at 11:20 AM in the sanctuary.
Anyone who has ideas or is interested in adult
Sunday school please attend.**

**Men's Breakfast on
October 11th at 9 AM at
Mac's Cafe**

CHORONICALLY SUPERIOR DINNER 55+

Thursday, October 23rd at 5:30 PM

Grief Fellowship Hour

**Saturday, Oct 11th at 10AM
&
Saturday, Oct 25th at 10 AM
In the church library**

SAVE THE DATE

**Chili Cook Off and Tailgate Party after
worship on Sunday, November 16th. More
details coming soon!**

NOTES FROM SESSION:

- Elected Dave Freund as our elder representative to serve at our denomination's national synod meeting February 2nd-4th.
- Set discovery night for October 2nd.
- Had a first reading of our 2026 budget.
- Heard an update from the discernment team.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us.

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

The Family of
Carole Henderson

faith and finances

August 2025

Giving \$34,410.55

YTD Actual \$340,387.12

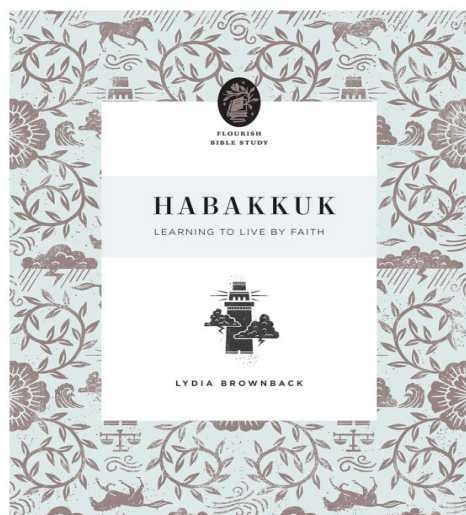
YTD Budget \$262,460.00

Over (Under) \$77,927.12



Help give local cancer patients Christmas stockings stuffed with love and care as they Hang Tough while fighting their battle. Join us on Sunday, November 16th for a stocking stuffing party at noon at the Meridian Fire Hall! We will be collecting gift cards, playing cards, adult puzzle & coloring books, colored pencils, markers, crayons, highlighter, gloves, winter hats.

Women's Ministry



Last month we began our new study.

It's so good to be back together!

We will be traveling through Lydia Brownback's book *Habakkuk: Learning to live by Faith*.

This month our meeting days are

October 9th & 10th and October 23rd & 24th.

We will meet in the library at the following times:
Thursdays at 6:00pm and Fridays at 10:00am.

It's never too late to join if you would like. See Laura Franklin for more details and resources.

MERIDIAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

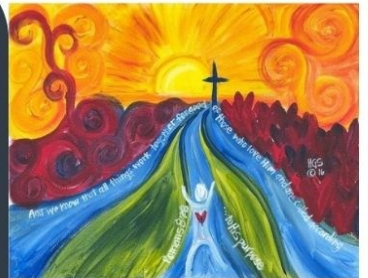
SEPTEMBER BEGINNINGS!

The youth group is off to a big start this year! We kicked off this month with a number of new youth events! A pool party at the Masons' house and then a Youth community dinner night at the Zeigler house! We followed all of that up with a work night on the tool trailer at Kevin Hilliard's house on a mission project for Hearts and Hammers!



Current Youth Group Series!

ROMANS: Romans is packed with big truths about following Jesus. Over three weeks, we'll explore why the good news of Jesus matters, how God makes things right with us, and what it looks like to actually live as His followers. Get ready to grow deeper in your faith and live it out in everyday life!



October

10/5: YOUTH GROUP! 6 - 8 PM

10/12: YOUTH GROUP 6 - 8 PM

10/19: YOUTH GROUP FALL EVENT! 6 - 8 PM (LOCATION TBA)

10/26: YOUTH GROUP MISSION NIGHT 6 - 8 PM

MISSION

UPDATE

FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD
AND LOVE OTHERS

SEPTEMBER CONNECTIONS:

FISHBONE

Meridian Presbyterian was back at Fishbone Ministries on August 31st to serve dinner to the adults who attend worship at Fishbone. It was a great night, and the dinner was greatly appreciated. Mike met with Anna in September, and we are looking to expand our dinner ministry with Fishbone in the new year by not only providing meals on the 5th Sunday but also being a substitute in our off months for other organizations that may not be able to host. Mike and Anna are also planning a work project this fall to kick off Hearts and Hammers! We hope to announce that in the coming weeks!

Adult Mission Trip 2026

The dates are set—February 22–28, 2026—for our next Adult Mission Trip! There is currently a sign-up sheet outside the office for anyone interested in attending this year's trip! Our destination is back to North Carolina; however, this year we are slated to work with Samaritans' Purse.

ABOUT THE TRIP and LOCATION: Samaritan's Purse is ministering to Yancey County, NC in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. In September of 2024, Hurricane Helene tore through western North Carolina, dumping extreme rainfall and causing catastrophic damage, leaving parts of the region in ruins. Far beyond the physical help you will extend to the homeowners, the spiritual and emotional support you offer to them is even more important. Rebuild volunteers will work to rebuild and repair homes damaged during this event.



HEARTS AND HAMMERS UPDATE:

EACH MONTH WE'RE MOVING CLOSER TO LAUNCHING OUR HEARTS AND HAMMERS MINISTRY! OUR TOOL TRAILER HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND PREPPED FOR THE ROAD, AND OUR YOUTH GAVE A WHOLE EVENING TO ORGANIZING AND PACKING TOOLS! WE ARE PRAYERFULLY PREPARING TO SEND OUT OUR FIRST VOLUNTEER JOB OPPORTUNITY IN OCTOBER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT AS WE GET READY TO PUT HEARTS AND HAMMERS TO WORK IN CHRIST'S NAME!

Meridian Kids

October 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 5th

We will be sharing a meal and packing Hygiene kits for disaster relief following worship. Sign up to bring a soup and celebrate our kids. There will be no Sunday school on the 5th.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 18th

4-6pm

Join us for some fall fun including bounce houses, food, costumes and candy of course! Decorate your trunk and invite your neighbors for this fun community outreach event.

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the FRUIT of the SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



JUNIOR CHURCH

Our kids are taking an in-depth look into each characteristic of the fruits of the spirit in Junior Church this fall. If you'd like to help disciple our youngest covenant partners, please sign up to teach or help in Junior Church. All sign-ups are available on the counter outside of the office.



COMMUNION CLASS

We've had a big group of 2nd and 3rd graders join us for communion class this year. They have learned important church history and the deep meaning behind this sacrament. We can't wait to join with them for their first communion on October 5th for World Communion Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have started a new curriculum this fall called BRITE. In October, our kids' classes will be back to normal. I'm excited to focus on next month's theme where we will be going over stories from 1st and 2nd Samuel:



For more information about our Children's Discipleship please contact:

Laura Franklin

kidsmin@meridianpres.org

724-312-4647

OCTOBER CELEBRATION



BIRTHDAYS



10/1 Kathy Kriebel
Darla Royce
Heather Thompson

10/3 Seth Rishor

10/5 Steven Royce

10/6 Melanie Barker
Levi Toniolo

10/7 Lucy Douth

10/8 Mary Neely
Connie Lamb

10/10 William Allison

10/11 Robert Murtha
Adalee Schultz
Libby Woller

10/13 Darlene Brown

10/14 Jolene Schultz

10/16 Emily Sproule

10/18 Scott Henderson

10/20 Dennis Campbell

10/21 Zachary Smith
Cindy Musko

10/22 Christopher McKain

10/27 Jennifer Lyons

10/28 Taylor Campbell
Danny Holtgraver

10/29 Pearl Park

10/30 Neil Morris

10/31 Rebecca Buck

ANNIVERSARIES

10/1 Mitchell & Kristen Kwiatkowski

10/4 Rodney & Michelle Douth

10/8 Wayne & Cindi Clark

10/9 Adam & Lauren Schettler

10/10 Roger & Jane Wolfe

10/12 Jeff & Debbe Picerno

10/17 Steve & Shelly Hromyak

10/18 Art & Marion Eckstein

10/19 Ron & Diane Sweet

10/20 Gary & Autumn Moore

10/22 Michael & Kelley Hibbs
Jim & Cathy Woller

10/27 Michael & April Dickey

Matt & Kristen Wickline

10/29 Chris & Kelly Sumansky



October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<i>1</i> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<i>2</i> 6:30 PM Discovery Night	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Soup Cook off & Packing Hygiene Kits 6-8 Youth Group	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 1 PM Quilt 5:30 PM Deacon 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	<i>8</i> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<i>9</i> 6 PM Women's Bible Study	<i>10</i> 10 AM Women's Bible Study	<i>11</i> 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Café 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
<i>12</i> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School & Care Team Meeting 6-8 PM Youth Grp	<i>13</i> 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	<i>14</i> 1 PM Quilt 12-5 PM Blood Drive @ Firehall 6:30 PM Session	<i>15</i> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 4-6 PM Trunk or Treat 
<i>19</i> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 12-2 PM Club 35 6-8 PM Youth Grp	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 1 PM Quilt	<i>22</i> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<i>23</i> 5:30 PM 55+ Dinner 6 PM Women's Bible Study	<i>24</i> 10 AM Women's Bible Study	<i>25</i> 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
<i>26</i> 10 AM Worship 11 Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	<i>27</i> 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	<i>28</i> 1 PM Quilt	<i>29</i> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	



JOIN US!
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 18TH
4:00-6:00 PM

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001