



Meridian Presbyterian Church

The Light of Meridian November 2025

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

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

Year after year, during the month of October, our family is overwhelmed by your generosity, words of encouragement, and gifts for pastor appreciation month. Grateful seems like an insufficient word to describe the joy we have of being a part of this church. When the Lord called us here almost 16 years ago, we really had no idea that he was calling us home.

It is an honor to be the pastor of this church. John Buchanan once wrote, "Remarkably, they not only let us into their lives and intrude into ours, but they come week after week and sit quietly and listen to us talk. If there is a more astonishing fact and a more unlikely honor than that, I don't know what it might be."

We are partners in the gospel, confident that the Lord who began a good work in us will carry it to completion. Thank you for allowing me into your lives. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your grace. Thank you for caring for my family and I so well. Let us continue together in the work of the kingdom.

*In Christ,
Pastor Steve*

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

Assistant Pastor
Mike Barton
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Children's Discipleship Dir.
Laura Franklin
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Secretary
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Treasurer
Honey Royer
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Choir Director & Musician
Debbe Picerno

Custodian
Tom Perschke

Sermon Series-Jesus is Greater continued

A study on the book of Hebrews

November 2nd

Title- "A Greater Promise"

Focus Passage- Hebrews 8:1-13

Secondary Passage- Jeremiah 31:31-34

Synopsis- Some theologians argue that the old covenant is one of law. The law is given through the grace of God, and therefore, must be a covenant of grace. The law points us forward to the greater promise that is to come, Jesus Christ. The law is a place holder until the Great High Priest take his rightful place. The law is only a shadow of the good things.

November 9th

Title- "Once and For All"

Focus Passage- Hebrews 9:15-28

Secondary Passage- Hebrews 9:1-14

Synopsis- Under the old covenant there was a process of sacrifice for the atonement of sins. Under the new covenant the sacrifice has been made once and for all. The blood of Jesus secures our eternal redemption.

November 16th

Title- "By Faith"

Focus Passage- Hebrews 11:1-13

Secondary Passage- Isaiah 40:28-31

Synopsis- Faith is closely linked to hope. Faith is looking at God and trusting him for everything. Hebrews defines exactly what faith means, the assurance of things hoped for. It's in this hope and by this faith that the saints who have gone before us have walked, and it's by faith that we too must walk.

November 23rd

Title- "Run the Race"

Focus Passage- Hebrews 12:1-7

Secondary Passage- Proverbs 28:13

Synopsis- If we walk by faith then we can run the race with perseverance. How we run that race is not by the strength of our will, but by fixing our eyes on Jesus. It's easy to lose heart along the journey. In order to finish we must consider him who bore the cross for us.

Advent: Expecting Joy

Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and expecting what is to come. We sometimes confuse this season of expectations as passively hoping God will show up. There is nothing passive about the Christian life. While we wait in the darkness, we're filled with expectant joy, knowing the one we are waiting for is going to make all things new.

November 30th

Title- "Joy in the Promise"

Focus Passage- Isaiah 9:1-7

Secondary Passage- Philippians 4:4-9

Synopsis- Even in the darkness, we rejoice because God has promised us a light. As the prophet says, there will be no more gloom for those in distress, for a great light is coming. Joy begins before fulfillment, we find it in the certainty of God's promise.

Meridian Care Team

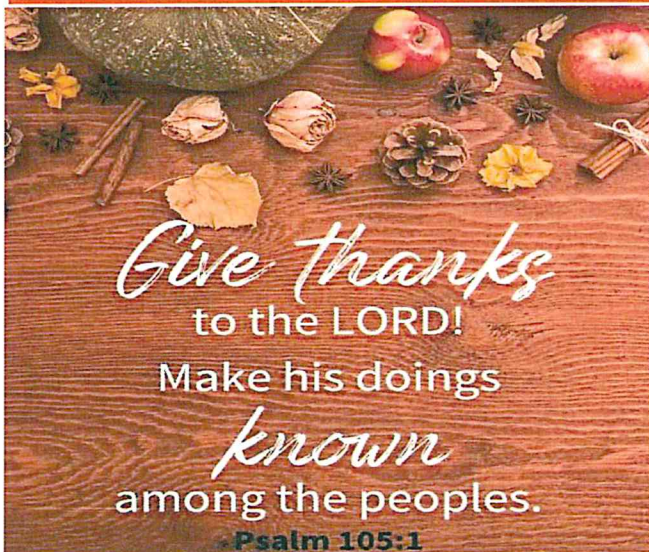
The Meridian Care Team is very active as we enter the Christmas season. We will be stuffing stockings for 12 shut-ins. If you wish to contribute, a list of suggested items is posted near the welcome desk through November 30th. Members of the Special Care Team are supporting our recent graduates through the *Graduate Faith Initiative*. Mentors will develop a personal relationship with the graduate to supplement their family's spiritual support during this transitional phase of their lives.

We are assisting Pastor Steve to provide communion and more frequent visitations to those at home, in facilities, and those who are hospitalized. During visitations, some of our covenant partners have stated that they really miss church activities such as Lenten dinners and other meals and gatherings. In an effort to maintain a close church family, we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in providing transportation for these individuals. Of note, this is not a church sanctioned activity and would be an agreement between the two individuals. The plan would be to provide the shut-ins and those in facilities with a list of people whom they could contact if they would like to arrange transportation. If you are interested or would like more information or would like to get involved in any of the projects involving the Care Team, please contact me.

Tim Rausch

Notes from Session:

- Received the report from the discernment team.
- Approved the packet for the congregational meeting, along with the 2026 budget.
- Welcomed new covenant partners: Deb Bowser, Lisa & John Hoehn, Timothy & Susan Johnston, Pat Lazare, Megan, Dylan, Cecelia, & Josie Mackrell, Allen & Gemma Mechling, Brittany, Bayla, & Harper Osborne, Shelley, Sutton, & Cadence Patrick, and Jim & Lori Smith.



Church Family ~
We are overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you for all your gifts and cards this past month.
~ The Franklins



Dear Church Family,

My family is overwhelmed and humbled by the generosity, love, and support given to us during the month of pastor appreciation. We are blessed to be a part of a congregation that invests into us as pastors, but us as a part of your family. Meridian truly understands the word disciple and I am grateful that my children are growing and learning here from a church that is so deeply rooted together.

**With a Grateful Heart,
The Bartons**



Church Family,

All of your thoughts and prayers will never be forgotten. I am sure Bonnie will carry all of them into heaven with her. They made the transition into eternity so much easier. The luncheon and everything was beautiful. Joining the church was the best thing that ever happened to us! All of you have really showed what God and friendship are all about. God Bless.

Love,
Neil & Neil Morris Jr.

faith and
finances

September 2025

Giving \$33,182.16

YTD Actual \$373,569.28

YTD Budget \$295,267.50

Over (Under) \$78,301.78

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to Connoquenessing Meals on Wheels. With your donation we are able to prepare and deliver hot nutritious meals to the homebound in the area. Your thoughtfulness to our program is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Karen Peterson

Connoquenessing Meals-On-Wheels Treasurer

HANG TOUGH STOCKINGS

We will be collecting donations from now until Nov 16th to stuff stockings for cancer patients. We will be packing stockings from 12-2 PM at Meridian Fire-hall on Nov 16th. Please see Sharon Schneider for more details!



COME JOIN US!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be starting a bible study on Colossians on Sunday, Nov 16th following worship in Parker Hall.

Fishbone Dinner

Sunday, Nov 2nd at 5 PM

&

Sunday, Nov 30th at 5 PM

Chili Cookoff & Tailgate

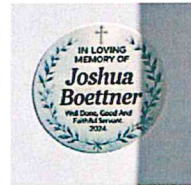
Sunday, Nov 16th at noon. There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Room. See Katie Schultz for more details!

MISSION PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON



Hearts and Hammers LAUNCH and COMMISSIONING FOR SERVICE:

It has been a long time coming, as we launch this new mission program that we have been starting from scratch! The trailer has been completed, the logo has been added to the outside, the tools are organized, donated, and purchased. The time has come to put it to use! Our first project will be in November. We are helping a family with a single parent paint a couple of their rooms. If you would like to help paint, and participate in this first project contact Pastor Mike.



FISHBONE:

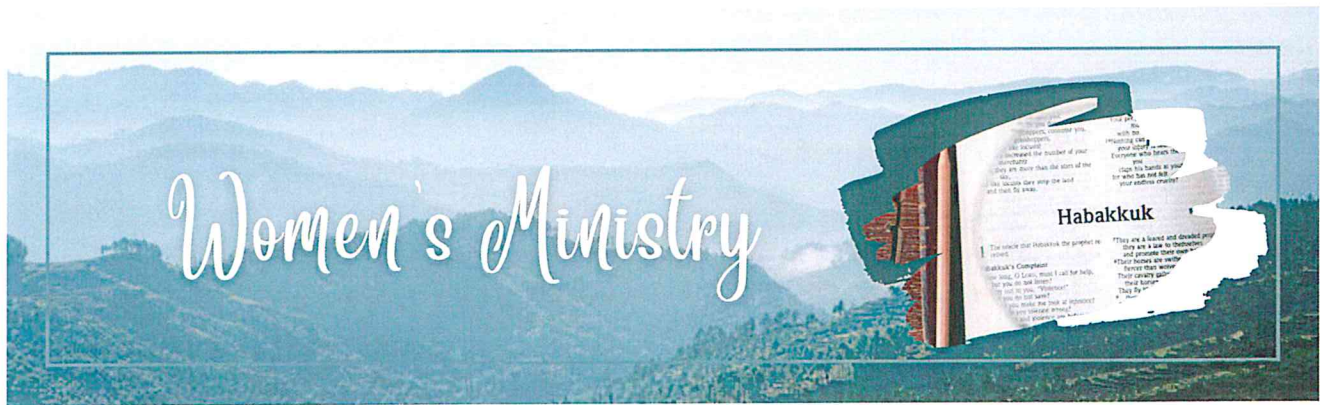


November 2, AND November 30! FISHBONE reached out as they had no one to cover their November 2nd dinner after worship on Sunday. The mission committee agreed that we have so many people who want to invest in this ministry that we could take on both dinners this month! So the youth group will do the November 30th meal and the church congregation could take the November 2nd meal. Any and all Confirmation youth and youth group members are invited to help serve and participate in the Fishbone meal at the end of the month.

Hang Tough Stockings:



Our youth group collected, shopped, and donated items for Hang Tough Stockings. The youth also filled out Christmas cards that describe the hope we find in Jesus so that we may not only support those that are facing cancer this Christmas, but spread the truth of Jesus' hope and love to them as well. On November 16th, there will be a stocking stuffing event after church from 12 PM - 2 PM at the Meridian Fire Hall.



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL TO FLOURISH?

We will be discussing this and lots of other questions as we continue our journey through Habakkuk. It's never too late to join! See Laura Franklin for more details and resources.

This month our meeting days are
November 6th & 7th and November 20th & 21st .
We will meet in the library at the following times:
Thursdays at 6:00pm and Fridays at 10:00am.

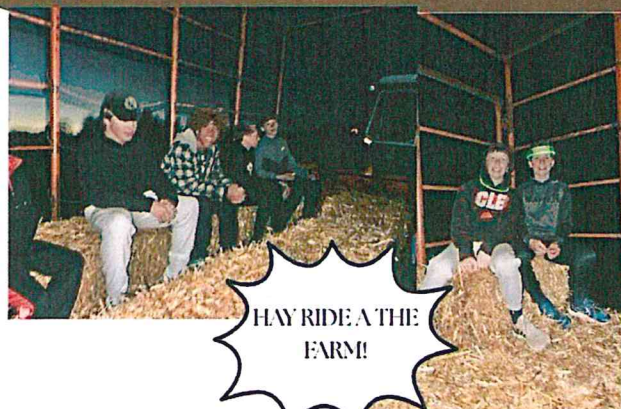
MERIDIAN YOUTH MINISTRIES Thankful

October fall fun!

October brought some new adventures and creative moments for our Youth Group! We closed the month with a trip to Lyons Farm, where we packed in a night of laughter, hayrides, pumpkin tossing, and—of course—good food and great fellowship. There's just something about a fall night surrounded by cows, a bonfire, and corn stalks that brings everyone together.

Back at church, we began diving into some new creative projects—canvas painting and pumpkin decorating! It's been awesome to see everyone's personality show through their art.

Even our Club 35 group got in on the pumpkin action during our PumpkinFest! Pumpkin Bowling, and more!



Current Youth Group Series! Beyond the Red Letters:

The Red Letters are the words in which are spoken by Jesus throughout the four gospels, however those are not the only words that point to who Jesus is and what he did for us. The Old Testament points to Jesus and his purpose to come and save us from our sins and disobedience towards God!

NOVEMBER

- 11/2: HANG TOUGH MISSION NIGHT 6 - 8 PM
- 11/9: YOUTH COMMUNITY NIGHT TAILGATE 6 - 8 PM
- 11/16: YOUTH GROUP 6 - 8 PM (PIE NIGHT!)
- 11/23: YOUTH GROUP BOWLING NIGHT 6 - 8 PM
- 11/30 - FISHBONE MISSION NIGHT! (COME AND SERVE)

MERIDIAN KIDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHILI COOKOFF

Sunday, November 11TH

This family fellowship event will begin after Sunday School. Help us judge our favorite chili and spend some time together as a church family. We hope to have the Steeler's game available for your viewing pleasure and a special activity for our Club 35 kids. You won't want to miss it!



CLUB 35

We've had a wonderful time hanging with our 3rd - 5th graders. Between water games and pumpkin fest, we have had a lot of fun. Our next event will be a Christmas party on December 14th. Mark your calendars!



MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE:

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46:1



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have started a new curriculum this fall called BRITE. In November, our kids' classes will be focusing on the MAIN ATTRACTION: God! As we travel through the books of 1st & 2nd Kings and spotlight Esther, we will reinforce the idea that no matter what our circumstances are, God is always with us.



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

Laura Franklin

kidsmin@meridianpres.org

724-312-4647



Congratulations to the 12 kids that completed communion class. These kids worked hard and made a great commitment to the church. We also celebrated our third graders by giving them Bibles of their own. What a joy it is to walk alongside them in their faith journey.



Thank you to everyone who showed up for Trunk or Treat. It was a wonderful day, and it wouldn't be the same without the participation of so many friends. Special shout out to the Shiever family for their delicious apple cider and pumpkins.





November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Deacon Franklin	11/16	Peyton Karner
	Levi Franklin	11/17	Nikki Hromyak
11/2	Kevin Angert	11/18	Madison Barnett
11/3	Jacob Barton		Bonnie Fiel
11/4	Zach Freund	11/19	Elizabeth Orsborn
	Debbie Rose		Michael Grieb
	Bob Wickline	11/20	Vickie White
11/5	Chery Wehr		Paige Cihonski
11/6	Brittany Harrison	11/21	Don Smith
11/7	Brooke Henderson		Josh Weitzel
11/8	Steve Hromyak		Doug Zalar
11/9	Sue Rossman	11/23	Eva Hibbs
11/10	Jack McDowell		Jeff Picerno
	Sarah Murtha	11/24	Lexi Buck
11/12	Matthew Hauser		Kelly Sumansky
11/14	Casey Barnett	11/27	Graceyn McKain
	Adam Mason	11/28	April Dickey
11/15	Deborah Myers		Leslie Spinneweber
	Emric Werth		

ANNIVERSARIES

11/1	Mike & Brianna Raddatz	11/14	Cody & Tabitha Watterson
11/9	Bill & Mary Kay Neely	11/18	Don & Jeanne Gamble
11/10	Carl & Debbie Rose	11/23	Tim & Ruth Ann Rausch
11/13	Bill & Valerie Mueller	11/27	Robert & Deborah Myers

Please contact Kala at
724-482-2630 or
secretary@meridianpres.org if
your birthday or anniversary is
missing or incorrect.



November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 5 PM Fishbone 6-8 PM Youth Grp	3	4 1 PM Quilt 5:30 PM Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	5 9 AM Coffee & Conversation	6 6 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir	7 10 AM Women's Bible Study	8 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Café 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
9 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11 AM Congregational Meeting 6-8 PM Youth Grp	10 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	11 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Session Meeting	12 6:30 PM Choir	13	14	15
16 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11 AM Care Team 12 PM Chili Cookoff 6-8 PM Youth Grp	17	18 1 PM Quilt	19 9 AM Coffee & Conversation	20 6 PM Women's Bible Study	21 10 AM Women's Bible Study	22 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
23 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	24 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	25 1 PM Quilt	26 6:30 PM Choir	27 	28	29
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NOV 9TH FOLLOWING
WORSHIP**

