

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

February 2026

Meridian

Presbyterian Church

The Light of Meridian

The Lens and Mirror

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 1 Corinthians 3:7 (NIV)

When I arrived in Meridian nearly 16 years ago, the interim pastor left three plants in my care. I've never considered myself much of a "plant guy," but I am proud to say that all three are still alive and thriving today. It wasn't until I saw an old photo recently that I realized just how much they have truly grown over the years.

In many ways, these plants serve as a metaphor for our church. Numerical growth has never been our primary goal. Instead, we have focused on: helping people grow in their faith, providing opportunities for discipleship and worship, and challenging the church to live out the mission of the Lord's kingdom.

We don't know why the Lord has blessed this congregation with such incredible growth, but we know it is His doing. It is not because of me or the session; we are simply the ones who plant and water. For 16 years, I have watered the plants in my office, and by God's grace, they are well. In that same spirit, I hope I have watered this congregation as the Lord brought about its growth.

Moving to two worship services is a significant change for our congregation. I recognize that this transition brings different opinions and unique challenges. However, the same Spirit who has brought us to this moment will continue to guide us through it.

May we seek Him and His glory above all things!

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

February 1st

Title – **“To Him Be the Glory”**

Focus Passage – Hebrews 13:20-25

Secondary Passage – Psalm 96:1-8

Synopsis – The entirety of the Christian life can be summed up in this one phrase, “To God be the glory.” It’s not about the pastor or the church, it is for the glory of the one who has come to make all things new, to put the world to right. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name!

February 8th

Title – **“Quietly Preparing”**

Focus Passage – Luke 10:38-42

Secondary Passage – 1 Samuel 15:22-23

Synopsis – Hebrews has reminded us that Jesus is greater. The series that will begin with Lent next week in Ecclesiastes will challenge us to live in alignment with God in a fleeting world. As we begin to prepare for this next season, we must be reminded that it’s not about us adding more religious activity, but by teaching us to be still, listen, and choose obedience over busyness so we are shaped for God’s Kingdom rather than merely managing today.

February 15th

Title – **“The Search for Meaning”**

Focus Passage – Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Secondary Passage – John 14:1-6

Synopsis – This life we live seems cyclical, repetitive, unsatisfying, and ultimately fleeting according to Ecclesiastes. Our author gains all the wisdom the world has to offer and it has done nothing but bring more sorrow to life. People are in search for meaning, something only God can offer.

February 18th—Ash Wednesday

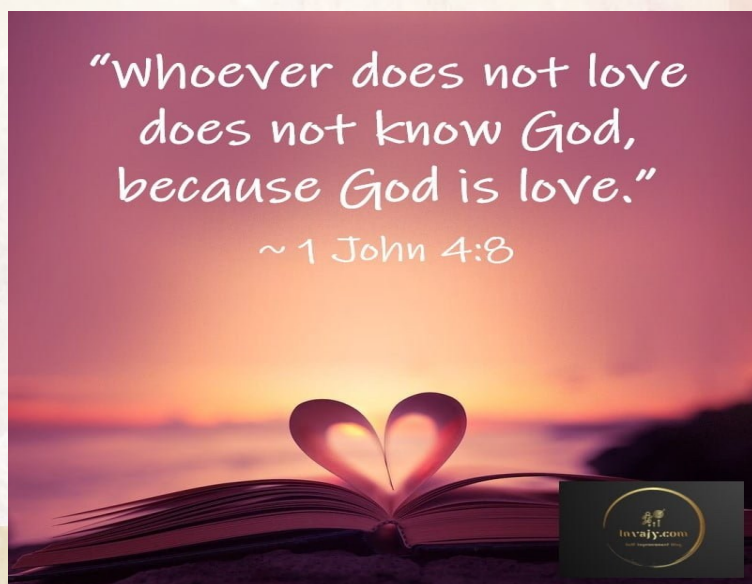
Title – **“Create In Me a Clean Heart”**

Focus Passage – Psalm 51:1-12

Synopsis – This is King David’s prayer after the prophet, Nathan, confronted him about his adultery with Bathsheba and the coverup that resulted in Uriah’s death. David was known as a man after the heart of God, yet, he had fallen into a horrible spiral of sin. Instead of pride, he falls into in a heart of repentance. To be one who is after the heart of God is not about perfection, but repentance and a prayer from our souls, “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

*“Whoever does not love
does not know God,
because God is love.”*

~ 1 John 4:8



February 22nd

Title – **“The Meaningless Pursuit of Self”**

Focus Passage – Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

Secondary Passage – Matthew 16:23-26

Synopsis – The Splitter convinces us that the things of this world will satisfy our weary souls. We seek laughter, accomplishment, and pleasure only to find that they are a chasing after the wind. There is only one way to find the meaning we seek; it’s by picking up our cross to follow Jesus. For what good is it to gain the whole world, but forfeit your soul?

What's Happening at Meridian....



Faith and Fellowship will begin on Wednesday, February 25th from 5:30-7 PM. Join us for our annual Lenten dinners and classes throughout the season each Wednesday. We gather for an all church meal and then break off into age specific Bible studies. All are welcome and there is something for everyone!

Two Service Model Beginning Sunday February 15th

- 8:45 AM Early Service
- 10-10:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Late Service

faith and finances

December 2025

Giving \$56,564.54

YTD Actual \$506,740.41

YTD Budget \$393,690.00

Over (Under) \$113,050.41

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 14th at 9 AM. All men are invited to a breakfast at Mac's Route 8 Cafe for a time of good food and good conversation!

Year End Giving Statement are available for pickup at the Church. Please let Kala know if you prefer to have your statement mailed to you.

THANK YOU

*Dear Meridian Church members,
It was so nice to receive the many cards and bag of goodies from the Care Team. I hear good things are happening at the church.*

*Love to all,
Audrey Kennedy*

Meals on Wheels would like to thank MPC for your donations throughout the past year!





2026 MERIDIAN MISSION WORK!

Hearts and Hammers Update: January 4th after worship a few of us braved the cold, stood outside and dedicated our tool trailer and the ministry of hearts and hammers! With that being said, if you know of someone who is in need of assistance with their home please pass along that this ministry exists. Please contact Mike Barton if you witness a need in our community.



YoungLife Butler reached out with a thanking Meridian Presbyterian Church for partnering with them in ministry in 2025! They reported several ways in which they have seen God at work in 2025 including.



- Growing numbers of kids coming to Young Life events consistently.
- Largest Fall Weekend attendance from Butler!
- An addition of a full-time staff person, Jocelyn to Slippery Rock!
- Watching sixteen local high school students start a relationship with Jesus.

We are excited at what God is doing with YoungLife Butler.



Fishbone Dinners for 2026! Want to volunteer serving a Sunday, evening Fishbone Dinner? We will be serving March 29th. Mark your calendar!



FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE! The Youth Group and our Mission Team will be putting together a food drive February 1st - 15th. We will provide a list of items that we will be collecting.

MERIDIAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

Locked in with the Youth!



January was a massive success for our youth! We launched 2026 with our new series, "Created in God's Image," teaching students what it means to be a "Jesus Ambassador" in their daily lives.

We also maximized our fellowship time this month. After kicking off regular meetings with a volunteer-provided sloppy joe dinner, we held our Annual Lock-In on January 16-17. We had 24 students join us for snow tubing, Nerf battles, movies, and an all-nighter of bonding and fun. The year is off to a great start, and we can't wait for what's next!



feBRUARY



2/1: No Youth Group (National Gathering)

2/8: Youth Group 6 - 8 PM

2/15: Club 35

2/15: Youth Group 6 - 8 PM

2/22: No Youth Group Adult Mission Trip

MERIDIAN KIDS

February 2026

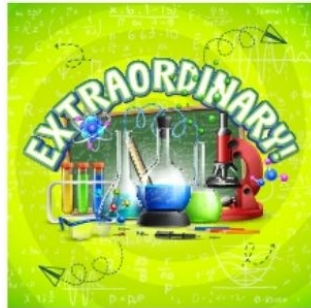
What's Happening?

Sunday School

This month we will be discovering the EXTRAORDINARY works of Jesus in our Sunday School hour. Join us!!

Monthly Bible Verse

At the name of
Jesus every
knee should
bow.
Philippians 2:10



Club 35

We had a great time bowling last month but are looking forward to our next gathering on Sunday, February 15th from 12:15-1:45 at the church. Invite a friend and RSVP if you are able to come!



Reminders

We will be going to two services on February 15th, but Sunday School will still take place from 10-10:45 in between services. We also will have Junior Church at the 8:45 service only. Please consider volunteering to teach!

Upcoming Events

Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday Evenings 5:30-7

Beginning Feb. 25th

Dinner followed by classes for all ages.

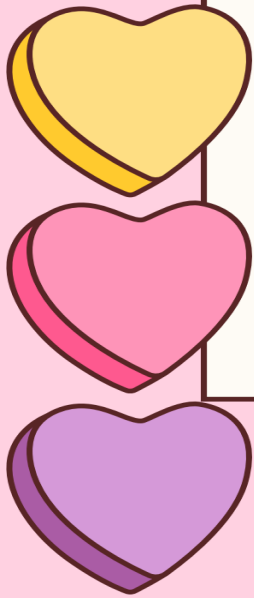
Contact Info

Email: kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Phone: (724) 312-4647



Women's Ministry

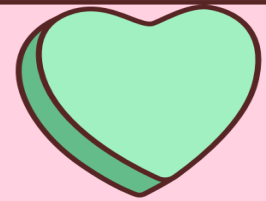


Galentine's Day Gathering

Ladies!! You are invited to a fellowship party on
Thursday, FEBRUARY 12th, from 6:00-7:30pm
We will have dinner and some fun activities.
Bring a dish to share and join in on the fun as we
gather all the awesome Gal's in our church.
Sign up and mark your calendars!

reminder

We will begin a new study after Easter.
Be on the lookout for more info.



Meridian Care Team

Here at Meridian, the care team is a critical link in the fellowship circle. They keep those who are not able to attend services and other events, those who are home bound, and those who now reside in facilities integrated into the fabric of the church. They visit during hospitalizations to join them in healing prayer. Care team members visit individuals regularly, take them snacks and other goodies, and send cards on special occasions. They pray with them and hold their hands. By doing so, they are conveying the love and fellowship of each and every covenant partner in our church.

Additionally, they partner with other elders or deacons and serve communion several times each year. This sacrament, which is celebrated by the congregation, is extended to those who are not able to be present and allows them to be part of the communion with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

We will soon be branching out into a new area. We are collaborating with several other Christian churches in the area to expand the hospital chaplaincy program at Butler Hospital. This initiative provides spiritual support to patients who are hospitalized but have no religious affiliation. The goal is to plant a seed and allow the Holy Spirit to nourish it and guide these individuals on a spiritual walk with Jesus after they are discharged. We hope to involve deacons and others who are interested in providing this service in the near future.

If you feel called to any of these discipleship roles, please see me, or any care team member, for more information.

In Christ
Tim

February Celebrations

Birthdays!

02/01	Laura Jordan	02/19	Michael Barton
	Alicia Palmiero	02/20	Julie Barton
02/02	Jeanne Gamble		Azara Johns
02/03	Gavin Barnett		Amy McCombs
	Levi McGeeney	02/23	Dale Lyons
02/05	Amy McGeeney		Jeff Woller
02/06	Aaron Sproule	02/24	Matt Barnett
	Joseph Hauser		Lori Henderson
02/09	Jeff Orsborn		Cynthia Palladino
02/13	Elizabeth Rishor		Marly Jo Scherder
02/14	Mitchell Kwiatkowski	02/26	Sue Freund
02/15	Honey Royer		Adam McGeeney
02/17	Scott Longdon		Owen Toniolo
02/18	Susan Hilliard	02/27	Chelsea Werth
	Alyssa Smith	02/28	Mark Jordan
	Zoe Scott		

Anniversaries!

02/02	Dave & Leslie Spinneweber	02/25	Jack & Mary Jane McDowell
02/07	Richard & Sue Boettner	02/27	Bob & Jackie Wells
02/12	Rick & Carol McClean	02/28	Tim & Susan Johnston
02/24	Trent & Tina Geis		

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



February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School	2	3 1 PM Quilt	4 6:30 PM Choir	5	6	7
8 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 11 Care Team Meeting 6-8 PM Youth Grp	9 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	10 1 PM Quilt	11 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	12 6-7:30 PM Galentine Women's Ministry Event	13	14 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Café 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
15 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12 Comm Lunch @ St. Andrews 12:15-1:45 PM Club 35 6-8 PM Youth Grp	16	17 1 PM Quilt	18 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	21
22 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	23 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	24 1 PM Quilt	25 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7 PM Choir	26	27	28 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
Adult Mission Trip— Yancey, North Carolina						

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001



SERVICE FEB 18TH @ 7 PM

Two Services Beginning Feb 15

8:45 AM Early Service

10-10:45 AM Sunday School

11 AM Late Service