



Meridian
Presbyterian Church
The Light of Meridian
March 2026

4150 Highland Ave
Butler, PA 16001
www.MeridainPres.org
724-482-2630

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pastorsteve@meridianpres.org

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treasurer@meridianpres.org

Choir Director & Musician
Debbe Picerno

Custodian
Tom Perschke

Nursery Director
Jordan Longdon

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 (NIV)

The season of Lent can sometimes feel unfamiliar, or even confusing, for Presbyterians. We often associate it primarily with Roman Catholic tradition. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we overlook the deep spiritual invitation this season offers.

At its heart, Lent is an annual call to repentance, fasting, and prayer. It is a sacred opportunity to return to the spiritual practices that draw us deeper into the heart of our Father. As N.T. Wright once said, "Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing, but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store."

When we willingly enter into these practices, it is as though God is clearing out what clutters our hearts, making room again for the joy of our salvation. This process begins with humility. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God because we trust that His hand is both sovereign and good. We believe He is working all things for His glory and our good. And we trust that, in due time, He will lift us up.

To confess, to repent, to fast is to proclaim that there is One greater than ourselves. That is why we embrace Lent. It's not a ritual practice or season of shame. It's the ongoing process of sanctification that shapes us more and more in the image of Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



Sermon Series

Ecclesiastes: Chasing the Wind

March 1st

Title- “To All the World”

Focus Passage– Acts 8:26-40

Synopsis– Rev. Caleb Shocklie will be joining us, leading worship focusing on mission and evangelism.

March 8th

Title- “A Season for Everything”

Focus Passage– Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Secondary Passage– Philippians 4:10-13

Synopsis– Time is relentless and so is change. The only way to navigate through it all is to know that there is a time for every season under the sun and a God who is in control. Lent is a season to remember that our lives are in God’s hands and not our own. Time is a gift if we know it comes from the Lord.

March 15th

Title- “The Weight of Injustice”

Focus Passage– Ecclesiastes 4:1-12

Secondary Passage– Galatians 5:13-18

Synopsis– Oppression, injustice, envy, and loneliness are a weight we all carry. The world wants us to fight for justice and that’s a good thing. However, the justice we seek comes from above. The way to overcome the weight is to have someone to help you up.

March 22nd

Title- “A Common Destiny”

Focus Passage– Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

Secondary Passage– Romans 6:20-23

Synopsis– Each of us has a common destiny, we cannot escape it, death awaits us all. The journey of Lent is a yearly reminder that from dust we came and to dust we shall return. The question isn’t whether or not we can escape death, but what happens to us after we die? The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is life in Christ.

March 29th– Palm Sunday

Title- “Remember Your Creator”

Focus Passage– Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

Secondary Passage– Philippians 4:4-7

Synopsis– We spend our days chasing after the wind, meaningless things. What the soul needs to be happy and satisfied is simple, remember your creator. Life is a gift. Each day and each person has meaning and purpose when we rest in his presence. When Jesus enters Jerusalem, he reminds us what truly matters, obedience to the Father. Death is not the final word. We walk with Jesus to the cross, and through it, to life.

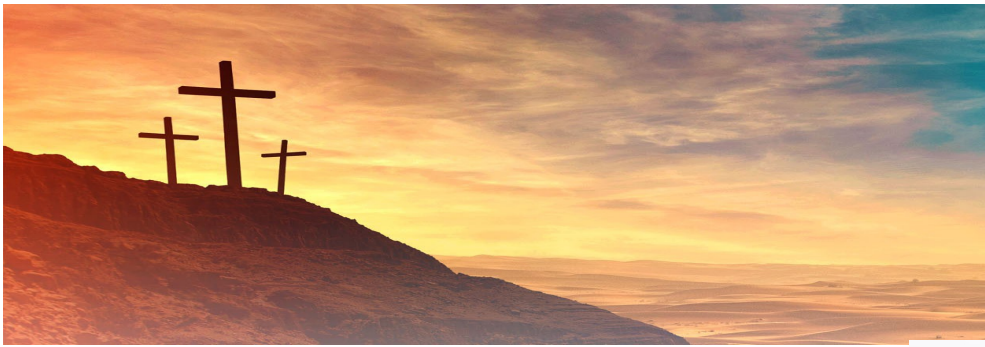
MERIDIAN CARE TEAM UPDATES

The Meridian Care Team is an integral part of the fellowship in the church. A large part of that is the home and facility visitations. Ingrained in those visits is providing home communion. We offer home communion to shut-ins and those in facilities four times each year. The next scheduled home communion date is May 3rd. Anyone who has been an Elder or Deacon at Meridian can participate in this sacrament.

Some covenant partners have shown interest but were concerned that they were not sure what to expect. In response, we have developed an informational session to give an overview of the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and the offering through Meridian Church. This half-hour presentation will be available after the late service on April 12th (at noon) in the library. No need to register. We are compiling a list of individuals interested in offering home communion. If you are interested please attend or contact me for more details.

The Meridian Care Team will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 PM. We will join the Hospitality team for a devotion then, meet separately to discuss upcoming events. If you are interested or are seeking more information, please feel free to join us.

In Christ, Tim



**JOIN US: Palm Sunday, March 29th @ 10 AM
between services for an ALL CHURCH BRUNCH &
a little Jesus Scavenger Hunt!**



Meridian Church Family,
Thank you for all of the prayers and support during Karen's illness and passing. We are also deeply grateful for the care shown to our family through the funeral service and lunch that followed. We truly love being part of a church family that walks alongside one another in times of sorrow as well as joy. You are all such a blessing to our family.
Love, The Lyons Family



January 2026
Giving \$27,612.76
YTD Actual \$27,612.76
YTD Budget \$36,617.08
Over (Under) (\$9,004.32)

JOIN US AS FAITH & FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS CONTINUE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS DURING LENT. DINNER SERVED AT 5:30 PM FOLLOWED BY BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES 6:15-7 PM

Alice Gilliland Fund
If you are planning on sending your children to Christian camp this summer, the Church has scholarships available. Please see the Church office for scholarship forms and more information.



Note from Session:

- Completed our annual retreat in January and will resume regular meetings in March.



**SEPT 25-27TH, 2026
ALL CHURCH RETREAT
@ CRESTFIELD CAMP &
CONFERENCE CENTER**

Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 AM we will host our Good Friday Breakfast followed by action painting by George Williams. More information can be found on his website art-madness.com



FEBRUARY MISSION WORK NEAR AND FAR!



Hearts and Hammers Update:

Our adult mission trip will be headed to Yancey North Carolina on February 22nd - 27th. Please continue to pray for this group as they take the love and hope of Christ with them and serve those in the area still dealing with the devastating loss during Hurricane Helene. We look to share some photos with you in our next addition!



You are not going to want to miss church on March 1st! Caleb Shocklie our missionary from Scotland will be not only visiting with us but will be filling the pulpit! Caleb and his wife Summer and children Hezekiah, and Jessica currently partner with Antioch Partners. Their work centers around relational ministry in which they are praying that the Spirit would lead the country of Scotland into a revival for Jesus. Come and hear all that God is doing in and through Caleb and his family!



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

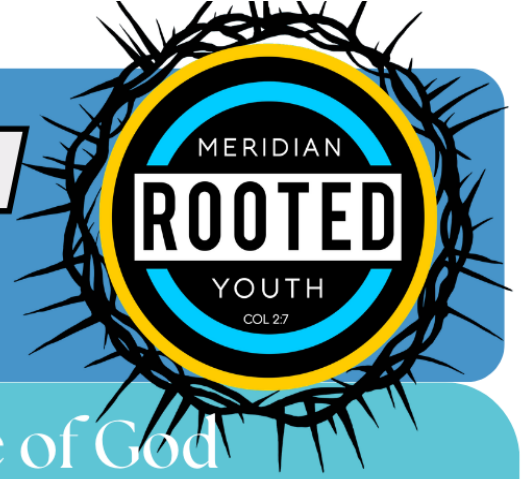


FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE! THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR DONATIONS! We donated well over \$500.00 worth of food to our local food bank and still donated an additional \$175.00 check so that the pantry could purchase their current needs.

We also collected a large number of coats, hats, and underwear! Thank you for all the support for our local mission partners.



MERIDIAN YOUTH MINISTRIES



Created in the Image of God

When two different curriculums collide into one another unintentionally, God's message can ring out in so many different ways and call us back to who we are and our purpose. This happened in our youth ministry Sunday school and in our youth group lesson. It is such a wonderful reminder before we jump into the season of Lent that God created us, not like the animals and the plants, but instead created man and woman in his image. We are a reflection of Him, and when our faith deepens and the Holy Spirit allows us to see more and more of who God is we continue to see glimpses of the amazing God we have and new ways to reflect His glory to others.



MARCH

Wednesday Evenings for March!

- 4th: Faith and Fellowship 5:30 - 7 PM
- 11th: Faith and Fellowship 5:30 - 7 PM
- 18th: Faith and Fellowship 5:30 - 7 PM
- 25th: Faith and Fellowship 5:30 - 7 PM



THIS MARCH, JOIN US IN SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO ALTOONA PA! STOP BY THE ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER TABLE, PICK AN ENVELOPE, AND TAKE PART IN WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH OUR STUDENTS. SIMPLY CHOOSE AN ENVELOPE (AMOUNTS RANGE FROM \$1 - \$125), TAKE IT HOME, AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR GIFT. EVERY ENVELOPE FILLED IS A STEP TOWARD SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE MISSION!

Meridian Kids

March 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the month of March, we will be exploring the unconditional love that Jesus has for us. Every act sacrificial and beyond measure.



Monthly Bible Verse

Abide in My love.

John 15:9

CLUB 35

We had a blast at our Club 35
2026 WINTER GAMES!

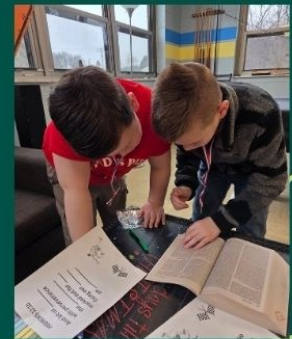
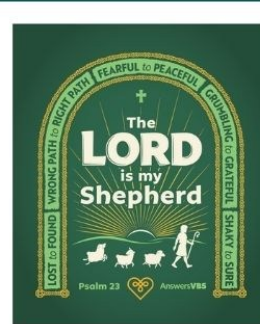
We learned about what promises God gives us when we don't win. We also played some fun games and ate delicious food. Thank you to all who made this day so much fun.



Reminders

Faith & Fellowship begins February 25th. Join us Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm

We are now in our 2-service model on Sunday mornings. Please be reminded that Junior Church is only offered at our 8:45 early Service, but our Nursery is available at both services.



Upcoming Events

March 29th

Palm Sunday: Lil' Jesus Hunt

June 14th-19th

VBS: Snowy Mountain Challenge

Contact Info

Email: kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Phone: (724) 312-4647

VBS HELP WANTED

Information

SAVE THE DATE

June 14th-19th

Our theme this year is

Snowy Mountain Challenge.

We are going to transform our building into a winter wonderland! If you have a Christmas tree you would lend us for the week, we'd love your help setting up and decorating. Join our committee by reaching out to Laura Franklin for more details. We will be collecting items in the bin marked in the front lobby.

What We Need

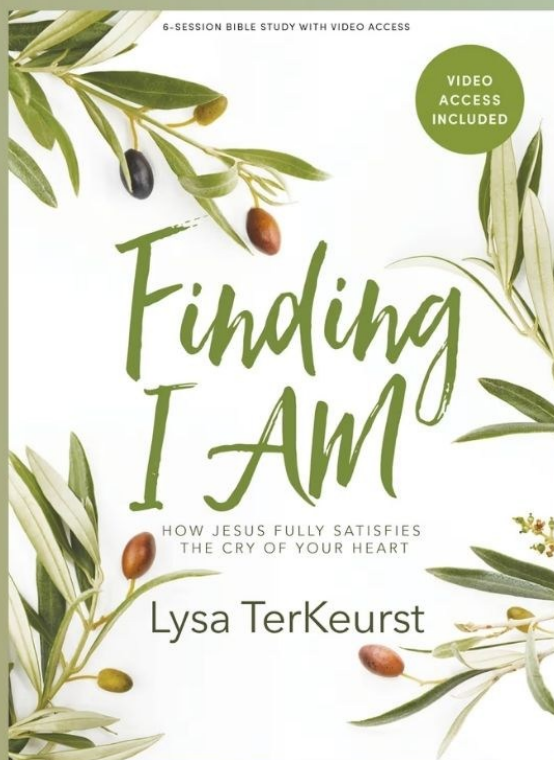
Items we are collecting:

- Gallon Milk Jugs (washed out)
- Tissue Boxes (rectangular)
- Fake Snow
- Christmas Trees (borrowed)
- White paper bags
- Large Cardboard Boxes
- Crayons
- Markers

Contact Info

Email: kidsmin@meridianpres.org

Phone: (724) 312-4647



Women's Bible Study

Spring 2026

TIMES:

Thursday 6:00-7:00pm

Friday 10:00-11:00am

COST:

\$20 for

Study Guide

DATES:

Week 1: April 16 or 17th

Week 2: April 30th or May 1st

Week 3: May 14th or 15th

Week 4: May 28th or 29th

Week 5: June 11th or 12th

Week 6: June 25th or 26th



CELEBRATE
March
 BIRTHDAYS



March 1st - Trent Geis, Dylan Mackrell,
 Stephanie Toniolo

March 2nd - Deb Bowser

March 3rd - Diane Sweet, Pat Douth

March 7th - Hannah Gregor, Gemma Mechling

March 9th - Ruth Monnie, Russell Forsythe

March 10th - Gary Schneider

March 11th - Rodney Douth, Jim Winterhalter

March 12th - Robert Myers, Melissa Rudolph

March 13th - Debbie Picerno, Reba Longdon

March 14th - Nicole Sproule, David Todd

March 18th - Cora Murtha

March 19th - Philip Kearns

March 20th - Ernie Oesterling, Tabitha Watterson

March 21st - Martha Kummer

March 23rd - Crew Siefker, Jesse Titus

March 24th - Eric Shiever, Ben Mason

March 25th - Lori Campbell

March 26th - Peg Morrison, Brielle Siefker

March 27th - Bob White

March 28th - Tyler Karner, Greyson Werth

March 29th - Robyn Freund

March 30th - Harriet Sanderson, Timmi Longdon,
 Cole Lyons

March 31st - Harper Osborne



March 10th - Mark & Laura Jordan

March 18th - Mark & MaryAnn Kaminsky

March 20th - John & Linda Oesterling

March 25th - Scott & Timmi Longdon

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!

March 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 AM Service & Communion 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Late Service	2	3 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Deacon/Trustee Meeting	4 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir	5	6	7
8 8:45 AM Early Service 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Late Service	9 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	10 1 PM Quilt 6:30 PM Session Meeting	11 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir	12	13	14 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Café 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
15 8:45 AM Early Service 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Late Service 12 Comm Lunch @ St. Andrews	16	17 1 PM Quilt	18 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir	19	20	21
22 8:45 AM Early Service 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Late Service	23 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	24 1 PM Quilt	25 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7PM Choir	26	27	28 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
29 8:45 AM Early Service 10 AM Brunch & Little Jesus Scavenger Hunt 11 AM Late Service 5 PM Fishbone	30 	31 1 PM Quilt				

**Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001**

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP-WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:30-7 PM

Worship with us!

Early Service 8:45 AM

Sunday School 10-10:45 AM

Late Service 11 AM