



Meridian Presbyterian Church

THE LIGHT OF MERIDIAN

APRIL 2026

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BUTLER, PA 16001
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DEBBE PICERNO

CUSTODIAN TOM PERSCHKE

NURSERY DIRECTOR JORDAN LONGDON

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

It feels like we keep dancing between seasons. One day it's 75 and sunny, the next day it's snowing. I love when March surprises us with unexpected warm, sun-filled days that break through the lingering cold. After months of a cold and dark winter, people begin to step outside again, shake off the stillness, and embrace new life. Yet, as we know, spring doesn't arrive all at once. It often comes in glimpses –brief stretches of warmth surrounded by lingering cold and gray.

We want life to function like a light switch. We want clear, immediate, and definable moments from darkness to light. We long for defined seasons, obvious turning points, and quick resolutions. But more often, change happens gradually. We find ourselves slowly moving forward, sometimes barely noticing, until we look back and realize how much has shifted. God often works through these "in-between" moments, small glimpses of hope that point us toward something greater.

Even in the transition, hope is never absent. It's easy to look at the world and see darkness, uncertainty, and brokenness. As I often say this time of year, we live in a Good Friday world, marred by sin and death, but we are Easter people.

As Lent comes to a close and we prepare to celebrate Easter, remember the promise given to us, "he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Even when life feels cold or uncertain, even in the grey transitions between light and darkness, we know Sunday is coming.

*In Christ,
Pastor Steve*

LET ALL THAT YOU
DO BE DONE IN

Christ





Sunday Sermons

APRIL 2ND- MAUNDY THURSDAY

TITLE- A NEW COMMANDMENT

FOCUS PASSAGE- JOHN 13:31-38

SYNOPSIS- LOVE IS THE WAY. THAT'S THE NEW COMMANDMENT THAT JESUS GIVES HIS DISCIPLES, EVEN THOUGH THAT'S BEEN THE COMMANDMENT ALL ALONG. MAUNDY COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD MANDATUM WHICH MEANS COMMANDMENT. TO FOLLOW JESUS IS TO FOLLOW HIS COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE IS ACTIVE. LOVE IS VISIBLE. LOVE IS COSTLY.

APRIL 5TH- EASTER SUNDAY

TITLE- THE PROOF OF WOUNDS

FOCUS PASSAGE- JOHN 20:19-29

SECONDARY PASSAGE- JOB 19:25-27

SYNOPSIS- WOUNDS AND SCARS TELL THE STORY. THOMAS IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE DOUBTER, BUT CAN YOU BLAME HIM? WHEN THOMAS SEES AND FEELS THE WOUNDS OF CHRIST, HE SAYS, "MY LORD AND MY GOD!" THE WOUNDS TELL THE STORY OF GOD IN THE FLESH. JESUS MEETS OUR DOUBT WITH INVITATION, COME AND SEE. MAY WE BELIEVE.

APRIL 12TH

TITLE- LIVING THE RESURRECTION

FOCUS PASSAGE- LUKE 10:25-37

SECONDARY PASSAGE- PSALM 146:5-9

SYNOPSIS: CHRIST IS THE ULTIMATE GOOD SAMARITAN, WHO SACRIFICES EVERYTHING TO LIFT US FROM THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND EVEN PROVIDES FOR OUR FUTURE NEEDS. LUKE 10:25-37 SHOWS US THAT TRUE LOVE GOES BEYOND FEELINGS- IT IS ACTION THAT COSTS US SOMETHING, JUST AS CHRIST GAVE HIMSELF COMPLETELY FOR US. PSALM 146:5-9 REMINDS US THAT GOD'S HEART IS FOR THE VULNERABLE, THE OPPRESSED, AND THE NEIGHBOR IN NEED, AND OUR FAITH IS LIVED WHEN WE FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. THIS POST EASTER MESSAGE CALLS US TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST, GOING AND SERVING OTHERS WITH RESURRECTION , HOPE AND MERCY.

NEW SERIES- DEAR CHURCH...

IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION THERE ARE SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN DIFFERENT CHURCHES. EACH LETTER REVEALS THE HEART OF CHRIST AND HIS PROPHETIC CALL TO THE CHURCH. THESE ARE WORDS THE CHURCH NEEDS TO HEAR TODAY. WE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT, BUT WE ALSO NEED CORRECTION. WHAT DOES FAITHFULNESS LOOK LIKE IN OUR CHALLENGING WORLD?

APRIL 19TH

TITLE- YOUR FIRST LOVE

FOCUS PASSAGE- REVELATION 2:1-7

SECONDARY PASSAGE- JOEL 2:12-13

SYNOPSIS- IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THE CHURCH TO DO EVERYTHING RIGHT, BUT FOR THE WRONG REASON. THIS IS EPHEBUS. WE CAN OFTEN GET CAUGHT UP IN THE BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH, THAT WE MISS HER HEART. THE CHALLENGE IS TO RETURN TO OUR FIRST LOVE, JESUS, WITH PASSION AND BEAUTY. WE SHOULD NEVER BE MORE IN LOVE WITH THE MINISTRY THAN WE ARE THE MASTER.

APRIL 26TH

TITLE- THE VICTOR'S CROWN

FOCUS PASSAGE- REVELATION 2:8-11

SECONDARY PASSAGE- PSALM 34:17-22

SYNOPSIS- SUFFERING OFTEN CAUSES US TO TURN AWAY FROM THE LORD. WE MEASURE THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD BY HOW COMFORTABLE OUR LIVES ARE. HOWEVER, SUFFERING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF THE CHRISTIAN'S STORY. THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA IS SUFFERING AND PERSECUTED, BUT THEY WILL RECEIVE THE VICTOR'S CROWN IF THEY REMAIN FAITHFUL. THIS IS THE CHALLENGE, TO REMAIN STEADFAST IN SUFFERING.





Meridian Care Team Update



The Meridian Care Team continues to work diligently to keep our covenant partners who reside in facilities or are homebound close to our hearts. Several members of the care team visit those in facilities on a regular basis providing weekly contact in addition to visits by Pastor Steve and myself. We continue to visit those who are homebound and provide publications such as The Upper Room. Recently, the care team organized Ester baskets with cards for each of the shut-in partners.

We are continuing to provide home communion for all shut-ins with the next scheduled sacrament scheduled for May 3rd. Anyone who has been an Elder or Deacon at Meridian can participate in serving home communion. 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 in the library. No pre-registration is required. If you are interested, you are welcome to attend the informational session or contact me for more information.

There are a variety of informational gatherings covering a variety of interesting topics that are offered throughout the Greater Butler area. As I learn of these, I will post them on the door of the office I use near Parker Hall.

In Christ
Tim



Unraveling Grief Group

For the past year, those experiencing grief have been meeting biweekly on Saturday mornings at 10:00 in the church library for prayer, encouragement, and friendship. We are just a group of like-minded individuals who have suffered the loss of a loved one and are committed to support one another while working through our loss and learning to live again with purpose.

Grief has no expiration date--it's a normal reaction to losing someone you love. But God promises healing to a broken heart. If you or someone you know is experiencing grief following the death of a loved one, we invite you to join us at our next meetings on March 28th and April 11th at 10 AM.



**Blessed are those who
mourn,
For they shall be
comforted.**

Matthew 5:4

Notes from Session

- Set Discovery Night for April 26th at 6 PM
- Approved Elders Katie Schultz & Chris McKain to enter into ECO's lay leadership program.
- Approved money from the Alice Gilliland Camp fund for Emily, Sadie, Molly Tarr and David Barton for scholarship.



JOIN US
GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

@ **MERIDIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

4150 HIGHLAND AVE

7 AM BREAKFAST

8 AM LIVE SPEED PAINTING BY
GEORGE WILLIAMS ART MADNESS



**Spring Clean Up Day at
Fishbone Ministries April
18th @ 9 AM. Please see
Mike Barton for more
details!**

Faith & Finances

FEBRUARY 2026

GIVING \$39,261.06

YTD ACTUAL \$66,873.82

YTD BUDGET \$73,234.16

OVER (UNDER) (\$6,360.34)

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous gift to Butler Meals on Wheels. Your donation will help to continue our mission of preparing and delivering hot, nutritious meals to the homebound of Butler!

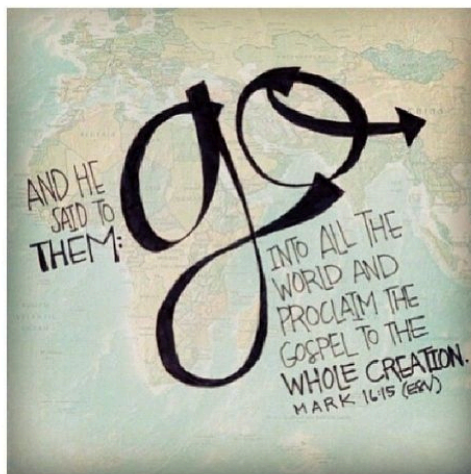
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR VERY GENEROUS CHECK FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

GOD BLESS,

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES FOOD PANTY

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity towards the Florish Institute of Theology. Your sacrificial gifts and willingness to partner with us makes a substantial impact in the life of our student body. Please know how grateful I am for you, and how earnestly I am praying for you.

God's grace & peace in Jesus,
Chris with FIT



MISSION & OUTREACH LOVING GOD AND OTHERS



Hearts in Hammers Project in March was our Adult Mission Trip to Yancey County North Carolina. We had 10 adults join Samaritan's Purse in helping families who are still displaced from Hurricane Helene. We did this through completing a deck, digging a French drain, and cleaning several mobile homes that families will be gifted in the very near future! We look forward to sharing more with you on April 12th in worship!



We were blessed to welcome Caleb Shocklie on March 1st, who preached at both of our services. Caleb shared openly about both the challenges and the joys of life in ministry, giving us a meaningful glimpse into what it looks like to faithfully serve Christ in Scotland. It was a true joy to spend time with Caleb and begin building this relationship. As a session, we are excited to continue discerning how the Lord will lead, especially as we look ahead to a potential mission trip to Scotland in 2027. We invite you to join us in praying for Caleb and the work God is doing through him

We have the joy of sharing that the Lord is opening a new door for us in mission. We are partnering with Frontier Harvest Ministries, a local ministry with a global reach, devoted to bringing the Gospel to unreached people groups across Asia—even in places where following Christ is costly and, at times, forbidden.

They serve by meeting practical needs, equipping local believers to shine the light of Christ, and sending workers into regions where the name of Jesus has yet to be heard. Founded in the late 1980s by Chuck Lenhart and now led by his son Jared Lenhart, this ministry continues with the same faithful vision.

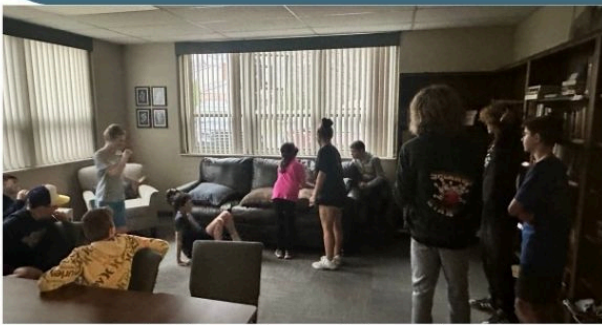
We give thanks for this partnership and invite you to join us in prayer—that through this work, the hope of Christ would reach even the darkest corners of the world.



MERIDIAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

PSALM 23 Showing us who God is!

With an average of 12 - 14 youth every Wednesday evening for Faith and Fellowship we have had some great discussions surrounding the life of David the author of Psalm 23 and how he knew in his heart all the different ways to define who God was in his life. The Lord is my shepherd, my protector, my provider, he takes care of my needs so my soul can be refreshed. God guides me to the right path so that I can live for his glory. When I am in my darkest moments he walks with me so I can have no fear. He will lift me up even though I am nothing and anoints me. All of these things point back to who David was as a shepherd, later a king, and who he was as a disobedient follower of God who needed to be restored. This Lent season we learned that as we walk towards the celebration of the cross and resurrection that we need God in all these ways.



Our youth class for Faith and Fellowship blindly looking for an item in the room. They quickly realized this was impossible to do without help.



April

5th : Easter Sunday No Youth Group
12th: Youth Group Night 6:00 PM
19th: Youth Group Night 6:00 PM
24th - 26th : YOUTH SPRING RETREAT @
Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

On April 24th - 26th our youth group will be going to Crestfield Camp and Conference center located in slippery Rock PA! We will stay in a giant cabin, enjoy bonfires, worship together, eat meals together, and hear God's word! This years theme is "Together!" We will be studying Friendships, How we need one another, how we treat one another, and what to do when we get it wrong.
Sign up online or talk to Mike!



Meridian Kids

April 2026

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who helped make Faith & Fellowship such a wonderful time in our church. From the delicious food to the enriching Bible study, we are grateful you were a part of it.

CLUB 35

Our next event will be at Tokens Arcade! See Pastor Mike or Laura if you'd like to join.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

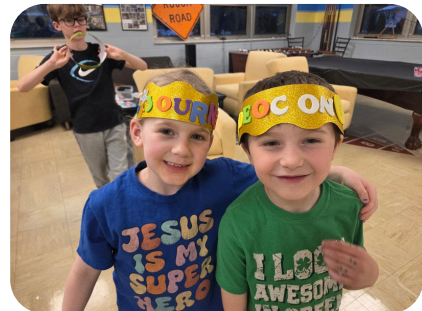
God is our Redeemer who rescues, restores, and brings new life through Jesus. Join us for class from 10-10:45 on Sunday mornings.

VBS

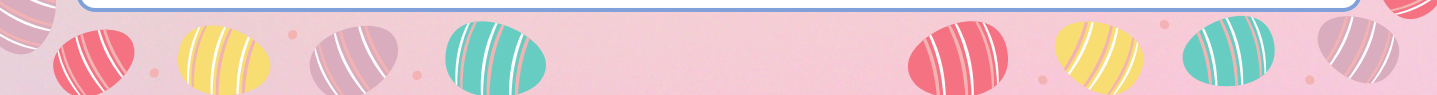
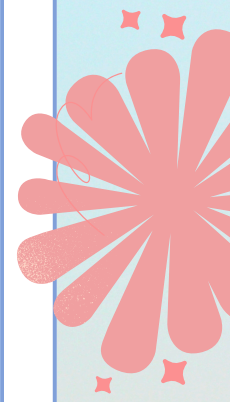
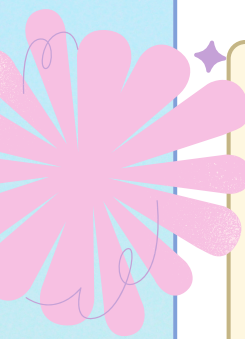
Mark your calendars for our *Snowball Mountain Challenge* June 14th-18th evenings from 5:30-7:30. Many volunteers are needed. If you are able to help with decorating, being a group leader, or station leader please see Laura to get signed up. Register your kids and friends on our website.

MONTHLY VERSE

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.
John 3:16



We are always in need of helpers at this age level. If you are willing, we will find a way to use you! To get involved, email or call Laura Franklin kidsmin@meridianpres.org ~ 724-312-4647





April Celebrations



Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 04/01 CONNIE WINTERHALTER
- 04/02 GAIL RALEY & DARLAINE THOMPSON
- 04/04 SALLY COOPER
- 04/05 CIERA KAMINSKY
- 04/07 CLINT WERTH
- 04/12 JOAN GUMPP—FERRINGER
- 04/13 CAROLYN STREET
- 04/14 COLTON FRANKLIN
- 04/16 GREYSON FAIR
- 04/17 KELLEY HIBBS
- 04/18 ED GARRISON
- 04/19 JOHN KEARNS & COLE SIEFKER
- 04/20 GRACE SMITH, SCOTT RALEY, & CECELIA MACKRELL
- 04/21 BROOKS WICKLINE
- 04/22 RON SWEET & PHILIP MASON
- 04/24 CHRISTINE MIKAN & KELSEY SCHNEIDER
- 04/26 LUKE HITCHCOCK
- 04/27 REILLY DOUTT
- 04/28 SUE MUTZ & BILL RALEY

- 04/02 JERRY & BEVERLY DAMBAUGH
- 04/06 JAMES & JODY OLA
- 04/08 GARY & LEANNE CYGAN
- 04/11 RUSSELL & MARTHA KUMMER
- 04/21 KEVIN & SUE HILLIARD
- 04/25 LES & KAY FREEHLING
- 04/26 DOUG & LORI MCCANN



**CHURCH MERCH
ORDER ONLINE
THROUGH APRIL 5TH**



APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	2 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 7 AM Good Friday Breakfast 8 AM Art Madness	4
5 8:45 AM Easter Worship 11 AM Easter Worship	6	7 1 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Deacon & Trustee Meeting	8 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	9	10	11 9 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Grief Group
12 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12 Home Comm Class 6 PM Youth Grp	13 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	14 1 PM Quilting 6:30 PM Session Meeting	15 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	16 6 PM Women's Bible Study	17 10 AM Women's Bible Study	18 9 AM Fishbone Work Day
19 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12 Comm Lunch 6 PM Youth Grp	20	21 1 PM Quilting	22 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	23 6 PM Discovery Night	24 Youth Grp Spring Retreat @ Crestfield	25 10 AM Grief Group
26 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship	27 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	28 1 PM Quilting	29 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	30 6 PM 55+ Dinner 6 PM Women's Bible Study	1 10 AM Women's Bible Study	2

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Avenue
Butler, PA 16001



Join Us Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE & COMMUNION- 7 PM
GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST WITH GEORGE WILLIAMS- 7 AM
EASTER SUNDAY EARLY SERVICE- 8:45 AM
EASTER SUNDAY LATE SERVICE- 11 AM