MERIDIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 2026

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17 (NIV)

Every October, I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support my family receives during Pastor Appreciation Month. The cards, gifts, and words of encouragement are uplifting, gracious, and far more than we deserve. We certainly could never repay your kindness, but we hope you know that our love and appreciation for you are just as great.

It is not lost on me that Pastor Appreciation Month falls in October, just as we begin looking ahead to November and the celebration of Thanksgiving. In life, when something happens consistently, it can become easy to take it for granted. We can begin to view our blessings, God's good and gracious gifts, as things we have come to expect rather than reasons to give thanks. When that happens, we risk overlooking the goodness of God and failing to offer Him the gratitude He deserves.

Your generosity toward our family this past month is never expected, but it is always deeply appreciated. From the depths of our hearts, we simply say, thank you. We never want to take for granted the tremendous privilege of serving you and Meridian Presbyterian Church. As James reminds us in the Scripture passage above, every good and perfect gift comes from above. This church is one of those gifts to our family, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve such a loving and caring congregation.

Above all, we are grateful for the love and grace of our Savior, from whom every blessing flows. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, may we never allow the familiar blessings of life to become things we take for granted. Instead, may we recognize each one as a gift from our gracious God and respond with hearts full of gratitude and praise.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin pastorsteve@meridianpres.org
Associate Pastor: Rev. Mike Barton mbarton@meridianpres.org
Children's Discipleship Director: 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: Jordan Longdon

SERMON SERIES

November 1st
Title- Sealed for the Promise
Focus Passage- Romans 4:1-16
Secondary Passage- Genesis 15:1-6
Synopsis- Abraham believed God and his promises well before the law comes to be for the Hebrew people. How was Abraham saved? It wasn't by works and it wasn't by the law. Abraham was sealed by God for the promise. It is God who acts and we who respond.

November 8th
Title- By Faith
Focus Passage- Romans 4:17-25
Secondary Passage- Genesis 21:1-7
Synopsis- Abraham was 100 years old when the Lord fulfilled the promise he had made to him and Sarah. It points us backward and forward, out of nothing comes life. All those years of waiting for God to do the impossible, Abraham had to walk by faith and so do we.

November 15th
Title- Boast in Hope
Focus Passage- Romans 5:1-11
Secondary Passage- Psalm 46
Synopsis- We have peace with God, not because of what we have done, but because of what he has done for us in Christ Jesus. So we boast, not in ourselves, but in the hope of heaven that is before us because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

November 22nd
Title- Two Adams
Focus Passage- Romans 5:12-21
Secondary Passage- Genesis 3:11-19
Synopsis- Just as one man, Adam, brings sin and condemnation into the world, one man, Jesus Christ, brings salvation. The beauty of the gospel is that where sin increases, grace increases all the more. In the Christian life grace reigns.

Advent: And He Shall be Called

The prophet Isaiah foreshadows the promise of a messiah. This savior has a name: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Each week we'll unpack the meaning of these names as we prepare to receive the promised Messiah this Christmas.

November 29th
Title- Wonderful Counselor
Focus Passage- Isaiah 9:6-7
Secondary Passage- Matthew 11:27-30
Synopsis- The word wonderful in Hebrew means something that is incomprehensible or extraordinary. Counselor means to guide. When we put these two things together in Christ, we receive the greatest gift. Jesus invites us to come to him, learn from him, and walk with him. May we accept his invitation.

Notes from Session:

- Approved the 2027 budget
- Made a recommendation on a change of bylaws concerning the role of deacons to be brought forth to the congregation in November
- Approved the 2027 slate of officers
- Approved the new debt policy for the congregation
- Approved the agenda for the meeting of the congregation and corporation

MANSE UPDATE

THE PROJECT IS WELL UNDERWAY. THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN POURED AND THE BASEMENT WALLS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, ALONG WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE SHRUBS. FRAMING IS EXPECTED TO START IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT AS WE CONTINUE TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD.

Congrats to Bill & Val Mueller!

Thank You

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY, FOR THE TASTY MEALS AND LOVELY REFRESHMENTS AFTER FRANK'S MEMORIAL SERVICE, AND FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU DO FOR ME! -IRENE FAIR

I want to express my heartfelt apprecation to the Meridian Presbyterian Church, especially the Hearts & Hammers volunteers. I'm first grateful to Peggy Morrison, a friend, who first passed my need along. Everyone has been so kind, friendly, and helpful.
Blessing to you all,
Karen Dean

DEAR MERIDIAN,
I AM SENDING MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THE WONDERFUL MEALS YOU PROVIDED! YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY ALLOWED ME TO FOCUS ON ADAPTING TO USING A WHEELCHAIR. JUST KNOWING MY CHURCH FAMILY WAS THINKING OF ME AND PRAYING FOR ME BROUGHT ME COMFORT AND LIFTED MY SPIRITS! THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO TOOK THEIR TIME TO PREPARE AND DELIVER THOSE MEALS. WE FEEL BLESSED TO BE PART OF SUCH A CARING AND SUPPORTATIVE CONGREGATION!
HEARTFELT THANKS,
DIANE & RON SWEET

THANK YOU FROM BUTLER & CONNOQUENESSING MEALS ON WHEELS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Care Team Update

THE MERIDIAN CARE TEAM CONSISTS OF SEVERAL GROUPS. ONE GROUP VISITS THOSE COVENANT PARTNERS WHO ARE HOME BOUND, ONE GROUP VISITS THOSE WHO ARE CONFINED TO LONG-TERM FACILITIES OR INDEPENDENT LIVING ESTABLISHMENTS. ANOTHER GROUP PROVIDES A VARIETY OF SERVICES INCLUDING SENDING CARDS ON HOLIDAYS, BIRTHDAYS, AND OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS AS WELL AS SYMPATHY CARDS DURING TROUBLED TIMES. WE HAVE RECENTLY CREATED A GROUP TO SERVE HOME COMMUNION. THIS GROUP IS COMPRISED OF DEACONS AND ELDERS (BOTH PAST AND PRESENT) WHO SERVE COMMUNION EVERY 3-MONTHS TO THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES IN PERSON. WE NOW OFFER COMMUNION TO FOUR GROUPS, THOSE AT HOME, THOSE AT NEW HAVEN, THOSE AT CONCORDIA IN CABOT, AND THOSE AT PASSAVANT IN ZELIENOPLE.

LASTLY, THERE IS A GROUP ON STAND-BY TO VISIT ANYONE WHO IS ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL AND IS AMENABLE TO VISITATIONS. IN THE PAST, HOSPITALS WOULD NOTIFY A PATIENT'S CHURCH THAT THEY WERE ADMITTED AND WISHED TO HAVE PASTORAL VISITS. THIS WAS STOPPED DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC AND HAS NEVER BEEN RE-ESTABLISHED. THEREFORE, IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER IS ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AND WISH TO HAVE A PASTORAL VISIT, THE MOST RELIABLE METHOD TO ASSURE THIS IS TO CALL/TEXT STEVE OR I DIRECTLY. EMAILS, PHONE MESSAGES, ETC. MAY NOT BE ANSWERED IN A TIMELY FASHION.

WE ALSO HAVE RESURRECTED THE MEAL TRAIN FOR ALL THOSE IN NEED. THIS HAS BEEN ACTIVE RECENTLY AND PROVIDES A MUCH-NEEDED SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED OF TEMPORARY HELP WITH MEALS.

THERE ARE NO ELECTED TERMS FOR DEACONS SO THE TIME COMMITMENT IS WHATEVER YOU FEEL YOU CAN PROVIDE. IF YOU FEEL JESUS IS POINTING YOU TO ANY OF THESE GROUPS AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR YOU HAVE IDEAS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE CARE OF OUR COVENANT PARTNERS, PLEASE SEE ME OR EMAIL ME AT CARE@MERIDIANPRES.ORG.

WE HAVE REPLACED THE OUT DATED AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IN THE GREETING AREA. YOU CAN REVIEW THE ONLINE VIDEO AT:

ZOLL AED 3® DEVICE, BASIC TRAINING VIDEO, AHA, ENGLISH - YOUTUBE

WE WILL BE HAVING AN IN-PERSON SESSION TO REVIEW THIS DEVICE ON DECEMBER 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM, PRIOR TO THE SESSION MEETING, IN THE LIBRARY (WITH COLONEL MUSTARD AND A CANDLESTICK).

IN CHRIST
TIM RAUSCH

September 2026
Giving $38,530.88
YTD Actual $431,975.84
YTD Budget $329,553.72
Over (Under) $102,422.12

MERIDIAN
ROOTED
YOUTH
COL 2:7

YOUTH GROUP ALPHA SERIES IS TEACHING US TO BE DISCIPLES!

October brought back the regular rhythm of our Sunday evening youth group, and it has been a wonderful month of laughter, fellowship, and growing in faith!

Our new schedule has given our middle and high school students dedicated time to learn and connect. The games have been crazy, the conversations have been meaningful, and the lessons have gone deeper. From exploring Biblical love to asking why we desire a relationship with God, our students have engaged in thoughtful conversations about what it means to follow Jesus. We are grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside them as they grow in their faith!

CLUB 35 & YOUTH GROUP FALLFEST!

One of our favorite events each year is Pumpkin Bowling! This year, Club 35 gathered at the church for pumpkin bowling, pumpkin painting, and bobbing for apples. Laura also shared a lesson on "Faith Over Fear," reminding us to trust God in every circumstance. It was a fun evening of fellowship, laughter, and faith!

Youth Group Community Night at the Farm

THANKS TO the Lyon's family for hosting our youth group at their farm for our yearly FarmFest! They enjoyed a hay ride, pumpkin bowling, and some great fall food favorites!

November EVENTS

1 5:30 - 7 PM Jr. HIGH Youth Group
6:30 - 8 PM Sr. High Youth Group

8 5:30 - 7 PM Jr. HIGH Youth Group
6:30 - 8 PM Sr. High Youth Group

15 5:30 - 7:30 PM Community Night at Tokens Arcade
18 Chesapeake St.
Lyndora PA 16045

22 5:30 - 7 PM JR. HIGH Youth Group
6:30 - 8 PM Sr. High Youth Group

29 4:00 PM FISHBONE DINNER!
Youth Group will serve at Fishbone (meet at church!)

MERIDIAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION & OUTREACH

Meridian Presbyterian Church
Love God & Love Others

JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 14 FROM 9:00 AM–3:00 PM AS WE SERVE IRENE FAIR AT HER HOME. AFTER HOSANNA INDUSTRIES REPAIRED HER ROOF LAST MONTH, WE'LL BE REPAIRING THE CEILING, WALLS, AND FLOORING DAMAGED BY THE LEAK. WE'LL ALSO MOVE HER WASHER AND DRYER TO THE FIRST FLOOR AND TACKLE OTHER PROJECTS TO HELP IRENE SAFELY REMAIN IN HER HOME.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WHETHER YOU'RE HANDY WITH TOOLS OR SIMPLY WILLING TO LEND A HELPING HAND, THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU. COME BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRENE'S LIFE!

HEARTS AND HAMMERS

FRONTIER HARVEST MINISTRIES

Pastor Mike recently was asked and accepted an opportunity to teach a Bible study for the Chinese Christians that Jared is training to be future leaders of Frontier Harvest Ministries. The topic was Biblical Marriage and how Christ models that for us with his love for us, and how we are to love one another! It was a really fun experience to share the gospel with 25 - 30 Chinese Christians on the other side of the world! If you would like to know more about how Frontier Harvest is sending the truth of the gospel into that area of the world visit: https://www.frontierharvest.com/

EDINBURGH SCOTLAND UPDATE:

WE ARE HEADED TO SCOTLAND! Pastor Mike and five other adults are going to be heading to meet with our missionaries in Scotland for the April 19th - 27th.

EDINBURGH SCOTLAND

Fishbone Ministries

FISHBONE MINISTRIES UPDATE!

If you happened to see the article in the Butler Eagle you would have had the opportunity to read the beautiful story of the ministry of Fishbone. We are so grateful and blessed to be apart of their work on the Island! The youth group will be serving dinner there in November and we are working on getting an Angel Tree together for November as well!

MERIDIAN KIDS

NOVEMBER 2026

What We Learned

CLUB 35 Pumpkinfest

Although we couldn't meet at the farm, we didn't let that stop us from having some fall fun. We learned about how many times God tells us not to be afraid throughout the Bible... even when you're bobbing for apples! What a fun group of kids!

BEYOND

We'll be exploring God's unsearachable greatness this month in Sunday School. Stop by and see some of our out-of-this-world kid classrooms!

Reminders

Volunteers are always needed in Junior Church and Sunday School. See Laura if you can help.

Our Christmas Pageant will take place on December 6th after our all-church Christmas dinner. Dinner begins at 5:30 and our performance starts at 6:45.

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1st : 3rd Grade Bibles
  (presented in both services)
- Nov. 8th : Congregational Mtg.
  10:00 AM - No Adult Sunday School, only kids
- Nov. 15th : Club 35 at Tokens
- Nov. 29th : 5th Sunday Brunch
  10:00-No Sunday School

Monthly Bible Verse

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.
Psalm 145:3

November Celebrations!

Birthdays

11/1 DEACON FRANKLIN
LEVI FRANKLIN
11/2 KEVIN ANGERT
11/3 JACOB BARTON
11/4 DEBBIE ROSE
ZACH FREUND
BOB WICKLINE
11/5 CHERY WEHR
ALICE HIBBS
11/6 BRITTANY HARRISON
11/7 BROOKE HENDERSON
11/8 STEVE HROMYAK
11/9 SUE ROSSMAN
11/10 JACK MCDOWELL
SARAH MURTHA
11/12 MATTHEW HAUSER
11/14 CASEY BARNETT
ADAM MASON
11/15 EMRIC WERTH
11/16 PEYTON KARNER
11/17 NIKKI HROMYAK
11/18 BONNIE FIEL
MADISON BARNETT
11/19 ELIZABETH ORSBORN
MICHAEL GRIEB
11/20 VICKIE WHITE
PAIGE CIHONSKI
11/21 DON SMITH
JOSH WEITZEL
DOUG ZALAR
11/23 EVA HIBBS
JEFF PICERNO
11/27 GRACEYN MCKAIN
11/28 APRIL DICKEY
LESLIE SPINNEWEBER

Anniversaries

11/7 RANDY & MISTY WILSON
11/10 CARL & DEBBIE ROSE
11/11 JIM GEAR & SANDY HENRY
11/13 BILL & VALERIE MUELLER
11/14 CODY & TABITHA WATTERSON
11/18 DON & JEANNE GAMBLE
11/23 TIM & RUTH ANN RAUSCH

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 5:30-7 JH Youth Grp 6:30-8 SH Youth Grp	2	3 6:30 PM Deacons 6:30 PM Trustees	4 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	5 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6 10 AM Women's Bible Study	7 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
8 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Congregational Meeting Youth Sunday School 11 AM Worship 3:30 PM Women's Event 5:30-7 PM JH Youth Grp 6:30-8 PM SH Youth Grp	9 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	10 1 PM Quilting 6:30 Session Meeting	11 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Choir	12	13	14 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe 9-3 Hearts & Hammers 1-5 PM Mueller Anniversary
15 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 12 PM Community Lunch 4-5:30 PM Club 35 @ Tokens 5:30-7:30 PM Youth Grp @ Tokens	16	17	18 9 AM Coffee & Conversation	19 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	20 10 AM Women's Bible Study	21 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
22 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School 11 AM Worship 5:30-7 PM JH Youth Grp 6:30-8 PM SH Youth Grp	23 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	24	25 5:30 PM Handbells 6:30 PM Choir	26 	27	28
29 8:45 AM Worship 10 AM Brunch 11 AM Worship 5 PM Fishbone Dinner	30					

Begin each day with a Grateful Heart!

Meridian Presbyterian Church
4150 Highland Ave
Butler, PA 16001

Mark Your Calendars

Congregational Meeting

Nov 8th at 10 AM in between worship services