

# Meridian Presbyterian Church

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

*The Light  
of  
Meridian*

*February 2025*

## The Lens & Mirror

*I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)*

With a day off on Martin Luther King Day we went with a ski club to New York in order to enjoy the winter weather. There was just one problem, the forecasted high for the day was 11 degrees with wind chills around -15. If you want to ski, you're going to run into cold temperatures, but these were dangerously cold. However, if you're prepared with the right equipment, you can navigate the day well.

We layered up, used hand and foot warmers, making sure that every inch of our skin was covered. Because we dressed appropriately and because we were prepared, we had quite an enjoyable day. Preparation is the key to success, not just on a ski trip, but in everything. If we want to retire, we have to plan for our final future, not just randomly decide one day we aren't going to work anymore. If we want to be healthy, we have to prepare our meals and groceries ahead of time.

The same is true for our faith. If we want to be spiritually healthy, we must put in the work of preparation which consists of worship, Bible study, and prayer. When a crisis strikes, it is not the time to dig the well. You can only draw from the well you have already dug. In 2025 I want to encourage you to start digging the well of faith, so when the moments arrive in which you need to draw from the well you're already prepared.

In Christ,  
Pastor Steve

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Franklin  
pastorsteve@meridianpres.org

Dir. of Youth & Family Min.  
Mike Barton  
mbarton@meridianpres.org

Children's Discipleship Dir.  
Laura Franklin  
kidsmin@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

# SUNDAY SERVICES

## *Continued Series: Jacob-Wrestling with God*

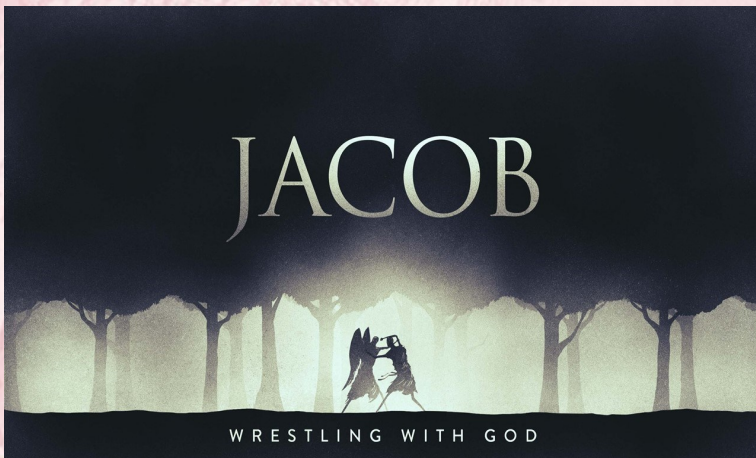
### February 2nd

#### **“Don’t Fear the Shadow!”**

**Focus Passage:** Acts 26:15-18

**Secondary Passage:** Isaiah 35:4-6

**Synopsis:** As Christians when we stand in the light and Glory of God we can still feel and even see the shadow of our past failures and sins. We are filled with fear of what those shadows represent. What fear is driving you to run or to stand still instead of walking in the light of your faith in Christ?



### February 16th

#### **“Brotherly Love”**

**Focus Passage:** Genesis 33:1-9

**Secondary Passage:** Ephesians 4:29-32

**Synopsis:** Jacob lives in fear of Esau. He knows he took what was rightfully his and thinks his brother will kill him. But Esau runs to meet his brother and embraces him. The Scriptures say, “And they wept.” It’s been said that time heals all wounds, but in the Christian life it is the wounds that bring us healing. Grace is not just something we receive, it is something we give.



### February 9th

#### **“Walking With a Lamp”**

**Focus Passage:** Genesis 32:22-32

**Secondary Passage:** 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Synopsis:** While Jacob is trying to return home through his brothers country, he meets God in the wilderness and wrestles with him. Jacob will be changed in this moment forever, as he will learn to live surrendered to him. The will is a hard thing to overcome and often God strikes the hip to remind us of his sovereignty. Jacob will become Israel and the limp is our constant reminder of our need for his grace.

### February 23rd

#### **“Returning Home”**

**Focus Passage:** Genesis 35:1-15

**Secondary Passage:** Romans 15:1-7

**Synopsis:** After all those years of working and laboring, Jacob returns to the Promise Land with a new name, Israel. He’s been changed and transformed. He has chased after love, wealth, and wrestled with God. He’s still limping, but he’s home. We wrestle with the Lord the same way. As we mature in faith, we limp back home, assured of the promise of God.

# What's Happening



Faith and Fellowship will begin on Wednesday, March 12th 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!

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.

## December 2024



**Giving \$63,044.44**  
**YTD Actual \$510,932.21**  
**YTD Budget \$358,265.00**  
**Over (Under) \$152,667.21**

## Notes From Session:

- Established a discernment team to study options for structures that deal with our growing congregation.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



# What's Happening

we grieve with  
**HOPE**

{1 Thessalonians 4:13}

I'm sending you this little note to thank you and to say how nice it was to be thought of in a very special way.

Thank you for the gift. Hope to see you soon.

~ Joan Gump

Thank you for your generous donation. These funds have enabled us to continue to help our clients.

Sincerely, VOICe

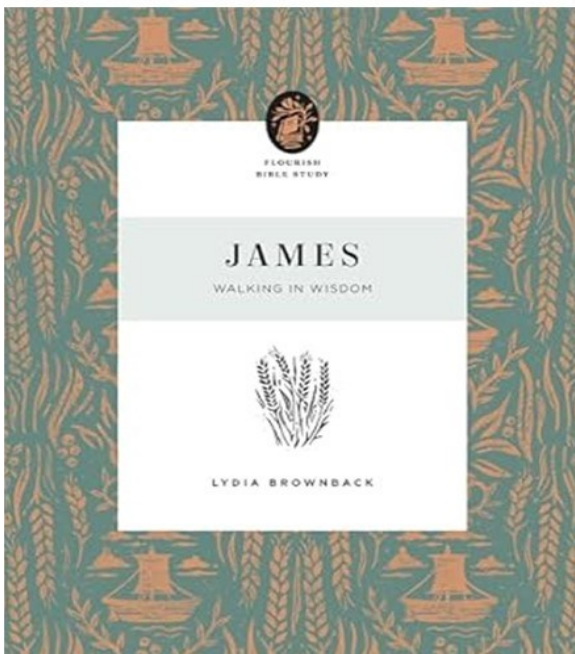
## GRIEF FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Scripture instructs us to care for and support anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. Whatever part of the journey you are on, we invite you to attend for a time of sharing, memories, prayers, and friendship.

Our next meeting is Saturday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM in the library.

FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN,  
TO THE PLACE WHERE IT SETS, THE  
NAME OF THE LORD IS TO BE  
PRAISED.

-PSALM 113:3



## Women's Ministry

### NEW STUDY INFO

If you haven't done so yet, pick up your book in the fellowship room, under the mailbox slots. Complete the first chapter (Week 1) and join us for our next session in Parker Hall on:

January 23rd, Thursday at 6:00 pm ~OR~  
January 24th on Friday at 10:00 am.

Email Laura Franklin with any questions:  
[kidsmin@meridianpres.org](mailto:kidsmin@meridianpres.org)

# MISSION UPDATE

FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS



## HAPPENING AND COMING UP!

### **JANUARY MISSION:**

**CLOTHED AND LOVED** - Tonya Reynolds collects and distributes men's and women's winter items; like hats, gloves, socks, sweatpants, flannel shirts and more! All of these items go to people in need in the Butler area. Our church helped Tonya collect these items during the month of January. Thanks for the wonderful response our bins were overflowing!



**COMMUNITY LUNCH HANDOUT** - Meridian Pres. has a long-standing tradition of handing out bagged lunches once a month to our homeless community in downtown Butler. We do this in collaboration with a few other churches. This month we handed out 30 lunches!



### **FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECTS:**

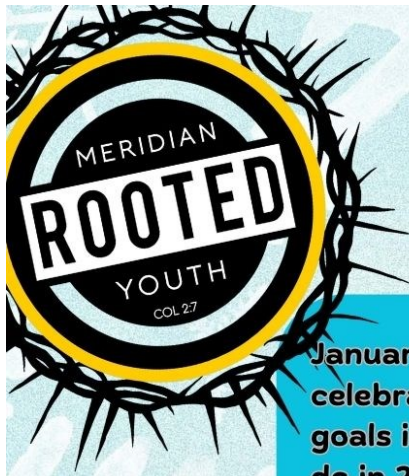
**FISHBONE:** February 16th we will be serving dinner at their Sunday evening worship event. Check out the sign-up table for the menu of items to bring and how you can get involved!



**ADULT MISSION TRIP:** Please keep in prayer our adults who are attending this year's Adult Mission Trip to Facts of Life Church in Whitesville North Carolina February 22 - 27th.



**THERE IS ALWAYS WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR MISSION PROJECTS! CHECK OUR SIGN UP TABLE OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE!**



# YOUTH GROUP

## February 2025!

January always is a fun month to come back after the Christmas celebrations and check in after being off for a few weeks. One of our goals is planning out many of the activities our youth would like to do in 2025! We also came together and continued our study of the character of God by studying his justice and mercy found in his son Jesus Christ. We also studied how God is both timeless and completely present in our lives.

\*\*\*\* MISSION TRIP PREVIEW for 2025! Asheville TN and hurricane relief trip! Coming June 15th - 21st. Our annual mission trip fundraiser is coming in March! Youth are being encouraged to sign up for the trip as we plan out the details of the trip.

CLUB 35! BOWLING! Who doesn't love to bowl! Every time we go the 3rd - 5th graders have a lot of fun, and make a lot of memories that help to bring them together as a community of believers!



### THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

"Just as my assurance of salvation rests in the fact that God cannot change, my hope of sanctification rests in the fact that I can"

Jen Wilkin, None Like Him



### FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

**CLUB 35: February 9th: 1:30 PM - 6 PM**  
Snow Tubing at Boyce Park

### YOUTH GROUP:

- 2/2: (Sun) Youth Group Meeting 6 pm
- 2/9: (Sun) Snow Tubing at Boyce Park 1:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- 2/26: (Sun) Help with Fishbone Dinner 4:30 - 7:00 PM
- 2/23: (Sun) No Youth Group! (adults on Adult Mission Trip.

# Meridian Kids

## SAVE THE DATE

### *Meridian Winter Mingle*

February 18th ~ 5:30-7:30pm

\*Pizza will be served. Feel free to invite a friend and bring your favorite game.

### *Faith & Fellowship*

Wednesday's in Lent ~ 5:30-7:00pm

\*Dinner followed by programs for all ages.

### *SummerBlast*

July 7th-11th ~ 10:00-3:00pm

Day Camp for 3rd - 5th graders

### *VBS*

July 20th-24th ~ 5:30-7:30pm

Evening program for PreK - 5th graders

## Monthly Bible Verse:

**So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the glory of the Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31b**



Congratulations Zoe on your Baptism!

## Club 35

# TUBING

February 9th

3:00-5:00pm

Do you have a burning question and can't find on Sunday?

Come VISIT me!

My office is located in the basement, next to the new bathroom.

Updated Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

10:00-3:30

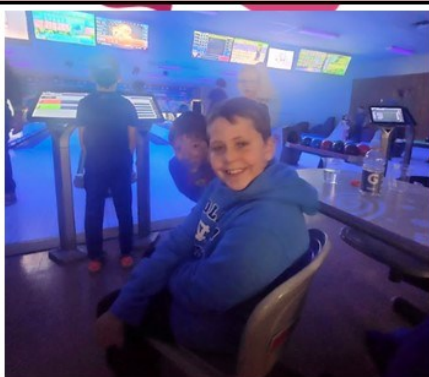
I'd love to meet with you, call or email me:

(724) 312-4647

# STRIKE

Club 35 had a wonderful time bowling in January.

It's so nice to get together and laugh even when it's cold.



# February Celebrations Birthdays!

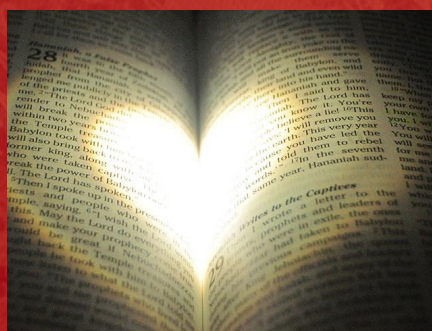
2/01 Laura Jordan  
Alicia Palmiero  
2/02 Jeanne Gamble  
2/03 Gavin Barnett  
Levi McGeeney  
2/05 Amy McGeeney  
2/06 Aaron Sproule  
Joseph Hauser  
2/09 Jeff Orsborn  
2/13 Elizabeth Rishor  
2/14 Mitchell Kwiatkowski  
2/15 Honey Royer  
2/17 Scott Longdon  
2/18 Susan Hilliard  
Alyssa Smith  
Zoe Scott

2/19 Michael Barton  
2/20 Julie Barton  
Amy McCombs  
Azara Johns  
2/23 Jeff Woller  
Dale Lyons  
2/24 Matt Barnett  
Lori Henderson  
Cynthia Palladino  
Marly Jo Scherder  
2/26 Sue Freund  
Adam McGeeney  
Owen Toniolo  
2/27 Chelsea Werth  
2/28 Mark Jordan

## Anniversaries!

2/02 Dave & Leslie Spinneweber  
2/07 Richard & Sue Boettner  
2/12 Richard & Carol McClean  
2/25 Jack & Mary Jane McDowell  
2/27 Bob & Jackie Wells

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









# February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10 AM Grief Group
<b>2</b> 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School 6-8 PM Youth Grp	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1 PM Quilt 5:30 PM Deacon Meeting	<b>5</b> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	<b>6</b> 6-7 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>7</b> 10 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>8</b> 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Cafe
<b>9</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Club 35 & Youth Grp Snow Tubing @ Boyce Park	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 1 PM Quilt	<b>12</b> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School 12 PM Community Lunch St Andrews 5 PM Fishbone Dinner	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 1 PM Quilt 5:30-7:30 PM Meridian Winter Mingle	<b>19</b> 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir	<b>20</b> 6-7 PM Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 10 AM Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> Adult Mission Trip (Through Feb 27)
<b>23</b> 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 1 PM Quilt	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

Meridian Presbyterian Church  
4150 Highland Avenue  
Butler, PA 16001  
724-482-2630



The poster features a blue and white winter theme. At the top, the text 'MERIDIAN Winter MINGLE' is displayed in a mix of blue block and bubbly fonts. Below this, 'DINNER & GAME NIGHT!' is written in a smaller font. A dark blue banner contains the text 'PIZZA- HOT CHOCOLATE- GAMES'. The date and time '18 FEB 2025 5:30 - 7:30 PM' are prominently displayed on the left, while the address '4150 N. HIGHLAND BUTLER PA 16001' and website 'WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG' are on the right. The bottom of the poster is decorated with illustrations of a penguin, a pizza, a bear, and a polar bear. Various game pieces like dominoes, dice, and a spinner are scattered around the central text area.

**MERIDIAN**  
**Winter**  
**MINGLE**  
DINNER & GAME NIGHT!

**PIZZA- HOT CHOCOLATE- GAMES**

**18 FEB**  
**2025**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**4150 N. HIGHLAND**  
**BUTLER PA 16001**  
[WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG](http://WWW.MERIDIANPRES.ORG)