

April 2025

Meridian Presbyterian Church

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

The Light of Meridian

The Lens & Mirror

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,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

The last few weeks have been filled with warm weather and sunshine, after a long cold winter. I always love the first few warm days of the year. It's wonderful to see the neighborhood come back to life. People are out walking their dogs. Kids are out riding their bikes. Families reemerge from their homes. The season always feels like hope and optimism.

As followers of the resurrected Lord, we should live with this kind of hope and optimism all the time. That doesn't mean that we whitewash the difficult seasons or ignore the times in our lives when sorrow is very real. The key to navigating these periods is to carry with us the hope of heaven. It's to heed the words of Peter that we've been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. It's not a future hope, but a living hope.

NT Wright, the great scholar, wrote in his book *Surprised by Hope*, "Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven." The Resurrection is not just about where you go after you die, it's about how you live right now. The future promise gives us current hope. May we know the inheritance of Heaven that awaits us and may it fill us with hope in a hopeless world this Easter.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve

Pastor

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Custodian
Tom Perschke

Nursery Coordinator
Sarah Murtha

Sunday Morning Services

April 6th

“A Dead Dog Like Me”

Focus Passage: 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Secondary Passage: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Synopsis: Mephibosheth is a nobody. While he's related by blood to the late King Saul, he's lame in both feet and has nothing to his name. He's living life in the wilderness.

David invites this man, who has nothing to offer, to the table of the king. We're all Mephibosheth and Jesus has invited us to a feast.

April 13th

“The Coming Kingdom”

Focus Passage: Matthew 21:1-11

Secondary Passage: Psalm 24:7-10

Synopsis: Jesus is ushering in a kingdom that is not of this world. Even the people singing his praise and shouting for the salvation he offers do not understand it. Entering into Jerusalem that day was the King of Glory. However, that king is about to be crucified. The shouts of joy will lead to tears, but from tragedy will come triumph.

April 17th– Maundy Thursday

“Put Your Sword Away”

Focus Passage: John 18:1-14

Synopsis: Jesus and his disciples are once again in a garden when Judas arrives to betray Jesus. Peter thinks he's defending his Lord, so he pulls out his sword and cuts off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Jesus is prepared for the journey before him. He is willingly going to the cross.

April 20th-Easter

“Graves and Gardens”

Focus Passage: Matthew 28:1-10

Secondary Passage: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Synopsis: We all have moments in our lives that we would like to reverse, things we wish we could go back in time and change. In the Bible we have 2 gardens and 2 graves. The first garden Adam and Eve fell to sin. Death is the result of the curse of sin. In the resurrection Jesus not only reverses the curse of Adam, but ours as well. He turns our graves into gardens and offers us new life.



April 27th

“Abide in Me”

Focus Passage: John 15:4-11

Synopsis: Jesus calls us to abide in Him. What does that look like in our daily walk? Be in His Presence, Demonstrate His Love, and Proclaim the Good News!

Notes from Session:

- Approved service times for Easter at 9 & 11 AM.
- Approved a request from the trustees to add cabinets and counter-top underneath the television in the gathering space.

faith and finances

February 2025
Giving \$42,711.51
YTD Actual \$78,332.24
YTD Budget \$65,615.00
Over (Under) \$12,717.24



Thank you for your generous gift to Butler Meals. We are thrilled to have your support and appreciate your donation!

**Dear Meridian Church Members,
My sister, Norma and I received meals and all the trimmings from Wednesdays Faith & Fellowship.**

Thank you so much!

God's love to you,

Audrey Kennedy

Women's Ministry

BIBLE STUDY

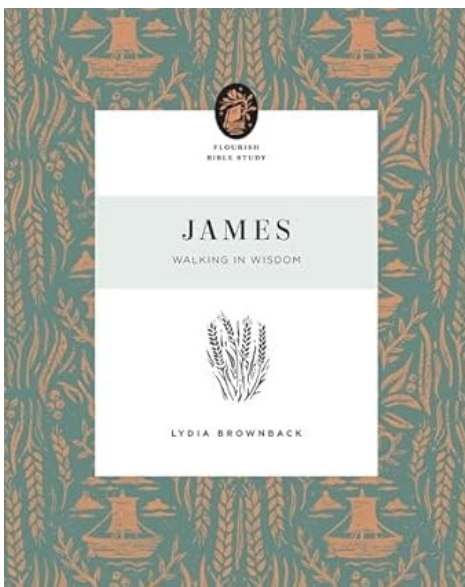
Our group is really being challenged by the book of James throughout this Lenten season. We will meet in the Library on

Thursday, April 3rd at 6:00pm ~or~

Friday, April 4th at 10:00am.

We will take a break for Holy Week and meet up again on May 1st & 2nd in Parker Hall.

Email Laura Franklin with any questions:
kidsmin@meridianpres.org



MERIDIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO OUR



GOOD FRIDAY

Breakfast

April 18th at 7 AM followed by our guest speaker

Melody Hooks & Stations of the Cross

4150 Highland Ave Butler, PA 16001

No one is more surprised than Melody Hooks herself that she has not only survived the past four years, but is now thriving, without the love of her life by her side. God has brought her through cancer - twice, the death of her best friend/husband, and the death of her precious grandson, Jaxson.

God has been so faithful to carry her through the hardest times of her life and He has kept His promise of Romans 8:28. He has taken the bad and turned it for good, time after time in her life.

Melody is excited to tell you about all of this, and more. She knows it's all made possible because of the Hope of Good Friday.

Join us following our Good Friday Breakfast to hear how God is working in her life for His honor and glory and her good. Melody says with complete sincerity, "It's all because of Jesus"

MISSION UPDATE

FINDING WAYS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS



MARCH 2025

MARCH was a great month for Mission! We had just come off of our adult mission trip to North Carolina.

We also served another Fishbone dinner on March 30th after their Sunday worship service. This has been such a wonderful way for our church to serve our community and we have a waiting list of those that would like to serve! We will be working hard to open up mission opportunities so we can get more of our church family involved!

We served meatball hoagies and enjoyed worshipping with the Fishbone family!



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN APRIL!

- APRIL 5TH: SPRING CLEAN UP EVENT! WE HAVE 3 YARD PROJECTS THAT NEED HELP! WE COULD USE VOLUNTEERS! 9:00 AM MEET AT CHURCH!

ADULT TRIP 2025



YOUTH GROUP

He has
RISEN!

MARCH YOUTH MINISTRY!

March began with our last regular youth group meeting until the end of Faith and Fellowship nights! We studied how can we trust the Bible? We looked at all of scripture as a part of God's big story in which we are included and nothing was written without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

YOUTH GROUP SPRING RETREAT:

If you haven't signed up for the youth group Spring Retreat please do so! April 25 - 27th! We will be at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center!

2025 YOUTH MISSION TRIP UPDATE!

The youth are headed to Asheville NC and our envelope fundraiser has begun! We currently after the first week and a half collected just under \$4,000! Our goal is \$8,000 so we are almost halfway there!

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS!

So far our church has looked at the Parable of the Sower, and the Parable of the bag of gold. Our adults, children, and youth are learning about how Jesus calls us to live for his kingdom instead of the world and culture that distracts us from our true center of Jesus. The weather has been wonderful and we have had some fun outside as well. We hope you can join us in April for our final two nights!



APRIL 2025

**CLUB 35: FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS
(WEDNESDAYS) 5:30 - 7:00 PM (WITH DINNER!)**

YOUTH GROUP:

APRIL 2 (WED) YOUTH GROUP 5:30 - 7 PM

APRIL 9 (WED) YOUTH GROUP 5:30 - 7 PM

**APRIL 25 - 27 (FRI - SUN) YOUTH GROUP SPRING
RETREAT CRESTFIELD!**

COLLEGE AND CAREER:

**APRIL 23RD: 6:00 PM @ EAT N PARK!
(KICK OFF!)**

Meridian Kids



The Hunt is on...

April 13th following worship we will have a Little Jesus Scavenger Hunt at 11:30 after a short Easter lesson in our Sunday School rooms. Join us for some fun!



ON THE CASE

Our Junior Detectives have been working hard to reveal the mysteries of the gospel through Jesus' parables. If you haven't joined us yet, there is still time!

Dinner begins at 5:30, followed by programming for all ages. Children PK-4th grade meet in the youth room with Laura Franklin and kids 5th-12th grade are in the library with Pastor Mike.

A special thanks goes out to all

SAVE THE DATE

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

*I'm looking for some volunteers to start working on decorations for our MAGNIFIED VBS this year. If you are interested see me, Laura Franklin (724) 312-4647

Monthly Bible Verse:

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45





APRIL CELEBRATION BIRTHDAYS!



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 Gump—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
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

Anniversaries!

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



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!



April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1 PM Quilting 5:30 PM Deacon Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	2 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7 PM Choir	3 6 PM Women's Bible Study	4 10 AM Women's Bible Study	5 9 AM Spring Clean Up Mission
6 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM Sunday School	7	8	9 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 5:30-7 PM Faith & Fellowship 7 PM Choir	10	11	12 9 AM Men's Breakfast @ Mac's Café 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
13 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School & "Little Jesus Scavenger Hunt"	14 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	15	16 6:30 PM Choir	17 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service	18 7 AM Good Friday Breakfast 8 AM Melody Hooks & Stations of the Cross	19
20 9 AM Worship 11 AM Worship 12 Community Lunch @ St. Andrews	21	22	23 6 PM College & Career Group @ Eat N Park 6:30 PM Choir	24	25	26 10 AM Grief Fellowship Hour
27 10 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday School	28 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	29	30 9 AM Coffee & Conversation 6:30 PM Choir			

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UPCOMING HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

PALM SUNDAY—April 13th worship
followed by “Little Jesus Scavenger Hunt”

MAUNDY THURSDAY— April 17th, worship
service and communion at 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST—April 18th at
7:00 AM followed by guest speaker
Melody Hooks & Stations of the Cross

EASTER SERVICE—April 20th at 9 & 11 AM

