**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

March 26, 2017 8:15am & 10:45am

 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

 

**God’s People Gather**

*Please observe prayerful silence when the prelude begins.*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE “Were You There?”  *John Rasley*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (10:45)

**We Praise the Lord**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7)

L: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**P: Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.**

L: For the Lord is the great God, a great King above all gods.

**P: Come, let us bow down in worship,**

L: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

**P: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.**

\*Hymn of Praise: 214 “O Come and Sing Unto the Lord”

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession **O God of mercy: You sent Jesus to this world to save the lost. We give thanks to You, God our Father, for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning, and for Your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners. We praise You that in Christ You came to us with forgiveness, and that, by Your Holy Spirit, You move us to repent and receive Your love. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior, Amen.**  *(Silent Confession)*

Assurance of Pardon

\*Response of Praise: 579 “Gloria Patri”

Passing the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**Hear God’s Word**

CHILDREN’S LESSON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE LAW: Exodus 17:1-7 (pg. 73/105)

THE GOSPEL: John 4:1-26 (pg. 1065/1618)

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:15) “Processional to Calvary” *Debbie Keller*

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:45)

“The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference” *Chancel Choir*

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (pg. 1149/1742)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord! **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Stumbling or Standing  *Rev. David C. Smith*

\*Hymn of Response: 446 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the French Confession, 1559, XIV and XVI)

**We believe that Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God’s eternal Son, clothed himself in our flesh, so that he is both God and human in one person. He is like us in every way, suffering in body and in soul, except that he remained pure from all stain of sin. As to his humanity, he was truly the seed of Abraham and David, although he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that in sending the Son, God’s sole intention was to show us love and immeasurable goodness. And we believe that in giving the Son to die and raising him from the dead, God’s sole intention was to accomplish all righteousness and secure eternal life for us.**

 **The Disciples Give Thanks**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “Ten Thousand Angels”  *Ray Overholt*

\*Doxology: 592 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

\*Prayer of Dedication

THE SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (10:45) *T. Schlachter*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 16)

**We Go Forth To Serve**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Closing Hymn: (red) 147 “Standing on the Promises”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

 POSTLUDE “Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” *J. S. Bach*

 \*Please stand, if able

Worship Leaders

Pastor: *Rev. David C. Smith*

Greeters & Ushers: (8:15) *Rick and Mary Lou Odell*

Greeters: (10:45) *Prindle Family*

Ushers: *G. Casella Jr, D. Casella, J. Bergen, D. Konkle*

Liturgist: (8:15) *Doc Shearer*  (10:45) *Joe LeCrone*

Organist:  *Debbie Keller* Choir Director:  *Dennis Carpenter*

 **This Week at MPC**

**Sunday, March 26th**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service (S)

**Monday, March 27th** *(Food Pantry/Shep. of the Sts. Delivery)*

8:30am Prayer Group (MCEC)

**Tuesday, March 28th** *(bulletin announcements due)*

6:15pm-8:00pm Circle 2 (C)

**Wednesday, March 29th**

6:00pm Lenten Supper

7:00pm Worship Service

7:30 Choir Practice

**Thursday, March 30th**

6:15pm-8:15pm AA Meeting (FH)

**Friday, March 31st**  Office Closed

**Saturday, April 1st**

8:00am-4:00pm PSU Ext. Class (FH)

**Sunday, April 2nd**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service (S)

5:30pm FISH Youth Group (MCEC)

S – Sanctuary C – Classroom FH – Fellowship Hall N – Nursery

MCEC – Mendenhall

Last Week’s Attendance: 8:15am – 39 10:45am – 84

**Pastor’s Office** (570) 368-4747 MontourPastor@verizon.net

**Church Office:** Mon-Thur 9:00-noon (570) 368-1595

**E-mail:** Montourpc@gmail.com **Website:** [www.montourpres.org](http://www.montourpres.org)

**Announcements for the week of March 26, 2017**

Welcome to the Montoursville Presbyterian Church

Visitors: Please complete a Visitor Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. If you are looking for a church home or membership, please see the Pastor, an Usher, or call the office.

**To assist with your worship experience, we offer:**

**Personal hearing devices** – please see an Usher

**Pew cushions** – stored above the coat racks in the Narthex

**Large print hymnals** – in the Narthex

**Handicap/family restroom** – off the far end of Fellowship Hall

**Worship bags for children** – in a basket in the Narthex

**Nursery care** for children ages up to 5 years old

 **Staff:** Deb Rupert, Mary Strein, Dorothy Casella and Gaetan Casella

**It’s already that time again**. . . FISH is planning an egg hunt for the youngest members of our congregation (nursery through 4th

grade) during the Palm Sunday breakfast, as is our tradition.  We would welcome donations of candy or other small items (stickers, small toys, etc.) so that we can stuff eggs.  Please bring in any donations that will fit into a small plastic egg.  Donations can be dropped by the office or given to a FISH leader by Sunday, April 2.  Thank you!

 **FISH YOUTH GROUP EVENTS**

**April 2 -** Come to the MCEC at 5:30 pm to stuff Easter eggs in preparation for the Palm Sunday egg hunt.  We’ll have dinner and continue to the learn about the problem with taking what you want.  See you then!

**April 9 -** Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt for younger members of the congregation.  Please arrive at the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am to prepare for the egg hunt.

Come back to the MCEC at 5:30 pm for our regular time together.  Dinner provided.

**April 16** - Christ is Risen!  He is risen indeed!  Hallelujah!  Enjoy Easter services and time with your family.

**Birthday Offering Envelopes**

Presbyterian Women have a long tradition of caring for others and helping those in need. The Birthday Offering celebrates this tradition of mission giving to help improve the lives of women. It has become an annual tradition and has helped fund nearly 100 major mission projects to make a difference in the lives of women and children. The Birthday Offering envelopes will be in the bulletin on April 2nd. Please give as you have been blessed and put the envelopes in the offering plates. Thank you for your donation.

**Program on Human Trafficking**

Circle I will be hosting an informational program on human trafficking on Wednesday evening, April 26, at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Debbie Colton from *Oasis of Hope*. The mission of *Oasis of Hope* is to restore the lives of survivors of human trafficking through faith-based safe homes and to increase awareness of sex trafficking in America. This program is open to all those interested in learning more about this horrific crime and what we can do to combat it in our area. Please notify us at the Presbytery office if you plan to attend, presbynorth@comcast.net 570 368-3906 or tell Diane Casella.

**Summer Music:** Are you interested in performing for the special music segment of our worship service this summer?  Do you know someone who may be?  If so, please contact Joe LeCrone at jblecrone@gmail.com or 570-692-2135

**Ushers and Greeters for April 2nd and April 9th**

(8:15am) Ushers and Greeters: *Betty Edkin & Elaine Cressman*

(10:45am) Greeters: *Neil & Donna Bixler*

Ushers: *S. Means, G. Dunkleberger, J. LeCrone, D. Shearer*

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

April 2 – *Carol Wagner*

April 9 – *Catheal and Dale Weiser*

April 16 – *Kathy and Gary Williams*

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:** Florene Arbogast, Kathy Butkofsky, Harriett Bernier, Dave Bertin, Doug Bird, Jack Bower, Nancy Bradley, Hedi Campbell, Diane Chestnut, Mary Christie, Saundra Cillo, Zola Davis, Audrey Dochter, Danny Fagnano, Betty Farley, Tad Fiser, Janine Fisher, Bob Folmar, Tim Garman, Ryder Getchis, Bill Hart, Trista Hackenberg, Dee Henrickson, Debbie Hilldale, Joe Hopple, Tom Hoy, Rod Husted, Victoria Johnson, Ron Kanour, Kathleen Keller, Pat Korizno, Sandy Kurtz. Susan Lantz, Tina and Scott Lawrence, Brooke Marshall, Scott, Jessica and Natalie Mathias, Jim Mathews, Wayne McClure, Patty McGinniss, Clayton Merrill, Jim Mexdorf, Angela Mitchell, Esther Mowery, Denise Neff, Frank Odell, Carol Peace, Joshua and Henry Reinsburrow, and Danny Wagner, Stuart Rennick, Bob and Doris Shandry, James and Shirley Shaner, Erin Shimmel, Bud Smeenk, Tootie Starr, Jim Swan, Michele Terpolilli, Glynda Turner, Sue Ulmer, Carol Wagner, Stella Walmer, Virginia Wentzler, Marieva Williams, Jim Wright, Sandy Wright.

**Joys:** Carol Peace’s birthday, Olivia Messersmith’s birthday

**Thanks:** To all who helped with snow removal

**Military:** Duane (DJ) Burleigh, Ryan Burns, Joe Cardone, Maj. Brady Cillo, Jessie Confer, Maj. Laurie Fontaine, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Ben Hepburn, Ethan Jones, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Marissa Patterson, Paul Wenner, Jason Yurek

**Others:** Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa), Ministries of MPC, Peace in the World, Camp Krislund, Flood victims in Louisiana, Victims of Hurricane Matthew, Fire victims in Tehran, Iran



**It’s not too early to think about flowers**

**for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.**

**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 9th**

 **$10.00 each - 6” pots**

**Any questions, please contact the church office at 368-1595*.***

**All orders should be placed in the box in the narthex along with payment (please make checks payable to MPC). Thank you.**

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**Your Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In Honor of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In Memory of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mums #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lilies #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Total Payment Included**

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**In Honor of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**MPC Cookbook**

**We are taking pre-orders of the cookbook. If you are interested, please fill out the order form and put it in the box in the narthex. Payment is needed with the order. The books will be available for pick-up on April 30th.**

**Price is $17.00**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**# of cookbooks: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If writing a check, make payable to U.P.W.**

**Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**AN INVITATION**

**FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE**

 Soon, our new cookbook will be “hot off the presses” and ready to sell. Join us for a congregational tureen dinner on Sunday, April 30th at 5:30 pm where you will be able to browse through the cookbook and sample many of its tasty recipes.

 Please bring a dish to share and, if you contributed recipes for the cookbook, please prepare one of them, label it, and bring it as your offering for the evening. This way people will be able to experience some of the fare found inside the book.

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