**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

March 26, 2023 9:30am

**Morning Worship**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**



**God’s People Gather**

*Please observe prayerful silence when the prelude begins.*

PRELUDE "Hallelujah"     *Leonard Cohen*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

**We Praise the Lord**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 130)

L: Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

**P: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve You.**

L: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

**P: I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

L: Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

**P: He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

\* LENTEN HYMN: 76 “My Song Is Love Unknown”

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**O God of mercy: You sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. Judge us with love, and lift the burden of our sins. We confess that we are twisted with pride. We see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, forgotten to be just, and have turned away from Your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin, for the sake of Jesus 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 PROPHET: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (pg.865/1315)

THE EPISTLE: Romans 8:6-11 (pg. 1133/1717)

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Within the Shadow of the Cross” *Chancel Choir*

THE GOSPEL: John 11:1-45 (pg. 1076/1634)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON: Flesh and Bones *Rev. David C. Smith*

\* HYMN OF RESPONSE:

(red) 270 “And Can It Be That I Should Gain”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

from Luther’s Small Catechism (1529)

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; Who has redeemed me, secured and delivered me from all my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns forever. This is most certainly true.**

**The Disciples Give Thanks**

THE SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and Lord’s Prayer

**We Go Forth To Serve**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN OF SENDING: 384 “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;*

*For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.*

POSTLUDE "There Is a Green Hill Far Away" *George Stebbins*

\*Please stand, if able

Worship Leaders

Pastor: *Rev. David Smith*

Liturgist: *Wendy Smith*

Greeters: *Joe & Jackie Lapinski*

Organist:  *Debbie Keller*

Choir Director: *Ryan Neidig*

**This Week at MPC**

**Sunday,** **March 26th**

10:45am Sunday School

4:00pm FISH (Shearer’s)

**Monday, March 27th**

9:00am Prayer Group (MCEC)

10:00am-11:30am Yoga (FH)

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

7:00pm Finance Committee (MCEC)

**Wednesday,** **March 29th**

6:15pm-7:00pm Lenten Dinner (FH)

7:00pm Lenten Worship Service (S)

**Thursday, March 30th**

6:30pm-8:30pm AA (FH)

7:00pm Choir

**Friday, March 31st**

Office Closed

10:00am-11:30am Yoga (FH)

**Saturday, April 1st**

**Sunday, April 2nd**

9:30am Worship Service (S)

10:45am Sunday School

Last Week’s Attendance: 89

**Pastor’s Office:** (570) 368-4747 presbysmith@gmail.com

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

**Mailing Address:** 205 Tule St. Montoursville, PA 17754

**E-mail:** [montourpc@gmail.com](mailto:montourpc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.montourpres.org](http://www.montourpres.org)

**Announcements for the week of March 26, 2023**

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 or call the office.

At MPC, masks are now optional. If you are unwell, if you’ve been around someone who is ill, if you’re unvaccinated, or if you are simply more comfortable wearing a mask, please continue to do so.

**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

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

**Staff:** Deb Rupert,

Hannah Means, Gabby Shearer, Elizabeth Wanner

**Greeters for April**

4/2 Doc & Kay Shearer

4/9 Karschner family

4/16 Bob Shimp

4/23 Mike Yourish

4/30 Don & Sharon King

There is a copy of the greeter list (through September) on the bulletin board at church.

**April 2**  - After the service next week, we will enjoy our Palm Sunday potluck breakfast followed by an egg hunt for the little ones. Please bring a simple breakfast treat (such as coffee cake, muffins, etc.) to share. You can drop them off in the church kitchen prior to the service. Drinks and fruit will be provided. Not a baker? Come anyway. Hope to see you there for a great time of fellowship!

**Upcoming FISH activities**

**TODAY — Pool Party** at the home of Doc and Kay Shearer

(915 Elm St, Montoursville). You’re invited to be a part of a

long-time FISH tradition which we haven’t been able to do since before COVID. Please come at 4 pm. Bring your swimsuit, a towel, and goggles! We’ll swim and have pizza for dinner, and it will be wonderful. Bring a friend!

**April 2 AM**—Palm Sunday —  It’s egg hunt day!! Please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:20 am to help hide eggs! Then, we’ll participate in the worship service, enjoy the Palm Sunday pot luck and then take the kids on the egg hunt towards the end of the brunch. Bring your whole family!!

**April 2 PM —**Come back to church for dinner @ 5:30 pm and your own egg hunt. Looking forward to a whole day of fun together!

**Egg Hunt preparations under way!  FISH** is planning an egg hunt for our younger members aged birth through 4th grade. You can help with this fun FISH tradition by donating Easter candy or very small items that would fit inside a plastic egg (stickers, bouncy balls, etc.). Please give any donations to a FISH leader (Dorothy & George Casella, Wendy Smith) or drop them by the church office no later than **TODAY**. Thanks for your help!

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**Easter Card Blessing:** The Deacons are doing an Easter card blessing for those on our Encouragement List and we are asking for your help. We would like to fill gift bags with cards, which we will then deliver. They don't necessarily have to be Easter specific, anything to brighten their day. There will be bags in the Narthex with each person’s name. There are 25 people on our list so any amount of cards is helpful. Please consider helping fill their bags with cards.

Hedi Campbell, Betty Edkin, Margaret Fox, Ocie Hoffman, Lester Murray, Marjorie Bieber, Maynard Bogart, Hobart Campbell, Ellie English, Jay & Gail Fetterman, Richard & Francis Grugan, Ester & Gerry McLaughlin, Mary Ann Merrill, Rick & Mary Lou Odell, Peggy Rennick, Fred Robinson, Bob & Doris Schild, Gary & Arlene Smithgall, Harry & Cathy Specht, Tootie Starr, Jim & Lois Thomas, Ruth Thompson, Sue Ulmer, Marieva Williams, Priscilla Wirt.

**Please give any updates on the status of those on the prayer list to Anne Strein (570-368-1595, montourpc@gmail.com).**

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:**  Marge Bieber, Paul Blickley, Scot Bower, Donald Burleigh and family, Peggy Butera, Chance & Koen Butler, Hobart & Hedi Campbell, Elaine Cressman, Diane Damaska, Bernadette Davis, Jackie DeAngelo, Don Deibler, Joyce Dotts, Betty Edkin, Ellie English, Janine Fisher, SueLane Fisher, Margaret & Andy Fox, Luann Frantz, Kevin Gardner, Marcelyn George, Dick & Fran Grugan, Jean Haas, Jamie Hahn, Sophie Heinbach, Gayle Herron, Winifred Hess, Buddy Hessert, Jeff Hoff, John & Margaret Hopper, Pat Korizno, Doug & Tanga Killian, Kevin Little, Eric & Randie Littlefield, Robert M. Lomison, Michael Lozano, Greg Lucas, Jim Lyttle, the Maciejewski family, Brooke Marshall, Rachael McCloskey, Ester McLaughlin, Doris & Bill Messersmith, Mary Ann Merrill, Mary Lou & Rick Odell, Buzz Platt, Mary Prigitano, Sandy Ravert, Peggy Rennick, Doug Rupert, Bob Schild, Rhonda Schreiter, Aliete Sesler, John & Penny Shaw, Bob Shimp, Bob Smith, Phillip Smith, Arlene & Gary Smithgall, Harry & Cathy Specht, Judy Stanley, Dana Stettler, Cheri Stiles, Marian Stuempfle, Jim Sunderland, Jaymen Swygert, Fran Tallini, Lois Thomas, Ruth Thompson, Carol & John Wagner, the Walker family, the Weber family, Pam Weiser, Marianne West, Bobby Wheeler, Deb Wilcox, Kathy Williams, Marieva Williams, Priscilla Wirt.

**Grief:** Family and friends of Harriet Cillo (Mike’s mother). Family and friends of Joe Miller.

**Military:**  Duane (DJ) Burleigh, Ryan Burns, Maj. Brady Cillo, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Gabe King, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Sgt. Eric Littlefield, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Jason Yurek, All military personnel and their families.

**Others:**  Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa); Ministries of MPC; Peace in the World; Camp Krislund; Health Care Workers; Schools and Colleges and Universities; the more than 1 million Americans and more than 6 million worldwide lost to the coronavirus; Doctors Without Borders, Ethiopia; Haiti; Ukraine; Iran; all victims of violence; those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; snow and flooding in California.