



PRESBYTERIAN
CONGREGATION
of Middletown

4-07-24
WORSHIP SERVICE

PCMDT

*A body of Christian people who reach out to
others by sharing God's word, love, and fellowship.*

Sunday Worship

10:30 AM | Sanctuary

**For special services or changes to regular services please see the
announcement section of this bulletin and weekly church emails.*

Church Office Hours

Mon. | 8:30AM - 11:30AM

Tues- Fri. | 10:30AM- 1:30PM

290 N. Union St.

Middletown, PA 17057

(717) 944-4322

office@pcmdt.org

www.pcmdt.org

www.facebook.com/PresbyterianCongregation

Kevin Long, Guest Pastor
Marti Black, Director of Music
Tessa Elliott, Secretary
Jay Wilsbach, Sexton
John Long, Treasurer
Jane Neff, Parish Nurse



GATHERING

Prelude "Now the Green Blade Rises: Love is come again like wheat arising green"

(#247 in hymnbook, for your meditation) - arr. Page

Introit Hymn #276 "Sing a New Song unto the Lord" (Psalm 98)

All are invited to sing!

Welcome

Announcements

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A love that never ceases

A creativity that designed the universe

A hope that cannot be quenched

A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

These are the things that are of God

Then let us worship God.

Hymn

#250 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower: Hymn of Promise"

TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community,
which looks to the common good, privileges all equally,
and celebrates the humanity and gifts of all.

And yet we focus on our differences, envy each others' gifts,
devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible,
and we grow weary.

We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us.
Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of God's Pardon

Our righteousness is found in Christ alone,
a gift of God by faith.

Beloved people of God, believe the good news:
through the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

.

**Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.***

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Lord Jesus, you teach us to distinguish between divine things and human things. As we listen to Holy Scripture today, help us to hear your Word for us and to be open to the good news that is always a sure sign of your presence. AMEN

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 5:15-6:6

*15 I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favour:*

A Call to Repentance

*6:1 'Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
3 Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.'
Impenitence of Israel and Judah
4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.*

ANTHEM

"Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye People"

- Butler

New Testament Reading: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Calling of Matthew

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him.

10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, ‘Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?’ 12 But when he heard this, he said, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.’

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, ‘My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.’ 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.’ 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, ‘Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.’ And instantly the woman was made well. 23 When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, ‘Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. 26 And the report of this spread throughout that district.

THE MESSAGE

From Quite Constructed to Reconstructing

Kevin Long

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn**

#286 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Offering “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” - arr. Barr

Doxology (Hymn #606)

Prayers of the People

(Concludes with the Lord's Prayer)

Let us take this time to give thanks to God and to offer prayers for each other – our friends, family, community, nation, and world.

(Please remember our home-bound members in prayer: Harrold Bretz, Betty Fisher, Mary Lou Lewis, Fae Mower, Gary and Rebecca Holman, Ellen Luckus, Marie Leinbach, and Barry and Sally Snook.)

SENDING

***Hymn**

#721 “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

***Benediction**

***Postlude** “Jesus Shall Reign Where’ere the Sun” (#265 in hymnbook) - arr. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our guest pastor Kevin Long

Kevin grew up in Northwest Ohio, and received degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he met his wife, Jennifer. He retired from a 20-year career in cyber security in 2020. He received his MDiv from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2022. He lives near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with Jennifer and their daughter. His faith has led to a passion for ecological justice, as well as a call to begin a new worshiping community. He has since founded Intertwined, which offers a space for the unchurched, dechurched, and those who encounter the divine most easily outdoors to explore faith through the lens of ecology. He enjoys reading, photography, comic books, and watching Formula E racing. All are welcomed to visit intertwinedfc.org for more information on intertwined.

We welcome Todd Bingaman today at the piano. Todd grew up in Middletown's Orthodox Presbyterian Church & Christian Dayschool. He served as organist, VBS leader (and much more) for many years at Elizabethtown Church of God and also as chef at Kuppy's diner.

Dear Church Members,

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Dear parent of young children,

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! All are welcome! Sit towards the front where it is easier for little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others heads. Quietly explain the parts of the Service and actions of the pastor, ushers, musicians, etc.. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." Remember, the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home in this house of worship.

Adult Forum - April 7 & 14

Exploring the visceral spiritual hungers and fears of the factions that divide our society and possible ways to promote a more fruitful dialogue. Lee Barrett

Choir

Bell choir Wednesdays 6:00, voice choir Wednesdays 7:00-8:30. Anyone sensing the Lord's calling to participate musically in worship is welcome to show up at rehearsals, no previous experience necessary.

Pastor for Next Sunday

John Green

GIVING

General: \$2,021.00
Benevolence: \$158.00
Deacons Lenten Appeal: \$25.00
Per Capita: \$33.00
Improvement: \$155.00
Maundy Thursday: \$145.00

3-31-24

ATTENDANCE

Total: 57
Maundy Thursday: 25

****2024 Per capita assessment is \$33 (per member).****

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

Consumers should also be aware that, at least in America, more and more products are fortified with vitamins and minerals. For example, some breakfast cereals (such as those under the name Total) contain 100 percent of the recommended daily dosage of most nutrients per serving. This means that using just half a cup of Total cereal provides 100 percent of the recommended amounts of most nutrients.

THIS WEEK AT PCMDT

4-07-24

Sunday

9:00AM- Adult Forum
(Memorial Lounge)
10:30AM - Worship Service
Kevin Long

4-08-24

Monday

7:00PM Deacons Meeting
(Morrow Room)

4-09-24

Tuesday

7:00PM - AA Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)

4-10-24

Wednesday

6:00PM - Bells
(Choir Room)
7:00PM -Choir
(Choir Room)

4-11-24

Thursday

6:30 Stewardship Meeting
(Morrow Room)
7:00PM - AA Meeting
(Fellowship Hall)

4-14-24

Sunday

9:00AM- Adult Forum
(Memorial Lounge)
10:30AM - Worship Service
Pastor John Green
(Sanctuary)

Don't miss out! We have many forms of communication for your convenience...

Please see the announcement section of the bulletin, PCMDT weekly Sunday emails, the monthly calendar, and the quarterly newsletter for updates and upcoming events.

**If you signed up to receive emails please regularly check your spam/junk folders. Thank you!*