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Leah Childers*, lchilders@pittstate.edu, and **Tara Brendle** and **Dan Margalit**. *Mapping class groups: a pictorial introduction*.

A key example in geometric group theory is the mapping class group of a surface, a group that arises from the geometry and topology of surfaces. In this talk we give an elementary, pictorial introduction to the mapping class group of a surface. We will explore standard examples and discuss basic tools for studying the group. Our focus will be on the interplay between the geometry of the surface and the algebraic properties of this group. (Received September 09, 2016)