



*Grounded in the grace of God,
we are a vibrant Christian community,
disciples of all ages, gathered for worship and nurture,
scattered to serve and to love.*
MPC Mission Statement adopted by the Session March 31, 2008

WORSHIP for SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Praise Ye The Father* - Charles Gounod

Yun Kang

CHORAL INTROIT — *Come All You Servants* - English Folk Melody

Chancel Choir

*Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!*

*Lift up your hands to the holy place,
and bless the Lord.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Tori Paquette

One: Grounded in the grace of God,

All: We are a vibrant Christian community, disciples of all ages,

One: Gathered for worship and nurture,

All: Scattered to serve and to love!

One: May our life together be a reflection of God's love and grace!

All: May our worship be pleasing to God alone! Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich is things and poor in soul.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Merciful God, we hear of your grace so often, but live as if we have never known its power. We convince ourselves we have earned your grace, and thus, have no need of you. We grumble when you don't respond immediately, assuming we know what's best. We gossip under our breath about the behavior of those around us, when we could be asking them if there is some way we could serve them. And yet, in love, you shower grace upon us again. Help us to be a thankful people, O God, recognizing your love for us in all its abundance. Renew us by your grace and turn our hearts toward you alone.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that through him the world might be saved. Though we were dead through our sins, in great mercy, God has spoken a word of healing and made us alive together with Christ. So, together, let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!

RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE — *Glory to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

PSALTER READING — *Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22*

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

All: For his steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,

All: From the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

One: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

All: Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;

One: He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

All: Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* - David Ashley White

*Surely it is God who saves me; trusting in him, I shall not fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's living spring;
In the day of your deliverance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.
Make his deeds known to all peoples; tell out his exalted Name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.
Surely it is God... (repeat of verse 1)*

Isaiah 12: 2-6, paraphrased by Carl Daw, Jr.

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Caroline Thompson

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Ephesians 2:1-10*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the

ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Grounded in the Gift of Grace

Pastor Rhodes

HYMN — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

*There's a wideness in God's mercy; like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *I Need Thee Every Hour* - Robert Lowry

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

TOPLADY

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.
Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed
be of sin the double cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.*

*Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone. Thou must save, and thou alone.*

*Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.*

POSTLUDE — *March Triumphant into Jerusalem* - Robert Thygeron

QUESTION for REFLECTION

- When have you known grace freely offered to you?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Please note all announcements for Sunday bulletins are due by noon the Tuesday before they are to be published. Please email announcements to Bulletin@MPCusa.net.***

NEW SERMON SERIES, WHO IS MPC? CONTINUES TODAY!

Grounded in the grace of God, we are a vibrant Christian community, disciples of all ages, gathered for worship and nurture, scattered to serve and to love! – MPC Mission Statement adopted by the Session March 31, 2008

Did you know our church has a mission statement?! You may have been attending here for years and have no idea what our mission statement says or what it calls forth from us as we imagine our impact in the world and in our church family and community. Over the course of the next weeks, we're going to explore who we are (or who we claim to be), and how God might be challenging us to look at that call more deeply and more creatively than we ever have before! And keep an eye out for this mission statement—it's in more places than you might realize!

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Fran Akelewicz "in gratitude for the blessings of our MPC family." The second arrangement is given by Cheryl Barron in gratitude for the music ministry of Yun Kang and her children, Eliana and Elijah.

TODAY! GROUNDED IN GRACE PICNIC

Join us today, following worship, for our annual *Grounded in Grace* picnic held this year outside the main entrance. Seating will be provided under the Portico for those with mobility issues and on the grass for everyone else. The playground will be open for our young friends and lunch will be provided. If it rains, the picnic will be held in Fellowship Hall.

BROWN BAG & BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

Have you considered joining Bible Study but haven't wanted to jump in midstream? Have you wanted to feel more connected to the church but your work schedule makes that difficult? Now is the perfect time to join us!

On Wednesdays at noon over Zoom, we'll be taking the plunge into some of the miracles of Jesus and we hope you'll join us! Everyone is welcome, no matter how much you do or don't know about the Bible. We are learning and growing together and this one-hour Zoom Bible Study makes it possible for you to join us whether you're at home, traveling, or on your lunch break at work!

We hope you'll carve out an hour of your week to study God's word among friends. Following our Bible Study, you are also welcome to stay for our weekly prayer meeting that meets for about 15-20 minutes. If you would like to attend Brown Bag & Bible Study (or are at least interested enough to check it out for a couple of weeks), please contact Pastor Rachel at rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net. We'd love for you to join us!

CLOTHING CENTER REOPEN THIS THURSDAY!

The [Clothing Center](#) reopens on Thursday, September 22, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are now accepting clean fall and winter clothing, small appliances, and any other treasures you wish to donate. Please note we do not accept school textbooks, college SAT practice books, or encyclopedias.

Donations can be left any day, except Wednesday, at the basement level by the elevator. Please do not leave donations outside. Come and join us as we open our doors again for another year to raise funds for MPC-supported outreach.

New Members Class

Believing—Belonging—Becoming

September 25, October 2, October 9

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. This three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, will be an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean.

We will explore topics like:

- What do we believe as Presbyterians?
- How are we called to be the church in the world?
- What does ministry and mission look like at MPC?
- Who is it that God is calling you to be and how can you seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

This class will gather at 9:00 a.m. for three Sundays and you'll be welcomed into membership during worship on Sunday, October 16.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org by Monday, September 19, or email directly to Pastor Rachel at rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS: THE CANONS OF THE BIBLE

The Hebrew Scriptures of the Bible in our church pews contains thirty-nine books; the New Testament has twenty-seven books. These books are called "sacred texts" and are accepted as "the canon" in that they contain rules of faith. How is it that the Bible came to be? Why is it that the Catholic and Orthodox churches have a Bible with additional books? This three-week series, starting October 2, will provide a history of how the Bible was compiled, as well as discuss views on how to study and interpret scripture for Christian faith and practice. The class will be led by the Rev. Jack McAnlis.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SURVEY

The Education Committee and trusted advisors would like your feedback about our Adult Education offerings at MPC. Please [follow this link](#) or the one provided in your Sunday worship information email. The survey takes less than 3 minutes!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING - SEASON OF PEACE

The [Peace and Global Witness Offering](#), one of four special offerings of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#), enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. By supporting this offering you are promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict – including those near Morrisville, PA! This offering will be distributed as follows:

- 25% - MPC Congregational Peace Initiatives investing in local responses to injustice and violence.
- 25% - Linking congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation through presbyteries and synods
- 50% - Advocating for peace making and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness

This special offering will be collected on "World Communion Sunday", October 2, 2022. Please include "Peace and Global Offering" on the comment line of your check, or in the "Notes" section if using the [online portal](#). As always, thank you for your generous support so that MPC can promote the Peace of Christ!

Now may the Lord of peace . . . give you peace at all times in all ways. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

MEN'S RETREAT '22

Men of MPC, please join Pastor Alex on Saturday, October 8, when we will be undertaking two specific projects to support [Snipes Farm and Education Center's](#) greater mission: planting of water-loving native plants in the recently created "bioretention basin," and planting of trees adjacent to the basin. The bio-retention basin lies at the heart of efforts to harvest flooding reaching the farm from the surrounding developed areas, so that water recharges and feeds the streams during times of drought. Trees near the basin and streams help to clean water as it moves over and under the land. Please register through the church office by Tuesday, October 4. The cost is \$20 which covers a box lunch and donation to Snipes. Please dress to work and bring work gloves and a refillable water bottle. The day will start at 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Beth Curtiss at 215-801-7421.

THANK YOU

The Anderson Family would like to express our deepest gratitude to our dear church family for the beautiful sympathy cards and heartfelt-messages we have received since Nancy Sr's death. We are touched by the kindness, love, and support shown to us during this time of grief and sorrow.

A Celebration of Life Service for Nancy Conover Anderson will be held Saturday, October 1, at 2:00 p.m. Calling hours are noon-2:00 p.m.. Following the service, a supper will be served in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,
Roger and Nancy Anderson

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

The Morrisville Presbyterian Towers, a low cost housing facility in Morrisville for qualified seniors and handicapped persons that MPC supports in various ways, needs a volunteer to assist in their commissary for a few hours each month. Located within walking distance of MPC, this facility has long been supported by many members and pastors of MPC. The commissary is located within its facilities, and has become an invaluable source for groceries and apartment necessities. If interested, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215-495-3114 or Carol Hernandez at 215-518-3487.



Cub Scout Pack 3 Clothing & Household Items Drive

Saturday, 9/24 ~ Drop off 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Morrisville Presbyterian Church

Accepted items: Adult & Children clothing, shoes, handbags, purses, sandals, sneakers, boots, jackets, coats, rain gear, leathers, belts, ties, pants, shirts, sweaters, vests, blouses, dresses, skirts, robes, undergarments, sheets, pillowcases, towels, linens, tablecloths, hats, scarves, gloves, wallets, jewelry, watches, uniforms, jerseys, backpacks, new diapers, utensils, hard & soft toys, electronics, bicycles, and small bric-a-brac items.

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, September 18

8:30 a.m. *God's Thunder* Rehearsal Chapel
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 Worship Service Livestream
11:30 *Grounded in Grace* Picnic Main Entrance

MONDAY, September 19

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3 Room 220
6:30 Mostly Motets Music Room
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 Fellowship Hall
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 Lounge
 Parent & Board Meetings

TUESDAY, September 20

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3 Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, September 21

9:00 a.m. Food Center Parking Lot
Noon Brown Bag & Bible Study Zoom
1:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting Zoom
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 Room 220
6:00 Youth Club Fellowship Hall
7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220
7:00 Ivins Outreach Center Lounge
 Board Meeting
7:15 Chancel Chimes Chapel

THURSDAY, September 22

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Reopens Room 4
6:00 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
7:00 Chancel Choir Music Room

FRIDAY, September 23

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting Lounge

SATURDAY, September 24

8:30 a.m. Cub Scout Pack 3 Parking Lot
 Clothing Drive
9:00 Girl Scout Fellowship Hall
 Babysitting Certification Class
9:00 Session Retreat Conference Room

SUNDAY, September 25

8:30 a.m. *God's Thunder* Rehearsal Chapel
9:00 New Member Class Lounge
9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 Worship Service Livestream
11:30 Fellowship Hour Lounge
 Host: Brown Bag & Bible Study
11:45 Teen Choir Music Room

iPhone



Introducing mobile giving

Scan the appropriate QR code with your phone and find MPC
by searching code 'FEDN99' or 'Morrisville Presbyterian Church'

Once set up, you can schedule recurring gifts or make one-time offerings
with one click!

Android



Need help? Email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the Stewardship Committee.

CONTACT US

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