

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 Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025  $\sim$  10:30 a.m.

#### GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

**PRELUDE** — *Lift Up Your Heads* - arr. David M. Cherwien

Yun Kang

**INTROIT** — *Prepare the Way, O Zion* - BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERREN

Chancel Choir

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

#### LIGHTING of ADVENT CANDLE

Luisa, Rafaela, & Amelia Herrera

Family: Today we light the second candle in the Advent Wreath. The first candle reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The second Candle is the Candle of Peace

All: God of hope and peace, help us to live as peacemakers that we may be called the children of God. Come, let us worship the Lord.

Family: Please stand as you are able as we sing hymn #87, Comfort, Comfort Now My People

**HYMN** — Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

#### PRAYER of CONFESSION

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Forgive us when we wander from the path of righteousness, peace, and justice. Have mercy upon us. Renew in us faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts, to claim our love, and guide our lives, as silently we confess our sin.

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION** Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

#### PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so too does God remove our transgressions from us. Trusting this truth, let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

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

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

#### LITURGY of the WORD

#### PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Kathryn Jervis, Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

**RESPONSIVE READING** — *Isaiah 40:3-5* 

One: A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

All Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

One: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence - arr. Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!"

#### TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — Isaiah 9:2a & John 8:12

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

**SERMON** Candles That Burn Forever Rev. Dr. Kort

#### **AFFIRMATION** of **FAITH** — Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **OFFERING**

Invitation to Give
Offertory Music — O Little Town of Bethlehem - Lewis Redner
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

#### SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION

#### PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### 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.

#### WORDS of INSTITUTION

#### **COMMUNION** of the PEOPLE

MUSIC during COMMUNION — Seed, Scattered and Sown - Dan Feiton

#### SENDING

**HYMN** — Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home; coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way; Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good; yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign; King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

#### **CHARGE and BLESSING**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** — Rejoice!, Rejoice! - VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice!, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**POSTLUDE** — Festive Voluntary - arr. Lani Smith

#### 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.org.

#### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Jim and Julie in memory of Julie's aunt, Minnie Gentile. When Julie's parents both died within two years of each other, Aunt Minnie brought Julie and her sister to live with her and her family. Aunt Minnie will always be remembered as a truly beautiful person and a life changing gift.

#### YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2025 Giving Statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2025.

#### REHEARSALS START TODAY!

#### JOIN THE (CHURCH) FAMILY CHOIR FOR THE EVENING SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

The, now traditional, Family Choir will begin to rehearse today. December 7, immediately after worship for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. We will also rehearse on December 14 and 21 immediately after worship and again before the service on Christmas Eve.

All adults and teens are welcome to be part of this. You do not need to bring a family member with you - but please know that they are invited and we will be delighted to welcome them into the group. It is not necessary to attend all rehearsals, but all singers are encouraged to attend as many of these short rehearsals as possible.

If you have questions or would like more information, please see Tim Carpenter or email him at timcarpenter@mpcusa.org.

#### TOMORROW! REBECCA CIRCLE'S CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK

Looking for a way to share faith, fun and fellowship? Come give Rebecca Circle a try! We will meet in the conference room Monday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Pot-Luck. Please bring an appetizer to share. All women of MPC are welcome. For information call or text Jen Jones 215 962-3655.

#### DEBORAH CIRCLE LUNCHEON TOMORROW

Just a reminder that Deborah Circle meets tomorrow, Monday, December 8, at noon in the conference room, located on the second floor, for a Christmas luncheon hosted by our sisters from Rebecca Circle. All Deborah Circle members are welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

#### EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS TEA RESCHEDULED

Due to inclement weather l, the Evergreen Christmas Tea has been rescheduled to this Tuesday, December 9, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our Older Adult Ministry programs will now be called "Evergreen" programs. We celebrate all of you Evergreens who would like to be involved in social activities to connect with friends, old and new. If you are interested in attending the Evergreen Christmas Tea, please call Nancy McHenry at 215-514-9685.

#### ALL CHURCH CAROLING - NEXT SUNDAY!

Join us next Sunday, December 14, for what has become an annual MPC special event during Advent. This intergenerational event kicks off in the church parking lot at 4:00 p.m. and continues as congregants walk around the surrounding neighborhoods of the church singing carols. We end with desserts and hot chocolate by a fire pit. All you need to bring is your holiday spirit to share with our neighbors.

#### **JOIN ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IN ADVENT!**

Pastor Alex will continue to lead the class on Sunday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room. Join us as we grow deeper into this Advent journey attentive to what God is doing in this season.

#### **DECEMBER FOOD CENTER REQUEST**

Cookies are the requested items for the month of December. Donated items may be placed in the shopping cart located in the Welcome Center. Thank you for your generosity and continued support throughout this past year!

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BASKET DISTRIBUTION

The Deacons Holiday Basket Ministry has been distributing meals to families for many years. Each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, a dedicated group of volunteers, Church members, and youth come together to help make this task possible. We are looking for help to pack and distribute the Christmas Holiday Baskets on Saturday, December 20th, between 8:30 am and 11:00 am, at the Church.

If you can volunteer, please contact the Church Office at (215) 295-4191 or Curt Rimler at (609) 638-6670 or CurtisRimler@comcast.net. We appreciate your ongoing support.

#### ANGEL TREE IS BACK!

Our annual Angel Tree has returned and is displayed in the Welcome Center. We will provide toiletry bags for the many individuals we serve each week at the Food Center from Lower Bucks County and Greater Trenton areas. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is asked to please take a white angel from the tree and fill a one-gallon Ziplock bag (provided) with the following items:

- 2 toothpastes (regular size)
- 2 toothbrushes
- 2 bars of wrapped soap (neutral scent)
- 2 deodorants (neutral scent)

You will also find a few red and green angels on the tree for those who prefer to make a check or cash donation. Please note it is important to include the angel with your donation so that we know it came from the Angel Tree. Checks can be made out to The Food Center at MPC, and we ask that those donations be placed in the morning offering plate or mailed to the church office.

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on one side of each angel; the list of items is printed on the other side. Please include the angel in each Ziplock bag along with the items. We know how generous our congregation is! We ask, however, that you do not include extra items in the bag. Instead, perhaps fill another bag.

Filled bags can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., or before/after the Sunday worship service in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Welcome Center. All bags need to be delivered no later than December 26 for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful to all of you for your dedication to this ministry!

#### **2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes will be available soon in the Welcome Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact MPC's Administrative Assistant, Kim Turner, in the church office at 215-295-4191 or at office@mpcusa.org and she will make arrangements to send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

#### YEAR END INVOICE SUBMISSION

Invoices to be paid and reimbursement requests from this year need to be submitted by December 31 for accounting purposes. Please submit all items to Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org. Thank you for your help.

#### **NEXT READING FOR MPC BOOK DISCUSSION**

The next reading for the MPC Book Discussion group is *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan and will be discussed on January 12. The story is set in 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

The MPC Book Discussion Group meets in the conference room from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You can also attend by Zoom. Contact the church office at office@mpcusa.org or Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com for link and more information.

## THIS SATURDAY!



MPC Clothing Center Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 13, 2025 9:00 A.M. - Noon

Room 4, near Fellowship Hall

We're more than just clothes!



### Christmas Eve at MPC

<u>4:00 p.m.</u>

Children & Family Service

Childcare will be provided.

<u>7:30 p.m.</u>

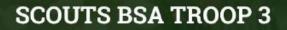
Candlelight & Communion Worship Service\*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Meditation by Dr. Kort: "God's Gift For You"

Chancel & Family Choirs

\*Livestream available at mpcusa.org



# Christmas

TREE SALE

A Morrisville tradition for over 85 years!

Scouts BSA Troop 3 will be selling Christmas Trees and Wreaths from November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup> (or when they sell out).

FRIDAYS 6-9 SATURDAYS 12-8 SUNDAYS 11-7 MONDAYS 6-9



MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 771 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE MORRISVILLE, PA 19067 **Scouts BSA Troop 3** 

#### MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent			WEDNESDAY, December 10		
8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121	9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
9:30	Sunday School for all ages		Noon	Brown Bag Bible Study Co	onference Room
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary &		,	& Zoom
		Livestream	6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
11:00	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot	7:15	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Room 121
11:45	Family Choir	Music Room	THURSD	AY, December 11	
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220		Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Deacon Meeting Co	onference Room		Weekday Nursery School	Room 225
4:00 p.m.	Cantus Novus Concert	Sanctuary	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	KOOIII 223
MONDAY	, December 8		7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge			Music Room
Noon	Worship Committee	Zoom		December 12	
6:00	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot	6:00 p.m.	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
6:00		onference Room	SATURDAY, December 13		
6:15	PNC Meeting	Room 200	9:00 a.m.	Clothing Center Open Hou	ise Room 4
6:30		ooms 122 & 220	Noon	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room			Q
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall	SUNDAY, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent		
7:00	Food Packing	Room 4	8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
	<u> </u>	Room 4	9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
TUESDAY, December 9			10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary &
9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4			Livestream
10:00	Weekday Nursery	Room 220	11:00	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
	School Projects		11:45	Family Choir	Music Room
11:30	Evergreen Christmas Tea	Fellowship Hall	Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220
			4:00 p.m.	All-Church Caroling	Fellowship Hall

Want to know when a future event is taking place or want to book a room for your committee or group? Check out the MPC calendar at mpcusa.org/calendar to see when events takes place and room availability.



#### **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!

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



### CONTACT US MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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