



*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* EASTER
APRIL 7, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord* - Robert Lau

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Adrienne Poissant, Pastoral Intern

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: We praise you, O Lord, in the midst of the congregation!

All: All the offspring of Jacob will glorify God.

One: The poor shall eat and be satisfied and those who seek God will find him.

All: All families of the world shall worship before him.

One: Future generations will be told about the Lord's deliverance.

All: We shall live in the house of the Lord forever.

HYMN — *The Day of Resurrection!*

LANCASHIRE

*The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.*

*Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and bearing, may raise the victor strain.*

*Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Lord God, we confess that there are many things that keep us from you. We are caught up in our own lives, distracted by the world around us. But we are also caught up in our own doubt. We wonder if you actually hear our prayers. When life become challenging, we doubt your goodness. When we make mistakes, we doubt your ability to redeem us from our sins. Lord we pray that our doubt does not get in the way of having a relationship with you, that our questions do not drown out the overwhelming love you have shown us through your Son, Jesus Christ.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Listen, beloved church: By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation. God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death, but instead restored us to new life. And 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING — 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Now the Green Blade Riseth* - French Noel, arr. Shirley W. McRae

Teen Choir

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Faith and Doubt

Adrienne Poissant

HYMN — *The Risen Christ*

WOODLANDS

*The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.*

*The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still waivers, who dare not believe;
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.*

*The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their lingering tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.*

*May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.*

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 — *Because He Lives* - Bill Gither

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.

THE BREAKING of the BREAD

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

MUSIC *during* COMMUNION — *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen* - Timothy Strand

PRAYER after COMMUNION

SENDING

HYMN — *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

TOULON

*I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King and our whole being sway;
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.*

*Thou art the life, by which alone we live,
and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power,
and give us strength in every trying hour.*

*Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness;
no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.*

*O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
that we may dwell in perfect unity.*

*Our hope is in no other save in thee;
our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *Song of Faith* - arr. George Blake

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

“The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshipers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord’s Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God’s love and grace in Jesus Christ.”

Book of Order W-3.0409

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.***

NEXT SUNDAY IS GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

April 14 is *Gifts of Women Sunday* at MPC - a recognition and celebration of the gifts that women bring to the church. Anne Stewart, Executive Vice President from Princeton Seminary will be our guest preacher. Presbyterian Women (PW) are asking each woman to bring a donation of a feminine hygiene product which will be distributed to Family Service Association of Bucks County, Libertae and the MPC Food Center. Your overwhelming generosity last year was very much appreciated and we are looking forward to once again helping women in our community by providing these necessary and very expensive items. There will be a receptacle to deposit your donation in the Welcome Center as you join us in worship on April 14.

MPC BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING, NEXT SUNDAY

We are pleased to announce a Blood Pressure Screening event on Sunday, April 14. The screening will take place in the chapel after the service, starting at 11:45 a.m. To ensure a smooth and efficient screening process, we kindly ask you to:

- Wear clothing that will make your arm easily accessible for blood pressure monitoring.
- Limit your caffeine intake on the day of the screening.
- If you are on medication for blood pressure, please continue to take it as usual on the day of the screening.
- Bring your own personal blood pressure monitoring record on the day of screening if you wish.

Your health is our priority. We look forward to seeing you there!

ADULT EDUCATION FOR APRIL

The Brief Statement of Faith was adopted by our denomination’s General Assembly in 1991 as a creed for a “re-united” church. Portions are used quite often during worship at MPC. This creed, briefer than the Westminster Confession of Faith yet longer than either the Nicene or Apostles’ Creed, provides content as to the core beliefs and essential tenets of the church’s faith. It is the first Reformed confessional document to include a narrative of Jesus’ life and ministry.

Join us next Sunday, April 14, as we conclude our exploring the biblical and theological underpinnings of our denomination. This Adult Sunday School class, led by Rev. Jack McAnlis, is at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room

REBECCA CIRCLE MEETS TOMORROW

Tomorrow, April 8, Rebecca Circle will meet for our program at The Old Library by Afton Lake for a presentation about Yardley history. Join us at 46 W. Afton Ave, Yardley if you can. Better still, bring a friend! Please note the start time is 6:30 p.m.

APRIL’S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Our Food Center is asking for canned fruit as this month’s food donation. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

CONTINUING EDUCATION & VACATION

Please be aware that Pastor Rachel will be away from April 6 through April 20 for both continuing education and vacation. If you need the assistance of a pastor during that time, please reach out to Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org or Pastor Brian at brianballard@mpcusa.org.

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

As fighting continues to escalate in Israel and Gaza, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance to those civilians devastated by destruction of homes and lack of food and water. PDA's response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals. PDA is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. MPC has assisted the PDA for years and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this ongoing violence. The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA with this disaster, so might you also help? You may use a check made out to MPC and place "Disaster Relief – Middle East" on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labeled "Disaster Relief" throughout the month of April. MPC has always been a most giving church.

MPC IS GOING TO SNIPES FARM AND EDUCATION CENTER ON SATURDAY 4/20!

Join members of MPC for an exciting, faith-filled, family-oriented and educational trip to Snipes Farm and Education Center (SFEC) to enjoy a beautiful way to celebrate God's creation and bounty! MPC youth and volunteers are participating in Earth Day at the Snipes Farm and Education Center on April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. They may be planting trees or potatoes. They may be working on projects on the nature trail or preparing the herb or children's gardens for the upcoming season. They may even take a farm tour or learn about the life of bees, composting and more. If you're interested in attending, you may contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org or Rachel Zobel at rachelzobel@mpcusa.org for more information. To learn more about SFEC, please visit www.snipesfarm.org. Last year's Earth Day was a most rewarding day for MPC! We hope you'll join us this year.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS - "SAVE THE DATE" FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18

The church is planning a local workday for high school grads and young 20-somethings. Details to follow in the coming weeks, but we hope you will put this date on the calendar to join in meaningful work and friendship. Stay tuned!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Childcare at church is an amazing gift to young families, providing a safe, fun space for small children, and enabling parents to participate in worship in our sanctuary. We are reliant on volunteers to staff the nursery and we need your help. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Cynde Jacobus at cynde127@gmail.com or Patrick Gilbride at pgilbrid@estee.com. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING.

We have two interesting book selections to read together and gather to discuss in the coming months. We will meet on April 15 and May 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

The book group will meet on April 15 to discuss *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is by the same author as *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* which we enjoyed reading together a few years back.

On May 20, we will meet to discuss the second and third sections (pages 155-547) of *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. The discussion will be led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon and you are welcome to come even if you read only a portion of the first three sections. Our discussion during the last meeting was lively and thought-provoking and will lead to future discussions in Adult Sunday School.

Books are available at the bookstore, library or on-line and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at bannistercr@gmail.com with your interest and questions.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

We appreciate the generous donations of books, toys and supplies we receive and are well stocked. We can always use more dollar store coloring books (for children and adults) and colored pencils for the Food Center distributions.

Family Movie Night

Sunday, April 14th

5 pm to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



Everyone's Welcome!

BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!

**Pasta Dinner, popcorn
and fun fellowship!**

Call Nancy McHenry @ 215-514-9685



Want to get to know folks
at MPC a little better?

Want to share a meal with
friends old and new?

Join **Dinner Groups of Eight**

Sign-up in the

Welcome Center to

host or be a guest!

Call Nancy McHenry for
more information @ 215-514-9685

**Dinners will be scheduled by
hosts in the next few months*



Clean out your closets for Scouts BSA Troop 3!

Scouts BSA Troop 3 is hosting a clothing & household items drive
Saturday, April 13 from 8-10 am.

Bag up your clothes and soft items, box up your books and
household items, and drop them off to us that morning.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT CLOTHING DRIVE!



FUNDrive® Coordinator

Stephanie Huston
wcc.troop3@gmail.com

COMMUNITY COLLECTION DAY

April 13 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Morrisville Presbyterian Church

771 N Pennsylvania Ave

Morrisville, PA 19067

Our Goal: \$1000

385 Tall Kitchen Bags (avg. 13 lbs.)
75 Medium boxes (household goods)

Clean out your closets for Scouts BSA Troop 3!

Scouts BSA Troop 3 is hosting a clothing & household items drive on Saturday, April 13 from 8-10 am. Bag up your clothes and soft items, box up your books and household items, and drop them off to us that morning. Or, contact one of our Scouts and make arrangements to drop off in advance.

We Are Collecting

Soft Goods

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves,
handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.
bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths,
curtains, pillows, etc.

Small Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving
pieces, and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-
knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

paperback, hard cover - all genres
*media needs to be boxed separately
*no encyclopedias or text books

*Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly
pack boxes of small household goods. Separate
books from household goods and media. All items
must be clean and in sellable condition.*



FUNDrive®

FUNDrive® is an eco-friendly fundraiser for nonprofit organizations.
Collect gently-used items in your community and FUNDrive® will buy
them.

Visit <https://FUNDrive.savers.com> to learn more.



MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, April 7

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:30	Special Session Meeting & Confirmation Class	Fellowship Hall
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Deacons Meeting	Conference Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, April 8

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Rebecca Circle	Offsite
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Chapel
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:00	Trustees Meeting	Room 208
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

TUESDAY, April 9

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
6:00 p.m.	Education Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, April 10

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, April 10 (continued)

12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Offsite
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, April 11

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

FRIDAY, April 12

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, April 13


8:00 a.m.	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Clothing Drive	

SUNDAY, April 14 - Gifts of Women Sunday


8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
		Lounge
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Chapel
11:45	Blood Pressure Screening	Music Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Room 220
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m.	Family Movie Night	

Introducing mobile giving

iPhone



Android



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.

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