



*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 MAY 28, 2023  
PENTECOST

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Let All Things Now Living* - Ash Grove

Yun Kang

**INTROIT** — *Pentecost Carol* — arr. Richard Proulx

Chancel Choir

*A mighty sound from heaven at Pentecost there came,  
and filled the place of meeting with rushing wind and flame;  
what Christ had promised now occurred  
as each Apostle spoke the word  
beneath the Spirit's thunder,  
and to the ears of all proclaimed salvation's wonder.*

--George Timms

## CALL to WORSHIP

DeeAnn Martin

One: Spirit of the living God, visit us again on this day of Pentecost.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: Like a rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: Like tongues of fire that set our hearts aflame,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: With love that overlaps the boundaries of race and nation,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

One: With power from above to make our weakness strong,

**All: Come, Holy Spirit. Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

EBENEZER

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power;  
give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour.*

*Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,  
still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.*

*We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears;  
for tomorrow's unknown pathway hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.*

*In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way;  
still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.*

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.*

*Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name.*

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: what mystery!*

*We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.*

## PRAYER of CONFESSiON

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**Spirit of God, you are the breath of creation, the wind of change that blows through our lives, opening us up to new dreams and new hopes, new life in Jesus Christ. Forgive us our closed minds, which barricade themselves against new ideas, preferring the past to what you might want to do through us tomorrow. Forgive our closed eyes, which fail to see the needs of your world, blind to opportunities of service and love. Forgive our closed hands, which clutch our gifts and our wealth for our own use alone.**

*(continued on next page)*

Forgive us our closed hearts, which limit our affections to ourselves and our own. Spirit of new life, forgive us and break down the prison walls of our selfishness, that we might be open to your love and open for service in your world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

**PROMiSE of FORGIVENESS**

One: People of God, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. By the power of the Holy Spirit, in whom we live and move and have our being, 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.*

**L I T U R G Y o f t h e W O R D**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION — Hymn - *Spirit of the Living God***

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

**GOSPEL READING — *John 7:37-39***

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM — *Sometimes a Light Surprises* - Craig Courtney**

*Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while she sings:  
it is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings.  
When comforts are declining, He grants the soul again  
a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.*

*In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue  
the theme of God's salvation and find it ever new;  
set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,  
let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.*

*It can bring with it nothing but he will beat us through:  
who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people too.  
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed  
and he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.*

*Though vine nor fig tree neither, their wanted fruit should bear;  
though all the fields should wither, nor flocks their herds be there;  
yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice;  
for while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.*

--William Cowper (altered)

## TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

### NEW TESTAMENT READING — *Acts 2:1-13*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

### SERMON

*Great Power, Great Responsibility*

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

### HYMN — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldest do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine;  
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.*

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

### PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*debts and debtors*)

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 — *This Is My Father's World* - M. D. Babcock

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** — *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*

NUN DANKET ALL' UND BRINGET EHR'

*Spirit divine, attend our prayers, and make this house your home.*

*Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!*

*Come as the light. To us reveal our emptiness and woe.*

*And lead us in those paths of life where all the righteous go.*

*Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sacrificial flame.*

*Let our whole soul an offering be to our Redeemer's name.*

*Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of peaceful love.*

*And let the church on earth become blest as the church above.*

*Spirit divine, attend our prayers. Make a lost world your home.*

*Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!*

## CHARGE and BLESSING

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** — *Amen*

**POSTLUDE** — *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* - James Mansfield

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **SPECIAL PENTECOST OFFERING TODAY**

In celebrating Pentecost, we recognize the birth of the church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Christ's followers. That Spirit remains with the church – and surely with us – connecting us with the church of the past, inspiring the church of today and pointing toward the church of the future.

This special offering of the PCUSA unites us in a church wide effort to support young people by inspiring them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and world and to build a life of faith. The offering serves to nurture the faith of our members in their first third of life – children, youth and young adults – locally and around the world. This offering is used as follows:

- 40% Congregational (MPC initiatives with our own young people)
- 25% Serving Communities (Young adult volunteers around the world)
- 25% Guiding Youth (Youth Ministries guiding youth in their walk with Christ)
- 10% Child Advocacy (Advocacy that protects and educates our children and youth in mind, body and spirit)

Your support for this special offering has been most generous and again is most appreciative. Simply state "Pentecost Offering" on the comment line of your check or designate it for Pentecost if giving online.

## **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Ron and Ruth Workman in loving memory of Ruth's parents, Charles and Sarah Pulsford. The second arrangement is given by Clark Martin in memory of 1/Lt. Woody Parker, Capt. Beau Hertlein and Capt. Tommy Gist: KIA Vietnam, 1968, fifty-five years ago. "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old."

## **NEW OPPORTUNITY!**

A spiral bound book will be available in the Welcome Center for the specific purpose of receiving the Joys and Concerns of the people of MPC. As you feel led to share, write down your prayers in this notebook. Each Sunday morning, these prayers will be directed to the pastoral staff and incorporated into worship during the Prayers of the People. What a gift to be knitted together in this way. Thanks be to God!

## **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Child Care 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. Our Nursery Coordinator, Hannah, has finished her studies at TCNJ and has moved back to Connecticut. We are actively recruiting a new coordinator for the fall. Until then, we are reliant on volunteers to help staff the Nursery. Please consider volunteering for 1-2 Sundays during the summer. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Carol Carpenter at [carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com) or Patrick Gilbride at [pgilbrid@estee.com](mailto:pgilbrid@estee.com). Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT - REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 5**

The Women's Retreat is taking place July 28-30, and will be held at the Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center in Wallingford, PA. The presenter is Pastor Diane Jamison Fitch who will lead us in study on the topic *Transitions: Invitations to New Beginnings*, based on *Isaiah 43:18-19*. Look for the pink brochures in the literature racks to register or call the church office at 215-295-4191. Registration deadline is Monday, June 5.

A generous bequest in honor of Dorothea (Dot) E. Scheidemantel has underwritten the cost of the retreat. The bequest includes scholarships of \$100 each to help with the cost of childcare, transportation, or registration. Contact Pastor Rachel Rhodes at [rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net](mailto:rachelrhodes@mpcusa.net) or through the church office at 215-295-4191 to make a confidential request for this support.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE - DEADLINE THIS WEDNESDAY!**

Graduating high school seniors and college students may be eligible for scholarships offered by Morrisville Presbyterian Church for the 2022-2023 school year. A list of scholarships and information is available on the MPC website at [mpcusa.org/youth-ministry](http://mpcusa.org/youth-ministry). Application deadline is May 31, 2023. Submissions need to include completed application form and one letter of reference. **Applications must be submitted by the May 31 deadline to [office@mpcusa.net](mailto:office@mpcusa.net)** or mailed to the church office at Morrisville Presbyterian Church, 771 Pennsylvania Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067.

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## **MPC GREETER**

Please sign up to be a greeter in the Welcome Center. A smile, kind words, and an offer of assistance are the only requirements. You can sign up as an individual, family, or a group. The sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center. Any questions, contact Lisa Zazzu at [lzazzu@verizon.net](mailto:lzazzu@verizon.net).

## **GOT MILK?**

Can you help? Our Food Center MILK shelves are empty. We could use donations of boxed shelf stable milk or cans of evaporated milk. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you!

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - FAITH BUILD 2023:**

The dedication for the home on Hillcrest Ave., Morrisville has taken place. Thank you to the many members of MPC that helped to construct this beautiful home for a most deserving family.

And now, there will be three homes built in Croydon! To begin this process, MPC is joining with Woodside Presbyterian Church in constructing the walls for those homes at Woodside on the following dates:

- Friday, 6/9 - seeking slightly more experienced folks who are comfortable using a chop saw and other construction equipment - 25-30 experienced volunteers.
- Saturday, 6/10 - is where we are seeking the bulk of the volunteers, no experience necessary - 70-125 volunteers – all ages!! We also need crew leaders - 1 lead per 7 volunteers.
- Sunday, 6/11 - seeking a small group to load the walls - 5 load volunteers.

[Sign up at here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or at [hrh1453@gmail.com](mailto:hrh1453@gmail.com). Spread the word and THANK YOU!

## **SUPPORT YOUTH-IN-MISSION's 2023 TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA!**

Every year our church commissions a group of teens and adults to travel to Pipestem, West Virginia and make home repairs for residents in need. The group will stay at the Appalachian South Folk Life Center and along with repairing homes, we will engage in a week-long devotional on “The Kingdom of God.” There are a couple of ways you can support our teens and adults in their mission.

Please join us at our next car wash and bake sale following worship service on Sunday, June 25. Whether you are streaming worship from home or worshiping in-person, please plan on stopping by MPC for a car wash and to pick up some yummy treats!

The Youth-in-Mission are also raising funds through a “Stock Sale.” To participate in the stock sale, you can stop by the Welcome Center through the month of June. You can also give by check or through the [MPC Online Giving Portal](#). If giving by check, please write “YIM Stock Sale” on the memo line of your check. To give online [visit here](#) and click “Online Giving Portal” to enter your donation amount next to “YIM Stock Donation.”

As always, the Youth-In-Mission appreciate your ongoing and generous support.

## **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!**

Join us on Saturday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m. when MPC will be heading out to the Trenton Thunder baseball game for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. This is a great opportunity for us to spend time together as a church family outside of the walls of the church building. Tickets are \$8 per person and can be purchased before worship in the Welcome Center, or by contacting the church office. We encourage you to purchase your tickets as soon as possible so that we can make sure we have enough seats reserved for our group.

## **UPDATE FOR SMALL GROUP BOOK DISCUSSION MEETING & READINGS**

Our next book for discussion is *Shadow of the Silk Road* by Colin Thubron. It is the story of an eight month-long journey, “tracing the passage not only of trade and armies but also of ideas, religions and inventions. But alongside this rich and astonishing past, *Shadow of the Silk Road* is also about Asia today: a continent of upheaval” (Goodreads). The meeting date has been rescheduled (again) to **Tuesday, June 6**. Please feel free to attend even if you haven’t read to the end! We will meet in the lounge, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The selection scheduled for discussion that date (*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini) will be rescheduled for the summer or fall. Contact Shellie Stoddard at 215-510-5717 or email [stoddard.shellie@gmail.com](mailto:stoddard.shellie@gmail.com) with questions or to confirm your attendance.

## **DICTIONARY DONATION UPDATE**

We have now collected 248 adult dictionaries and 166 Thesauruses and other reference books. In the next month we will be distributing books for summer reading to Jefferson Intermediate in Trenton, Morrisville High School and a new client, Sprout U also in Trenton. Thank you for the ongoing book donations.

## **CLOTHING CENTER CLOSES FOR SUMMER ON JUNE 15**

The Clothing Center is preparing for their closing for the summer and will no longer be accepting donations after June 1. Please [visit their webpage](#) for information on accepted items and how you can donate. Thank you for another successful year. We couldn’t do it without your support. We look forward to seeing you again in September.

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### **SUNDAY, May 28**

9:00 a.m. God's Thunder  
**10:30 Worship Service**  
**10:30 Worship Service**

Chapel  
**Sanctuary**  
**Livestream**

### **THURSDAY, June 1**

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center  
6:00 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts  
7:00 Chancel Choir

Room 4  
Fellowship Hall  
Music Room

### **MONDAY, May 29**

#### **Church office closed**

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3  
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3  
7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3  
Parent & Board Meeting

Room 220  
Room 220  
Lounge

### **FRIDAY, June 2**

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Lounge

### **SATURDAY, June 3**

### **SUNDAY, June 4**

9:00 a.m. God's Thunder  
**10:30 Worship Service & High School Graduate Recognition**  
**10:30 Worship Service & High School Graduate Recognition**

Chapel  
**Sanctuary**

**Livestream**

### **TUESDAY, May 30**

12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 Butterfly Essential Wellness Class

Conference Room  
Room 220

### **WEDNESDAY, May 31**

9:00 a.m. Food Center  
6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3  
7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888  
7:15 Chancel Chimes

Parking Lot  
Room 220  
Fellowship Hall  
Chapel

To view upcoming events and meetings, please visit [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org) and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

iPhone



## Introducing mobile giving

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](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

## CONTACT US

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