



*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
THIRD SUNDAY
in LENT
MARCH 8, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *Amazing Grace* - traditional melody, arr. Timothy Carpenter

Chancel Chimes

INTROIT — *God Is Calling through the Whisper* - Polish Carol

Chancel Choir

*God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear! God is calling—and we hear!*

CALL to WORSHIP

Greg Neiman, Liturgist

One: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise his holy name.

All: **From the rising of the sun, to the going down of the same, let the name of the Lord be praised.**

One: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

HYMN — *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!
To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.
Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts. Just as you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land, so lead us throughout this Lenten season. Forgive the sins we keep hidden within us. Forgive the hardness of our hearts and the callousness of our concern for others. Show us the path that runs pure and good and kind. Unseal within us the wellspring of your grace, as silently we confess our sin.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ was raised to new life for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen and Amen.**

RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE — *Jesus, Remember Me* - Jacques Bertier

REMEMBER ME

Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

5
Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the staff. The second staff begins with a '5' above the staff, indicating a measure rest for five measures. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the staff.

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

LITANY of the SACRAMENT

Rev. Dr. Tom 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.

HYMN of BAPTISM — *Baptized in Water*

BUNESSAN

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING — *Psalms 145:8-13*

One: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: **O Lord, you are loving to everyone, and your compassion is over all your works.**

One: All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

All: **They make known the glory of your reign and speak of your power; that the peoples may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your reign. Your reign is an everlasting reign; your dominion endures throughout the ages.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Out of the Depths* - Richard Frost

*Out of the depths have I cried unto you, Lord, bear my voice.
Lord, let your ear be attentive to my cry: Lord, bear my cry for mercy.*

*If you, O Lord, kept a record of sin, who, then, could stand?
But with mercy you, O Lord, there is forgiveness.*

*Therefore, you may be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in his word do I hope.*

If you, O Lord...

Psalm 130: 1-5

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *James 1:19*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Is It Cold in Chicago?

Rev. Dr. Kort

HYMN — *Jesus Calls Us*

GALILEE

*Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we bear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Carter Lester

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 — *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - Lowell Mason

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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.*

Yun Kang
OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYD Y NOS

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Voluntary in D minor, Op. 5* - John Stanley

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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is Abby Jean Bostain, child of Ty and Libby Bostain. The participating elder is Christi Anne DeSciscio. Please join us in welcoming the newest member of Christ's church.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Jim and Julie Gaston in loving memory of Jim's parents, Phyllis and Jim Gaston Jr. The second arrangement is given "in honor of the 85th birthday of my mom, Lynne Faridy, that was on February 28th. Love Lisa, Dave and Vincent Kutch."

TODAY! PRAYER SHAWL GATHERING - BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

We had a wonderful turnout for our first prayer shawl gathering and will be holding another today, Sunday, March 8, immediately after service in room 220. All supplies will be provided. Many will confirm it is very easy to learn and fun to gather together to serve in this new way.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING CLASS

On March 15, Pastor Alex will continue leading the group discussing other ancient religions with an introduction to Islam, another Abrahamic religion. Alex has a background in Islamic studies and will be giving the group an overview in preparation for a visit from an Imam on April 12. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and are held in the conference room, located on the second floor.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Interested in exploring membership at Morrisville Presbyterian Church? Our spring new member classes will be held on May 14 and May 31. To sign up or for more information, please contact the church office at office@mpcusa.org or 215-295-4191.

FOOD CENTER'S MARCH REQUEST

For the month of March, the requested food donation is mac and cheese. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

DEACONS' EASTER FOOD BASKET

Recognizing the ongoing food insecurity in our surrounding communities, the deacons will once again provide a Holiday Basket for these families.

How You Can Help: Pick up an Easter Egg in our Welcome Center starting today, Sunday, March 8. Make a donation by returning the egg to the church with your donation inside by March 29 (Palm Sunday). Checks can be made out to MPC with the notation "Deacon's Easter Basket" in the memo line.

Your Generosity Matters: Your support helps us continue this vital food ministry. Thank you for making a difference!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDS FOR THE EASTER 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 Easter Holiday Baskets on Saturday, March 28, between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at the church.

If you can volunteer, you can [sign up here](#) or contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or Curt Rimler at 609-638-6670 or at CurtisRimler@comcast.net. We appreciate your ongoing support.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - NEXT READING

The group's next reading is *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. The author returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.

Discussion on the book will take place on Monday, April 13, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS

One of the aims of the Outreach Committee is to develop awareness of social injustices and work to combat them through education and advocacy. Anyone who wishes to receive information regarding upcoming events and efforts to address social justice issues locally and globally, please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 or agarcia28@verizon.net or Carol Carpenter at 267-243-1951 or carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com to add your name to our contact list.

Circle meetings this week

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle meets Monday
at noon in the Lounge.

REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle meets Monday night
at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

*All women of MPC are welcome to come
for fellowship and faith enrichment.*

Lenten Soup Suppers

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Gather for a wonderful time as we share a simple meal and fellowship, accompanied by the evening's program & speakers

Reflections on Lent REFLECTIONS ON LENT

Wednesday, March 18

Lisa Zazzu

Wednesday, March 25

Ray Hendrickson



MPC Nominating Committee Needs Your Help

Each year the MPC Nominating Committee is tasked with selecting individuals from our church membership to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, as Deacons, Elders, and Trustees. As we discern God's will for the next chapter of leadership in the life of our church, the MPC Nominating Committee would love to hear from you!

If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating committee who may be particularly gifted to serve as an officer in the life of our church, please send their name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Brett Keys, at Brett.C.Keys@gmail.com. **All names for consideration must be submitted by March 15.** We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!

What does it mean to be a Deacon?

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-2.0201)

What does it mean to be an Elder?

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matthew 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders (pastors), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-2.0301)

What does it mean to be a Trustee?

In very technical terms, "the corporation so formed, or the individual trustees, shall have the following powers: to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the congregation, provided that in buying, selling, and mortgaging real property, the trustees shall act only after the approval of the congregation, granted in a duly constituted meeting; to accept and execute deeds of title to such property; to hold and defend title to such property; to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation, all subject to the authority of the session and under the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)." (PCUSA *Book of Order*, G-4.0101) In more layman's terms, the Trustees work to maintain, protect, and preserve the church's property, as well as oversee the church's finances and investments. Trustees should be individuals of honesty, integrity, and deep faith, knowing that above all they are called to serve the mission of the church, and that unless the Lord builds the house, those who work so hard labor in vain.

SCOUT TROOP 3 CLOTHING DRIVE

Scout Troop 3 is hosting a Clothing Drive through May 3. Along with clean clothing, you can donate books and clean houseware items for this fundraiser. The goal is to reach 4000 lbs. of soft items. You can drop off your donations on Monday evenings in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If it's more convenient to drop off items on Sunday before or after service, we will have a trash can marked for the Scout Drop-Off at the bottom of the steps outside of room 4. Thank you for your participation during this fundraiser.

INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITY

Congregation Beth El of Bucks County is having a very special speaker on Sunday, April 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Professional basketball player and son of former NBA and college hoops star Ernie Grunfeld, Dan Grunfeld, will be giving a presentation on his book, *By the Grace of the Game*. The book is a “multi-generational family epic detailing history’s only known journey from Auschwitz to the NBA.” To register for the event and more details, please visit the Congregation Beth El website at bethelyardley.org and follow the link from the homepage.



April 2
Fellowship
Hall
JOIN US
for
MAUNDY
Thursday

6:00 p.m.
Soup Supper
6:30 p.m.
Worship Service

The poster features a central pink vertical band with white text. To the left is a circular icon of a chalice. To the right is a photograph of a dark, rustic chalice filled with red liquid, with a piece of bread broken next to it on a white cloth. The background is a warm, textured surface.



April 5
10:30 a.m.

JOIN US
for
EASTER
Sunday

He is
Risen!

Livestream of
service available at
mpcusa.org

The poster features a teal vertical band with white text. To the left is a circular icon of an open tomb. To the right is a photograph of the stone rolled away from the entrance of a tomb, with a white cloth draped over the steps. The background is a warm, textured surface.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, March 8 - Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Nominating Committee	Room 200
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel

MONDAY, March 9

Noon	Deborah's Circle	Lounge
Noon	Worship Committee	Zoom
6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Cub Pack 3	Rooms 220 & 122
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 10

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
10:00	Weekday Nursery	Room 220
	School Projects	

WEDNESDAY, March 11

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

WEDNESDAY, March 11 (continued)

6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Room 121

THURSDAY, March 12

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Weekday Nursery School	Room 225
	Monthly Meeting	
7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY, March 13

SATURDAY, March 14

SUNDAY, March 15 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Nominating Committee	Room 200
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel

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.

Inclement Weather Announcements

In the event of inclement weather during this winter season, members will be notified of church closings and delayed openings via email blasts, as well as website and Facebook postings. Every effort will be made to make the information available by 8:00 a.m. Only closing and delayed opening messages will be sent and posted.

CONTACT US MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 | 215.295.4191 | Office@MPCusa.org | www.MPCusa.org

J. Thomas Kort, <i>Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff</i>	TomKort@MPCusa.org
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i>	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org
Carter Lester, <i>Interim Pastor of Visitation</i>	RevCarterLester@gmail.com
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.org
Kevin Subers, <i>Coordinator of Christian Education</i>	KevinSubers@MPCusa.org
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i>	DavidSterling@MPCusa.org
Amanda White, <i>Financial Support Administrator</i>	AmandaWhite@MPCusa.org
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.org
Kimberly Turner, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i>	Office@MPCusa.org