



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 15, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Toccata for the Elevation* - Girolamo Frescobaldi

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Jesus offers a new-old commandment,
All: That we should love each other.
One: With the incredible power and the unfathomable depth of God's love for us,
All: We can, we must, love one another.
One: And it is in this our love for one another
All: That the world will know whom and what we worship.
One: Come, children of God,
All: Let us love one another.

Wesley Gardner

HYMN — *Let Us Build a Home*

TWO OAKS

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.*

*Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.*

*Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast the frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.*

*Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.*

*Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers oof faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Merciful God, we confess that so often our discipleship has been weak. We have failed to serve as Jesus served; forgive us. We have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us; forgive us. We have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips, and then denied him by our actions; forgive us. Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

- One: Jesus said: "*I came not to judge the world, but to save the world*" and "*having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*" The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven. Together let us give thanks and 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Psalm 148*

- One: Praise the Lord!
- All: **Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!**
- One: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- All: **Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!**
- One: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- All: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.**
- One: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- All: **Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,**
- One: Fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- All: **Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!**
- One: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- All: **Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!**
- One: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- All: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**
- One: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
- All: **Praise the Lord!**
- One: This is the Word of the Lord.
- All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *If Ye Love Me* - Thomas Tallis

Chancel Choir

*If ye love me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,
That he may bide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.
--John 14: 15-17*

NEW TESTAMENT READING — *John 21:1-19*

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

- One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

And They'll Know

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

TWENTY-FOURTH

*Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.*

*Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.*

*Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.*

*Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.*

*Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name,
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.*

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.

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 — *You Are My All in All* - Dennis Jemigan

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 — *Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

POSTLUDE — *Postlude in C* - arr. Michael Ryan

QUESTION for REFLECTION

- How are you sharing your faith through love in the world?

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.***

TODAY'S GUEST CONDUCTOR

Tim Carpenter is on a retreat at Pilgrim Lodge in Maine. Our guest conductor this morning is Ashley Lebrizzi, who has just completed her second year at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey. Please take a moment to welcome Ashley and thank her for sharing her talents with us today.

THANK YOU!

This morning we gratefully recognize and honor our dedicated Christian Education Volunteers who give their time and energy to encourage faith formation in God's Children of all ages:

Pre-K to 12 Teachers: Lisa Kutch, Gail Flesch, Beth Keys, Emily Bausher, Kathy Foster, Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla, Dave Massey, Russell McCleskey, and Patrick Gilbride

Confirmation Teachers: Wendy McCleskey and Dan Jones

Adult Education: Caroline Thompson, Elizabeth Dugan, Drew Hunger, Karla Jones, Bill Hughes, Carol Carpenter, Travis Keys, and Ruth Workman.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MAY 22

Please join us in-person for a Congregational Meeting on May 22, immediately following worship, for the purpose of approving the report of the 2022 Nominating Committee to elect new Church Officers.

UKRAINE RELIEF FUND CONTINUES

Your contributions are still welcomed to add to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (pda.pcusa.org), specifically to aid those impacted by the war in Ukraine. You may use a check made out to MPC with "Ukraine Relief" placed on the comment line or donate through the MPC Online Giving Portal at mpcusa.org/give by completing the box next to "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance." The MPC Outreach Committee continues to monitor the situation and continues to ask for your prayers.

SUPPORT YOUTH-IN-MISSION'S 2022 TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA!

We're expecting around 20 youth to join us on our annual trip to West Virginia for our Youth in Mission trip in July. The group of teens and adults will be traveling to Pipestem, West Virginia to make needed repairs to homes of residents in need. The group will stay at the Appalachian South Folk Life Center and along with repairing homes, will engage in a week-long devotional on "Blessings".

Today is our traditional Youth In Mission Car Wash and Bake Sale fundraiser!

Please join us today, for a car wash and bake sale following worship service. If you miss it in May, or your car gets dirty again, we'll be having another car wash and bake sale on Sunday, June 26, following the worship service. So 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!

Stock Sale

The Youth-in-Mission are also raising funds through a "Stock Sale." To participate in the stock sale you can stop by in the Communications Center starting May 22 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 mpcusa.org/give 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!

BOOK DONATIONS

Book distributions have reopened, weather permitting, **with distributions scheduled to be held the first Wednesdays of the month.** The sorting by appropriate reading level is taking longer than expected and the hope is to provide additional distribution days after May.

We are well stocked with books, but need volunteers to help during distributions on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m., by giving clients bags and creating a welcoming atmosphere, distributing Bibles and dictionaries to clients waiting in the car line, answering clients' questions, and keeping the books in good order. Spanish speakers are especially welcome.

Thank you to the Congregation for the generous book donations made this past year. We do not need books for adults right now except for Bibles, books on the Civil War, and very recent (past 2-3 years) best sellers. We need books for children from birth to about third grade, Harry Potter volumes, Bibles, and children's Bible stories. Coloring books are also great. Please contact Susan Light at susanklight@gmail.com for more information on how you can help.

SNIPES FARM AND EDUCATION CENTER (SFEC)

There is a lot going on at the SFEC and it involves MPC! Recently, a group from MPC participated in Earth Day at SFEC. Trails were made in the woods, kale was planted (soon potatoes), park benches were refinished and the children's animal and play center was worked on. MPC members have participated in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for summers purchasing their produce, eggs, meat, etc. In the near future Rebecca Circle will hold their May meeting at the farm to enjoy a "brown bag" supper, tour the facilities, and learn all about SFEC in the "Big Red Barn". For years, MPC has sponsored summer camps for under-privileged youth at the farm. Additional activities are planned for the summer – hopefully, a men's fellowship work morning, a family night, and a Youth Club fellowship to name a few. Might you be interested in a faith-oriented activity at the SFEC? Announcements will be made in the bulletin and *Currents*. Please visit snipesfarm.org to learn more or contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net or Ray Hendrickson at 215-493-7812. Let's all take a MPC trip to the farm with a child or friend!

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, May 15

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 9:00 Confirmation Class
 9:00 New Member Class
 9:30 Pre-K - High School Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
10:30 Worship Service
 11:30 Teen Choir
 11:30 Youth in Mission
 Car Wash
 1:00 p.m. Confirmation Retreat

Zoom
 Room 200
 Lounge
Sanctuary Livestream
 Music Room
 Parking Lot
 Offsite

THURSDAY, May 19

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Room 4
 6:30 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts Room 220
 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

MONDAY, May 16

6:30 p.m. Mostly Motets
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3

Music Room
 Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Hall
 Room 220 & Lounge

TUESDAY, May 17

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 3
 6:00 Pack 3 - Webelos
 6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous

Fellowship Hall
 Room 104
 Room 220

Zoom
 Room 200
 Sanctuary
 Livestream
 Sanctuary
 Music Room
 Parking Lot

WEDNESDAY, May 18

9:00 a.m. Food Center
 Noon Brown Bag & Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal
 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888
 7:00 Ivins Outreach Center Board Meeting
 7:30 Chancel Chimes

Parking Lot
 Conference Room
 Chapel
 Fellowship Hall
 Lounge
 Chapel

SATURDAY, May 21

Noon Youth Club

Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, May 22

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 9:00 Confirmation Class
 9:30 Pre-K - High School Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
10:30 Worship Service
 11:30 Congregational Meeting
 11:30 Teen Choir
 11:30 Youth in Mission
 Car Wash (rain date)

To view upcoming events and meetings,
 please visit www.mpcusa.org
 and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

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