



*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 FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY in LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *The Gift of Love* - Hal Hopson

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

One: What does the Lord require of you?

All: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: What does God command of us?

All: To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

One: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

All: But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

All: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way. Let us worship God together!

HYMN — *We Gather Together*

KREMSER

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!*

*We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.*

*Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God, in this life of faith you are always seeking to make us new. You are always seeking to melt us and mold us for your glory. But most of the time we don't like it. We are a stubborn people, and we would rather stay as we are than seek to change, even if that change moves us toward greater faithfulness. We should always be a people under construction for your kingdom, but we don't want to be. Because sometimes it hurts, and sometimes it's work we don't want to do, and sometimes you want to renovate parts of our hearts we're not ready to turn over to you. But in this Lenten season, you call us to realize all that separates us from you, and all that we do to prevent your molding and shaping of our hearts. Forgive us, O God, for our hesitation and stubbornness. Forgive us for the hills we want to die on; hills that don't honor you or our neighbor. Melt us, mold us, fill us, and use us. Help us to be your people under construction to the glory of your name.

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

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven, whose mistakes have been wiped away by God's mercy and grace! So let's rejoice in God's unfailing love, which has set us free yet again. Together, let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

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

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 — *Ephesians 5:8-14*

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *God of Grace and God of Glory* - arr. T. R. Carpenter

Singing Men of MPC

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Psalms 32*

One: Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight!

All: Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

One: When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

All: Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

One: For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.

All: The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

One: Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

All: So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A People Under Construction: Is It Worth the Risk?

HYMN — *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

MARION

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!*

*With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old, the psalms of ancient days.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!*

*Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!*

*At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!*

*Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!*

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.

PRAYERS of THANKSGIVING and SUPPLICATION

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 — *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* - Hugh Wilson

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 — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN TO JOY

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *March in D* - Felix Mendelssohn

THOUGHTS *for* REFLECTION

*Are you willing to be a person under God's construction this Lent?
If so, let us begin this season in prayer, praying for all that God might do through us and among us this season.*

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.***

LENT 2023 SERMON SERIES: A PEOPLE UNDER CONSTRUCTION



If you know anything about home renovation, you know that you often have to deconstruct the space you're working on before you ever have the chance to reconstruct it into something new. You have to tear out the kitchen cabinets, and the sink, and the carpet, and the bathroom tiles before anything new and exciting can take shape. And sometimes beneath that carpet is a beautiful hardwood floor, yet to be discovered. But other times beneath those tiles or behind those cabinets are even more issues you didn't see coming. There's too much water damage or someone sought for a cheap fix years ago that's going to take even more time to remedy now.

Well, Lent is a time when we are called to be God's people under construction. A time when we bring before the Lord all the things that separate us from God; all the things that we'd like to renovate in our lives. And that work can be messy and hard! But it is also work that can be exciting, life-giving, and freeing as God partners with us along the way. Because out of the ashes of any destruction, we are digging and finding what's valuable and discarding what's not, and trusting that all the while, God is making things new. So join us this Lent as we seek to be God's people under construction!

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Rich and LuAnn Drabb in loving memory of their parents, Tom and Mit Drabb, and Robert and Loretta Beadle. The second arrangement is given by our Presbyterian Woman to thank Sally Sue Scheidemantel for her generous gift to PW which enables all women who wish to attend our annual Women's Retreat. This weekend thirty women from MPC are attending the retreat at Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center: a time of spiritual renewal and of enriching the bond among women who share a faith and friendships.

CODE BLUE IS NOW A PART OF MPC!

We have partnered with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) for this March to provide a hot meal and a cot for the night when weather conditions become dangerous for unsheltered individuals. We are for asking for volunteers to help us grocery shop, prepare meals, and on the nights that we host, serve meals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Fran Akelewicz at 908-419-4908 or fakelewicz@gmail.com.

DEACON'S HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

A trip to the grocery store has us all feeling “the pinch.” As food costs have risen considerably, so has the need. We would ask that you prayerfully consider making a donation to the Deacons fund so that we can continue our outreach to our surrounding community, especially this Easter. While funds are adequate at the moment, it is projected that we may be in a deficit in the near future without your help.

For your convenience, the online giving app has been modified to indicate a place where you can specify donations to the Deacons for this purpose. Additionally, envelopes will be provided on the information table found in our narthex, as well as in the pews and bulletins.

We know that this is a struggling time for many, but especially for those who are hungry. We are extremely grateful for all the ways you continually support the Deacons and thank you for your generosity.

MPC VOLUNTEER DAY FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Friday, March 10, has been designated as “MPC Volunteer Day” at the Habitat for Humanity's Hillcrest Avenue building site in Morrisville. We will be working outside, so you will need to dress appropriately. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215-495-3114 or at hrh1453@gmail.com to obtain information. A link will be sent to you to create an account and register as a volunteer.

OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES NEED YOUR HELP!

Did you know childcare is offered every Sunday morning during worship for ages 0-4 in our church Nursery? It's an incredibly important ministry in the life of our church and we need your help to keep it up and running! Thanks to the faithful work of our church leaders we have a Child Safe Policy that allows us to provide this care with the help of our Nursery Coordinator and 1-2 volunteers each week. Keep in mind you can still hear the whole service from the nursery and communion will be brought to you anytime it is being served in worship. Would you be willing to serve in this way? Our most urgent need is for volunteers in February and March, but we will take volunteers whenever they are available! If you would be willing to serve in this way, please stop by the nursery and speak with our Nursery Coordinator, Nicole Brice, or email Nicole at nicolebrice@mpcusa.org. You may also contact the Chair of the Children & Family Committee, Carol Carpenter, at carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com. Our youngest disciples and their families will thank you!

SYRIA/TURKEY RELIEF FUND

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people and to date, it is estimated that 36,000 have perished! The [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) is working to aid those impacted by this earthquake and is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations (MPC!) and individuals (You!) 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 awful disaster! 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 “Syria/Turkey Relief” on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labelled “Disaster Relief”. MPC has always been a most giving church.

IVINS OUTREACH CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

We encourage you to give the precious gift of time to those in need in your community. The Ivins Outreach Center urgently needs volunteers to assist with our *Staying Put in Lower Bucks* program. *Staying Put* is driven by volunteers who provide services to give homebound seniors the practical means and social support to live their lives to the fullest, safely, and confidently in their own community with familiar connections. Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy, and hair salon appointments. If you have a few hours to spare, we welcome your assistance.

For more information concerning our program, please check our website: ivinsoutreach.org. Or for additional information, please contact Frank Walter at (215) 428-0500 x101 or frank@ivinsoutreach.org.

WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

MPC Weekday Nursery School is enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year now. The nursery school serves children aged 2.7-4 years old. Please join us at one of our Open Houses to learn what we are all about on March 16 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; and April 1 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Visit Weekdaynursery.org for more information!

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, February 26 - First Sunday in Lent

Women's Retreat Ends
 8:30 a.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal Chapel
 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 Worship Service Livestream
 11:30 Fellowship Hour - Lounge
 Hosted by: Personnel Committee
 11:30 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Communication Center
 11:45 Nominating Comm. Conference Room
 11:45 Teen Choir Music Room

MONDAY, February 27

11:00 a.m. Lenten Small Group Meeting Lounge
 5:45 p.m. Outreach Committee Zoom
 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 Room 220
 6:30 Mostly Motets Music Room
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 3 Lounge
 Parent & Board Meeting
 7:00 Session Committee Conference Room
 Chair Meeting
 7:30 Session Meeting Conference Room

TUESDAY, February 28

8:30 a.m. Ivins Outreach Center Lounge
 County Meeting
 11:45 Ivins Outreach Center Training Lounge
 12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Conference Room
 7:00 Financial Task Force Room 200

WEDNESDAY, March 1

9:00 a.m. Food Center Parking Lot
 Noon Brown Bag & Bible Study Zoom
 1:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting Zoom
 2:30 Worship Committee Zoom
 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 Room 220
 6:00 p.m. Youth Club Fellowship Hall
 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220
 7:15 Chancel Chimes Chapel

THURSDAY, March 2

10:00 a.m. Clothing Center Room 4
 11:45 Ivins Outreach Center Training Lounge
 6:00 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall
 7:00 Chancel Choir Music Room

FRIDAY, March 3

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting Lounge

SATURDAY, March 4

SUNDAY, March 5 - Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal Chapel
 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary
10:30 Worship Service Livestream
 11:30 Fellowship Hour - Lounge
 Hosted by: Book Club
 11:30 Girl Scout Cookie Sale Communication Center
 11:45 Nominating Comm. Conference Room
 11:45 Teen Choir Music Room
 Noon Deacon Meeting Conference Room

Introducing mobile giving

iPhone



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.

Android



Need Help? email Office@mpcusa.org and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

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