



*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*
FOURTH SUNDAY
of ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS *of* WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* - Richard Starrs Willis

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Prepare the Way, O Zion* - BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERREN

Chancel Choir

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

LIGHTING *of* ADVENT CANDLE

Ray & Becky Hendrickson; granddaughters Olivia & Ava

Family: Today we light the fourth candle in our Advent Wreath. The first candle reminds us of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The second candle reminds us to live as peacemakers. The third candle reminds us of the joy of Christ's Advent. The fourth candle reminds us that God is love.

All: God of hope, peace, joy and love, show us how to love one another, as you have first loved us.

HYMN — *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star shing in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Carter Lester

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared the world for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to receive you into our lives. We come before you as children in need of your forgiveness and love. We confess that we are often indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim the good news of salvation, but we are silent. You have made us to serve others, but we want to serve ourselves. Come, O Lord, and save us. Show us how to live in harmony, honoring all people with respect and dignity. Fill us anew with the hope, peace, joy, and love of this Advent season, as silently we confess our sin.

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

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: God so loved the world that he sent his son to us, not to condemn us but love and save us. Believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen and Amen.

RESPONSE to GOD'S GRACE — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Seth McHenry, Liturgist

RESPONSIVE READING — *Isaiah 11:1-5*

One: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit
of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**All: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and
decide with equity for the meek of the earth. Righteousness shall be the belt
around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* - Swedish Folk Tune, setting by Paul Bouman

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh;
Up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Meet him as he approaches, with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more:
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold,
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, or'r this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Alleluia, rejoice! Alleluia!*

--text adapted from Laurentius Laurentii

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Luke 2:1-7*

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

What About the Innkeeper?

Rev. Dr. Kort

HYMN — *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,*

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — John 1:1-4, 14

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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 — *Sing We Now of Christmas* - Larry Shackley

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 — O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Rejoice!, Rejoice!* - VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice!, Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.***

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given “In loving memory of Wende, by Tim, Emily, Abby, and Caroline Stover: her spirit lives forever in our hearts.” The second arrangement is given by Mary Moyer in memory of her husband C. Donald, children Donald R. and John C., and daughter-in-law, Linda Moyer.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE:

Thank you to all members who have made a pledge for 2026. As of December 5, 110 members have completed their Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards, totaling \$423,700. With a “grateful heart”, your support and generosity are appreciated. Of those received:

- 16 are new pledges
- 48 have increased their pledges
- 40 are the same as last year
- 6 are lower

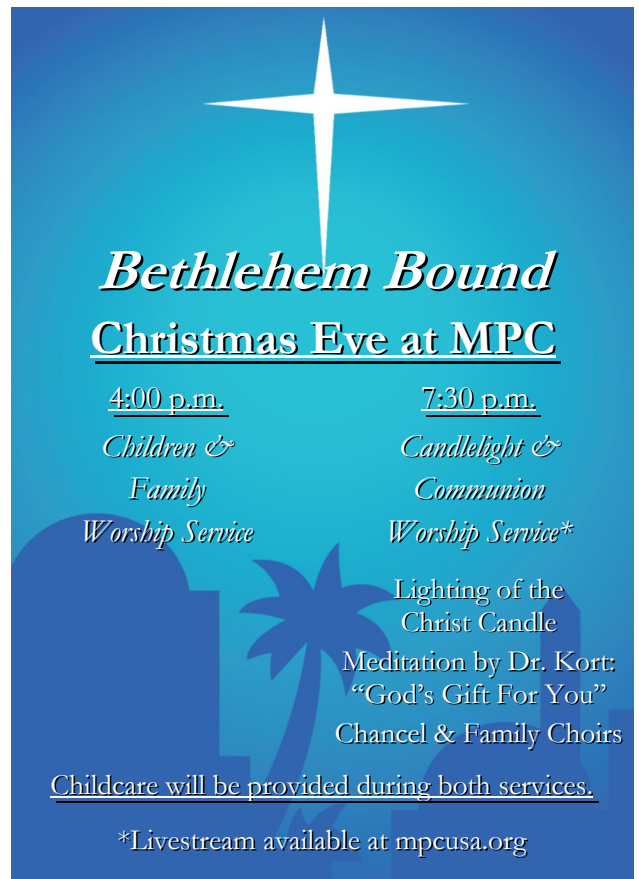
If you have not pledged, you can do so by completing an EOG card using either the one mailed to you or one available in the Welcome Center. Please place the EOG card in an envelope and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. You may also give online at mpcusa.org/e-estimate-card. Thank you again.

COLLECTED TODAY! CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected today, Sunday, December 21, during worship. This PCUSA special offering provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports scholarships for future leaders at Presbyterian schools that equip communities of color. If you would like to participate, please write “Christmas Joy” on your check and use the envelopes located in your pew. You may also give online at mpcusa.org/give. Please include “Christmas Joy” in the “Notes” box in the payment section. Thank you for your generosity and support.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS

There are no classes for both children and adult Sunday School learners on December 28, and January 4, 2026. Classes resume on January 11, 2026.

A blue poster with a white star at the top. The title "Bethlehem Bound Christmas Eve at MPC" is in white serif font. Below the title, two columns of text list the times and activities for the 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services. The 4:00 p.m. service includes Children & Family Worship Service. The 7:30 p.m. service includes Candlelight & Communion Worship Service*. Below these, it lists "Lighting of the Christ Candle", "Meditation by Dr. Kort: 'God's Gift For You'", and "Chancel & Family Choirs". At the bottom, it states "Childcare will be provided during both services." and "Livestream available at mpcusa.org".

Bethlehem Bound
Christmas Eve at MPC

<u>4:00 p.m.</u>	<u>7:30 p.m.</u>
<i>Children &</i>	<i>Candlelight &</i>
<i>Family</i>	<i>Communion</i>
<i>Worship Service</i>	<i>Worship Service*</i>
Lighting of the Christ Candle	
Meditation by Dr. Kort: “God’s Gift For You”	
Chancel & Family Choirs	
<u>Childcare will be provided during both services.</u>	
*Livestream available at mpcusa.org	

YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2025 Giving Statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or [given online](#) by December 31, 2025.

DECEMBER FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Cookies are the requested items for the month of December. Donated items may be placed in the shopping cart located in the Welcome Center. Thank you for your generosity and continued support throughout this past year!

REHEARSALS CONTINUE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CHOIR

The, now traditional, Family Choir will continue to rehearse today, immediately after worship for the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. We will also rehearse before the service on Christmas Eve.

All adults and teens are welcome to be part of this. You do not need to bring a family member with you - but please know that they are invited and we will be delighted to welcome them into the group. It is not necessary to attend all rehearsals, but all singers are encouraged to attend as many of these short rehearsals as possible.

If you have questions or would like more information, please see Tim Carpenter or email him at timcarpenter@mpcusa.org.

ANGEL TREE IS BACK!

Our annual Angel Tree has returned and is displayed in the Welcome Center. We will provide toiletry bags for the many individuals we serve each week at the Food Center from Lower Bucks County and Greater Trenton areas. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is asked to please take a white angel from the tree and fill a one-gallon Ziplock bag (provided) with the following items:

- 2 toothpastes (regular size)
- 2 toothbrushes
- 2 bars of wrapped soap (neutral scent)
- 2 deodorants (neutral scent)

You will also find a few red and green angels on the tree for those who prefer to make a check or cash donation. Please note it is important to include the angel with your donation so that we know it came from the Angel Tree. Checks can be made out to The Food Center at MPC, and we ask that those donations be placed in the morning offering plate or mailed to the church office.

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on one side of each angel; the list of items is printed on the other side. Please include the angel in each Ziplock bag along with the items. We know how generous our congregation is! We ask, however, that you do not include extra items in the bag. Instead, perhaps fill another bag.

Filled bags can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., or before/after the Sunday worship service in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Welcome Center. All bags need to be delivered no later than December 26 for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful to all of you for your dedication to this ministry!

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes will be available soon in the Welcome Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact MPC's Administrative Assistant, Kim Turner, in the church office at 215-295-4191 or at office@mpcusa.org and she will make arrangements to send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

YEAR END INVOICE SUBMISSION

Invoices to be paid and reimbursement requests from this year need to be submitted by December 31 for accounting purposes. Please submit all items to Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org. Thank you for your help.

NEXT READING FOR MPC BOOK DISCUSSION

The next reading for the MPC Book Discussion group is *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan and will be discussed on January 12. The story is set in 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

The MPC Book Discussion Group meets in the conference room from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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.

“Extending the Table” to Homebound Members

The Deacons will be “Extending the Table” and bringing communion to homebound members in 2026 on the first Sunday of each month. If you are unable to attend Sunday worship in person and would like to receive communion, please contact Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org or 215-295-4191. The goals will be to provide home communion at least twice a year beginning in February.

If you have ever served as a Deacon or Elder, would you like to be part of a team of two to extend God's love to our homebound members? You will only be asked to do it two Sundays a year (but can do it more if you would like). To volunteer for this meaningful mission, please contact A.K. Rosenbaum at akalsomom@verizon.net. Training will be provided.



Christmas Memorial Contributions - Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Elaine and Ray Low
Genevieve Wagner
Richard and Delores Perry
Robert D. Barone, Sr.
Mother and grandmother, Martha Rork
James C. Laird, father and husband
My husband, Theodore Marks
Lewis and Peggy Kohn
We miss you, Dad!
My mom and dad, Olive and Charles Wright
Our parents

IN CELEBRATION OF:

My grandsons: Kai and Luke Mercer

BY:

Phyllis and Larry Low
Phyllis and Larry Low
Dale K. Perry
Dale K. Perry
Cynthia Laird
Cynthia Laird
Joan G. Marks
The Hendrickson/Shade Family
David, Chris and Amanda
Cindy Moskow
Carol and Roberta Carroll

BY:

Kathleen Foster

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Music

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Passed friends
Mother and grandmother, Martha Rork
James C. Laird, father and husband
My daughter, Caroline Marks

BY:

Virginia Ryan
Cynthia Laird
Cynthia Laird
Joan G. Marks

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Music (cont'd)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Our parents: Ruth and Albert Wismar,
Robert and Helen Carpenter
Laura and Keith Powers
Ruth and George Schoeberlein
A beloved, very musical cousin
Jane Randall, she loved listening to our choir and
the beautiful music
Betsy Jurey
“Clap if you like it”
Ryan and Tim
Charles and Frances Burgess
My mom and dad, Olive and Charles Wright
Our parents

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Jesus's Birth
Our loving children and grandchildren

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our grandchildren: Layla, Benjamin, James,
Sloane, and Colin

BY:

Tim and Carol Carpenter

David and Nancy Powers
David and Nancy Powers
J'Ann Ellis
Kathleen Foster

Her family
David, Chris, and Amanda
Clark and DeeAnn Martin
Bill and Melonie Burgess, and Family
Cindy Moskow
Carol and Roberta Carroll

BY:

David Hough
Ray and Becky Hendrickson

BY:

Gail and Drew Hunger

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Passed friends
Our parents: Grace and James Doster,
George and Sally Hunger
Our parents: Ruth and Albert Wismar,
Robert and Helen Carpenter
My daughter, Becky Marseglia
My grandparents, John Sr. and Olive Ellis
My parents, John Jr. & Marilyn Ellis
My brother, John Van Ellis III
Laura and Keith Powers
Ruth and George Schoeberlein
My dad, Kempton L. Franke, Lee Forsyth, Betty Owens,
Ruth Parker, David Slover, family and friends
Clark and Carolyn Hendrickson
Dorothea and Jack Rimler
Harry G. Dent
Our loved ones
Mary Ann Johnson, she loved being a deacon and she
was an inspiration to all of us

BY:

Virginia Ryan
Gail and Drew Hunger

Tim and Carol Carpenter

Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
David and Nancy Powers
David and Nancy Powers
Shirley DeAngelis

The Hendrickson/Shade Family
Curt Rimler
Curt Rimler
Kathleen and Steve Foster
Kathleen Foster

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets (cont'd)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Bruce R. Jablon, husband and father
Raymond and Marie Elmer, Mom & Dad,
and grandparents. Love you
Ryan and Tim
Becky Marseglia and all of our loved ones,
Always "with you"
Our parents
Charles and Frances Burgess
My son, Theodore G. Marks
My mom and dad, Olive and Charles Wright

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Jesus's birth

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our great-grandchildren: Jane Lambert and
Grayson Wood
All the ladies who work in the Clothing Center.
For their dedication and hard work to make the CC
such a welcoming and friendly place to shop; that raises
a lot of money which is distributed to community non-profits.

BY:

Diane Jablon
Diane Jablon, Kellie and Tom Lewis

Clark and DeeAnn Martin
Paula and Mark Marseglia

Carol and Roberta Carroll
Bill and Melonie Burgess, and Family
Joan G. Marks
Cindy Moskow

BY:

David Hough

BY:

Ross and Alice Gray

Kathleen Foster

iPhone



Introducing mobile giving

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.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:00	Christmas Eve Children & Family Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:00	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
11:45	Family Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, December 22

6:00 p.m.	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
6:15	PNC Meeting	Room 200
6:30	Cub Scout Pack 3	Rooms 122 & 220
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Scout Parent Meeting	Lounge

TUESDAY, December 23

10:00 a.m.	Weekday Nursery	Room 220
	School Projects	

WEDNESDAY, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Church offices close at noon

4:00 p.m.	Children & Family Service	Sanctuary
7:30	Candlelight & Communion	Sanctuary
	Worship Service	

THURSDAY, December 25 - Christmas Day

Church offices closed

FRIDAY, December 26

Church offices closed

SATURDAY, December 27

SUNDAY, December 28

10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

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.

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