



*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
in LENT
MARCH 15, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

MINUTE for MINISTRY

Lenten Soup Suppers

Luisa Herrera

PRELUDE — *If Thou Art Near* - arr. L. N. Porter

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Lord, Be with Us* - Eugene Butler

Chancel Choir

*Lord, be with us in these forty days; let us sing your praise.
Vanquish, scatter all our hate and fear as your passion draws near.*
—anonymous

CALL to WORSHIP

Nancy McHenry, Liturgist

One: We gather to offer prayer,
All: To open ourselves to company and compassion.
One: We gather to rejoice and to rest,
All: In the name of the one who loves and forgives,
One: We gather to worship the source of all grace,
All: So let us worship God together!

HYMN — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

*There's a wideness in God's mercy; like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful One, we are so easily misguided. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness. God surrounds us in love. Together let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:
All: We are forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen and Amen.

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

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

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING — *Matthew 5:1-7*

One: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

All: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

All: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

All: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *All Ye People* - Tomás Luis de Victoria

All ye people that pass by, behold and see.

If there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Behold, all ye people that pass by, see my sorrow and my affliction.

If there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

— translated from the Latin

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 32*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Love Surrounds

Rev. Lester-Abdalla

HYMN — *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

*Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

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

We trust in God. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 — *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* - Frederick C. Maker

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 Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

ST. MARGARET

*O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that sleekest me though pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.*

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — Amen

POSTLUDE — Sonata per L'organo a Cilindro - Luigi Cherubini

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 memory of Nancy C. Anderson from her loving family”. The second arrangement is given by Clark and DeeAnn Martin in loving memory of their son, Ryan: “Faith is a footbridge that you don't know will hold you up over the chasm until you're forced to walk out onto it.” --from Nicholas Wolterstorff's *Lament for a Son*.

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. 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.

FLOWERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 12 & 19

If you would like to give chancel flowers on one of these Sundays, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email deemar918@aol.com. An arrangement costs \$37 and may given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or in gratitude for an act of kindness or ministry.

These flowers not only add beauty to our worship service but they also go forward as an outreach to our MPC family.

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.

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.

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



April 2
 Fellowship Hall
JOIN US for MAUNDY Thursday

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

April 5
 10:30 a.m.

JOIN US for EASTER Sunday

He is Risen!

Livestream of service available at mpcusa.org




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.

MPC Weekly Calendar

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

MONDAY, March 16

6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Cub Pack 3	Rooms 220 & 122
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Room 220
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:30	Trustees	Conference Room

TUESDAY, March 17

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
10:00	Weekday Nursery	Room 220
	School Projects	
6:00 p.m.	Outreach Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, March 18

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

WEDNESDAY, March 18 (continued)

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

THURSDAY, March 19

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY, March 20

SATURDAY, March 21

9:00 a.m.	Newtown Quilters Guild	Conference Room
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SUNDAY, March 22 - Fifth 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.

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