



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 SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Prelude in Eb Major* - Alexandre Guilmant

Yun Kang

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

One: The Spirit of God has brought us here,

All: The Lord has set us down here, though our bones are tired and weary.

One: Can these dry bones live?

All: Yes! The winds of the Spirit are starting to move! The breath of God will revive us!

One: The dry bones are beginning to rattle—be ready to be amazed and astonished!

All: For God's presence will fill this house of worship.

One: Today, we come together to experience new life.

All: Today we give thanks for the wild, life-giving Spirit of God!

One: The Spirit is here, speaking to us and through us.

All: The Spirit is here! Let us worship our God with laughter and singing!

HYMN — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.*

PRAYER of CONFESSION -

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

God, our pilgrim through this barren land, you call us to be your voices in this world and too often we remain silent. You call us to be your hands in this world and too often we fill them with things that separate us from you. You call us to be your feet in this world, but we walk our way instead of yours. You call us to prophesy to the weary and parched places of our lives, but instead we are content with dry bones. Be patient with us, O God. When we meet those who are empty and doubting, and say nothing, forgive us. When we meet those who need your touch, and do nothing, forgive us. When we are called to prophesy and believe that even the driest of bones can live, and yet we do nothing, forgive us. Breathe life into these weary bones, O God. Bring freedom to these lives that we might declare with heart and soul and voice that you are our Lord and our God. Surprise us, O God, in the work that you do within us. Surprise us again with your grace.

(Time for silent prayer and confession.)

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. And the breath of God came and the people of God were restored to new life.” Beloved church, the God we serve is the God of life, the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams. This we trust, and by this we live. And so, together let us rejoice 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 *of* t h e W O R D

SCRIPTURE READING — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord God, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.’

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.’

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Breathing New Life into Old Bones

Pastor Rhodes

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask

idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

HYMN — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
fill me with anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God;
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *O Breath of Life*

SPIRITUS VITAE

*O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O Breath of Life, come cleanse renew us,
And fit your church to meet this hour.*

*O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore for this we plead.*

*O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your church in every part!*

POSTLUDE — *Four Pieces for Flute Clocks* - F. J. Haydn

QUESTIONS *for* REFLECTION

- What weary bones are you carrying around these days?
- How might God be seeking to fill them with breath of new life?

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.***

WELCOME OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Personnel Committee is thrilled to introduce our new Administrative Assistant, Nicole Brice. Nicole started Tuesday, September 7, and will be providing regular administrative support in our office from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope you will take time to stop by the office, introduce yourself, and offer her a warm MPC welcome.

WELCOME OUR NEW PRINCIPAL ORGANIST

We are also excited to welcome our new organist, Yun Kang. Yun holds numerous degrees in Music Performance and Chamber Music and has strong experience as an accompanist and church organist. Yun shares that she lives with her husband and two children, Eliana and Elijah. She loves to play the piano with her children, who play the violin and cello. In her free time she likes traveling, cooking and spending time with her family. Yun is excited to join the music ministry of MPC and "praise the Lord with you."

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING - SEASON OF PEACE

The Peace and Global Witness Offering, one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. By supporting this offering you are promoting ministries of reconciliation and peace within cultures of violence and conflict – including those near Morrisville, PA! This offer is to be distributed as follows:

- 25% MPC Congregational Peace Initiatives investing in local responses to injustice and violence.
- 25% Linking congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation through presbyteries and synods
- 50% Advocating for peace making and justice through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness

This special offering will be collected on "World Communion Sunday", October 3, 2021. Please include "Peace and Global Offering" on the comment line of your check or in the "Notes" section of the Online Giving Portal at www.mpcusa.org/give.

As always, thank you for your generous support so that MPC can promote the Peace of Christ!

Now may the Lord of peace . . . give you peace at all times in all ways.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WELCOMES YOUR HELP!

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

Faith Build 2021 is a project of Habitat Humanity and has designated Bristol Borough as one of its locations. This will be an opportunity for faith groups and congregations based in Bucks County to come together and put their faith into action. Let's continue to make MPC one of those congregations!

MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and "hands on"! MPC was a huge supporter for Faith Build 2019.

There are many ways and levels in which MPC (that's you!) can get involved. It may be providing a prayer early in the morning for the crew that day, assisting with a lunch or joining a construction crew for the day, painting with friends, or supporting the project financially. The list goes on! Opportunities abound as well with the Habitat Restore locations in Langhorne and Warminster. In the meantime, prayerfully consider how you may become a part of this most worthwhile, faith project, including sign-up opportunities. If you have questions, please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or visit the Bucks County Habitat for Humanity website at www.habitatbucks.org or <http://construction.habitatbucks.volunteerhub.com/> as they are looking for immediate help at their construction site.

MPC *Weekly Calendar*

SUNDAY, September 19

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
11:30	Grounded in Grace Picnic	Memorial Garden

MONDAY, September 20

6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:30	Mostly Motets	Memorial Garden/ Sanctuary
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, September 21

6:30 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
-----------	----------------------	----------

WEDNESDAY, September 22

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Webelos	Room 104
6:30	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Sanctuary

THURSDAY, September 23

10:30 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
Noon	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
6:30	To Live Again	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary

FRIDAY, September 24

6:00 p.m.	Pack 3 Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Pack 3 Meeting	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220

SATURDAY, September 25

SUNDAY, September 26

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream

CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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

Rachel A. Rhodes, <i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff (ext. 234)</i>	RachelRhodes@MPCusa.net
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i>	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.net
Jack McAnlis, <i>Minister of Visitation (ext. 232)</i>	JackMcAnlis@MPCusa.net
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.net
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.net
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i>	DavidSterling@MPCusa.net
Laurie Jacobson, <i>Financial Secretary (ext. 226)</i>	LaurieJacobson@MPCusa.net
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.net
Nicole Brice, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i>	Office@MPCusa.net