

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 5, 2023 FIFTH SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY

GATHERING

PRELUDE — How Lovely Shines the Morning Star - Paul Manz

Yun Kang

MINUTE for MISSION

Code Blue Shelter & Souper Bowl Sunday

CHORAL INTROIT — Come into God's Presence Singing Alleluia

Chancel Choir

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: We gather for a time of wonder and worship;

All: We gather to sing hymns that call us home.

One: Here we are welcomed into God's words that inspire.

All: Here we are welcomed into God's words that challenge.

One: Here we know the irresponsible grace of God that extends radical hospitality even to us.

All: Here we are known and loved.

One: May our lives be a reflection of the God we know and love.

All: May our worship be pleasing to God alone!

HYMN — Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heavens, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored to thee: Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

Merciful God, forgive us for we exalt ourselves and mock the humble. We choose to believe we are self-sufficient rather than trust in your strength. All that we have is a gift from you, yet we do not live lives of gratitude. We ignore strangers and turn from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. Forgive our foolish ways, O God. Open us to your spirit, that we might serve all people without regard to the outcome, devoting ourselves to your honor alone. Restore us to you, that we may walk in the way of love.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Because of God's unmatched love for each of us, we are new people; recipients of a grace beyond our wildest dreams. And so, as forgiven, embraced, and beloved children of God, together, let us 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.

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Tori Paquette

NEW TESTAMENT READING — Hebrews 13:1-3, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING — *Luke 14:7-14*

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Irresponsible Grace: Look Who's Coming to Dinner

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

HYMN — Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

Come down, O Love Divine; seek out this soul of mine, and visit it with your own ardor glowing.

O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear, and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming. And let your glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far out-pass the power of human telling.

For none can guess God's grace, till Love creates a place wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — I Have Decided to Follow Jesus / God Is Good - arr. Gary Prim 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.

SACRAMENT of the LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

THE BREAKING of the BREAD

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

Refrain:

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me.

Refrain

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise God's name. I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles, I was set free.

Refrain

Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust.

Refrain

PRAYER after COMMUNION

SENDING

HYMN — For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Some lyrics adapted from original by Shirley Erena Murray

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For sinner and saint, a place at the table, the just and unjust, the need to forgive, in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and color,
for everyone born, the chalice of grace,
and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy.

CHARGE and BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE — Amen

POSTLUDE — Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ - Doreen Potter

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

- How might you free yourself from the pressure of status in the world?
- Is there something you can do today to begin to act your way into believing?

WHO MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

"The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding.

Worshipers prepare themselves to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting their trust in Christ, confessing their sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another. Even those who doubt may come to the table in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ."

-Book of Order W-3.0409

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 IS SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday is a day to celebrate. It's our day to say thank you to our Chartered Organization, MPC and its members. What does the Chartered Organization provide? It provides leadership, meeting facilities, encouragement, and other support as needed.

The BSA serves community-based organizations. Who benefits from scouting? Children, youth, adults, families, and communities. The BSA offers an educational resource program based on "Duty to God and Country." Volunteers and professionals work together in a team effort. Scouting is led by more than a million volunteers and nearly 3,800 professionals. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

We thank MPC and its members for 112 years of continued support. Because of your support Troop 3 has mentored over 3500 young boys and 112 scouts have achieved the Rank of Eagle. Please join us in the Lounge after service for refreshments.

Many thanks, Yours in Scouting, William Burgess, COR

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Norman Underwood by his wife, Polly, and son, Rich. The second arrangement is given in celebration of the birth of Dylan Weikart Jackerson-McAnlis by his grandparents, The Rev. Jack McAnlis and the Rev. Karin Nelson McAnlis. Dylan, born on January 5, 2023, is the son of Jeni Jackerson and Nancy McAnlis of Lakewood, CO.

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!

NEW ADULT ED CLASS - GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT/HEBREW BIBLE

Each Sunday through February 19 come join Adult Education with intern Tori Paquette to get a new glimpse of God in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible! Often folks feel like God in these earlier writings is a different God than the one we know in the New Testament, yet we believe this God is the same God now and forever. These sessions, held in the Conference Room, will help us flesh out God's character and personality in the Old Testament with fresh eyes.

INTERESTED IN MPC YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINA?

Calling all youth, friends, and their parents, to join us after service in the sanctuary on February 12, for a brief informational meeting to discuss the upcoming Mission Trip to West Virginia. This will be your chance to sign-up, have a brief discussion about the trip, and ask any questions. This year's trip will depart from MPC on Saturday, July 8, and return the following Saturday. Youth completing 8th grade through HS seniors are eligible. Be sure to bring your friends! Looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces next Sunday, after worship service, in the sanctuary.

BAKE SALE NEXT SUNDAY

Cub Scout Pack 3 is having a bake sale after Sunday's worship service on February 12. The proceeds will help to fund the Packs financial needs.

REBECCA CIRCLE MEETS FEBRUARY 13

All women of MPC are invited to become part of Rebecca Circle. Gather with friends, new and old, once each month for fellowship and a program. Topics include religion, spirituality, self-help, information, local trips and fun. Join this active, supportive and joyous group of sisters in Christ on the second Mondays of September through May, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. For information, contact Jen Jones 215 962-3655.

JOIN US FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS!

Have you ever wanted to dive into Lent a bit more than you have in the past? Or commit to something for Lent that's more spiritually meaningful than giving up chocolate? Here is your chance! Join us for our Lenten Small Groups this year and see what God might do through us and among us as we explore what it means to be "God's People Under Construction." In these groups, we'll explore saints and sinners throughout history with the help of Karen Wright Marsh's book, *Vintage Saints and Sinners: 25 Christians Who Transformed My Faith*. You'll also have a chance to enjoy time and conversation with new friends at MPC. Starting February 27, these Lenten Small Groups will meet at different times throughout each week for 5 weeks. You can sign up for the day and time that work best for you! Stop by the Communication Center today to sign up and let's journey through Lent together!



February 12

10:30 a.m.

February 19

10:30 a.m.

February 22

7:00 p.m.

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.

MPC VOLUNTEER DAY FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Saturday, February 11 and Friday, February 24, have 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 <a href="https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://hr/https://https://hr/https://https://hr/

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR MARCH

If you would like to give an arrangement on a Sunday in March, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email <u>deemar918@aol.com</u>. The cost of an arrangement is \$30 and may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or in gratitude for a person, act of kindness or ministry. Each Sunday these flowers add beauty to our worship service and also serve as an outreach ministry to our church family.

DICTIONARY DONATIONS UPDATE

This past week, **our total of adult dictionaries passed the 25% milestone** on our trek to collect 400 adult/family dictionaries for the Jefferson Intermediate School in Trenton. We have now received more than 100 dictionaries. They will be a resource for families for a lifetime. For more information on how you can help donate new and used dictionaries, please contact Susan Light at 215 801 8185. Thank you.

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP

Did you know that each Sunday afternoon starting at 12:30 p.m., several church members meet via Zoom to check in, share ideas and have a few laughs? We meet for about forty minutes, and you can log on when you are available. If you attend church remotely, are a snowbird and go to a warmer climate during the winter season, or want to share some fellowship time with welcoming and caring church members, please email Karla Jones at kmdjones@verizon.net of your interest. She will add you to the email listing to receive the Zoom link.



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.



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

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.

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. Rulng 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.

See next page for how you can help!

MPC CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS

Deacons, Class of 2023 Deacons, Class of 2024 Deacons, Class of 2025

Fran Akelewicz Donna Damiani Jennifer Jones
Andy Beidler John Damiani Beth Keys
Alice Garcia Heidi Dous Bill Miller
Tracy Massey Karl Helland Cindy Moskow

Lori Newman Karen Hill Eric Moyer-Harrington
Joy Rees Kathy Larkin Christy Stephenson

Patti Sheffer Jim Levan Tim Stover
Tim Yost Ruth Levan Wendy Yazujian

Elders, Class of 2023 Elders, Class of 2024 Elders, Class of 2025

Ray Hendrickson Elizabeth Dugan Carol Carpenter
Dan Jones Wes Gardner Dawn Flook

Greg Neiman Patrick Gilbride Wendy McCleskey
Caroline Thompson Travis Keys Shellie Stoddard

Lisa Zazzu

Trustees, Class of 2023 Trustees, Class of 2024 Trustees, Class of 2025

David Austin

Suzanne Barletto

Matt Bausher

Clark Martin

Jim Lytle

Tom Evans Gary Ward Seth McHenry

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 nominate someone who may be particularly gifted to serve as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee in the life of our church, please send their name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at djones@fresnelpartners.com.

We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY,	February 5 - Scout Su	ınday	WEDNESDAY, February 8		
8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsa	al Chapel	9:00 a.m.	Food Center	Parking Lot
9:30	Sunday School for all ages		Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Zoom
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	Zoom
10:30	Worship Service	Livestream	6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge	6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
	Hosted by: Boy Scouts		7:00	Finance Committee	Zoom
11:45	Teen Choir Rehearsal	Music Room	7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
Noon	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room	7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel
2:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Banquet	Fellowship Hall	THURSDAY, February 9		
MONDAY, February 6				Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220	6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room	7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall	FRIDAY, February 10		
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge			Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting				
7:00	Personnel Committee	Zoom	SATURDA	AY, February 11	
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room	SUNDAY, February 12 - Youth Sunday		
TUESDAY, February 7			8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Chapel
Noon	Congregational Ministry	Zoom	9:30	Sunday School for all ages	•
12:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall	10:30	Worship Service	Livestream
7:00	Food Center	Parking Lot	11:30	Fellowship Hour -	Lounge
7:00	Small Group Book	Lounge		Hosted by: Youth Ministry	
	Discussion	Ü	11:30	Cub Scout Bake Sale	Parking Lot
			11:30	Youth Mission Trip Meetin	g Room 220

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

CONTACT US

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