



*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
SECOND SUNDAY
after EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

MINUTE for MINISTRY

PNC Update

David Hough

PRELUDE — *Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr* - Andreas Vetter

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Come into God's Presence* - Anonymous

Chancel Choir

*Come into God's presence singing
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."*

CALL to WORSHIP

James Gaston, Liturgist

One: We lift our praise to the one who knows us.

All: **We lift our praise to the one who calls us by name.**

One: We lift our praise to the one who loves us.

All: **We lift our praise to the one true God.**

One: Come, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN — *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!*

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

*Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly for aye we adore him.*

PRAYER of CONFESSON

Holy God, you created us in your image. You created us for good. We confess how we have marred your image. We are quick to judge others by words, emails, and indifference. We hold on to grudges and nurse old hurts. We are like lost sheep who have strayed away from the good you placed inside of us. Forgive us. Remove the sin that keeps us separated from your holy presence. Show us how to draw closer to you so that in everything we say and do, we honor your holy name. Hear us, as silently we confess our sin.

SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSON

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven. Be glad and rejoice. Claim the promise of God.

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.

L I T U R G Y o f t h e W O R D

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING — selections from *Psalm 16*

One: I say to the Lord, you are my Lord.

All: **I bless the Lord who gives me counsel, in the night and also in my heart.**

One: I keep the Lord always before me.

All: **Therefore, my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; and my body also rests secure. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Christ Has No Hands, But Ours* - Tom Porter

*Christ has no hands but ours to reach, to touch, to heal,
to welcome in community, to fashion family. Christ has no hands but ours.*

*As servants of our God we carry out the call to walk the road where saints have trod
and bring good news to all. Christ has no hands but ours.*

*We see with eyes of faith that still would follow stars. As points of light,
we point the way and chase away the dark. Christ has no hands but ours.*

*God waters from above the good seed that we sow, and brings to harvest all our work
so that the Church will grow. Christ has no hands but ours.*

*Marked with the cross of Christ, we, as a witness are sent forth to be the Gospel,
for Christ has no hands but ours. Christ has no hands but ours.*

--Tom Porter

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — selections from *Psalm 90*

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Certainty in an Uncertain World

Rev. Dr. Kort

HYMN — *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.*

*We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?*

*You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.*

*Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from the *Heidelberg Catechism*

One: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: **That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ**

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 — *Nearer My God to Thee* - Lowell Mason

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 — *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.*

His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.*

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.*

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.

The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Chorale Postlude* - J. S. Bach

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.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

A congregational meeting will be held on January 25 immediately following the worship service for the purpose of approving the terms of call for Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla and presenting the annual 2026 budget.

2026 PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT

When making your Per Capita Contribution for 2026, please calculate the amount at \$37.00 per member. Further details regarding the increase will be provided in a future bulletin announcement. Should you have any immediate questions, please contact Tom Smith at tsmith7493@gmail.com or 215-595-8575.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting weekly since mid-November. They completed a Ministry Discernment Profile which includes the job description as well as the qualities and experiences of the person who would be the best fit for our congregation. The Session reviewed and approved the form on January 11. Once approved by Presbytery, it will be uploaded to a website, that can be used by pastors to search for open positions. If you are aware of someone who may be a suitable candidate, please refer them to the Presbytery website or one of the PNC co-chairs, Nancy McHenry or Dave Hough.

NEW VANCO ONLINE GIVING ACCOUNT

MPC now has a new Vanco account for online giving. This account is linked to Realm so that your online giving will automatically be recorded in Realm. Currently, our financial administrator manually records online giving.

What does this mean for you if you already use online giving?

- Please use the new link on the MPC website or go to <https://onrealm.org/mpcusa/give/> now to create a new Vanco online giving account.
- Once the new account is set up with your online giving preferences be sure to turn off any autopay settings that you have in your current account.
- Please complete this by the end of January so that we can close out the old Vanco account.

If you have any questions please contact the Church office.

Thank you for your continued financial support of MPC!

CODE BLUE PREPARATIONS

In this extreme cold and frigid weather, we hope you are staying warm! Code Blue preparations are under way for the month of March. As we have done in the past, MPC will open its doors providing shelter to those in need as we support Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN). We will be preparing meals ahead of time, to be kept in the freezer, and used as needed. This cook day will be on Sunday, February 1. If you are interested in cooking meals on February 1, would like to volunteer to cook and serve meals in March, or would like to be added to the email chain, please email mpccodeblue@gmail.com. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated. Please reach out to Beth Becker or Dawn Flook with any questions.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

This March, Morrisville Presbyterian Church will once again be hosting Code Blue in partnership with Advocates for the Homeless & Those In Need, or AHTN. If you are interested in supporting the Code Blue effort with a financial contribution, our youth will be holding soup pots for any cash donations as you exit the sanctuary after Youth Sunday service on Sunday, February 1. Your contribution will go directly to the food we will serve. Thank you for your continued generosity to this important mission!

FOOD CENTER'S JANUARY REQUEST

For the month of January, the requested food donation is peanut butter. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

The pastoral staff encourages you to notify the church office regarding hospitalizations and deaths in your immediate family. We will list these pastoral concerns in the bulletin. MPC also has a committed group of members who are part of the MPC prayer chain. If you have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact Ron Workman at ron_workman@prodigy.net to be placed on the prayer chain. **Please note, out of respect for privacy, to be included in the Pastoral Concerns and/or MPC the prayer chain, the individual named must give their permission.** Let us pray without ceasing.

UPCOMING ADULT SUNDAY CLASS

Adult Sunday School is held each Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room, on the second floor. Join us for these current and upcoming classes:

- **"CHANGING CULTURE, CHANGING TIMES, AND A CHANGING CHURCH"**

Join Carter Lester, Interim Minister at MPC and former adjunct faculty in McCormick Theological Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program, for an adult Sunday School series on changes in our country, culture, and churches, and how they impact church life and ministry. The series will run each Sunday through January 25.

- **BECOMING MORE EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY**

This adult education class, spanning two Sundays, will explore anxiety and depression through both a clinical and a spiritual lens. It will help participants better understand these conditions by distinguishing normal emotional responses to stress and loss from anxiety and depressive disorders that may require additional help. The discussion will include how common these conditions are, the types of symptoms people often experience, and associated conditions.

We will consider what steps individuals can take to care for themselves in healthy, constructive ways. Emphasis will be placed on building emotional resilience through daily habits, practical suggestions for keeping things in perspective, and how regular daily devotions can help both spiritually and emotionally.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP'S NEXT READING

The MPC Book Discussion group's next reading is *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant. While not a winner, it was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in General Nonfiction and is a comprehensive account of the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire in Canada. The book explores the connection between the fire, climate change, and the petrochemical industry.

Discussion on the reading will take place on Monday, February 23 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.

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.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, January 18

8:30 a.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal
 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service

11:45 Youth Choir
 Noon Adonai Tabernacle

MONDAY, January 19

Church offices closed

8:15 a.m. Youth Club Day of Service Offsite
 6:30 p.m. Mostly Motets Music Room
 6:30 Scout Troop 3 Fellowship Hall
 7:00 Food Center Food Packing Room 4
 7:30 Trustees Meeting Conference Room

TUESDAY, January 20

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, January 21

9:00 a.m. Food Center Distribution Parking Lot
 Noon Brown Bag Bible Study Conference Room
 7:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 2888 Room 220
 7:15 Chancel Chimes Rehearsal Room 121

THURSDAY, January 22

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

FRIDAY, January 23

SATURDAY, January 24
 10:00 a.m. Newtown Quilters Group Conference Room
 4:00 p.m. Scouts Troop 3 Banquet Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, January 25

8:30 a.m. God's Thunder Rehearsal Room 121
 9:30 Sunday School for all ages
10:30 Worship Service
 11:30 Congregational Meeting Sanctuary
 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.

CONTACT US

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