



*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
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

MINUTE for MINISTRY

CD Fundraiser

Eliana Song

PRELUDE — *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* - Johann Pachelbel

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* - MADRID

Chancel Choir

*Come Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!*

--C. H. Bateman

CALL to WORSHIP

Dan Jones, Liturgist

One: Give thanks to God,

All: God's love is forever.

One: Let all God's children say,

All: God's love is forever.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord whose love endures forever.

HYMN — *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. You always love us, yet we do not always love you or our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive the times when we have been quick to judge the sin in others, but ignore the same sin in our own lives. Forgive the times we make excuses for our behavior that hurts others and erodes relationships. Create in us a clean heart. Create in us a caring spirit. Create in us desire to follow you down the path of righteousness and purity, as silently we confess our sin.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: As far as the east is from the west, so too is God's love and mercy for us. Together let us proclaim 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 — *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

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 117*

One: Praise the Lord, all you nations.

All: **Extol him, all you peoples.**

One: For great is his steadfast love towards us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

All: **Praise the Lord!**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* - Irish folk tune, arr. Austin Lovelace

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper rev'rence, praise.*

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.*

*Breathe through the beats of our desire thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small Voice of calm.*

--John Greenleaf Whittier

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 103: 1-4 & First Thessalonians 5:16-18*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

A Bucket of Shrimp

Rev. Dr. Kort

HYMN — *My Song Forever Shall Record*

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*My song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;
your faithful love will I proclaim, and every age shall know your name.*

*I sing of mercies that endure, forever firm, forever sure,
a strong support that never dies, established changeless in the skies.*

*Almighty God, your lofty throne has justice for its cornerstone,
and shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.*

*With blessing is the nation crowned whose people know the joyful sound;
they in the light, O Lord, shall live, the light your face and favor give.*

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 broken hearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

MINUTE for STEWARDSHIP

A Grateful Heart

Clark & DeeAnn Martin

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 — *Cross Medley* - arr. David T. Clydesdale

Song Trio

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 — *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Festival Postlude* - arr. George Blake

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 in loving memory of Kathie and Hal Prosser by friends who miss them. The second arrangement is given in memory of Kathie Prosser from her Rebecca Circle friends. The windowsill flowers are given by Cynthia Laird in gratitude for all those who made her 90th birthday so special: "Thank you to so many who have supported me over the years and made this life journey a joy. I am so blessed."

REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

The choir is in the capable hands of Kyle St. Sauveur, our bass section leader and resident composer, as Tim and Carol Carpenter celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The church nominating committee is continuing their important work of selecting eight members to serve on the PNC. As soon as they are selected, we will call for a congressional meeting to elect them. Stay tuned and keep the process in your prayers.

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER

If you would like to give flowers on a Sunday in October, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email deemar918@aol.com. The cost of an arrangement is \$37, 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. These flowers not only add beauty to our worship service, but they also go forward as an outreach ministry to our church family.

HELP ADORN COMMUNION TABLE

Worldwide Communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, October 5. To highlight the international character of this service we plan to adorn the communion table using a few colorful cloths from various nations. If you have any that you have collected on your travels to foreign lands, and would like to see displayed in this way, please contact Nancy Powers at 215-295-1635 or at ngplegato@aol.com on or before Sunday, September 27.

JOIN MPC AT HISTORIC FALLSINGTON DAYS!

MPC will be hosting a booth at Fallsington Days, Saturday, October 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Stroll down Fallsington's Yardley Avenue to enjoy all the fun, food, crafters, vendors, and entertainment for all ages ongoing throughout the day. Ample and free parking is available at Fallsington Elementary School.

We are also looking for volunteers to greet people, provide literature, and answer questions about MPC. Shifts would be for two hours and begin at 9:30 a.m. to help with set up through 5:00 p.m. to assist breakdown. [Sign up here](#) or contact Damon Miller at damonmiller@mpcusa.org. This is a great opportunity to share with a grateful heart what makes MPC so special within our community and beyond. We hope to see you on October 11.

REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE FOR NOVEMBER'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registration is now available for the Women's Retreat being held on November 7-9 at the Sisters of St Joseph Center for Spirituality in Ocean Grove, NJ. Brochures with retreat details, financial assistance information, and registration form are available now in the Welcome Center. Please contact Beth Curtiss at curtissfam@gmail.com with any questions..

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OPPORTUNITY

MPC is signed up to spend a day working for Habitat on Friday, October 3. We will most likely be framing for a new home to be built in Levittown. Please contact Ray Hendrickson at (215) 495-3114 or hrh1453@gmail.com to sign up and receive additional information. There are only four slots available so the first four volunteers "win". There will be more dates available so please contact Ray to be placed on a waiting list. MPC has been and continues to be a strong supporter for Habitat of Bucks County.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The MPC Book Discussion Group will meet Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. starting October 20 and spacing the discussions out six weeks to give folks more time to read!

The first reading is *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamanta. A retelling of *Genesis 34* (also known as the rape of Dinah) from Dinah's perspective. Published in 1997, the book has been enjoyed by generations of women. Perhaps you have already read it?

The second meeting will be on December 1 to discuss *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl. Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Based on the author's own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose.

The next reading selections will be firmed up following the October meeting. Other dates will be January 12, February 23, April 13, May 18. Please contact Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com for more information.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

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! The offering will be collected on Sunday, October 5, during worship. You are welcome to use the special offering envelope, writing “Peace and Global Offering” in the memo line of your check or typing the same in the “notes” portion of your online gift. Thank you for participating in this global effort.


REALM UPDATE

Thank you to those who have logged into Realm, reviewed your information, set your privacy settings, and added your picture. We are on our way to becoming more connected! The email invitation was sent out this past Monday, please check your spam folder if you don't see anything in your inbox. To ensure it is not spam, note the email address will be from "notifications@onrealmmail.org". If you did not receive an email, then we don't have your email on record. Please contact the church office by calling 215-295-4191 or emailing office@mpcusa.org and we will update your email and get you connected.

SEPTEMBER FOOD CENTER REQUEST

For the months of September, the requested item is rice. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. As always, thank you for your generosity!

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, September 21

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School for all ages | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Livestream |
| 11:30 | Fellowship Time | Lounge |
| Noon | Adonai Tabernacle | Room 220 |
| Noon | New Usher Training | Sanctuary |

MONDAY, September 22

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 p.m. | Cub Scout Pack 3 | Rooms 122 & 220 |
| 6:30 | Mostly Motets | Music Room |
| 6:30 | Scout Troop 3 | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:00 | Scout Troop 3 | Lounge |
| | Parent Meeting | |
| 7:00 | Food Packing | Room 4 |
| 7:30 | Session Meeting | Conference Room |

TUESDAY, September 23

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Produce Prep | Room 4 |
|-----------|--------------|--------|

WEDNESDAY, September 24

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Food Center Distribution | Parking Lot |
| Noon | Brown Bag Bible Study | Conference Room & Zoom |
| 1:30 p.m. | Deacons Holiday | Conference Room |
| | Food Basket Meeting | |
| 6:00 p.m. | Youth Club | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:30 | Ivins Outreach Center | Conference Room |

THURSDAY, September 25

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
| 7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Music Room |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------|

FRIDAY, September 26

SATURDAY, September 27

SUNDAY, September 28

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School for all ages | |
| 10:30 | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Livestream |
| 11:30 | Fellowship Time | Lounge |
| 11:45 | Budget Committee | Room 200 |
| 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 |