



*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
after EPIPHANY
JANUARY 28, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *God of Grace* - Paul Manz

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Adrienne Poissant, Pastoral Intern

MINUTE for MINISTRY

Souper Bowl Sunday

INTROIT — *Grant Me True Courage, Lord* — J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

*Grant me true courage, Lord, to start each new endeavor
Confiding in your word that you will leave me never;
Alike in gloom or joy, each duty to fulfill,
My faithful heart employ to do your perfect will.*

Henry W. Foot, alt.

CALL to WORSHIP

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

One: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation;

All: **The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

One: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

All: **We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: **Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.**

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 Rachel Rhodes

Lord God, we try our best to follow your laws and live as your Son, Jesus Christ, taught us but we often forget that sometimes, sin comes in our silence. We refrain from lying, yet hold our tongues when the truth is needed. We stay silent to avoid difficult conversations with the ones we love. Help us, O God, to speak when our words are needed and remind us that in times of interpersonal conflict, you are still present with us.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us. The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us. Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, and forgiving. 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.*

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

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *1 Corinthians 2:1-9*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM — *The Last Words of David* - Randall Thompson

*He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.
And he shall be as the light of the morning, as the sun riseth,
Even a morning without clouds, as the tender grass springeth
out of the earth by clear shining after rain. Alleluia, amen.*

—II Samuel 23: 3&4 (KJV)

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Esther 4:10-17*

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Such a Time as This

Adrienne Poissant

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.

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. Amen.

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 — *Abide With Me* - William H. Monk

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.*

Prayer of Dedication

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*

*Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich is things and poor in soul.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*

*Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Ground Triumphal Chorus* - Alexander Guilmant

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'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Clark and DeeAnn Martin in loving memory of our son, Timothy. The second arrangement is "in memory of our father, Burt Anderson, on what would have been his 100th birthday," given by his sons and their families.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL—EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Do you care about the education of our young people in our community? Would you like an update on the recent ruling on Fair School Funding in PA? Then you may be interested in joining our Adult Sunday School class on February 4 to hear from mission partner, Children First. Bucks County Coordinator, Kevin Burgess, will be joining us to discuss the state of education in PA and what people in the community are doing to support young people in schools.

Then we hope you come again the next two Sundays, February 11 and 18, to hear from our pastoral intern, Adrienne Poissant, as she shares accounts of her recent study abroad to Scotland. Join Adrienne as she reflects on what our siblings of faith are doing in churches throughout Scotland and how we are responding to modern questions about the Church. All classes are held at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

SUPPORT CODE BLUE ON YOUTH 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 February 4. Your contribution will go directly to the food we will serve.

INTERESTED IN MPC'S YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO WEST VIRGINIA?

Calling all youth, friends, and their parents, to join us after worship service next Sunday, February 4, in the sanctuary 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 6, and return the following Saturday, July 13. Youth completing 8th grade through high school seniors are eligible. Be sure to bring your friends!

SIGN UP TO BE A GREETER

Please sign up to be a Greeter in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. No special skills required, just arrive by 10:10 a.m. and welcome folks as they arrive for worship. The sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER—FEBRUARY 13

Join us Tuesday, February 13, for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper being served from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to this wonderfully intergeneration opportunity to share a meal with the MPC community as we prepare for the upcoming Holy Season. This dinner kicks off Youth Ministry's fundraising for the 2024 Youth in Mission trip to Pipestem, WV. The support our MPC community shows this outreach every year always overwhelms us. A free will offering will be accepted in lieu of purchasing tickets.

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY

If you would like to donate an arrangement for a Sunday in February, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email deemar918@aol.com. An arrangement is \$35 and may be given in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or in gratitude for a special person or ministry. These flowers not only add beauty to our Sunday service, but they also serve as an outreach ministry to our church family.

JANUARY'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Our Food Center is asking for peanut butter as this month's food donation. For safety reasons, peanut butter packaged in plastic jars is preferred. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your generous help!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY, ROSIE SHEAHAN

We are happy to welcome Rosie Sheahan as our new Financial Secretary starting next week, replacing Laurie Jacobson who is retiring at the end of February. Rosie brings many years of experience in Financial Control, Accounting, Audit and Tax. She is looking forward to her first day and will train with Laurie for the next five weeks. When you have an opportunity, please stop by and introduce yourself to help Rosie feel welcome.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS

Our next meeting and discussion of *The Reading List*, by Sara Nisha Adams, will be held Monday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending virtually--let us know, we can make that happen. Get your own copy of the book (book store, on-line, library) and read it at your leisure. In March we will discuss a section of *A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. That date is set for March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Shellie Stoddard at 215-510-5717 or stoddard.shellie@gmail.com with your interest and questions.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

We have collected thirty-seven bookshelves out of our original goal of 100 and have decided to halt the collection. Thanks for the bookshelves already donated for Trenton classrooms and students. It has been more time consuming than expected to pick up and prepare the units, and we have concluded that we should just focus on books.

Book Distribution is doing well with books, but always needs more preschool board books, books in Spanish for children, and books for the early school grades. Alice Garcia and Joy Rees are distributing bibles and dictionaries to Food Center clients, and there is a need for a steady supply again. Small items (coloring books for all ages, bible stories, puzzles, battery-free toys, board games, puzzles, etc.) are also very welcome. Please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 about helping with the book circulation during Food Center distribution, and Susan Light at 215-801-8185 about helping with obtaining/processing books.

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, January 28

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour Host: Education & Children & Family Committees	Lounge
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room

MONDAY, January 29

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	

TUESDAY, January 30

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
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WEDNESDAY, January 31

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel



THURSDAY, February 1

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

FRIDAY, February 2

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, February 3

SUNDAY, February 4 - Youth Sunday

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
	Host: Youth Ministry	
11:30	Youth in Mission Trip Meeting	Sanctuary
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Deacons Meeting	Conference Room

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.

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!



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Need help?
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CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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

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