



*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 13, 2022  
SIXTH SUNDAY  
after EPIPHANY

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* - John Wyeth

Yun Kang

**CALL to WORSHIP**

John Damiani

One: As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

**All: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!**

One: As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

**All: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!**

One: As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

**All: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing! Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

UNSER HERRSCHER

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;  
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.*

*Gracious God, I come before thee; let thy will be unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be;  
to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.*

*Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed;  
may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, nor do we welcome your Spirit's guidance if it would require us to do something differently. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, for preferring our way to yours. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes, this church, and the whole world with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new.**

**SILENT PRAYERS of CONFESSION**

*Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.*

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. People of God, hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.

**All: In Christ we are made new! 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**

**PSALTER READING** — *Psalms 126*

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**All: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

One: Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

**All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.**

One: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**All: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their  
sheaves.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** — *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Thus says the Lord,

who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,

who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of the Lord will stand forever.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Making A Way*

Paster Rachel Rhodes

**HYMN** — *O God in Whom All Life Begins*

NOEL

*O God in whom all life begins, who births the seed to fruit,  
bestow your blessing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts of patience, joy, and peace;  
deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.*

*Unite in mutual ministry our minds and hands and hearts  
that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace imparts.*

*So let our varied gifts combine to glorify your Name  
that in all things by word and deed we may your love proclaim.*

*Through tears and laughter, grief and joy, enlarge our trust and care;  
so bind us in community that we may risk and dare.*

*Be with us when we gather here to worship, sing, and pray;  
then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.*

#### **AFFIRMATION of FAITH — Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **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 — *My Jesus, I Love Thee* - arr. Greg Howlett

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 — 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 in 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.*

**POSTLUDE** — *Gavotte* - Samuel Wesley

### **QUESTIONS for REFLECTION**

- What old things are you clinging to that no longer serve you?
- How might God be seeking to make things new in your life?

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*\*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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).*

### **IN-PERSON EDUCATION AND MUSIC RETURNS**

As we have returned to in-person worship, plans are in place to return to in-person education and music programs. Below you will also find specific updates for each activity.

#### **EDUCATION**

- Pre-K through High School Sunday School classes will return in-person starting **February 20** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class will meet in-person starting **February 20** from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- For the time being, Adult Sunday School will continue to meet over Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be added to the Adult Education email distribution list or if you have any questions about Children's Sunday School or Confirmation Class, please be in touch with Pastor Alex at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.net).

#### **MUSIC**

- Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) has returned for in-person rehearsals.
- Teen Choir rehearsal will return after worship beginning **February 20**.
- Children's Music will return during worship on **February 20**.
- God's Thunder (Youth Handbell Choir) will return for in-person rehearsals starting **February 23**.

If you would like more information about any of our choir programs, please be in touch with Music Director Tim Carpenter, at [timcarpenter@mpcusa.net](mailto:timcarpenter@mpcusa.net).

### **CLOTHING CENTER DONATIONS**

The MPC Clothing Center will begin accepting clean, gently used spring and summer clothes in March. No fall or winter clothing will be accepted at that time as space does not allow for storage of off-season wear. As a reminder, all donated items (housewares, linens, glass, china, etc.) must be washed and clean, and no donations should be left outside the church doors. Donations may be dropped off at any time when the church is open. Please place all donations in the bin downstairs by the elevator.

Open each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Clothing Center volunteers are committed to providing a pleasant shopping experience for our valued customers while maintaining a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, we will continue to follow these protocols:

1. Masks must be worn
2. Practice social distancing
3. Fitting rooms will be CLOSED

Profits from the Clothing Center are given to charitable agencies and organizations, both local and global, determined by the MPC Outreach Committee. Your continued support and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

### BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATED NEEDS AND REQUESTS:

Cold weather is bringing changes, but we are still finding ways to continue to distribute books. We have depleted the reserves of dictionaries and Bibles so if you have copies of either item, we can distribute them immediately. Currently, 90% of the books taken are those read by children under the age of 5. Almost no books (except Harry Potter and Lemony Snicket) for children above the third grade are taken. We have great interest in children's books on dinosaurs, trucks, "Disney Princesses" (including Pinkalicious, Dora, etc.). New coloring books are always welcome. Adults take current best sellers (published within the past couple of years), cookbooks, religious books, and Civil War books.

If you have books that fall outside of the above categories, you will find Good Stuff on Route 1 will usually take them. The Salvation Army and Good Will, a short distance away from Good Stuff, also take books.

For the time being, please do not drop off large used toys. There is no place to store them while we wait for the weather to warm up and the handling of them is too time consuming for the current volunteers. If we decide to add toys we will need a separate volunteer to handle this category. If you are interested in working with donated toys, please contact Susan Light at [susanklight@gmail.com](mailto:susanklight@gmail.com). Thank you for your generous and cheerful support.

### NEXT CURRENTS DEADLINE

Articles for the next edition of *Currents* are being accepted. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, February 15. Share the good news of your committee or group! Please submit all articles, photos, or any questions you may have, to Damon Miller at [damonmiller@mpcusa.net](mailto:damonmiller@mpcusa.net).

### 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the Communication Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact Laurie Jacobson at the church office or at [lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net](mailto:lauriejacobson@mpcusa.net) and she will send them to you. Please note that envelopes were not given to those who have signed up for online giving.

## *MPC Weekly Calendar*

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<b>SUNDAY, February 13</b>			<b>THURSDAY, February 17</b>	
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	via Zoom		10:00 a.m. Clothing Center	Room 4
<b>10:30 Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>		Noon Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220
<b>10:30 Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>		6:30 p.m. Oakville Girl Scouts	Room 220
			7:00 Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
<b>MONDAY, February 14</b>			<b>FRIDAY, February 18</b>	
Noon Deborah Circle	via Zoom		6:00 p.m. Pack 3 - Wolf Den	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall		7:00 AA Meeting	Room 220
7:00 Board of Trustees Meeting	via Zoom			
<b>TUESDAY, February 15</b>			<b>SATURDAY, February 19</b>	
12:30 p.m. Staff Meeting	Conference Room		<b>SUNDAY, February 20</b>	
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall		9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School	via Zoom
6:00 Pack 3 - Webelos	Room 104		9:00 Confirmation Class	Room 200
6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 220		9:30 Pre-K - High School	
			Sunday School	
<b>WEDNESDAY, February 16</b>			<b>10:30 Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
9:00 a.m. Food Center	Parking Lot		<b>10:30 Worship Service</b>	<b>Livestream</b>
Noon Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room		11:30 Teen Choir	Music Room
6:00 p.m. Youth Club	Fellowship Hall			
7:00 Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220			
7:00 Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge			
Board Meeting				
7:15 Chancel Chimes	Sanctuary			

## **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. Ruling 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 reverse for how you can help!***

## ***MPC CURRENT CHURCH OFFICERS***

### **Deacons, Class of 2022**

Jim Gaston  
Luisa Herrera  
Helen Hill  
Beth Keys  
Cindy Moskow  
Tom Smith  
Tim Stover  
Tony Zazzu

### **Deacons, Class of 2023**

Fran Akelewicz  
Andy Beidler  
Alice Garcia  
Tracy Massey  
Lori Newman  
Joy Rees  
Patti Sheffer  
Tim Yost

### **Deacons, Class of 2024**

Donna Damiani  
John Damiani  
Heidi Dous  
Karl Helland  
Karen Hill  
Kathy Larkin  
Jim Levan  
Ruth Levan

### **Elders, Class of 2022**

Beth Becker  
Dawn Flook  
Bill Hughes  
Jill Monroe-Dillon  
Lisa Zazzu

### **Elders, Class of 2023**

Ray Hendrickson  
Dan Jones  
Greg Neiman  
Caroline Thompson

### **Elders, Class of 2024**

Elizabeth Dugan  
Wes Gardner  
Patrick Gilbride  
Travis Keys  
Mark Schnurr

### **Trustees, Class of 2022**

Erin Aronson  
Laurel Leonard  
Seth McHenry

### **Trustees, Class of 2023**

David Austin  
Suzanne Barletto  
Tom Evans

### **Trustees, Class of 2024**

Matt Bausher  
Clark Martin  
Gary Ward

**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 his or her name(s) to the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Dan Jones, at [djones@fresnelpartners.com](mailto:djones@fresnelpartners.com). We can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next!**

### **CONTACT US**

#### **MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

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