



*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
GIFTS of WOMEN SUNDAY
APRIL 14, 2024

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place* - Robert Lau

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

MINUTE for MISSION

Gifts of Women Sunday

Nancy McHenry

INTROIT — *Let All Things Now Living* - ASH GROVE

Women of Chancel Choir

*Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Emily Bausher

One: Come, let us celebrate the unique gifts that God has given to each woman, each man, to every person and every child.

All: Let us together as God's people, young and old, give thanks for the call of Christ to follow him into a broken world to lead the church into making all things new.

One: Let us sing praises to our God that we can claim the amazing gifts of the Spirit with which we have been equipped for service and leadership—gifts of peacemaking, compassion, perseverance, unity and love—and use them for the sake of all God's children.

All: Let us worship God with great joy, gratitude and expectation!

HYMN — *Here in This Place*

GATHER US IN

*Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

Charlotte Harrington

Loving and merciful God, you created each of us in your own image to live in community. You graced us generously with gifts for service in your church. You equipped all of us—everyone one of us—for the work of ministry. Yet too often, we tarnish your image, waste our gifts, refuse to accept your call to service and fail to live at peace with our neighbors. Forgive us, O God. In the name of Christ, help us to turn to you to shape us as you intended when you created us. Fill us with your Spirit and strengthen us to continue our journey and complete the task of shaping the Christian community as one people of God. We trust that all things are possible through you.

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

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven, whose mistakes have been wiped away by God's mercy and grace! So let's rejoice in God's unfailing love, which has set us free yet again. 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

LITURGY *of* THANKSGIVING

Nancy Kernan

One: O God, for your church, which throughout the ages has called women to serve in this world that you love,

All: We thank you.

One: For Mary of Bethany, who showed us how to listen and learn,

All: We thank you.

One: For Martha, who served others with loving care,

All: We thank you.

One: For Priscilla and Lydia and other courageous leaders of the early church,

All: We thank you.

One: For women like Katharine Bennett and Margaret Hodge, who led the movement for full equality among women in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.,

All: We thank you.

One: For the life and creative leadership of Sarah E. Dickson, the first woman ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,

All: We thank you.

One: For countless women throughout time, whose names were never written down, but whose lives and ministries have led so many others to know the good news of the gospel,

All: We give you thanks

One: For the ministry of women who joyfully accepted the call to serve your church throughout history,

All: We thank you and we celebrate their lives and their commitment to the ministry of the whole Church. Together may we move forward with women, and men, and all siblings in Christ, as equal partners in the ministry to which you call us all. Amen.

PRAYER *for* ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING — *Proverbs 8:22-33*

- One: The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- All: When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.**
- One: When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command,
- All: When he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.**
- One: And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways.
- All: Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.**
- One: This is the Word of the Lord.
- All: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM — *Invocation* - words and music by Craig Courtney

*Come Holy Spirit; Come gentle Dove.
Descend upon us now in truth and love.
Bring light where there is falsehood, deliver from confusion;
O come to us again we pray*

*Come Holy Spirit; Come, Breath of God;
O breathe life where there is death and sin.
Reveal the Father's will and glorify the Son;
and lead us into all truth, we pray.*

*O come, thou Flame of Fire, empower us to do thy will.
Convict us of unrighteousness.
Return us to our first love, and help us as we pray.
Purify us today.*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

NEW TESTAMENT READING — *Philippians 4:2-9*

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

- One: This is the Word of the Lord.
- All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Remember the Ladies

Pastor Anne Stewart

*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!*

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.

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 — *In the Garden* - Charles Miles

Doxology — *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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

Song Trio
OLD HUNDREDTH

S E N D I N G

HYMN — *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door;
gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise,
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.*

*Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *Day of Triumph* - Vladimir Rebikoff

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.***

WELCOME REV. DR. ANNE STEWART TO THE PULPIT TODAY!

Anne Stewart serves as Executive Vice President at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is the founding director of Iron Sharpening Iron, Princeton Seminary's executive leadership program for women clergy. She is a graduate of Smith College, Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Emory University (PhD in Old Testament). She is a Presbyterian pastor and the author of *Poetic Ethics in Proverbs: Wisdom Literature and the Shaping of the Moral Self*.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Jill Monroe-Dillon in loving memory of her father, John R. Monroe (August 22, 1926 - March 16, 2019) and her mother, Eileen P. Monroe (September 5, 1932 - April 23, 2023). On this *Gifts of Women Sunday*, the second arrangement is given by J'Ann Ellis in honor of all the grandmothers, mothers, and teachers who participated in the development of our personal faith.

TODAY! MPC BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

We are pleased to announce a Blood Pressure Screening event today, April 14. The screening will take place in the chapel after the service, starting at 11:45 a.m. To ensure a smooth and efficient screening process, we kindly ask you to:

- Wear clothing that will make your arm easily accessible for blood pressure monitoring.
- Limit your caffeine intake on the day of the screening.
- If you are on medication for blood pressure, please continue to take it as usual on the day of the screening.
- Bring your own personal blood pressure monitoring record on the day of screening if you wish.

Your health is our priority. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEXT SUNDAY IS BLUE JEAN SUNDAY

Blue Jean Sunday will be held on April 21 from noon to 3:00 p.m. Help be a part of the annual cleanup of the church and yards. Please contact Property Manager David Sterling at davidsterling@mpcusa.org for more details and to sign up.

APRIL'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

Our Food Center is asking for canned fruit as this month's food donation. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

As fighting continues to escalate in Israel and Gaza, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance to those civilians devastated by destruction of homes and lack of food and water. PDA's response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals. PDA is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. MPC has assisted the PDA for years and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this ongoing violence. The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA with this disaster, so might you also help? You may use a check made out to MPC and place "Disaster Relief – Middle East" on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labeled "Disaster Relief" throughout the month of April. MPC has always been a most giving church.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & VACATION

Please be aware that Pastor Rachel will be away from April 6 through April 20 for both continuing education and vacation. If you need the assistance of a pastor during that time, please reach out to Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org or Pastor Brian at brianballard@mpcusa.org.

MPC IS GOING TO SNIPES FARM AND EDUCATION CENTER ON SATURDAY 4/20!

Join members of MPC for an exciting, faith-filled, family-oriented and educational trip to Snipes Farm and Education Center (SFEC) to enjoy a beautiful way to celebrate God's creation and bounty! MPC youth and volunteers are participating in Earth Day at the Snipes Farm and Education Center on April 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. They may be planting trees or potatoes. They may be working on projects on the nature trail or preparing the herb or children's gardens for the upcoming season. They may even take a farm tour or learn about the life of bees, composting and more. If you're interested in attending, you may contact Pastor Alex at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org or Rachel Zobel at rachelzobel@mpcusa.org for more information. To learn more about SFEC, please visit www.snipesfarm.org. Last year's Earth Day was a most rewarding day for MPC! We hope you'll join us this year.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS - "SAVE THE DATE" FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18

The church is planning a local workday for high school grads and young 20-somethings. Details to follow in the coming weeks, but we hope you will put this date on the calendar to join in meaningful work and friendship. Stay tuned!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Childcare at church is an amazing gift to young families, providing a safe, fun space for small children, and enabling parents to participate in worship in our sanctuary. We are reliant on volunteers to staff the nursery and we need your help. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Cynde Jacobus at cynde127@gmail.com or Patrick Gilbride at pgilbrid@estee.com. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING.

The book group will meet tomorrow, April 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge to discuss *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

On May 20, we will meet to discuss the second and third sections (pages 155-547) of *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. The discussion will be led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon and you are welcome to come even if you read only a portion of the first three sections. Our discussion during the last meeting was lively and thought-provoking and will lead to future discussions in Adult Sunday School.

Books are available at the bookstore, library or on-line and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at bannistercr@gmail.com with your interest and questions.

BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATES AND NEEDS

We appreciate the generous donations of books, toys and supplies we have received and are well stocked. We can always use more dollar store coloring books (for children and adults) and colored pencils for the Food Center Distributions. Smaller tins are an easy and accessible way for children to store their crayons. If you have leftover gift tins from various holidays, we will put them to good use.

All the puzzles, packs of cards, and games that you donate are immediately distributed. We need more dictionaries and bibles again. We have two dozen children's French books that need a home. Thanks for your help.

TONIGHT!

Family Movie Night

Sunday, April 14th

5 pm to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



Everyone's Welcome!

BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!

**Pasta Dinner, popcorn
and fun fellowship!**

Call Nancy McHenry @ 215-514-9685

WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL

FUNDRAISER AT
THE YARDLEY ICE HOUSE
APRIL 23RD, 2024



Present a paper or digital copy of this coupon for 20% of the sales to count for your fundraiser.

Yardley Ice House is cash only.

Thank you for partnering with us!

Weekday Nursery School Fundraiser

On Tuesday, April 23, Yardley Ice House, located at 77 South Main Street in Yardley Borough, is supporting Weekday Nursery School.

Please present this paper or a digital copy of the coupon above for 20% of your purchase to be donated to Weekday Nursery School.

Purchases can be made at any time during operating hours between 12:00 - 10:00 PM.

Please note that the Yardley Ice House is cash only.

**A copy of this flyer (either paper or digital)
must be presented at time of purchase.**

Thank you!

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, April 14 - Gifts of Women 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
11:45	Blood Pressure Screening	Chapel
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, April 15

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

TUESDAY, April 16

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
5:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, April 17

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
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

THURSDAY, April 18

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

FRIDAY, April 19

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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SATURDAY, April 20

9:00 a.m.	Earth Day Volunteering	Snipes Farm
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SUNDAY, April 21

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
11:30	Blue Jean Sunday	Fellowship Hall
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
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.

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.

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