



*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
FIRST SUNDAY
in LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *The Master Has Called Us* - Gerald Peterson

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *God Is Calling through the Whisper* - Polish Carol

Chancel Choir

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Richard Ryan, Liturgist

One: O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

All: **You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.**

One: Come, the season of Lent is upon us. Let us worship the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

HYMN — *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your loving kindness; hear your people as we pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

*Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy upon us as silently we confess our sin.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ was raised to new life for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks to be God. Amen and Amen.**

Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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Je - sus, Re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

LITURGY of the WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING — selections from *Psalms 9*

- One: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
All: I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
 One: The Lord sits enthroned forever, he has established his throne for judgement.
All: He judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with equity.
 One: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
All: And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.
 One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* - Linda Cable Shute

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
 teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.
 As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
 to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy word.
 And through these days of penitence, and through Thy passion-tide,
 yes, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Mark 1:35 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

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

SERMON

Will You Pray With Me?

Rev. Dr. Kort

HYMN — *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CONVERSE

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from 1647 Larger Catechism (questions 178 & 179)

One: What is Prayer?

All: Prayer is an offering up our desires to God, in the name of Christ, by the help of his Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

One: Are we to pray to God only?

All: God only being able to search the heart, hear the requests, pardon the sins, and fulfill the desires of all, and only to be believed in, and worshipped with religious worship; prayer, which is a special part thereof, is to be made by all to him alone, and to none other.

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 — *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross* - arr. Philip Kim

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, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
great clod of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that bear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — Menuet from *Music for the Royal Fireworks* - G. F. Handel

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.***

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Mary Ellen Scheppach. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory to eternal life.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Howard and Joan Barley in loving memory of Joan's Mother, Betty Krebs. The second arrangement is given by Larry and Phyllis Low "in celebration of our daughter Amanda and son-in-law Ryan Owen's 25th Wedding Anniversary."

CODE BLUE PREPARATIONS NEXT SUNDAY

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 has been scheduled for Sunday, March 1 after worship service. If you are interested in volunteering 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.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS TOMORROW

Discussion on the reading, *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World* by John Vaillant, will take place on tomorrow, 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.

The MPC Book Discussion group's next reading is *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. The author returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.

UPCOMING ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES

On March 1, Rabbi Amiel T. Monson from Congregation Beth El in Yardley will be with us to discuss *Deuteronomy 6:1-9* and *Psalms 19*, the same two passages discussed at the February 22 session. from a Jewish perspective.

Please join us for this interesting discussion as we gain insight into the beliefs of our friends and neighbors. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and are held in the Conference Room, located on the second floor.

CHANCEL FLOWERS NEEDED FOR MARCH

If you would like to give flowers for a Sunday in March, 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 an act of kindness or a ministry. Not only do these flowers add beauty to our Sunday worship services, but they also go forward as an outreach ministry to our MPC family.

FOOD CENTER'S FEBRUARY REQUEST

For the month of February, the requested food donation is pasta sauce (preferably not in glass jars). 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.

SCOUT TROOP 3 CLOTHING DRIVE

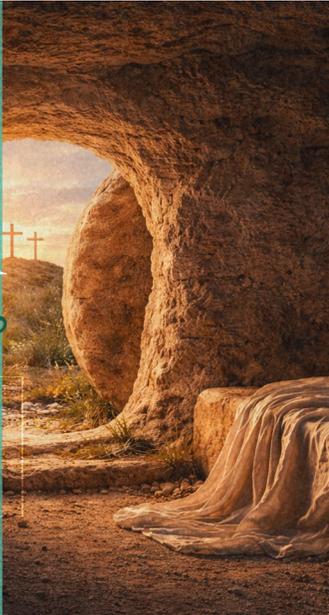
Scout Troop 3 is hosting a Clothing Drive through May 3. Along with clean clothing, you can donate books and clean houseware items for this fundraiser. The goal is to reach 4000 lbs. of soft items. You can drop off your donations on Monday evenings in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If it's more convenient to drop off items on Sunday before or after service, we will have a trash can marked for the Scout Drop-Off at the bottom of the steps outside of room 4. Thank you for your participation during this fundraiser.



Lenten Soup Suppers
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Gather for a wonderful time as we share a simple meal and fellowship, accompanied by the evening's program & speakers

Reflections on Lent
~~Reflections on Lent~~

Wednesday, March 18 Wednesday, March 25
Lisa Zazzu Ray Hendrickson



April 2
Fellowship Hall
JOIN US for MAUNDY Thursday
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. Worship Service

April 5
10:30 a.m.
JOIN US for EASTER Sunday
He is Risen!
Livestream of service available at mpcusa.org

MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, February 22 - First Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel
Noon	Nominating Committee	Room 200

MONDAY, February 23

5:30 p.m.	Book Discussion Group	Conference Room
6:30 p.m.	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Cub Pack 3	Rooms 220 & 122
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:00	Scout Parent Meeting	Lounge
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room

TUESDAY, February 24

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
10:00	Weekday Nursery	Room 220
	School Projects	

WEDNESDAY, February 25

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag Bible Study	Conference Room
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Room 121

THURSDAY, February 26

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

FRIDAY, February 27

SATURDAY, February 28

SUNDAY, March 1 - Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Nominating Committee	Room 200
11:30.	Code Blue Food Preparations	Fellowship Hall
11:45	Youth Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel
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.

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.

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