



*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 CHRISTMAS EVE
10:30 A.M.
DECEMBER 24, 2023

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Away in a Manger* - William J. Kirkpatrick

Yun Kang

WORDS of WELCOME

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

CALL to WORSHIP

One: Because Christ has been born into the world, we respond with wonder:

All: **With the angels, we sing glory to God; with the shepherds, we share the good news; with Mary, we ponder the words of this night, and the Word that has come into the world is Emmanuel, God with us.**

HYMN — *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We bear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON — *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM — *O, Come, Little Children* - IHR KINDERLEIN, KOMMET arr. L. S. Bailey with B. S. Mayo

Agape Choir

*O come, little children, O come one and all!
O, come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.
The bright star will guide us and show us the way
to Jesus our Savior asleep on the hay.*

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem.

Come see the baby lying in a manger.

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem.

Come see the newborn King.

*Come see the shining star guiding us from afar,
helping to show the way.*

O come, little children, O come one and all!

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem.

-- C. Von Schmid

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

SECOND LESSON — *Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN — *Away in a Manger*

MORNING SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay,
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

THIRD LESSON — *Luke 2:8-16*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

ANTHEM — *In the Christmas Spirit* - medley arr. by Ruth E. Schram

Hurry, hurry hurry now to Bethlehem, a tiny babe is born.

'Cause Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord

The people keep a comin' and the train has gone.

Hurry, hurry hurry now to Bethlehem, a tiny babe is born.

And there was one, there were two, there were three little angels,

There were four, there were five, there were six little angels,

there were seven, there were eight, there were nine little angels:

ten little angels in the band. Don't miss it.

*Hurry, hurry hurry now to Bethlehem, a tiny babe is born.
So, go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Oh, go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*I'm gonna sing when the spirit says sing!
And obey the spirit of the Lord. He is born.
Hurry, hurry, hurry now to Bethlehem, a tiny babe is born.*
-- Traditional Spirituals

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

OFFERING

Invitation to Give

Offertory Music — *O Little Town of Bethlehem* - Lewis Redner

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.*

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

One: On this Christmas Eve we celebrate the birth of a Savior.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: The prophets of old foretold your birth.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: The King of kings was born in a lowly stable.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: Shepherds, kings, and angels worship you.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: You raise up the lowly and set the prisoner free.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: You are Light in the darkness that shall never be overcome.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: Help us share your love with all peoples of the earth.

All: Lord, we give you thanks and praise.

One: Let us join our voices, praying the prayer your Son taught us to pray:

All: 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.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN — *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

Refrain

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

Refrain

*Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

Refrain

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *Sing We Now of Christmas* - Douglas E. Wagner

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.*

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Our PreK-4 Sunday School class are leading in worship today as angels, shepherds, and sheep, and our older children and youth are participating as liturgists. As always, we give thanks for the many parents and adults who make it all possible through music, costumes, and as chaperones for our youngest disciples. We give particular thanks to the Thompson family for participating as Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and a sheep.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Your offering today will support the ministry and mission of Morrisville Presbyterian Church. In addition, you may designate a gift for the Christmas Joy Offering, which provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports scholarships for future leaders at Presbyterian schools that equip communities of color. You may give online at mpcusa.org/give. Please include "Christmas Joy" in the "Notes" box in the payment section. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Join us for faith, fellowship and mission in the new year!

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

If you are not a member at MPC, we would love for you to consider joining us in ministry and mission. A three-week class, led by Pastor Rachel Rhodes and Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla, provides an opportunity to explore church membership, whether you're ready to join or just curious about what that would mean. We will explore topics like: what do we believe as Presbyterians, how are we called to be the church in the world, what does ministry and mission look like at MPC, who is it that God is calling you to be and how can you seek to pursue God's call more fully through membership at MPC?

New Member classes are held two times a year. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office at 215-295-4191 or office@mpcusa.org for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

To learn more about MPC's Christian Education programs, please contact our Associate Pastor for Lifelong Faith Formation & Mission, Alex Lester-Abdalla, at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org. Education for all ages (age 2 through adults) meets at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday.

PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC MINISTRY

If you would like to get involved in our Music Ministry, please feel free to contact our Music Director, Tim Carpenter, at timcarpenter@mpcusa.org. Our Music Ministry welcomes participation by all interested adults, youth, and children! Opportunities in choirs and handbells are available.

YOUTH CLUB & YOUTH MINISTRY

All area youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in Youth Club for food, fellowship, and faith. Meetings take place most Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and dinner is provided!

Youth in Mission will be returning to Pipestem, WV this summer to continue God's work spreading the Word and helping others. All current 8th grade students through high school seniors, along with their friends, are invited to join us for this great trip.

Please email Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla at alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org to learn more about both of these youth programs.

ADULT EDUCATION FOR JANUARY

Jerusalem is the most religious city in the world for Judaism and Christianity. It is mentioned 667 times in the Old Testament and 139 times in the New. It is also significant in Islam. Come and learn the reasons for the city's religious significance and why it is considered to have been, and still is, one of the most controversial cities in the world. The three-Sunday course begins on January 7 and concludes on January 21. They will consist of stand-alone sessions on 1) Early Settlement and the City of David, 2) The City During the Time of Jesus, and 3) The City Since Jesus. Classes meet in the Conference Room located on the second floor.

DECEMBER'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST

December's food item request for the Food Center is canned beans. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your generous donations. Thank you!

WORSHIP BACKPACK DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are excited to announce we are revising our Worship Backpacks – but we need your help! If you have any fidget toys or supplies for arts and crafts lying around that you would like to donate, we are happy to accept them. There will be a collection bin outside of the Sanctuary on Sundays in which to place them. Thank you in advance for your consideration and contribution!

A NEW RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OUR FLOWER MINISTRY IN 2024

Flowers donors are needed throughout the year; however, if you would like to give a chancel flower arrangement in January, please contact DeeAnn Martin at 215-493-3865 or email to deemar918@aol.com. Each arrangement is now \$35. This is a \$5 increase and the very first cost increase in over ten years! Flowers by Jennie Lynne has been most gracious to keep the pre-COVID pricing for several years, even as her costs increased. These flowers not only add beauty to our service but also serve as an outreach ministry to our church family. An arrangement may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special person or event, or in gratitude for a ministry or act of kindness.

PASTOR JACK MCANLIS' RETIREMENT

On January 7, we will have a special fellowship hour to congratulate Pastor Jack McAnlis on his re-retirement and thank him for his years of ministry at MPC. While he and Karin will continue to be a part of our worshipping community, Jack will be stepping down from his role as Minister of Visitation. Jack has been such a blessing to our church and his contributions go well beyond his visitation role. We hope you will join us for light refreshments in the Lounge, immediately after worship. Cards for Jack can be sent to the church office.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the Welcome Center. If you would like them mailed, please contact Laurie Jacobson at the church office at 215-295-4191 ext. 226 or lauriejacobson@mpcusa.org and she will send them to you. Please note that envelopes will not be given to those who have signed up for online giving.

YEAR END GIVING

Thank you for your continued generosity and support throughout this year. To ensure that your gifts appear on your 2023 Giving Statement for tax purposes, please make sure all gifts are post-marked, delivered to MPC, or given online by December 31, 2023.

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.

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Poinsettias

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Elaine and Ray Low
Genevieve Wagner
Loved ones
My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
Our parents
Cathleen Jones Haas
My husband, Charles A. Hill
My husband, George Lauver
My parents, Douglas and Virginia Purdy
My siblings, Carol and Garvin Purdy
Our dear family friend, Charles W. Gravener
Our parents, Ott Ward; James and Marie Mallory
Our siblings: Joy Deem; Hunter Mallory; and
Jim and Kathy Mallory
Our parents, Bill and Helen Borden
Bert and Nancy C. Anderson

IN CELEBRATION OF;

My sister-in-law's 102nd birthday, Lois Myers

BY:

Phyllis and Larry Low
Phyllis and Larry Low
The Evans Family
Heather Bray
Carol and Roberta Carroll
Chuck and Sue Jones
Connie Hill
Myrtle Lauver
Nancy Ackerman
Nancy Ackerman
Nancy Ackerman
Gary and Sue Ward
Gary and Sue Ward

Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson

BY:

Myrtle Lauver

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Music

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Lewis and Peggy Kohn
Earl and Sarah Levan
Our parents and grandparents,
remembering many wonderful Christmas' past
My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
Loved ones
Our parents, grandparents and loved ones
Our parents
Jim Faridy
Dave's brother, Neal Powers
Nancy's sister, Barbara Clark
My husband, Charles A. Hill
Cathleen Jones Haas
Our parents, Peggy and Lewis Kohn
Carolyn and Clark Hendrickson
John C. Moyer
William "My Bill" Detraz
Parents, Estelle and Charles Wagner
Sister, Carole Eagar

BY:

The Levan Family
The Levan Family
The Levan Family

Heather Bray
The Evans Family
The Jurey/Burgess Family
Carol and Roberta Carroll
Carol and Roberta Carroll
David and Nancy Powers
David and Nancy Powers
Connie Hill
Chuck and Sue Jones
Becky and Ray Hendrickson
Becky and Ray Hendrickson
The Moyer Family
Jane Detraz
Jane Detraz
Jane Detraz

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Music (continued)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Our parents
Ray, Aggie, and David Slover
Our parents, Bill and Helen Borden
Bert and Nancy C. Anderson

IN CELEBRATION OF:

The Word in Music
Margaret Marshall Saudler

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

Our grandchildren: Layla, Benjamin, James,
Sloane and Colin

BY:

Tim and Carol Carpenter
Nancy and John Kernan
Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson

BY:

Clark and DeeAnn Martin
Seth and Nancy McHenry

BY:

Gail and Drew Hunger

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Ann and George Davenport
Steven M. Annenberg
Beloved husband and father, Bruce R. Jablon
Beloved parents and grandparents, Ray and Marie Elmer
George A. Hunger Sr.
Our parents
My daughter, Becky Marseglia
My grandparents, John and Olive Ellis
My parents, John V. and Marilyn Ellis
My brother, Van Ellis
Our son, Timothy
My parents, Warren and Dorothy Bietsch
Our loved ones
My wife, Sandra
My husband, Ken
My mother and father
My brother, Lee
My cousin, Betty
Dorothea C. Rimler and Jack Rimler
My dad, Uncle Lee, Forsyth grands, Betty,
Ruth P., Helen T., JoAnn, Tammy, Olga and David Slover
Our parents, Sally and George Hunger and
Grace and James Doster
Dave's brother, Neal Powers
Nancy's sister, Barbara Clark
Our parents
Jim Faridy

BY:

Susan Annenberg
Susan Annenberg
Diane Jablon, Kellie and Tom Lewis
Diane Jablon, Kellie and Tom Lewis
Dorothy Hunger
Beth and Randy Curtiss
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Clark and DeeAnn Martin
Heather Bray
The Evans Family
Bob Foster
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Eleanor Franke
Curt Rimler
Shirley (Franke) DeAngelis

Gail and Drew Hunger

David and Nancy Powers
David and Nancy Powers
Carol and Roberta Carroll
Carol and Roberta Carroll

Christmas Memorial Contributions - Food Baskets (continued)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Cathleen Jones Haas
My husband, Jerry Ashmen
My parents, John and Mina Masine
My parent-in-laws, Gerald and Dot Ashmen
My husband, George Lauver
William "My Bill" Detraz
Parents, Estelle and Charles Wagner
Sister, Carole Eagar
Our parents
Our parents, Carolyn and Merrill Smith
My brother, David Smith
Our parents: Ott Ward, James and Marie Mallory
Our siblings: Joy Deem, Hunter Mallory, and
Jim and Kathy Mallory
Our parents, Bill and Helen Borden
Bert and Nancy C. Anderson

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Louis and Joana Weigand
My sister-in-law's 102nd birthday, Lois Myers
Our grandchildren: Luke, Reese, Isla, Nora,
and Madison

TO GIVE THANKS FOR:

The generosity and kindness of the MPC congregation
Our wonderful church
Family, friends, and compassionate caregivers
Our family: Scott; Laren; Olivia and Ava;
Staci; Matthew; Jacob and Jonathan

BY:

Chuck and Sue Jones
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Joan Ashmen
Myrtle Lauver
Jane Detraz
Jane Detraz
Jane Detraz
Tim and Carol Carpenter
Tom Smith
Tom Smith
Gary and Sue Ward
Gary and Sue Ward

Nancy and Roger Anderson
Nancy and Roger Anderson

BY:

Seth and Nancy McHenry
Myrtle Lauver
Nancy and John Kernan

BY:

Jack and Karin McAnlis
Ross and Alice Gray
David and Marilyn Schoenthaler
Becky and Ray Hendrickson



MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, December 24

Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Boy Scout Christmas Tree Sale
 10:30 Children & Family Worship Service
 11:45 Family Choir
 7:00 p.m. Carols, Choir, & Candlelight Service

Parking Lot

Sanctuary & Livestream
 Music Room
 Sanctuary & Livestream

MONDAY, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office is closed

TUESDAY, December 26

Church Office is closed

WEDNESDAY, December 27

5:00 p.m. Light Show & Bonfire Fellowship

Shady Brook Farms

THURSDAY, December 28

FRIDAY, December 29

6:30 p.m. AA Meeting

Lounge

SATURDAY, December 30

SUNDAY, December 31

New Year's Eve

10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Communion

Sanctuary & Livestream

To view upcoming events and meetings, please visit www.mpcusa.org and click on "Calendar" from the home page.



CONTACT US

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