



*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  
SECOND SUNDAY after EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 19, 2025

## GATHERING

### WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *Ich dank dir, lieber Herre* - J. S. Bach

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* - MADRID

Chancel Choir

*Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!*

### CALL to WORSHIP

William Byrd, Liturgist

One: God of the feast, God of abundance,

**All: You are always bestowing the plenty of your table.**

One: Though the work feels impossible,

**All: You accomplish wonders through us.**

One: Help us to receive your good gifts this day,

**All: That we might learn to put our faith in you.**

HYMN — *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

*Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!*

*Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!*

*Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,  
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God's name!*

*Angels, teach us adoration; you behold God face to face.  
Sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!*

### PRAYER of CONFESSION

Loving Lord, we long to be your faithful people, but our good intentions run out and we come up empty. For all the ways we fall short in our sin, forgive us, Gracious One. Change us—like the waters of your grace—to become what the world lacks, that our community, our nation, our church, and all creation may know your justice and love.

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

### PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God has lifted you up from all that has pushed you down. Gone are old names of derision. Through the gifts of grace, God calls you by a new name of love. 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.*

**LITURGY of the WORD**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** — *Psalm 121*

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

One: God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber. God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

**All: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

One: The Lord will keep you from all evil; the Lord will keep your life.

**All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** — *How Can I Keep From Singing?* - American Folk Hymn, arr. Andy Beck

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul. how can I keep from sing?  
What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm, I hear the music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul. how can I keep from sing?*

**TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** — *1 Timothy 4:11-16*

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

These are the things you must insist on and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*Riding the Buckboard of Life*

Rev. Dr. Kort

**HYMN** — *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BEECHER

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.*

*Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*This new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.*

*Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.*

*Make us partners in our living, our compassions to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

#### **AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — from 1 John 4:7-12

**Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

#### **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 — *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* - arr. Lloyd Larson

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 Our Life*

SANDON

*God of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee.  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.  
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide.  
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land. Be thou our guide.  
With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee.  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone. Our refuge be.  
Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

## **CHARGE and BLESSING**

## **BENEDICTION RESPONSE — Amen**

## **POSTLUDE — Trumpet Air - Henry Purcell**

## 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.org](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.org).***

### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Joanne, George, Jessica and Lizzie Pingor: “Happy 89th Birthday to the man, the myth, the legend: Allen Kish. He is an amazing, kind, fun, generous, and loving Dad, PopPop, and friend to so many. We love you!” The second arrangement is given “in memory of our Father, Burtis A. Anderson, for his birthday,” by Roger and Nancy Anderson and family.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Congregational meeting will be held on January 26, 2025 in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service for the purpose of providing an overview of the 2025 budget and approving the Terms of Call of Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla.

### **2025 PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT**

When making your Per Capita Contribution for 2025, please calculate the amount at \$37.00 per member. Further details regarding the increase will be provided in a future bulletin announcement. Should you have any immediate questions, please contact Tom Smith at [tsmith7493@gmail.com](mailto:tsmith7493@gmail.com) or 215-595-8575.

### **MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS' MEETS TOMORROW AND THE NEXT READ**

MPC Book Discussion group will meet tomorrow, January 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelted. Everyone is invited to bring a snack or meal.

The next read is *Rough Sleepers*, by Tracy Kidder, a nonfiction book about caring for Boston's homeless. Discussion for that book will be on Monday, February 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

### **MPC-LOGOED SPORTSWEAR - LAST WEEKS TO ORDER!**

Support the Deacon's Holiday Food Basket program with your purchase of sportswear with the MPC logo. There are a number of items available:

- 1/4 zip fleece - \$16
- Full zip fleece - \$31
- Nylon Jacket - \$17
- Polos from four different manufacturers - \$23 to \$36

Orders are being taken through February 2, cash and checks only, in the Welcome Center. Thank you for giving the gift of food to almost 100 food-insecure families in our area.

### **YOU ALL ARE ANGELS!**

The Deacons are grateful to everyone who contributed to the toiletries donations from our Angel Tree this past Christmas! Those in need are receiving these gifts in January which are greatly appreciated by all those who have received them. 129 bags were collected in all! The bags go a long way in meeting the personal needs of the clients at our MPC Food Center. Thanks to everyone for making this ministry such a success where there is such a need.

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

The current Adult Education class, *Examining Christian Nationalism*, will run through January 26. Kevin Subers is leading the class in developing an understanding of Christian Nationalism, its characteristics, and how to interact and respond to those who adhere to its principles. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in the Conference Room located on the second floor.

Adult Ed discussed the book, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by W. Phillip Keller, last Sunday. Books were distributed to the class to revisit and discuss the book again on March 30. If you would like a copy of the book to take part in the discussion, there are extra copies in the mailbox of Kathryn Jervis outside the Conference Room on the second floor, or see Christopher Bannister on Sunday to get a copy.

### FOOD CENTER REQUESTS

For the month of January, the requested food donation will be peanut butter. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## JOIN MPC for Elmwood Zoo-On-Wheels and Potluck Dinner



**Sunday, February 23 at 4:30 p.m.  
in Fellowship Hall**

**Taco Night - Bring a Dessert to share!**

**RSVP to Nancy McHenry at  
215-514-9685**

**All are welcome! Bring a friend!**

## WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL COMMUNITY EVENT & FUNDRAISER

Grab your Weekday friends and meet us at  
**Delorenzo's The Burg on Wednesday, February 5**  
Mention Weekday Nursery School and a percentage of  
sales will be donated back to our school!

**Can't make it in person?  
Mention Weekday on your  
take out order!**  
(215) 943-2605  
[www.theburgonlineordering.com](http://www.theburgonlineordering.com)



8919 New Falls Rd  
Levittown, PA

Please share with family and friends!

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, January 19

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:45	Budget Committee	Room 200
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

### MONDAY, January 20

Church office closed		
8:30 a.m.	MLK Day of Service	Offsite
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Room 4
5:30	Book Discussion Group	Conference Room
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3 Parent Meeting	Lounge
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:30	Trustees Meeting	Room 208

### TUESDAY, January 21

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Room 4
5:30 p.m.	Outreach Committee	Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, January 22

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
9:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Room 121

### THURSDAY, January 23

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

### FRIDAY, January 24

10:45 a.m.	Weekday Nursery School	Room 220
11:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge

### SATURDAY, January 25

### SUNDAY, January 26

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

To view upcoming events and meetings, please visit [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org) and click on "Calendar" from the home page.

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](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

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