



*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  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *God of Grace* - Paul Manz

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**MINUTE for MISSION**

*Staying Put - Cancer Care Program*

Beth Becker

**INTROIT** — *This is the Day* - Alice Parker

Chancel Choir

*This is the day the Lord hath made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

--Psalm 118:24

## CALL to WORSHIP

One: How good it is when we live together in unity.

**All: A family formed by faith, we gather to worship the Living Lord.**

One: Lifelong learners seeking sustenance and new disciples searching for grace.

**All: A family fashioned by faith, we gather before the Giver of Mercy.**

One: Children of God, let us worship God together.

**All: The Lord gathers us in and calls us by name. Let us praise God.**

**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 is 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.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Nancy Powers, Liturgist

**God of all goodness, we do not want to face all that is in our own hearts. We want to focus on the good—on the love, the compassion, the care—and ignore the bad—the greed, the envy, the cruelty. But in your transforming power, you invite us to face it. Forgive all the ways our world lets evil take hold in the collective heart. Help us to face our own demons and empower us to live a love-filled life in you.**

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

## PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The promise of Jesus Christ is that before we even utter the words, God has already forgiven us—freeing us from what keeps us from love and peace. Trusting this truth, 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 — *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*

One: Thus says the Lord: maintain justice and do what is right,

**All: For soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.**

One: And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,

**All: To minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants,**

One: All who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant

**All: These I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer;**

One: Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,

**All: For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.**

One: Thus says the lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel:

**All: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM — *With a Voice of Singing* - Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.  
O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious.  
With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!*

--text by Martin Shaw

### TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

One: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### SERMON

*Welcome at the Table*

Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
 redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
 Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
 in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.  
 From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
 from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
 from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
 deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.  
 Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release  
 from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
 when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;  
 with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.  
 Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
 when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
 till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign  
 and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**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 — *How Great Thou Art* - arr. Lloyd Larson

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.*

OLD HUNDREDTH

## S E N D I N G

**HYMN** — *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*

MC KEE

*The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.*

*True faith will open up the door and step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.*

*True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.*

*If what we have we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,  
then we extend the Spirit's care through every selfless deed.*

*The church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.*

**CHARGE and BLESSING**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** — *Trumpet Air*- Henry Purcell

**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 WE WELCOME REVEREND DIANE JAMISON FITCH TO THE PULPIT**

Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch recently retired after 30 years in ministry. Most recently, Rev. Fitch served as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Springfield, located in Flourtown. She continues to volunteer with the Presbytery, serving on Commission on Ministry. Rev. Fitch is looking forward to spending more time traveling with her husband, enjoying nature, reading, photography, and visiting family and friends. She and her husband are parents to two adult children, and share their home with a dog and two cats.

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

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Suzanne and Frank Barletto: "We wish Ryan Becker, our grandson, much love and happiness as he embarks on his first year of college at University College London in London, England." The second arrangement is given by Beth and Grace DiTulio, on this Grandparents Day, to honor J'Ann Ellis, and in loving memory of John and Jeanne Burgess, and Walter and Mary Ellis.

### **REGARDING TODAY'S MINUTE FOR MISSION**

The Ivins Outreach Center has a new Cancer Care Program and is looking for volunteers to provide assistance in driving members to medical appointments and calling to check on members, showing care and support. For more information, please reach out to Beth Becker at [ebecker25@comcast.net](mailto:ebecker25@comcast.net) or call Beth at 215-262-1556. She will also be at the picnic after service today and able to answer any questions.

### **LITURGISTS NEEDED**

We are in need of liturgists to help lead worship. If you are interested in serving, please contact Christi Anne DeSciscio at 848-391-8713 or [cambac@gmail.com](mailto:cambac@gmail.com) to be added to the sign-up mailing list.

### **2024-25 SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Sunday School has begun and we look forward to you joining us for our programs this year. A registration form may be found under the "K-12 Sunday School" section at [mpcusa.org/sundayschool](http://mpcusa.org/sundayschool). Please note: to progress to each section of the registration form, click "Next" on the bottom left. For further information, please reach out to Rachel Zobel at [rachelzobel@mpcusa.org](mailto:rachelzobel@mpcusa.org). We look forward to seeing you!

## **ADULT EDUCATION REVISED SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

Adult Education classes have begun. Through September 22, Christopher Bannister will lead a discussion on the seven events that shaped the New Testament world. On September 29, Elizabeth Dugan will present a segment from the New Testament. Classes are held each Sunday, starting at 9:30 a.m., in the Conference Room, located on the second floor.

## **BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

Brown Bag Bible Study will start again on Wednesday, September 18 at noon. Adrienne Poissant, former intern at MPC, has agreed to facilitate Brown Bag Bible Study for the rest of the year. We are excited to have Adrienne back with us for this important fellowship of the church.

All are welcome and encouraged to join in. For those who wish to meet in person, we will meet in the Conference Room, located on the second floor. For those wishing to attend via Zoom, the Zoom link will be emailed out on Monday, September 16. If you wish to be added to the email distribution list or to confirm that you are on the distribution list, please send your name and email address to [bannistercr@gmail.com](mailto:bannistercr@gmail.com).

The purpose of this first meeting on September 18 will be to discuss the subjects and format for going forward in this time of transition. Any questions or concerns can be emailed to Christopher Bannister at [bannistercr@gmail.com](mailto:bannistercr@gmail.com).

## **SUPPORT BOY SCOUT TROOP 3 NEXT SUNDAY!**

Boy Scout Troop 3 will be holding a car wash fundraiser on Sunday, September 15, after worship. All donations will go towards offsetting camping costs for scouts.

## **MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS - FALL SELECTIONS**

We are looking toward the fall to read and regroup for thoughtful discussions. Reading selections this fall are *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride later in September, and the relatively short *Sula* by Toni Morrison in October. Both books should be available at your local bookstore, library or online. We are working out dates and locations for our meetings and will announce them soon. We'd like to try to meet on Tuesday evenings and/or Sunday afternoons for the coming year. Please contact Shellie Stoddard at 215-510-5717 or [stoddard.shellie@gmail.com](mailto:stoddard.shellie@gmail.com) with your interest and questions.

## **IVINS OUTREACH CENTER'S 2024 GOLF OUTING**

Save the date for the IOC Annual Golf Outing to be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at the Yardley Country Club. This is our major fundraiser which allows us to continue the many programs available for youth, families, and older adults in Lower Bucks County. If you are not a golfer, consider the many other ways in which you can volunteer and help us make this event a success. You can:

1. Volunteer to be on the organizing committee
2. Volunteer the day of the event
3. Consider being a sponsor if you are a business owner; there are many different levels and opportunities for sponsorship – we have brochures listing and explaining the various Sponsorship Opportunities
4. Be a Patron or perhaps you frequent a business and would be willing to approach them about sponsoring our golf outing
5. Ask businesses for items to be raffled

If you have any questions or need further information about sponsorship or volunteer information, please contact Kathleen Foster at [kathleenf9@comcast.net](mailto:kathleenf9@comcast.net) or Christy Stephenson at [Stephenson.christy@gmail.com](mailto:Stephenson.christy@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing many of you on Monday, September 16 at the lovely YCC. Thank you for your continued support!

## 2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT

The information and registration brochures for the upcoming Women's Retreat are now available and can be found in the Welcome Center. The retreat will be held on Oct. 25-27 in Ocean Grove, NJ with Pastor Molly Ramsey leading on the topic of *The Pursuit of Happiness*. All the details can be found in the brochure or by contacting Beth Curtiss at [curtissfam@gmail.com](mailto:curtissfam@gmail.com).

## 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 [cyndej127@gmail.com](mailto:cyndej127@gmail.com) or Erin Aronson at [ekernan@gmail.com](mailto:ekernan@gmail.com) or 267-210-7966. Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

## CLOTHING CENTER REOPENS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

We look forward to opening up our store after our summer hiatus. During the summer, thanks to dedicated volunteers, the Upper Room has been painted, new carpeting installed, and custom-made shelves were built, giving it a new look. We are working hard on rearranging our clothing, houseware and glassware, jewelry, and home décor to make shopping in the Clothing Center a pleasant experience and offering quality merchandise.

We will begin to accept clean, fall/winter clothing & shoes, seasonal home décor (fall/autumn, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) on Sunday, September 15. Please do NOT leave off-season clothing and items, we do not have the space to store them.

Come and see us on Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All profits are donated to other community non-profit agencies and organizations through our Outreach Committee.

## NEW FOOD CENTER REQUEST FOR SEPTEMBER

Thank you for your continued support over the summer months. The requested food donation for the month of September is rice. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### *Circle meetings this week*

#### DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle meets tomorrow at noon  
in the lounge.

#### REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle meets tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.  
in the lounge.

*All women of MPC are welcome to come for fellowship and faith enrichment.*

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.

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, September 8 - Rally Day

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service &amp; Commissioning of Teachers</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Grounded in Grace	Memorial Garden
	Annual Picnic	
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

### MONDAY, September 9

Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Cub Scout Pack 3	Lawn
	Sign-Up Night	
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Chapel
	Parent Meeting	
7:00	Trustees Meeting	Room 208
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Lounge
7:30	Youth Ministry	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, September 10

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
1:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 3	Fellowship Hall
7:30	Communications & Evangelism Committee	Zoom

### WEDNESDAY, September 11

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
9:00	Ivin's Outreach Center Meeting	Lounge
7:00 p.m.	Finance Meeting	Zoom
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

### THURSDAY, September 12

7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir	Music Room
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### FRIDAY, September 13

6:30 p.m.	Women's AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, September 14

### SUNDAY, September 15

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Parking Lot
	Car Wash	
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](http://mpcusa.org/calendar) to see when events takes place and room availability.

## CONTACT US

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