



currents

March 2020



Lenten

SUPPER SERIES

Wednesdays, March 4 - April 1

6:00 p.m. - Supper ~ 6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when the sorrow of Good Friday turns to the gladness of Easter, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

Let us sing! Let us pray! Let us worship God together!





Pastor's Pen

*I Believe in the Sun – even when the sun is not shining.
I Believe in Love – even when I don't feel it.
I Believe in God – even when God is silent.*
-Anonymous Jewish poem



Dearest friends,

In my experience, more bravely than most of us “older and wiser” folks sitting in the pews every Sunday, young people possess the boldness and courage to speak words of truth into the world alongside words of faith. Their honesty, vulnerability, passion and conviction is an example to us all, and this was never more true than on Youth Sunday on February 2 at MPC.

On this particular Sunday I had the luxury of sitting in the pews with many of you, and it was such a gift to worship under the leadership of our young people. I sat in awe of their confidence and poise, but also their deep witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. A gospel that *does not* promise a life void of pain or struggle or heartbreak, but a gospel that *does* promise a faithful God who will never abandon us and will never allow us to walk alone. Their testimony reminded us of a God who not only rose on Easter Sunday but also bore the weight of our sins and the depth of human pain on Good Friday—a helpful reminder to all of us that God can dwell with us in all of it. God weeps alongside us in the darkness of human experience, God rejoices alongside us in times of great gladness, and God endures with us everywhere in between.

As I have continued to speak with many of you about your own experience of Sunday, I have struggled time and again to put into words the fullness of Sunday's beauty and depth. And yet the one thing I can point to with the utmost confidence was the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. The Holy Spirit was at work in the liturgy that students authored and prayed over. The Holy Spirit was at work through the proclamation of three young people, who shared their hearts and the darkness and questions they have known in this life more bravely and boldly than I have ever witnessed before. The Holy Spirit was at work in the congregation who participated in and received the gifts offered through our worship together. The Holy Spirit was present in tears and in liturgy, in singing and in proclamation, and what a gift it was to be present on such a holy, sacred day.

Though much of the service has stuck with me, the Teen Choir's singing of *I Believe* by Mark Miller has been playing in my head again and again. The lyrics are above, and, my goodness, were they sung with a beauty and grace I can barely begin to describe! The hauntingly beautiful melody reminded us of the giftedness of our young people, but even more importantly, the lyrics filled our souls with the reminder that there will always be dark and lonely seasons in this life. And yet even in the darkness, even when no light can be seen no matter how hard we look; we can still believe in the light of God's love—a light that the darkness will never overcome. What an example of faith our young people are to us all. Praise God for the gift of those who lead us ever closer to God's kingdom!

With deep gratitude,

Rachel





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



The next celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will occur on the First Sunday of Lent, March 1, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



Sacrament of Baptism

Adults wishing to be baptized, or parents requesting baptism for their child, are asked to call the church office at 215-295-4191.

In Loving Memory



Our sympathy goes out to the family of John D. Bingley, who passed away on Monday, December 9, 2019.

Remembering our Identity



A scallop shell represents baptism, and the three drops of water symbolize the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4TH & 5TH GRADE RETREAT

Submitted by Kathy Foster

Room 220 was a happening place on a Friday evening in February when several of our 4th & 5th graders gathered for their retreat. Through our retreats, we pray that the children will grow in understanding and faith; to that end we set apart time for God so we can better hear God's voice.

During the 3 ½ hours we had together we enjoyed fellowship time with a pizza dinner, making Valentine cards and baking bread. Each child brought a box of Quick Bread mix which we prepared and baked in our Fellowship Hall kitchen. The children then distributed cards and bread to some of our members in church on the following Sunday, and Pastor McAnlis delivered the remaining cards and breads on his member visitations.

After we played a Bible matching/concentration game Pastor Alex led a lesson on the sacrament of The Lord's Supper and then we received communion. The evening ended with a beautiful candlelight worship service in the sanctuary in which the children participated by reading scripture, leading us in prayer, singing hymns, and in a responsive reading.

This is a special time in the life of our students, along with their teachers and we look forward to our retreat each year!



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE FROM PASTOR ALEX

Dear Priesthood of all Believers,

Faith Formation at Morrisville Presbyterian Church has been filled with two primary themes in the month of February: young people and prayer. The first Sunday of this short month was Youth Sunday and it breathed a new and different kind of life into our community. Prepared liturgy, inspired preaching, and beautiful singing brought many people in our congregation to tears as the youth in our congregation proclaimed the Word and led the worship of God with vulnerability and joy. It was a special, and spirit-filled day that left its mark on the hearts of all who know and love these young people. Likewise, our Sunday morning Adult Education for the month has inspired meaningful conversation around the topic of prayer. Molly Ramsey's facilitation of topics like contemplation, action, theology, and practicality of prayer has spilled out into many groups around the church (including the Men's Ministry gatherings) where I have witnessed the literal meaning of the words "faith formation" taking place in our community. I have been delighted to see the Holy Spirit at work through the words and actions of our church as we continue to grow in faith among one another.



Since February is a short month, March is quickly upon us! And with March comes the season of Lent and the new and exciting Lenten opportunities at MPC! This year Pastor Rachel, the Education Committee, and I are very excited about the Lenten devotionals we have selected for this season. The devotionals come from *Sanctified Art*, a collective of artists in ministry who put together worship materials, and this year we will be using their art, poetry, and prompts to guide us on a Lenten journey through the wilderness. Devotionals can be picked up after worship in both narthexes from the deacons. We also will be providing our normal Wednesday night Lenten Suppers in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Pastor Rachel, Tim Carpenter, Worship Committee, and I have interactive worship services planned for any and all members of the congregation, no matter the age. Meals will be provided, fellowship will be had, and the Spirit will be present as we gather as Christians have done through the centuries to prepare ourselves for Holy Week. Finally, our Adult Education hour will be a "Mental Health Part 2" following our heavily anticipated conversation in the fall. Matt Rhodes will again facilitate classes ranging from discussion on fears to examining the wisdom of our emotions, so come and take part in these powerful lessons. All adults are invited to grow and learn together at Adult Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room, and feel free to bring a friend. Lent is full of great opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship in the life of Christ at MPC, and I invite you to do so any way you can!

Grace and Peace,

Alex

VIDEO MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Submitted by Rich Drabb

The Video Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with the recording of the worship service on Sundays. Positions in the video room upstairs include operating cameras and switching between them, and operating the sound board. For those who wish to remain in the sanctuary, a volunteer is needed to operate the sanctuary sound remotely through the use of the ministry's iPad. Commitments are flexible to your availability and desire to serve. If you can operate a computer and/or an iPad, you can be a part of this important outreach ministry. Training is available for all positions. If you are interested, please contact Rich Drabb at richdrabb@mpcusa.net or 215-801-4445.



CARPENTER'S CORNER

Submitted by Tim Carpenter

Hey! It's Mr. Tim!



I am known by several different names around this building: "Tim", "Mr. Carpenter", "Hey There", and even "Maestro" on occasion. To one group, however, I am known as "Mr. Tim."

Our building houses the Morrisville area's Head Start class. Their adults are caring but no-nonsense, and the students, ages 4 and 5, respond beautifully. I volunteer as their music teacher every Thursday morning and the classroom teacher, aide, and director participate with me and the students. We do counting songs, alphabet songs, days-of-the-week songs, songs with hand motions, songs with clapping, songs with sleeping, creeping, walking, jumping, running, hopping (and stopping!) I bring a big tote bag full of props and simple rhythm instruments, an old Fisher-Price farm and, sometimes, a case of the smaller hand chimes. They enjoy my visits and I always look forward to working with them; it's one of the highlights of my week!

FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Submitted by the Rev. Jack McAnlis, Minister of Visitation

Yes, there is a difference. But first, something that is common to both.

In either event, our Christian tradition holds that there be worship, specifically "A Service of Witness to the Resurrection." The resurrection of Jesus is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. This service should affirm the same biblical theology that is confessed and affirmed in any other worship service: the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The difference is that a funeral is when the body or ashes of the deceased person is present. A memorial service takes place after the body or ashes have been buried.

Funerals and memorial services help people face the reality of death, give family and friends a chance to express their grief, and honor the memory of the person who has died. For Christians, the service puts death in a religious perspective and places those who are grieving in a caring and supportive community of faith.

If you have thoughts about whether you want to have a funeral or memorial service, your wishes should be written down. A form to help you plan a funeral or memorial service is available. To request one, contact me through the church office voicemail or email me at jackmcanlis@mpcusa.net and I will see that you receive it. I am available to discuss your plans, if you would like.

SERMON PODCASTS ARE COMING

Submitted by Damon Miller

Have you ever missed a sermon and then been unable to find the time to watch the posted YouTube video? A new way of bringing MPC to you is being developed and will be offered soon.

Podcasts of the sermons from the weekly Sunday service will be made available for downloading so you can take MPC with you, no matter where you go. Further details of this capability will be coming within the next few weeks, and updates will be provided in the weekly bulletins and emails.



YOUTH CLUB'S JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Submitted by Amy Nolan

MPC kicked off 2020 with some education and a lot of fun! Our first meeting of the year was the awesome "Youth Club Olympics," where we were proud to see a good number of alumni return for the fun. We also had an informative interfaith night where the youth displayed great knowledge of Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism. January concluded with board game night, where the kids brought their own board games and lots of laughter and fellowship was shared. Any local youth in grades 6-12 is welcome to join Youth Club at any time. Email mpcyc01@gmail.com for more information.



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

WEEKDAY

NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 8, 2020 1-2:30PM
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
771 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
ALL ARE WELCOME

✔ **STORY AND SONG TIME**
WITH MR. GEORGE FROM
BARNES AND NOBLE





MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 Easter Memorials & Honorariums

Have you considered honoring, celebrating, or remembering a family member, friend, or loved one this Eastertide? Contributions to our Memorial Fund can be made, not just for remembering a loved one who has passed, but also for honoring someone in your life now. Once again this year, out of consideration for those who are allergic to lilies, our Easter Flowers will be beautiful, multi-colored tulips.



EASTER TULIPS

Members and friends of the church are reminded that the tulips, which beautify the church, may be given as memorials. Forms are available online and in the church office. **Please fill out a form and return it with your check in the amount of \$8.00 per plant ordered to the church office by Monday, March 23.**

MUSIC FUND

Memorial contributions to this fund help to supplement the music ministry program. In the past, these funds have been used to invest in ORFF instruments for enhancing the children's music program, hand bell equipment, guest clinicians, and additional musicians for special music offerings. Contributions of any amount are welcome. **To be listed in the *Bulletin*, please submit your form by Sunday, March 29.**

DEACONS' FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

In addition to free-will donations received by the Deacons, you are welcome to contribute to the Food Basket Program as a gift or memorial to loved ones by using the form below. **To be listed in the *Bulletin*, please submit form by Sunday, March 29.**

Easter Memorial & Honorarium Contributions

Please do not add the memorial contribution amount to your weekly pledge payment!

Make checks payable to MPC with the type of memorial noted on the memo line.

I (we) wish to make the following contribution(s) to:

_____ **Easter Tulips** (\$8.00 each) _____ Number of Plants _____ Amount attached

_____ I will pick up the tulip(s) following the 10:30 a.m. Easter service.

_____ I wish to have the Deacons deliver the tulips to a shut-in.

_____ **Music Fund** - Please find \$ _____ attached for this fund.

_____ **Deacons' Food Basket Program** - Please find \$ _____ attached for this fund.

Given by _____

Address _____

Phone _____

(Please circle one) "In loving memory of" "In celebration of" "To give thanks for"

Please print exactly as you wish it to appear in the Bulletin.

Please return completed form and payment to the Church Office by Sunday, March 29

Tulip orders need to be submitted by Monday, March 23

