



*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 after EPIPHANY
JANUARY 12, 2025

GATHERING

WORDS of WELCOME

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

PRELUDE — *Aus Meines Herzens Grunde* - J. S. Bach

Yun Kang

INTROIT — *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind Praise the Lord* - MONKLAND

Chancel Choir

*Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is kind:
For God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.*

CALL to WORSHIP

Nancy McHenry, Liturgist

One: God is our rock and salvation
All: We wait to hear from God; our souls wait.
One: We depend on God alone;
All: We rest in God's enduring mercy.
One: Come, let us worship the Lord

HYMN — *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Gracious Father, you are our God, and we are mere mortals. Forgive us when our self-righteousness consumes us, as arrogance often guides our decision, and pride stands in the way of loving you and our neighbor. Bring us back to rest in your sovereign love and guide us to live in the community of faith. Enable us to do the work which you call us and to do so joyfully and with compassion to all.

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

PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: The love of God flows ceaselessly. The mercy of God never ends. 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 — selections from *Psalms 122*

One: I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

All: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem

One: Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together.

All: Peace be within your walls and within your towers.

One: For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say, Peace be within you.

All: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *The Gift of Love* - American Folk Tune, arr. Hal Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and not have love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.*

TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Luke 2:41-52*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

HYMN — *God of Great and God of Small*

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

*God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny,
God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

*God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,
God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore,
alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.*

AFFIRMATION of FAITH — from *Scots Confession (1560)*

Our only hope is Jesus Christ. After we refused to live in the image of God, he was born of the virgin Mary, sharing our genes and our instincts, entering our culture, speaking our language, fulfilling the law of our God. Being united to Christ's humanity, we know ourselves when we rest in him. Jesus Christ is the hope of God's world. Amen.

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 Can I Keep From Singing?* - Robert Lowry

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 — *For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which for our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

CHARGE and BLESSING

POSTLUDE — *Postlude No. 1 in C* - Kyle St. Sauveur

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.*

REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

Our conductor today is Kyle St. Sauveur who can usually be found leading the bass section. Kyle is a recent graduate of Westminster College and in addition to singing with the MPC choir he teaches singing, piano and composing. He has written several pieces for our choir and last week's postlude was composed for our organist, Yun Kang.

Also this morning, our soprano section leader will be taking the children for music. Emilie has recently completed her student practicum in music education.

TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Jill Monroe Dillon in gratitude for the dedicated and creative director, teachers, aides, and parent volunteers who continue to make the MPC Weekday Nursery School a positive pre-school learning environment. The second arrangement is given by Beth and Randy Curtiss, "in honor of our MPC friends who have given us so much joy and love over the years."

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 or 215-595-8575.

JANUARY 31 COMMUNITY MEAL

It's cold outside so consider sharing in a warm evening by volunteering for our upcoming Community Meal on Friday, January 31. We're currently looking for kitchen help, greeters, and bakers. Our guests are always so grateful for home-cooked meals, and some warm conversations. Email MPCCodeBlue@gmail.com or reach out to Beth Becker or Dawn Flook if you'd like more information or to volunteer.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS' NEXT READ

We will start next year with a light and touching story, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelted. Goodreads describes the book as "an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus." Discussion on this book will be at our next meeting on Monday, January 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Folks can bring a snack or meal.

MPC-LOGOED SPORTSWEAR

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 now, cash and checks only, in the Welcome Center for delivery in January. Thank you for giving the gift of food to almost 100 food-insecure families in our area.

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!

FOOD CENTER IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for an occasional way to help the Food Center? We are currently in need of people to join our Pepperidge Farm bread pickup team. Bread pickups occur every Friday morning at the warehouse in Willow Grove. Use the church van to transport trays of bread back to MPC for Wednesday distribution. Volunteers will need to be capable of lifting and moving trays of bread. You can choose to do just one pick up per month, or more if you decide you love it. For questions and inquiries, please email mpcfoodcenter@gmail.com. The Food Center is a living embodiment of "many hands make light work!" Join us!!!! Thank you for your consideration.

Circle meetings this week

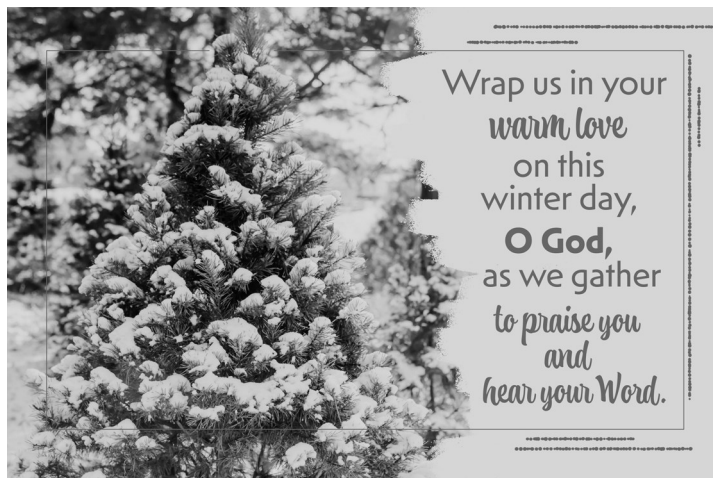
DEBORAH CIRCLE

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.*



MPC Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY, January 12

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

MONDAY, January 13

Noon	Deborah Circle	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Room 4
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Chapel
	Parent Meeting	
7:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Rebecca Circle	Lounge

TUESDAY, January 14

8:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
	Cancer Care Program	
9:00	Produce Prep	Room 4
6:30 p.m.	Educational Ministry	Zoom
7:30	Communications & Evangelism Committee	Zoom

WEDNESDAY, January 15

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
9:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
6:00 p.m.	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:00	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
	Board Meeting	
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Room 121

THURSDAY, January 16

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

FRIDAY, January 17

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

SATURDAY, January 18

SUNDAY, January 19		
8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
10:30	Worship Service	Sanctuary & Livestream
		Lounge
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Room 200
11:45	Budget Committee	Music Room
11:45	Teen Choir	Room 220
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	

To view upcoming events and meetings, please visit 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 and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

CONTACT US	
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF	
771 North Pennsylvania Ave. Morrisville, PA 19067 215.295.4191 www.MPCusa.org Office@MPCusa.org	
J. Thomas Kort, <i>Transitional Pastor</i>	TomKort@MPCusa.org
Alexander Lester-Abdalla, <i>Associate Pastor (ext. 225)</i>	AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org
Timothy Carpenter, <i>Director of Music</i>	TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org
Yun Kang, <i>Principal Organist</i>	YunKang@MPCusa.org
David Sterling, <i>Property Manager (ext. 231)</i>	DavidSterling@MPCusa.org
Damon Miller, <i>Communication Coordinator</i>	DamonMiller@MPCusa.org
Rachel Zobel, <i>Christian Education Coordinator</i>	RachelZobel@MPCusa.org
Kimberly Turner, <i>Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)</i>	Office@MPCusa.org