



currents

Winter 2026



INSIDE

Deacons' Holiday Food Baskets
Pastor Search Update
Womens' Retreat Reflections
Recent New Members
Code Blue
MPC Clothing Center

Photos from
Youth Sunday
Advent
Shrove Tuesday
Anniversary Sunday
AND MUCH MORE!

Visit us at MPCusa.org

A NOTE FROM DR. KORT

Dear MPC family and friends,

I don't know the total accumulation of snow we received this winter, but it was more than enough. I do know that the temperatures we experienced were nothing short of frigid! I hoped that beneath that crusty layer of snow, a crocus was ready to pop up and remind us that spring was on the way. Did you know the crocus is mentioned in the Bible? "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. (Isaiah 35:1) In the Bible, the crocus symbolized hope, beauty, renewal, and divine providence. We need that holy reminder, both in our individual lives and the life of Morrisville Presbyterian Church.. We need hope for the living of these days. We need the eyes to behold the beauty of the Lord that is all around us. We need to pray for the renewal of dreams long forgotten. We need to believe that amid life's changes and transitions, the divine providence of God is leading the way.

The season of Lent is upon us and with it comes the invitation to travel to Jerusalem. I invite you to join the journey, for like the crocus, Isaiah promises that along the way we will discover hope, see what is beautiful, experience renewal, and trust that God is leading the way. May it be so in your life and in the life Morrisville Presbyterian Church.

God bless,



Tom



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH CURRENTS?

Submitted by Damon Miller, Communications Coordinator

I'm sure many of you have realized that it's been some time since the last edition of *Currents*. For this, I apologize. The last established quarterly production cycle was difficult to maintain and conflicted with the providing information for upcoming events at MPC. The production cycle has now been shifted to have editions in February, May, August, and November. This edition got caught in that shift, requiring some previously submitted information to be updated which, unfortunately, caused the Lenten season and highlights of past happenings to not be covered in a timely manner (and a month late). Be assured, the most current information was always provided in the worship bulletins and weekly email blasts.

In this edition, you may find some of the information nearing being outdated, but I hope this will not prevent you from keeping the spirit and relevance of the season in you throughout the year. I hope you enjoy looking back on the past events at MPC since the fall and future ones as spring begins.

Thank you for your patience and I look forward to bringing you more "current" *Currents* in the future.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCERNS

The pastoral staff encourages you to notify the church office regarding hospitalizations and deaths in your immediate family. We will list these pastoral concerns in the bulletin. MPC also has a committed group of members who are part of the MPC prayer chain. If you have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact Ron Workman at ron_workman@prodigy.net to be placed on the prayer chain. Please note, out of respect for privacy, to be included in the Pastoral Concerns and/or MPC the prayer chain, the individual named must give their permission. Let us pray without ceasing.



In Loving Memory

Our sympathy goes out to the families of those who have recently died:

- Mary Ellen Scheppach
on Thursday, February 19, 2026

Let us continue to remember these individuals and all of their family members in our prayers at this time.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Abby Jean Bostain received the sacrament of baptism on March 8. Abby is the child of Ty and Libby Bostain. The participating elder was Christi Anne DeSciscio. Please join us in welcoming the newest member of Christ's church.



CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!



On February 1, MPC welcomed four confirmands during the Youth Sunday worship service. Many thanks to Wendy McCleskey, Patrick Gilbride (not pictured below), and mentors for their time and talents leading the confirmands toward their special day.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend another warm welcome to our newest members who joined Morrisville Presbyterian Church last fall; Libby and Ty Bostain, and Dale Perry. What a joy it is to welcome new friends into our mission and ministry here at MPC!



Libby and Ty Bostain recently moved to Yardley with their two children; Rayland (3) and Abby (1). Libby and Ty moved to Pennsylvania from Skaneateles, NY where they were members of Skaneateles Presbyterian Church. After both receiving their undergrad degrees from Cornell University (and both serving as 4-year Varsity athletes), Libby and Ty both work in the Technology/eCommerce industries with jobs based out of New York City.

Libby & Ty spend most of their free time keeping up with their two small children – their favorite recent hobby is taking the kids out biking down the Canal Tow Path. After moving to the area in January, Libby and Ty explored multiple local churches but found

MPC to be the most inviting and family-friendly option to call home. They are looking forward to adding to the storied history of the church.



Dale Kathleen Perry lives in Ewing, New Jersey in her childhood home. Previously she has attended Ewing Presbyterian Church, and more recently has been a member at Flemington Presbyterian Church. She has served as Sunday School Coordinator and played handbells at both EPC and FPC. As an Elder in both churches, she has most often worked with the Personnel Committees. For a time, many years ago, Dale did attend MPC and always knew she would return someday. With a degree in history and political science, Dale retired from the NJ Division of Criminal Justice and currently is employed part time as the Business Manager for Preservation New Jersey, a state-wide nonprofit organization. She also works as a copy editor and writes articles and fiction in her spare time.

Dale enjoys patio gardening, reading, cross stitch, and spending time with animals – large and small. She is happy to return to MPC where there is such a wonderful sense of community, a great music program (handbells!), an inspirational spiritual message each week, and many friendly, welcoming people. She hopes to become involved in activities that allow her to provide her talents to MPC.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Interested in exploring membership at Morrisville Presbyterian Church? Our spring new member classes will be held on May 14 and May 31. To sign up or for more information, please contact the church office at office@mpcusa.org or 215-295-4191.

mpcusa.org



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Submitted by David Hough

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been working since mid-November to search for our next Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. It has eight members: Nancy McHenry (co-chair), Dave Hough (co-chair), Patrick Gilbride, Madison Neiman, Erin Aronson, Matthew DeSciscio, Russell McCleskey, and Cindy Moskow.

PNC completed a Ministry Discernment Profile that was reviewed and approved by the Session and the Philadelphia Presbytery. The Ministry Discernment Profile details the senior pastor job description with their specific tasks and responsibilities as well as the qualities and experiences of the person we are looking for. The Presbytery has a website called *Church Leader Connection*, which matches ministers seeking a new call with congregations seeking a new pastor. The website allows people to apply directly and will automatically match us with candidates. The PNC has developed a detailed screening process to review each candidate to ensure that they are an appropriate match based on their education, experience, and fit for MPC.

In mid-February, we started interviewing candidates! We are also networking with some key, well-connected people within PCUSA nationally, locally, and at Princeton Seminary. From these calls we have been given the names of several up and coming pastors who are capable, experienced, and well respected spiritual leaders. We are reaching out to them to connect by phone or in person to talk about MPC and ask if they would be interested in interviewing for our senior pastor position. Additionally, new applications are still being received as we move forward. When the time is right, we will bring forward a final candidate for the congregation's approval.

As a committee we are excited about the progress we have made. You can also find more information about PNC and its progress on the new PNC page of our church website. It is under the "About" tab on the home page of the MPC website. Please keep the committee and our future pastor in your prayers—for wisdom and a clear sense of God's direction. If you have questions or would like to know more about the process, please feel free to reach out to Nancy McHenry or Dave Hough. Thank you for your support during this crucial time in our church's life.

SUPPORT THE MPC CLOTHING CENTER

The Clothing Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church is more than just clothes. We sell so much more: housewares, linens, jewelry, and home décor to name a few items. We are open on Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from now till mid-June. We invite you to stop by and see the array of items for sale. Unable to stop by? We also ask for your help to spread the word about the great finds and bargains found at the Center and the important mission provided by this gem of a shop located in our church basement. All of our proceeds are distributed to other charitable organizations in our community.

Thank you to all who have supported the Clothing Center through the years with your donations and patronage. Please contact Kathleen Foster at kathleenf949@gmail.com if you need further information.



MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Submitted by Shellie Stoddard

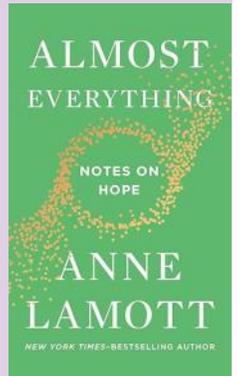
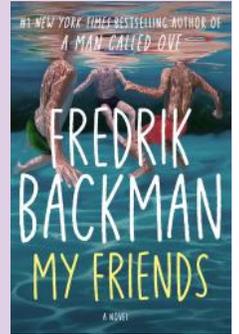
The MPC Book Discussion Group meets on scheduled Monday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. You can also attend by Zoom. Contact the church office at office@mpcusa.org or Shellie Stoddard at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com for link and more information. The group will discuss the following books on the dates listed:

April 13 - *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman

Author Fredrik Backman returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later (Goodreads).

May 18 - *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott

In this profound and funny book, Lamott calls for each of us to rediscover the nuggets of hope and wisdom that are buried within us that can make life sweeter than we ever imagined. Divided into short chapters that explore life's essential truths, *Almost Everything* pinpoints these moments of insight as it shines an encouraging light forward (Goodreads).



mpcusa.org

BENEFITS OF MUSIC

Submitted by Tim Carpenter, Director of Music

Do you want to be healthier and happier? Join a choir!

Over 54 million people, children through older adults, in the United States are part of a singing group and scientific studies have shown that choral singers are happier and healthier than the general population. Here are some of the proven benefits:

1. Choral and solo singing can be a stress reliever.
2. Singing stimulates the immune response. (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15669447/>). Listening to singing reduces stress hormones, but does not stimulate the body's immune system.
3. Collective singing fosters community and a sense of belonging, which — in turn — promotes positive feelings and changes perception of pain. (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/147470491201000403>)
4. Singing improves lung function and elevates blood oxygen.
5. Singing improves memory as one ages. (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11940398/>)
6. Singing in a church choir gives back to God one of God's greatest gifts to us.

I'm not advocating for quitting your exercise routine, but the health and happiness that can be had by singing in a group, unlike most other team sports, is available to you your whole life long.



REFLECTIONS WOMEN'S RETREAT

Submitted by Ann Clements & Cynthia Lang

The annual MPC women's retreat took place in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, this past November. The retreat, which was held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality, was led by Rev. Dr. Anne Stewart, Executive Vice President, Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Stewart, an Old Testament scholar, guided the participants through a study of the Psalms entitled "Be Still and Know." Both the spiritual messages and the poetic structure of the Psalms were explored. Dr. Stewart reminded us of the importance of the psalms, and poetry in general, to our well being through her excellent presentation of the topic. She shared the simple poetry of Mary Oliver and another poet and reminded us that the psalms are poetry too. She encouraged us to engage with the psalms as a companion on our journey of faith and gave suggestions as to how to do so.

Ann Clements: "I came away with the message to read the psalms and share their importance with others as a way of dealing with the highs and lows of life. As always, I appreciated the opportunity to get to know my MPC sisters better, to step aside from my daily life and to enrich my life of faith."

The retreat also included walks along the ocean, fellowship at delicious meals, and even a spirited game of Taboo.



mpcusa.org

CODE BLUE AT MPC

During the month of March, MPC partners with Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need (AHTN) to provide overnight shelter during the coldest evenings. While AHTN volunteers provide transportation and oversee the shelter, MPC provides the evening meal and a light breakfast/food to go the following morning. The MPC volunteers participate in many ways by baking, shopping, preparing dinners, serving our guests, and cleaning up. As well as a few other ways too! Not every night is cold enough to be a Code Blue (especially in March as we transition into spring), but we are ready to go when those Code Blue nights are called. This was MPC's fourth year hosting Code Blue.

A big appreciation goes out to Christy Stephenson who organized the food preparation event on Sunday, March 1, with such great efficiency. Aside from shopping for ingredients for four different entrees, Christy even prepped much of it at home so everything was ready to assemble Sunday afternoon.

Thanks also goes to Katie McHenry who taught volunteers how to make prayer shawls for the Code Blue guests. It was easy to learn and became so popular that a second gathering was held a few weeks later. The handmade prayer shawls were greatly appreciated by those who received one.

Code Blue has been called over 60 nights this season! There is an average of 40 evening guests, but in February it did get as high as 68 one evening at the location. The first Code Blue night at MPC this year had 37 guests attend - a few familiar faces, and many new to us, but everyone was so appreciative of the meal, yummy lasagna! The wonderful smell warmed Fellowship Hall and the dinner filled many appetites! Our appreciation goes out to the crew of volunteers that have made all of the Code Blue nights this year a success.

We will also host upcoming Community Meals on Friday, May 29; Tuesday, June 30; and Friday, July 31. This is similar to Code Blue but without the cots and overnight stays. We usually gather around 4:00 p.m. to begin dinner prep, serve at 6:00 and finish clean-up sometime after 7:00. Let us know if you're interested in volunteering in the kitchen by emailing MPCCodeBlue@gmail.com.



EVERGREEN GATHERINGS

ADVENT AT MPC



DEACON'S HOLIDAY BASKET MINISTRY

Submitted by Curt Rimler

Morrisville Presbyterian Church has always had a commitment to community support. No greater example of this is the Board of Deacons supplying holiday food baskets to those in need for over 40 years. Each year, on a Saturday before Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, an inter-generational group of deacons, friends of deacons, pastors, and young people come together to fill Holiday Food Baskets.

This past Christmas and Easter, we filled 84 baskets for families in need. We recently received a thank you letter from our friends at the Center for Child and Family Achievement, and we wanted to share this message with everyone involved.

We are deeply grateful for the Board of Deacons at Morrisville Presbyterian Church and your generous, sincere partnership with the Center for Child and Family Achievement (CCFA). Your ongoing commitment to providing the wonderful "Christmas Family Food Baskets" continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our families.

Our families were truly blessed by the gifts and expressed heartfelt gratitude for all the food items, with special appreciation for the delicious, large Butterball turkey. One parent joyfully shared that her 22lb turkey was so heavy she could hardly carry it, and she was full of appreciation for everything she received.

Thank you for Morrisville Presbyterian Church's expression of our Lord's love, care, and generosity in the mission to end hunger.

God Bless you, God Bless MPC!

*Wanda Webster Stansbury
Founder & Executive Director
Center for Child and Family Achievement*



Witnessing the looks on the faces of the recipients and hearing their heartfelt words of appreciation and gratitude, not to mention the enjoyable and efficient process of packing the baskets, brings an uplifting sense of fulfillment and gratification to all who participate.

Thank you for your continued support of this especially important ministry at MPC.



SCOUT TROOP 3 CLOTHING DRIVE

Scout Troop 3 is hosting a Clothing Drive through May 3. Along with clean clothing, you can donate books and clean houseware items for this fundraiser. The goal is to reach 4000 lbs. of soft items. You can drop off your donations on Monday evenings in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. If it's more convenient to drop off items on Sunday before or after service, we will have a trash can marked for the Scout Drop-Off at the bottom of the steps outside of room 4. Thank you for your participation during this fundraiser.

FOOD CENTER'S MONTHLY REQUESTS

The following food items are requested for each month listed. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Your continued generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

April - Cereal

May - Cookies

Summer - Any non-perishable, shelf-stable items are welcome (no glass containers please).

mpcusa.org/food-center



SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARENESS

One of the aims of the Outreach Committee is to develop awareness of social injustices and work to combat them through education and advocacy. Anyone who wishes to receive information regarding upcoming events and efforts to address social justice issues locally and globally, please contact Alice Garcia at 609-230-1786 or agarcia28@verizon.net or Carol Carpenter at 267-243-1951 or carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com to add your name to our contact list.

LITURGIST OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to serve as liturgist in worship some Sunday morning? The Worship Committee is always eager to welcome new readers. Your parts in the liturgy would be sent to you a few days in advance so you would have time to familiarize yourself with the words and practice your parts. Currently, the lay liturgist opens the service with the Call to Worship, reads the first scripture lesson and leads the Affirmation of Faith. If you choose to join this ministry, all instructions will be provided and you may seek out the pastors or Worship Committee members with any questions about your role. Please contact Carol Carpenter at 267-243-1951 or carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com for more information.

INTERFAITH OPPORTUNITY

Congregation Beth El of Bucks County is having a very special speaker on Sunday, April 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Professional basketball player and son of former NBA and college hoops star Ernie Grunfeld, Dan Grunfeld, will be giving a presentation on his book, *By the Grace of the Game*. The book is a "multi-generational family epic detailing history's only known journey from Auschwitz to the NBA." To register for the event and more details, please visit the Congregation Beth El website at bethelyardley.org and follow the link from the homepage.

Missed a service or want to listen again?

Search "Morrisville Presbyterian Church" online at these streaming services.



MPC AT HISTORIC FALLSINGTON DAY

MPC hosted a booth at Historic Fallsington Day. It was a chilly, and sometimes rainy October day but that didn't stop the volunteers who talked with those who stopped by our table to learn more about what our church has to offer.



YOUTH EVENT...



Youth, families, and their furry friends joined together for a fall walk at Tyler State Park.

...& RETREAT



A high school retreat was held at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center in November. Our youth had a great time giving thanks for "friends" old and new.

SHROVE TUESDAY

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held in Fellowship Hall as everyone prepared for the Lenten season. Plain and blueberry pancakes were served with a side order of sausage links to those who gathered to support Youth in Mission.



SCENES FROM ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY



SAVE THE DATES



CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY
May 14



Hospitality for
Morrisville Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 25

Youth in Mission
Car Wash &
Bake Sale
June 28



Youth in
Mission Trip
July 11-18

Be sure to check upcoming bulletins, emails, and social media for more details on these and other upcoming events at MPC. Visit mpcusa.org to sign up for emails and where to find us on Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT US

MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

771 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Morrisville, PA 19067 215.295.4191 | Office@MPCusa.org | www.mpcusa.org

J. Thomas Kort
Transitional Pastor
TomKort@MPCusa.org
Alexander Lester-Abdalla
Associate Pastor (ext. 225)
AlexLester-Abdalla@MPCusa.org

Carter Lester
Interim Pastor of Visitation
RevCarterLester@gmail.com

Timothy Carpenter
Director of Music
TimCarpenter@MPCusa.org

Yun Kang
Principal Organist
YunKang@MPCusa.org

Kevin Subers
Coordinator of Christian Education
KevinSubers@MPCusa.org

David Sterling
Property Manager (ext. 231)
DavidSterling@MPCusa.org

Amanda White
Financial Support Administrator
AmandaWhite@MPCusa.org

Damon Miller
Communication Coordinator
DamonMiller@MPCusa.org

Kimberly Turner
Administrative Assistant (ext. 0)
Office@MPCusa.org