MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship *for*
First Sunday *of* Advent
November 29, 2026
10:30 a.m

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE — *Adeste, Fideles* - David Schelat — Yun Kang

WORDS *of* WELCOME — Rev. Kyle Anderson

INTROIT —*Zion Hears the Watchman Singing* - WACHET AUF - Philipp Nicolai — Chancel Choir

Zion hears the watchman singing; her heart with joyful hope is sprining;
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, incarnate Word, Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.

CALL *to* WORSHIP — Karl Helland, Liturgist

One: We come to this season longing for hope, longing for peace, longing for God.
All: We come with open hearts, ready to listen and watch.
One: The prophet invites us to walk in the light of the Lord.
All: Christ calls us to stay awake and pay attention.
One: For God is at work, even now, making all things new.
All: Let us worship the God who draws near!

HYMN — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verses 1, 5, 6, & 7) — VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
the mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING *the* ADVENT WREATH — Bostain Family

MUSICAL REFRAIN — *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION

God of hope, we confess that we do not always pay attention. We become distracted by the noise around us, discouraged by the troubles of the world, and impatient for things to change. We lose sight of your promises and settle for what is rather than longing for what might be. Forgive us when we grow weary of hoping, when we choose indifference over compassion, and when we fail to recognize your presence among us. Awaken our hearts, renew our hope, and teach us to walk in your light.

SILENT PRAYERS *of* CONFESSION

Here each worshiper may offer silent prayers of confession.

PROMISE *of* FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: God has not abandoned this world or given up on us. In Christ, God's light shines into the darkness, and God's grace meets us with mercy and love.

All: We are forgiven, renewed, and made ready to walk in God's light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONSE *to* GOD'S PARDON — *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

RESPONSIVE READING — *Isaiah 2:2-5*

One: In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

All: Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

All: He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

One: They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

All: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

One: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM — *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* - Paul Bouman, Laurentius Laurentii, trans. and alt. by Sarah Findlater

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as he approaches, with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more:
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold,
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!
Alleluia, rejoice! Alleluia!

TIME *for* YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING — *Matthew 24:36-44*

One: This is the Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Thin Place of Longing* Rev. Kyle Anderson

HYMN — *Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION *of* FAITH - Based on *Isaiah 2:2-5* & *Matthew 24:36-44*

We believe in the God who calls us toward a future filled with hope, where nations learn the ways of peace and all people walk in the light of the Lord. We believe in Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who comes among us and calls us to stay awake, to watch, and to follow. And, we believe the Holy Spirit is at work even now, stirring our hearts with holy longing and making all things new.

PRAYERS *of the* PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (page 35 in the hymnal, *debts and debtors*)

OFFERING

Invitation to Give
Presentation of Gifts
Offertory Music — *I Am His, and He Is Mine* - arr.Cindy Berry
Doxology 606 — *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 — *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

CHARGE *and* BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Amen*

POSTLUDE — *The Rejoicing* - Gordon Young

Announcements

Today's Chancel Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given in memory of Charles T. Burgess (1912-2001) with love from Bill and Melonie Burgess. The second arrangement is given by Sally Sue Scheidemantel in loving memory of her parents, Floyd V. Scheidemantel and Dorothea E. Scheidemantel, a long-time devoted member.

Join us for Coffee and Connection this Advent

Are you looking for connection in this season of Advent? The Faith Formation committee would like to invite you to gather in the lounge for coffee, casual conversation, and exploring an intentional question connected to our Advent Theme. We will meet Sundays, December 6 and 13 at 9:30 a.m. and we hope you will join us!

Tuesday! Evergreen Christmas Luncheon

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 1, at noon for a Christmas Luncheon and tea to celebrate the season! Sign up in the Welcome Center.

Save the Date for Christmas Lights Fellowship

Save the date for our upcoming Shady Brook Farm Christmas lights wagon ride, dinner and fire pit fellowship on Wednesday, December 30, at 6:00 p.m. Sign up in the Welcome Center during December to reserve seats on the wagon. The cost is $5 per person or maximum $20 per family in advance.

Book Discussion Group Meets Tomorrow

The next selection is a very interesting and important topic tackled by the Adult Ed class a couple of years ago. Let's dig in further with Amanda Tyler's book, *How to End Christian Nationalism* (244 pages). Published in 2024, the book has been described in a review as "easily accessible" and "good for group or congregational study." It has reflection questions at the end of each chapter. The book is still in circulation but you'll likely need to order it. You are welcome to join whether you have read it or not! Discussion meeting will be Monday, November 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the conference room or Zoom (please RSVP). Contact Shellie Stoddard at 215-510-5717 or at stoddard.shellie@gmail.com with questions and to RSVP.

CPR/First Aid Class Opportunity This Saturday

The Board of Deacons is sponsoring a CPR/First Aid certification class on Saturday, December 5. Class will start at 9:30 a.m. and last for about three hours. Cost is $80 and payment by check or cash is due the day of the class. Pre-registration is required. There will be sign up opportunities in the Welcome Center, during Fellowship Hour on Sundays, or by contacting Joy Rees at reesfam5@yahoo.com or by text at 215-280-4999.

Volunteers Needed for the Christmas Food Basket Distribution

The Deacons Food Basket program has been distributing meals to families for many years. Each Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter a dedicated group of volunteers, church members, and youth come together to help make this task possible. We are looking for help to pack and distribute the Christmas Food Baskets on Saturday, December 19, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., at the church parking lot. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow church members and help pack holiday meals for 84 families. Contact Curt Rimler at curtisrimler@comcast.net for more details and to sign up.

SATURDAY! MPC THRIFT STORE WILL BE OPEN

Right now, we are accepting Christmas/holiday/winter décor, dishware, clothing – so as you go through your Christmas decorations and thinking of scaling back, please consider donating to the Thrift Store, BEFORE Christmas, not after!

The Thrift Store is open on Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the first Saturday morning of the month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Our next Saturday is December 5. Only cash or checks are accepted. We look forward to seeing you there! As you know, all the proceeds from the Thrift Store are distributed to other community non-profits, agencies, local schools for student supplies, and so much more by our Outreach Committee. We are so thrilled to help make that happen.

We will be closed during the holidays on Thursday, November 26, December 24, December 31, and Saturday, January 2, 2027. Thank you for your support.

YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATE

To the many volunteers who participated in the Thanksgiving Holiday Food Basket packing and distribution, "Thank you!" This program provides 84 families in the Bucks County community whose food supply is insecure with a holiday meal. Your participation of time and talents makes this program a rewarding experience for all. It was an inspiration to see so many congregation members and families gather together to make this day a success. Thank you from Jim Lytle and support crew.

THANK YOU BLUE JEAN SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS

The Building and Grounds committee thanks all of the Blue Jean Saturday volunteers who showed their support to the MPC building and gound projects that were completed on that day. Your efforts helped to achieve such projects as leaf and landscape clean-up, sanctuary beautification, kitchen clean-up, window-well maintenance, window cleaning, and general cleaning of walls and floors. Scout Troop 3 contributed to this effort as well. It was great to see so many of the congregation participating. Everyone's efforts are very much appreciated.

FOOD CENTER REQUESTS

From now till the end of the year, the Food Center is requesting the following items: Any variety of cereal, soup, or pasta sauce (no glass jars, please). Donated items may be placed in the shopping bin located in the Welcome Center.

USHERS NEEDED

We need you for a new opportunity. Come join our Volunteer Ushering Team! Ushering at church is a simple, fun and meaningful way to serve. It's about showing up on a Sunday with a welcoming spirit, and lending a hand wherever needed. Would you like to try it out at MPC? No pressure, no long-term commitment -- just volunteers willing to give a little of their time, working side-by-side with deacons, to help create a warm and inviting experience for everyone who walks through our doors. Please see Robin Evans after the service, or contact her at robinevans310@gmail.com for more information. You must be at least twelve years of age and a church member.

This Advent Season at MPC

There are moments when the space between heaven and earth seems…thinner—like a wrinkle in reality when the ordinary gives way to the extraordinary, when light finds its way through the cracks, and when we catch a glimpse of God's presence in unexpected places. This Advent, we invite you to journey with us through a season of holy longing, making room for wonder, hope, and the promise of new life. As we wait for Christmas, we'll discover again the beautiful mystery at the heart of our faith: that God is not far off, but meets us right where we are.





Deacons' Angel Tree
November 29 - December 26
We will provide toiletry bags for the many individuals we serve each week at the Food Center.

Christmas Memorial & Honorarium Gifts
November 29 - December 14
Give the gift of flowers, music, or groceries by providing a donation in memory or celebration of someone, or to give thanks.





Evergreen Luncheon - December 1 ~ Noon
Older adults are invited to spend a holiday season afternoon together in Fellowship Hall for a luncheon and time together.

Blue Christmas Service - December 9 ~ 7:00 p.m.



This service acknowledges that the holiday season can feel heavy when we are carrying grief—the loss of a loved one, struggles with depression or health challenges, or difficult life transitions. We also gather to acknowledge our shared grief and lament for a hurting world. Through scripture, prayer, and song, this service offers a space to be honest about our sorrow, to bring our burdens before God, and to find comfort and hope in God's presence.



All-Church Caroling - December 13 ~ 4:00 p.m.
All ages are welcome to join as we walk around the surrounding neighborhoods of the church singing carols and end with desserts and hot chocolate. All you need to bring is your holiday spirit to share with our neighbors.



Deacon Christmas Food Basket Distribution - December 19 ~ 8:00 a.m.
Help pack and distribute Christmas Food Baskets for families in need. A great opportunity to participate in the outreach of MPC and meet fellow church members.



Christmas Eve Worship Services - December 24

<u>4:00 p.m. - Children and Family Service</u>
The Children's Choir will help lead us in a family-friendly worship as we sing familiar carols and hymns, hear the Christmas story, and celebrate the birth of Christ together.

<u>7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Worship Service</u>
Join us for a traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service filled with beautiful music and the wonder of the Christmas story. The service will feature brass musicians, our Chancel Choir, and beloved Christmas hymns and carols.

MPC's CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM GIFTS

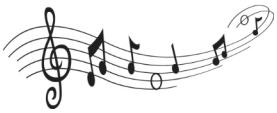
Consider honoring, celebrating, or remembering a family member, friend, or loved one this Christmas Season. Contributions to these funds can be made in the name of a loved one who has passed or to honor someone in your life now.



POINSETTIAS

Give the gift of Christmas cheer! Contributions toward poinsettias ensure that homebound members receive a poinsettia delivered to their home this Advent. Suggested donation of $10.00 per flower.

MPC MUSIC



Give the gift of music! Contributions to this fund help to supplement the music ministry program of the church. In the past, these funds have been used to invest in Orff instruments for enhancing the children's music program, handbell equipment, guest musicians, as well as ensure that "Word in Music" Sundays and other special musical offerings are possible.



DEACONS' HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Give the gift of food where it's most needed! Several times each year, especially during holiday seasons, our Deacons ensure that almost 100 food-insecure families are given the gift of groceries!

Please COMPLETE and PRINT CLEARLY the form below and return it with your generous gift.

GIVE A GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

_____**Poinsettias: The gift of Christmas cheer!** Please find $_____attached for this fund. Suggested donation of $10.00 per flower.

_____**Music Fund: The gift of music at MPC!** Please find $_____ attached for this fund.

_____**Deacons' Holiday Food Baskets: The gift of groceries!** Please find $_____ attached for this fund.

Given by _____

Email Address _____

Home/Cell Phone _____

Please PRINT information below EXACTLY as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.
If possible, please use one form for each category and/or use the back if necessary.

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

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please provide payment separate from your pledged giving.
Make checks payable to MPC with the type of memorial noted on the memo line.

This form must be returned to the Church Office by Monday, December 14, 2026 in order to ensure inclusion in the December 20 bulletin.



ANGEL TREE IS BACK!

Our annual Angel Tree has returned and is displayed in the Welcome Center. We will provide toiletry bags for the many individuals we serve each week at the Food Center from Lower Bucks County and Greater Trenton areas. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry is asked to please take a white angel from the tree and fill a one-gallon Ziplock bag (provided) with the following items:

- 2 toothpastes (regular size)
- 2 toothbrushes
- 2 bars of wrapped soap (neutral scent)
- 2 deodorants (neutral scent)
- 1 small or travel size hand cream
- 1 small package of lip balm (no more than two or three)

You will also find a few red and green angels on the tree for those who prefer to make a check or cash donation. Please note it is important to include the angel with your donation so that we know it came from the Angel Tree. Checks can be made out to The Food Center at MPC, and we ask that those donations be placed in the morning offering plate or mailed to the church office.

A "blessing" from MPC is printed on one side of each angel; the list of items is printed on the other side. Please include the angel in each Ziplock bag along with the items. We know how generous our congregation is! We ask, however, that you do not include extra items in the bag. Instead, perhaps fill another bag.

Filled bags can be dropped off Monday nights from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., or before/after the Sunday worship service in the box marked "Angel Tree" in the Welcome Center. All bags need to be delivered no later than December 26 for distribution to our Food Center clients beginning in the New Year! We are so grateful and thankful to all of you for your dedication to this ministry!

MPC *Weekly Calendar* - mpcusa.org/calendar

SUNDAY, November 29
First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary & Livestream**
11:00	Scout Troop 3 Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel

MONDAY, November 30

Noon	Fellowship Committee	Zoom
5:30 p.m.	Book Discussion Group	Conference Room/ Zoom
6:30	Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
6:30	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
6:45	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Food Center Food Packing	Room 4
7:00	Youth Club	Room 4

TUESDAY, December 1

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Produce Prep	Room 4
Noon	Evergreen Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot

WEDNESDAY, December 2

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag Bible Study	Conference Room/ Zoom
7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes Rehearsal	Room 121

THURSDAY, December 3

9:00 a.m.	Weekday Nursery School Coffee & Conversation	Playground
10:00	Thrift Store Open	Room 4
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Music Room

FRIDAY, December 4

9:00 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center Event	Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot

SATURDAY, December 5

9:00 a.m.	CPR Class	Room 220
9:00	Thrift Store Open	Room 4
Noon	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot

SUNDAY, December 6
Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m.	God's Thunder Rehearsal	Room 121
9:30	Sunday School for Children & Youth	
9:30	Coffee & Connection	Lounge
10:30	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary & Livestream**
11:00	Scout Christmas Tree Sale	Parking Lot
Noon	Deacon Meeting	Conference Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Chapel

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 to see when events take place and room availability.

CONTACT US
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