



currents

Spring 2025



Memorial Garden Dedication May 4, 2025

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Visit us at MPCusa.org



Pastor's Pen

Dear MPC members and friends,

Four little words have forever changed the course of life and faith. Those four little words are, "He has been raised!" Easter is the holy reason for why the church exists and why we are called Christians. As the Apostle Paul stated in I Corinthians, if He has not been raised, then we are the most to be pitied. But thanks be to God, "He has been raised." Easter makes all the difference in the world and in this church called Morrisville Presbyterian.



Some of you are familiar with the quote, "We are Easter people and alleluia is our song!" Most scholars today attribute those words, or some variation of them, to St. Augustine of Hippo. Some years ago, Pope Paul II popularized the quote in a moving sermon. When you think about it, it doesn't really matter who penned the words. The more pressing question is this - are those words written on our hearts, minds, and souls?

Morrisville Presbyterian exists because of those four little words, "He has been raised!" As a church we continue to navigate through transition, knowing God is with us, and praying for His guidance each step of the way.

I am excited to walk this sacred journey with you. Remember, we are Easter people and alleluia is our song! So, whether we can sing or not carry a tune in a bucket, we can all hum along and proclaim in word and deed, "He has been raised!"

God bless,

Tom

Lenten Soup Suppers

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Gather for a wonderful time as we share a simple meal and fellowship, accompanied by that evening's program.

Wednesday, April 2

Hymns for the Journey

Tim Carpenter will provide a short meditation on how hymns can carry us through Lent and on to Easter.

Wednesday, April 9

Journey to the Cross

Reflecting on Lent through art.

Please RVSP

If you plan to attend a Lenten Soup Supper, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or write Lenten Soup Supper and date(s) you are attending next to your name on the red Friendship Pad. You may also call the church office at 215-295-4191 or email Office@mpcusa.org.

Volunteers Needed:

If you'd like to bring soup or other food items, or help with set up/clean up, please fill out the sign-up sheet or email Carol Carpenter at carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com.



OUR FRIEND, LENT

Dear Priesthood of All Believers,

I have a lot of t-shirts. Anyone who has ever been on a youth mission trip, hike against hunger, or tangentially related to a church can testify to the fact that closet space can fill quickly. I have a hard time parting ways with my various short sleeve shirts. Whether loosely worn or hardened by time, my t-shirts tend to mean something. They reflect a place I've been or a memory I have. And yet, as a new season rolls around and more shirts make their way to my closet, a choice is presented before me: do I give some shirts away to the Clothing Center or take out a loan to add an addition to my house for more closet space.

This is where a friend comes in handy. A person who possesses that magical gift of being able to give things away. Maybe it is easier for them because they are not so intimately attached with the shirts I've worn or the memories associated with them. They see a simple question: would you like to keep that shirt or make room for a new one?

Lent can be that friend for us. As we think about our metaphorical closet stuffed with shirts, Lent allows us the space to reflect on what we would like to keep and what we are being invited to give away. As individuals we can question a habit that has outlived its purpose, a relationship that has gone stale, or a belief that has lost its meaning. As a church we can ask ourselves if it's time to sunset a ministry so that another may be strengthened. And while this work can be difficult and we'd rather just knock down a wall to put in more shelves, we risk missing what God might be doing. For what our friend Lent reminds us, is that when we let go of something a space is created and in that space God has the ability to grow—grow within us, within our church, and within the world.

Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I wonder what your treasure is. I wonder what treasure you are being willing to let go of, so God can guide your hand. I wonder where we are going as a community of faith seeking to be deeper in love of our God and our neighbor. And through this Lenten journey, I wonder what might resurrect for us on the other end of that Easter morning.

As we walk in hope and love together, I leave you with these words from Hymn 698 in our hymnal.

*Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me.*

Grace and Peace,

Alex



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Loving Memory

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

- David Yantz
on Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Warren McGary
on Monday, January 27, 2025
- John Buschman
on Wednesday, March 5, 2025
- Barbara Morris
on Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational meeting will be held on May 18, 2025 in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing new officers..

mpcusa.org

UPDATE FROM MISSION STUDY COMMITTEE

The Mission Study Report (MSR) committee is busy developing its report to be used by the pastoral nominating committee in finding a new senior pastor at MPC. This report, which must be approved by the Session and Presbytery, is a strategic plan for this congregation including a brief history and financial information as well as accomplishments and suggested improvements, to name a few. To obtain this information the committee will very soon be contacting as many congregants as possible. You may be contacted by e-mail, phone, or in-person to complete a survey consisting of a series of questions. Group discussions will also be completed. Your help is so very important!



So, thank you in advance for volunteering this information. More information, as we proceed through this process, will be shared in the bulletins and Minute for Ministries during worship service.

The MSR committee consists of: Ray Hendrickson (chr), Tom Evans, Alice Foulkes-Garcia, Nancy Kernan, Brett Keys, Julie Kroon, and Austin Massey. Should you have any questions, please ask.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

The spring new member classes, led by Dr. Kort and Rev. Lester-Abdalla, will be held on Sundays, April 6 and 13. The classes are designed for those interested in exploring church membership. New members will be received in worship on April 13, Palm Sunday. Please indicate your interest by noting it on the Friendship Form or by contacting Kim in the church office at office@mpcusa.org or 215-295-4191. Additional details about the classes will be provided for those wishing to explore church membership.



DEACONS' EASTER FOOD BASKETS

Submitted by Cindy Moskow

Recognizing the ongoing food insecurity in our surrounding communities, the Deacons will once again provide a Holiday Basket for these families.

How You Can Help: Pick up an Easter Egg in our Welcome Center starting March 16. Make a donation by returning the egg to the church with your donation inside by April 13 (Palm Sunday). Checks can be made out to MPC with the notation "Deacon's Easter Basket" in the memo line.

Your Generosity Matters: Your support helps us continue this vital food ministry. Thank you for making a difference!



FOOD CENTER'S UPCOMING FOOD REQUESTS

The requested food donation for the following months are:

- April - Canned tuna
- May - Canned fruit
- June - Mac & Cheese



A shopping cart is in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated!



mpcusa.org/food-center

CLOTHING CENTER - SPRING & SUMMER DONATIONS

Submitted by Kathleen Foster

The Clothing Center is only accepting clean and gently used spring and summer clothes, as well as spring and Easter decorations. Fall or winter clothing is no longer being accepted as there is no space to store off-season wear. We are also NOT accepting Christmas or winter decorations at this time. All donated items (housewares, linens, accessories, etc.) must be washed and clean.

We are also NOT able to accept computers, tablets, stereos, phones, baby strollers, carriers, car seats, or highchairs at any time.

Donations can be dropped off any time the church is open. Please place items on the shelves downstairs by the elevator. Do not leave items outside by the church doors!!!

Come and shop each Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until June 12, when we will close for the summer.

mpcusa.org/clothing-center

LADIES NIGHT BUNCO

Tracey Massey will host a Ladies Night Bunco on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share and join us for fun and fellowship! RSVP to Nancy McHenry at 215-514-9685.



NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN REBECCA CIRCLE

Looking for a way to share faith, fun and fellowship? Come give Rebecca Circle a try! We meet in the Lounge, September through May, on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Experience different programs each month ranging from spiritual, informative, hands on to just plain fun. Come as you are. No experience necessary. All women of MPC are welcome. For information call or text Jen Jones at 215-962-3655.

SHROVE TUESDAY

The smell of pancakes, sausage, and syrup filled the air in Fellowship Hall during the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Over \$2000 was raised through the generous giving by attendees and donations. The money goes toward the Youth in Mission trip this July to Pipestem, WV.



DEBORAH CIRCLE “VISITS” AFRICA

Attendees at the March Deborah Circle meeting were treated to the sights and stories from Gail and Drew Hunger’s trip to Africa.

Deborah Circle meets at noon on the second Monday of the month from September to May. Feel free to stop by any month for a program and fellowship.



ADULT EDUCATION'S END OF SEASON CLASSES

As summer approaches, Adult education continues to provide members a variety of sessions to enlighten their faith and ministry, as well as an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on classes for next year. Future classes include:

April 6 & 13

The Letter of Paul to Philemon is a short book in the New Testament of the Bible. It is a personal letter written by the Apostle Paul to Philemon, a Christian leader and a friend of Paul. The letter is unique in that it deals with a personal matter rather than addressing a church or community. Paul emphasizes the themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the transformative power of the Gospel. It's a powerful and heartfelt letter that showcases Paul's diplomatic and persuasive writing style. It is one of the few letters written by Paul which has not been highly contested by scholars.

April 20

No class - Easter Sunday

April 27

An open forum for people to stop by and learn more about Adult Education at MPC. Suggestions for future topics for 2025/26 season will be welcomed and discussed.

May 4

Patricia McBee will be with us to discuss the work of *POWER Bucks* within our community, working on issues such as educational funding and assistance to marginalized populations.

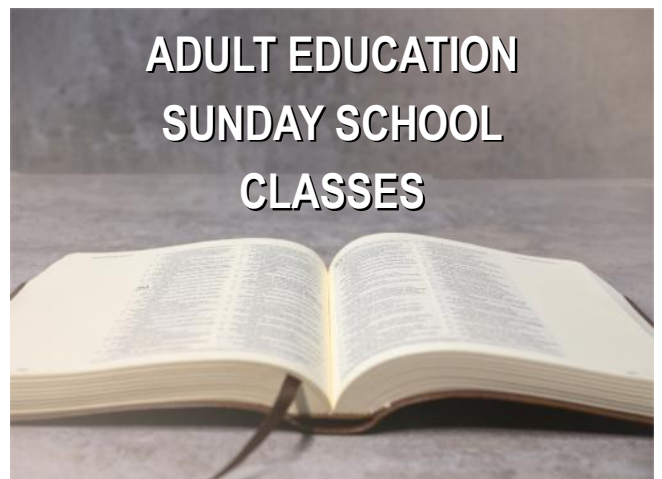
May 11

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort will lead the class on "How to Read the Bible".

May 18

Rev. Dr. Tom Kort will lead the class on "What is Faith".

Adult Education classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and are held in the Conference Room located on the second floor.



JOIN BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY'S JOURNEY

Brown Bag Bible Study is taking a journey through the Gospel of Luke through the end of the education year. The Bible Study meets Wednesday's from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room located on the second floor. Bring your lunch and join in for a lively discussion of the week's readings. Can't make it to church? No worries, join us on Zoom by calling the church office and adding your name to the email distribution list for the Zoom link sent out each week. You are welcome to join us for one or more classes that fits within your schedule to deepen your faith and join in discussions with friends from the congregation.

Brown Bag Bible Study Reading List for Gospel of Luke

4/2: 16:19-31; 17:1-10; 11-19; 20-37
4/9: 18:1-14; 15-30; 31-43; 19:1-10
4/16: 19:11-27; 28-40; 41-48; 20:1-8
4/23: 20:9-19; 20-26; 27-40; 20:41-21:4

4/30: 21:5-19; 20-33; 34-38; 22:1-23
5/7: 22:24-38; 39-53; 54-71; 23:1-12
5/14: 23:13-26; 27-43; 44-56; 24:1-12
5/21: 24:13-27; 28-3; 36-53.

MPC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP READINGS

Submitted by Shellie Stoddard

The MPC Book Discussion group has listed the following readings and discussion dates. All are welcome to participate in any of the upcoming discussions. Meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, located on the second floor. You are invited to bring a snack or meal. If you have any questions, please contact Shellie Stoddard at Stoddard.shellie@gmail.com.

April 21: *Solito* by Javier Zamora - A memoir as gripping as it is moving, *Solito* provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible 3,000-mile journey from a small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. (Goodreads)

May 19: *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne - Cyril Avery is not a *real* Avery or at least that's what his adoptive parents tell him. And he never will be. But if he isn't a real Avery, then who is he? Born out of wedlock to a teenage girl cast out from her rural Irish community and adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple via the intervention of a hunchbacked Redemptorist nun, he will spend a lifetime coming to know himself and where he came from – and over his three score years and ten, will struggle to discover an identity, a home, a country and much more. A story of Ireland from the 1940s to today through the eyes of one ordinary man, *The Heart's Invisible Furies* is a novel to make you laugh and cry while reminding us all of the redemptive power of the human spirit. (Goodreads)



June 28

6:00 p.m.

Save the date for a fun night of baseball and fellowship as MPC goes to the ball game!

Sign up in the Welcome Center starting in May

mpcusa.org

Fundraiser
Benefitting
Weekday Nursery School

Show this coupon for your sale to count!

📅 **8 April, 2025** 🕒 **12:00-9:00 PM**

**Yardley
ICE HOUSE**

77 S. Main Street yardleyicehouse.com
Yardley Ice House is cash only.

SAVE THE DATE! MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION

Submitted by Elizabeth Lester-Abdalla

Join us on Sunday, May 4, for the dedication of the completion of the Memorial Garden renovation as we gather to bless this space and fellowship together. As pictures can tell the story, our Memorial Garden project has made its way to completion.

Many thanks to the donors to this project whose generous contributions have made this project possible. Thank you to Cedar Creek Landscaping for putting all the pieces together. Thank you to Larry Low who was instrumental in keeping this project moving forward. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of this project and we hope to see you on May 4..



OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

Good food and warm fellowship was on the menu during the recent Older Adult Luncheon in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Congregational Ministry Committee.



MUSIC OFFERINGS - SEE THEM AGAIN

During the month of March, MPC worshippers were blessed with two special musical offerings. On March 2, South African choir, *Thula Sizwe*, sang during our worship service. On March 23, the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists, led by Music Director Tim Carpenter, performed *The Wounds*, an original piece composed by James Whitbourn which premiered at MPC in 2008.

Both services, as well as all past worship services, may be found on our YouTube channel and podcasts. Access both through the MPC website at mpcusa.org under "Past Worship Services".



CODE BLUE AT MPC

Despite the rollercoaster temperatures in March, MPC Code Blue volunteers were at the ready to feed and shelter homeless guests overnight when the temperatures dropped. The freezer meals that were cooked earlier in February were a big hit with our guests!

A big thank you to our Kitchen Leads and everyone who volunteered by shopping, working in the kitchen, preparing the freezer meals, baking desserts, and even sharing their talent!



THE ZOO COMES TO MPC

It was a “wild” time in Fellowship Hall when the Elmwood Zoo-On-Wheels came to MPC on February 23, which included a taco dinner. The animals were a big hit with everyone, with even the children getting into the spirit.



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2025 Easter Memorials & Honorariums

Consider honoring, celebrating, or remembering a family member, friend, or loved one this Eastertide. 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.



EASTER TULIPS

Give the gift of Easter joy! Contributions toward tulips ensure that homebound members receive a tulip delivered to their home this Easter. Suggested donation of \$10.00 per flower.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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' FOOD BASKET PROGRAM

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 with your generous gift.

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

_____ **Easter Tulips: The gift of Easter joy!**

Please find \$ _____ attached for this fund.
Suggested donation of \$10.00 per flower.

_____ **Music Ministry: The gift of music!**

Please find \$ _____ attached for this fund.

_____ **Deacons' Food Basket Program**

Please find \$ _____ attached for this fund.

TOTAL GIFT AMOUNT: \$ _____

Given by _____

Email Address _____

Home/Cell Phone _____

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

**Please PRINT CLEARLY the information below EXACTLY as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.
Use back if necessary.**

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

**In order to ensure inclusion in the Easter Sunday bulletin,
this form must be returned to the church office by Monday, April 14.**

Holy Week at MPC

April 13 - Palm Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship Service*

Sermon: "Does Anyone Remember Holy Week?"

April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Fellowship Hall

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

April 20 - Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship Service*

Sermon: "Does Anyone Remember Easter?"

*Livestream available at mpcusa.org

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, April 2 & 9 - Lenten Supper & Program

- 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday, Receiving of New Members

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

- Shared meal with worship service in Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Day

Sunday, May 4 - Memorial Garden Dedication

Sunday, May 11 - Children's Sunday

Sunday, May 18 - Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, June 1 - High School Graduate and Scholarship Recognition

Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost

Sunday, June 29 - Youth in Mission Commissioning

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 signup for emails and where to find us on Facebook and Instagram.

CONTACT US

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