



*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  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
after PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 ~ 10:30 A.M.

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *Praise the Lord, the Mighty King of Honor* - Johann Gottfried Walther

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Rev. Kyle Anderson

**INTROIT** — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* - MADRID

Chancel Choir

*Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;  
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Caroline Thompson, Liturgist

One: Come, for our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: We come to receive the mercy of God.**

One: Come, laying down our burdens, our resentments, and the accounts we keep against one another.

**All: We come to remember the grace we have received.**

One: Come, for in Christ we are made one people, forgiven and called to forgive.

**All: We come to worship the God whose mercy has no limit. Let us worship God, together.**

**HYMN** — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

*There's a wideness in God's mercy; like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.  
  
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla

Merciful God, we confess that we are quick to remember the wrongs done to us and slow to remember the mercy we have received. We keep score. We hold onto resentment. We nurse old wounds and sometimes allow them to shape who we are becoming. Forgive us, O God, for the ways we have failed to extend the grace that has been so freely given to us. Give us courage to name what has hurt us, wisdom to set the boundaries we need, and grace to release our desire for vengeance. Teach us to remember who we are: people who live by your mercy. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: God does not keep a ledger of our failures, but meets us with mercy in Jesus Christ.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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.*

**COMMISSIONING of the TEACHERS**

**L I T U R G Y   o f   t h e   W O R D**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

**RESPONSIVE READING** — *Psalm 114:1-8*

One: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,  
Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

All: **The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.**

One: Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? O mountains, that you skip  
like rams? O hills, like lambs?

All: **Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** — *With a Voice of Singing* - Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands  
O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious  
With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!*  
- paraphrase of Isaiah 48:20 and Psalm 66:1 by Martin Shaw

**TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**SCRIPTURE READING** — *Matthew 18:21-35*

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*The Mathematics of Grace*

Rev. Kyle Anderson

**HYMN** — *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.  
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.*

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** — adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.07

**We believe that God has made peace with humanity through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be a community of reconciliation, where hostility is overcome, divisions are healed, and the love of Christ binds us together. We believe that Christ calls us to forgive as we have been forgiven, to seek justice and peace, and to live as witnesses to God's reconciling love.**

## 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 — *The Church's One Foundation* - arr. Mark Hayes

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 — *Come! Live in the Light!*

WE ARE CALLED

*Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God.*

Refrain:

*We are called to act with justice;  
we are called to love tenderly;  
we are called to serve one another,  
to walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so hatred and violence will be no more.*

Refrain

*Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love.*

Refrain

### CHARGE *and* BLESSING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* - MADRID

*Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,  
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!*

POSTLUDE — *Praise Ye the Father* - arr. Dorothy Wells

## 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](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.org).*



The celebration  
of a new program year  
continues!

Join us today,  
after worship!

### REGARDING TODAY'S SERVICE

We welcome Kyle St. Sauveur as today's choral director while Tim and Carol Carpenter are on vacation.

### TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS

The chancel flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by Harry Morris in loving memory of his wife, Barbara. The second arrangement is given by Beth and Grace DiTulio, on this Grandparents Day, to honor J'Ann Ellis, and in loving memory of Mary and Walter Ellis Sr., Walter Ellis Jr., and Alda DiTulio.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for your many expressions of appreciation and for the very generous "love offering" gift I received. God bless you and "Happy Trails". - Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

### JOIN REBECCA CIRCLE - FIRST MEETING IS TOMORROW!

Rebecca Circle starts a new year this Monday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the lounge. Rebecca Circle meets the second Monday of each month, through May, for fellowship, devotions and a program. All women of MPC are welcome and encouraged to attend. Give it a try - come feed your spiritual self! For more information, contact Jen Jones 215 962-3655.

### DEBORAH CIRCLE MEETING TOMORROW

All women of MPC are welcome to join Deborah Circle in the lounge at noon. Deborah Circle meets the second Monday of the month.

### BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY STARTS WEDNESDAY!

The Brown Bag Bible Study will start on Wednesday, September 16, at noon in the conference room and via Zoom. Please contact the church office at 215-295-4291 or [office@mpcusa.org](mailto:office@mpcusa.org) for the Zoom link, if needed.

The class will start with studying Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 1. The accompanying guide will once again be N.T. Wright's book, *Philippians: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon For Everyone, 20th anniversary edition with Study Guide*, which was used during a previous bible study session. It is also available online if you need to purchase the book. Pastor Kyle will also be stopping by to discuss plans for the rest of the fall.

### COFFEE AND CONNECTION

Do you enjoy drinking coffee on a Sunday morning with casual conversation? Are you looking to connect with other folks in the church? The Faith Formation committee would like to invite you to a new offering for adults during the Sunday School Hour. Each Sunday, at 9:30 a.m., we will gather in the lounge for coffee and casual conversation. Due to this change, Adult Sunday School will not take place in the morning, but instead more information will be provided about classes that will be offered after future worship services. We hope you will join us for coffee and connection on Sunday mornings.

### **UPCOMING WOMEN'S RETREAT**

The Women's Retreat will be held November 6-8 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality in Ocean Grove, NJ. MPC women are blessed to have retreats subsidized by a fund established in memory of Dorothea Scheidmantel, by her daughter Sally. Not only does this fund greatly reduce the cost to attend the retreat, but it also offers two scholarships that can be used to offset expenses related to retreat participation, such as child care, registration fee, or transportation. Brochures with retreat details and registration forms are available in the Welcome Center. We are limited to twenty-five attendees. If you have any questions, or would like to submit your name to hold a place, please contact Nancy Kernan at [nankernan@gmail.com](mailto:nankernan@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:robinevans310@gmail.com) for more information. You must be at least twelve years of age and a church member.

### **MPC CLOTHING CENTER - NEW SEASON, NEW NAME, MORE HOURS**

As we prepare to open for a new season on September 24, 2026, the **MPC Clothing Center will now be known as the MPC Thrift Store**. Why change the name? Changing the name better depicts who we are, a store which sells all sorts of merchandise at reduced prices.

Another big change, we will be opening the Thrift Store the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon beginning Saturday, November 7. This will provide an opportunity for those who work, are in school, or just can't come during our normal schedule. We hope this will also attract new customers, increase revenue for the Outreach Committee to distribute to non-profits and other agencies/organizations within the community, and move merchandise and inventory.

We would love to have volunteers who would be willing to work at the Thrift Store on a Saturday morning. This would be a great opportunity for students who need community service hours. Ideally, we need three volunteers who would assist shoppers, take payments and bag purchases, and put away merchandise at closing. Saturday volunteers would not be responsible for pricing, changing displays, etc. If we have enough volunteers that could be rotated, it would be quite feasible for everyone to work only one to two Saturdays a year, especially since we are closed from mid-June to mid-September. Another volunteer or two to have on the Thursday roster would also be great, as it can be a challenge to fill the schedule from time to time. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact Kathy Foster at [kathleenf9@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenf9@gmail.com).

We will begin to accept clean, fall/winter clothing & shoes, seasonal home décor (fall/autumn, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) on September 8, 2026. **Please do not leave off-season clothing and items, we do not have the space to store them.**

Come and see us on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to noon! All profits are donated to other community non-profit agencies and organizations through the MPC Outreach Committee

### **PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS ARE BACK**

We have had wonderful turnouts for our handmade prayer shawl gatherings supporting our Code Blue guests. The next gathering will be on Sunday, September 27, immediately after service in room 220. All supplies will be provided. No experience needed as many will confirm it is very easy to learn. Bring a friend and join in the fun by gathering together to serve in this new way. Contact Katie McHenry at 419-348-7954 or Beth Becker at 215-262-1556 with any questions.

### YOUTH CLUB STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Youth Club will kick-off the year with a cookout on Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to join this and future gatherings as we look to connect with one another, ourselves, and God through activities, food, and fun. Please note the time change as we will be gathering from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday each month. If you are interested or have any questions, reach out to Pastor Alex at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org).

### PASTOR OF VISITATION UPDATE

Rev. Dr. Carter Lester is on a planned leave throughout the fall as he enjoys a trip and then undergoes knee replacement surgery and physical therapy. Carter welcomes your prayers for a successful surgery, and patience while he gets back to full speed. MPC is blessed to have Rev. Jack McAnlis stepping in to provide visitation during this time with his wisdom, steady and comforting presence, and experience. Details about coverage for the Brown Bag Bible Study will be provided separately in the near future. Thanks to Rev. Lester and Rev. McAnlis for their ministry to MPC. Rev. Jack McAnlis can be reached at [revjsm@comcast.net](mailto:revjsm@comcast.net).

A vibrant poster for an apple picking event. The background is a lush green orchard with rows of apple trees under a blue sky. In the foreground, a red wooden wagon filled with red apples sits on a grassy path. A wooden signpost stands next to the wagon, and a small wooden bucket of apples is on the ground. The text is styled in a mix of red, green, and white fonts, with decorative elements like leaves and hearts. A dark red banner at the bottom contains the RSVP information.

# Apple Picking

with

# MPC

STYERS ORCHARD

 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

 3-5 PM

 97 Styers Lane, Langhorne

 Stay for cider, donuts and fellowship in the pavilion

All are Welcome

RSVP – Sign up in the Welcome Center or call 215-295-4191

Meet at the WAGONS for a FREE RIDE to the ORCHARD

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### **SUNDAY, September 13 - Rally Day**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth  
9:30 Coffee & Connection Lounge  
**10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary & Livestream**  
11:30 Rally Day Picnic Memorial Garden  
Noon Adonai Tabernacle Chapel

### **MONDAY, September 14**

Noon Deborah Circle Lounge  
6:30 p.m. Mostly Motets Music Room  
6:30 Scout Troop 3 Fellowship Hall  
6:45 Cub Scout Pack 3 Rooms 122 & 220  
7:00 Food Center Food Packing Room 4  
7:00 Rebecca Circle Lounge

### **TUESDAY, September 15**

9:00 a.m. Food Center Produce Prep Room 4  
10:00 Welcoming the Stranger Room 208

### **WEDNESDAY, September 16**

9:00 a.m. Food Center Distribution Parking Lot  
Noon Brown Bag Conference Room  
Bible Study & Zoom

### **WEDNESDAY, September 16 (continued)**

7:00 p.m. Ivins Outreach Center Conference Room  
Board Meeting

### **THURSDAY, September 17**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music Room

### **FRIDAY, September 18**

6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 3 Activity Fellowship Hall

### **SATURDAY, September 19**

Scout Troop 3 Activity Continues Fellowship Hall  
9:00 a.m. Newtown Quilters Conference Room  
Guild

### **SUNDAY, September 20**

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children & Youth  
9:30 Coffee & Connection Lounge  
**10:30 Worship Service Sanctuary & Livestream**  
11:30 Rally Day Picnic Memorial Garden  
Noon Adonai Tabernacle Chapel  
1:30 p.m. Adonai Tabernacle Fellowship Hall  
Banquet  
3:00 Apple Picking Festival Styer Orchard

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](http://mpcusa.org/calendar) to see when events take place and room availability.

### **CONTACT US**

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