



currents

Spring 2026



INSIDE

Fact-Finding Updates

New Members

Ways of Stewardship

Outreach from MPC

Deacon's Backpack Drive

Photos from

Children's Sunday

Memorial Day Hospitality

All-Church Picnic

AND MUCH MORE!

Visit us at MPCusa.org



A NOTE FROM DR. KORT

Dear MPC family and friends,

Each year, members are elected by the congregation to serve the church in a special way as elders and deacons. We want to recognize and express our gratitude to those individuals whose terms have now ended: Elders - David Hough, Nancy McHenry, Rich Ryan, and Tom Smith; Deacons - Andy Beidler, Tom Drake, Jim Gaston, Maddie McCleskey, Russell McCleskey, Greg Neiman, Curt Rimler, and Nancy Stoner. Thank you for your spiritual leadership.

We now welcome a new class of elders and deacons: Elders - Ty Bostain, Seth McHenry, Tom Evans, Carol Carpenter, Luisa Herrera, and Bill Miller (2 year term); Deacons - Joy Rees, Beth Keys, Tracy Massey, Wendy Yazujian, Libby Bostain, Jeff Moruzzi, Sandy Yantz, and Greg Neiman. We give thanks for their dedication and answering the call to lead the church into the future.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Tom

FACT-FINDING GROUPS & MEETING UPDATE

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Tom Kort

Over the last year, three fact-finding groups took an intentional approach in reviewing significant aspects of ministry at MPC. Copies of these findings are available through the church office upon request.

Financial Fact Finding – This group reviewed and provided an overall picture of the financial resources available for the future ministry of MPC. Over the years, this church has been blessed financially. We want to be good stewards of the gifts given for the ministry of Jesus Christ, both today and for tomorrow. The Session will continue to discern the best course of action to ensure the healthy financial stability of those resources and investment in ministry.

Committee Structure – This group reviewed the current committee structure at MPC. The report provided information/observations that will help ensure sustainability, consistency, and clarity of purpose for those serving on our boards and numerous committees. In other words, how can committees function more efficiently and meaningfully for their members in the future? Session will implement any changes in response to this review.

Trustee Transition – One of the important aspects of the committee structure report identified the value of incorporating the responsibilities of the Trustees to the Session. This is the common model you will find in most PCUSA congregations. Currently our Trustees focus on finances and property, and execute any legal documents required by state law. Current elders and trustees identified the feasibility and process for transitioning trustees to Session. The existing Session Finance Committee will take on much of the existing financial work of Trustees, and Session will then form a Building & Grounds Committee as part of Session. Other duties currently done by Trustees will be assigned elsewhere.

On Sunday, May 24, the congregation unanimously approved the recommendation to transition the responsibilities of the Trustees to the Session beginning July 1, 2026, thus eliminating the Board of Trustees., which will include amending the current by-laws of the corporation. Also during the meeting, corporate officers were named as is required annually by the state, and the congregation unanimously elected a new class of elders and deacons.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

In Loving Memory

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

- Llywellon (Lew) Mohr
on Monday , April 20, 2026
- Marion Rea
on Wednesday, May 27, 2026

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, May 31, MPC welcomed new members to our congregation: Farrah Kipp and Shea Patterson - reaffirmed; Tyler Patterson - new member; and Scott McHenry (not pictured) - Letter of Transfer.



mpcusa.org

CONGRATULATIONS VINCENT KUTCH!

Submitted by Lisa Kutch

Vincent Kutch finished his Eagle Scout project on May 2, 2026 at the Hero's Walk located at Middletown's Veterans Memorial Park in Levittown. Many thanks to everyone who contributed for the project. This project was a true team effort with over 35-plus volunteers throughout the project work day that included scouts, alumni scouts, friends, family, community members and township employees. His four-part project included a reflection path with wood chips and log borders, making and installing approximately 10 birdhouses, refurbishing of the hero's walk sign, and new wood slats with engraving for the park benches. This was done in honor of all veterans, especially of particular note his Grandfather Kutch, who was in the Air Force.





PASTOR ALEX'S SABBATICAL

Dear Priesthood of All Believers,

“Our days begin in the evening as we light the Christ candle in darkness...” This is a quote from the introduction of the “Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals,” a daily prayer book with fresh liturgy and perspective. There is some wisdom in thinking of our days beginning at night. It originates from the Jewish tradition of prayer and understanding of time. Pastor and writer Eugene Peterson explains further, “We go to sleep, and God begins his work. As we sleep he develops his covenant. We wake and are called out to participate in God’s creative action....But always grace is previous...We wake into a world we didn’t make, into a salvation we didn’t earn.”

As you read this letter I am away on my sabbatical. But I believe the wisdom of nightly prayer reflects this healthy practice of a pastor taking time away from their congregation. Like an individual who recounts the day’s activities and leaves the rest to God, so too have we entered into a time with hands open to God’s action while we are apart. The idea of a pastor taking 13 weeks away after 6 years of service is to benefit both pastor and congregation. Similar to the person praying at night, we are grateful for the previous day’s work, but our greatest reliance is on the grace and guidance of God. Much planning and collaboration went into my leaving for sabbatical and I am immensely grateful for this opportunity. Below you can see a list of contact folks who have been working to make sure the ministries of the church that I serve will continue while I am away. But my hope is that you will find new and surprising ways that God will guide you in my absence.

Below you can read a little more of my schedule and plans. I have felt an invitation to explore further the intersection of spiritual formation and church ministry. How we faithfully navigate the nuts and bolts of keeping a church going while staying true to its inner calling—of creating disciples of divine love. So I hope you will pray for me. As I will be praying for you! I will be praying that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide you in your individual and communal calling. I look forward to meeting the people you have grown to be while I am away, the ways God is shaping my ministry, and what God is doing in our midst together.

Timeline

Sabbatical began - Monday, April 13

Return - Monday July 6 (12 weeks away)

Prepare for and participate in the Youth in Mission Trip - July 6 through July 19

Be away for family vacation - July 20 through 26

While the presbytery recommends 13 weeks for a sabbatical, session has agreed for me to take only 12 weeks away so I can go on my extended family vacation in July after the mission trip.

Contacts for Areas of Ministry

Youth - Heidi Dous

Education - Kevin Subers and Emily Bausher

Outreach - Karl Helland

Deacons - Russel McCleskey

All other questions can be directed to Tom Kort and Kim Turner in the office who will guide you to the appropriate committee responsible.

(Continued on next page)

PASTOR ALEX'S SABBATICAL (CONTINUED)

Sabbatical Map

Independent Study

Participate in and study spiritual formation offerings through institutions like the Center for Action and Contemplation, Contemplative Outreach, Shalem Institute, and other local retreat centers.

Reading books such as "Without Oars: Casting Off into a Life of Pilgrimage," "Every Earthly Blessing: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition," "Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation," "Letters to a Young Poet," etc.

Travel

Late April attended the PCUSA CREDO Mid-Career Conference in Arkansas

Late May attend a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland with Shalem institute (and link up with Elizabeth to a family trip to Wales!)

Sabbath Rest

Seek intentional rest and recovery from leading amidst seasons of pre and post pandemic, as well as pastoral transitions.

Grace and Peace,

Alex



THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER: LIVING OUT OUR GRATITUDE

Submitted by David Hough

Stewardship is, at its heart, our spiritual response to God's grace. While our financial tithes and offerings provide the foundation for our budget supporting the MPC buildings, staff, and mission projects, your time and unique talents are the living energy that animates our community. Whether you are serving on a committee, participating in the clothing or food centers, singing in the choir, mentoring our youth, serving as an usher, or helping maintain our beautiful building and grounds, every hour given is a profound act of worship which contributes to our shared ministry. We are one body with many parts, and the church truly flourishes when each of us contributes the specific gifts entrusted to us. We invite everyone to reflect on how they can participate in the life of the church. Every contribution matters and together our gifts help build a stronger and more caring congregation.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. — 1 Peter 4:10

SIGN BEAUTIFICATION

On Friday, May 22, the sign welcoming everyone to MPC got a makeover with the help of volunteers. Roger Anderson, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee wants to thank "the young men who helped make my vision for our entrance sign happen. Couldn't have done it without the help of Bill Burgess, Larry Low, Ray Hendrickson, and Rich Drabb. Great job!"

Other work done in the area of the sign includes removal of some bushes and digging new holes for the crosses used during Lent and Easter.



CASHIERS NEEDED

MPC supports the commissary at the Morrisville Presbyterian Apartments through donations of money and service. Currently three MPC members volunteer a few hours per month as cashiers on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. If you are available to help out or simply want more information, please contact Carol Carpenter at carol.w.carpenter@gmail.com or 267-243-1951.

DISPOSABLE FLATWARE PACKETS NEEDED

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) routinely needs to purchase more than 10,000 packets of plastic flatware to distribute with their food. If you have a supply of unopened packets at home from takeout food purchases, we will gladly take them off your hands. A basket for your donations will be on the cabinet in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.



FOOD CENTER'S SUMMER REQUESTS

Over the next few summer months, the requested food donation is whatever you may wish to donate. Suggested items usually collected throughout the year include: pasta, pasta sauce (no glass containers, please), condensed or shelf-stable milk, peanut butter, cereal, canned foods, mac and cheese, and cookies. A marked shopping bin has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity!



mpcusa.org/food-center

PRAYER SHAWL GATHERINGS

Since February, a small group of volunteers has gathered to make handmade prayer shawls for our Code Blue guests that MPC hosts in March. All skill levels are welcomed as many confirmed it was easy to learn and fun to gather together to serve in this new way. Many thanks to Katie McHenry who offers to teach everyone. Check upcoming bulletins and emails for future gatherings. All supplies are provided and Katie promises help to get you started.



DEACONS' BACKPACK DRIVE

Submitted by Curt Rimler & Paula Marseglia

Now is the time to help gather school supplies for our Deacons' Backpack Drive! These donations will directly support elementary students in our community who face financial hardship and need extra help preparing for the school year. A collection bin will be available in the Welcome Center for donated items starting in July. Cash donations may be placed in the offering plate or sent to MPC by mail or online.

If you'd like to purchase a new backpack to fill, here's a list of requested items:

- No 2 pencils
- Black or blue pens
- 1 permanent marker
- Pencil sharpeners
- Small pack of crayons
- Small pack of colored pencils
- Pack of graph paper
- Ruler
- 2 three-subject spiral notebooks
- 5 plastic subject folders
- Pack of wide-ruled notebook paper
- Scotch tape



All backpacks will be blessed during our service on August 16 and distributed before the start of the new school year. Please contact Paula Marseglia at 267-303-6133 or email Paula307@comcast.net. Thank you for your generosity and for helping our local students begin the year equipped and ready to learn!

EFFORTS TO HELP THOSE WITH FOOD INSECURITY

On Saturday, March 28, the Board of Deacons (BOD) assembled Easter Holiday Baskets to provide food assistance to eighty-four families experiencing food insecurity in our area. We sincerely thank our congregation and friends of MPC for your support and contributions. This Easter, your generosity has enabled the BOD to uphold this vital ministry within our community.

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Letter Carriers' Association, was held on Saturday, May 10, at the Morrisville Methodist Church. MPC and the Food Center have been involved for many years, and the Food Center benefits greatly from the large amount of food collected in the 19067 zip code. It was a fun day and a great community effort.



MPC OUTREACH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The Center for Child and Family Achievement deeply appreciates the Morrisville Presbyterian Church's Outreach Committee and your continued financial support and impactful partnership touching the lives of Trenton children and families living in poverty. Your recent generous donation of \$ 2,000.00 will help CCFA's summer camp programs, sponsor 80 students to participate in Princeton Blairstown Summer Bridge Program, Watershed Nature Institute, Day at Mercer County Stables, and CCFA's "Read to Achieve" summer literacy bags. Thank you for making a difference with us; expressing God's love and compassion, while bringing hope and healing to Trenton families! God bless you and continue to pray for CCFA!

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



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE HOSPITALITY

The rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of Morrisville Memorial Day Parade participants or those from MPC offering some hospitality with a smile and warm greetings. Volunteers from MPC provided snacks and water to those in the parade. A dry place to stand and open restrooms were also welcomed by everyone. Thank you to everyone who provided snacks and drinks and to those who took time out of their holiday to show MPC is a welcoming place in the Morrisville community.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On May 10, the children of MPC led Sunday worship through songs and scripture readings. The book, *What Is God Like?*, was read by Caroline Thompson throughout the service, helping everyone remember that "what makes you feel loved", that's what God is like. Many thanks to Tim and Carol Carpenter for their work on coordinating this special Sunday.



SCENES FROM ALL-CHURCH PICNIC



SAVE THE DATES

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