



*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  
FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER  
APRIL 21, 2024

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE** — *The Gift of Love* - arr. John Leavitt

Yun Kang

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Pastor Alex Lester-Abdalla

**MINUTE for MISSION**

*Weekday Nursery School Fundraiser*

Joanie Layden

**INTROIT** — *This Joyful Eastertide* from *Psalmen Davids (1685)* - arr. Parker Shaw

Chancel Choir

*This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morn.  
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst His three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain: But now is Christ arisen!*

**CALL to WORSHIP**

Adrienne Poissant

One: When the disciples were sure that Jesus was dead,

**All: He stood among them and said "Peace be with you."**

One: When the disciples thought they'd never eat with him again,

**All: Jesus picked up fish and ate before them.**

One: Let us watch for the risen Christ this day,

**All: Bursting with new life and new hope.**

One: Let us be Easter people,

**All: Let us worship God together!**

**HYMN** — *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

HYMN TO JOY

*Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!  
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.  
In the desert all-surrounding see, a spreading tree has grown.  
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.  
Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.  
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.  
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.  
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.  
Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.  
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.  
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!*

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Pastor Rachel Rhodes

**What love you have given us, O God, that we should be called your children. What love you have given us, O Christ, that we should share a table with you. Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children: when we do not recognize your image in the faces of strangers, enemies or friends. When we do not share our own tables, forgetting that we need each other. Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace, and teach us to follow in your way.**

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

## PROMISE of FORGIVENESS

One: God searches for the lost, and finds us; God invites the hungry to the table, and feeds us; God sends Jesus, and frees us from death's prison; God forgives all who sin, and heals us with mercy and grace. Together let us proclaim the good news of the gospel:

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

## LITURGY of the WORD

### PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — *Psalm 4*

One: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

**All: You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.**

One: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

**All: But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for God's self; the Lord hears when I call to God.**

One: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

**All: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.**

One: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

**All: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM — *God Is My Strong Salvation* - Austin Lovelace

*God is my strong salvation: what foe have I to fear?  
In darkness and temptation, my light, my help is near:  
Though hosts encamp around me, firm in the fight I stand.  
What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?  
  
Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage, wait.  
His truth will be my sustenance, when faint and desolate.  
His might my heart shall strengthen, His love my joy increase.  
Mercy my days shall lengthen; the Lord will give me peace.  
  
God is my strong salvation...*

### TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — *Luke 24:36-48*

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*I Am Not a Ghost*

Pastor Lester-Abdalla

## HYMN — *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

BEACH SPRING

*Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.  
Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forevermore.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

*Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.  
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

*Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.  
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

*By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share  
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.  
By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,  
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

## AFFIRMATION of FAITH — *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## 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 — *How Great Thou Art* - arr. Lloyd Larson

*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** — *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone!  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:  
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood."  
Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him, when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?  
Alleluia! Bread of angels, here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.  
Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth your footstool, heaven your throne.  
As within the veil you entered, robed in flesh, our great high priest;  
here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast.*

**CHARGE and BLESSING**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** — *Amen*

**POSTLUDE** — *Rigaudon* - Jean-Baptiste Lully

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***\*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.net](mailto:Bulletin@MPCusa.net).***

### **TODAY'S CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel Flowers are offered to the glory of God and are given by John and Donna Domiani "in loving memory of our Mother, Inez Mitchell, who valiantly fought cancer for 17 years and journeyed home on April 20, 1976. We also honor all cancer survivors within our church community." The second arrangement is given in celebration of Geoff and Sharon Smith's first grandchild, Aria Diane Patterson. The windowsill flowers are given in loving memory of a special mother.

### **TODAY IS BLUE JEAN SUNDAY**

Blue Jean Sunday will be held today from noon to 3:00 p.m. Help be a part of the annual cleanup of the church and yards. A quick lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall prior to the start of clean-up.

### **APRIL'S FOOD CENTER REQUEST**

Our Food Center is asking for canned fruit as this month's food donation. A shopping cart has been put in the Welcome Center to receive your donations. Thank you for your continued generous help!

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Congregational Meeting will be held on May 5, 2024 in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing officers. Please plan to attend.

### **MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN RELIEF**

As fighting continues to escalate in Israel and Gaza, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance to those civilians devastated by destruction of homes and lack of food and water. PDA's response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals. PDA is so grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. MPC has assisted the PDA for years and now is a most important time to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ being affected by this ongoing violence. The MPC Outreach Committee has already made the commitment to assist the PDA with this disaster, so might you also help? You may use a check made out to MPC and place "Disaster Relief – Middle East" on the comment line. There will also be baskets in the sanctuary labeled "Disaster Relief" throughout the month of April. MPC has always been a most giving church.

### **CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS - "SAVE THE DATE" FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18**

The church is planning a local workday for high school grads and young 20-somethings. Details to follow in the coming weeks, but we hope you will put this date on the calendar to join in meaningful work and friendship. Stay tuned!

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Childcare at church is an amazing gift to young families, providing a safe, fun space for small children, and enabling parents to participate in worship in our sanctuary. We are reliant on volunteers to staff the nursery and we need your help. To volunteer, please add your name to the sign-up sheet outside the Nursery, or contact Cynde Jacobus at [cynde127@gmail.com](mailto:cynde127@gmail.com) or Patrick Gilbride at [pgilbrid@estee.com](mailto:pgilbrid@estee.com). Thank you for considering this wonderful way to support young families and the mission of MPC.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL AND MAY SERIES**

For the rest of the Sunday School year, we will continue our theme of learning from the long history of church tradition through our PCUSA Confessions. Each week the pastors of the church will teach a class on a favorite confession. Come hear Alex reflect on reconciliation in the *Confession of 1967*; Adrienne brings out the importance of the *Nicene Creed*; and Rachel take us to South Africa with the *Confession of Belhar*. We will not meet on May 12, due to Mother's Day, but we will culminate this year's gatherings on May 19 for a fun exercise about our own expressions of faith. Please join us every Sunday (except May 12) from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room!

### **STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Letter Carriers' Association, will be held on Saturday, May 11 at the Morrisville Methodist Church, located at 501 W. Maple Avenue in Morrisville. 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. Help is needed from 11:00 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. It's a fun day and a great community effort. Please join us and bring a friend! Sign up online at [MPCusa.org/food-center](http://MPCusa.org/food-center). Email questions to [MPCfoodcenter@gmail.com](mailto:MPCfoodcenter@gmail.com).

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Habitat for Humanity has designated Saturday, May 11 as a MPC Work Day! Six volunteers are needed to work that day. Please contact Ray Hendrickson at 215 495-3114 or [hrh1453@gmail.com](mailto:hrh1453@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information. You may also visit the Habitat for Humanity website at [www.habitatbucks.org](http://www.habitatbucks.org) for information or <http://construction.habitatbucks.volunteerhub.com> to volunteer on this date! MPC has a history of supporting Habitat for Humanity, both financially and "hands on", so let's continue that tradition! "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" - Psalm 133:1

### **MPC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Attention all high school senior and college students! MPC scholarship applications are now available online at the MPC website [clicking on "Youth Ministry"](#) in the "Congregational Life" dropdown menu. If you can't find the application or would like it emailed, or if you have any questions, please reach out to Dawn Flook at [FlookFamily5@gmail.com](mailto:FlookFamily5@gmail.com) or Pastor Alex at [alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org](mailto:alexlester-abdalla@mpcusa.org). Scholarship applications are due back to the MPC office by Wednesday, May 1.

### **"THANK YOU" FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 3**

Many thanks to all who partook in the Boy Scout Troop 3's clothing drive. A special thanks to the MPC Clothing Center for their many donations. This was a huge success bringing in 2,500 pounds of clothing totaling over \$500.00 to our troop. Thank you for your support, Bill Burgess, COR

### MPC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The book group will meet on May 20 to discuss the second and third sections (pages 155-547) of *A History of Christianity: the First Three Thousand Years* by Diarmaid MacCulloch. The discussion will be led by Jill Monroe Dillon and Alan Dillon and you are welcome to come even if you read only a portion of the first three sections. Our discussion during the last meeting was lively and thought-provoking and will lead to future discussions in Adult Sunday School.

Books are available at the bookstore, library or on-line and read at your leisure. Please contact Chris Bannister at [bannistercr@gmail.com](mailto:bannistercr@gmail.com) with your interest and questions.

### BOOK DISTRIBUTION UPDATES AND NEEDS

We appreciate the generous donations of books, toys and supplies we have received and are well stocked. We can always use more dollar store coloring books (for children and adults) and colored pencils for the Food Center Distributions. Smaller tins are an easy and accessible way for children to store their crayons. If you have leftover gift tins from various holidays, we will put them to good use.

All the puzzles, packs of cards, and games that you donate are immediately distributed. We need more dictionaries and bibles again. We have two dozen children's French books that need a home. Thanks for your help.

## LAST WEEK TO SIGN UP!



**Want to get to know folks  
at MPC a little better?  
Want to share a meal with  
friends old and new?  
Join **Dinner Groups of Eight**  
Sign-up in the  
Welcome Center to  
host or be a guest!  
Call Nancy McHenry for  
more information @ 215-514-9685  
**\*Dinners will be scheduled by  
hosts in the next few months****

# WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL

FUNDRAISER AT  
THE YARDLEY ICE HOUSE  
APRIL 23RD, 2024



Present a paper or digital copy of this coupon for 20% of the sales to count for your fundraiser.

Yardley Ice House is cash only.

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Thank you for partnering with us!

## Weekday Nursery School Fundraiser

On Tuesday, April 23, Yardley Ice House, located at 77 South Main Street in Yardley Borough, is supporting Weekday Nursery School.

Please present this paper or a digital copy of the coupon above for 20% of your purchase to be donated to Weekday Nursery School.

Purchases can be made at any time during operating hours between 12:00 - 10:00 PM.

Please note that the Yardley Ice House is cash only.

**A copy of this flyer (either paper or digital) must be presented at time of purchase.**

Thank you!

## MPC Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY, April 21

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:30	Blue Jean Sunday	Fellowship Hall
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

### MONDAY, April 22

9:30 a.m.	Ivins Outreach Center	Lounge
5:30 p.m.	Food Packing	Food Center
6:30	Mostly Motets	Music Room
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Boy Scout Troop 3	Lounge
	Parent & Board Meeting	
7:30	Session Meeting	Conference Room

### TUESDAY, April 23

9:00 a.m.	Produce Prep	Food Center
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### WEDNESDAY, April 24

9:00 a.m.	Food Center Distribution	Parking Lot
Noon	Brown Bag & Bible Study	Conference Room
12:30 p.m.	Clothing Center Drop-off	Room 4
1:00	Prayer Meeting	Conference Room
6:00	Youth Club	Fellowship Hall
6:00	Cub Scout Pack 3	Room 220
7:00	Girl Scout Troop 2888	Room 220
7:15	Chancel Chimes	Chapel

### THURSDAY, April 25

10:00 a.m.	Clothing Center	Room 4
6:00 p.m.	Oakville Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
7:00	Chancel Choir	Music Room

### FRIDAY, April 26

6:30 p.m.	AA Meeting	Lounge
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### SATURDAY, April 27


7:00 a.m.	Boy Scouts Troop 3	Fellowship Hall
	Homeschool Book Sale	

### SUNDAY, April 28

8:30 a.m.	God's Thunder	Chapel
9:30	Sunday School for all ages	
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Livestream</b>
11:30	Fellowship Hour	Lounge
11:45	Teen Choir	Music Room
Noon	Adonai Tabernacle	Room 220

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 takes place and room availability.

**iPhone**




## **Introducing mobile giving**

Scan the appropriate QR code with your phone and find MPC by searching code 'FEDN99' or 'Morrisville Presbyterian Church'

Once set up, you can schedule recurring gifts or make one-time offerings with one click.

**Android**



Need Help? email [Office@mpcusa.org](mailto:Office@mpcusa.org) and ask that your questions be forwarded to the stewardship committee.

### CONTACT US

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