

Ways to give at Mallard Creek



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We give because
GOD GAVE FIRST

"For God so loved the world he gave his only Son."
- John 3:16

Text
MCPC
to 73256



Join Pastor Rob for his Sunday Bible Study. It is held at 6:30 pm at zoom

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- Dec. 17** Choir Cantata at **10:30 AM**
- Dec. 24** Morning Christmas Eve Service at **10:30 AM**
Family Christmas Eve Service at **5:00 PM**
Candlelight Communion Service at **7:00 PM**
- Dec. 31** New Year's Eve Watch Service at **10:30 AM**

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 8:30 AM SERVICE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER!

There will be an Advent Devotional available on the church Facebook page during December (hard copies will be available in the Gathering Space)



MCPC hosts Room in the Inn every other Thursday night December through March

Event Schedule Winter 2023 - 2024

- December:
 - 12/07 and 12/21
- January:
 - 01/04 and 01/18
- February:
 - 02/01, 02/15 and 02/29
- March:
 - 03/14 and 03/28

Please contact us for more information:
Mary Baker
c: 980.254.3394
tbbmeb@att.net
Tom Baker
c: 704.338.2994
tom.b.baker@att.net

Sunday School Classes & Locations

- Age 0-2 – Nursery
- Age 3-5 – Preschool Classroom
- 1st-4th grade – Youth Club room
- 7th-12th grade – Teen room
- Young and Middle Adults – Garrison Martin classroom
- Older Adults – Morrison classroom
- Confirmation Class– Upstairs in the Education Building

Thanks for the tremendous response to this year's **Angel Tree** project. Because of your generosity Mallard Creek provided Christmas gifts to 120 children and their families from University and Parkside Elementary Schools. These families will wake up Christmas morning and enjoy a holiday that they would otherwise not have had.



Backpack Blessings is feeding 81 children weekly from Parkside Elementary and between 80 and 100 children from University Meadows when food is needed. Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous food and monetary donations. **THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH** If you'd like to support this program through a donation, please make checks payable to MCPC, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line. Once again, your support is greatly appreciated.

The 92nd MCPC BBQ was a tremendous success, besides once again thanking you all, we wanted to update you on the Final numbers. In addition to the Fellowship, and service to our Community – we raised \$83,050.27. According to our adopted guidelines, the net revenue will be split 15% for Missions and 85% for the Building Fund.



**1600 West Mallard Creek Church Rd.
Charlotte, North Carolina 28262**

www.mallardcreekchurch.org

The Lord's Day, December 24, 2023 10:30 am



A Service of Worship
The First Noel

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF LOVE
Call to Worship

Arr Carol Tornquist
Rev. Rob Watkins
The Moore Family
Rev. Hunter Roddey

Leader: We are waiting on you, God. We are still waiting.
People: The darkness is deeper, but look! The star is beginning to shine. The everlasting light is creeping closer. Hope is in the air. Peace is promised. Joy is on the tips of our tongues.

Leader: Love is coming. Love divine, all loves excelling.
People: We are waiting on love. And Love is waiting on us.
All: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Invocation
† Hymn #141 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession

Rev. Hunter Roddey

Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas. Our preparations are far from complete, and we are exhausted. We sometimes wish this whole thing were over so that we could rest. Forgive our shortcomings and our short-sightedness. You have poured upon us blessing after blessing, daily reminding us of your love and presence; yet we have chosen to jump into the business of Christmas. Give us patience. Slow us down. Remind us of the ways in which you are present with us--not in the wrapped packages, the abundance of food, but in the love and compassion that is brought to all. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive your love and the gift of the Christ Child. For we pray this in his name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
† Passing of the Peace
Time with Children

Offertory *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Bennett
MCPC Worship Team

† Doxology
Scripture Lesson Luke 2:1-7
Sermon It Happened in Bethlehem Rev. Rob Watkins

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from Nathan Nettleton* Rev. Hunter Roddey

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.
We believe in Jesus the Christ - God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn - who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.
For the coming of that day on this day, we work and we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Musical Meditation *New Kid in Town* Putman/Whitley
MCPC Worship Team

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
† Hymn #157 *Away in a Manger*
† Benediction
Postlude *Joy to the World* Arr Carol Tornquist
† All who are able are invited to stand.

This week at Mallard Creek	
Sunday, December 24	
9:00 am	Fellowship Time
10:30 am	Christmas Eve Service in Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm	Candlelight Communion Service
Monday, December 25	
MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Tuesday, December 26	
Office closed	

Amanda will be at the Financial Office on December 26 from 10 am to 2 pm. Thank you.

Looking for a way to get involved, but not quite sure how? **The Education and Spiritual Nurture committee is looking for new members!**

Please reach out to **Brian Wasko, at waskobrianjr@gmail.com** if you have any questions or if you're interested!

Registration for For **Mallard Creek's Rise Against Hunger** meal packing event on February 3 is now open. Register by clicking on this link:
<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/MCPC2024>
 Please call or email Paul Menconi (704-574-8039) with any questions.

Please do not forget – Sign the attendance book with all the names of your family that are attending church today. **Thank you**

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Rob Watkins
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Hunter Roddey
Transitional Associate Pastor

Ms. Amanda Booth
Financial Manager

Ms. Claudia Perez
Administrative Assistant

Mr. David Barnaba
Director of Music


Mrs. Kristy Maddux
Preschool Director

Mrs. Kristin Reyes Pianist

Rev. Rob Watkins can be contacted at: revrobwatkins@gmail.com or at 706-825-1132
 Rev. Hunter Roddey at hunterr@mallardcreekchurch.org or at 704-607-0368

Contact Us
 Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
 1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road
 Charlotte, NC 28262
 (704) 547-0038

Folks please place your **pledge cards** in the offering plate during worship. You will find your 2024 **contribution envelopes** in the Gathering Space. Thank you.



OFFICERS ON DUTY
ELDERS: Harvey Alexander , Mark Johnson, Jamie Garrison
DEACONS: Leigh Johnson, Jean Mac-Neil, Andrew Coore, Allston Oehler, Chris Mingus

A Note For Parents With Small Children:
 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." We celebrate these words as we welcome ALL ages in worship with us. Our desire is to help you make the most of this worship experience. Here are a few reminders:
 1. There are Children's Worship Bags and Bibles available in the back of the church.
 2. There is a cry room in the Gathering Space, if you need to take a quick "time out" during the service.
 3. There is a nursery for infants through age 4 downstairs 09:30 am
 Please let a Deacon know if you have any questions.



Blanche Hodges– Aunt in law of Bonnie	Tommy Oehler	Linda Benfield	Donny Brown
The Montgomery Family	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seaford
Donna Garrison— wife of Eddie Garrison	Juanita Untz	Roy Kinnamon	Suggie Christenbury
Larry Carroll - husband of Ann Carroll	Ruby Downing	Tommy Almond	Bobby Brown
Steve Sechler– brother in law of Mack	Donnie Oehler	Ken Christenbury	Carolyn Sheehan
Linda Taylor - sister-in-law of Nancy Busch	Beth Massey	Judith Rankin	Lynn Kelley
Caroline Williams	Ann Brown	Carlita Hunter	Ralph Brand
Joey Munday– Mack's friend	Lynn Davidson	Elizabeth King	Dale McLaughlin
JW and Vivian Avant	Mary Snow	Betsy Killian	Teddy Preslar
Lois Spradley's granddaughter, Danika	Dee Dee Larkin (Linda Wallace's daughter)	Leslie Hatton	

PRAYER LIST