



# THE SCROLL

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Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
[www.mallardcreekchurch.org](http://www.mallardcreekchurch.org) | 704.547.0038  
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

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## From Rev. Rob Watkins:

By the time you read this newsletter, we will be nearing a month with major Coronavirus shifts and alterations to our routine. We will be seeing the toll the virus is taking on our world, nation, and community. We will have witnessed some really poor responses, but we also will have witnessed so many people rising to the occasion, kindling hope in the capacity of the human heart to care.

We will begin to learn new ways to entertain ourselves—  
online game night  
watching first run movies on our tv in the living room instead of in a theater  
remembering the great sports battles of the past—  
great chance to relive NCSU's unlikely basketball title in 1983!  
maybe you'd like to discover the wonder of the Magic-Bird battles of the 1980s in the NBA  
watch the Cubs win their first World Series in over a 100 years  
watch any UCONN women's basketball game for pure wizardry  
watch the US Women's national team win the World Cup

We will learn we are actually pretty good cooks, especially as we have to plow through the tons of beans and tuna we bought. We discover our inner Julia Child as we try to keep meals interesting. Or maybe we learn the existential joy of a peanut butter sandwich. Then there is carry-out and delivery. Maybe it is a tiny miracle of God to have a pizza arrive at your doorstep.

We will have the best hygiene in a generation. Our great grandchildren will remark on what clean hands we have. There will be no flat surface left un-Cloroxed! We will have learned all manner of ways to greet one another without actually touching. We will have a deep and lasting understanding of "personal space."

At church, we will have entered the 21st Century fully and completely. We will all be masters of digital worship, e-stewardship, video conferencing, and online learning. There are so many ways that a computer can become an implement of God. There are so many new ways of being devout, spiritual, and faithful with apps, social media, and websites.

In this season of resurrection, remember all these new ways of being—perhaps experiences of the new creation unfolding before our eyes.

And, yes, the church will rise again into a new dawn when the virus ebbs.

There is no substitute for the joy, wonder, and promise of actually being together. That day is coming, as well. A pastor remarked a few days ago—

It does not matter what Sunday we get back to church, THAT WILL BE EASTER!

Yes, it will. Go with God. God is here, God is now, and God is love. Take time in this slow season to relearn all of that truth.

In the meantime, pray for one another, check on one another, help one another.

That is the way of God through any crisis moment.

## Special Prayer

Elizabeth King	Christopher Lawing	Danny Mingus, brother of Chris	Lynn Kelly
Ann Brown	Dwayne Martin	Kenneth Helms	Fred Campbell
Ruby Downing	Fred Treadway	BJ Knox	Caroline Williams
Tommy Carter	Carlita Hunter	Deane Davis	Frank Cartner
Barbara Krady	Kathy Robinson	Glenda Shample, friend of Penningers	
Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian		Holly Diggs, great niece of Doris DeArmon	
Barry Hinson, brother in law of Perry Deaton		Trey Lewis, nephew of Steve & Bobbi Lisi	
Kathy Reid, daughter of Elizabeth King		Morgan Khur, friend of Maria Menconi	
Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas		Megan Ramos, niece of Paul Menconi	

We pray for national and world leaders, the men and women who are serving in the Armed Forces, their families, and those who are deployed:

Col. Cristina Moore - LTC Rob Byars - Austin Powers (Nat. Guard) -  
Major Trevor Sutherland (Air Nat. Guard) - STG2 Hunter Holland - Master SGT Rick Treadway  
- SGT Malcolm Allen - LTjG Morgan Whitmore and Lt. Alex Busch

## Sunday School Opportunities

### PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

Sanctuary Building, Downstairs

Nursery  
Ages 2,3,4 & 5  
Grades 1st & 2nd  
3rd & 4th

### PRE-TEENS & TEENS

Activity Building

Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8  
High School (9-12)

### ADULTS

Education Building

Morrison Class  
Spencer Class  
**Activity Building**  
Baucom/Craig Class  
Garrison-Martin Class  
Listening to Your Life  
New Life

## STEWARDSHIP AND COVID-19

During these uncertain and disconcerting times, we have many things on our minds and hearts. As we watch the financial markets lurch and blunder about, we can grow anxious. That is especially true as we deal with small businesses, food industries, and other work directly dependent on interaction to stay afloat. The church falls into that category, as well. As we shift to an almost total online presence, it can seem there is nothing to give to or support, but the truth is that online presence represents a tremendous amount of ministry happening. Pastoral care is still ongoing. Youth and children's ministry continues. Sunday morning still comes. Christian education and formation still happens. Our mission outreach still happens (and is becoming more necessary and urgent as needs around us arise). In other words, even though in different form, the church continues. We need you. Please help as you are able. You may contribute online at [mallardcreekchurch.org](http://mallardcreekchurch.org); you can mail in a contribution (1600 W Mallard Creek Church Rd, Charlotte NC, 28262); or, why we are still able to be here, bring it by the church office. Please keep in mind any and all non-profits you support that make a direct impact on the community—they need you, too.

**FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Sunday School	\$395.00
Worship Offering	\$54,532.18
Online Giving	\$5,742.00
TOTAL Offering	\$60,669.18
Total Offering YTD	\$101,118.28
Total Expenses YTD	\$120,028.68
Under for Year	\$18,910.40

Worship Attendance for March:

March 1-315    March 8 -236    March 15-n/a  
 March 22-n/a    March 29-n/a

Elders on Duty for April: Tommy Mitchell, Andy Stiffel, James Killian, Jason Oehler and Paul Menconi  
Deacons on Duty for April: Leigh Johnson, Melanie Scholand, Tonia English, Connie Wallace, Rachel Rodden and Rob Johnson

## Pastor Alison's Care Corner

I'm not a worrier. Never have been, really. I have other personal challenges that I have to manage, but worrying is not one of them. One of our children is a worrier and over the years I have had to "talk her back from the ledge." In the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak would be an especially challenging time to be a worrier.

But even if you are not, by nature, prone to excessive worry, these days are times when you might find yourself entertaining fears that, under normal circumstances, you would not even come close to entertaining. Extreme circumstances can, after all, give way to extreme actions: emptying all of one's cash out of the bank; stockpiling an arsenal; buying a thousand cases of toilet paper (!!!). But an opposite type of response can also occur such as ignoring the guidance of medical professions and going about your life as usual. Neither of these approaches is helpful or sensible, and there is a healthy middle ground. Hopefully, it is in this middle ground that we are all living.

On Monday of last week, I found myself slipping towards the ledge. It may have been that I had not gotten enough sleep the night before and was simply not at my best. But for whatever reason, I began to feel panicky and afraid of where this pandemic could ultimately take us. I felt my mood darken. But before I descended too far onto the ledge, I reminded myself of the promises found in the Gospel of Matthew, "...and remember, I am with you each and every day until the end of the age." At that moment, I reeled myself in much like I used to reel in my fishing line as I fished from the huge rocks along the bank near my grandparents' river cabin. We truly are never alone. Never.

And this is where the practice of mindfulness can be a great help. Mindfulness is nothing more than intentionally bringing oneself back into the present moment. The opposite of mindfulness is to project into the future and live in the land of "what if's."

During these odd, distressing, and yes, frightening days, we *can* choose to reel ourselves back in when we find ourselves entertaining worst case scenarios. With God's presence and the supportive presence of one another, we will make our way through these days.



**Upcoming Circle Meetings- Circle Meetings are suspended until further notice.**

All women in the church have been assigned to a circle, but are welcome to attend any that they wish. Each meeting is centered around a Bible study lesson. Didn't read? Don't have a book? Don't worry, come anyway! Aside from the lessons, there is typically a discussion about mission projects or special events.

**Honorary Life Membership**

**It's time to begin nominating women (or men) for the Honorary Life Membership.**

Complete this form: <http://bit.ly/mcpchl> or email [jessica.sabin@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.sabin@gmail.com) or [rsf422@gmail.com](mailto:rsf422@gmail.com) with your nominations. You may also turn in the paper form once church access is back open. These nominations are due by **March 31st.**



The Honorary Life Membership (HLM) program was established in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. More than a thousand women (and a few men) receive this honor each year, many on Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday.

**Presbyterian Women in the Church**

- **Circle of Anna** enjoyed devotions and a Bible study at their latest meeting. They also collected items to help with a Youth Mission Project.
- **Circle of Mary** enjoyed devotions, Bible study, fellowship, and prayer at their latest meeting.
- **Circle of Rebekah** studied lesson 4 in the Messy People Bible study. They also collected 20 purses to help with Youth Club's mission project.
- **Circle of Ruth** had a devotion followed by a "favorite things" gift exchange and fellowship. They also helped provide the meal for Room in the Inn on February 13th.

Did you know that Mallard Creek has access to an app that will connect you to your online giving and church directory. It is through ACS, our database.

It's simple, but you must first sign up on my MCPC on [mallardcreekchurch.org](http://mallardcreekchurch.org) website, remember the password and login name because you will use it for the app. Here is the website for instructions- <https://www.acstechnologies.com/church-life-app> Just load the church life app on your phones and you will be good to go. If you have problems call the church office and Shawn will be glad to walk you through it.





MCPC Preschool is in a "holding pattern," right now with the COVID-19 restrictions, but we are still accepting new students for the 2020-2021 school year. Please contact Kristy at [kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org) to register your child. We will send the forms to you and you can mail them to us when you've completed them. Until we know more, we are prayerful that our students, staff, and MCPC friends are staying healthy!

*Kerri Miner, Preschool Director and Kristy Maddux, Assistant Director*

Have you been receiving Mallard Creek's weekly email blasts? If not, please call the church office to update our records with your email address so that you can stay informed on all the events and news at Mallard Creek.



**Lunch Bunch-**

(if suspension is lifted)

You are invited on April 21 for food and fellowship.

We will be hosting

"For What It's Worth", similar to Antiques Road Show

RSVP to 704-965-1676, 614-537-5363 or

[hattonm7@gmail.com](mailto:hattonm7@gmail.com)

It will be here soon, our annual Bonclarken Retreat for the OAM is scheduled for May 13, 14 and 15. Details soon coming, but save the date now!

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:**  
The Neal Scholarship for High School Seniors is due April 30, 2020.  
Copies of the application can be found in the church office.

*THANK YOU*

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards, and visits after my heart procedure. A special thank you to Rob, Alison, Rev. Craig, and Beth for your visits. It means so much to have such a loving and caring church family. Blessings to you all! Sue Oehler

## Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

Hello everyone!

First of all, I want to say a HUGE thank you to all of our teens, teen advisors, and parents who worked so hard to make Teen Sunday a wonderful experience. Although it had to be postponed, know that I am so grateful for your hard work, and it will not be in vain.

For the time being, it seems that events and gatherings related to Youth Club and Teen Fellowship will be entirely online, at least for the duration that school is not in session. This is to make sure we all stay as safe and healthy as we can, for the well-being of our entire community. However, there are still plenty of opportunities to join together as a church community! Here are a few creative ministry ideas I have implemented:

- I have distributed a full media resource list with ideas for books, movies, TV shows, podcasts, music, and documentaries for you to stream online for free if you are looking for wholesome and educational entertainment.
- Every day (Monday-Thursday), at 9:00am, check my Youtube channel for a 15-20 minute video with kids yoga and devotions, except Wednesdays, which will be a Bible study video. The link to my channel is here (or search “Andrea Thomas Kids Yoga” on Youtube) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZHkET1gTQwxb1SpTjmGHg/>
- I have provided a resource for Confirmation candidates to work on their faith statement, and I encourage all Confirmants to talk with me individually about it.
- I have created a Spotify playlist with uplifting music for you to listen to at home during the semi-quarantine – check it out here (or search “MCPC Youth Group” on Spotify)  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2mcLgjTAdDbWyfIEUwMzjO?si=3evVgc2jSyKJQdjRTGyNDA>
- I will continue to send daily devotions throughout Lent and post them on Facebook @MallardCreekPC. They now include journal prompts and mindfulness practices, in addition to Scripture, devotional thoughts, and prayers.
- I am available for pastoral care to all families via phone call or online video chat.
- I will be sending a weekly email to parents of kids and teens with devotions and resources for that week on Sundays. If you do not receive emails from me and would like to – send me your email address at [andreat@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:andreat@mallardcreekchurch.org)
- I will be hosting weekly “office” hours online and will send those hours out in the weekly emails. While anyone can certainly contact me at any time, these hours will be specifically dedicated to communication with churchgoers.

Thank you all so much for your flexibility in working with us during these strange times. Know that I am praying for all of you, and that we WILL get through this. We will get through it the same way we get through everything – TOGETHER!!

Blessings, Andrea Thomas

# Session Highlights

April 1, 2020

1. Approved request by John Wayne Adams to re-activate him as a member of MCPC
2. Worship services will be on-line through March
3. Canceled Easter Egg Hunt – April 4<sup>th</sup>
4. Reminder March 22 Kid's Communion class
  - a. Andrea will provide on-line Communion Class
5. Canceled Easter service schedule
6. Approved ThysennKrupp Elevator gold service agreement for the Activity Building Elevator
7. Approved recommendation to accept the gift of a new monument road sign with electronic message center and to accept the gift of design services and new stairs with matching canopy at the administrative entrance
8. Reminder of on-line offerings during the time of limited in-person worship activity due to Coronavirus
9. February 2020 collections were \$4217 MORE than February 2019
10. YTD 2020 collections were \$4384 MORE than YTD 2019
11. February 2020 collections were \$11,320 MORE than February expenses
12. YTD 2020 collections were \$18,910 LESS than YTD expenses
13. Capital campaign collected to date is \$1,890,617.79
14. Approved recommendation to develop a new church directory in the Fall of 2020
15. Reminder that assistance is available for those in need pursuant to MCPC Assistance Fund Committee review
16. Th Session received, reviewed, and discussed the congregational reports regarding the by-laws made during the Sunday school hour on March 1. The Session will be formulating a proposal for the congregation to consider, but with the outbreak of the Coronavirus, the Session has put further action regarding the by-laws on hold until the world situation calms and we can reconvene the congregation for a meeting.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="color: #00AEEF;">May Birthdays</h1> 						
					1 Kenneth Helms Elisa Hansen	2 Debbie McCrary Charlie Dixon
3 Virginia Faulkenberry	4 Lynn Welsh Andrew Rainstein	5 Robin McCraw Katie Moore	6 Doris Dixon Amanda Booth Savannah Dixon	7 Donny Brown Donna Stephens Kenneth McCraw Ryan Oehler Kevin Kirk	8 Caitlin Holt Peter Schultz	9 Calvin Caldwell Judy Brown Kelly Oehler Abby Tucker
10 	11 Natalia Messina	12 Larry Oeher James Harry Killian	13	14 Carey Armistead	15 Jordan Maddux John Triage	16
17 Beth Massey Bih Ndingwan Colt Brookshire	18 Caroline Williams	19 Waylon Gulledge	20	21 Mike Stubbs Rose Oehler	22 Christopher Gulley Hannah Sheppard Ava DeKam Leyton Buchanan	23 Andy Spittle Jennifer Zevan
24 John Craver Viviane Avant	25 Don Killian Hope Moore Helena Moore	26 Sara Haynes Hope Moon	27 LeAnn Ashley	28 Donnie Oeher Linzie Rosenberger	29 Craig Estes Maya Halter Ruby Wallace	30 Steve Misenheimer Sam Rodden
31 Jane Marshall Harvey Alexander						



## April Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 Bible Study-Online	2	3	4
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 Worship-Online	6	7	8 11:00 Bible Study-Online	9 7:00 Connections Comm. 7:00 Ed. & Spiritual Comm.	10	11
12 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 10:30 Worship-Online	13 7:00 Property Comm.	14	15 11:00 Bible Study-Online	16	17	18
<b>The following schedule is tentative based on CDC directives.</b>						
19 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Fellowship Coffee 9:30 SS Classes 10:30 Worship 4:00 Youth Club & Teen Fellowship	20 6:00 Cub Scouts	21 Noon Lunch Bunch 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:45 Boy Scouts 7:00 Session Meeting	22 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Bible Study 6:00 Hansen Bell 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Choir	23 10:00 Joy Ringers 10:00 Backpack Blessings 7:00 Mission Comm.	24	25
26 8:30 Early Worship 9:15 Fellowship Coffee 9:30 SS Classes 10:30 Worship 4:00 Youth Club & Teen Fellowship	27 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 PW Council	28 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:45 Boy Scouts 7:00 Administrative Committee	29 11:00 Bible Study 6:00 Bible Study 6:00 Hansen Bell 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Choir	30 10:00 Joy Ringers 10:00 Backpack Blessings		

**Committees will meet at the discretion of the committee chair.  
They will be in contact with committee members.**

April 1, 2020

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



"Growing disciples of Jesus Christ who bear much fruit."

Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:30 am

<b>The Rev. Rob Watkins</b>	Senior Pastor
<b>The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins</b>	Parish Associate
<b>Mrs. Andrea Thomas</b>	Director of Children & Youth Ministry
<b>Mr. David Barnaba</b>	Director of Music
<b>Mrs. Kerri Miner</b>	Preschool Director
<b>Mrs. Cathy Marlor</b>	Financial Secretary
<b>Mrs. Shawn Watkins</b>	Administrative Assistant