

The Scroll

April 2021

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

Here we are in April, which hardly seems possible. 2021 is flying past and spring emerges all around us in flowers, new leaves, and growing grass.

This spring feels very different from a year ago. A year ago we entered lock-down not knowing what to expect, how long it would last, or what was going to happen to us. This year, spring rejuvenation seems to be leading the way. Friends are meeting again for meals and fun. Vacations are being planned. We look forward to being able to see loved ones from whom we have been cut off for months. Hope is in the air.

I can think of no better experience to help us truly enter the power and promise of Easter.

Easter is the celebration of resurrection. Jesus, martyred on a Friday, was alive again on Sunday. New life was present—new life that nothing could touch, mar, or shorten—a promise was made that is kept each time we bid a final farewell to a dear one. They are well, whole, and with God. That is the message of Easter.



But God intends for us to experience—to *know*—resurrection *now*!

It is not just a gift for the end of life; it is a gift for the full living of life.

I so loved hearing about a group of friends, now fully vaccinated, reporting on a wonderful day out—shopping, eating, cavorting, laughing, and simply relishing being able to be back together again.

That is resurrection.

I loved seeing photographs from a family outing to see a great-grandmother at her facility. There were the children on her lap—*on her lap*—after more than a year of FaceTime calls and visits through a closed window.

That is resurrection.

Where do you see resurrection right now? Where do you feel the newness of life blossoming within you and around you? Where do you see fresh beginnings and restorations?

All of those are resurrections. All of those help us understand the fullness, power, and wonder of Easter, carrying that wondrous good news well beyond a single Sunday in April.

Pastor Alison's Care Corner

Never have I been so happy for spring to come. Don't get me wrong. I always revel at the sight of bulbs pushing through hardened winter soil, and I always welcome the greening of our lawn, and the increased activity of birds flitting around the feeders. But this year, the arrival of spring brings with it an added punch - we have a vaccine for the virus which has taken so much *from* us and demanded so much *of* us. This year the ushering in of spring is an occasion for joy.

Joy. It's a word that frankly I rarely use. I'm far more likely to use words such as contentment or happiness than I am to use the word joy.

This reality came home to me when, a couple of year's ago and during one of our sessions, my spiritual director asked me, "What brings you joy?" I was stumped into silence. It was something I rarely thought about.

Since that conversation, I've intentionally focused on identifying sources of joy in my life, and I've identified several experiences and situations which bring me joy. I experience joy when our two children and their significant others set aside time to travel between D.C. and Nashville simply because they enjoy being together. I experience joy when I'm trusted enough to be invited into the interior life of another person so that we can talk about what truly matters to each of us. I experience joy after a long bike ride that leaves my legs wobbly and my endorphins flowing. I experience joy when I add beauty to our home by restoring an otherwise blah piece of furniture by giving it a fresh coat of paint.



Joy is not fleeting; it's deep-rooted. God is at the source of our joy. God is the well out of which our joy flows. Joy is a spiritual experience in which we know deep pleasure and happiness.

What brings you joy?

The writer of Luke tells us that when Jesus was born, the angels announced "good tidings of great joy for all the people." Joy is one of the gifts of God that comes through Jesus. And as followers of Jesus, we know joy. May you know joy today and every day.

Elizabeth King	Warner Marshall	Charley Moon	Ann Brown	Justin Alford
Deane Davis	Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian	Bernice Martin	Kenneth Helms	
Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas	David McElveen	Joann Reid	Barbara Krady	
Tom Busch	Libby Carroll, sister of Linda Killian	David McElveen	Steve Lisi	
Matthew Sheehan, grandson of Carolyn	Gary Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas			

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, Lt. Alex Busch and PV2 Stephen Lisi



Our enrollment for our Summer Camps and the 2021-2022 school year are OPEN! If you have a 2 to 5-year-old, we would LOVE to have them join us for lots of learning, Bible stories, fun, singing, and much more. All remaining openings are on a first come first served basis so do not delay, call us today or email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org to get more information or set up an after-hours tour.

Thank you to our church family who helped us earn money for our preschool by attending our Drive-Thru Chick-fil-A Spirit Night last month! We loved seeing you there and really appreciate your support!

A big “THANK YOU” to Christina deKam for everything that she did to make our Scholastic Book Fair such a huge success this year!

We had some great virtual and a few in-person guest readers for our March Reading Program and even had a few who came and read to some of our classes. **Thank you, Pastor Rob, Pastor Alison, and Ms. Andrea for your support of our reading program!** The children really enjoyed having you come and read to them in their classrooms.

This month we will celebrate Spring with our annual Spring Fling Event on the lawn. The children will have their spring pictures taken and the Pre-K students will also have graduation pictures taken. Our students will learn about: Our World, Taking Care of Pets, The Outdoors, How to Grow a Garden, and Thanking God for Our Plants.

Ms. Monie’s Bible Stories this month are: Fisher’s of Men, The Tower of Babel, and Peter Walks on Water.

The preschool and the preschool office will be closed from April 1st through April 11th for Spring Break and will re-open at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 12th.

Our Bible verse for April is: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” John 3:16

Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant



Pastor Rob reading to our Virtual Pre-K class.



OUTDOOR EASTER SERVICE
 Sunday, April 4th 10:00am
 Easter Sunday @ the Community House
 Celebrate with us for Christ is risen!



Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Celebrate the Last Supper
Thursday April 1st 7:00pm



Yoga with Andrea will be in person at the church again!
 Monday nights at 7pm
 In the dining hall
 Bring your own mat or towel
 Wear a mask
 All skill levels welcome!

GRADUATION



Attention High School and College graduates we want to celebrate YOU! Please send your full name, date, where you graduated from, and what are your plans are (college or job) to Nancy.buschSS@gmail.com.

The Connections Committee is reaching out to the congregation to gather the most up-to-date contact information for the directory. Please see someone from the committee at the Welcome table on Sunday to confirm or update your information. Or, you may email your cell phone and email address to Jennifer Lazarus at jlazarus00@gmail.com.

Attention High School Seniors! The Neal scholarship application is ready for 2021. The application is available in the church office upon request or contact Andrea if you have questions.

Upcoming Circle Meetings

Welcome to Presbyterian Women's Circles. 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. Please reach out to the women listed below if you have any questions.

Circle of Anna – 4/8 & 5/6 10:15 in the Gathering Space (Polly Caldwell - cacpwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolar - edlin1025@yahoo.com)

Circle of Mary – Due to Covid Meetings are temporarily suspended for April. May 4th 10:30 at the Community House (tentatively) (Jane Isenhower – isenhowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace - beach68@bellsouth.net, Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – April 5, 2021 Zoom and May 3 at 6:00 location TBD (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – April 12, 2021 and May 7:00 on ZOOM (Sue Oehler - csoehler@bellsouth.net)



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

April 2021

Date	Group	Event (Sundays 4-6pm at church unless otherwise noted)
4/4/21	Sabbath	Sabbath (Easter)
4/11/21	Zoom	YC: 4-5pm Kids Yoga and Bible Story Teens: 5-6pm Bible Lesson & Games
4/18/21	YC	Movie Night
4/22/21	T	Earth Day Event THURSDAY 5:00-7:30pm (see below)
4/25/21	T	Burning of the Palms & Kickball Tournament (Confirmation Sunday in AM)



Confirmation Sunday on April 25th

We are excited to finally have Confirmation Sunday after postponing it from last year. Join us for this special service of welcoming the newest members of our congregation.

Teens: Earth Day Event

Join Andrea on Earth Day April 22 5:00-7:30pm for some outdoor fun, a vegetarian meal, and an Earth Day Vespers service. The Vespers service will be in the Gathering Space and streamed online at 7pm and open to all.



THANK YOU!

Huge thank you to everyone who supported our Teens by buying an MCPC "Love Every Neighbor" T-shirt or sweatshirt! We were able to raise over \$2200 thanks to you!!

Session Highlights

1. Outdoor Easter Service being planned
2. Easter Egg Hunt – March 27th 1-2pm
3. Approved request to purchase a granite marker for the old cemetery at a cost of \$350.00.
4. February 2021 collections were \$8,710 MORE than February 2020
5. YTD 2021 collections were \$1,418 MORE than YTD 2020
6. February 2021 collections were \$1,687 MORE than February expenses
7. YTD 2021 collections were \$1,126 LESS than YTD expenses
8. PPP Loan approved
9. Reminder that assistance is available for those in need pursuant to MCPC Assistance Fund Committee review
10. Connections committee is trying to update cell phone numbers, emails and mailing addresses for church members
11. Church is starting to open back up for small group meetings, Covid Task Force building use proposal was approved

Elder duty for April: Tommy Mitchell, Andy Stiffel, Ed Gullledge, Jason Oehler, and Nancy Busch
Deacon duty for April: Leigh Johnson, Amy Spittle, Jenn Messina, Robin McCraw, Phil Ashley and Perry Deaton

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	
Worship Offering	\$37,547.00
Online Giving	\$14,412.00
TOTAL Offering	\$51,959.00
Total Offering YTD	\$102,536.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$103,662.17
Under for Year	\$(1,126.17)

Thank You!

To the Prayer Shaw ministry,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shaw. The warmth and support of your thoughtfulness is of great comfort to me.

Terry Wilkinson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, visits, prayers and concerns of my recent battle with cancer. It means so much to have such a loving and caring church family.

Joann Reid and family

Thank you for all of the cards, phone calls, and prayers during and after Mom's illness.

Our church family is and always has been so special to us and a major support for us. As you all know it sure makes times like this much easier if you are the one sick or a part of the family. Mom had so many special supportive friends in Mallard Creek church. Thanks and may God bless our church family.

The family of Jackie Oehler

Thanks to all of you so much for all of your many kindnesses shown to Dwayne and me during his battle with pancreatic cancer. Your prayers, visits, cards, calls and great generosity were so much appreciated. Also thanks for your visits, food and kind words after his passing, and also thanks for the memorials to the assistance fund in his memory. We appreciate all that has been done us!

Much love, Debbie Martin & family.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<h2>May Birthdays</h2>					
						1 Kenneth Helms Elisa Hansen	
2 Debbie McCrary Charlie Dixon	3	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 Triece	
16	17 Beth Massey Bih Ndingwan Colt Brookshire	18 Caroline Williams	19 Waylon Gullede	20	21 Mike Stubbs Rose Oehler	22 Christopher Gullely 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						

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The Rev. Rob Watkins

The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins

Mrs. Andrea Thomas

Mr. David Barnaba

Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Mrs. Cathy Marlor

Mrs. Shawn Watkins

Senior Pastor

Temp. Associate Pastor

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Director of Music

Preschool Director

Financial Secretary

Administrative Assistant