

# 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 Pastor Rob

Easter comes as late as it possibly can this year. Back in 325, the Church held a massive gathering of bishops to settle doctrinal disputes, establish an orthodox creed, and handle other issues facing the Church. This gathering wrote and confirmed the Nicene Creed, one of the greatest statements of faith ever written. They also set the formula for how we know when to celebrate Easter—ready?—

*Easter shall be the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox.*

Got that?

Believe it or not, they were trying to match Easter perfectly with the Jewish celebration of Passover. Remember, all four gospels agree that the Passion happened during Passover, with the Lord's Supper being the ultimate revision and reformation of the Passover meal with Jesus himself taking the place of the Passover lamb.

To help us understand that substitution, note that the Passover lamb was seen as a sacrifice that took the place of Israel, a lamb whose blood protected them from the Angel of Death that passed through Egypt. After that, pharaoh released the Israelites and Moses led them toward the Promised Land. Just so, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, leading us into the hope of resurrection and the ultimate Promised Land of the kingdom of God.



That is a hope the world sorely needs right now. Watching the horror of war unfold over the internet, darkness is instantaneously and pervasively unleashed upon us. We need the enfolding grace of Christ to keep us from the being overwhelmed. The Ukrainians need the enfolding grace of Christ to keep them alive. We all need the grace to consider and reconsider who we are in the world as it is. We need that promise of new life, new hope, and a new way of being.

Assurance comes in simply standing beneath that full moon. Its light bathes us in the reflected glory of the sun, inviting us to pull back, to see the world through the eyes of God, the pristine marble hanging in space with room for all of us, and all of us being the beloved children of God.

Use the words of the great Easter announcement—

*He is not here; He is risen!*

to resonate through you. Allow the simple joy of that affirmation to brighten your spirit, lift your heart, and perhaps even lead you to sing. The Lamb of God has taken away the sins of the world, eradicating the great chasm between ourselves and God. There is hope. There is possibility.

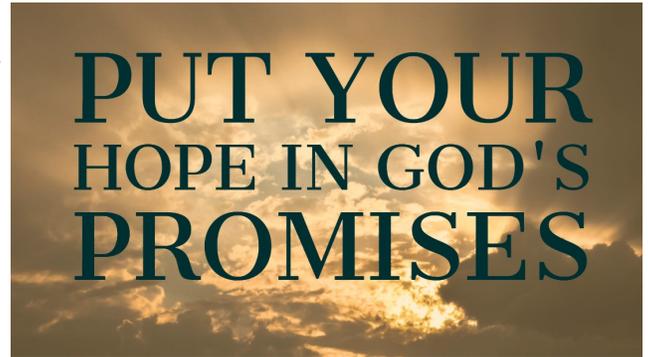
There is life.

## Hunter's Thoughts

Last night I was texting with my daughter about her boyfriend's trip to Antarctica - something to do with his work in environmental business consulting. His ship had left Ushuaia, Argentina - the "World's Southernmost City" - for a two day voyage to Antarctica. To do so means crossing the Drake Passage, considered one of the most treacherous voyages for ships to make. When she texted that last part, she ended it with an anxious face emoji. Being the caring, empathetic father that I am, I texted back, "Just think about how we felt as you traveled across Europe BY YOURSELF as a 20 year old!" She texted back, "That's fair."

Our daughter has already traveled overseas several times - to study in Argentina; to do research in 5 different countries in Europe; and on missions trips to Cuba and El Salvador. While Susan and I have been thankful she has had these amazing opportunities, there is always much anxiety as we watch her go and then eagerly await her safe return. We have equally worried about our son. His travels have kept him much closer to home, but they usually involve outdoor activities with the potential for bleeding, broken bones, or concussions! I guess we will always have the concern that parents have for their children.

Now, this seems like an easy segue to make, but I believe God must have the same worries about each of us. The concern of a worried parent, wincing when we make decisions that place us on the wrong track, or fear for us when we put ourselves in danger. I also can only imagine the feeling of dread as God sent Jesus Christ along the road to Jerusalem - both of them knowing the pain and abandonment that lay ahead. It must have been agonizing as he drew closer and closer to this culmination of Christ being physically present with us. Such thoughts can weigh heavily on one's soul during this season when we are reminded again and again of our need for repentance and redirection. It can be a somber time, both for us and our heavenly parent.



Hopefully, we will take solace in knowing the promise that God has given us of salvation through faith. But for God, knowing the challenges and pain and mistakes and rebellion that we will experience - well, as I said, it must be agonizing. Yet just as every parent must allow their child to explore and learn, God continues to place us in this world to deal with those challenges, struggle with the pain, make the mistakes, and have our petty rebellions. And it is only in doing so that we can turn back to God in full faith and then enjoy the full meaning of the Resurrection.

I certainly hope that neither of my children suffers too much distress in life. I think God certainly hopes the same for us. But God always has before us the promise of rebirth and new life on Easter Sunday. And so we continue our journey toward that day.

## Special Prayers

Elizabeth King	Carolyn Sheehan	Ann Brown	Juanita Untz	Shirley Hunter
Bernice Martin	Kenneth Helms	Holly Diggs	Carl Hatton	Caroline Williams
Michael Doering	Pat Snow	Brian Lord	Cecil Massey	Jane Geracimos
Bobby Brown	Mary Snow	Danny Perez, husband of Evie Gomez-Perez		

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

A note from (retired) Administrative Assistant, Shawn Watkins:

I just want to say a few words of thanks for allowing me to work for MCPC for the last 6.5 years. It has truly been a joy and a blessing to come to work every day. I have enjoyed getting to know many of the members and listening to their stories and learning from their years of experience (especially about how to enjoy my retirement!) The staff, members and session have been so supportive of me and my family. Mallard Creek is a special place and will always have a place in my heart..

Thank you for the years and the memories!



**Volunteers  
NEEDED**  
SIGN UP TODAY

We need volunteers in the church office to answer phones and receive visitors. Between the hours of 9 -12:30 and 12:30 - 4 beginning April 4. Call the church office or sign up on the calendar in the church office.

April 2022

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	\$141.00
Worship Offering	\$22,813.00
Online Giving	\$9,053.00
TOTAL Offering	\$32,007.00
Total Offering YTD	\$72,369.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$106,278.74
Under for Year	(\$33,909.74)

# 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.busch88@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy.busch88@gmail.com).**

Elder duty for April: Andy Stiffel, Kristy Maddux and James Killian

Deacon duty for April: Jackie Brand, Jennifer Lazarus, Jack Miles, Tracy Tucker, Windy White and Jarret Garrison



## Homecoming 2022!!



The Fellowship committee is so excited to announce that we will be having Homecoming on Sunday, April 24 after church. This year, due to continuing concerns, we will be providing lunch for everyone! You don't have to bring a thing! Everything will be provided. We are asking that you sign up for you and your family members starting the first Sunday in April. The fellowship committee will be in the gathering space with the sign up sheet. You may also email [kimkimtucker@aol.com](mailto:kimkimtucker@aol.com) or call/text Kim at 704-622-5480. We are really looking forward to this wonderful event and hope that you and your family will attend.

## Thank you!

Where do I begin to thank my church family for all the cards, calls, text, food and visits...your concern, caring & prayers have helped me through all the surgeries for the past 3 years. You've been there for me each & every time!!  
Hopefully this is final surgery.  
Again, thank you so much!!!  
In God's Love, Ginger Penninger



Save the Date!  
VBS  
June 26-30  
Contact Andrea to volunteer or register a child!



**Enrollment for our June 2022 Summer Camps is OPEN!** If you have a 2 to 5-year-old, we would LOVE to have them join us for our theme-based camps for some fun, learning, art, Bible stories, singing, and much more. All remaining openings are on a first come first served basis so do not delay, call 704.549.9741 or email [paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org) to get more information.

Our March Reading Program was a huge success! The children enjoyed visits from the Chick-fil-A -A big and little cow, and each received a reading certificate and a gift card for a free treat from Chick-fil-A at University Place. **Help us show them our appreciation by joining us on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, between 5 and 8 p.m., for our Chick-fil-A Spirit Night at the University Place Chick-fil-A.**

**A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob, Pastor Hunter, and Ms. Andrea for reading to our classes during the month of March!** The children really enjoyed having them visit and read to them in their classrooms!

This month the children will learn about: Easter, Spring, Our World, and Taking Care of Pets. We will have our annual Spring Fling Event on the lawn and the children will have their spring pictures taken and the Pre-K students will have graduation pictures taken, too.

The Bible Stories that the children will learn about this month in Children’s Church are the Easter Story, The Tower of Babel, and Peter Walks on Water.

The preschool and the preschool office will be closed from April 8<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break and will re-open at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**



### PW Circle Meetings Update

Presbyterian Women –

We invite ALL women to be a part of our bible study/Circle group! Each meeting is centered around a Bible study lesson. Our Bible study this year is the PW/Horizons bible Study “What My Grandmothers Taught Me” where it highlights many women of the bible. Below are the circles, the time in which they meet and Circle leaders and their contact info.

Circle of Mary-Anna –Tuesday; April 5, 2022 – 10:30 am in Garrison-Martin Room SS class

(Jane Isenhower-isenhowerj@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – Monday, April 4, 2022 6:30\*\*note time change - in the gathering space (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – Monday, April 4, 2022 7:00 on ZOOM (Beth Patafio – Bethpatafio@icloud.com)



\*\* It is time to vote for Honorary Lifetime – Voting is currently open. You can vote on a ballot available on the table in the gathering space, vote at your circle meeting or email Connie Wallace with your nomination at: [mtnlife555@gmail.com](mailto:mtnlife555@gmail.com).

# Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

April 2022

## Sunday Afternoon Schedules:

4/3	Youth Club: 3:00-4:30 Easter Bible Story
	Teens: 4:30-6:30 Easter Bible Study and Dinner
4/10	Sabbath (Palm Sunday)
4/17	Sabbath (Easter)
4/24	Lunch after Worship and Hike at Crowder's Mtn (see below)

### Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt on

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-2pm!

Save the date for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for kids of all ages! Teens are encouraged to come at noon to help set up and hide eggs. It's fun for the whole family!



### Confirmation Sunday on April 24th

Join us during worship for this special service of welcoming and honoring our Class of 2022 Confirmands.

### Hike at Crowders Mountain after Lunch on April 24<sup>th</sup>

After lunch, we are taking the teens on a hike to Crowder's Mountain (transportation provided, weather permitting). Older elementary students may attend with prior approval from their parents and Andrea. Youth Club and Teens will NOT meet at their normal times on this day.



Don't forget!

The Neal Scholarship applications are due in hard copy by Thursday, April 28 by 5pm.



Thanks for your continued donations to Backpack Blessings. Mallard Creek now provides food for 29 families from University Meadows Elementary Schools and Parkside each week, which consists of 154 people. As for Mallard Creek Elementary, right now we are helping them with clothes, hygiene products and other household needs.

Because of the current economic situation, some of our families are now living in motels. Aside from continued help with food we are being asked for additional support like laundry detergent, hygiene products etc. Clothing is a big need; parents are using what little money they have to meet household expenses. If you happen to have clothes that are gently used that your child has outgrown please bring them to the gathering space or church office. All sizes are needed from youth XS to XXL (18). Because of the significant need we will be accepting clothes year round.

Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous and ongoing donations. Once again, your support is greatly appreciated. The Backpack Blessings Ministry



Thank you to everyone who donated blood at our February drive. Mallard Creek had 24 donors registered, 1 deferred and collected 21 units of blood! Please save the date for our next drive on June 18th!

Save the date: April 19th @ noon!  
You are invited to join us at **Lunch Bunch** for food, fellowship and entertainment by Jeff Whittington. RSVP to Margaret Hatton at hattonm7@gmail.com

**Palm Sunday**  
April 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am  
Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem!  
Our kids will march in waving palms and sing a song.



**Maundy Thursday Communion Service**  
**Celebrate the Last Supper**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm**

**Easter Sunday**  
SUNDAY, APRIL 17  
7:00am Sunrise service in Amphitheatre  
8:00am Coffee Hour  
9:00am Sunday School  
10:00am Worship service in Sanctuary

**Drop off in the Gathering Space**

**CVAN & GRACIOUS HANDS NEEDS YOU!**  
Mallard Creek Presbyterian will collect much needed items for these 2 organizations thru the month of April

**CVAN- Safety, Shelter & Support for Battered Women and Their Children**

**Gracious Hands- Bringing HOPE to Homeless Single Mothers and Children**

PERSONAL ITEMS:	CLEANING SUPPLIES:	MISC. ITEMS:
Sanitary Napkins	Laundry Detergent Pods	New Bath Towels
Regular Size Shampoo Conditioner, & Lotion	All Purpose Cleaner & Pine Sol	Toilet Tissue & Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer	Bleach & Lysol Spray	Napkins
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste & Mouthwash	Dish Detergent	Paper Towels

## Session Highlights

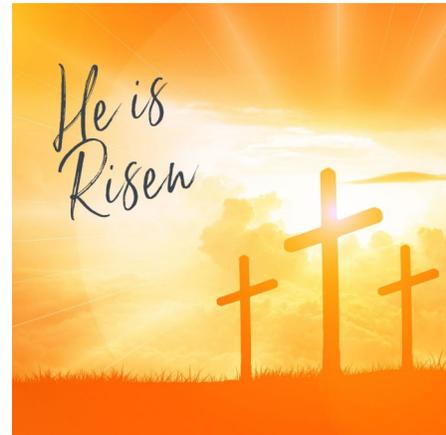
Received Retirement Letter from Shawn Watkins effective end of March – Thanks to Shawn for her Dedication

Approved Motion for Clerk of Session to thank MCPC Staff for dedication for the last 2 challenging years.

Received encouraging report of Worship, Youth, Teens, Sunday School, Mission, Older Adult Ministries & other Ministries increased participation in recent weeks – WE ARE OPEN!!!

### Upcoming Events

- ◇ March 18      Teen Lock-in
- ◇ April 2        Easter Egg Hunt 1-2 p.m.
- ◇ April 3        Rain date for Easter Egg Hunt 1-2 p.m.
- ◇ April 10       Palm Sunday
- ◇ April 14       Maundy Thursday Service
- ◇ April 17       Easter Sunday (Sunrise 7am & 10 am Worship)
- ◇ April 24       Confirmation Sunday/Congregational Easter Lunch
- ◇ June 5         Graduation Sunday
- ◇ June 26-30    Vacation Bible School
- ◇ July 20-24    Middle School Montreat
- ◇ July 24-30    High School Montreat
- ◇ July 31-Aug 5   Camp Grier



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; color: #00AEEF; margin: 0;">May Birthdays</h1>						
1 Kenneth Helms Elisa Hansen	2 Debbie McCrary Miller Gupton Hunter Roddey	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 Marti McCoy 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	16	17 Beth Massey Bih Ndingwan	18 Caroline Williams	19 Waylon Gullede	20	21 Mike Stubbs Rose Oehler
22 Hannah Sheppard Ava DeKam	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				

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church  
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Charlotte, NC 28262



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The Rev. Rob Watkins  
The Rev. Hunter Roddey  
Mrs. Andrea Thomas  
Mrs. Shawn Watkins  
Mr. David Barnaba  
Mrs. Cathy Marlor  
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor  
Transitional Associate Pastor  
Director of Children & Youth Ministry  
Administrative Assistant  
Director of Music  
Financial Manager  
Preschool Director