

The Scroll

August 2023

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

I have been thinking a lot lately about grace.

Grace is one of the foundational stones of our faith practice. We proclaim that Jesus was God's gift to the world because, through Jesus, God would eliminate the power of sin to alienate us from God.

Jesus is God's living compassion for us. God recognizes that we are imperfect, prone to mistakes, and often blind to our own imperfections. God first gave an encyclopedic set of commandments to Moses by which the covenant people—Israel—would live as God wants all people to live, namely in life defined by the worship of God as the center of all being, and living with one another in the human community through compassion, grace, mercy, and generosity. Israel would be a living example for all the rest of the world as to how God wanted us to live and why God wanted us to live that way.

But they were unable to do it. Nor could we. Human beings tend to turn inward, prioritizing that which makes life better for ME, ignoring that such focus hurts other people and keeps us from really being who we are. We want to do what we want. We want to have what we want. We want to protect what we have from everyone else. We find ways to shore up our own pride by denouncing others or creating levels of importance, worth, and value, making sure we are on top, and everyone else is firmly below. Oddly, the more we have, the more insecure we become. Fear then leads us to wall ourselves off from others. Reading scripture, we see this happen to Israel; but we also, if we are honest, recognize an awful lot that is completely familiar to our own world.

The result—we could not and cannot save ourselves.



So God sent Jesus to be one of us, one for us, and one with us. He showed us that it is possible to live a life that is nothing but embodied self-sacrificial, other-centered (instead of self-centered) compassion. He lived this compassion to its completion, even offering his life for everyone else. God accepted that work as reconciliation. There would be peace between God and humanity.

Faith is trusting it to be so, no more, no less. We do not earn salvation. We do not work ourselves into sainthood. We do not bargain with God. We do not create a worthy resume to present to God. No, we see that, in Christ, all is done, we simply need to believe it to be so.

All is well, all shall be well.

What a miracle.

We, then, respond by going and doing likewise. To offer our thanks to God, we do everything in our power to live by the same compassion that saved us. We realize that every person we meet needs this same good news, the same opportunity to find freedom from all that alienates and isolates, and to know that they, too, are beloved children of God. There is no greater gratitude to be offered to God.

Then can come another miracle.



Hunter's Thoughts



Something I have not done a lot of in my role at MCPC is work with the youth. Andrea has been such a wonderful leader for them that I have been able to keep my focus elsewhere, only occasionally getting to teach a Confirmation class or be part of VBS or Easter Egg Hunts. I have been amazed from the sidelines as I have watched some of the young people work at Rise Against Hunger or Room In The Inn. And Graduation Sunday has become particularly meaningful as we hear what this church and congregation mean to them.

This year, I had the opportunity to attend the Montreat Middle School Conference with seven of our middle schoolers and two other adults. I had never been to this before, though my own children loved it when they were in youth groups. (Though it is sponsored by Montreat, it actually takes place at Maryville College in Tennessee. This is because there are so many High School youth at the Montreat conference that they run out of room - what a great problem to have!)

More than 500 middle schoolers from around the country (along with their adult leaders) took over the college campus for 5 days and 4 nights. Rarely are so many Presbyterian Church mini-buses gathered in one parking lot! The energy was amazing and only built through the time there. On that first evening, some of our kids expressed anxiety about the next day when they would meet their small groups. They would be all new people - what would they be like? By the end of the conference, every one of them talked about how the small groups had been the highlight because of all the new friends they have made.

Along with friendships and fun, it was wonderful to see so many young people be willing to talk about their faith. They asked great questions; they listened to each other; and they shared God's love all around. The theme of the conference was "Igniting A Spark", and you really could see these kids listening and learning during keynote speeches, worship, and small groups. I am sure that our high schoolers are getting a similar experience at their conference.

I was blessed to be with Amanda Booth and Katie Moore, both of whom were veterans of being adult leaders for the conference. And I'm so thankful to Adelynn, Brooklyn, Helena, Hope, Jessica, Ruby, and Sophia for letting me participate with them in such a great experience. (They gave me the moniker "Montreat Mom" - I'm not sure whether to be flattered or not....) What a blessing to get to be part of such energy, faith, and commitment!





Do you LOVE children, want to earn some extra money, and work with an amazing team in a Christian environment? If so, **WE NEED YOU** on our Substitute Teacher list. Please contact Kristy at kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741 for more information.

We are busy preparing for the upcoming school year and anxiously waiting for the little kiddos to return and fill the hallways with

laughter and excitement again! God has blessed us with an awesome teaching staff, full classes, and long waiting lists. Woohoo!

Even though the first day of school for our preschoolers is not until September, there is A LOT going on in the preschool this month.

Monday, August 21st from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Staff Orientation.

Tuesday, August 22nd from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.—Two different workshops for our staff from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Libraries.

Thursday, August 24th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.—CPR/1st Aid (if you would like to attend this class, email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org for more information.)

Thursday, August 31st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.—Open House for all classes.

Tuesday, September 5th—1st Day of Preschool!

THANK YOU for your continued support of our preschool as an outreach ministry program of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church!

Our mission is to provide a loving, learning, Christian environment where children can test themselves in their world, gain self-confidence, and develop as a whole person. At MCPCP, we emphasize the development of young children spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially, and physically through a developmentally appropriate curriculum under the leadership of experienced teachers.

THANK YOU

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

January - July 15, 2023 FINANCIAL POSITION

Year to Date income	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$863.34
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$187,497.21
ONLINE GIVING	\$71,781.77
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$15,683.40
TOTAL	\$275,825.72
YTD INCOME	\$275,825.72
YTD EXPENSES	\$352,571.42
Reserves Spent	(\$76,745.70)

Contributions

January	\$36,873.66
February	\$43,353.43
March	\$42,998.84
April	\$34,910.84
May	\$28,525.55
June	\$49,731.00
July 1/2 a month	\$23,749.00
Total Contributions	\$260,142.32



Join us on August 13th at 10:30am in the sanctuary at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church or watch live on our website (mallardcreekchurch.org) or Facebook page (@MallardCreekPC) for our Back to School Sunday!

Back to School Sunday is a day to honor and bless all the hard work that goes into making this school year meaningful for all of our students, parents, educators, and preschool staff. We invite students of all ages to bring their bookbags for a special blessing and gift. We also invite all educators/school support staff/MCPC preschool staff to join us for a special recognition and blessing.

We will be collecting donations for our MCPC Preschool and for the ministry of Backpack Blessings. Bring donations on August 13th, or coordinate with Andrea to drop off at the church. Please bring any of the following items to donate and support these important ministries:

For the MCPC Preschool:

- Ziploc baggies (all sizes)
- Softsoap hand soap (small ones and refills)
- Hand sanitizer (squirt bottles and refills)
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning supplies: Bleach, Clorox wipes, Lysol spray

For Backpack Blessings: NO GLASS PLEASE

- Oatmeal, grits, cereal, rice (boxes of individual packages)
- Cereal bars, granola bars, fruit grain bars
- Individual fruit cups/applesauce/fruit snacks/pudding cups
- Canned spaghetti/spaghetti-o's/chef boyardee
- Canned vegetables, beans, chili
- Macaroni and cheese individual cups
- Vacuum sealed individual packages of chicken or tuna
- Individual soups
- Pasta with sauce (NO GLASS)
- Individual packages of cheese crackers

New ways to give at Mallard Creek			
	Scan QR Code	WE GIVE because GOD GAVE FIRST <small>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... John 3:16</small>	Text MCPC to 73256

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

August 2023

We had an amazing time at Montreat in July, and the teens had a wonderful experience connecting to one another and to God. HUGE THANK YOU to all of the Montreat chaperones who made the trips possible. I could not do it without you!! We have a full fall schedule to look forward to in September, and here's a few photos from all the fun we've had this summer.



Calling all 5th and 6th graders!

A new year of Confirmation class begins on September 10 during the Sunday School hour. Let Andrea know if you'd like to participate.



Join us in worship for a special blessing over all our students and educators on Sunday, August 13 at 10:30 as we begin a new school year together. Kids can bring their backpacks for the blessing.





LIVESTREAM, our streaming service for the webpage, has been discontinued. It was replaced by **VIMEO**. Unfortunately, one of the consequences of this switch is that our sermon archive is no longer available on the MCPC website. If you wish to view an archived sermon, please let us know the date of that sermon, and we can place a copy on the website for you.

Our Facebook page will continue to have an archive of sermons available. We apologize for any inconvenience, and thank you for your patience as we make this change.



THANK YOU

Dear MCPC Quilt Ministry

Thank you so much for my prayer quilt.

It's been so comforting knowing both Dave and I have been in so many people's prayers. I love my quilt and look forward to displaying it in my living room like my mom has hers from when she also received more than a few years ago.



With Love
Taylor Jones and Dave



Presbyterian Women's
Annual Kickoff
Sunday, August 20
1:00 p.m.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

You don't have to be a current member of a Circle to attend!

Elder duty for August: Kristy Maddux , James Killian , Brian Wasko

Deacon duty for August: Christine Shankey, Robin McCraw , Joe Crapster, Phil Ashley, Wendy White .

Thank you to all that have contributed to backpack blessings this year. In preparation for the new school year we are asking for help . Our funding was in a surplus position during the pandemic because of lower needs but now the schools are back to normal and we are preparing many more backpacks. Not to mention higher grocery prices! Below is a listing of what typically goes in each backpack, based on 4 children per backpack.

- 1 can of Hunts spaghetti sauce.
- 1 package of pasta
- 2 cans of Spaghettios
- 1 Can of chicken
- 2 cans of veggies
- 2 Cans of beans
- 4 top ramen
- 1 Box of Mac and Cheese
- 4 fruit cups
- 4 packs of oatmeal
- 4 packs of grits
- 1 box of rice or potatoes



We are doing backpacks this summer start in July for a couple of times in the month.

Special Thank you of Circle of Rebekah and Mary/Anna for the contribution to be able to do backpacks for the summer.

As you can see we only buy necessities but with 80 children for Parkside and up to 30 for Mallard Creek costs add up quickly. Granola bars, cookies and chips are only put in when donated. **As the school year begins we are asking for monetary donations or food to keep this ministry going.** Contributions can be made online or via check made payable to Presbyterian Women, noting "Backpack Blessings" in the memo line.

Special Prayers

Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore	Elizabeth King	Caroline Williams	Sandra Tracy
Jimmy Rodgers - son of Frances Christenbury	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seaford
Donna Garrison— wife of Eddie Garrison	Juanita Untz	Roy Kinnamon	Elaine Lord
Larry Carroll - husband of Ann Carroll	Ruby Downing	Dennis Lord	Guy Eberhart
Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden	Donnie Oehler	Ken Christenbury	Carolyn Sheehan
Barry Henson - brother-in-law of Perry Deaton	Taylor Jones	Judith Rankin	Barbara Cottrell
LaVern Winter - father of Tammy Alford	Suggie Christenbury	Joana Lovette	Cy Alexander
Grey Taylor - brother of Nancy Busch	Dale McLaughlin	Ann Brown	David Saviano
The family of Frances Christenbury	Carlita Hunter	Stan Mach	Perry Deaton
Tracy Brienich - daughter of Linda and Teddy Preslar		Lynn Kelley	Cristina Moore
The family of Dallas Kim King - son of Merle King		Jean Thomas	Earl Thomas

Bobbie and Steve Misenheimer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>September Birthdays</h1>						
					1 Martin Oehler Brian Wasko	2
3 Doug Martin Will Busch Jake Crapster Cole Scholand	4 Karen Trimble Jason Alexander	5	6 Kathleen Crosier Cy Alexander Ernie Jones	7 Ginny Brooks Leigh Johnson Melissa Mabie	8	9 Charles Kimrey
10 Doug Sheehan	11 Lois Spradley Joshua Baker Carlene Clark	12 Barbara Walker Penny Louya Anye Ndingwan	13 Sarah Alexander Alice Oehler Michael Kostrzynski	14 Brodie MacNeil Caroline Johnson	15	16 Sheri Rose
17 Alec Trimble	18 Carl Hatton Ava Austin	19 Gary Walker Candace Greenly	20	21	22 Michel Lapalombella	23 Nancy Garrison BJ Knox Ronnie McKay Jeb White
24	25 Cameron Mitchell Alexander Snyder	26	27 Benjamin Baker Simon Alexander	28 Bebe McGee	29	30 Sue Bishop Ben Oehler

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The Rev. Rob Watkins
The Rev. Hunter Roddey
Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Ms. Amanda Booth
Ms. Claudia Perez
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

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