

The Scroll



Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

From Pastor Rob

August is a Communion month. Here at Mallard Creek, the Session set for us a schedule in which we celebrate Communion the first Sunday of each even-numbered month, and being the eighth month, we celebrate Communion the first Sunday.

...which may have already passed by the time you read this...

And that leads me to a wondering...what if we really did treat the **WHOLE** month as a Communion month? What would that look like? What would that mean?

It helps to remember exactly what Communion is.

With Baptism, it is one of the two sacraments we as Presbyterians observe. We define a sacrament as a transcendent and transformative encounter with God through a specific rite and ritual that Jesus himself mandated for the community that followed him. At baptism, we acknowledge God's claim on each of us even before we are able to voice that claim ourselves. We see God blessing, keeping, and abiding with the baptized. We see God doing so through the congregation—a community of faith—that will keep faith with the baptized through their lives. In many ways Communion is the assurance that we will be able to keep our promises to the baptized. We gather as a community before God, acknowledging God's presence with us. We also acknowledge that we cannot exist apart from God—it is God who literally feeds us daily bread for heart, mind, body, and soul. That sustenance is what empowers our ability to stand with one another through thick and thin, continuing to live into the total love for God with every fiber of our being and our love for one another and our neighbors and ourselves—the two commandments of Jesus. Communion feeds us. Communion sustains us. Communion impels us to respond with gratitude to God for all.

Communion also binds us together. We are a family of faith. We are to be together.

So what would a whole month of that look like?

Use your imagination. Think outside the box. What can we do that reveals the deep connection of Communion to others? What can we do that shares the daily bread of provident grace with someone else? What can we do that draws others into the circle?

Jesus often taught that the best response to grace is to become gracious. Apply that to Communion. The best response to Communion is to create it wherever we are with whomever happens to be there.

Let's try it and see.



Hunter's Thoughts

We are in the last month of Summer. Over the past few weeks, I've listened with interest (and a bit of envy) as people have shared about their vacation times away. But next week is our week as Susan and I will get to the beach for a few days, and both of our children will get to join us for the second part of the trip. We haven't been to the beach together in several years, so this is something we're all excited about. My hope and expectation is that we will eat well, body-surf some "gnarly" waves, canoe around in the sound, ride bikes, and just sit and do nothing. My hyperactive father used to plan one "major" activity and two "minor" activities for every day of his vacations. We would take turns trying to keep up with him. I hope to do a number of fun things as well, but also have time to rest and recharge.

I thought about that the other day when I heard the tune from "Morning Has Broken" playing in an elevator. It is a hymn I have always loved - we sang it at my high school baccalaureate service and at the camp that I went to each summer as well as in church. And when I was young, I would hear it on the radio as sung by Cat Stevens. His rendition, and the piano arrangement by Rick Wakeman, managed to meaningfully reach me in between songs by the Beatles and the Stones.



One of those summers at camp, Chris the director, in his Sunday meditation, talked about the hymn, and it opened up a much fuller understanding for me. He pointed out that in the final verse, the author - Eleanor Farjeon - writes of "God's recreation". In my mind, I had always heard that as "recreation" with a short e in the first syllable, and that is the way it is often sung. It would be as if God is playing ball at the park or some other form of recreation. But that day, the director suggested that the intention may be for "recreation" to have a long e in that first syllable - that the word should refer to "God's RE-creation of the new day".

Though I was probably the last one to make this connection, the song suddenly came together in that last verse in a way that was so much more significant. God is RE-creating all around us, all the time, particularly in the dawn of each new day. Since then, I have never listened to or sung that song without making that connection in my mind. But Chris continued and pointed out that the two different pronunciations of "recreation", though they have different definitions, are closely related and point to each other. When we recreate, we RE-create. We allow ourselves to renew and restore and rejuvenate our bodies. And we allow God to do the same within our souls.

I try to remind myself of that before any vacation or time off. It's wonderful to be active and it's wonderful to rest - both are part of RE-creating. The example of Jesus stepping away by himself more than once to rest and pray and listen is there to guide us.

So next week, I plan to both recreate and RE-create. I need both of those to most fully answer God's call to follow. My prayer is that each of us has the opportunity to do both, whether on vacation or a weekend or an evening after work. I look forward to seeing you after I get back and we can share the different ways we have RE-created and recreated this summer.

Grace and Peace, Hunter



Do you LOVE children, want to earn some extra money, and would like to work in a Christian environment with a wonderful team? If so, please consider being a Substitute Teacher for our preschool. If interested, contact Kristy at kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741 for more information.

We are busy preparing for the new school year and anxiously waiting for the noise and hustle and bustle of the little kiddos to return! It has been a quiet summer! We are blessed as our classes are full and we have long waiting lists for each age group. 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. Check out the events in bold that you are welcome to attend, too.

Monday, August 8th from 9-11 a.m. in the dining hall—Active Shooter Training by CMPD (all church members are welcome to attend. Email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org if you are going to join us.)

Wednesday, August 17th from 5:30-6:30 in the dining hall—Active Reading Family Workshop by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library (if you would like to attend, please go to the following link to sign-up, as space is limited <https://forms.gle/8SJ7Pnj8L74G3cqu7>).

Monday, August 22nd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Staff Orientation.

Monday, August 29th 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.)

Wednesday, August 31st at 10 a.m. in the church sanctuary—Parent Orientation for our 2 and 3-year-old students, followed by Open House in the preschool classrooms.

Thursday, September 1st at 10 a.m. in the church sanctuary—Parent Orientation for our Pre-K students, followed by Open House in the preschool classrooms.

Tuesday, September 6th—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.

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."

PW Circle Meetings update

Presbyterian Women –

It's Circle Kick-Off time! Please join us Sunday August 21st from 3:00-5:00 in the dining hall. Our Speaker will be Sonja from Gracious Hands. This is open to ALL women of the church. I hope you can attend!

It's time to begin thinking about our Circle year! I pray you have been thinking about a circle to join in the Fall. Each meeting is centered around a Bible study lesson. Below are the circles, the time in which they meet and Circle leaders and their contact info. Please reach out to them if you have any questions so you can find a circle that meets all your needs.

Circle of Mary-Anna –Typically meets on Tuesday @ 10:30 am – Bible Study Horizons –
“Celebrating Sabbath”

(Bobbie Misenheimer – Bmisenheimer@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah –Typically meets on Monday, @ 6:00 – Bible Study Horizons – “Celebrating Sabbath”

(Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – Typically meets on Monday @ 7:00 this circle will be a hybrid meeting in person and on zoom – Bible Study “Bigger, Rebuilding the Broken”

(Beth Patafio – Bethpatafio@icloud.com)



****If anyone is aware of a birth of a baby in our congregation please let the office know or contact Robin Fuller 704-701-2121.****



Congregational Care Committee

- The Congregational Care Committee is at the heart of our church and responds to the needs of our members and their families.
- The committee sends monthly cards with personal messages to members who are homebound or members/friends experiencing sorrows and joys.
- Help members by providing meals or other support in times of difficult or challenge.
- Visit and form relationships with members who are elderly, ill, homebound, and those dealing with personal crisis. Provide friendship, encouragement and prayer.

Welcome all members and volunteers to committee



JULY STEWARDSHP UPDATE	
Sunday School	\$113.00
Worship Offering	\$23,571.00
Online Giving	\$7,975.00
TOTAL Offering	\$31,659.00
Total Offering YTD	\$282,377.15
Total Expenses YTD	\$354,803.35
Under for Year	(\$72,426.20)

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

August 2022

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 what we've got going on as the summer comes to a close.

-Andrea Thomas



Active Reading Workshop at MCPC:

Wednesday, August 17th at 5:30pm

We are partnering with the MCPC Pre-school and Charlotte-Meck public library to offer a special reading workshop for families with children ages 2-5. Each family will receive 3 free books to take home and a pizza for dinner. This will be a fun opportunity for the whole family to learn how to read WITH children instead of TO children!

Calling all 6th graders for 2022-2023!

Confirmation class during Sunday school will begin again for this school year on September 11th. We meet every Sunday from 9-9:45am. If your 6th grader would like to participate in Confirmation class to be confirmed on April 30, 2023, please let Andrea know!

Back to School Sunday

Sunday, August 28th at 10:00am

Join us during worship to bless backpacks, honor our educators, and collect donations for the MCPC Preschool and Backpack



Join us on August 28th at 10:00am 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 28th, 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
- Old towels to use to wipe down playground equipment

For Backpack Blessings:

- Oatmeal, grits, cereal (boxes of individual packages)
- Cereal bars, granola bars, fruit grain bars
- Individual fruit cups/applesauce/fruit snacks
- Canned spaghetti/spaghetti-o's/chef boyardee
- Canned vegetables and canned meats
- Macaroni and cheese individual cups
- Vacuum sealed individual packages of chicken or tuna

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG
LIBRARY

ican give my child the power of Active Reading.

Active Reading

Sign up for an **Active Reading Family Workshop** to learn how to read WITH children, instead of reading TO children.

Attend an Active Reading Family Workshop to learn the ABC's of Active Reading. Attend this workshop with your child to learn best practices for reading aloud with children! Expect dancing, singing, a storytime, and more. Every family that registers will receive 3 free books and a free pizza meal!

When? Wednesday August 17th at 5:30 p.m.
Where? Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

Register by signing up here:
<https://forms.gle/BSJ7Pnj8L74G3cqu7>

Yes! I plan to attend this virtual Active Reading Workshop on Wednesday August 17th at 5:30 p.m. I will receive 3 free books and a pizza meal at the workshop.

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 Kathryn Beard	7 Ginny Brooks Leigh Johnson Melissa Mabie	8	9 Bernice Martin Charles Kimrey	10
11 Lois Spradley Lewis Smith 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 Beau Brown	19 Gary Walker Candace Greenly	20	21	22 Michel Lapalombella	23 Nancy Garrison BJ Knox Ronnie McKay Jeb White	24 Noah Rodden
25 Cameron Mitchell Alexander Snyder Kathy Robinson	26	27 Benjamin Baker Simon Alexander	28 Bebe McGee Sydney Oehler Caitlin Rainstein	29	30 Sue Bishop Ben Oehler	

Elder duty for August: Tommy Mitchell, Tom Fuller, Mack Downing.

Deacon duty for August: Jackie Brand, Jennifer Lazarus, Jack Miles, Tracy Tucker, Wendy White, Jarret Garrison.



A baby boy is on the way!

Join us for a
Baby Shower
honoring
Andrea Thomas & Carson Shoupe

Date : Sunday October 2, 2022

Time : 2-4 PM

Place : Church Dining Hall

Hosted by: Robin Fuller & Kristy Maddux

RSVP : Text 704-701-2121 or 704-517-7384

Registered at Amazon & Target under Andrea Thomas

Papery Pop

Special Prayers

Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore	Elizabeth King	Bobby Brown	Caroline Williams
Carolyn Sheehan	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seaford
Kenneth Helms	Juanita Untz	Peggy Puckett	Elaine Lord
Debbie Faraone	Bernice Martin	Ruby Downing	Maria Martini
Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden	Justin Alford	Donnie Oehler	

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Charlotte, NC 28262



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The Rev. Rob Watkins
The Rev. Hunter Roddey
Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Mrs. Claudia Perez
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Carolyn Fitzgerald
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

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