

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

As December opens, bringing in the final, blessed month of 2020, many of us are feeling like this year is a houseguest who overstayed their welcome. A year ago, we were not dealing with a pandemic. A year ago, nearly thirty hurricanes had not stormed across the Atlantic. A year ago, no earthquake rumbled through Sparta, NC, shaking some of the mountain homes of folks in our congregation. A year ago, the election was only something we saw coming. The chaos and division had not yet reached the fevered pitch of the last few weeks. A year ago, we still had not lost some of the folk dearest to our hearts. Yes—2020 overstayed its welcome...

But December also holds the most blessed light we will ever see—the Advent of Christ the Lord, culminating in the celebration of his birth. That light shines in the proverbial darkness. It shines through all the earth. It shines before every person who breathes. It shines with the hope, peace, joy, and love offered by God that make this season so very special.

My suggestion for all of us is to sing your favorite Christmas carols in the car or at home or taking your daily walk or wherever you can sing without fear of sharing the virus. Sing out. You know all the words. I find that singing just makes me feel better.

Or if you don't want to sing, rummage back through old Christmas cards. I know some of us keep them from year to year. Let their simple messages of joy percolate through you. Or if you don't have a stack of cards, really spend time with your tree ornaments, remembering when and where you got them, or who gave you one, or which Bad Santa gift exchange wound up with you taking the ornament of Santa in bikini briefs and sunglasses home.

In short, find the lights of joy flaring near at hand. We need them. One of the highlights of Christmas worship is the candle lighting on Christmas Eve. Each single candle joins with the others, creating a panoply of light that is wondrous to behold. So it is with finding the simple joys. Each little joy adds to each other one, creating a wash of refreshing joy and celebration.

Let your light shine, wherever and however you are.

Peace!



OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	\$0
Worship Offering	\$24,147.00
Online Giving	\$14,027.00
TOTAL Offering	\$38,174.00
Total Offering YTD	\$431,147.89
Total Expenses YTD	\$503,016.12
Under for Year	\$71,868.23

Elders on Duty for December:

Mike Rodden, Tommy Mitchell, Charles Kimrey, Jason Oehler and Clay Scholand

Deacons on Duty for December:

Jamie Garrison, Jane Marshall, Linda Wallace, Jenn Messina, Perry Deaton and Wade MacNeil

Elizabeth King	Warner Marshall	Charley Moon	Ann Brown	Kenneth Helms
Fred Treadway	Deane Davis	Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian		Bernice Martin
Terry Williams, stepson of Caroline		Debbie Hunter	Carrie Hanes	
Randall Montgomery	Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas	Donald Buff, brother in law of Jimmy Walker		
Samantha Busch	Laurel Petty, extended family of Mack Downing			
Jimmy Marcus, brother of Rachel Rodden		Betty Morris, sister of Earlene Craver		
Gayle Brunson, sister of Brenda Oehler		Tom Lawing, stepson of Nell		
David, brother of Nancy Busch		Linda, sister in law of Nancy Busch		

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

Christmas Services:

December 13, A Super Christmas Variety Show at 10:00am

December 20, Hope for a Weary World: A Service of Communion and Candle Lighting at 4:00pm

December 24, Christmas Eve at 5:00pm



Pastor Alison's Care Corner

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, and for many of us, our Thanksgiving was noticeably different this year. This was the case in our home as we did not include my biological father, still recovering from cancer surgery, in our family gathering. I know at least one couple in our congregation who spent Thanksgiving alone out of a concern over being around their college student grandchildren returning home for the holiday. For many of us, this was a Thanksgiving like no other. And Christmas just might look different as well.

For some, the holidays are not an easy time as it is. For some, spending too much, drinking too much, eating too much, and grieving over the losses of the past year seem to come home to roost around Christmas. Others of us feel the pressure of wanting to create the perfect Christmas for our families. It can just get to be too much.

Christmas in my childhood home was a mixed bag. Untreated mental illness and substance abuse were the demons with which my family members struggled. Added to this was the fact that my adoptive father had suffered a brain injury as a young man, leaving him subject to sudden violent outbursts. As a child, I never quite knew what might happen and how it might happen. But my parents nearly always managed to get it together for Christmas Day, and it was, for the most part, an enjoyable day. But still, the weeks and days leading up to Christmas were characterized by a mixture of excitement and fear as I never knew what might happen next.

I've had to work intentionally not to recreate this kind of Christmas experience in my own family with my own spouse and children. You see, the ghosts of Christmases past really can cloud our Christmas present if we are not intentional. A friend of mine refers to this as "rewriting our story," meaning that as adults we do not have to play out the same family dynamics as the ones in which we grew up.

We really can rewrite our stories. I have rewritten mine and our family is a wonderfully imperfect band of six who love each other unconditionally, show respect for one another, and cherish time together. Sure, we have our moments, as every family does. Sure, we unintentionally speak words that hurt. But we always, always apologize and move on.

And so, may we all move in and through this sacred season with patience for one another, without placing unrealistic expectations on those we love, with a commitment to taking care of our own needs just as we are aware of the needs of others, with a determination to slow down and smell the eggnog, and with a resolve to spend time each day taking in the lights, the glorious music, and the precious company - perhaps through FaceTime or Zoom - of those we hold dear.



Thanks for the tremendous response to this year's Angel Tree campaign. Because of your generosity Mallard Creek provided Christmas gifts to 99 children and their families from University and Parkside Elementary Schools. No doubt these families will wake up Christmas morning and enjoy a holiday that they would otherwise not have had.

Backpack Blessings also continues. As of this writing we are feeding 81 children and 41 adults weekly. We expect this number to grow as more children return to in-classroom learning. Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous food and monetary donations. If you'd like to support this program through a donation, please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line.

Once again, your support is greatly appreciated. Have a blessed Christmas, Maria Menconi

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards, calls, and prayers for my wonderful Mom Edna's memory. A special thanks for Pastor Alison's frequent comforting calls. These expressions mean a lot during this time of "happy for Mom but sad for us." Love Bonnie and Cleve Hodges



If you have a 2 to 5-year-old child and are looking for a caring, clean, educational, and Christian preschool, we would love to have your child join us!

Please give us a call at 704-549-9741 or email us

at kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org.

Every year, our classes participate in one mission project to help teach the children the importance of giving and helping others. This year our classes have collected items for Christmas Blessings Bags for the homeless. These bags will be distributed to the homeless in uptown Charlotte before Christmas.

This month our children will learn how to have fun with friends, all about others, and the true meaning of Christmas. The Bible stories that Ms. Monie will share with each class are: The Good Samaritan, The Crippled Lamb, and Jesus' Birth. The children will finish up the month with a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long on a special day filled with fun activities. They might even get a visit from Santa! 😊

The Bible verse that the children will learn this month is: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart." Matthew 22:37

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!!! Happy New Year, too!
Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant

Upcoming Circle Meetings

Welcome to a New Presbyterian Women's Circle Year. 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 – Cancelled for December

(Polly Caldwell - cacpwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolinar - edlin1025@yahoo.com)

Circle of Mary – December 1 10:30 am in the Gathering Space

(Jane Isenhower – isenhowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace - beach68@bellsouth.net,
Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – December 7, 6:00 pm Zoom

(Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – December 7, :00 on ZOOM

(Sue Oehler - csoehler@bellsouth.net)



Room in the Inn is canceled this season BUT the needs of our homeless neighbors are not.

To read more about how the winter sheltering needs will be met, click [HERE](#)

During the months of December, January, & February we will collect items for the homeless and deliver them to Roof Above (formally Urban Ministry). You may bring them to worship service or drop them off in the church office. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Rodden: rachrodden@gmail.com or 704.577.2837

DECEMBER

- NEW MASKS (disposable or washable- handmade masks welcome!)
- NEW MEN'S HATS AND GLOVES

JANUARY

- NEW MEN'S SOCKS
- NEW MEN'S BOXER BRIEFS (size M, L, XL, XXL)

FEBRUARY

- NEW TOWELS AND WASHCLOTHS
- TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES (shampoo, shower gel, razors, small cans of shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer)



Year end contributions

Sunday, December 27 will be the last Sunday in 2020. Any contribution received on or before that day will be posted to your 2019 MCPC gift statement. Gifts received after December 27 will appear on the 2021 statement. Please plan accordingly so we may honor your wishes.
Thank you for your continued support.

To give / donate stock to MCPC

- 1) Contact your brokerage house and request a form to transfer stock to a non profit as a gift
- 2) The stocks being gifted will be to: MCPChurch, Inc. 1600 West Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte N C 28262, 704 547 0038. The church account is with Pershing LLC and the church ID with Pershing is 322-379758
- 3) Pershing LLC will be who your broker transfers the stock to

ONE Pershing Plaza
Jersey City, N J 07399

888 367 2563

DTCC# 0443
- 4) You will need to call Cathy at the church office:
 - a. Tell her the stock is being transferred. She will then show your gift on the church records when the stock transfer is completed. You must call her as Pershing does not send her the name of the donor.
 - b. Also tell her which fund or project the gift is to be applied to.

Time to Restock Committees

Each December MCPC restocks the church committees. Most of the work at MCPC is done within a church committee. Our various committees are responsible for responding to the needs of our church family. Almost all items brought to the Session or the Board of Deacons for action comes from a church committee. The Board of Deacons are responsible for The Congregational Care Committee, The Connections Committee, The Mission Committee and The Fellowship Committee. The Session Committees are; The Education and Spiritual Committee, The Youth and Children Committee, The Worship Committee, The Property Committee and The Finance Committee. Each committee is chaired by an elder or a deacon and is made up of not only officers but also congregational members. If you would like to serve on a committee please let the church office know or leave a note on the pew register. If there is an open spot on a committee, the chair would then call you.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, December 6th.

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship



Youth Club Christmas Party
Sunday, December 6th 4-6pm

Wear Christmas attire or pajamas.
Join us for some Christmas crafts, games,
and snacks!



Teen Fellowship Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13th 4-6pm

Wear your tackiest Christmas outfit - top 3 win a prize!
We will make cards for our homebound members since
we can't go caroling this year.
Bring a gift less than \$10 to play White Elephant.



JESUS SAVES
A Super Christmas Variety Show
Sunday, December 13th
During the 10:00am Service

Note: Youth Club & Teens will practice Sabbath on 12/20 and 12/27.

What a crazy year we have had! Somehow, against all the odds, we made it through 2020 – together! Let's close out the year by focusing on the true hope and joy of Christmas; that Christ is still with us and working in our lives to write the story that started in a manger oh so long ago. Merry Christmas!

Blessings, Andrea

Session Highlights

1. Approved motion to call the Annual Meeting of MCPC, Inc. on Sunday, January 17, 2021 immediately following the 10:00am worship service in the sanctuary to receive:
 - a. An annual report from the session (Information Only)
 - b. A financial report on 2020
 - c. The budget for 2021 (Information Only)
 - d. To elect four members to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee
 - e. AND to consider two recommendations from the Trustees
 - I. To reduce the number of Elders elected each year to five (currently six)
 - II. To reduce the number of Deacons elected each year to seven (currently eight)
2. Approved transfer of membership for Dennis and Elaine Lord from Central United Methodist Church in Monroe, NC to MCPC
3. Approved transfer of membership for David and Susan Lane from MCPC to Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC.
4. Approved a donation of \$5,000.00 to Heifer International.
 - a. “Cows for Christmas” mission is to end hunger and poverty in sustainable ways. Heifer coordinates which herd of animals will be purchased for communities.
5. Approved a donation of \$2,500.00 to Dewanna’s Closet (Lake Charles, LA) following Hurricane Laura.
6. Approved a gift to the Cemetery Fund for the removal of dead trees that align the cemetery with Mallard Creek Church Road.
7. Approved to establish a Session Memorial Gift to MCPC in memory of Reverend Kenneth Craig.
8. Approved to pay \$100,000.00 on the loan principal balance for the Gathering Space from the cell tower.
9. October Financial Report
 - a. October 2020 collections were \$1,555 LESS THAN October 2019
 - b. YTD 2020 collections were \$47,685 LESS THAN YTD 2019
 - c. October 2020 collections were \$5,517 LESS THAN October expenses
 - d. YTD 2020 collections were \$71,868 LESS THAN YTD expenses
 - e. Capital campaign receipts to date \$1,918,502.79
10. December Meeting of the Session December 15th at 6:30pm via ZOOM
11. Officer Examinations during the December Session Meeting December 15th at 6:30pm via ZOOM





BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

Give blood.



Blood Drive
Mallard Creek
Presbyterian Church

Dining Hall
1600 Mallard Creek Church Road
Charlotte, NC 28262

Saturday, December 26th
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), Carey at (704) 906-4620
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MCPC to schedule an appointment.



Come to give Dec. 18-Jan. 4 for a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt,
while supplies last!

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

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[13] - Order ID: 1138772 - Item ID: 624555 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 012755374 - 3300-APL-01225 - AR12 - 212669



A big THANK YOU to the Killian brothers, James and Don for building us a ramp to help transport my mom to her doctor's visits. It will definitely make my life easier! Thank you MCPC for all the support and love and for being such a blessing to my family.

In Christ, Shawn Watkins



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>January Birthdays</h1> 						
					1 Linda Benfield Frances Christenbury William Achurch	2 Fred Campbell Brandon Putnam Raelyn Oehler Roy Skinner
3 Linda Wallace Jimmy Wood Heather Andreasen	4	5 Kenny Brown Calla Oehler	6 Paul Christenbury Shirley Hunter	7 Chance Rosenberger Marty Brown	8 Jim Brown	9 Jarrett Garrison McKenna Estes
10 Debbie Hunter	11 Jennifer Lazarus Bailey Mitchell	12 Dennis McCrary Matt Palmer	13 Barbara Alexander	14 Tommy Mitchell	15 Nancy Holland Phyllis Jones Dave Andreasen Lauren Cochran	16 Bill Ranson Randy Bishop
17	18 Scott Moss Cale Oehler	19	20 Craven Oehler	21 Sonja Benton Johnnie Cartner, Jr. Joshua Kiser Jennifer Messina	22 Rob Johnson	23
24 Jon Tucker Sheila DeArmon	25 Maria Menconi	26 David Lane Allison Young	27 Evan Guiney Jack Schultz	28 Lisa Oehler Christopher Haas	29 Betty Sue McGuirt Maria Martini	30 Caitlin Blevins
31 Harvey Johnston Jo Moore Chuck Keys Jimmy DeArmon Alexa Moor JakeWhite						

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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

Parish Associate

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Director of Music

Preschool Director

Financial Secretary

Administrative Assistant