

The Scroll

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



From Pastor Rob

February is not much of a month. It only has 28 days. It's too far from Christmas to feel that spark of wonder, joy, and anticipation. It is too far from actual spring to allow us to begin to feel the hope, renewal, and warmth of the returning sun. It is the month when winter seems to be outstaying its welcome.

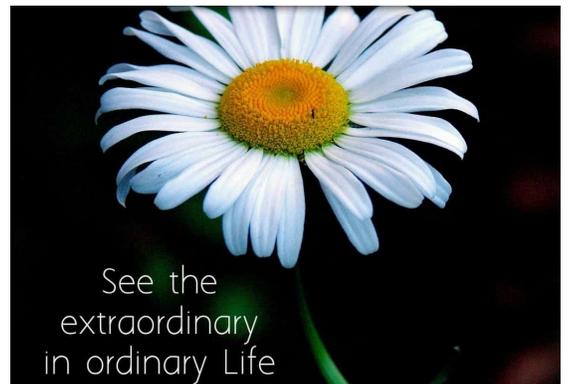
We spark it up a bit with Groundhog Day, Valentines Day, and the Super Bowl. But Groundhog Day really serves to make us long for April. Valentines Day is great for couples, but what of others not so romantically gifted? And the Super Bowl is only as good as the commercials and someone's amazing nacho-guacamole-CHEESE (yes in all CAPS!)—dip. When was the last time you actually paid attention to the game?

This year, February does not even get to sport Mardi Gras...

So what good is it? What do we do with this nothing month?

Liturgically speaking, the Church names the Sundays in February "Ordinary Time."

And that actually gives us something to think about, and maybe even find a way into celebrating February. Think for a moment how much of your life could be classified as "ordinary time." Most of us spend most of our time doing ordinary things. We have our routines, our work, our family responsibilities, our regular habits and practices that occupy the vast majority of our lives. And most of us are ordinary people living in ordinary homes in ordinary neighborhoods.



At times, we dismiss the ordinary. It's like white paint. It's like grits without the hot sauce or sausage. It's like a piece of boiled chicken. It all might be useful, beneficial, and necessary, but...BLAH. And at times, we sometimes feel that way about our lives... blah.

But the Church fathers and mothers saw something else altogether as they led us to mark these Sundays as "Ordinary Time." They wanted us to see the sanctity and holiness of even the ordinary—the things that actually make us who we are; the necessary work we have to do to sustain ourselves; and the routine encounters, engagements, and endeavors that add up to our days. They are holy because they are gifts from God—every bit as holy as the great days of Christmas or Easter or Pentecost. They are gifts of grace for us to use, to grow, and to become the people God made us to be. Each little thing adds together to make the quilt of our lives. Each little thing adds nuance, color, and pattern to our existence.

It is interesting that Jesus saw and acknowledged this—he saw even the offer of a cup of water to a thirsty child as momentarily holy—a lived parable of grace. It is through ordinary kindness, interaction, and conversation that seeds of joy, hope, compassion, and promise are sown. No wonder Jesus spent time with ordinary people at their ordinary dinner tables. That was where the action was. He found it far more present there than in the high, holy places of Jerusalem. According to the gospels, he only went there a couple of times. No, he found and blessed the innate sacredness of ordinary human life.

Well, now—there's something to consider in this most ordinary of months. Blessings on your pondering!

Hunter's Thoughts

Change! The last two years seem to have been all about change. Some people are constantly looking for change in their lives, while others prefer things to stay the same. We have had something for everyone in the last two years – everything has changed, and yet some things never seem to be over! I know I have felt significant change: I have been a hospital chaplain for many years, and now I'm working on a church staff in a vibrant church. I should probably say "vibrant CHANGING church"! Mallard Creek PC is not unique in having to make numerous adjustments over the past two years; but as I come from the outside looking in, it is clear MCPC has handled this better than most. So, for me, though change can be scary, it can also create new beginnings. That does not mean throwing out the old, but instead, adding to the story; opening more doors; creating new opportunities. I certainly don't intend to abandon all that I have learned and developed as a chaplain. Why would the church have called me if it wasn't, in part, for that experience? But I have the opportunity now to learn and grow and add to my story.



In the same way, this congregation has had to do things differently over the past two years – probably more so than at any time in its history. Thankfully, the old has not been thrown out to make those adjustments. This church has built upon a tremendous sense of care, commitment, and outreach – it has continued to be a beacon of the Gospel. This has not always been easy, but with creativity, flexibility, and determination (with a significant assist from those who had the foresight to get this church so well set up with technology), the ministry has continued and grown. While this congregation has continued to care for each other and the broader community, new doors have been opened and new opportunities have been embraced. That is change we can be excited about!

As you get to know me, you will know how much I love history, and this church is rich with it. We're here today because of it. And I want to learn more about it – not just to recreate the past, but to build upon it, see new possibilities, and feel God's compassion and challenge in all our lives.

Thank you all for the warm welcome! And thank you for your patience as I learn the ins and outs of this new role! And most of all, thank you in advance for all that you will teach me and that we will learn together. Grace and Peace in Christ.

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	Donny Brown	Tommy Oehler	Ethel Ranson
Ginger Penninger	Jean MacNeil	Steve Washum	Bobby Brown	Mary Snow

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



*February is Communion month.
Please join us on Sunday, February 6th to celebrate the
Lord's Supper at our 10:00am Worship Service.*

Thank you for the cards, text, phone calls, and especially the prayers during my recent surgery. What a true blessing our church family is. Thanks again for everything.
Larry Oehler

Elder duty for February: Harvey Alexander, Nancy Busch and Perry Deaton
Deacon duty for February: Connie Wallace, Terri Fliegauf, Jenn Messina, Andrew Coore and Ryan Oehler

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	\$73.00
Worship Offering	\$84,202.48
Online Giving	\$17,264.00
TOTAL Offering	\$101,539.48
Total Offering YTD	\$678,187.60
Total Expenses YTD	\$644,054.32
Over for Year	\$34,133.28

\$ 2021 Year End Financial Report \$

The officers and staff would like to thank you for your financial support of MCPC programs in 2021. Our 2021 year-end report shows our collections from members and church friends were only \$15,367.09 short of paying our obligations for the year. However, MCPC applied for the Government Payroll Protection Plan and received \$45,169.37. This more than offset the shortage. Our actual expenses were less than budget projections by \$120,179. Covid continued to impact on our “normal” church operations. We paid our staff their budgeted amounts and honored our benevolence pledges to our approved outside organizations.

Our 2022 budget is \$753,197 or \$168,581 more than 2021 collections. The 2022 budget is based on a 12% benevolence rate.

You indicated the strong level of your financial commitment to MCPC in your giving in 2021. You should take pride in the fact that all our bills were paid, and we were able to contribute \$69,632 to benevolence work. We know, with the Lord’s help, all things are possible, and we should be able to cover our projected 2022 expenses.

If you ever have any questions, the finance committee would be happy to get you an answer. Thank You!!!



Make plans to save a life on Saturday, February 26 at 10:00am – 2:30pm at our Blood Drive. To pre-register call 1-800-REDCROSS or Carey Armistead at 704-906-4610 or visit RedcrossBlood.org and enter MCPC to schedule an appointment.
A \$10 Amazon gift card will be given to all donors.

Ash Wednesday Worship Opportunities

We are offering drive-thru ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 2, from noon to 1:00pm in the church parking lot, and an Ash Wednesday prayer service in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. For the drive-thru service, each car will be given a personal container of ashes and invited to place ashes on their own foreheads as one of our Pastors offers prayers. Each vehicle will also be given a Lenten Bag containing objects and devotions to nurture your spiritual life during this sacred season. Our Pastors will be in masks, and we ask that you please wear a mask so that we might continue our practice of protecting one another. Please enter the church parking lot on the I-85 side of the church and exit on the Trader Joe’s side. The service at 7:00pm will function as a typical worship service in the sanctuary.



A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob for meeting with our students in the church sanctuary in January and telling them about the church, what his role is in the church, and what goes on in the church. The children really enjoyed it!

February is a busy month for our children and staff! We will start off by celebrating Groundhog Day by talking about whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not. We will celebrate Dental Health Month by talking to the children about brushing their teeth each day, keeping their mouth healthy, and eating healthy foods. Then, our classes will celebrate Valentine’s Day by giving each other valentines and having classroom celebrations.

REGISTRATION for 2022-2023 school year is OPEN! We would LOVE to have your child join us next year! If you would like more information or to schedule a tour, please email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741. The deadline for church members to register is Thursday, February 10th, at 1 p.m.

Looking Ahead...Our March Reading Program will begin on February 28th and end on March 31st. We would LOVE to have guest readers for our students during the month of March! You can come and read in person or send us a video of you reading a book. If you are interested, please email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org.

Our Bible verse for the month is: “I will be glad and rejoice in You.” Psalm 9:2

Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant



PW Circle Meetings Update

Presbyterian Women –

Happy Valentines! We invite you to attend a circle meeting! 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; February 1, 2022 – 10:30 am in the Gathering Space

(Jane Isenhower-isenhowerj@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – Monday, February 7, 2022 6:00 in the Gathering Space

(Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – Monday, February 7, 2022 7:00 hybrid meeting: ZOOM and in- person at Kimberly Stiffel’s home

(Beth Patafio – Bethpatafio@icloud.com)



If anyone is aware of a birth of a baby in our congregation please let the office know.

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

February 2022

Youth Club Schedule:

Teen Fellowship Schedule:

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/6	Bible Lesson and Craft
2/13	Sabbath (Super Bowl)
2/20	Movie Night
2/27	Lent Activity & Bible Story

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/6	Trivia Night
2/13	Sabbath (Super Bowl)
2/20	Movie Night
2/27	Lent Bible Study & Dinner



We will not be hosting a Souper Bowl meal again this year due to Covid, but you can still donate \$5 or \$10 or more to our Souper Bowl fund throughout the month of February. The money we raise from this collection funds the teens' mission projects throughout the year, including Backpack Blessings, Angel Tree, and more!

If you're looking for a way to incorporate some more movement into your new year, join Andrea's yoga class! It's a gentle class perfect for beginners on Monday nights at 7pm via Zoom.



Thank you to everyone who came to Family Ice Skating, and to all the adults who helped out! We had an absolute blast! Wishing you all a wonderful February, and looking forward to Lent and Easter in March and April -Andrea

2022 Session Committee Assignments

Name	Class	Committee
Harvey Alexander	23	Worship
Nancy Busch	22	Worship - C
Perry Deaton	24	Property - VC
Mack Downing	24	Worship
Tom Fuller	23	Property - C
Mark Johnson	24	Education & Spiritual - VC
James Killian	24	Finance - VC
Kristy Maddux	23	Youth & Children - C
Cristina Moore	23	Education & Spiritual - C
Tommy Mitchell	22	Finance, Nominating - C
Clay Scholand	24	Youth & Children - VC
Rodney Smith	23	Admin – C, Asst Clerk
Andy Stiffel	22	Finance - C
Becky Wood	23	Finance, Nominating - VC
Bill Wood	22	Clerk

2022 Diaconate Committee Assignments

Name	Class	Committee
Phil Ashley	23	Connections
Tom Baker	23	Mission - VC
Jackie Brandt	23	Congregational Care -C
Andrew Coore	23	Fellowship - VC
Joe Crapster	24	Connections
Terri Fliegau	24	Congregational Care
Jamie Garrison	22	Administration
Terri Garrison	24	Fellowship
Jarret Garrison	24	Fellowship
Jennifer Lazarus	22	Connections -C
Sheila Letica	23	Congregational Care - VC
Jean MacNeil	24	Education & Spiritual
Robin McCraw	23	Congregational Care
Jenn Messina	22	Worship
Jack Miles	22	Finance
Ryan Oehler	22	Property
Allston Oehler	23	Safety - C
Rachel Rodden	22	Mission - C
Amy Spittle	24	Youth & Children
Tracy Tucker	24	Safety - VC
Connie Wallace	22	Mission
Wendy White	23	Fellowship - C

Administrative Committee: Asst Clerk, Clerk, Chair of Diaconate,
 Pastor – Ex Officio and Committee Chairs of:
 Education & Spiritual Nurture, Finance, Personnel, Property,
 Worship, Youth & Children



Scouting for Food - On Scout Sunday, February 6th, Scout Troop 148 is participating in Scouting for Food to support Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays.

Please fill bags with non-perishable food items and bring to church on Sunday, **February 6th**. All food collected will go directly to feed our neighbors in need through Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays network of food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County. Priority food needs include canned fruit (especially no sugar added), canned meats, canned pastas, cereal and low or no sodium canned vegetables.

(We cannot collect glass containers or perishable food.) Please help the Scouts do a good turn by feeding the hungry in our community!

Thank you for your generosity and support in helping our neighbors.

Session Highlights

February 2022

1. Approved minutes of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc. Annual Meeting January 9, 2022, and December Stated Session Meeting.
2. Elected Bill Wood as Clerk of Session for 2022.
3. Elected Rodney Smith as Assistant Clerk of Session for 2022.
4. Elected Jack Miles as MCPC Treasurer for 2022. (Jack Miles)
5. Elected Elders Tommy Mitchell – Chair and Becky Wood – Vice Chair as Elder Reps on the Nominating Committee for 2022 As info: Deacon Rep. Terri Garrison. At Large Congregation: Bobbie Misenheimer, Linda Wallace, Brian Wasko, Kerri Wass.
6. Thanks to additional volunteers who have assisted with the Elementary Sunday School Classes
7. Approved the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the First Sunday of each even numbered month, and Maundy Thursday. Other dates will be approved by the Session as appropriate.
8. Approved Special Committees for 2022
 - BARBECUE
 - BUS/MINI-BUS
 - CEMETERY AND COLUMBARIUM
 - CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARD
 - COVID TASK FORCE
 - MCPC ASSISTANCE FUND
 - PERSONNEL
 - TECHNOLOGY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h2 style="font-size: 2em; color: #00AEEF; margin: 0;">March Birthdays</h2>						
		1 Colton Monteith	2	3 Kim Alessi Reid Wilkinson Julianna Kostrzynski	4 Kelly Oehler Rusty Wallace Jessica Sangutei Sephie Hansen	5 Wendy Brown Sean English
6 Beth Bost Iris Jordan Julie Putnam Tamara Massey	7	8 Pat Dicken	9 Ruby Downing Evelyn DeKam	10 Vance Reid Aimee Carte Oliver Alexander	11 Noah Zevan	12
13 Christina DeKam	14 Carlita Hunter Brooke Meadows Awah Ndingwan	15 Todd Oehler Harper Martin	16 James Killian, Sr. Elaine Lord	17 	18 Merle King Lynne DiMarco Samantha Busch	19
20 Zeek Garrison	21 Catherine Campbell	22 Andy Stiffel	23	24 Carsyn Cooper	25 Nancy Semon Elizabeth Benton Ty Burroughs	26
27 Gabriel English Rosalee Stillman	28 Bill Wood Dillon Brown	29 Carol Travis Hunter Curtis Lauren Gullely Caden Clark	30 Joy Jonson Allison Coore	31		

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road
Charlotte, NC 28262



www.mallardcreekchurch.org

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