



The Scroll

Mallard Creek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

From Pastor Rob

Lent comes quickly this year, arriving on Valentines Day, which may seem somewhat oxymoronic—a season of penance begins on the festival of love?

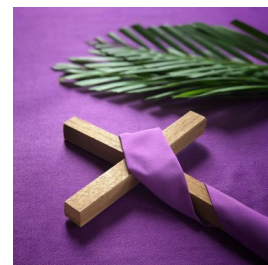
Actually, that seems more than a little appropriate.

The Season of Lent is a season of preparation. It is much more a season of preparation than it is a season of abstinence and deprivation—what we have traditionally turned it into—you may not have to give up your Reese's Pieces just yet! We are to use the forty days of Lent to ready ourselves for a full and complete celebration of Easter, the Day of Resurrection. We are to strip away all that would keep us from fully embracing the gift of a new life, a new day, a new way of being that is the gift of resurrection. We are to prepare ourselves for taking the first steps of this new way of being.

In short, it is to ready ourselves to be to true recipients of God's greatest gift.

For God so loved the world, that God gave God's only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not perish, but have eternal life.

—John 3:16



So, if we are readying ourselves for the greatest gift of love ever given in the history of the human race, what better day on which to begin that celebration than on Valentines Day, the day of love?

We will hold an Ash Wednesday Communion Service on February 14 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary and online. I hope you will be able to join us for the reception of ashes and taking the sacrament as we begin our walk to Easter.

There will also be a Lenten Devotional available for pick up at church each Sunday morning through the season of Lent for your use at home. There will be an online version posted to the church Facebook page each morning during Lent.

Holy Week begins March 24 with our Palm Sunday Choir Cantata, followed by a Maundy Thursday Communion Service, and then our three Easter services—Sunrise in the amphitheater, our 8:30 worship, and our 10:30 worship.

Join us as you are able as we celebrate this season of love, grace, and redemption at Mallard Creek.

May God bless you and keep you always. Amen.

Hunter's Thoughts

The other day, something triggered a memory about Christmas Eve. It was only a few weeks ago, but it seems like much longer! Anyway, this past year, as you will remember, Christmas Eve was on a Sunday which makes it a long but very special day. I loved the feeling around MCPC all day - there was so much energy and passion - about faith and family and joy. Three very different worship services that day brought different aspects of Christmas to life for me, wrapping up with singing "Silent Night" as we held our candles - always a special moment.

After that last service, everyone packed up and went home to prepare for Christmas Day and whatever that brings to each person and family. Fairly quickly, the Deacons had cleaned up the sanctuary, the doors had been locked, and the lights were being turned off. I had a few things to do in my office as I would not be at the church for the next few days. In just a few minutes, I realized I was the last person on the church campus. But there was not a feeling of loneliness at all - in fact, I felt a warm glow of comfort. Even with all the lights off and doors closed, the "church" felt alive! By that I mean that the people of the church - the community - the congregation - is still so much alive. It is in those traveling home from worship and those who were off to another city to be with family. It is in those who were already home and getting ready to again celebrate the birth of Christ.

Much as we love the facilities that we have, it is the people who worship and then step out of these doors that are the true church. It is when we gather with our Room in the Inn guests and share a meal and fellowship. It is when Youth Group Christmas carolers pack into the bus and share the joy of the season with those who cannot often be present in person. It is when people of faith meet up on a cold morning and share the skills which have been blessed by God to make it a little easier for someone to get in and out of their home. It is when someone offers another a ride to the doctor or an event, even if it means going out of their way. It is in the cards that are mailed out to stay connected with all of God's children. It is in the prayers offered up when others are in distress or celebration.

I found I was smiling that night, even as I turned off the last light in the building. The "church" was so alive and I could feel it all around me - both near and far. As we move through each month and season, may we all continue to be "the church" as God has created us in God's image.



North Carolina

Mallard Creek will be hosting its 12th Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Saturday, February 3 at 9:00am in the Dining Hall. We'll assemble 15,000 meals that will be distributed to third world countries. Unlike some other mission events, this is a great family activity; children of all ages can help, even those with limited mobility.

It is extremely important to register in advance for your attendance and we need a minimum of 40 volunteers. Doing so will both save time the morning of the event and allow us to plan accordingly. Please use this link:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/MCPC2024>

To date we've packaged 183,042 meals over the course of 11 events and those we prepared last May were shipped to ADRA-Madagascar, the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, in August.



If you've joined us before, you already know what a fun, fulfilling activity this is and how we can pack this many meals in just a couple of hours! If you haven't, bring the entire family on February 3 and witness how we can make a difference in other parts of the world.

Rise Against Hunger just celebrated its 25th year, having been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger across the globe since 1998, coordinating the distribution of food and other life-saving aid to crisis-burdened areas around the world. This is accomplished through popular community-supported meal packaging programs such as our upcoming event.

Rise Against Hunger distributes its meals through feeding programs operated by partner organizations in developing countries which promote education, encourage children to attend school, improve the health and nutrition of students, address gender inequalities, spur economic growth, combat child labor, and create a platform for tackling global issues. In addition to supporting school feeding programs, Rise Against Hunger also provides meals in response to crisis relief.

Learn more about the organization by visiting their website: www.riseagainsthunger.org.



A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob for visiting with our students last month to tell them about the church, what he does at the church, who else works at the church, when we have church, what we do in church, and why there are certain fixtures (i.e. stained glass windows, pulpit) in the church. The children really enjoyed it!

February is a busy month for us! It is Dental Health Month so the students will talk about brushing their teeth, how they can keep their mouth healthy, and what healthy foods they can eat. Our children will also celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating bags, making valentines, exchanging valentines with their friends, and having classroom celebrations.

On Groundhog Day, we will be watching to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not. If so, we will have six more weeks of winter.

At the end of the month, our 3's classes will have their Annual Multi-cultural Day. Each class will represent a different country and the children will rotate from one class to another so they can learn interesting facts about each of the different countries.

REGISTRATION for the 2024-2025 school year is OPEN! We would LOVE to have your child join us at MCPCP next year! **The deadline for Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church members to register is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 15th** through the Brightwheel software system. If you would like more information or want to schedule a tour, please email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or call the preschool office at 704-549-9741.

Do you LOVE to Read? If so, we would LOVE for you to come and read to our children during our March Reading Program, which will begin on March 4th and end on March 28th. *You can come and read in person, facetime us, or send us a video of you reading a book. If you are interested, please email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741.*

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! It will be in the bus garage from March 24th through 28th. The book fair will be OPEN for church members to shop on Sunday, March 24th, before and after the 10:30 church service. *If you would like to help with the book fair that week, please email Kristy at the email address above or call the preschool office at the above number.*

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



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

February 2024 Youth Club Schedule

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/4	Valentines Party
2/11	Sabbath (Souper Bowl)
2/18	Lent Activity and Bible Story
2/28	Storytime and Show & Tell

February 2024 Teen Fellowship Schedule

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/4	No Teens – RITI on 2/1
2/11	No Teens PM – Bon Appetees AM
2/18	Lent Bible Fun/Games
2/25	Sabbath

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Psalm 127:4

Looking for Youth and Teens

Come Join in fun, bible lessons and sometimes a meal. Learning how get closer to God is a lifelong journey. For teens and youth growing closer to God require growing the relationship with God

January 15, 2024 FINANCIAL POSITION

Year to Date Income	
Sunday School	\$135.00
Worship Offering	\$10,330.50
Online Giving	\$3,034.00
Cell Tower Income	\$0.00
Once a Year Contributions	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$13,499.50
YTD Income	\$13,499.50
YTD Expenses	\$39,481.39
RESERVES SPENT	(\$25,981.89)
CONTRIBUTIONS	
January (1/2 a month)	\$13,499.50
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,499.50

**The annual Church Workday
will be held on
Saturday March 16 from 8am until...**



Bring your tools, gloves and supplies!

Some of the activities we have planned for the day:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Clean and organize loft above gym | Pressure wash sidewalks <i>where needed</i> |
| Clean the small bus, both inside and outside (<i>Teens</i>) | Small interior minor maintenance projects |
| Deep-clean kitchen equipment | Tidy the Sunday School classrooms in the Education Building and Activity Building |
| Gutter Cleaning | Trim bushes |
| Make sure the Amphitheater is ready for Easter Sunday | Trim trees |
| Painting | Weed flower beds |

We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Perry Deaton at 201-647-9797

Scouting for Food

Sunday, February 4th, 2024



Scouting for Food - On February 4th, Scout Troops 148 and 248 are participating in Scouting for Food to support Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays.

Please fill bags or boxes with non-perishable food items and bring to church on Sunday, **February 4th**. 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.

(www.loavesandfishes.org) 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.

February 20 Lunch Bunch Chocolate Party!

Bring your favorite chocolate dessert and any wedding photos you may have. Get ready to have a guessing game of who is in the wedding photos, listen to some "oldies" music, hear a love story, and a few love jokes. You won't want to miss this special time!

**RSVP to: Margaret Hatton
or Jimmy Walker**



February is the month of love.

We're collecting items for CVAN and Gracious Hands to show our love and support for these worthwhile organizations.

Gracious Hands provides housing to homeless mothers and children in Mecklenburg County. It also provides them with resources to move to a home of their own.

CVAN, in Cabarrus County, provides safe shelter and support for battered women.

Below is a list of items we are collecting:

Cleaning supplies (Mr. Clean, Clorox wipes, etc.)

Diapers

Laundry detergent

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Ziplock bags



Items can be brought to the gathering space in labeled tubs.

Backpack Blessings is feeding 81 children weekly from Parkside Elementary and between 80 and 100 children from University Meadows, when food is needed. 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 MCPC, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line.** Once again, your support is greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU
ALL
VERY MUCH**



Please contact us for more information:

Mary Baker
c: 980.254.3394 | tbbmeb@att.net
Tom Baker
c: 704.338.2994 | tom.b.baker@att.net

MCPC hosts Room in the Inn every other Thursday night December through March

Event Schedule | Winter 2024

February:

02/01, 02/15 and 02/29

March:

03/14 and 03/28



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

We have found that in the church directory, many phone numbers, addresses and emails are incorrect.

PLEASE check with the church office to confirm your information or make changes.

Thank you.



The Session has approved the sale of the golfcart. There will be a BID sheet in the gathering area at the beginning of February. BIDS will be taken thru the month of February ending up with a live auction on March 10th at 12:00 after church.



Blood Drive
Sunday Feb 11
10 am – 2:30 pm
Walk-ins Welcome

MCPC Presbyterian Women—Circles

Circles are open to all women of the church. The Presbyterian Women support various missions and outreach throughout the church and community. The women also take lead for many of the activities in the church. Please come be a part of these wonderful groups of ladies! If you are interested in joining a circle, feel free to attend a meeting or reach out to Sue Oehler or Linda Wallace.

Circle of Mary / Anna - Meet 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am in the Garrison Martin Room

Circle of Rebekah / Ruth - Meet 1st Monday of the month at 6pm (locations vary)



Elder duty for February: Mack Downing, Alan Garrison, Bob Oehler

Deacon duty for February: Sue Bishop, , Jane Geracimos, Susan Mach, Chris Mingus, Julie Mingus

Special Prayers


Michael Albright– Brother of Carey Armistead

Tommy Almond

JW and Vivian Avant

Linda Benfield

Ralph Brand

Donna Brookshire

Ann Brown

Bobby Brown

Donny Brown

Kenny Brown

Ken and Suggie Christenbury

Chris Christensen

Barbara Cottrell

Ruby Downing

Brenda Garrison

Donna Garrison - Eddie Garrison wife

Margaret & Carl Hatton

Carlita Hunter

Shirley Hunter

Lynn Kelley

Betsy Killian

Elizabeth King

Roy Kinnamon

Cecil and Beth Massey

Debbie McCrary

Dale McLaughlin

Donnie Oehler

Tommy Oehler

Claudia Perez

Judith Rankin

Donna Seaford

Carolyn Sheehan

Sally Tulbert— Family

Mary Snow

Linda Taylor - Nancy Busch sister-in-law

Juanita Untz

Caroline Williams



2023 March Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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 Tamara Massey Julie Putnam	7 	8 Pat Dicken	9 Ruby Downing Evelyn De Kam	10 Aimee Carte Vance Reid Oliver Alexander	11 George Zevan
12	13 Christina DeKam	14 Carlita Hunter Brooke Meadows Awah Ndingwan	15 Todd Oehler Harper Martin	16 James Killian, Sr.	17 	18 Samantha Busch Lynne DiMarco Merle King
19	20 Zeek Garrison Georgie Deaton	21 Catherine Campbell	22 Andy Stiffel	23	24 Carsyn Cooper	25 Elizabeth Benton Ty Burroughs Nancy Semon
26	27 Gabriel English Rosalee Stillman	28 Dillion Brown Bill Wood	29 Caden Clark Lauren Gully Carol Travis Hunter Curtis	30 Grayson Brookshire Allison Coore Joy Johnson	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
Ms. Amanda Booth
Ms. Claudia Perez
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Kristy Maddux
Angela Swicegood

Senior Pastor
Transitional Associate Pastor
Financial Manager
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Organist