

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

When February rolls around, a lot of us become preoccupied with Valentine's Day—the grand celebration of love, romance, and the relationships that deeply connect us to a particular person.

St Valentine was an ancient martyr from the time of Rome. Imprisoned for being a member of the Jesus Community (it was not yet a church, per se), he began a correspondence with the jailer's daughter, leaving notes for her outside his cell to which she replied with clandestine notes of her own. They were never a couple in any way you or I might think of them, but their secret letters expressing concern, care, and compassion became the model on which the modern practice of exchanging valentines came to be.

In our time and place, we tend to flatten profound things like love, reducing this emotion that has the power to bind one human being to another into a witty phrase printed on a cheap card. The ancient martyr and his friend found something more, something lasting, something transforming. Most of us will never experience the loneliness or isolation of a prison cell. Most of us will never face the fear of realizing that our time is running short and that someone is going to close the book on our lives. Valentine did, but in the midst of his suffering, he found someone and something to support him, make life brighter, and to make even his diminishing days meaningful.



That offers us the means by which to make this month something more than it appears to be. We have an invitation to connect deeply with someone else, perhaps someone with whom we share space, but have grown casual in how we treat them, not fully appreciating all they are. Maybe we can connect to someone going

through a hard time, trying to endure a crisis or tribulation. Maybe we can connect to someone who just needs a friend and the reassurance that they are not all on their own.

In so many different ways, we can express the Gospel in the way we speak to one another, work with one another, walk with one another, or acknowledge one another. In so doing, we bring love in its deepest meaning to light. We offer a counter to the shallowness that robs so much of its depth, power, and grace.

In so many ways, we offer the world a glimpse of the power of love as Jesus presented it. May we use it, sending a valentine to the world around us.

Hunter's Thoughts

In the country of Jordan, there is a small city named Madaba. The city is known for mosaics and even to this day, there is a healthy industry of tile and mosaic production. In 1884, as a new Greek Orthodox church was being built, they uncovered the remains of a previous church from past centuries. It turns out that it was an early Byzantine Church, dedicated to St. George, and it had been active in the 6th and 7th centuries.

None of that is too unusual - there are the remains of churches and temples throughout the Middle East. But as they uncovered the floor of that centuries old place of worship, they discovered an elaborate mosaic that covered much of the sanctuary. What remains is 52 by 16 feet, though it had been even more extensive than that. What it depicts is a map of the Holy Lands and Jerusalem in particular. It was used by the people of that early church community to teach about the historical and Biblical stories in a time when books and other printed resources would have been extremely scarce. Often, people would study it before they made a pilgrimage to visit the actual sites. It was one of the ways they learned about the faith.



I thought about that Mosaic this past Sunday as I worshiped in my home church. I had been invited back to teach a class and so I also had the opportunity to attend the service. Sitting close to where my family sat most Sundays - yes, like most Presbyterians, we had our preferred pew - I noticed a couple of my former Sunday School teachers who are still in attendance and thought of all I had learned from them. I thought of the many scriptures I have heard from the lectern and the sermons I have heard from the pulpit and the anthems sung by the choir and the hymns we had collaborated on as a congregation. I looked up at some of the stained glass windows which tell an abbreviated version of the Bible - the window nearest where we sat lists the 7 churches John mentions in Revelations. Basically, I thought about how I had learned about my relationship with God and my understanding of God's love for all of us.

Of course, my faith development was not confined to that building or even to that congregation. I have been accorded the experience of many congregations throughout my life - I am blessed that Mallard Creek is currently enriching that spirituality. But there have also been so many other ways that I have learned of God's love - family members, camps, work experiences, losses, books, movies, etc.

I thought about all those things as I waited for worship to begin. And then I thought again of that mosaic in Madaba. The people of that congregation also had people who taught them of God and Christ through Bible stories and songs and prayers and how they lived their lives. We learn much from maps and books, but it is the influence of the people that helps us to be receptive to following Christ.

As we go along this journey of faith, we are guided by others at times. And then we have the chance to share that guidance and knowledge and belief. Opportunities abound for us to both learn and to pass on to others, all the while guided by God.



A big THANK YOU to Pastor Rob for visiting with our students last month and telling them about the church, what he does at the church, who works at the church, when do we have church and who comes to the church, and what goes on in the church. The children really enjoyed it!

February is a busy month! It's Dental Health Month so the students will be taught how to brush their teeth, what to do to keep their mouth healthy, and how to eat healthy foods. On Groundhog Day, we will be watching to see whether Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow or not, so we know if we have six more weeks of winter or not. Our classes will also celebrate Valentine's Day by giving each other valentines and having small classroom celebrations.

On February 6th, Children's Theatre will travel to MCPCP for their live performance of *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*. We have heard great things about this play so are looking forward to it.

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 some interesting facts about the different countries represented by the teachers.

REGISTRATION for 2023-2024 school year is OPEN! We would LOVE to have your child join us next year! **The deadline for Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church members to register is 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, February 9th** through the Brightwheel software system. If you would like more information or to schedule a tour, please email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or call the preschool office at 704.549.9741 so we can walk you through the application process.

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, facetime us, 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

**NEW WAYS
TO GIVE
AT MCPC**

Scan
QR
Code



Text
MCPC
to 73256



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

February 2023

Youth Club Schedule:

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/5	Valentine's Party
2/12	Sabbath (Super Bowl)
2/19	Lent Activity & Bible Story
2/26	Storytime and Show & Tell

Teen Fellowship Schedule:

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
2/5	Mario Kart Wii Tournament
2/12	Sabbath (Super Bowl)
2/19	Lent Bible Study & Dinner
2/26	Kickball Tournament & Pizza

Thank you to everyone who came to Family Ice Skating and to the Ski Trip to Winterplace in January, and thank you to all the adults who helped out! We had an absolute blast!



Save the Date for our Teens Lock-in on April 21 -22,

And for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1!

We need volunteers for these events, so we'd love to have you help out!

To everyone in the congregation,

Thank you all SO much for all you did to support me and my family while I was on maternity leave. You all gave us such thoughtful gifts, brought meals to us, prayed for us, and sent me kind messages. I am beyond grateful and blessed to be a part of this church, and I'm happy that now my son gets to experience church here too! - Andrea



Worship meeting on February 5th following the service.
We will meet in the Sanctuary.



Worship Committee



Fellowship Committee

Teacher and Choir appreciation lunch on March 19th following Sunday service.
Bake potato and salad bar more details to follow





Fill your heart with God's love by visiting one of
MC Presbyterian Women's Circles.

Circle of Mary - Monday February 6th @ 7:00 at
Kimberly Stiffel's house

Circle of Rebekah - Monday, February 6th @ 6:30 in
the gathering space

Circle of MaryAnn - Tuesday, February 7th @ 10:30 in
Garrison/Martin Sunday School Class

Please contact **Connie Wallace** at 704-363-6047
for more information



COLLECTING THRU FEBRUARY

**CIRCLE OF REBEKAH'S
BACKPACK BLESSINGS
CLOTHING DRIVE**

- Children and Teen sizes
- New or gently used
- All seasons
- Think Pre-K to 5th graders
- Youth XS (4) to XXL (18)

For more information please see Maria Menconi, Rachel Rodden, or any member of Circle of Rebekah

DRAP YOUR DONATIONS OFF IN THE GATHERING SPACE

Lunch Bunch
February 21, 2023, at noon

The Chocolate Party has always been a favorite for the Lunch Bunch.

Please join us on February 21, with your favorite chocolate dessert to share. Also, if you have any wedding photos you would like to show, please bring them.

We will have a table for them to be displayed. Save room for some of those tasty chocolate desserts and get ready to hear a love story, play the guessing game of who is in the wedding photos, and hear some love jokes.

Elder duty for February: James Killian, Mark Johnson, Jamie Garrison
Deacon duty for February: Leigh Johnson, Jean MacNeil, Jane Geracimos, Andrew Coore, Allston Oehler, Chris Mingus

Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore	Elizabeth King	Bobby Brown	Caroline Williams
Frances Christenbury	Shirley Hunter	Cecil Massey	Donna Seaford
Kenneth Helms	Juanita Untz	Roy Kinnamon	Elaine Lord
Bernice Martin	Ruby Downing	Dennis Lord	Guy Eberhart
Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden	Donnie Oehler	Mildred Grubb	Carolyn Sheehan
Pat Smith - mother of Mary Baker	Katherine Lockhart - mother of Keri Wass	Hope Moon	
LaVern Winter - father of Tammy Alford	Suggie Christenbury	Cy Alexander	
Chris Taylor - cousin of Teddy Preslar	Dale McLaughlin	Margaret Kirk	
Scott Karriker - friend of Chris Mingus	Carlita Hunter	Mack Downing	
Jimmy Rodgers - son of Frances Christenbury	Dorothy Johnson, mother of Debbie Dowling		

Special Prayers

It is VOTING SEASON at MCPC.



The Honorary Life Membership is conferred upon a woman in recognition of faithful service in some area of the church's work. Voting for the honorary will be held during the months of February and March. Ballots are located in the Gathering Space by the voting box. If you have question please reach out to Robin Fuller or Connie Wallace.

Scouting for Food Sunday, February 5th, 2023



Scouting for Food - On February 5th, Scout Troop 148 is 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 5th. 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.



Be Part of the Miracle:

Blanket Sunday is February 12th.



Blanket Sunday is a mission of the Church World Service organization.

This event provides more than \$3.7 million to help people in some 80 nations, including the US. A special collection will be taken up during the offering.

"Love never fails." - 1 Corinthians 13:8

"Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and said prayers on our behalf this past year. Especially a big Thank You to the Congregational Care Committee and the Circle of Rebekah who have sent cards to us monthly.

The Christmas bag of goodies that the Congregational Care Committee provided was a nice treat and very much appreciated. This has been a challenging year and the prayers from the loving members of MCPC have certainly helped us through it. It is a blessing to be a part of such a loving and caring church.



Prayers and Blessings to each of you,
Laney and Donna Seaford"



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 Gulley Carol Travis Hunter Curtis	30 Grayson Brookshire Allison Coore Joy Johnson	31 	

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

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