

The Scroll

March 2021

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



From Pastor Rob

We carry a lot of baggage.

We pick it up as we make our way through life—one bag at time, or sometimes a whole travel trailer full in one swell instant. Our burdens go with us wherever we go. They shape us, mark us, and sometimes direct us. We can't ever seem to be rid of any of it, either. We just keep accruing bag after bag.

Jesus offers us a way to put them down—all of them—to lay aside our heavy load. It's all there in his absurdly simply first sermon—"Repent; the time is fulfilled; the kingdom of God is at hand; believe the good news!"

But it all hinges on how we hear a single word within that simple message—**REPENT**—that one word is the key to all else.

When we hear that word—**REPENT**—we have been schooled since time immemorial to think of ashes and sackcloth—of self-denigration, self-abasement, and wailing remorse, full of guilt and shame.

And, yes, there are indeed times when such a response is called for, but here, Jesus means something a little more broad, a little more inviting, and whole lot less degrading.

REPENT—it really means to turn around, to change direction, to reorient our inner compass. That's what Jesus wants us to do—stop and turn around. Even more—he wants us to drop that heavy load, to let our burdens fall, and for us to be free. He wants us to empty all those suitcases full of regrets, disappointments, and failing. He wants us out from under them all.

But how?

Again, Jesus makes it sound absurdly simple—**BELIEVE THE GOSPEL**.
That's it.
That's all.
BELIEVE.

I believe, Lord, help my unbelief...

It comes down to trust.
Do we trust God to be true to God's word?
Do we trust God's word to be effective?
Do we trust enough to stake our lives on it?

So, how're we doing with the loads we carry? Jesus offers us rest and release...



Pastor Alison's Care Corner

An email came in on a recent Tuesday night from Leigh Johnson who is a member of our Congregational Care Committee. Leigh wanted to drop by the church the following morning to pick up a handful of Lent gift bags to deliver to our homebound members. Then another email came in the next morning from Barbara Kumnick in need of a printer in order to print out legal documents pertaining to Al's recent death. And somehow, quiet as a church mouse, Margaret Hatton slipped in that very morning and sat tucked away in a corner in the church workroom, busily choosing cards for the Congregational Care Committee's monthly mailing. I had no idea that she was there. I nearly gave both of us a coronary as I quickly walked into the workroom unaware of her presence!

Little by little, person by person, you all are dropping by the Church Office, and what a joy it is to see you. Honestly, that morning when three of you descended on us at the same time reminded me of the way it used to be pre-Pandemic when folks were in and out of the church throughout the week. It's no fun working in the Church Office when no one else is around.

When I was a young person growing up in the Davidson College Presbyterian Church, the Church Office was a place I always enjoyed visiting. My mother was extremely involved in the life of the church and often stopped by during the week to set up for her Sunday School Class or to pick up something for the Presbyterian Women. I just loved going with her to the church! The staff was so friendly and welcoming, and always took an interest in me. The church, after all, is NOT the building; it's the *people* within the building.

Signs of hope are beginning to sprout all around us. As more and more of us are vaccinated, we are a bit more comfortable being out and about. Not that we can let down our guards because we simply cannot. But we can begin, just begin, to spend a tad bit more time around one another, at least in certain circumstances.

God created us to be in relationship, and isolation goes against our very nature. Being with others feeds us, and when we are kept apart as we have been for months now, we begin to feel like our spirits are slowly dying.

I don't know about you, but I used to take for granted the preciousness of the company of others. But what this Pandemic has taught me is how exquisitely precious we all are to one another.

By practicing *the art of lovingkindness*, you've just lived out Jesus' invitation for us to love ourselves even as we love our neighbors. Blessings as you continue to walk in the ways of Jesus.



"Even Hazel is weary of Pandemic isolation."

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Elizabeth King | Warner Marshall | Charley Moon | Ann Brown | Justin Alford |
| Deane Davis | Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian | | Bernice Martin | Kenneth Helms |
| Randall Montgomery | Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas | | Anne Eberhart | Carrie Hanes |
| Betty Morris, sister of Earlene Craver | | | Alice Oehler | Polly Caldwell |
| Todd Schroeder, friend of Paul Menconi | | David McElveen | Joann Reid | Barbara Krady |
| David, brother of Nancy Busch | | Linda, sister in law of Nancy Busch | | |
| Nancy Carte, mother in law of Louise | Gail Tucker, sister in law of Kim | | Shelia Letica | |
| Steve Sechler, brother in law of Mack Downing | | Matthew Sheehan, grandson of Carolyn | | |

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



March at MCPCP is all about reading! We will kick-off our **“Be Smart, Eat More Chikin’...Read More Books” March Reading Program** on Monday, March 1st. with our **Scholastic Book Fair, Spirit Week, and Pajama Day!** **Chick-fil-A at University Place agreed to sponsor our reading program** again this year so they will be providing breakfast for our staff on the first day, sending us recordings of a few of their employees reading their favorite children’s book for our children, and giving each student a coupon for a free ice cream at the end of the program. So, if you go through their drive-thru this month, please thank them for their continued support of our preschool program!

This month, our students will learn about: Dr. Seuss; Day and Night; Sun, Moon, and Stars; Machines; How a Family Works; Wild Animals; and Spring. They will also have fun celebrating St. Patrick’s Day and Easter.

Ms. Monie’s Bible Stories for this month are: The Walls of Jericho, Creation, Baby Moses, Zacchaeus, and the Easter Story.

Calling all people who love to read books to children...Pick out your favorite children’s book, record yourself reading it, and send it to kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org so that we can share it with our children!

Shop our Virtual Scholastic Book from February 24th through March 9th to help us raise money for our preschool! To shop on-line click on this link: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/mallardcreekpreschool1>. If you would like to visit the Book Fair in person, it will be set up on the driveway of the Bus Garage (*weather permitting*) and will be open to one family at a time (*masks will be required*) from 8:45-9:30 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m. on March 1st through March 4th.

Take a break from cooking and join us on Thursday, March 25th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Chick-fil-A at University Place, located at 8700 University Executive Park Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262, for a DRIVE-THROUGH SPIRIT NIGHT to raise money for our preschool! You can place a mobile order and put **“SPIRIT NIGHT”** in the special instructions section or order through the drive-through and tell them that you are with the SPIRIT NIGHT so we can receive credit for your order! We hope to see you there!

Our Bible verse for March is: “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.” Psalm 100:2

Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant

MCPCP's 2021 Summer Camps

(for Preschoolers, ages 2 to 5-years-old)

Call 704-549-9741 or email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org

June 7-10 “Under the Sea”

June 14-17 “Let’s Go on an Adventure”

June 21-24 “Let’s Go Camping”

Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$125 per week



Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Preschool

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

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 – No circle in March (Polly Caldwell - cacpwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolinar - edlin1025@yahoo.com)

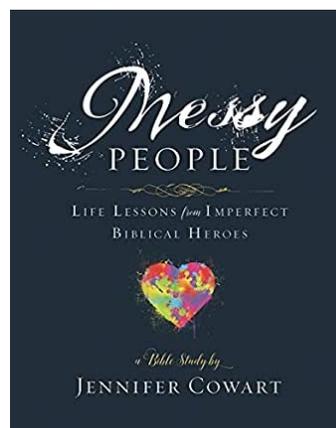


Circle of Mary – Due to Covid Meetings are temporarily suspended. (Jane Isenhower – isenhowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace - beach68@bellsouth.net, Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – March 1, 2021 7:00 ZOOM (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – March 1, 2021 7:00 on ZOOM (Sue Oehler - csoehler@bellsouth.net)

For the last year and a half, the Presbyterian Women have used the book, "Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heros" by Jennifer Cowart as the monthly lesson study in Circle meetings. Since we have extra books, we thought we'd offer them to the whole congregation, because right now, most of us are at home and may have extra time available for bible study. Each book is \$15, and you can contact Keri Wass at (704) 564-1590 or keriwass86@gmail.com if you'd like a book.



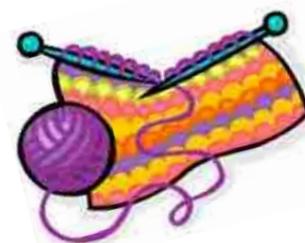
Thank you to everyone who came out on 2/27. It was great to see you!

We collected 19 units, which will help 57 people. The Red Cross continues to have a critical need for blood; this is a very personal and profound way to love our neighbors.

The next Blood Drive will be Saturday, June 26th. Hope to see you there!

Greg and Carey Armistead

The Congregational Care Committee hopes to begin a Prayer Shawl Ministry in which prayer shawls are knitted or crocheted, prayed over, and given to those suffering due to a variety of situations. We currently have three knitters committed to preparing shawls, but we need more. Do you knit or crochet? If so, please contact Pastor Alison at the Church Office.



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

March 2021

Date	Group	Event (Sundays 4-6pm at church)
3/7/21	Sabbath	Sabbath
3/14/21	Zoom	YC: 4-5pm Communion Class & Activity Teens: 5-6pm Wacky Trivia Rematch
3/21/21	YC	Field Trip to the Sanctuary & Stations of the Cross
3/28/21	T	Bible Study & Stations of the Cross (Palm Sunday cantata in AM)



Easter Egg Hunt on March 27th, 2021!

The Youth and Children's Committee will host the 2021 Easter Egg Hunt outdoors only on Saturday, March 27th (rain date March 28th). Last year, we did our Easter Egg hunt on Zoom, which was a great time, but we are excited to have it in person this year! Teens are encouraged to help hide eggs, and kids will get to find them! It will be a great day of fun for the whole family.

Children's Vespers Service on March 17th

Kids of all ages (and kids at heart!), join us in the Gathering Space or watch the livestream online on St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday March 17th at 7pm for a special Lenten Vespers service just for you! Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal or toy, and enjoy some storytime,



MONTREAT 2021 UPDATE!

We are officially registering for Montreat 2021!

Montreat Middle School: July 14-18, 2021

Montreat High School: July 25-31, 2021

Let Andrea know if you would like to attend this year.

News from Backpack Blessings

March 2021

Thanks for your continued donations to Backpack Blessings. Mallard Creek now provides food for 32 families from University Meadows Elementary Schools each week consisting of 159 people. As of this writing, we are working with Parkside Elementary to continue helping families in this school as well.

To demonstrate the need that continues to exist, especially in light of the current economic environment, six of these families which include 17 children are now living in motels. Aside from continued help with food we are asking for additional items to support these schools, hygiene items in particular. We recently assembled six laundry hampers full of hygiene items. Below is a list of items that we are collecting.

- Paper Towels
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Body soap
- Tissues
- Disinfectant cleaners
- Hand sanitizers
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Wash cloths & hand towels



Our ability to continue this program is only possible because of your generous and ongoing donations. If you'd like to support this program through a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women, noting "Backpack Blessings" on the memo line. Food and hygiene donations can be brought to the church office or placed in the designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.

Once again, your support is greatly appreciated. Have a blessed day.

Thank You



Backpack Blessings also provided many Christmas bags to the children at University Meadows. It has been a busy year for Backpack Blessings despite the many challenges they have faced.



Ash Wednesday Drive Thru and Service



SCOUTS BSA TROOPS 148 & 248, CUB SCOUT PACK 148
AND VENURING CREW 148

Thank you MCPC for sponsoring and supporting the four Scouting units!

February is the birthday month of the Boy Scouts of America program started in 1910. The Scouts appreciate your continued support at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church. Here are some of the highlights for each of our Scouting units. We hope you'll enjoy it.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES FOR 2020 FOR THE SCOUTING GROUPS:

- ◆ Scout trips included natural rock and wall climbing, cycling, hiking/backpacking, archery, zipline, shooting sports, canoeing/watersports and camping.
- ◆ Other activities included Unit, Council and District activities such as the Klondike Derby event, Rocket Day event, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, various field trips, Venturefest, Summer Camps, Adventure Camps and Camperees for all ages.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER SERVICE PROJECTS:

- ◆ Scouting for Food – An annual national food drive to collect non-perishable food for the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.
- ◆ During a hike, the Cub Scouts picked up trash they found on the trail.
- ◆ Memorial Day – Scouts helped honor MCPC Veterans by placing flags on graves in the Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery.
- ◆ MCPC Community House, building a new deck, stairs and wheel chair ramp for the Community House.
- ◆ Carolina Raptor Center, building 10 Barn Owl boxes.
- ◆ Harrisburg Elementary School Chinese Immersion Program, building wooden book storage crates and collected over 200 books.
- ◆ Shad's Landing, restoring the gazebo and updating landscaping, which allowed residents to have a place to spend time with visitors since they were not allowed in due to COVID. It also provided a much needed rest area for the staff.
- ◆ CMS Whitewater Academy – Scouts and adults participated in the “ZOOM in and Read Day” where volunteers read to elementary classrooms.
- ◆ Jamil Niner Student Pantry at UNCC, collecting food for students in need.
- ◆ Classroom Central, participating in several projects, including creating two types of flashcards, writing notes of encouragement for students and teachers, and collecting supplies.
- ◆ Good Soles, writing notes of encouragement for veterans and homeless individuals.
- ◆ Feed NC, writing notes of encouragement for homeless individuals.
- ◆ Moving logs at Belk Scout Camp.
- ◆ Labeling Storm drains in Mecklenburg County.
- ◆ Adopt-A-Stream, cleaning a one mile section of Stony Creek twice a year.

History of Eagle Scouts From the MCPC Scouting Program

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church began a Scouting program with Troop 85 soon after World War II ended. The first of its Scouts to achieve the rank of Eagle was in 1953. We continue this tradition in Troop 148 and recently Crew 148. All Eagles are listed below.

1953 - Ted Christenbury	2006 - David Isenberg	2014 - Matthew Williams
1953 - George Ellis	2006 - Ryan Pastor	2014 - Alex Letica
1953 - Ronald Mauldin	2007 - Chris Holley	2014 - James Haberberger
1953 - Tony Mauldin	2007 - Nelson Hicks	2015 - Brandon Kathman
1957 - James P. Garrison	2008 - Brad Riley	2015 - Girard Katz
1957 - William N. Oehler	2009 - Sagar Shukla	2015 - Gabriel Van Dreef
1970 - Richard L. Garrison	2009 - Zak Armistead	2015 - Luke Letica
1971 - Dean W. Jones	2009 - Tom Griffith	2015 - Michael Farrand
1972 - William L. Mowry	2010 - Thor Draper, Jr.	2015 - Maxwell Stott
1977 - Robert B. Helms, III	2010 - Chris Griffith	2016 - Nicholas Walton
1994 - Seth C. Spradley	2011 - James Cox	2016 - Omtej Vallabhapuram
1995 - Nathaniel B. Garris	2011 - Nathan Farber	2016 - Joshua Caudle
1996 - Christopher J. Rugar	2011 - Jason Farrand	2016 - Dylan Semon
1996 - Michael S. Wheeler	2011 - Siddarth Modi	2016 - Manley James
1998 - Matthew J. Morton	2011 - Michael Richards	2017 - Griffin Cook
2000 - Ryan T. Smith	2012 - Joshua Stacey	2017 - Blake James
2000 - Logan R. Thrasher	2012 - Aaron Medlin	2017 - Nicholas Dore
2002 - Adam D. Smith	2012 - Sean Bone	2018 - Ian O'Neill
2002 - Timothy F. Rugar	2012 - Hemant Vallabhapuram	2018 - Raahil Madhiwala
2002 - Griffin Z. Van Malssen	2012 - Drew Manaska	2018 - Aaron Jackson
2003 - Matthew Hartung	2012 - Richard Lindayen	2019 - Meekhel Patel
2004 - Brian Smyth	2012 - Colin Jones	2019 - Mahesh Bobbadi
2004 - Alex Robbins	2013 - Ricky Sledz	2019 - Ben Baker
2005 - David Alexander	2013 - Stefan Letica	2019 - Sanders Fullwood
2005 - Carl Kaufman	2013 - Ryan McDonnell	2019 - Grayson Fullwood
2006 - Joseph Phillippi	2014 - Connor Semon	2020 - Evan Grocki
2006 - Patrick Phillippi	2014 - Will Armistead	2020 - Riis Griffin
	2014 - Andrew Farber	

Session Highlights

1. February 17 Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday service 12:00-1:00PM and 5-6pm.
2. February 17 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.
3. Annual work day has been delayed will be reevaluated later in the year.
4. Approved motion to update Bank Resolution signers at Truist Bank (BB&T).
5. Finalized Nominating committee for 2021.

Elder duty for March: Cristina Moore, Jason Oehler, Jonathan Kiser,
Kenneth McCraw and Andy Spittle
Deacon duty for March: Jackie Brand, Jennifer Lazarus, Jack Miles,
Sheila Letica, Joe Crapster and Allston Oehler.

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	
Worship Offering	\$38,816.00
Online Giving	\$11,761.00
TOTAL Offering	\$50,577.00
Total Offering YTD	\$50,577.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$53,390.08
Under for Year	\$(2,813.08)

Thank You!

March 2021

We are so overwhelmed at the outpouring of love, prayers and support on the death of our Mother and Maw Maw, Jackie Oehler. All the cards, phone calls and emails meant so much. So many told of how she touched their lives with her courage, faith, and kindness. Thank you to everyone for all the kindness shown to us.

God's grace and blessings,
 Mike and Alice Oehler
 Jason and Holly Oehler family
 Ben Oehler and family



I wanted to share one family's thankfulness for the laundry basket filled with love. One of our front office staff, we call her Ms. E shared an encounter with a family who is experiencing a substantial hardship. There was one basket left and little did I know it was for them. They could not stop thanking us for the kind-

ness and support extended to them. I pass this on to let you know that you and the members of Mallard Creek Presbyterian are making a positive impact on our University Meadows community. Sincerely, we thank you for all you have done and continue to do for each family.

Sylvia A. Hines, Family & Parent Advocate, University Meadows Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<h1>April Birthdays</h1>					
				1 Ann Carroll Timothy Johnston Kristy Maddux Molly Rice	2 Will Armistead Emily Rose	3 Marleen Alexander Scot Barrett
4 Chuck Strong, Jr. EASTER	5 Julia Brown Chris Alessi	6 Juanita Untz Sandra Thomas Gabriel Lapalombella	7 Emily Holt Jackson Oehler Wren Alexander	8	9 Debbie Freidlander Jean Helms Lee Ann Oehler	10 Earlene Craver Anne Eberhart Eddie Garrison Page Gupton Bobbie Lisi Julie Mingus
11 Mary Snow Allston Oehler April Carte	12 Jessica Rainstein	13 Pam Beard Daniel Messina Christine Shankey	14 Doris DeArmon Faye Stanley Tom Baker	15 Taylor Jones Kristina Sheppard	16 Danny Ndingwan	17 Sue Oehler Anne Quattlebaum Andy Brown Sophia Johnson
18 Stephen Haas Kalie Barrett	19 Brenda Garrison Easton Cochran	20 Mason Coore	21 Ben Alford	22 Robin Fuller	23 Jean MacNeil	24 Bonnie Hodges Dave Richards Brice Dixon
25 Shirley McKay Kayla Serepca	26 Emily Shankey	27 Susan Mach Amy Oehler Holly Oehler Hayden Love	28 Ann Brown Ashley Smith Abigail Yates	29 Carolyn Stubbs	30	

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www.mallardcreekchurch.org

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