

The Scroll

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road



From Pastor Rob

Lent arrives with full force in March with the very second day being Ash Wednesday, followed by the forty days of preparation as we ready ourselves for Easter.

Lent is often associated with giving something up—letting go of a bad habit or unhealthy intake of junk food—kind of like a reboot of New Year’s resolutions. Sometimes that giving up is of something we really enjoy—sacrificing something that makes us feel a loss—like a music lover abandoning their streaming service for a month.

Both of those forms of letting go touch on the purpose of Lent.

First, Lent is meant to be a cleansing season where we scrub our spirits clean, readying ourselves to receive anew the wondrous gift of new life in Christ. What habits or practices do we need to let go of to lead fuller, richer, and healthier lives?

Second, Lent is meant to be a time of coming clean, admitting our mistakes, missteps, and misdeeds. We suffer the penalty for being less than we needed to be. We suffer the consequences of doing something wrong. We hurt a bit to feel the depth of remorse.

To truly be effective, though, we really need to go a lot deeper than driving past Krispy Kreme for a month.

What habits and practices really touch our souls?
What have we said or done that really hurt someone else or ourselves?

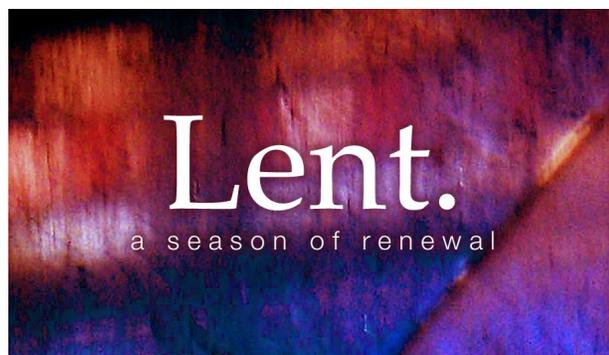
Maybe we really do need to let go of our streaming habit, not to superficially deprive us of an enjoyable hour, but because we actually are spending way too much time online, closing ourselves off from the real people actually in the same room with us who would love nothing more than having an actual conversation.

Maybe we really do need to curtail our beer intake because it is actually more than quaffing a pleasant brew, it is a need—a need we order our days around—a need that begins to starve other needs we have.

Maybe we have spent so little time with God that we really no longer know the Source of all life because we have crowded our lives with so many other things that we no longer have any sense of the holy.

Maybe we need to check how we relate to people—people we see each day—strangers who fill the stores we visit, neighbors who have brought a different flavor to the neighborhood, people trying to live their lives among us—are we communicating that they also are children of God? What might we need to let go of to make that our first impression?

Such considerations make Lent what it is meant to be. It is a reawakening to the presence and power of Christ and his gospel of reclamation, restoration, reconciliation, redemption, and resurrection. We truly pass through the gate of the new life found in him.



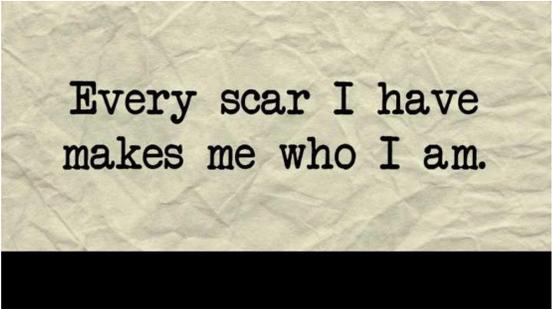
Hunter's Thoughts

This week, I was visiting one of our members and we were jokingly comparing the scars that we have from back surgeries - who has the more impressive scar? It was a small but funny part of a larger conversation. But later I was reflecting on the scars that all of us carry. Almost everyone has some scar they can point to and tell a story about. I have a large U-shaped scar on my right thumb that happened when I was two years old and managed to get my thumb caught in the door of Mom's 1962 Ford Falcon. To say the least, there were many tears, but thankfully, my thumb recovered fully, except for that scar. The experience is part of my story, my history.

The scar on my back is more significant. The surgery that caused it left my movement slightly diminished. It means that there are some activities that I can't do as well as before. But it also means that I can walk without pain, play tennis again, hike in the mountains with my family, and generally...live! It is a significant part of my story, my history, that has improved my future.

Some of the scars that we have are less physical and more emotional. We all have significant moments in our lives that have shaped who we are, sometimes painfully. They, too, are part of our story, our history. And they are also part of creating our future.

When I think of things that change us and shape our future, I'm often reminded of Jacob - in many respects, a manipulator and scamp. Then on one dark night, he wrestled with...an angel? God? His own conscience? Maybe all three? From that experience, he was left with a limp - a permanent reminder of that struggle. But he was also transformed into the a new person - even with a new name, Israel. And though he now had that limp, he also had a profoundly different future - one that has had significance through the ages and continues to be part of our very faith experience.



The last two years have left us all with some scars - some that are permanent and can never be fixed. Those are part of each of our stories, our histories. And there are other ways that we have been scarred but created new experiences and added to our futures. Susan's extended family and our immediate family are spread over several states, and we were drastically limited in our opportunities to travel to see each other. But we started scheduling twice weekly Zoom calls to keep up with everyone. Even though we could not vacation together, we saw more of our niece and nephew than ever before. We came to know them in everyday life, and that has deepened the relationship for all of us. It has added to our family story, our family history. It is something we never would have known we were missing.

The pandemic has left our congregation with scars - some of which are painful, but some that have created new connections and energy and possibilities. We all want to be together for worship and activities. But we have benefited from learning new skills and trying new ideas and creating new opportunities. So as we continue to gather more in person, we have an enriched story before us. What history will we create together?

Grace and Peace,
Hunter

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	Ginger Penninger		Jean MacNeil
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

Elder duty for March: Tommy Mitchell, Tom Fuller and Mack Downing

Deacon duty for March: Amy Spittle, Jean MacNeil, Rachel Rodden, Sheila Letica, Phil Ashely and Tom Baker

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
Sunday School	\$68.00
Worship Offering	\$30,592.00
Online Giving	\$9,702.00
TOTAL Offering	\$40,362.00
Total Offering YTD	\$40,362.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$46,970.38
Under for Year	(\$6,608.38)

The Finance Committee would like to thank the Derita Hunt Club for their memorial gift to the MCPC Building Fund. The generous gift is given in memory of Reese Untz and Jimmy DeArmon.



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.



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



We are kicking off our “Be Smart, Read More Books...Eat More Chikin” March Reading Program on February 28th, with Spirit Week, which will last through March 3rd! The students and staff will have fun coming to school in pajamas and wearing a fun accessory each day. Monday will be “LLS” Pajama Day and we will collect donations for the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**. Tuesday will be Crazy Hair Day. Wednesday will be Silly Socks Day. Then, on Thursday, everyone will wear Silly Hats.

Chick-fil-A at University Place is sponsoring our reading program again this year! On March 1st, they will provide lunch for our staff and bring the Chick-fil-A cow to read a few books to our students. At the end of March, each student will receive a reading certificate and coupon for a free ice cream from Chick-fil-A. *Please help us thank them for their continued support of our preschool.*

If you have a **LOVE** for reading and would like to come and read to our students, please email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org. Our 3’s and Pre-K classes go to the Children’s Library weekly, and they would love for you to read to them!

This month our students will learn about: Dr. Seuss; Day and Night; Sun, Moon, and Stars; Machines; How Their Family Works; Wild Animals; and St. Patrick’s Day. We will also celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with visits from a few leprechauns and shenanigans in our classrooms.

The Bible stories that our students will learn in Children’s Church this month are: The Walls of Jericho, Creation, Baby Moses, Zacchaeus, and Fishers of Men.

We would LOVE to have your child join our program! If you would like more information or to take a tour of our preschool, please email paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741. Our initial **REGISTRATION for the 2022-2023 school year** has ended so ALL remaining openings are on a first come first served basis. When placing children in our program, church members do have priority over the public.

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

PW Circle Meetings Update

Presbyterian Women –

We invite ALL women to be a part of our Bible study/Circle group! 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; March 1, 2022 – 10:30 am in Garrison-Martin Room in Fellowship Hall (Jane Isenhower-isenhowerj@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Rebekah – Monday, March 7, 2022 6:00 in the Gathering space
(Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)

Circle of Ruth – Monday, March 7, 2022 7:00 on ZOOM
(Beth Patafio – Bethpatafio@icloud.com)



****If anyone is aware of a birth of a baby in our congregation, please contact the church office****



**** It is time to vote for Honorary Lifetime – Voting is currently open. You can vote on a ballot available on the table in the Gathering space, vote at your circle meeting or email Connie Wallace with your nomination at: mtnlife555@gmail.com.**

Below is the list of past recipients (there is also a list on the box in the Gathering Space):

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Recipients

1950	Mary Land Alexander	1987	Mary Helen Ingle Oehler
1957	Laura Query Galloway	1988	Dorothy Bingham Oehler
1958	Jennie Kirk Foster	1989	Ethel Monteith Ranson
1959	Ada Sing Bingham	1990	Thelma Crocker Morgan
1960	Cora Suther Kirk	1991	Mary Garrison Galloway
1961	Mary Galloway Oehler	1992	Rebecca Wallace McLaughlin
1962	Mary F. Alexander McLaughlin	1993	Elizabeth Clark Garrison
1962	Ethel Oehler Albee	1994	Evelyn Galloway Alexander
1962	Justina Moore Robinson	1995	Linda Fennell Untz
1963	Willie Mae Oehler	1996	Sylvia Jaynes Secrest
1963	Ossie Crenshaw Taylor	1997	Rosemary Smith Moon
1964	Carrie Sossamon Monteith	1998	Sarah Kirk Killian
1964	Mary Townsend McLaughlin	1999	Linda Bass Killian
1965	Claribel Griffith Hunter	2000	Helen Warwick Wilson
1966	Marie Galloway Cochran	2001	Mindy Sue Roshon-Young
1967	Sue Brumley Christenbury	2001	Nancy Hunter Holland
1968	Grace Sloop Johnston	2002	Nina Eargle Brown
1969	Bannah Johnston Holbrook	2003	Pat Braley Hill
1970	Edith Bennett Kirk	2004	Lois Louise Spradley
1971	Grace Boyles McLaughlin	2004	Ruby Robinson Jones
1972	Sarah Land Alexander	2005	Jean Wilson Jordan
1973	Lois Galloway Caldwell	2006	Sue Baucom Oehler
1974	Louise Pharr Wilson	2007	Jean Brown Helms
1975	Esther Hager Oehler	2008	Myrtle Edwards Thomas
1976	Jean Alexander Garrison	2009	Carlita Eleyet Hunter
1977	Mary B. Fesperman	2010	Pauline Pipes Walker
1978	Nancy Drum Craig	2011	Pamela May Beard
1978	Myrtle Powell Thompson	2012	Virginia Faulkenberry
1979	Jacqueline Turton Oehler	2013	Bobbie Austin Misenheimer
1980	Frances Hargrove Foster	2014	Kay Adams Boone
1981	Nell Sloop Christenbury	2015	Linda Apolar
1982	Frances Young Baucom	2016	Suggie Christenbury
1983	Janie Monteith Oehler	2017	Doris DeArmon
1984	Mable Oehler Penninger	2018	Pastor Ken Craig
1985	Matilda Oehler Mullis	2019	Maria Menconi
		2020	Linda Wallace
		2021	Margaret Hatton

From Other churches: Edith (Boyd) Alexander, Harriet Holstein Ayers, Nancy Summerville Haas, Nannie Johnson Raborn

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

March 2022

Sunday Afternoon Schedules:

<u>Youth Club 3:00-4:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
3/6	Bible Story and Craft
3/13	Sabbath
3/20	Kids Yoga and Games
3/27	Communion Class

<u>Teen Fellowship 4:30-6:30pm</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
3/6	Game Night
3/13	Sabbath
3/20	Bible Study and Dinner
3/27	Fellowship Event TBD



Teens Lock-in on Friday, March 18!

Drop off your teen at 5pm, and pick them up Saturday, March 19 at 9am. We will provide dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow, pajamas, and your own toiletry items.

Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 2nd, 1-2pm!

Save the date for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for kids of all ages! Teens are encouraged to come at noon to help set up and hide eggs. It's fun for the whole family!



The Neal Scholarship applications will be available from Andrea or in the church office on **March 7** for current high school seniors attending college in the fall. Applications are due April 28 by 5pm.

Session Highlights

March 2022

- Received Financial Jan Financial Report
- Received February Presbytery Meeting Report from MCPC Commissioners
- Requested Committees work with Staff & the Covid Task Force to determine resumption criteria for MCPC Worship, Fellowship, & Educational activities that have been put on hold due to Covid. Report back to Session at the March Meeting.
- Upcoming Church Activities
 - March 2 Ash Wednesday
 - March 18 Tentative Teen Lock-in
 - April 2 Tentative Easter Egg Hunt
 - April 3 Rain date for Easter Egg Hunt
 - April 10 Palm Sunday
 - April 17 Easter
 - April 24 Confirmation Sunday
 - June 5 Graduation Sunday
 - June 26-30 VBS
 - July 20-24 Middle School Montreat
 - July 24-30 High School Montreat
 - July 31-Aug 5 Camp Grier

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		April Birthdays					
					1 Ann Carroll Timothy Johnston Kristy Maddux Molly Rice	2 Will Armistead Emily Rose Hank Poston	
3 Marleen Alexander Scot Barrett	4 Chuck Strong, Jr.	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 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	

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
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Charlotte, NC 28262



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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