



# The Scroll

Mallard Creek  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[www.mallardcreekchurch.org](http://www.mallardcreekchurch.org) | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

## From Pastor Rob

Easter comes about as early as it can possibly come. The early Church set the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox as the date for Easter, which is why it moves around so much, falling anywhere from late March until late April. This year—that full moon comes right on top of the equinox—so Easter comes bright and early.

Easter is all about the gift of new life and new being. It flows right into all the seasonal changes we see all around us. I was aware in late February of the coming blossoms of spring—my neighbors daffodils sprang up the week after Valentines Day! Already trees are greening up, buds speckle the ground, and grass will soon need mowing. Life seems unstoppable.

Until it does.

All of us are aware of things that have happened recently that made life come to a halt. Families lost loved ones; people endured illnesses; and some dealt with all manner of tragedy. Despite all the signs of the indefatigable nature of life, we almost daily confront its fleeting nature, its frailty, and its fragility. That can become overwhelming and incomprehensible. We can begin to feel lost, lonely, and afraid.

Easter answers all of that. It's God's great answer that God will not allow life to simply fade away or blink out in a flash. Instead, God wills that life continue, flourish, and erupt wherever God chooses for it do so. The world sought to silence Jesus, end his presence, and be free of him. The cross was meant to be a final end. But God saw otherwise, turning the cross from an end into a beginning—the New Creation dawned upon us, and it continues to shine brightly before us, leading us onward and always toward communion with God.

Allow that good news to take hold of you, whatever you face or even despite all that is endured.

God will not leave us to simply ride out our time on earth. Rather, God continually offers more moments, new opportunities, and countless possibilities, day in and day out, always and forever, until we find our places within the great Communion of Saints.

Go outside. Breathe deeply. See the new life blossoming all around us. Resurrection happens.

May Easter guide us and keep us always.

Worship with us throughout Holy Week.

Blessings!



## Hunter's Thoughts

Last week, I had the chance to spend a few minutes holding a 6 day old baby. That is not something I get to do very often – in fact, it's probably been several years since I have held one that young. Being around so many people each day – particularly when I am in and out of hospitals – I always worry about the germs I might have all over me. But when I did get the chance to hold this beautiful little boy, I immediately found myself doing that gentle sway – slowly shifting my weight from one foot to the other. I didn't even realize I was doing it for several minutes. It was muscle memory from when my own children were babies. Looking down at that sleeping face and those tiny fingers, I found myself feeling so hopeful.

Not that I don't often feel hopeful, but this was special. Like many of us, I encounter sad situations on many days - times when I feel like I have no way to improve the circumstances of the moment. It can leave a person feeling alone and helpless. And when the situation is caused by something so beyond our understanding or compassion, that compounds the feelings. At those moments, we can feel most distant from God. One time I heard someone say it was like having a bad connection on a phone line – you sort of know someone is on the other end, but you can't effectively communicate and end up just trying to yell over the static. Recently, I had a few days where it felt like that. I realized how lonely that feeling can be. Disconnected – or at least, a very poor connection.

Thankfully, I was not alone. It was more like, in my own distress, I was looking right beyond God's presence – but it was there. God is there in the people who gather to offer support in desperate times. God is there in the face of a baby being held by a great-grandmother. God is there in the determination of people who want to see things be better than they are and refuse to give up. God is there in the words of the Lord's Prayer or Psalm 23 that we can fall back on when we can't calm our mind enough to find any other way to express ourselves.

Yes, there have been some very difficult times recently.

But God is here.

God has been here.

And God will be here.



*North Carolina*



This month, we are kicking off our “Be Smart, Read More Books...Eat More Chikin” March Reading Program and will celebrate by having Spirit Week from February 29th through March 7th. Our students and staff will have fun dressing differently each day with Pajama Day, *in which we will collect donations for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society*, Crazy Hair Day, Silly Socks Day, and Silly Hat Day.

**We are excited that Chick-fil-A at University Place is sponsoring our March Reading Program again this year!** The Chick-fil-A cow will come and read to our students and each of our students will receive a reading certificate and coupon for a free ice cream from Chick-fil-A. *When you visit the Chick-fil-A at University Place, please thank them for their continued support of our preschool for more than 15 years*

**Other noteworthy events that are happening this month are:**

- Students will celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday, which is on March 2nd.
- Lifetouch will be taking Spring and Graduation pictures of our children on March 11th & 12th.
- Pre-K students will participate in Wonderful Wednesday on March 13th.
- We will wear **GREEN** and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with visits from a few leprechauns and shenanigans in our classrooms on March 14th.
- Our staff will also participate in the Church Workday on March 16th by fixing, cleaning, and organizing in the preschool.
- Children’s Theatre of Charlotte will visit us and perform “Pigs is Pigs” in the gym on March 18th.
- Our students will have fun during their class Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Celebrations on March 26th through 28th.

**Our Themes for the month of March are:** Dr. Seuss; How Their Family works; Discovering Spring; Machines; Pets; Gardening; the Outdoors; and St. Patrick’s Day.

**The Bible stories that Ms. Robin will present to our students in Children’s Church this month are:** The Walls of Jericho, Baby Moses, Fishers of Men, and the Easter Story.

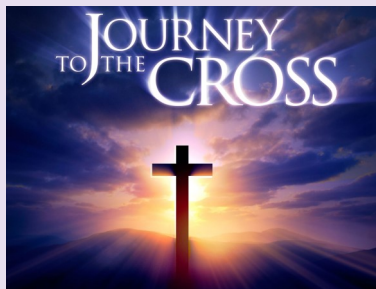
**Our initial registration for the 2024-2025 school year has ended and we are already FULL for the next school year. We have started waiting lists in all classes so if you haven’t signed your child up, call**

**704-549-9741 or email [paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:paulab@mallardcreekchurch.org) to be placed on the waiting list. (When accepting children into our program, church members do have priority over the public, so make sure you tell us that you are a church member when you contact us.**

**Our Bible verse for March is:** “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs” Psalm 100.2

**Special Note:** *Our Pre-K students had so much fun making Valentines for the homebound members, special friends, and a few other church members last month. We hope that everyone who received one enjoyed it and felt the LOVE that was inside.*

**The Preschool and the Preschool Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday, March 5th, for Election Day and from March 29-April 7 for Spring Break!**



# Holy Week

## March 24 - Palm Sunday

The children will be marching in with palms.  
The choir will be performing ***"Crimson Love,"***  
a musical Easter Worship Cantata.



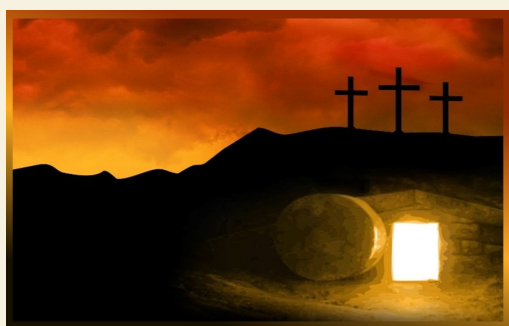
## March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Remembering the Last Supper with an evening  
worship service and  
Communion. 7:00pm

"This is my body ...  
this is my **blood** ...  
given for YOU."

## March 31 - Easter Sunrise Service "He Is Risen!"

Join us in the amphitheater at 7:00am  
We will meet in the Gathering Space if it rains.



## March 31 - "Resurrection"

8:30am - Early Easter Service  
10:30am - Easter Worship Service





### **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)

### **Presbyterian Women Lifetime award voting**

**It is time to vote for our Lifetime award for Presbyterian Women.**

**Ballots are in the box in the gathering space on the center table.**



**You can vote on the spot or take it with you fill it out and return to the box.**

**Leaders will have ballots at the March meetings.**

**You can also email Robin Fuller at [rsf422@gmail.com](mailto:rsf422@gmail.com) with your vote.**

**All votes are due by the end of March**

## Youth Club and Teen Fellowship Activities March 2024

### Youth Club 3:30 – 4:30pm

3/3	Games
3/10	Service Project - Orphanage
3/17	Easter Lesson and Party
3/20	Youth Club
3/24	Sabbath (Palm Sunday)
3/31	Sabbath (Easter)

### Teen Fellowship 4:30 – 6:30pm

3/3	Games
3/10	BonAppeteens (Sunday morning)
3/17	Easter Lesson and Party
3/24	Sabbath (Palm Sunday)
3/31	Sabbath (Easter)

**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**

### February 15, 2024 FINANCIAL POSITION

#### Year to Date Income

Sunday School	\$261.00
Worship Offering	\$27,359.50
Online Giving	\$14,729.00
Cell Tower Income	\$0.00
Once a Year Contributions	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,349.50</b>

YTD Income	\$42,349.50
YTD Expenses	\$85,861.34
<b>RESERVES SPENT</b>	<b>(\$43,511.84)</b>

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

January	\$27,665.50
February (1/2 of month)	\$14,684.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$42,349.50</b>

**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  |

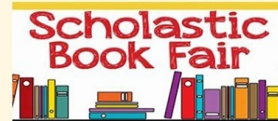
**We hope to see you there!**

Questions? Contact Perry Deaton at 201-647-9797



## Do You LOVE to Read?

If you DO, we'd LOVE for you to be a Guest Reader during  
**MCPCP's MARCH READING PROGRAM!**  
 If you are interested, please call 704-549-9741  
 or email [kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org).



**MCPCP's Spring Scholastic Book Fair**  
**March 25th — March 28th.**

**We NEED Volunteers !!!**

If you would like to volunteer, please call  
 704-549-9741 or email  
[kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org](mailto:kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org).



"Yes, you will be enriched in every way  
 so that you can always be *generous*.  
 And when we take your gifts to those  
 who need them, they will thank God."

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:11



 **CWS** | [CWSBLANKETS.ORG](http://CWSBLANKETS.ORG)

## Presbyterian Women Blanket Sunday March 10, 2024

The CWS Blankets program is  
 all about sharing love.  
 Through this simple act of  
 kindness, amazing things can  
 happen.

We're grateful for your  
 generosity, kindness and  
 desire to share warmth,  
 compassion and blankets  
 with others.

## Youth Club and Teen Fellowship Activities March 2024

Youth Club 3:30 – 4:30pm		Teen Fellowship 4:30 – 6:30pm	
3/3	Games	3/3	Games
3/10	Service Project - Orphanage	3/10	BonAppeteens (Sunday morning)
3/17	Easter Lesson and Party	3/17	Easter Lesson and Party
3/20	Youth Club	3/24	Sabbath (Palm Sunday)
3/24	Sabbath (Palm Sunday)	3/31	Sabbath (Easter)
3/31	Sabbath (Easter)		



Dear Mallard Creek Church Family,  
 Your thoughtfulness, love,  
 & prayers following my  
 knee surgery was simply  
 amazing & so appreciated.  
 It is an honor to be part  
 of this wonderful church  
 family.  
 Love,  
 Donna Brookshire



You won't want to miss our next  
Lunch Bunch meeting on  
**Tuesday, March 19 at noon.**  
**Jeff Whittington**, a One-Man-Band,  
will be with us to share his music



Rsvp to  
Jimmy Walker  
Or Margaret Hatton



## Sundays at Mallard Creek

8:30 am Early Service

9:15 am Coffee & Breakfast

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Late Service

Save the date for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for kids of all ages!  
Teens are encouraged to come at 11:00am to help set up  
and hide eggs. It's fun for the whole family!

**Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Saturday March 23rd, 1 to 2 pm.**





## — ! — 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.



Please contact Mary or Tom Baker for more information on how you can support!

**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.



This is the **last week** to place a **BID** on the golfcart! There is a **BID sheet** in the gathering area. **BIDS** will be taken thru **March 10th** and ending with a live auction at **12:00** after church.

**Elder duty for March:** Mark Johnson, Jamie Garrison, Jack Miles

**Deacon duty for March:** Amy Spittle, Jean MacNeil, Katie Moore,  
Rob Moore, Tom Baker



# Special Prayers



Michael Albright- Brother of Carey Armistead	Ruby Downing	Dale McLaughlin
JW and Vivian Avant	Brenda Garrison	Donnie Oehler
Linda Benfield	Donna Garrison - Eddie Garrison wife	Tommy Oehler
<b>Bob Blackwelder—Family of</b>	<b>Jean Helms</b>	<b>Ethel Ranson—Family of</b>
Ralph Brand	Carlita Hunter	Judith Rankin
Ann Brown	Shirley Hunter	Donna Seaford
Bobby Brown	Lynn Kelley	Carolyn Sheehan
Donny Brown	Betsy Killian	Mary Snow
<b>Kenny Brown—Family of</b>	Elizabeth King	Linda Taylor - Nancy Busch sister-in-law
Polly Caldwell	Merle King	<b>Earl Thomas</b>
Ken and Suggie Christenbury	Roy Kinnamon	Juanita Untz
Barbara Cottrell	Cecil and Beth Massey	Caroline Williams

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  <h2>April Birthdays</h2>  </div>						
	1 Timothy Johnston Kristy Maddux	2 Will Armistead Emily Rose Hank Poston	3 Marleen Alexander Scot Barrett	4 Chuck Strong, Jr.	5 Julia Brown Chris Alessi	6 Juanita Untz Gabriel Lapalombella Sandra Thomas
7 Emily Holt Jackson Oehler Wren Alexander	8	9 Debbie Freidlander Jean Helms Lee Ann Oehler Ashley Gulledege	10 Earlene Craver Anne Eberhart Eddie Garrison Bobbie Lisi Julie Mingus	11 Mary Snow Allston Oehler April Carte	12	13 Pam Beard Christine Shankey
14 Doris DeArmon Faye Stanley Tom Baker	15 Taylor Jones Kristina Sheppard Gentry Gulledege	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  
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road  
Charlotte, NC 28262



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The Rev. Rob Watkins  
The Rev. Hunter Roddey  
Ms. Amanda Booth  
Mr. David Barnaba  
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor  
Transitional Associate Pastor  
Financial Manager  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director