



The Scroll

MallardCreek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

From Pastor Rob

The season of Lent starts almost immediately as we turn the calendar into March. We will begin our forty day journey to Holy Week on March 5 with our Ash Wednesday service at 700 pm in the sanctuary.

There are some misconceptions about Lent, what it means, and how we are supposed to pass through it. Too often, we make it a season deprivation, guilt, and self-denigration. It really is none of those things. Instead, it is a season of preparation—

What do we need to do to get ready to really celebrate Easter?

What do we need to let go of to be more present for God?

How can we make the miracle of resurrection more real and NOW for us?

What do we need to clear away to allow ourselves to enter the gift of new life in Christ?

Our hope is that we can do all of these things over the next month. To help, there will be a daily devotional posted on our Facebook page throughout Lent and Holy Week. Each Sunday, worship will focus on some aspect of our Lenten preparation time. Take time to tackle one of the Gospels in the Bible. There is no better place to prepare for Jesus than reading his story. All four Evangelists were master storytellers, so it makes for good reading.

If you are somebody who likes the practice of giving something up for Lent, make sure it is something that actually can help you be more present for Christ. It may be a routine—like checking Facebook twenty times a day. It might be a food if that is something that will open your heart to God.



The point is to allow Lent to become a month of making ourselves better people, more whole, and perhaps even more holy. Then, when we celebrate the gift of new life in Christ on Easter morning, we might actually be stepping into a new of being and doing.

May you have a blessed Lent and one of true promise.

Hunter's Thoughts

Lamentations 3:22-26 as interpreted by Eugene Peterson in "The Message"

"God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left. God proves to be good to the man who passionately waits, to the woman who diligently seeks. It's a good thing to quietly hope, quietly hope for help from God."

Over the past 8 months, I have had the opportunity to celebrate the lives of two women who were very dear to me. My mother-in-law and my aunt each died peacefully in their 95th year with family at their sides. Both were women of faith who had lived with commitment and love throughout their lives. We shared tears for each of them, but we also shared laughter, and stories, and thanks for what they have each meant to so many people. Their legacies will be that this world is a better place for them having been here and that they have honored God in their living.

As we once again approach the Season of Lent, I have been thinking about how we can live and honor God even through the challenges of life and the end of life. By chance or design, how we live and die has not been hidden from me. When I was 9 years old, my paternal grandmother came to live with us for the last 7 months of her life. I certainly did not understand all the aspects of cancer and physical changes that she experienced, but it was not hidden from me. I understood much more when 7 years later, at the age of 16, my great aunt moved in with us, also for the last 7 months of her life. By that age, I was able to be included more in the process that she experienced. That included getting to hear more about her faith and her choices and the fact that she did not fear dying because of the promises made to us by God.

Years later, I was privileged to care for both of my parents in their own home as they aged and eventually died after living long lives. And I was so thankful that my own young adult children and nieces and nephews had the chance to be part of the process and the care teams for each of them. Much of our culture has been focused on "protecting us" from the end of life - hiding it away and trying not to talk about it. Yet it is something that is part of the experience for every one of us - not only for ourselves, but many times over with people we love and honor and care about.

At my aunt's funeral a couple of weeks ago, Lamentations 3:22-26 was read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. I love those words and have thought about them a great deal of late. I included them here as Eugene Peterson has interpreted them in "The Message". For whatever reason, they remind me that the end



North Carolina

of life need not be a process of dying but of living each time of our life as God has created us to live. And we honor God by "diligently seeking". Clearly, God's "merciful love" is "created new every morning".

As we approach this Season of Lent - this time of reflection and prayer - may we also do so with the quiet hope and faith that the grace of Christ will be with us in every moment of our lives.



We cannot believe that February is already over! The children had so much fun exchanging valentines and enjoying special celebrations, a 3's Multicultural Day, and Mr. Ed's Dinosaurs Live. The children and staff LOVED the dinosaurs, and the children took turns riding a triceratops. Some of the BIG kids (i.e., teachers) even rode the triceratops. It was an awesome program and one of the BEST programs that we have had thus far at MCPCP!

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 March 3rd to March 6th! The students and staff will dress differently each day. Monday, March 3rd, will be our "LLS" Pajama Day and we will collect donations for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Tuesday will be Silly Socks Day. Wednesday will be Crazy Hair or Hat Day. Then, on Thursday, everyone will dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday that is on March 2nd.

We are excited that Chick-fil-A at University Place is sponsoring our reading program again this year! On March 3rd, they will provide breakfast for our staff. 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, as they have continued supporting us for almost 20 years.

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair will start on Monday, March 3rd, and run through Thursday, March 6th, in the Bus Garage. If you would like to shop in person, it will be open on Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. If you cannot make it in person, please check out our on-line Book Fair at www.scholastic.com/bf/mallardcreekpreschool from March 3rd to 16th.

On March 12th, therapists from Speech Inspirations are coming to our preschool to perform speech and OT screenings on our students whose parents requested it.

We will have a lot of FUN celebrating St. Patrick's Day on March 17th by wearing GREEN and having visits from the leprechauns and the shenanigans they leave in our classrooms!

We will be CLOSED on Monday, March 31st, for a Teacher Workday but would like to invite you to join us at 10 a.m. in the dining hall for CMPD's Active Shooter Training. This will be the second required workshop that our staff has taken this year. If you would like to join us, please email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org.

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 you to read to them there, too!

This month our students will learn about: Dr. Seuss; Machines; Insects and Spiders; Growing a Garden; a Review of Shapes, Colors, and Numbers; How Their Family Works; Taking Care of Pets; Springtime; and the Amazing Outdoors.

The Bible stories that our students will learn in Children's Church this month are: The Walls of Jericho, Baby Moses, John the Baptist Ate Bugs, and the Ten Commandments.

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 paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org or call 704-549-9741. Our initial REGISTRATION for the 2025-2026 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

Items of note from the Stated Session Meeting on February 18, 2025

- ◆ Meeting was called to order at 6:29 P M by Pastor Watkins
- ◆ Quorum was declared with 14 of 15 elders present
- ◆ Received update on members and friends needing special prayers
- ◆ Approved previous Session Minutes of January 21, 2025.
- ◆ Reviewed Deacon Minutes of February 11, 2025.
- ◆ Received a report on the 165th Charlotte Presbytery Meeting.
- ◆ Approved motion to amend the 2025 budget line item #7150.01 (Sunday Musician). Item will be increased from \$15,400 to \$18,600.
- ◆ January expenses exceeded income by \$32,301.
- ◆ Discussed status of filling the Youth Director position.
- ◆ Discussed the need to develop new programs for our members and visitors to enable them to become more involved in the life of the church.
- ◆ Inclement weather will move a Session Meeting to the following Sunday at 1:30 P M.
- ◆ Future Session Meetings will be held at 6 P M.
- ◆ Perpetual Calendar
- ◆ March 5th Ash Wednesday Service 7 P M.
- ◆ March 16th Teacher / Choir Appreciation Dinner
- ◆ April ???? N C Mountain Mission Trip
- ◆ April 6th Communion
- ◆ April 12th Church Wide Workday
- ◆ April 17th Maundy Thursday Service with Communion 7 P M.
- ◆ April 20th Easter Sunday Services 7 am, 8:30 am, & 10:30 am.
- ◆ Assigned March Duty, Alan Garrison, Suzanne Curtis, & Jamie Garrison.
- ◆ Assigned Elders for Presbytery Meeting on May 20th at Paw Creek Alan Garrison and Bob Oehler.

February 15, 2025	
Financial Position	
Year To Date Income	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$287.00
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$26,035.12
ONLINE GIVING	\$17,544.00
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$3,327.70
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$47,193.82
YTD INCOME	\$47,193.82
YTD EXPENSES	\$88,851.07
Reserves Spent	(\$41,657.25)
Contributions	
January	\$28,170.00
February (1/2 a month)	\$15,696.12
Total Contributions	\$43,866.12

Blanket
Sunday
\$1300
Raised

Blanket Sunday



Bonappeteens

January

raised \$334

February

raised \$308





YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT!
 This month features the Prayer Quilt Ministry, and you'll want to check the display case in the Gathering Space all month long to see the items from the MCPC archives.

CENTENNIAL QUILT

I am the surviving grandson (age 86) of William Henry Frazer (1873-1953, a Presbyterian minister who served congregations in South Carolina and Georgia and spent the latter years of his ministry as President of Belhaven College in Mississippi (1917-+21) and Queens College in Charlotte (1921-39).

While he was at Queens, my grandfather also served for several years as supply pastor of the Mallard Creek Church. I have vague memories of his contact with friends in the Mallard Creek congregation, and our family's lore contains the story of a conversation in a session meeting over which he presided when a decision was made to raise money for a roof by holding a barbecue.

Small beginning for very big things to come!

Among the mementos of Grandpop's ministry which remained in our home after his death was a lovely blue-and-white quilt dated 1926, which was made by members of the Mallard Creek congregation and containing the embroidered signatures of members of the church at that time. To the best of our family's knowledge, it was given to Grandpop as a parting gift after his years of service at the Church.

After his daughters (my mother and Aunt Winnie) passed away in the 1990's, the quilt came to my family. We hung it on the wall of a room at the President's House at Davidson College, where we were living at the time. Over the years we have had occasional contacts with members of the Mallard Creek congregation and told them of our interest in returning the quilt to the congregation for inclusion in the archives.

Our recent introduction to Tommy Oehler by a mutual friend has given us the opportunity to send the quilt back "home". We hope it will be a source of pleasure to your Congregation as you recollect your 200 years of faithfulness to Christ and his church.

John W. Kuykendall

October 20, 2024



Exciting News!

Beginning March 1, Presbyterian Women will be reviving the tradition of flowers in the Sanctuary and the Chapel. If you would like to provide flowers in honor of a special occasion (anniversary, birth, etc), in memory of someone, or as a celebration, a sign up Flower poster will be on the door of the church office—just like the old days! Please be sure to indicate what the occasion is, so we can include it in the bulletin. A reminder that no one is in the church office on Friday or Saturday to accept deliveries, so you would need to bring them in, and please let us know if you will be taking them home, or would like them to be given to one of our home-bound members.

PW Honorary Lifetime Membership

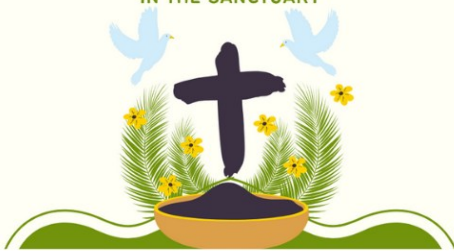
Reminder: Voting will be ending on March 31...ballots are available in the Gathering Space, or at Circles. If you are unable to be here in person, but would like to vote, please call the church office.

EASTER SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

7:00 PM SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY



ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a 40 day period of preparation for Easter. We will participate in the Imposition of Ashes in remembrance.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday recalls the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, greeted by people waving palm branches. We will enjoy the music of our choir with a Cantata at our 10:30 service:

"When I survey the Wondrous Cross"



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us at 7pm to partake in communion, and commemorate Jesus Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, to remind us of the importance of humility, selflessness, and service to others.



GOOD FRIDAY

We will observe Good Friday with an online Prayer Service at 1:00. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary. It represents the sacrificial death of Jesus, who willingly offered himself in the ultimate act of love and redemption.

EASTER SUNDAY

We offer 3 services on this most Holy Day

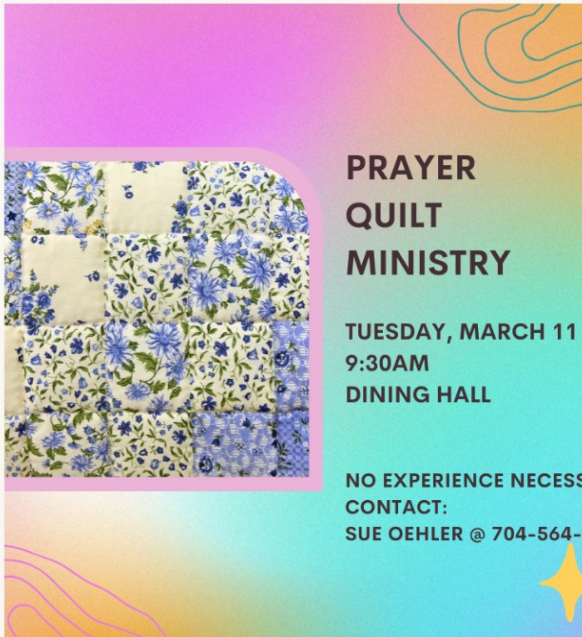
- *7:00 am Sunrise Service*
- *8:30 am Worship Service*
- *9:30 am Sunday School*
- *10:30 am Worship Service*



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We will have a special Easter offering, as Presbyterians worldwide share God's love with neighbors in need around the world. Jesus calls us to love one another with the kind of love that is shared freely with all people.

GET INVOLVED



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

TUESDAY, MARCH 11
9:30AM
DINING HALL

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
CONTACT:
SUE OEHLER @ 704-564-

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Circle of Mary-Anna

Circle of Rebekah Ruth

Tuesday, March 4
10:30am
in the
Education Building

Monday, March 3
6:00 pm
in the
Gathering Space

Contact for Mary-Anna:
Charlotte McConnell
camconnell74@icloud.com
252-6708388

Contact for Rebekah Ruth:
Mary Baker
tbbmeb@att.net

All women of the church are welcome!



Bible study with Pastor Rob Watkins

The Letters of Paul

- 🕒 Wednesdays 6:00-7:00pm
Garrison-Martin Classroom
- 🕒 Sundays 6:30-7:30pm
Via Zoom

HAVE FUN!

Meet New People!

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH
1:00-2:00

MEET IN THE GYM AT 1:00 FOR
DIRECTIONS.



MAY
6,7,8

COUPLES AND SINGLES
ARE WELCOME

JOIN THE OLDER
ADULTS MINISTRY AND
**CRUISE TO
BONCLARKEN!**

GAMES • DEVOTIONS • GREAT FOOD • ALL-INCLUSIVE

REGISTER
NOW!

CHURCHWIDE WORK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 12 @ 8AM

It's time for Spring Cleaning the Church Campus
and we need your help!
Bring your tools, ladders, gloves and supplies!

Some of the projects we'll be tackling:

- Clean and organize the loft above the gym
- Clean the small bus, inside and out
- Deep clean the kitchen equipment
- Cleaning the gutters
- Painting
- Weeding flower beds, trimming bushes and trees
- Interior maintenance projects
- Tidying up the rooms in the Education and Activity Buildings



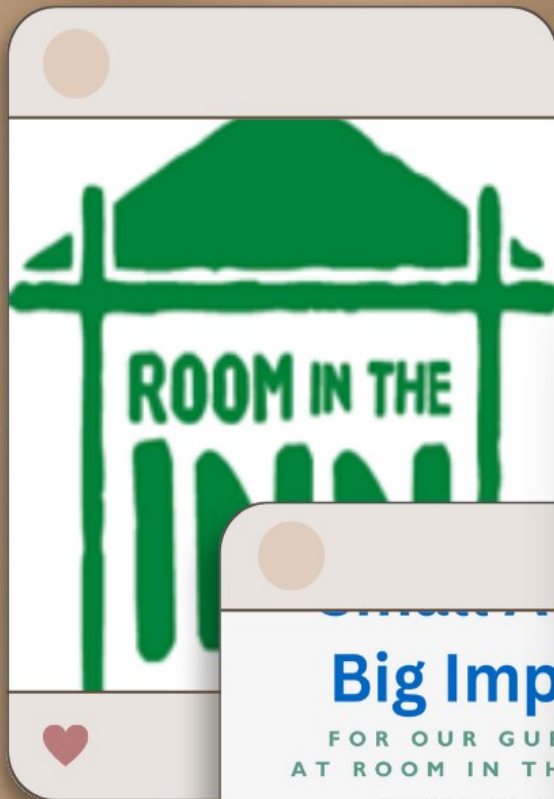
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

upcoming events



MISSION COMMITTEE

Sneak a peek at some of our efforts



Youth & Teens



TEENS

March 2

Teens meet at 4:00

March 9

Bonnappeteens at 8am, no afternoon meeting

YOUTH

March 2

Youth Group will meet at 3:00, and the lesson this week will be "What Would Jesus Do".

Special Prayers

JW and Vivian Avant

Ben Hatton

Jenny Parker

Tom Baker

Jean Helms

Max Lee Phifer (Perry

Linda Benfield

Shirley Hunter

Deaton's cousin)

Sue Bishop

Phyllis Jones

Judith Rankin

Jackie Brand

Betsy Killian

Roddy Rockholt

Ann Brown

Merle King

Donna Seaford

Ken and Suggie Christenbury

Roy Kinnamon

Mary Sheets and family

Paul Christenbury

Stephen Lisi, Jr. (deployed)

Gayle Sherman (Kristy

David Clemmer

Elaine Lord

Maddux's Aunt)

Bill Cochran

Jean MacNeil

Lois Spradley

Elizabeth De Kam (Menconi family)

Lucy McLaughlin and family

Earl Thomas

Guy Eberhart

Steve Misenheimer

Tracy Tucker

Brenda Garrison

Joey Mundy

Juanita Untz

Ken Grimes

Donnie Oehler

Myrtle Wall

Tommy Oehler

Caroline Williams

MARCH OFFICERS ON DUTY

ELDERS:

Alan Garrison, Suzanne Curtis, Jamie Garrison

DEACONS:

Julie Mingus, Sue Bishop, Kim Tucker, Susan Mach, Tracy Tucker



April Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Kristy Maddux 	2 Will Armistead Emily Rose Hank Poston	3 Marleen Alexander Scot Barrett	4 Chuck Strong, Jr.	5
6 Juanita Untz Gabe Lapalombella Sandra Thomas	7 Emily Holt Jackson Oehler	8	9 Jean Helms Lee Ann Oehler	10 Anne Eberhart Eddie Garrison Bobbie Lisi Julie Mingus	11 Allston Oehler	
13 Pam Beard Christine Shankey 	14 Doris DeArmon Faye Stanley Tom Baker	15 Gentry Gullede	16 Danny Ndingwan	17 Sue Oehler Andy Brown Sophia Johnson	18 Kalie Barrett 	19 Brenda Garrison
20 Mason Coore 	21 Ben Alford	22 Robin Fuller	23 Jean MacNeil	24 Bonnie Hodges Dave Richards Brice Dixon	25 Shawnee Wakeman	26 Emily Shankey
27 Susan Mach Amy Oehler Holly Oehler Hayden Love	28 Ann Brown Abigail Yates	29	30 			

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
Terri Smith
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Kristy Maddux
Angela Swicegood
Patrick McCarthy

Senior Pastor
Transitional Associate Pastor
Financial Manager
Office Administrator
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Organist
Pianist