



The Scroll

MallardCreek
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

When the Ground Is Bare

A Lenten Reflection

Lent arrives before the leaves.

The trees outside our sanctuary stand exposed — branches lifted against a gray sky. Gardens lie quiet. The soil appears cold and still. Nothing seems to be happening.

And yet beneath the surface, the earth is not empty.

Roots hold fast. Seeds soften in the dark. Life prepares itself quietly, without announcement.

This year we enter Lent in a season of transition — between chapters in the life of our congregation. Such seasons can feel uncertain. We prefer clear direction and visible progress. But Scripture reminds us that God often works most deeply in times of waiting.

The wilderness was never only a place of absence; it was a place of preparation. Jesus entered the wilderness before his ministry began. Waiting, in God’s hands, becomes holy ground.

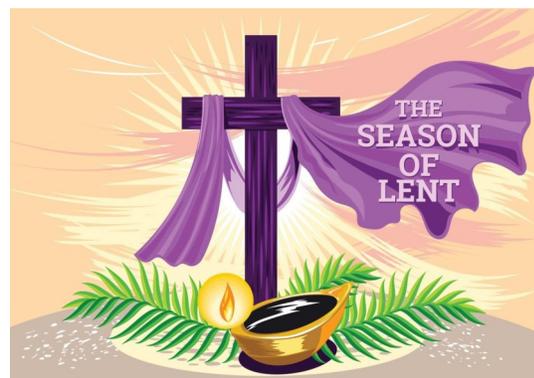
The apostle Paul writes, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). Our hope does not depend on circumstances being settled. It grows as God fills His people with peace and trust, even before new things appear.

Spring does not arrive all at once. It comes gradually, faithfully, in God’s time. What looks bare today is not lifeless; it is preparing for new growth.

As a congregation, we stand not on personalities or programs, but on the steadfast promises of God. Christ is the head of the Church. The covenant faithfulness of the Lord does not waver from season to season. As Scripture reminds us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Therefore, we move through Lent not with anxiety, but with trust — rooted in Scripture and confident that the God who has been faithful in every generation will be faithful still.

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Session Notes

March 2026

Items of note from February Session meeting of 2/17/2026

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- The joint meeting of Session and Diaconate was called to order at 6:00 PM by Pastor Joe B Martin
- A quorum was declared present by the moderator.
- Report of people needing prayer in the congregation. Provided by Session and Diaconate
- Approved excused absences
- Approved agenda.
- Elder Keri Wass provided devotion and opening prayer
- Jordon Maddux was recognized as the Deacon representative
- Joint Officer business
 - *Unified Leadership
 - *Transitional process update and questions
 - *Update on unicameral system
 - *January Financial report
 - January income **was less** than January expenses by \$ 16,937
 - NOTE:** January income includes \$5,928 in "special" income and \$0 in "one time" contributions
 - NOTE:** Year 2025 Income **was less** than Year 2025 expenses by \$7,755
 - Jan 2026 contributions were \$3,265 **less** than Jan 2025 contributions
 - Year 2025 contributions were \$52,408 **less** than Year 2024 contributions
 - Year 2024 contributions were \$54,765 **less** than Year 2023 contributions
 - *Administrative Assistant Deadlines – Reinstalling deadlines for material for Sunday Bulletin and Friday email (prior Wednesday at Noon) and the Scroll (20th of prior month)
Anything you need to know from a Church Officer standpoint?
 - *Lay readers
 - *Dismissed into separate meetings
- Read and approved Session meeting - January 6th Called Session Meeting, January 18th Congregational Meeting, January 20th session Meeting, January Admin meeting minutes, January Finance meeting minutes and January Youth & Children meeting minutes.
- - Old Business**
 - Update on Youth and Family coordinator position – On Hold
 - Committee updates – Youth & Children, Education & Spiritual Nurture, Worship, Property, Finance & Admin
 - Youth and Children***
Motion for Jamie Garrison to assume paid role as Teen Leader until Y&F coordinator position is posted and filled.
 - Admin***
Motion to remove Doug and Jennifer Sheehan from the membership roll at their request.
Review sheet from Admin and disposition
 - Bylaw discussion***- On Hold
 - New Business**
 - Transitional Pastor Committee formation – Drew Dowling is Chair. Session approved Harvey Alexander and Jordan Maddux as members
Report from Clerk
Report from Moderator

Closed in prayer by Pastor Martin

February Financial Report

February 15, 2026 Financial Position	
Year To Date Income	
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$169.00
WORSHIP OFFERING	\$26,709.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$13,579.00
CELL TOWER INCOME	\$3,427.53
ONCE A YEAR CONTRIB	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$43,884.53
YTD INCOME	\$43,884.53
YTD EXPENSES	\$88,504.28
Reserves Spent	(\$44,619.75)
Contributions	
January	\$24,905.00
February (1/2 a month)	\$15,552.00
Total Contributions	\$40,457.00



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, the Children's Theater play, *Tiny and Large*, and Pajama Day to kick-off our Spirit Week and Scholastic Book Fair. It was a busy month, but a lot of fun!

MCPCP'S MISSION PROJECTS

For the past two months, our classes participated in mission projects by collecting items for various missions/organizations. Our Pre-K classes collected items for Backpack Blessings, the 3's classes collected items for Gracious Hands, and the 2's classes collected items for CVAN. We really appreciate our staff, students, and parents for their participation and support of these worthy missions.

SPIRIT WEEK AT MCPCP

This month we are kicking off our "Be Smart, Read More Books...Eat More Chikin" March Reading Program and will celebrate by continuing Spirit Week from March 2nd to March 5th! During Spirit Week, the students and staff will dress differently each day. On Monday, March 2nd, everyone will dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Wednesday will be Silly Sock Day and Thursday will be Crazy Hair/Hat Day.

COLLECTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR BACKPACK BLESSINGS

During past Spirit Weeks, we have collected monetary donations for The Lymphoma & Leukemia Society (LLS). Our staff discussed it and decided to support a cause closer to home so we will collect monetary donations for MCPC's Backpack Blessings Program instead this year.

MARCH READING PROGRAM

Chick-fil-A at University Place is sponsoring our reading program again this year! They will provide breakfast for our staff and 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 over 20 years.)*

SPRING SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair will start on Monday, March 2nd, and run through Thursday, March 5th, 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 Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. *(Tuesday, March 3rd, is a Teacher Workday so the Book Fair will close that day.)* If you cannot stop by the Book Fair, please check out our on-line Book Fair at www.scholastic.com/bf/mallardcreekpreschool now through March 11th.

READERS WANTED

If you **LOVE** to read and would like to read to our students in their classrooms, please email kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org. You can read to one class or a few. You can bring your own book, or we can pick one out for you.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Our students will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day on March 17th** by wearing **GREEN** and looking for gold that the leprechauns leave after they visit the classrooms and leave them a total mess!

CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT

Take a break from cooking and join us for food, fellowship, and FUN at our **Chick-fil-A Spirit Night on Thursday, March 26th**, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the **University Place Chick-fil-A, located at 8700 University Executive Park Drive, Charlotte, 28262**. You can dine in or support us through the drive thru. Just tell them that you are with MCPCP or Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church Preschool. We really appreciate your support!

2026 MCPCP SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for our 2026 Summer Camps is **OPEN!** Your child or grandchild must be 2 ½ years old by August 31, 2026, up to a rising second grade student to participate. Summer Camps will run Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the dates and themes for each week are as follows:

Week 1: June 1-4 "Splish, Splash, Explore, and Discover"

Week 2: June 8-11 "The Adventure Trail"

Week 3: June 15-18 "STEM-tastic Adventures"

*(*The cost for each week is \$175 and is due at time of registration. Register for all 3 weeks for only \$450, if paid all at once.)*

All openings are on a first come first served basis so do not delay, call 704-549-9741 or email paiget@mallardcreekchurch.org for more information or to register.

MARCH'S THEMES

This month our students will learn about: Dr. Seuss; Machines; Their Families; Insects and Spiders; Pets Need Care; Bugs; the Amazing Outdoors; Growing a Garden; Fairytales; and Springtime.

MARCH'S BIBLE STORIES

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, the Ten Commandments, and the Easter Story.

2026-2027 PRESCHOOL YEAR

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 2026-2027 school year** has ended so ALL remaining openings are on a first come first served basis. When placing children in our program, church members have priority over alumni and new students.

Our March Bible verse is: "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs."

Psalm 100.2

Upcoming March Events

MARCH
2
6:00 PM
Circle of Rebekah Ruth
Gathering Space

MARCH
3
10:30 AM
Circle of Mary-Anna
Garrison-Martin Room

MARCH
13
7 PM - 9 PM
Friday Night Recess
Gym

MARCH
15
11:30 AM
Teacher & Choir
Appreciation Lunch
Dining Hall

MARCH
17
12:00 PM
Lunch Bunch
Dining Hall

MARCH
26
5:00 PM
Room In The Inn
Dining Hall

MARCH
28
7 AM - 5 PM
Churchwide Workday
Church Campus

MARCH
28
1 PM - 4 PM
Easter Egg Hunt
Lower Parking Lot

MARCH
29
10:30 AM
Palm Sunday Cantata
Sanctuary

FRIDAY NIGHT RECESS

Friday, March 13 at 7:00pm in the Dining Hall

Pickleball and Game Night!

Join us on Friday for a night of fun, games, snacks and fellowship!

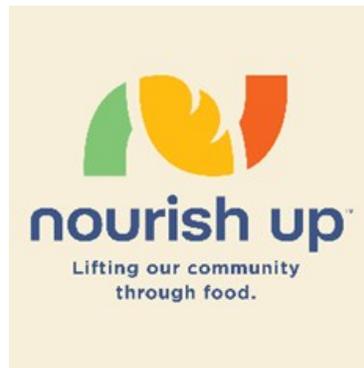
NOURISH UP VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday, March 7 from 9:00am-11:00am

At the Nourish Up Warehouse

A sign up sheet is available in the Gathering Space for this event.

The age limit has been changed—it is now age 13 and up!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Lifetime Membership Nominations

An Honorary Life Membership in *Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, is conferred upon an individual in recognition of faithful service in some area of church work, such as, but not limited to, moderators, leaders, teachers, officers, pastors, and missionaries. Those honored may have committed service to Presbyterian Women or the church in various ways.

Nomination forms are available in Circle Meetings and in the Gathering Space

Nominations are accepted until March 31, 2026



MCPC WORKDAY

MARCH 28TH
AT 8:00 A.M.

WE WILL BE WORKING ON MAKING
OUR CHURCH BEAUTIFUL AND
ORGANIZED, INSIDE AND OUT!



RAIN DATE:
APRIL 4

REMINDER



THE CLOCKS
spring forward

SATURDAY NIGHT

*so you won't miss church on
Sunday!*

Mark Your Calendar!

THANK YOU,
FOR ALL THAT
YOU DO!

please join us for a
Teacher and Choir
Appreciation Luncheon

March 15 @ 11:30 am
in the Dining Hall

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 28th



1:00-2:00

CRAFTS - HOTDOGS - EASTER BUNNY

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

Lunch Bunch Safari

TUESDAY
MARCH 17
12:00

A photograph of two elephants in a savanna landscape. The elephants are standing on dry, brownish ground. The background shows sparse green trees under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Come on Safari with us!
This month's program features a presentation by
Faye Stanley and Linda Amidei,
who will share their photos and experiences from
their recent African Safari

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

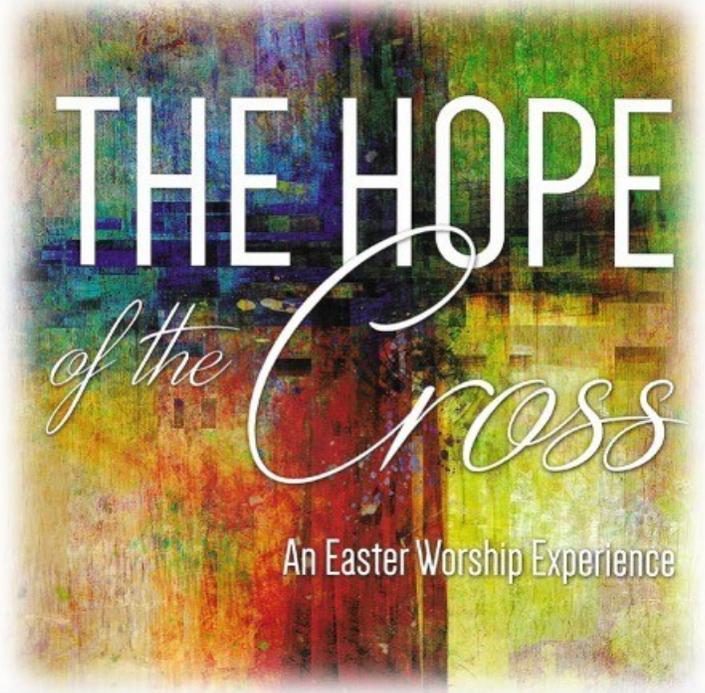
Menu: Baked Potato Bar, Salad Bar & Dessert

Save the Date!

The choir and orchestra of
Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
presents an Easter cantata

“The Hope of the Cross”

Sunday March 29th 10:30am



He is Risen

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA, MARCH 29, 10:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, APRIL 2, 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, APRIL 5 | 10:30 AM

4 Year Old Classes visit Backpack Blessings

Ms Nancy &
Ms Melanie's Class



Ms Lee Ann &
Ms Rutha's Class



Ms Wanda &
Ms Cathy's Class



A BIG Thank
You to the 4
year old
Preschool
classes! They
came to learn
about our
Backpack
Blessings
Ministry
and donated a
large amount
of food.



Special Prayers

March 2026

Ann & Jimmy Brown
 Bobby Brown
Christian Busch (Nancy/Tom's son)
Alex Busch (Nancy/Tom's daughter)
 Jenny and Bill Cochran
Sheila DeArmon
Dawn Drye (friend of the Busch's)
Guy Eberhart
Rima Frika
Eliza Furr (friend of Linda Preslar)
The Hatton Family
Jean Helms

Barry Hinson
Blanche Hodges (Bonnie's Aunt)
Daisy Huber (5 year old friend of Suzanne Curtis)
 Janet Hunter
 Shirley Hunter
 Dennis Johnson
 Linda Jones (Jane Isenhower's sister)
 Phyllis Jones
 Betsy Killian
Sheila Letica
 Elaine Lord
Bebe McGee

Bobbie Misenheimer
Bill Mitchell
Kori Morris
 Donnie Oehler
 Tommy Oehler
Eddy Pitsenbarger (friend of the Whitmires)
Donna Seaford
Logan Sigmon (friend of Jamie Garrison)
Leslie Taylor (Nancy Busch's Sister-In-Law)
Pete Taylor (Terri Garrison's Brother-In-Law)
 Earl Thomas
 Lois Treadway

March Officers

Elders

Drew Dowling, Suzanne Curtis, Tommy Mitchell

Deacons

Debra Johnson, Eric Johnson, Tom Baker

2026 April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 KristyMaddux	2 Will Armistead Emily Rose	3 Marleen Alexander Scott Barrett	4 Chuck Strong
5 Julia Brown	6 Sandra Thomas Gabe Lapalombella	7 Emily Holt Jackson Oehler Hank Poston	8	9 Lee Ann Oehler Jean Helms Ashley Gulledege Debbie Friedlander	10 Julie Mingus Bobbie Lisi Eddie Garrison Anne Eberhart Earlene Craver	11 Allston Oehler
12	13 Pam Beard	14 Fayer Stanley Doris DeArmon Tom Baker	15 Gentry Gulledege	16 Danny Ndingwan	17 Sue Oehler Sophia Johnson Andy Brown	18 Kalie Barrett
19 Brenda Garrison	20 Mason Coore	21 Ben Alford	22 Robin Fuller	23 Jean MacNeil	24 Dave Richards Bonnie Hodges	25 Shawnee Wakeman
26	27 Hayden Love Susan Mach Amy Oehler Holly Oehler	28 Ann Brown Abigail Yates	29	30		