From Rev. Rob Watkins:

I had no idea that when we moved all of our church office work off campus and into our homes that last week in March that the calendar would roll over into May, and we would still be working remotely. That was and is the challenge of a pandemic—it moves at its own speed, in its own time, and no one really knows when and how it will fade. We continue to watch and wait, caring deeply for each person and each family touched by the virus.

But we are beginning to see a light on the horizon. North Carolina is slowly reopening as businesses begin to resume commerce. Schools will end the year remotely, but some summer programs are beginning to plan to open, even if they cannot take as many children as in past years. Restaurants, hair salons, barbershops, and other shuttered venues are figuring out how to restart their work, keeping staff and clientele safe.

So, too, is the church. Plans are being made to help us get back into our communal life as a congregation, albeit slowly and carefully. Watch for updates.

However, there is also something that is sure and certain—things will not be completely as they were before the pandemic descended.

For one thing, we have become A LOT better at being an online church. A special thanks to Mack Downing for patiently working with the staff to get us into the 21st Century, using all manner of e-platforms for our work and worship. His volunteer hours have been indispensable. Your pastors now know how to use various widgets and gizmos (even if we don’t know their technical names) to be present to a whole new set of visitors, newcomers, and old friends alike. Andrea has led youth ministry into the digital age, and Dave has managed to keep music fresh and before us online. Both Shawn and Cathy have learned to keep our administrative nuts and bolts tightened and operational. In other words, God knows how to redeem the internet.

For another thing, we have touched people we never would have before we went online. Did you know that our worship offerings have been viewed by people as far away as India? We now have a couple of regular visitors from Nebraska—anyone know who they might be? The truth is that this pandemic opened our eyes to folks who want church and church ministries but don’t want to go to an actual church. There has been a virtual congregation forming around our work. What will do with them and for them after we resume more normal life? Is Jesus opening a whole new vista before us?

As we get back together, it seems God is using this moment for us to consider, reconsider, and reconfigure what it means to be a fellowship of Jesus.
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 and Lt. Alex Busch

**Sunday School Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESCHOOL &amp; ELEMENTARY</th>
<th>PRE-TEENS &amp; TEENS</th>
<th>ADULTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Grades 5, 6, 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Morrison Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 2,3,4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>High School (9-12)</td>
<td>Spencer Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1st &amp; 2nd</td>
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<td>Activity Building</td>
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<td>3rd &amp; 4th</td>
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<td>Baucom/Craig Class</td>
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**STEWARDSHIP AND COVID-19**

During these uncertain and disconcerting times, we have many things on our minds and hearts. As we watch the financial markets lurch and blunder about, we can grow anxious. That is especially true as we deal with small businesses, food industries, and other work directly dependent on interaction to stay afloat. The church falls into that category, as well. As we shift to an almost total online presence, it can seem there is nothing to give to or support, but the truth is that online presence represents a tremendous amount of ministry happening. Pastoral care is still ongoing. Youth and children’s ministry continues. Sunday morning still comes. Christian education and formation still happens. Our mission outreach still happens (and is becoming more necessary and urgent as needs around us arise). In other words, even though in different form, the church continues. We need you. Please help as you are able. You may contribute online at mallardcreekchurch.org; you can mail in a contribution (1600 W Mallard Creek Church Rd, Charlotte NC, 28262); or, why we are still able to be here, bring it by the church office. Please keep in mind any and all non-profits you support that make a direct impact on the community—they
Just a few months ago, we were gathered around our Christmas trees, gleefully opening packages with full abandon and thinking nothing of expressing physical affection to those we love. Who would have ever imagined that by the middle of March we would be under a county wide stay at home order, an order that would quickly morph into a statewide order, because of a deadly virus? Who would have ever guessed?

Reality as we know it has changed rapidly, so rapidly that we struggle to wrap our heads around it, much less our hearts. And while anxiety seems to be the primary emotion many of us feel these days, I want to lift up another emotion that may be lurking right underneath the surface of our hearts: grief.

Grief is the emotion we experience in the face of loss. Many of our losses are obvious and visible, the death of someone we love being the most obvious. But there are other losses which are far more subtle, and one of which is that of our inability to gather as a community when one of our own has died. The end result is that our grief becomes twofold; we grieve the loss of the person who died, and we grieve that we cannot gather in order to comfort and support one another in our grief.

Another more subtle loss is that of our graduates being unable to “walk” at graduation and tangibly hold their diplomas, turn their tassels, toss their caps high up into the air, and celebrate with friends. And then there are the parents of the graduates who grieve the loss of being unable to savor the sight of watching their graduate walk across the stage. We are swimming in the waters of loss.

So how are we to cope?

We cope by acknowledging what we have lost these past few months. We name our losses. We speak them out loud, either to ourselves or to another. We then allow ourselves to grieve our losses, to feel our sadness and sorrow. And then, at some point, we remind ourselves of these eternal truths - that the world God created for us is still beautiful. The bulbs we planted in the fall will rise out of the Earth and produce brilliant blooms. Honeysuckle vines will still grow this spring and summer, dripping with their sugar-sweetness. Ocean waves still flow in and flow out like clockwork.

I am certain that we all have within us deeper wells of strength than we realize. We will get through this, you and I.
We would like to acknowledge and say a BIG thank you to Sue Oehler, Doris DeArmon, Linda Killian, Bernice Kehoe, Caroline Williams, Polly Caldwell, Patsy Oehler and Jean Thomas for using their talents to make almost 500 face masks during our stay at home time. They were given to Pruitt Healthcare in Harrisburg, The Laurels in Highland Creek, healthcare facilities in Ashe County and many family and friends.

Way to Go, Quilters!!!
Now accepting student applications for the 2020-2021 preschool year! Please email Kristym@mallardcreekchurch.org for the paperwork. We are busily making plans for a FANTASTIC year. You won't want to miss it!

My family and I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you at Mallard Creek who have reached out to us in so many ways since my brother Danny's cancer diagnosis and after his death on March 30th. All the prayers, calls, texts and cards have been overwhelming and truly humbling. We appreciate your love and support more than we can say.Chris and Julie Mingus

Dear Mallard Creek Church, Pastor Rob and Pastor Alison,
The family and I thank Jimmy and Polly Walker for informing the church members and pastors about Jay Cottrell's passing. Thank you Pastor Alison for your phone calls and coming to the house and your comforting words and prayers in our time of need. Thank you church members who brought food to our home, phone calls, and cards. They meant so much to all of us. Jay loved Mallard Creek Church, the people and especially participating in the Morrison Sunday School class, Sunday Worship service, Lunch Bunch, Mallard Creek BBQ and all the other church activities. Again, thank you Mallard Creek Church for all your love, kindness, support and compassion shown to our family at this time.
The Cottrell and Creel Families

Backpack Blessings: School is out for the remainder of this academic year and church may not be physically meeting at this time, but Backpack Blessings continues. Weekday lunches for students in need are still being distributed by the schools but weekends are a challenge. In coordination with Parkside and University Meadows Elementary Schools we are still helping families with weekend meals.

Many things about the program have changed, at least for now. We are not using backpacks but instead use disposable plastic grocery bags for the food. Because more people are at home, we’re adding extra food to carry them over. To avoid any physical contact, instead of delivering the food to a school representative, we leave the backpacks in a bin at a designated time and the cafeteria manager then picks up and distributes them. The schools have not been able to contact many of the transient families and others that have no phone, so we are preparing 24 backpacks weekly instead of approximately 39 backpacks when school was meeting. For social distancing purposes we are not meeting as a group on Thursday mornings to pack the food but look forward to the time we can once again convene as a group in fellowship.

It is only through this congregation’s generous contributions that we’ve been able to keep the program going. We are purchasing fast food gift cards to help families further and would like to buy more. Any donations for Backpack Blessings, including fast food gift cards, would be welcome. If you’d like to help, please call Maria Menconi at 704-560-3961.

We will stop in late May for the summer as we normally do and look forward to hopefully going back to our traditional practices once school starts up in the fall. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable mission that is helping families in need, especially during this difficult time.

MARCH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

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Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

Hello everyone!

Life has been different for quite a while now, yet it still seems to change daily. Most recently, our governor has outlined a plan going forward, and has canceled in-person classes at school for the rest of the year. I know many in our congregation are teachers, and I imagine you are feeling a lot of grief. For all our students, especially our seniors, I know that you are feeling grief too. Your senior year was taken from you. I am reminded though of how in the last Harry Potter book, Harry, Ron, and Hermione spent their senior year away from school, trying to save the world. Though spending your senior year at home may not feel quite so heroic, know that you are doing your part to save lives. You are giving up a lot of things that you deserve to have in order to save lives. And that makes you all a hero.

Since school continues to be closed and stay-at-home orders continue to be strict, unfortunately, we will not have any in-person youth or children’s activities during the month of May. However, there are still plenty of opportunities to join together as a church community! Here are some ministry updates for May:

- The best way to get up-to-date information for youth club and teen fellowship is in the weekly emails that I send out on Friday afternoons. These emails include Sunday School and Bible lessons, Zoom call information, updated activities, coloring pages, and other spiritual activities. If you do not receive emails from me and would like to – send me your email address at andreat@mallardcreekchurch.org

- We will continue to have Zoom calls every Monday to check-in, play games, and spend time together (Kids meet at 11am, Middle school at 2pm, and High school at 4pm).

- Continue to check my Youtube channel for videos – there are videos on kids yoga, Bible stories, and storytimes. The link to my channel is here (or search “Andrea Thomas Kids Yoga” on Youtube) https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYZHkET1gTQwxb1SpTjmGHg/

- I am available for pastoral care to all families via phone call or online video chat.

- Our Parenting Support Group will continue every other week throughout May (meeting at 2pm on Zoom on May 3rd, 17th, and 31st). Join us for ongoing support during this challenging time for parents.

- Other special activities will be listed in weekly emails – we will definitely have another Family Trivia Night in May TBD!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our special online events in April – we had so much fun for our virtual Quarantine-O-Ween, Easter Egg Hunt, Scavenger Hunt, Earth Day Celebration, Game Time, and Family Trivia Night! We all had a blast, and I laughed harder during Trivia than I have the entire quarantine. I’m so grateful to each of you for the ways you enrich our ministry and community at MCPC.
"Andrea's Suggested Quarantine Spiritual

Gratitude Scavenger Hunt for Kids

1. Find something outside you enjoy looking at
2. Find something that is useful for you
3. Find something that is your favorite color
4. Find something you know someone else will enjoy
5. Find something that makes you happy
6. Find something that tastes good
7. Find something that smells amazing
8. Discover something new
9. Find something that makes you feel safe
10. Find something that makes a beautiful sound
11. Find someone you are grateful for
12. Find something that is unique to you
13. Find something that makes you laugh
14. Find something in the night that you enjoy
15. Find something in the morning that you enjoy
16. Find a friend/pet that you love spending time with
17. Find your favorite place to spend alone time
18. Find something that reminds you of the people you love
19. Find something that you enjoy doing outside with friends
20. Find a place that you love
Quarantine Exercise: Can you find the names of sixteen (16) books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now.

There really are sixteen names of books hidden in this story!
Congratulations to our 2020 Confirmation Students

The 2020 class would like to thank Pam Beard for all her guidance and direction in helping them grow in their faith.

Seth Alford
Age: 11
Grade: 6th grade
School: Cramerton Middle School
What I love about MCPC: the volunteer opportunities, such as the Raleigh Youth mission trip and Rise Against Hunger. I was born and raised in MCPC. Pastor Mitchel baptized me. I am excited to "officially" be part of the church.
Hobbies: I love to draw and love to try new things.

Ashton Blevins
Age: 12 years old
Grade: 6th grade
School: Ridge Road Middle School
What I love about MCPC: Growing up in church, listening to the sermons and singing together with the congregation
Hobbies: Been a scholar student, loves learning, and loves sports. He has competed in soccer, he’s a black belt in Taekwondo, he loves football and has recently incorporated high diving into his sports portfolio.

Caitlin Blevins
Age: 14 years old
Grade: 8th grade
School: Ridge Road Middle School
What I love about MCPC: Growing up in the church and spending time with the Love Family
Hobbies: Caitlin is an avid soccer player and has gone as far away as Barcelona, Spain to compete in the sport. She was nominated Young Female Player of the Year for Charlotte in 2017.

Gabriel English
Age: 12 years old
Grade: 6th grade
School: Hickory Ridge Middle School
What I love about MCPC: how nice everyone is to each other.
Hobbies: playing Fortnite and Minecraft, as well as basketball and soccer; learning to play the saxophone; drawing the Marvel characters
Fun fact: He has also earned his first degree black belt in taekwondo.
Emily Johnson

Age: 11 years old
Grade: 6th grade
What I love about MCPC: everyone at church is always so nice and I have friends that are fun to hang out with!
I like riding my bike through the neighborhood.
I also love playing basketball and softball!

Sophie Johnson

Age: 12
Grade: 6th
School: Winkler Middle School
What I love about MCPC: going there all my life so it feels like family.
Hobbies: Dance, dance and dance. Sophie performs in the Nutcracker every year with Piedmont school of music and dance. She also likes to play with her sister, dog and friends outdoors and on the trampoline.

Lily Michelle Larkin

Grade: 6th grade
School: Oakridge Middle School in Lake Wylie, SC
What I love about MCPC: the friends and family feelings
Fun fact: during the recent quarantine I’ve taught myself how to skateboard.
Hobbies: hanging with my friends or playing softball, basketball, and/or swimming.

Brodie MacNeil

Age: 12
Grade: 6th Grade
School: Northwest School of the Arts in Charlotte, where his primary focus is Musical Theatre.
What I love about MCPC: the friendships and relationships I have made, and I especially love Camp Grier
Hobbies: playing the piano, attending art and acting camps, and learning to cook

Awah Ndumukong Ndingwan

Grade: 6th
School: JM Alexander Middle School
Family: I have a big sister and brother (Bih and Anye) and my cousin Abigail. My Parents are Lorraine and Daniel Ndingwan who migrated from Cameroon -West Africa and have lived in Charlotte for about 18 years.
What I love about MCPC: I have been a member since I was born. I love youth club and all the field trips. I also love going to Montreat and Raleigh for mission trip to help others. Youth club has taught me a lot about God.
Hobbies: playing football, hiking, playing Xbox
Fun fact: I love dogs and my favorite team is the Seattle Seahawks

Will Conner Oehler

Age: 12 years old
Grade: 6th grade
School: Harris Road Middle School
What I love about MCPC: It is all friends and family.
Family: My parents are Todd and Amy Oehler. I have a 17 year old brother named Cale and a Jack Russell terrier named Grits.
Hobbies: Baseball, hunting, fishing, four wheeling, motorcycles, water skiing, and farming are things I enjoy.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SENIORS!

Jackson Vaughan Oehler

Age: 12 years old
Grade: 6th grade
School: Community School of Davidson
What I love about MCPC: I’m very close to my family.
Hobbies: I love to play basketball and baseball.
Fun fact: I used to take taekwondo and Mr. Sean English was one of my instructors.

CJ Scott

Age: 12
Grade: 6th
School: Hickory Ridge Middle School
What I love about MCPC: The people there. Especially Miss Pam and my friends.
CJ Trivia: Favorite professional sports team is the Milwaukee Bucks. I love Giannis Antetokounmpo. (The Greek freak).
Hobbies: playing basketball, playing with my dog, Charlie and watching “Agents of the Shield”

Meredith Spittle

Age: 11 years old
Grade: 6th grade
What I love about MCPC: my friendships there.
Random fact: I shared my actual birthdate with 4 other MCPC babies (5 pupil roses for one day!)
My interests are dancing and hanging out with my friends.

Owen Stiffel

Age: 12
Grade: 6th grade
School: Harris Road Middle School
What I love about MCPC: the BBQ, Montreat, and kickball tournaments!
Hobbies: basketball, golf, football and video games
Our favorite way to pass the time together is grilling out and eating together as a family.

Mary McCraw

• Graduate of Jay M. Robinson High School
• Activities and Honors: member of student counsel, the Key club, and varsity cheerleading, as well as many MCPC activities
• Hobbies: Mary’s favorite thing to do is to travel. She had the opportunity to be a part of Teens Westward Bound last summer. When not traveling, Mary spends time with friends, family, and her 2 huskies. She enjoys all movies and playing the card game UNO.
• Future plans: Mary will be attending Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh. From there, she will transfer to a four-year university to study Education in hopes of teaching science.

Ashley Kostrzynski

• Graduate of Pine Lake Prep in Mooresville
• Activities and Honors: Varsity Basketball, Varsity Swim Team and Competitive Dance; Served as Vice President of her class, worked backstage for three plays and has served as Section Leader in Choir. She has received the Christian Character Award, her Thespian and Most Improved Player for both the basketball and swim team.
• Future Plans: She will be attending Appalachian State University majoring in Nursing.
• Ashley would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Teen Fellowship, Sunday School and Mission Trips. She is beyond thankful for all the memories and lessons she was able to learn from Mallard Creek. Her favorite bible verse is “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” Romans 8:28

Andrew Young Stiffel II

• Graduate of Cox Mill High School
• Activities and Honors: JV and Varsity baseball, men’s basketball team manager, NC Senate Page, Tarheels Boys State representative and governor, NC TARS (Teenage Republicans) secretary, Cabarrus County TARS Chairman
• Future Plans: Andrew will be attending UNCC and majoring in political science/pre-law
For Memorial Day, SCOUT TROOP 148 will place flags on the graves of our deceased veterans. This tradition was established by our first scout leader, Alex Garrison. On Memorial Day Sunday, the Flag will be lowered to half-staff in memory of all veterans.

VETERANS INTERRED AT MALLARD CREEK CEMETERIES

Adams, John Hope
Albee, Cliff WW I
Alexander, George M. WW I
Alexander, John H.
Alexander, Phillip Herman
Alexander, Radford B.
Alexander, Robert Flow
Alexander, Roy Franklin
Alexander, William T. III
Almond, George
Austin Lawrence Merwin
Becker, Erwin B.
Benton, Justus (J.L.)
Berry, Kenneth
Bingham, Walter Brice WW I
Black, Ray
Blackman, Robert
Boahn, Walter
Brown, Sam J.
Carter, Thomas M.
Clark, Jack
Cochran, Lawrence
Cochran, Ollie Brice
Cochran, Walter B.
Covington, Norman
Crenshaw, Alice
Daffin, Charles
DeArmon, Hal
Deaton, Crawford
Deaton, Harry Edward
Deaton, Thomas L. (Tommy)
Downing, Stanley
Fesperman, Charles
Foster, John M.
Foster, William K.
Galloway, Victor Query
Garrison, Alex
Garrison, James Watts
Garrison, Tommy
Garrison, William H.
Grubb, Jake
Haas, Donald WW I
Hawkins, O.O. WW I
Henderson, J.L. WW I
Holland, Hoyle
Hunter, Batte
Hunter, Billy Frank
Johnston, Alfred WW I
Johnston, Oscar
Johnston, Raeford
Jolly, Russell
Jones, Fred C.
Jones, Wilson
Jordan, Jerry Neal
Keller, Roy
Killian, John W.
Kirk, James W. (Bill)
Kirk, John E. (Gene)
Kirk, James F.
Kirk, Robert N.
Linker, Howard
Martin, Ted Douglas
McGee, Wilton L. (Louie)
McLaughlin, Eugene
McLaughlin, Ralph
McLaughlin, S.E. (Gene)
Morris, Claudia Nelson
Morrow, Calvin
Mullis, Henry C.
Mullis, W.A.
Munn, Joe
Neal, Woodrow
Nelson, Audrey Bailes
Nivens, Jerry Wayne
Oehler, J.W. (June)
Oehler, Jimmy
Oehler, Martin (Buster)
Oehler, Charles Henry
Oehler, Robert M.
Oehler, William K.
Penninger, Charles
Penninger, Charles, Jr.
Poplin, Dempsey
Poplin, Robert B.
Ranson, W. Thorn WW I
Robinson, Lewis
Sheehan, Charles Russell
Sloop, James Francis WW I
Spradley, Sr., Carl
Thomas, Reese
Thomas, Craven
Thompson, Don
Thompson, Orville
Untz, Merle
Untz, William M.
Walker, James A.
Wallace, Young A.
Wilson, Howard
Wilson, Joe M.
Young, Jack E.

MCPC VETERANS INTERRED ELSEWHERE

Abemathy, Kenneth
Albright, Spurgeon Larry
Alexander, Clyde (killed in Europe)
Alexander, Fred Turner WW I
Crenshaw, Cal
Faulkenberry, Charles
Garrison, Mal
Hartwell, June Elizabeth
Hill, C.W.
Hill, Ira
Joseph, Bill
Kirk, Calvin
Kirk, Alvin
Lyerly, Myron B.
McLaughlin, Jay
McLaughlin, Kirk
Morgan, Tom
Owens, William H.
Smith, Pete
Smith, Reese
Snodgrass, Alvin
Snow Sr, Chet
Snow, Sr.
Stone,Gene
Tulbert, Billy J.
Untz, Layton
Williams, Ronnie
Wilson, Summers
Workman, Robert

CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Alexander, Livingston
Benfield, Daniel
Christenbury, Reuben F.
Dixon, Hugh
Garrison, A.A.
Garrison David B.
Garrison, Robert W.
Hunter, M.B.
Hutchison, James R.
Hutchison, Robert A.
Kirk, James C.
Kirk, John
Newell, A. H.
Newell, J. H.
Newell, W.W.
Query, Newton
Query, William W.
Stinson, W. M.
Wallace, W.A.W.
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<td>Robby Benton, Jr.</td>
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<td>Julie Thompson</td>
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<td>Nancy Busch</td>
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<td>Ashley Andreasen</td>
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<td>Donna Sheppard</td>
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<td>DeeDee Larkin</td>
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<td>Ruthie Schultz</td>
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<td>Rob Moore</td>
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<td>Meredith Spittle</td>
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**Blood Drive**

Sunday, May 3rd, 10:00-2:30pm
Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
Charlotte, NC
Social distancing compliant—must wear mask
Appointment required: sign up online at redcrossblood.org—use code MCPC

1 blood donation can save up to 3 lives

GIVE BLOOD. GIVE LIFE
Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road
Charlotte, NC 28262
(704) 547-0038

The Rev. Rob Watkins
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins
Parish Associate

Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Mr. David Barnaba
Director of Music

Mrs. Kerri Miner
Preschool Director

Mrs. Cathy Marlor
Financial Secretary

Mrs. Shawn Watkins
Administrative Assistant

“Growing disciples of Jesus Christ who bear much fruit.”
Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:30 am