

The Scroll

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



From Pastor Rob

Our sermon series for November is entitled, ‘**A Season of Thanksgiving,**’ for as most of us realize, thanksgiving occupies a whole lot more than a single day. With just a little reflection, we find things for which to be grateful every day, if not several times a day. There are big blessings and also little graces that make life better, richer, and fuller.

Sometimes, though, we can find it hard to remember that, especially as we get lost in whatever cycle of news happens to be spinning around us at any given moment. There are so many areas of chaos all around us; there is an election season full of the rancor and acrimony that politics has become; there are worries about the world and our place within it. Finding reason for gratitude becomes a challenge.

But they are always there.

The two main scripture lessons we will be reflecting upon are the Healing of the Ten Lepers from the Gospel of Luke and Psalm 124, a great song of celebration at experiencing the redeeming hand of God. Both give us ample reason for thanks. In the first, we are reminded that in the presence of God, there is always hope, even in the most hopeless of situations. Leprosy was incurable, a sentence to exile and isolation. But through Jesus, even that is overcome. The second is a reminder to look for that powerful grace in every moment, for it is there. Most likely it comes in quiet expression, simple kindnesses, and seemingly inconsequential interactions, but that does not render the redemptive power of those moments any less profound.

Look for them. Slow down enough to reflect on the passing of the day. Who was there? What was said? Was connection made? Was help offered? Was love shared? As we reflect, we find there are countless moments of gratitude in every day we live, beginning with the simple grace of rising into another day and ending with the gentle enfolding of our beds beneath us as we go to sleep.



And there is a way for us to share our gratitude with others. We can thank God by offering who we are and what we have for God’s use in the world. God blesses us with so much, and we find in the stories of Jesus that deepest thanks come from those who then practice a deep and full generosity. They find grace compounded, multiplied, and made even more full by being shared.

We can also pause long enough to thank those who make our lives a little better and a little easier. A simple, ‘Thanks!,’ goes such a long way.

So in this Thanksgiving month, find ways to celebrate all month long.

Hunter's Thoughts

When I was away at the beginning of October, I was spending a week doing Continuing Education about Transitional ministry. The lectures and seminars were excellent and the time of worship each day was especially meaningful. But what made it even more special is that it took place on my old seminary campus in New Jersey. Susan and I both started there in 1987, just three months after we were married. We graduated in 1990 - we won't talk about who had the higher GPA but it wasn't me. We got back to visit there a couple of times in the next few years, but I had not been back to campus since 1997. As with most things, there had been many changes to the seminary and the town. But I was surprised to feel very familiar in most of the spaces on campus.

As I worshiped in the seminary chapel, it reminded me of how many of my fellow students I had seen lead worship - some in ways I would never have imagined. (Singing with a whole room of ministers and seminary students is always amazingly loud...) I wandered through Stuart Hall - the classroom building - where the floors still creak in all the same places, and remembered professors and lectures and being opened up to new depths of theology and faith and challenge and questions. I walked through the new library, which they made look so much like the old library, and remembered struggling with some of the essays and papers and sermons I was writing.



What made me more nostalgic than any of that was sitting at lunch in the cafeteria each day. As I ate with my fellow ministers and leaders from the conference, we shared insights and opinions and pushed each other to listen openly. It was the same as when Susan and I had been students. Each day at lunch, we would gather and the conversation was often about that morning's lecture or the seminar we just participated in. It was fascinating to learn through each other's experiences. And we were exposed to so much more than our own limited experiences. There were people from tiny rural churches and some from urban churches in city centers. We had colleagues who were born and raised Presbyterian and others who had come from other denominations or faith experiences.

It was a safe space to explore and learn and challenge each other. We were encouraged to listen and learn from each other - to try in some little way to experience the faith of others. That deepened my own faith in ways I could never have imagined. And I hope that is something I have continued to seek. Learning of the questions and wisdom of others brought me closer to more of God's children, and it brought me closer to God. I pray each day that every church community can continue to create safe spaces to explore and listen and share and grow in faith. I continue to enjoy doing so with all of you. (And no one seems to mind that Susan had the higher GPA...)



October was a busy but fun month with Fire Safety Week, Community Helpers Week, our annual Fall Festival (hayrides, pumpkin patches, and AZoo2You petting zoo), and celebrating Halloween with a storybook parade and candy walk. Whew!

THANK YOU to the police officers from the University Division of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for talking to the students about what they do and letting them sit in their police cars! **THANK YOU**, too, to the firefighters from Station 36 of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fire Department for teaching our students how to "Stop, Drop, and Roll" and telling them about their big fire truck! We also want to thank Firehouse Subs on W. Mallard Creek Church Road and the Firehouse Subs by Concord Mills for donating fire hats to our students this year!!! The children LOVED them!

Finally, after three years of COVID-19 protocol, we invited the parents to join their children on their class hayride during our Fall Festival! Everyone had fun and enjoyed being able to be together again! **A huge THANK YOU to Mr. Harvey Alexander** for making the hayrides around our campus so bouncy and fun and to Jimmy Brown and Bob Oehler for making them possible by loaning us the tractor and wagon! You all are the BEST!

This month our students will learn about fairy tales, God's gifts, being thankful, expressing what they are thankful for, and what Thanksgiving is. Our Pre-K classes will celebrate Thanksgiving with their annual Thanksgiving Feast and this year, the children are inviting their parents to join them for this special event!

Ms. Robin Fuller will share the following Bible stories with our students in Children's Church this month: Jesus Quiets the Storm, Water to Wine, Jesus Feeds 5000, Jesus Heals 10 Lepers, and the Good Samaritan.

We hope that each of you have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends!

Like us on Facebook so you can see everything that is happening at MCPSCP!
Kristy Maddux, Preschool Director and Paula Brasel, Administrative Assistant

Psalm 3:5 ~ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Thank you church family for the cards, phone calls, visits, food and prayers that were sent my way during my back problems and surgery.

I still have some issues but by the grace of God I will make it (hopefully to full recovery soon). I also "Thank" the quilt ministry for the quilt sent during my down time. May the Lord continue to BLESS each and everyone for their gracious giving.



Donnie Oehler



Chuck Strong had hip replacement surgery on Oct. 24th.

He and wife Marleen Alexander have permanently moved to High Point, NC near Marleen's daughter Nicole, her husband, and the 3 grandchildren.

Their new address is: 3506 Imperial Drive, High Point, NC 27265. Marleen's cell #: 704.302.0994.



Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

November 2022

Youth Club Schedule:

Teen Fellowship Schedule:

November Youth Club Schedule

Sundays 3:00-4:30pm

11/6	Bible Story and Musical Rehearsal
11/13	Bible Story and Musical Rehearsal
11/20	Bible Story and Musical Rehearsal
11/27	Sabbath (Thanksgiving)



November Teen Fellowship Schedule

Sundays 4:30-6:30pm

11/6	Mission - Buy gifts for Christmas Angels
11/13	Bible Study and Dinner
11/20	Kickball Tournament and Pizza
11/27	Sabbath (Thanksgiving)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Merry Christmas			December Birthdays			
				1 Marlene Allen Joe Crapster Debbie Dowling	2 Polly Caldwell Elliott Garrison Debra Johnson	3 Jeff Garrison Ken Gupton
4 Kelsea Brockmeier Ray Oehler Micah Halter	5 Bill Cochran	6 Lane Seaford II Clay Scholand Hudson Oehler	7	8 Andrea Thomas	9	10 Wayne Beard Grier Sangutei
11	12 Sammy Putnam	13 Melanie Scholand Easton Powell	14 Ethan Stiffel	15 Betsy Killian Mason McElveen	16 Rickie Grubb Bain Wilson Carter Estes Carson Monteith	17 Barbara Carter
18 Mildred Grubb	19 June Bryant Stacey Alexander	20 Terri Garrison	21 	22 Sharon Richards	23	24 J.W. Avant Earl Thomas
25 Donna Brookshire	26	27 Sharon Benfield	28 Lewis Grubb T.J. Fuller	29 Ethel Ranson Ronda Johnston Amy Spittle Brett Cochran	30	31 Alan Garrison Paul Menconi Haley Johnson

SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Sunday School	\$99.00
Worship Offering	\$31,515.87
Online Giving	\$11,135.00
TOTAL Offering	\$42,749.87
Total Offering YTD	\$364,922.26
Total Expenses YTD	\$494,226.04
Under for Year	(-\$129,303.78)



Save the Date!
 Our live, in-person kids and teens Christmas show with full cast and choir will be on December 4th! You don't want to miss this!



The year has flown by and its time for the Angel tree. We will once again work with Mallard Creek, Parkside and University Meadows Elementary Schools and will help about 140 families celebrate Christmas.

By this time last year we were well on the way giving out the names of the children. However, due to staff shortages at the schools it has taken longer to gather the information this year. We hope to have the children's information by October 30th. So please don't delay! We will need to have gifts turned in by November 21 so that they can be delivered to the schools with sufficient time.

If you want to make a family's Christmas special, pick a child's name during Sunday service. **Angel tags will be in the gathering space.** Alternatively, email Maria Menconi at paulmaria620@yahoo.com or call her at 704-560-3961.

When you shop for your child please drop your unwrapped gift at the church office or in the gathering space as soon as possible **but no later than November 21.** Please make sure you include the child's information with the gift so that we know who the gifts belong to. If you can't get to the church to bring your gift please let Maria Menconi know and she will make arrangements to pick up the gifts.

You can also donate Money and we can shop for you. Please make checks to Presbyterian Women and in the memo section write Angel Tree. Checks can be mailed to the church office or given to Maria or Kerri Wass. The church's address is:

1600 W Mallard Creek Charlotte NC 28262



Elder duty for November: Bill Wood, Becky Wood, Mark Johnson

Deacon duty for November: Connie Wallace, Terri Fliegau, Jenn Messina, Andrew Coore, Ryan Oehler



The Memorial Service for Jill Garrison will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Visitation will follow in the Dining Hall.

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|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Nancy Moore - mother of Rob Moore | Elizabeth King | Bobby Brown | Caroline Williams |
| Carolyn Sheehan | Shirley Hunter | Cecil Massey | Donna Seaford |
| Kenneth Helms | Juanita Untz | Kathy Robinson | Elaine Lord |
| Bernice Martin | Ruby Downing | Andrea Thomas | Guy Eberhart |
| Andy Marcus - brother of Rachel Rodden | Donnie Oehler | Maggie Joseph | Jenny Cochran |
| Pat Smith - mother of Mary Baker | Tracy Tucker | Katherine Lockhart - mother of Keri Wass | |
| LaVern Winter - father of Tammy Alford | Suggie Christenbury | Chuck Strong | Cy Alexander |
| Dale McLaughlin | Harry and Margaret Kirk- Monie Alexander parents | | |
| Ashwini Mavathur | Joana Lovette | | |

Special Prayers



The Mallard Creek Church family extends gratitude to our LIVING veterans and to those now actively serving God and country.

Marcos Arellano
 J.W. Avant
 Joseph Wayne Beard
 Randal Young Bishop
 Bobby E. Bost
 Robert Joseph Brown
 Kenneth Wayne Brown
 Michael Steven Buchanan
 Calvin Alexander Caldwell
 Fred Hammond Campbell
 Paul Buxton Christenbury
 Alistair Jeremy Coyte
 Anthony Daddona
 Lt. Keyes Dickson
 Guy Eberhart
 Young Edward Garrison
 Lewis C. Grubb

Edward Ingram Gullede
 Jonathan Halter
 Robert Hamilton
 Kenneth Ray Helms
 James Irvin Hunter
 William Ernie Jones
 Mark A. Johnson
 Charles Keys
 Dallas Merle King
 Ronald LeBold
 Roger Lyell
 Warner Marshall
 Herman Ronnie McKay
 Thomas Dale McLaughlin
 James McCaig Mitchell
 Robert Moore
 Larry Walton Quick

Charles Ronald Oehler
 Donald Lee Oehler
 Joseph Larry Oehler
 Martin Eugene Oehler, Jr.
 Robert McGill Oehler, Jr.
 Vance R. Reid
 Lane Calvin Seaford, II
 William Alan Standish
 Charles O. Strong, Jr.
 James Michael Stubbs
 Leland Darrell Thomas
 Tanner Triage
 Tracy Nelson Tucker
 Gary D. Walker
 Ron Phillip Patrick Wescott
 David McLaughlin Wilson

Actively Serving



SGT Malcom Allen	LTC Rob Byars	LT Alex Busch
STG2 Hunter Holland	BG Cristina Moore	Austin Powers (Nat Guard)
Major Trevor Sutherland (Air Nat Guard)	Master SGT Rick Treadway PV2 Stephen Lisi	LTJG Morgan Whitmore

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The Rev. Rob Watkins
The Rev. Hunter Roddey
Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Mrs. Claudia Perez
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Carolyn Fitzgerald
Mrs. Kristy Maddux

Senior Pastor
Transitional Associate Pastor
Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Financial Manager
Preschool Director