



THE SCROLL

Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church

www.mallardcreekchurch.org | 704.547.0038

1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road

From Rev. Rob Watkins:

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the House of the Lord!" —Psalm 122:1

So will be our song of thanksgiving this month as we return to the sanctuary for worship (please see the article inside) and as we gradually start to use our actual church facilities again after months of physical absence and virtual presence. It is indeed good to be able to be back in the building.

But at the same time, it is also to reflect on the months past and be able to intone equally strongly, "God is good and grace abounds!" That is so very true. We may not have been church as usual, but in some ways, that has been a great blessing. We have become the church as it might be. We connected to new people by actually using the internet tools our church was blessed to have well before the pandemic made using them absolutely necessary. We have been able to reconsider what is truly meaningful and worthy of use as worship. We have deeply felt the power of being connected to one another as a family of faith, especially when being connected became harder to do. We have used the gifts of building, land, and space in new and exciting ways. God indeed is gracious and always sharpening our vision.

Still, there is something about returning to things that are more normal. There is comfort in the familiar. Being inside the sanctuary is akin to returning home after a vacation. No matter how exciting the time away was, there is something warm and welcoming about feeling the embrace of home. So it is for me, and I hope for you, as well, as I consider being back in the pulpit, seeing faces and families back in the pews, and feeling the embrace of the old church walls.

Be sure to keep updated on what is returning to old routines, and what is still going to be different. Some changes may well be permanent. Others will slide away as we retool old practices. We will do all we can so everyone knows what is happening, where it is happening, and how it is happening.

Join us as you are able and when you are able.

Some folks can jump right back in, but we are well aware of those for whom a return to normalcy is not possible yet. Please practice safety, caution, and wellness as we become more presently active with one another. And know that if you are not yet ready to jump back in, or not able to jump back in, we are still here for you. We will do everything possible to keep our church family connected and together, even as some of us need to remain apart.

Blessings to all!

God is good and grace abounds!

Indoor Worship Update

The Session of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church approved reopening for indoor worship, beginning on October 18. Worship will meet at 1000 am in the sanctuary. What follows is a set of guidelines for all who plan to attend to follow as we do so—

Sanctuary Re-opening Guidelines

HOW DO WE GET IN AND OUT OF THE BUILDING?

There will be a designated door for Entrance and Exit located on each side of the Gathering Space (the I-85 side and the Traffic Circle side).

We request that you use the correct door when entering and leaving the building—signs will be posted indicating which door is which, just like at the grocery store.

When entering the sanctuary the CENTER AISLE will be utilized for walking to the appropriate pew.

When leaving, please utilize the outside aisle (along the windows).

The ramp door and office suite will NOT BE USED for entry or exit except during an emergency.

SEATING

Maximum capacity in the Sanctuary is limited to 140 people.

Only utilize the open pews for seating, there will be a church officer to direct you to where to sit.

If all of the pews are full there will be overflow seating provided in the dining hall

The pews will be rotated every week to allow for multiple weeks between use minimizing the need for deep sanitizing each week.

Please do not seat yourself, wait to be directed to the appropriate pew by a church officer.

Only 10 people allowed per pew.

Please distance yourself from anyone else sitting on the same pew, unless you live with them.

Please use the restrooms located in the Gathering Space. All other restrooms will be out of service.

COLLECTION OF OFFERINGS

Offering will not be collected during the service.

We encourage everyone that is able to sign up for online giving, but there will be a collection box located at the Entrance/Exit to place your donation if that is what you prefer.

SANITIZING

We ask that you please clean up after yourselves, collecting belongings, tissues, etc. as you leave.

There will be Hand Sanitizer stations located in the Gathering Space for frequent use.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND. Please bring your own mask, however, if needed, there will be masks available at the entrance (just like at the grocery store). Ask a Church Officer if you need a mask.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please no mingling inside the building.

If you are sick, not feeling well, or have been around someone that is sick please stay home and enjoy church service online.

No child care will be provided at this time.

Please bring your personal Bible from home for worship. There will not be any hymnals, Bibles, or visitor pads located in the pews.

All worship notes, announcements, and other information necessary for worship will be on the screens—**THERE WILL BE NO BULLETINS FOR THE TIME BEING.**

Sunday School and Coffee Hour will not be held at this time.

Special Prayer

Elizabeth King	Warner Marshall	Charley Moon	Ann Brown
Kenneth Helms	Reese Untz	Fred Treadway	Deane Davis
Sylvia Buchanan, sister of Debbie Killian		Bernice Martin	Debby Hunter
Barbara Cottrell	Cathee Griffin, sister of	Kim Helms	Lynn Kelly
Bill Marcus, brother of Jean Thomas		Fred Campbell	Guy Eberhart
Randall Montgomery		Jimmy Marcus, brother of Rachel Rodden	
Donald Buff, brother in law of Jimmy Walker		Gayle Brunson, Brenda Oehler's sister,	
Laurel Petty, extended family of Mack Downing		Eve Cooper	Carrie Hanes

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

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

Sanctuary Building, Downstairs

Nursery
Ages 2,3,4 & 5
Grades 1st & 2nd
3rd & 4th

PRE-TEENS & TEENS

Activity Building

Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8
High School (9-12)

ADULTS

Education Building

Morrison Class
Spencer Class
Activity Building
Baucom/Craig Class
Garrison-Martin Class
Listening to Your Life
New Life

AUGUST STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Sunday School	\$0
Worship Offering	\$34,695.00
Online Giving	\$10,700.00
TOTAL Offering	\$45,395.00
Total Offering YTD	\$357,661.89
Total Expenses YTD	\$405,834.11
Under for Year	\$48,172.22



Pastor Alison's Care Corner

Last Thursday I met a friend for lunch, and in the course of our conversation, she posed this question, "So what do you think Christmas will look like this year?" Our minds were in the same place because I, too, had thought of the upcoming holidays, and how our celebrations might look different this year in light of the pandemic. Maybe these thoughts have crossed your minds as well.

Up until now, and I will speak only for myself, so much in my life has been a given. Up until early March when the COVID-19 shutdowns began, so very much of my life was a given. *When* I would go here or there was totally up to my discretion. *Whether* I would go here or there was totally up to my discretion. But all of that has changed.

But I now no longer on a whim drive to visit my aunt and uncle who live near Wilmington because my aunt has cancer and I don't dare run the risk of bringing the virus to her. I think twice about visiting my father in Greensboro as he is elderly and in frail health, and I do not want to run the risk of bringing the virus to him. And there's the question of whether to visit our children in neighboring states. We did visit our son in July, and he and his fiancée intentionally quarantined before our visit so as not to infect "dear *old* Mom and Dad." And even though the chances are that the virus would wreak far more havoc on us than our own children, we are still concerned about potentially bringing the virus into their homes.

What once was a given is no longer so.

If we're not careful, it would be rather easy to become depressed or anxious over the ways that COVID-19 has changed our lives. If honest, most all of us have had our moments of feeling quite low as the virus has made its way through our communities, and feeling this way is totally normal.

To guard us against becoming chronically depressed or anxious over the unpredictability that clouds our current situation, it may be helpful to practice mindfulness which is the practice of staying focused on the moment at hand. When we are mindful, we focus neither on the past nor on the future; rather, we rest in the present moment which is all that we have anyway really.

So the next time you find yourself fretting about how Thanksgiving or Christmas (or Halloween, if you have little ones) will look like this year, experiment with bringing yourself back to the present moment, focusing on *this* moment.

And while it may sound absurd, consider practicing mindfulness the next time you stand at the sink to rinse off your dinner plates. Instead of worrying about the future as you rinse and scrape, bring yourself back to the moment, being aware of the warmth of the water and the bubbles of the dishwashing soap. And as you do, give thanks to God for having access to running water, for being able to afford dishwashing soap, and for owning plates on which to eat. And then when your mind wanders again to the future or the past (as it most likely will) gently remind yourself that the present moment is all that you have, and bring yourself back to the present, thanking God for the good health that allows you to rinse off your plates in the first plates, for the meal that you have enjoyed.

It seems to me that living *mindfully* has the potential to change our lives. Let me know how it goes with you.





First of all, we'd like to thank everyone who donated cleaning supplies for our preschool on Back to School Sunday! These supplies will help us keep the preschool clean and sanitized for our students and staff so that we can continue learning and having fun! Your generosity means a lot to us and we thank each of you for your continued support and prayers!

October is a busy month for us. We will be talking about community helpers, celebrating Fire Safety Month, exploring our senses, and learning about bugs and farm animals. Ms. Monie will be sharing more of her amazing Children's Church videos with our classes via the Band app. We are truly blessed to have Ms. Monie and her whole family share their acting skills as they tell our children about God through the Bible stories for this month: the Fire in the Furnace, the Crippled Hand, John the Baptist Ate Bugs for Lunch, and Noah's Ark. If you haven't seen them in action, you are definitely missing something and should check them out on our Facebook page today.

As you can see, a lot of great things are happening at MCPCP and we'd love for your child to join us! If your child is 2 to 5 years old (2-years-old as of August 31st), we have a spot for them in one of our classes. Please call us today at 704.549.9741 so we can enroll your child today!

Our Bible verse for October is: Psalm 12:7 "Lord, You will keep us safe and protect us." Kristy Maddux, **Preschool Director**

Upcoming Circle Meetings

Welcome to a New Presbyterian Women's Circle Year. All women in the church have been assigned to a circle, but are welcome to attend any that they wish. Each meeting is centered around a Bible study lesson. Didn't read? Don't have a book? Don't worry, come anyway! Aside from the lessons, there is typically a discussion about mission projects or special events. Please reach out to the women listed below if you have any questions.

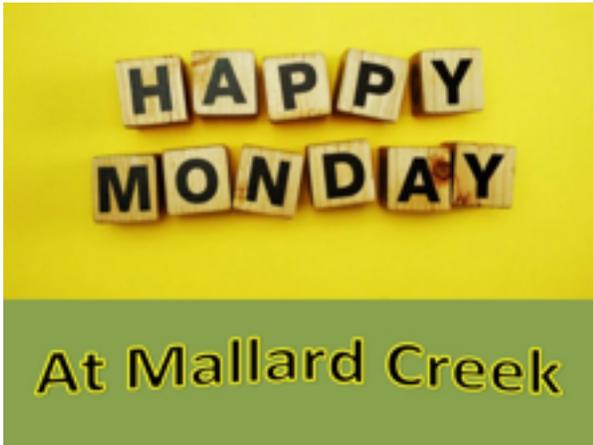
- Circle of Anna – October 1, 10:15 in the Parking lot at church
 - (Polly Caldwell - cacpwc@bellsouth.net, Linda Apolar - edlin1025@yahoo.com)
- Circle of Mary – October 6, 10:30 am at the Community house
 - (Jane Isenhower – isenhowerj@bellsouth.net - Linda Wallace - beach68@bellsouth.net, Sally Tyler - tylerstmt@bellsouth.net)
- Circle of Rebekah – October 5, 6:00 pm in the Parking lot outside the gym
 - (Rachel Rodden – rachrodden@gmail.com)
- Circle of Ruth – October 5, 7:00 on ZOOM
 - (Sue Oehler - csoehler@bellsouth.net)



Even with COVID disrupting every day life, those less fortunate in our community still have great needs. We are working with both Parkside and University Meadows Elementary Schools to help low income families celebrate Christmas. However, social distancing requires us to have a "virtual" Angel Tree this year. If you want to help make a family's Christmas special, call or text Maria Menconi (704-560-3961) or email her (paulmaria620@yahoo.com) to claim a family to help. As in the past, the families have listed both necessities (clothes) or a "wish" item. Gifts need to be returned by November 8 and can be dropped off in the sanctuary, brought to the church office once it opens on October 12 or call Maria to arrange a pick up. Monetary donations will also be accepted if you're hesitant to visit retail stores. If you choose this option, please write a check to Presbyterian Women and note Angel Tree on the memo line. Since there will be no tree in the sanctuary, it is VERY important that gifts returned include a listing of the family, family number or letter and child number or letter. Needs are as great, if not greater, than in past years due to the economy and many people losing their jobs. Mallard Creek has always supported this important mission work.

Please prayerfully consider helping again this year.





Lynn Davidson's Adult Sunday School Class Under the Oaks



Mondays at Mallard Creek had a strong start with a Sunday School class, a Circle meeting and the Parent Support group. Gatherings are beginning to start up on various days/evenings and locations as well, making Mallard Creek looking a little more "normal".

Circle of Rebekah (aka The Outlaws) Under the Portico

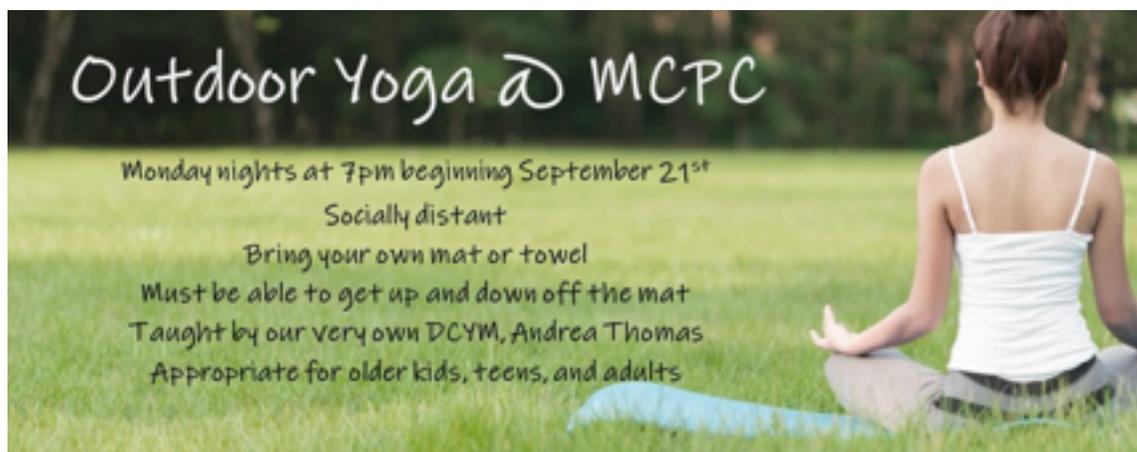


Circle of Mary met at the Community House in September





Bring your dog, cat, fish, cow, or any of God's great creatures to a special Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 4th at Outdoor Worship at the Community House! All pets are welcome, just please make sure they are properly trained and restrained (on leash, crate, or otherwise), and please sit on the lawn with your pet. If anyone has severe pet allergies, we encourage you to still attend the service, but you are welcome to sit in your car if you feel more comfortable there. Contact Andrea with questions.



OFFICE UPDATE

After six months of being closed, our church offices are about to reopen. This reopening will be a "slow open" to preserve the safety and health of both staff and folks coming to the church for business, meetings, and connections. The office will be open 1000 am to 430 pm, Monday through Thursday, as we slowly get back to more normal practices, but folks will need to make an appointment to meet with specific staff members, for their schedules will be staggered to maintain safe traffic and gatherings inside the building. We look forward to being able to be back together.

Youth Club and Teen Fellowship

Our Calendar for October:

10/4/20	Youth Club 4-6pm
10/11/20	Middle school 4-6pm
10/18/20	High school 4-6pm
10/24/20	Kids Fall Fun Event 2-5pm
10/25/20	ZOOM meetings Youth Club 4-5pm; Teen Fellowship 5-6pm
10/30/20	Teens Fall Fun Event 6-9pm



Save the date for our socially distanced Fall-themed events this year!

There will be a costume contest and games, and we will watch a movie.

Kids – Saturday, October 24th 2-5pm

Teens – Friday, October 30th 6-9pm

More details will be sent via email.

Join our Remind app!

Teens: text @mcpctee to 81010

Youth Club: text @mcpcyo to 81010

Thanks to everyone who came out to our kick-off events in September! It was a great start to a new academic year of activities. I'm looking forward to what the fall holds for us – it's my favorite time of year!

Blessings, Andrea

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 11, 2020 at 9:15 AM at the community house outdoor service to hear a report from the Nominating Committee. They will nominate eight persons for the Deacon class of 2023 and floor nominations will be taken. If only eight are nominated, they will be elected by acclamation. If more than eight persons are nominated, congregational meetings will be called each Sunday at TBD AM until eight are elected.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated
Sunday, October 18.

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,
I just wanted to reach out and say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all of the thoughts, prayers, and wonderful cards you all have sent to me during this time! It is wonderful to know that not only God is here walking me through and taking care of me, but that my church family is supporting me as well! Thank you again for the love and support.
All my love, Jackie Triece

The family of Virginia Faulkenberry would like to thank the MCPC members who have sent cards/prayers during the past years of Mom's earthly life. She is pain free and at peace now and for that we are thankful.



MC's Blood drive was a huge success, we collected 29 pints! There were a lot of new faces from the community as workplace blood drives and other sites are no longer hosting.
A huge shout out to the session for allowing us to continue this valuable community service.
Save the date for our next drive 12/13, appointments can be made now.

Session Highlights

1. Approved motion to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday October 11, 2020 at 9:15 AM at the Community House Outdoor Service to hear a report from the Nominating Committee. They will nominate eight persons for the Deacon class of 2023 and floor nominations will be taken. If only eight are nominated, they will be elected by acclamation. If more than eight persons are nominated, congregational meetings will be called each Sunday at tbd AM until eight are elected.
2. Approved recommendation of matching up to \$2,500 congregational donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in support of Hurricane Laura relief
 - a. Collections will be taken through October
3. Approved recommendation to return to indoor service in the sanctuary October 18 at 10:00AM. In addition to in-person within the sanctuary, the fellowship hall will be set up for the live-feed from the sanctuary in the event of overflow (only).
 - a. Session set a maximum occupancy within the sanctuary at 140 people
4. Approved to re-open the church office on a staggered schedule beginning October 12.
5. Approved Blessing of the Animals service at the Community House Outdoor Service October 4 at 8:30AM
6. August Financial Report
 - a. August 2020 collections were \$168 MORE THAN July 2019
 - b. YTD 2020 collections were \$33,890 LESS THAN YTD 2019
 - c. YTD 2020 collections were \$48,170 LESS THAN YTD expenses
 - d. Capital campaign receipts to date \$1,912,717.79
7. October Joint Meeting of the Session and Diaconate October 20 at 6:30pm via ZOOM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>November Birthdays</h1>						
1 Mike Oehler Victoria Friedlander	2	3 Michael Buchanan Linda Preslar Carrie Putnam	4 Bruce Moor Cameron Joyner	5 Scott Reynolds Ryan Clark Ciara Sheehan	6 Andrew Alexander	7 Christian Busch
8 Michael Miller Tammi Fassett Michael Joyner Logan Reynolds	9 Jimmy Hunter A.J. Patafio	10 Jill Garrison Kylie Alexander Emily Spittle	11 Stuart Haas	12 Donna Seaford Brent Zevan Damalice Swiri	13 Kirk Killian Keri Wass	14 Lauren Oehler Jordan Beall
15 Cooper Lemon	16 Doug Shepard	17 John Harvey Alexander Daniel Whitmire	18	19 Nancy Seaford Ronnie Oehler Lynn Oehler Morgan Jones Cora Brown	20 Randy Oehler	21 Kari Miller Mike Rodden
22 Avonda Albright Leigh Brown	23 Seth Thompson Ellen Thompson	24 Cary Powell	25 Rodney Smith	26 Ward Dowling	27 Kirk Thompson Debbie Martin Jacob Rodden	28 Reese Untz Wade MacNeil Stephanie Burroughs
29 Carthel Alexander	30 Henry Young					



October 1, 2020

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



"Growing disciples of Jesus Christ who bear much fruit."

Sunday Services 8:30 & 10:30 am

The Rev. Rob Watkins
The Rev. Alison Messick-Watkins
Mrs. Andrea Thomas
Mr. David Barnaba
Mrs. Kristy Maddox
Mrs. Cathy Marlor
Mrs. Shawn Watkins

Senior Pastor
Parish Associate
Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Financial Secretary
Administrative Assistant