



currents

January 2020



Epiphany Worship Service

January 5, 2020 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany Celebration

9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall



Pastor's Pen

Dearest friends,

One of my favorite Sundays of the year is the Sunday after Christmas here at MPC. I love this Sunday because, of course, we sing a good number of Christmas carols and we're often still filled with the glow and beauty of this sacred season. But I also enjoy this Sunday because instead of the Word being proclaimed in the form of a sermon, the Word is proclaimed through the voices of those gathered to worship. And by that I mean that during the time typically set aside for a sermon, we invite folks in the congregation (as they feel comfortable) to share one thing that they are most grateful for in the past year.

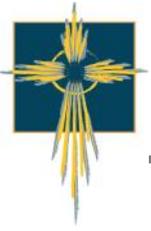
To be honest, it's not particularly eloquent. Someone stumbles over his or her words, another stands to speak and can barely get any words out. Together we give thanks for health, for families, for friends who are like family, for unexpected seasons and unexpected people. We give thanks for music and for worship and for our church family and for the ways that we have known God's love within it. We give thanks for the promise of new life in all the forms that new life takes, and for the beauty of a light that occasionally bursts into the darkness where we never thought light would journey again. It is, indeed, not particularly eloquent. But my, oh my, is it sacred! To be gathered as God's people sharing joy and peace and hope and light with one another is some of the holiest work that we can do. For in this time of sharing, we point toward a God who binds us all together and to a God who never lets us walk this journey alone. We share the ways that we have known God's love, but also God's presence and God's faithfulness and God's strength and God's persistence and God's unfailing provision throughout all of life. I hope you will join us for worship the Sunday after Christmas. If you're unable to be there, know that you will be missed, perhaps taking a moment on your own or with your family to share those things for which you are most thankful. You might just be surprised by the things that are shared or the things that come to mind.

It continues to be one of the greatest gifts in my life to journey with you all as pastor. Thank you for the privilege of sharing life together. I am deeply grateful for all of you and look forward to all that God will do among us in 2020. Merry Christmas, dear friends!

With deep gratitude,

Rachel





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



The next celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will occur on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sacrament of Baptism



Alexandra Elaine Keys received the sacrament of baptism on November 24, 2019. Alexandra is the daughter of Leslie and Brett Keys and she is the granddaughter of Beth and Travis Keys. Join us in welcoming the newest member of Christ's church.

Adults wishing to be baptized, or parents requesting baptism for their child, are asked to call the church office at 215-295-4191.

Congregational Meeting



There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 19, immediately following the worship service.

Remembering our Identity

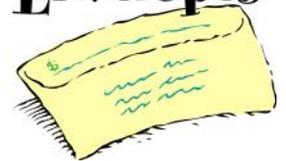
The waves represent MPC's location near the Delaware River and are a reminder of the biblical significance of the River Jordan. The MPC location makes outreach, mission, fellowship, and evangelism opportunities readily available.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you haven't picked up your 2020 envelopes, they are located on a table outside of the choir room. The envelopes are available to all members and not just to those that have pledged. Please note that your envelope number may have changed from the prior year. If you are not able to pick them up, please call Laurie at the church office so that she can have them mailed to you.

In the box of offering envelopes, you will find two special envelopes in addition to the weekly white envelopes. The **Initial Offering Envelope** helps to cover the cost of the envelopes. The **Per Capita Apportionment Envelope** is for the annual amount MPC sends to the Presbytery of Philadelphia to help cover its administrative costs. This year the assessment is \$30.00 for every member (adult and confirmed youth) on our membership rolls and totals \$13,000. By paying your per capita for *every church member in your family*, you save MPC funds for our ministries and missions.

Offering Envelopes



Stay up to date with MPC!

Like us on Facebook!

Find us at Morrisville Presbyterian Church.

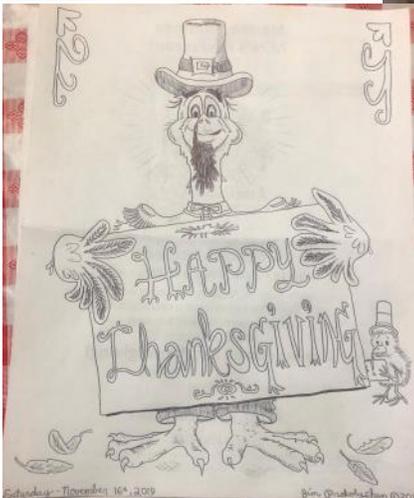
SCENES FROM MPC ADVENT CELEBRATION



SERVING BREAKFAST AT FPC OF TRENTON



On November 16, MPC youth and their parents served breakfast at the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton. They helped make that morning a great experience for all involved as they assisted our Trenton Partners with this important mission.



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE FROM PASTOR ALEX

Dear Priesthood of all Believers,

MPC was in the Advent spirit this December, as there was much waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth. We kicked off the season with a fun and festive Advent Celebration that included joyous caroling, good food, and tons of wonderful crafts for all ages to take home as reminders of Christ's coming. The energy from this event led into the following week when a group of congregation members embraced the cold and provided beautiful renditions of everyone's favorite Christmas carols for our neighbors in Morrisville. Not to be outdone, there were a plethora of Advent parties and get-togethers throughout the month by the Presbyterian Women's Circles, Men's Ministry, and many others that furthered the all-important fellowship of our congregation. All the while, our Sunday School and weekly Bible classes were dutifully studying the Scriptures and theologies that shape our understanding of Jesus Christ's hope, birth, and impact on our lives this Advent Season. In all, Faith Formation at MPC served to be a light in the midst of darkness during this time of waiting and preparing in Advent.



As Advent winds down and the new beginning of Christmas moves us along, there is much to anticipate in the month of January! For one, our college-aged members will be starting the year strong with a mission trip from January 2-4. Also, all are welcome to our Epiphany Intergenerational Breakfast in the fellowship hall on Sunday, January 5. Our Sunday School classes will be studying hard the Gospel stories of Matthew and John. In our Adult Education department, Bill Hughes will be facilitating an interesting and informational discussion on Christianity and money. He will use a curriculum by Ron Blue titled "God Owns it All." On January 12, Bill will guide us on how we can discern how much money is enough for us to live on. On January 19, he will facilitate a conversation on how we, as Christians, can understand "giving" from a theological viewpoint and the freeing impact it can have on our lives. The following Sunday, January 26, Bill will end our monthly topic on how Christians can view saving and growing financial security. All adults are invited to grow and learn together at Adult Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. in the Conference Room and feel free to bring a friend! There is much to look forward to as the new year approaches and Jesus' presence is reaffirmed in our lives. So let us live in that joy and peace in our classrooms and in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Alex

YOUTH CLUB CELEBRATES THE SEASON

Submitted by Amy Nolan

In December, MPC's Youth Club hosted many Christmas-themed events, including crafting with the residents of Presbyterian Towers and preparing a special Christmas with gifts and goodies for our adopted family! January kicks off with more activities to excite our youth with a theme of fun, fellowship, and faith. As a friendly reminder, we welcome new members any time during the year! Email mpeyc01@gmail.com or just show up most Wednesday nights from 6-7:30. Youth Club is open to all 6-12th grade youth in our community, regardless of religious affiliation.



NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS (INCLUDE SOME FORGIVENESS)

Submitted by the Rev. Jack McAnlis, Minister of Visitation

Many traditions come to mind when celebrating the changing of one year to the next. Of course, we think of making resolutions and popping the corks off bottles of champagne. We like to dance while singing *Auld Lang Syne*. There is the traditional kiss at midnight. For those of us who find it difficult to stay up that late, a ten o'clock kiss can be just as delightful.

Many cultures have New Year's rituals to bring luck and prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes. In Denmark, there is a practice of breaking plates or glasses. I grew up eating pork ribs and sauerkraut, although I am not sure why. It's what my father's family did, and we did, too. I think the rationale was that if we ate "low on the hog" (meaning the less expensive short ribs, shanks, or bacon), you could hope for good fortune and later eat the more desirable ham and chops, that were "high on the hog."

From Scotland comes the tradition of the "New Year's cleaning." It is usually done on December 31 during the Hogmanay celebration that also includes gift giving and visiting friends and neighbors. Other cultures have cleansings of the house, also, as a way of saying, "out the old to let in the new." It can be regarded as a therapeutic cleaning – clearing negativity from the house as well as the mind and heart.

Forgiveness can do that, too. It may be that we feel guilty at having wronged someone. Or, maybe someone has wronged you but failed to say, "I'm sorry." Offering forgiveness and/or asking for and receiving forgiveness can provide healing for today and the future. Taking this healing path can provide a fresh direction for a fulfilling new year.

MPC AT MORRISVILLE'S WINTERFEST



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COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1** **New Year's Day**
Church Office closed
- 2-4** Young Adult Environmental Mission Trip
- 5** **Ephiphany Sunday**
9:15 a.m. Epiphany Celebration
10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Communion
- 8** 6:00 p.m. Youth Club
- 12** **10:30 a.m. Worship Service**
- 15** 6:00 p.m. Youth Club
- 18** 6:45 a.m. Prep & Serve Breakfast at
FPC of Trenton
- 19** **10:30 a.m. Worship Service**
11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
- 20** **Martin Luther King Day**
Church Office closed
- 22** 6:00 p.m. Youth Club
- 26** **10:30 a.m. Worship Service**
- 29** 6:00 p.m. Youth Club

The Evangelism & Communications Committee is committed to keeping church news up to date. It is our goal to print and distribute "Currents" within the last week of the month. Therefore we ask that you please submit articles for the February 2020 "Currents" by January 10th to Currents@MPCusa.net



**Youth Sunday
 is also
Souper Bowl
 Sunday!**