

# MONTH AT A GLANCE

## Do you hear what I hear?

A friend recently noted that the latest hearing aids have different settings—for crowded rooms, for television watching, for restaurants, for intimate conversations. You can change the setting on the hearing aid depending on the noise around you. Doing so helps the individual to hear well, to listen more intently.

I am aware of the many sounds of the Advent season—classic hymns in worship, Christmas music playing in every store you enter, jingling bells, the crackle of the fire on colder days. There are also the sounds of the season that are a little less holy—honking horns from people rushing around too quickly, family feuds that always come up at the holidays, the audible sigh that so many let out when this season just exhausts us.

My questions for you this season are:

Where do you hear the sounds of hope, peace, joy and love?

Where does the promise of Christ cut through the “noise” of the season?

As we worship this month, we’re listening to the voices of prophets, angels, children, women, and shepherds. Each is part of telling the good news of Christ’s coming. These voices in scripture remind me that we too can be part of telling the good news of Christ’s coming. Will you join me in bearing this good news to the world?

The neighbors will hear the good news from our “GingerChurch” float at Virginia Highlands Winterfest on December 9th or with our voices caroling in the Morningside neighborhood on December 20th. The good news can be heard with sound of presents being opened by our adopted family at Nicholas House or with the rumbling bellies satisfied by your food donations to Intown Cares. And most especially, the good news will be heard in song and scripture on Christmas Eve at 11am and 8pm as we celebrate Christ’s coming.

Will you tune your ears to hear God’s good news this Advent season?

**WITH HOPE, PASTOR KATIE**



### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

As we spend this season waiting for the arrival of Jesus, your staff has put together daily devotionals to accompany on your journey to Bethlehem. Click [here](#) to read reflections from Morningsiders, coloring sheets, and musical offerings that invite you to reflect on where you hear the voice of God.

[Advent Devotional](#)



## WORSHIP TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

*There are an abundance of competing voices and priorities as we approach Christmas. Throughout the Advent and Christmas story, however, God speaks--through prophets, angels, women, children, and others--to point us toward the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ.*

### DECEMBER 3

2nd Sunday of Advent

with Moravian Love Feast & Special Music

Luke 1:8-20, Matthew 1:18-25

The Voice of Angels

Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

### DECEMBER 10

3rd Sunday of Advent

The Children’s Nativity Service

Philippians 4:4-7

The Voices of Children

MPC Kids & Amanda Kemery, leading

### DECEMBER 17

4th Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 1:46-56

The Voices of Women

Emma Neishloss, preaching

### DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

11 am Family-Friendly Lessons &

Carols with Candlelight

Christmas Joy Offering

8 pm Traditional Lessons & Carols

with Candlelight

Christmas Joy Offering

The Voice of Shepherds

Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

### DECEMBER 31

1st Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2:22-40

The Voice of God

Amanda Kemery, preaching

Advent at MPC

# DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 3**

11:00 am - Worship with Love Feast

**Wednesday, December 6**

5:30 pm - Middle Ground Advent Dinner  
& Children's Nativity Service Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 9**

10:00 am - VaHi Winterfest MPC Float

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 10**

11:00 am - Worship with  
Children's Nativity

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 17**

11:00 am - Worship

**Wednesday, December 20**

5:30 pm - Middle Ground Dinner &  
Caroling

**Christmas Eve**

**Sunday, December 24**

11:00 am - Family-Friendly  
Lessons & Carols with Candlelight  
8:00 pm - Traditional Lessons  
& Carols with Candlelight



## END OF YEAR GIVING

Thank you for your consistent generosity throughout the year! If you have made a pledge for 2023, we appreciate your contribution by year-end. Contributions must be postmarked by December 31 for tax-deductible credit for 2023. For questions about giving stock or investment transfers, contact treasurer Bill Humphries at [billh6848@gmail.com](mailto:billh6848@gmail.com).



**MPC @ VAHI**

## WINTERFEST PARADE

Saturday, December 9; 10 am

Winterfest is an exciting event for the Morningside and VaHi communities, and this year MPC is joining the fun! Pop by the fellowship hall this Sunday after worship to add decorations to our gingerbread-church float. Click [here](#) and let us know that you can join the parade in your most fun Christmas attire. We can't wait to share the joy of this church community with the neighborhood!

## CHRISTMAS TRIBUTES

Submit tributes in honor of or in memory of loved ones this holiday season. The tributes will appear in the December 17 bulletin and in the January MAG. Click [here](#) to submit your tribute or use the form in your pew rack. Suggested donation of \$10 each tribute. Your donation funds our Flower Guild's budget for holiday decorations at Advent, Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, and many other beautification projects around our church.



## NICHOLAS HOUSE COLLECTION

Ends December 15

We are halfway there and about 2 weeks to complete MPC's sponsored families' list from Nicholas House this Christmas! Click [here](#) to fulfill some special holiday wishes and clothing needs. Bring your wrapped gifts to the church office between 10 am and 4 pm, Monday through Thursday. Note: *Please read the wrapping instructions carefully on the sign up link.*





## MIDDLE GROUND IN DECEMBER

Wednesday, 12/6 & Wednesday, 12/20

This month is full of celebrations. Join us for Middle Ground on December 6\* for dinner, Advent reflections, and live music from Josh Schicker and Helen Keller. On December 20, we will go caroling in the neighborhood followed by dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Festivities are from 5:30-7pm. Contact [Pastor Amanda](#) for details!

\*Please note that the Dress Rehearsal for the Children's Nativity Service is also on Wednesday, December 6.



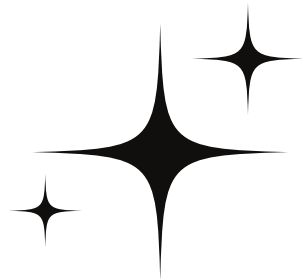
## SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER

- Faith Development's annual Advent series with Pastor Emma begins on December 3 and continues through December 17. Join us as we consider together how the stories we tell during Advent shapes our theology of hope.
- Devotional Drop-In meets in the Session Room on Sundays at 9:45 am. Parent participants will discuss topics from the book *Undistracted*, pray together, and share highs and lows. You do not have to have read the book to attend.
- There is no Sunday School for anyone on 12/24 or 12/31.

# COMING SOON IN 2024

## STAR WORDS COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX

Each Epiphany, we send out "star words". Epiphany is the season in which we take notice of the way that God is with us. As you discern God's movement in your own life, your word can serve as a guiding word or intention and can offer you a new way to pray. You should receive a star word in early January. We hope that these words will serve as a source of reflection and inspiration for the coming year.



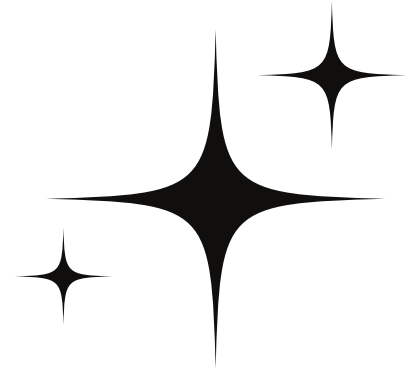
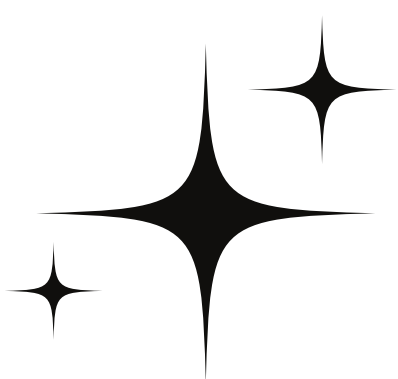
## NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in joining the church? Do you know someone who would like to know more about Morningside Presbyterian? The class offers an overview of what it means to be Presbyterian and ways to grow in faith at Morningside Presbyterian. At the end of the second week, those who would like to join the church will meet with the Session and be introduced in worship.

Contact Pastor Katie at [katie@morningsidepc.org](mailto:katie@morningsidepc.org) to attend the next New Member class on January 21 and 28 from 9:45-10:45 am in Room 005.

## WORSHIP IN JANUARY FAITH FUNDAMENTALS

Just as our youth kick off confirmation, we start the year in worship with a look at the big theological questions that shape our faith. What is faith? What does it mean that the Bible has authority? We're Christians...who is Christ? Is God the same in the Old Testament and the New? Who is the Holy Spirit? Bring your curiosity and your questions as we unpack the fundamentals of faith together!





# PICTURES OF NOVEMBER

## CHILI COOKOFF & YOUTH DESSERT AUCTION



## ONE GRAY HAIR LUNCH





# CHILDREN & YOUTH PACKING CARE PACKAGES FOR DOBBS & INTOWN CARES



## ADVENT FESTIVAL





# WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE ADVENT GATHERING



## All Saints' Day Necrology

James "Jim" Edward Antenucci,  
husband of Pat Antenucci

Norman "Andy" Anderson, husband of Nancy Anderson

Sue Ballay, wife of Joe Ballay & MPC member

Carol Lohofener Behm, mother of Roland Behm

Carolyn Bolliger, aunt of Sheryl Wingert

David Bothwell,  
husband of Hope Bothwell & MPC member

Claudia Bowers, mother of Adam Bowers

Leonor Castillo, mother of Jay Castillo

Marion Perry Chapman, Jr., brother of Mary Chapman

Wingfield "Wink" Austin Davis, Jr.,  
father of Austin Davis-Selph

Carl Linton DeV Vaughan, friend of Beth Baer

Barbara Jean White Garner, mother of Stephen Smith

Judy Burton Healy, aunt of Anne Barnette

Billy Hunter, father of Marshall Hunter

Donald Lee Kite, friend of Bill Means

Carol Koch, aunt of Sheryl Wingert

Ruth Koch, aunt of Sheryl Wingert

Rich Lacy, nephew of Sandy Mashburn

Dolly Ladds, mother of Preston Ladds

Patrick Maher, father of Kelly Anderson

Michael Morgan, friend of MPC

Frederic Lincoln "Link" Marx,  
father of Carolyn Morton & MPC member

Rod Petty, brother of Heather Renault

Katherine Pohle, grandmother of Allison Roach,  
great-grandmother of Grace, Eleanor, & Emmett

Sandy Ryan, MPC member

Alex James "AJ" Seeley, brother of Adam Seeley

Marion Shannon Smith, father of Corey Smith

Peary Spaght, friend of David Wingert

Johnna R. Tonkin, mother of Hillery McNeill

Sheila Lerner Tschinkel, friend of Bobbie McCrackin

Vivian Gates Wilkins, friend of Bobbie McCrackin

## The Nancy Frampton Rising Artists Series at Morningside Presbyterian Church

**SAVE-THE-DATE**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 7PM**



On Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 7 pm, Morningside Presbyterian Church hosts a fundraising concert featuring the **Spellman College Glee Club** with donations going toward the **Nancy Frampton Rising Artist Series**. The Glee Club is Spellman College's premier performance organization which sings for most campus events. It has had the unique opportunity to perform with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, a world-renowned opera singer Jessye Norman, and as part of the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. And now these superb singers will kick off the 2024 Season of the Nancy Frampton Rising Artist Concert Series. **Tickets go on sale soon!**

# Affinity Groups



## LGBT & Friends

Saturday, 12/2 @ 6 pm; offsite

The annual LGBT & Friends Christmas Party is on Saturday, December 2, 7:00 pm. Bill and Cindy Humphries co-host at the home of Rob Payne and Steve Smith. If you are interested in being part of this group in the new year, please email [Michael Siedschlag](#) to get on the email list!

## MPC Couples & Friends

Saturday, 12/9 @ 12 pm; offsite

Leslie and Lloyd Prince host this group at their home this month. Please bring appetizers, sides, desserts, and adult beverages. RSVP to [Kathy Bremer](#).



## Friends at Morningside

Wednesday, 12/13 @ 7 pm; offsite

FAM, MPC's young adult group meets for an evening of trivia! The location is to be determined, so stay tuned! Email [Pastor Emma](#) for more information.



## Theology on Tap

Tuesday, 12/19 @ 7 pm; offsite

This group celebrates Christmas at Joe & Ginger Floyd's home. Spouses and partners are welcomed and encouraged to attend! Contact [Pastor Emma](#) for info on how to get connected with group in the new year!



## men's coffee

## MPC Men's Coffee

Fridays @ 8 am

Meet at San Francisco Coffee on N. Highland Ave on Fridays at 8 am. The group will continue through the month into 2024. Contact [Mark Gilbreath](#) for info.



# december birthdays

- 2 MARGARET ARWOOD
- 4 AKIN ADAMS
- 4 ALYSSA DURDEN
- 5 ALLIE ROACH
- 7 CHRISTOPHER CROWDER
- 7 GRIFFIN HUNTER
- 7 CAROLYN TERRY
- 7 EVA TERRY
- 8 OMAR HASAN
- 8 JOHN WINGERT
- 9 CAROLINE NUCKOLS
- 10 TREY COOGLE
- 12 SHARON PACE
- 13 CAMI HASAN
- 13 LINDA SWEUM
- 15 MEREDITH BELL
- 15 CHARLOTTE LOWERY-MILLIGAN
- 15 WILLIAM LOWERY-MILLIGAN
- 17 PHIL REGNAULT
- 18 BRYN GORMAN
- 18 LEAH GORMAN
- 20 BELL O'BRIEN
- 20 CHARLIE STEWART
- 24 CLAIRE BURKE
- 25 BRIDGET RYAN
- 27 BROOKS NUCKOLS
- 30 MARGARET LORING
- 30 ANNIE MCNEILL
- 30 ALLISON ZACCARDI
- 31 MARY ULEP



Better not cry, better not pout if your Christmas lights have gone out! C.A.R.E. is sponsoring a broken tree light collection. All will be taken to the CHaRM recycling center. Look for the bin in the narthex. Contact [Jeanne McCarthy](#) for more info.



## MPP TOURS & 24'-25' ENROLLMENT

MORNINGSIDE PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Want your child to learn through play? Come check out our preschool for children ages 15 months to 5 years. Come see our preschool in active play! Courtney is hosting group tours every Wednesday at 10am. Please sign up for a tour by clicking [here](#). Please pass the information on to friends or families.





MISSION @ MORNINGSIDE

Researched & compiled  
by Jill Klotz

# SERVE TOGETHER

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day."

- Helen Steiner Rice

Please help our friends and neighbors by donating to our annual **Intown Cares Advent Food Drive**, which ends, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. Donation barrels

are in the Welcome Center and in the Morningside Preschool entrance. Look for the QR code for the needs list or click [here](#).

Donations can also be made via the [Amazon Wishlist](#).



## CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



**The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian Advent tradition since the 1930s, and **this tradition is returning to Morningside on Christmas Eve**. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of

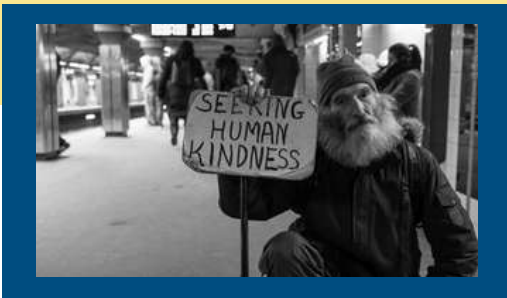
the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

## GROCERY DELIVERY



## INTOWN CARES

**Sign up here** to deliver groceries to Maggie Russell Towers. *New dates for 2024 are available!* Each delivery date can use a driver and a ride along helper. Meet at MPC at 10:15 am, and then travel to Intown Cares where you load groceries into van at 10:30 am then head out for delivery. Deliveries take 1-2 hours.



## WELCOMING BABY EMRAN

Thank you for a very successful baby shower last month. The Emran family is almost ready for the arrival of the new baby. They are in need of a new or gently used dresser (approx. 36" h x 36" w) in which to store all the new baby stuff! Contact [Holly Campbell](#) to help.



## PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Give a gift that represents a cause that's close to your heart. Or make a gift in someone's honor and choose a ministry they'd love. You unite with thousands of others giving to Presbyterian ministries through the **Giving Catalog**, increasing your gift's capacity to bring hope to communities not only in the USA, but also around the world. Your gift provides help, hope and relief to people, families and communities in need, be it \$10 for farming tools or \$15,000 for a deep rock well. Click [here](#) to shop!

This Little Piggy Tote Bag can be yours as a thank-you gift for purchasing a piglet through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog!





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
3 <b>Advent 2</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship with Love Feast 6 Youth Group	4 9 Partner with the Preacher	5 <b>VOTE</b> ✓ <b>MPC is a Polling Place</b> 11 Gentle Yoga 1 All Staff meeting 7:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6 5:30 Middle Ground & MPC Kids! Advent Dinner 6:30 Children's Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 12 Centering Prayer 4 Tai Chi Class	8 10 Advent Decorating	9 Grace AA Group <b>10 Winterfest Parade</b> 12 Couples & Friends Lunch (Offsite)	
10 <b>Advent 3</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship - Children's Nativity 1:30 NFRAS Board Mtg 6 Youth Group	11 9 Partner with the Preacher	12 10:15 IC Grocery Delivery 11 Gentle Yoga 1 Staff meeting 7:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	13 10:30 Dobbs Reading Buddies 7 FAM Trivia Night 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 12 Centering Prayer 12:30 MPC Staff Christmas Lunch 4 Tai Chi Class 7 Deacons Meeting (Offsite)	15 <b>Nicholas House Gifts Due</b>	16 9 Grace AA Group	
17 <b>Advent 4</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Candle Prep 12 Finance Meeting 6 Youth Group	18 9 Partner with the Preacher 7 Session Mtg (Offsite)	19 11 Gentle Yoga 1 Staff meeting 7 Theology on Tap (offsite) 7:30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal	20 5:30 Middle Ground & MPC Kids! 7:30 Chancel Choir	21 12 Centering Prayer 4 Tai Chi Class	22	23 9 Grace AA Group	
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 11 Family-Friendly Lessons & Carols with Candlelight 8 Traditional Lessons & Carols with Candlelight	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b>	<b>Church Offices Closed; Staff Working Remotely.</b>				26 10:15 IC Grocery Delivery	27 28 29 30 9 Grace AA Group
31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> 11 Worship	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b>						