

From the Pastor's Desk...



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. -Isaiah 43:19*

It has been just two months since we began getting to know one another and we've spent that whole time "together apart." It certainly feels like a time of wilderness as every way of being the church together, big and small, requires a new level of patience, creativity, energy, and imagination. And yet, I have been absolutely amazed at your generosity, graciousness, flexibility, trust in one another and willingness to try new things.

As we look toward the fall, it appears that continued creativity is going to be required as we navigate our way through this ongoing wilderness. But God has always shown up in the wilderness to show us how to be together, to guide us when we cannot see the path forward, to correct us when we are tempted to give up or go back, to sustain us with manna from heaven, and to deliver us to the promised land of communion together with God. And because that is the God we worship, I am confident that this wilderness will be a time of holy awakening and a season of renewed possibility together.

What does that mean at a practical level? It means your Session is committed to keeping us on stable footing but also trying new things. Anticipate new online offerings, a variety of outdoor fellowship opportunities, new offerings for worship, devotion, and prayer, and ongoing openings to serve one another and our community. The Session approved outdoor gathering criteria in July to guide us in imagining what ministry can unfold on the church grounds this fall while remaining vigilant about your safety. The COVID preparedness team continues to monitor data and guide the Session in making wise decisions about when and how we can gather. The Deacons remain committed to the work of connecting, praying, and caring for everyone individually and as a whole. Your leadership is working hard to look for the holy possibilities in this impossible time.

For those of you feeling disconnected, this is the chance to try something new! If you don't see something that spiritually feeds you, share an idea you'd like to try. It will take the whole community listening to God together to arrive at the promised land!

Of this I am convinced: if God could guide Moses and the Israelites through the wilderness--with no running water, no stable shelter, no internet, no ZOOM, and no InstaCart--God can guide us through this time as well. The question is: what story will we tell the next generation about the ways God provided, guided, and sustained us?

Peace, Katie

**Virtual Worship
returns to the
11 o'clock hour
as of August 2!**



Communion During a Time of Social Distancing

We know that communion, by definition, is a communal act, a sacrament of the church that we share together as the body of Christ. It is our practice, as the church, to share in this meal together; however, our current pandemic prevents us from gathering in one central location. And so just as we acknowledge the ways the Spirit unites our tables across distance, culture, and time on World Communion Sunday, this Sunday during worship we will celebrate the sacrament of communion across our many tables.

It's important to remember that Jesus gathered at all kinds of tables throughout his ministry. Even the Passover meal that he shared with his disciples was likely shared at an ordinary kitchen table. So you are invited to take time this week to prepare your own table for this sacred meal. You will need to provide some sort of bread or cracker and juice or wine—whatever you have on hand is fine. It is the time and space set apart and the way the Spirit unites us across tables and computer screens that makes this meal holy, not the ingredients themselves. For those of you who have time and want to explore communion as a spiritual discipline during this time, an opportunity to bake a spiritual discipline is outlined [here](#).





Unraveled: A Sermon Series for a Pandemic Time

What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. Our August and September sermon series will explore 8 stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new. Join us online on Sunday morning, August 9 as we dive into this question together.

MPC Green



Summer Have you ever wanted to do more to help the environment? In your home? In your church? In your neighborhood? In your community? Ever wondered what more we can do to care for and appreciate God's creation?

Recycle? Garden? Compost? Reduce plastics? Use smarter energy? Cook differently? Try different transportation? Use less water? What else?...

Let's do it! Let's get started in finding the best ways to help our environment. All ages have something to offer!

If you are interested in joining a group to explore ideas and share them with our faith community to make a difference, contact [Jeanne McCarthy](#).

Thanks to those of you who submitted photos of your gardens! We had so many beautiful pictures and could only use a few in the virtual worship service on Sunday, July 26, where we celebrated our relationship with creation.

Click [here](#) to enjoy a slide show of the 70+ photos submitted for our Garden Photos project, set to the choir anthem from that Sunday, John Rutter's *Look at the World*.



Your Session at Work

Summer is often a time of relaxation, but this summer your Session has been hard at work and we want to keep you updated on the faithful ministry your elders have been doing as we look toward the fall together. Here are a few highlights:

- At Session's guidance, Pastor Katie prepared a **congregational survey** to seek further insight on the congregation's needs/desires/readiness to engage in outdoor worship and other ministry activities.
- Strategic Implementation, Fellowship and Engagement met to discuss options for **outdoor fellowship gatherings** for the fall.
- Members from Worship and Arts have been preparing for **communion virtually on August 2nd**.
- The COVID taskforce continues to track COVID data for our area and is **researching reverse gating criteria**. Thanks especially to Jack Klotz!
- Jonathan, with the help of Bill Humphries, has acquired the **electronic keyboard** that will allow us to offer music in an outdoor setting for worship and other gatherings throughout the fall.
- Pastor Emma is working with **Sam Philips** to begin his ministry internship once school returns this fall.
- Amanda led **Compassion Camp** with outdoor assemblies on the grounds and the kids did great wearing their masks and having fun!
- A huge thank you to the Communications team and to Marcelo Galvão, who took new **staff portraits** for the church website and is updating the homepage on a regular basis. You can check the staff page out [here](#).
- The MPP leadership and Pastor Katie **welcomed Dr. Nadia Jones** who officially began this past week. She is diving right in with surveys and listening sessions to determine next steps for the preschool this fall.

August Birthdays

STAY CONNECTED...

***Connect to Affinity Groups through the August Calendar on the back page!

- (Click on a name to send a birthday greeting. A child's name will link to a parent's email address.)
- 1 [Emery Selness](#)
 - 3 [Bill Southwood](#)
 - 4 [Greg Wolters](#)
 - 5 [Nancy Coomes](#)
 - 5 [Shannon Harris](#)
 - 5 [Sandy Jones](#)
 - 6 [Bree Gordon](#)
 - 7 [Tristin Loomis](#)
 - 8 [Megan Reader](#)
 - 8 [John McNeill](#)
 - 9 [Emma Kate Ward](#)
 - 10 [Madeleine Harris](#)
 - 12 [Jake Jones](#)
 - 12 [Charlotte Gaare](#)
 - 13 [Charlie Irwin](#)
 - 13 [Jenny Guy](#)
 - 13 [Charlie Menefee](#)
 - 15 [Emma Lawson](#)
 - 16 [Ted Fleming](#)
 - 16 [Preston Ladds](#)
 - 17 [Katie Davis](#)
 - 17 [Marti Adams](#)
 - 18 [Nancy Lane](#)
 - 18 [Sandra Ward](#)
 - 20 [Megan Mitchell](#)
 - 20 [Caroline Parrish](#)
 - 21 [Jack Brewster](#)
 - 22 [Jon Bradway](#)
 - 22 [Sarah Chatel](#)
 - 22 [Patrick Gilbert](#)
 - 22 [Bill Means](#)
 - 23 [Ericson Harris](#)
 - 23 [Tim Holbrook](#)
 - 23 [Sarah Beth Sommerfeld](#)
 - 24 [Madelyn Millard](#)
 - 26 [Doug Davis-Selph](#)
 - 27 [Debbie Fox](#)
 - 27 [Michelle Gorman](#)
 - 28 [James Mitchell](#)
 - 29 [Randy Parrish](#)
 - 30 [Jill Klotz](#)
 - 31 [Charlsie Woolley](#)

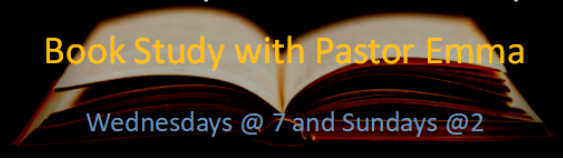
Holy Envy:

Finding God in the Faith of Others

by Barbara Brown Taylor

Book Study with Pastor Emma

Wednesdays @ 7 and Sundays @ 2



It's not too late to join the latest **Virtual Book Study** with [Pastor Emma](#). Our new book, Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* focuses on finding the sacred in unexpected places, contemplating the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent. Find the book digitally or in hard-copy through Amazon, other book sellers, and the public library.

Kickoff and Back to School Blessing

The MPC Kids will host an outdoor Sunday School Kickoff event and Back to School Blessing on Sunday, 8/23 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Drop by anytime for music, activities, and a blessing for everyone returning to school, whether in-person or digitally! Group blessing at 10 a.m. Contact [Amanda](#) for more info!



Gathering Outdoors

As a covenant community, the Session has set guidelines for how we will promise to *be together* in this season. As we begin planning outdoor opportunities, please love your neighbor as yourself by abiding by these practices:

- Wear your mask (everyone >2 years old)
- Maintain your distance and respect others' distance
- Wash hands/sanitize frequently
- Let us know you're in attendance (accurate attendance records ensure we can contact trace if someone tests positive)
- Stay home if you're not feeling well (if you have a known exposure to Covid-19, are awaiting test results, or show symptoms).

*Most events will ask for sign-ups in advance to ensure that we keep groups small (<50)

Parking Lot Fellowships

Weather permitting, MPC will host socially distant fellowships, on Friday, 8/7 & 8/21 from 7-9 p.m. BYOE! (masks, chairs, snacks, etc.) Cold water and restroom access will be provided. Access is limited to 50 people each gathering, so [RSVP](#), ASAP! Specify which date you'd like to attend and indicate how many people you're bringing! See you there!

Dobbs School Supply Drive

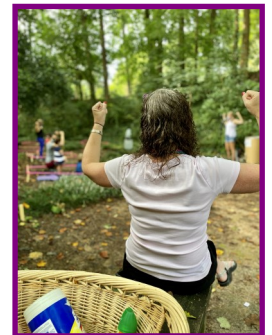
Dobbs Elementary starts virtually on August 24th and needs our help with supplies! Bring your donations to MPC's upcoming outdoor socials on Friday, 8/7 & 8/21, or drop items off at the church in the barrel in the alcove of the side entrance of the main parking lot. Monetary donations can also be made via [Realm](#). Contact [Amanda](#) for more info.

Supply List:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wide-ruled lined paper | Folders (2-pocket type) |
| Pencils | Small Pencil Sharpeners |
| Big Sharpie pens (black) | Beginners paper for K-1* |

*wide-lined with dotted line in the middle, like [this](#).

The MPC Kids had a great week at **Compassion Camp**! We learned that compassion sees, feels, and helps. Compassion helps us be brave and take risks. Compassion helps us love ourselves and helps us trust the Spirit to be present with others. Compassion embraces abundance. We know that God's compassion is God's justice and we worked each day on a different mission and learned about many of our MPC mission partners. Each day, students had the option to attend an outdoor assembly on the church grounds where we enjoyed music, energizers, stories, mission briefings and games. Each camper also received digital resources to use at home. The MPC Kids want to send a big thank you to our campers and volunteers, especially our youth leaders - Will Hunter, Kate Parrish, Austin Smith, and Mia Smith!



COMPASSION SEES, FEELS, AND HELPS!

MPC Staff Updates

Comings...



WELCOME BACK, SAM PHILLIPS!

Beginning in September, Columbia Theological Seminary student, Sam Phillips, will be joining the MPC community as a supervised ministry intern. Sam previously served MPC by working with Pastor Emma as the youth assistant. This academic year Sam will again be working with youth but also exploring and serving other aspects of ministry. He will be leading in worship, teaching adult-ed classes, and so much more. We are so looking forward to having Sam on board.

WELCOME, DR. NADIA JONES!

Morningside Presbyterian Preschool is excited to welcome Dr. Nadia Jones as the next director. She looks forward to getting to know the MPP and MPC community as the school year begins! Click [here](#) to learn more about Nadia.



WELCOME, BRIAN STRICKLAND!

MPC welcomes new staff singer, Brian Strickland, to the Chancel Choir. Brian graduated in voice performance from Georgia Southern University. He has sung with several church choirs, the Atlanta Opera Chorus, and Coro Vocati.

...and Goings.



Dear Morningside Presbyterian Community,

It is with great sadness, but also much joy and thanksgiving that I say goodbye after 15 years! It's been a wonderful journey. Of course, these challenging times have made opportunities to say goodbye difficult, but I keep each of you in my heart. I have very dear memories of the times that we shared together - Vacation Bible School, Mission Camp, Christmas Pageant, Mission Trips, Congregational events. It is no exaggeration to say that I can remember many a babe in arms who is now starting Kindergarten and even college!

I cherish all the beautiful worship experiences and am grateful for every staff member and volunteer, from the first crew of Joanna, Walter and Chris to the newest team of Katie, Emma, Amanda, Megan, Jonathan, Randy and Victor. I wish I could list every staff member including the seminary students who led Sunday school and youth, but I especially want to thank Baron and Leigh for always supporting me in my work!

I am grateful for the dedicated staff of Morningside Presbyterian Preschool and keep them and all our preschool families in my prayers. I am so pleased to welcome Dr. Nadia Jones to MPP as Director and can't wait for you to know her. The individuals who have served as Preschool Committee Chairs have been a gift to me every day: Kim, Anne, Suzanne, Becky, Ali, Kelly, Katye, Laura and now Marti and Lindsay. I would also like to express deep gratitude for the Directors that came before me - including my dear friend, Sarah Tomaka.

Thank you for the generous gifts given in my honor to the outdoor classroom. I look forward to returning during a post-COVID visit and seeing it in action. For now, I will pull out of the MPC parking lot one last time as I head to Virginia for the next two years of online study. Once it is safe to travel and visit, please be in touch - I will be in Richmond and Williamsburg with trips up to Arlington occasionally. Once I complete my Masters in Library & Information Science with the University of Tennessee, who knows where I will land, but I hope to see many of you again.

With the deepest gratitude and love, *Melinda*



MPC Mission Partners

Updates and Ways to Get Involved.

Serve Together



Did you know that **Meals on Wheels** is MPC's longest running outreach - going on almost 40 years? Richard and Sarah Brownlee continue to deliver a week's worth of meals on Saturday mornings. Twice, in July, each client received a 20 lb. box of Georgia-grown produce courtesy of the Royal Food Company. It was much appreciated by our friends.



In response to COVID-19, **Intown Collaborative Ministries** is distributing approximately 4 times more food than their standard distribution numbers. ICM is looking for volunteers Tuesdays through Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Click [here](#) to sign up!

Memorial Drive Ministries



ICM also needs volunteers with a large-capacity vehicle to go to the Atlanta Community Food Bank to pick up and deliver an order to the ICM food pantry every Tuesday around 10 a.m. Drivers must be time flexible! Click [here](#) to help!

"Thank you so much, Morningside Presbyterian Church, for the generous donations of masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, paper towels, and other essential cleaning supplies. What a marvelous gift at a time when these items are needed most!"

A donation drop-off barrel for ICM is available at MPC in the alcove of the side entrance in the main parking lot! Or if it's easier, drop off your donated goods on the table outside of **Mclver Hall** of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, Tuesday and Fridays from 10-1 and Saturdays from 9-12.

David Lee Roth, Executive Director says, "While our campus remains closed and in-person activity remains significantly limited, I am reminded that the cathedral we strive to build at MDM is not one made of marble, stained glass, or stone. It is a cathedral of welcome, prayer, service, and mutual relationships. Those commitments may require new expressions during a global pandemic. But they remain our blueprint as we build together. Thank you for being a part of this work and this mission!"

Items ICM needs:

Tuna	Rice	Vienna Sausages
Chicken	Ravioli/Pasta	Peanut Butter
Green Vegetables	Instant Potatoes	
Fruit	Instant Oatmeal	<i>*Remember that pop-top cans or individual packets are best!</i>
Beans	Spam	

Click [here](#) for more ways serve MDM!

Heart & Home

A Virtual Fundraiser for
Intown Collaborative Ministries



Celebrate 10 Years With Us
Sunday, September 20, 2020 6-7 PM

Join the ICM Fundraiser from your home on September 20 as they celebrate 10 years of neighbors serving neighbors.

Click [here](#) to found out how to get involved!

ICM's Heart & Home Fundraiser will feature the inaugural presentation of the *Beloved Community Award* to IntownCollaborative Ministries' founding board president, **Joanna, Adams**, MPC's Pastor Emerita!

August 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

CLICK ON THE [HYPERLINKS](#) FOR MORE INFO!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CLICK ON THE HYPERLINKS FOR MORE INFO!						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship with Communion</p> <p>2 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9 Drive-thru Goodbye to Melinda!</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:45 Morning(side) Lift Zoom</p> <p>7:30 LGBT & Friends Social Hour Zoom</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 Parking Lot Fellowship #1</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 & 10 MPP Preschool Graduation</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p> <p>12:30 Deacons Meeting</p> <p>2 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:45 Morning(side) Lift Zoom</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p> <p>1 RHO Readers Zoom</p> <p>2 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 Session Zoom</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff mtg</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:45 Morning(side) Lift Zoom</p> <p>7:30 LGBT & Friends Social Hour Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 Parking Lot Fellowship #2</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 Kickoff and Back to School Blessing</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p> <p>1 RHO Readers Zoom</p> <p>2 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:45 Morning(side) Lift Zoom</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p>	<p>31</p>					