

Advent: 4 weeks or 40 weeks?

Advent is here! The season of waiting is upon us. Most years, I look forward to this season and revel in the anticipation and hopefulness of the season. But as Emma so poignantly pointed out in her sermon on Sunday, this pandemic has felt like one long extended Advent, and frankly, most of us are tired of waiting...to go out to dinner, to travel to see family, to go back to school, to worship in the sanctuary. Waiting has become synonymous with loss, distance, and isolation. It is certainly not a discipline most of us set out to hone more than the 4 weeks necessary to get to Christmas.

But waiting is a necessary practice in order for hope to spring forth and new life to occur. A normal human pregnancy is 40 weeks. Having had the pleasure of being pregnant twice, I can attest that by the 40th week, you will do literally anything to not be pregnant any longer. Perhaps this is an evolutionary necessity to get through childbirth. Perhaps it reveals a truth that we are more open to new life and the joys and challenges on the other side if the waiting has made us more than a wee-bit uncomfortable.

This year, our 40th week of pandemic/quarantine occurs the week of Christmas. We have literally been waiting long enough for God in human form to be Emmanuel, God-with-us. And the thing I have noticed is that these uncomfortable 40 weeks have trained our eyes to see God's presence in, around, and among us in the simplest gifts and the smallest gestures. Christmas will look different this year with less fanfare and frolicking, but perhaps after all this waiting, we will be even more attuned to see the ways God is present among us if we are willing to follow the star to the quiet, unnoticed corners of our community where new life still bursts forth.

With hope in the waiting, Pastor Katie

At a time when we are all experiencing disunity and the pandemic, generosity is what brings people of all races, faiths, and political views together across the globe. Join GA Gives for Giving Tuesday and help raise funds for MPC's Mission Partners (Memorial Drive Ministries, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Nicholas House, Intown Collaborative Ministries, and Meals On Wheels Atlanta). All our Mission Partners will participate in Giving Tuesday, *this* Tuesday, December 1st. To donate, go to gagives.org, enter the name of any of our Mission partners in the search box.

On [#GivingTuesday](https://www.givingtuesday.com/), December 1, 2020, you have the opportunity to **TRIPLE** your impact for **Intown Collaborative Ministries**. Give through our [#GaGives](http://gagives.org) platform and for each dollar you donate, **TWO** dollars will be matched.



Please give generously!

See page 6 for in-depth updates on our Mission Partners!



ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Throughout Advent, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our mission partner, Intown Collaborative Ministries. We will maintain a collection barrel on-campus for constant collection. You can [email](mailto:info@intowncollaborativeministries.org) the church office for more information and [click here](#) to see which items are most needed.





Advent Calendar

- ❄ Advent 2—Sunday, December 6; 11 am Virtual Worship with Communion
“From Fear to Peace,” Katie Owen Aumann, preaching
- ❄ Advent 3—Sunday, December 13; 11 am Virtual Worship
“From Fear to Love,” Children’s Pageant
- ❄ Blue Christmas—Tuesday, December 15; 7 pm Virtual Service of Comfort & Hope
- ❄ Advent 4—Sunday, December 20; 11 am Virtual Worship
“From Fear to Joy,” Katie Owen Aumann, preaching
- ❄ Christmas Eve—Thursday, December 24
 - ❄ 4 pm Outdoor Progressive Lessons & Carols, “Journey Together: Follow the Star”
 - ❄ 8 pm Virtual Traditional Lessons & Carols, Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

Prophetic Voices

Click [here](#) for your copy of MPC’s
Advent Devotional,

*Prophetic Voices:
Daily Reflections for Advent.*



“Dancing in the Dark,”
an Advent Adult Sunday School,
every Sunday at 9:30am over ZOOM.

For more information,
email office@morningsidepc.org.

Blue Christmas

A SERVICE OF COMFORT & HOPE

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF COMFORT & HOPE—The holiday season brings up different kinds of emotions for everyone. At Morningside, we want to allow time and space for lament in this advent season. On December 15th at 7 p.m., we will have our Blue Christmas service to be together for a time of reflection, personally and communally. Come as you are because you know best what your soul needs. Email the [church office](#) for details.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT—VIRTUAL WORSHIP, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 11AM

Be sure to tune into Virtual Worship on Sunday, 12/13 @ 11am to witness the MPC Kids proclaim the Christmas story! This year, things were done a little differently, keeping everyone extra-safe. Your heart will be filled with warmth and joy as the children minister to us through singing, playing instruments, dancing and acting out the Christmas story.



JOURNEY TOGETHER: FOLLOW THE STAR—CHRISTMAS EVE

This year's 4pm Family Christmas Eve service is the Christmas story in motion! Join us for an outdoor progressive Lessons & Carols service. You'll meet a shepherd in the church parking lot who will guide you on a path around the church grounds where you'll hear the Christmas story through the voices of familiar Christmas characters: Elizabeth, Mary & Joseph, the Shepherds, and John. At each station, you'll also get to hear favorite Christmas hymns sung by quartets and soloists from our choir. We'll end with LED candlelight and Silent Night on the steps of the church.

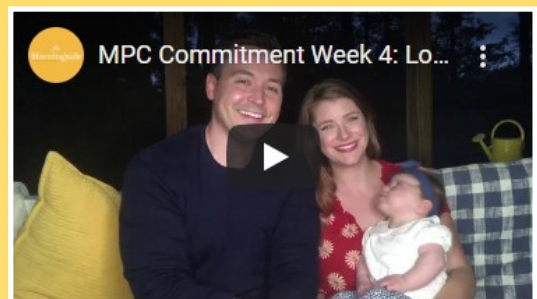
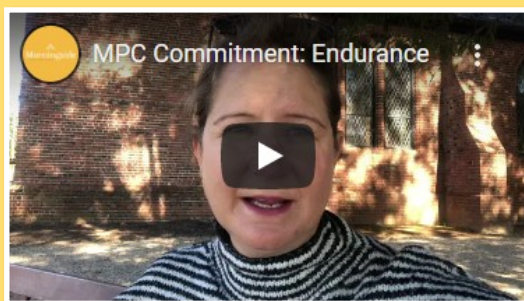
In the next two weeks you'll be invited to sign-up for a time slot from 4-6pm where you and your family can journey together and follow the star. Dress warmly and wear your mask!

Endurance & Character & Hope & Love.


Morningside
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We give thanks for your consistent generosity throughout this year. Thus far, your ongoing gifts and the church's efforts to keep down expenses have kept the church on stable footing through a challenging season. However, we need your help to end the year strong and to reach our goal of \$750,000 for 2021. If you have pledged for 2020 and not yet completed your contribution to the church, please do so through [Realm](#) or by mailing your pledge to the church office. Since Commitment Sunday, we have received 109 pledges for \$624, 951 including 8 new pledges! On average, those giving have increased their pledge by 8.5%. What testament of trust in what God has in store for us!

This Commitment Season we focused on how "endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because of God's love which has been poured out by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:3-5). Click on the videos below to see the ways that the Morningside Presbyterian community has lived out those traits as a family of faith.



MPC's moderator of the deacon board, **Rachel Reed**, individually thanks and reflects on the 4 out-going deacons of the **class of 2020** and their 3 years of serving together. Each deacon's name is hyperlinked, in case you would like to **send a note of thanks**, as well!

[Carolyn Cobb](#) - Carolyn is a poet and her words are inspiring and comforting because they are crafted with care and reflect her journey of loving others and loving nature. Carolyn's magnificent work of coordinating the prayer list is at the heart of the Deacons' focus and her attention to these important details are a source of strength and compassion for Morningside Presbyterian Church and its members. Carolyn is a true visionary with immense abilities and her willingness to share her time and talents is truly part of the unique fabric of Morningside Presbyterian Church. You have such a loving, giving spirit and heart. Thank you for all you do! You will be dearly missed!

[Mac Frampton](#) - Mac is a tall tower of talent. His laugh will lift your spirits. His music will make you smile while bringing a tear to your eyes as you remember a sweet memory. Mac's energy is full of love, kindness, and generosity. His thoughtfulness is a powerful reminder of the wonders of servant leadership. Mac's writing is beautiful-- Even in immense grief, his writing is so lovely and soothing to read. You have a genuine, beautiful heart--you will be dearly missed!

[Margaret Hofland](#) - Margaret is a magnet that pulls all to the qualities of goodness, holiness, and understanding of the benefits of sharing your riches with those around you. Her generosity is an excellent example of blending all of one's resources into a powerful force that bends the arc of humanity into a closer relationship with each other and to the beautifulness of God. Margaret is also a champion for those in need and her willingness to share her experiences with others is an exemplary reminder of how we can support, respect and love our neighbors, our community, and our church. Thank you Margaret--you will be dearly missed!

[Ann Watson](#) - Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love? No Deacon embodies the role of a Deacon better than Ann. That is why there is picture of Ann when you look up "Deacon" in the Presbyterian directory! She is always the first to welcome new deacons and has guided us through the Coronavirus pandemic. Ann is fully committed to helping others. Ann is wise. Ann is able to see the beauty in our relationships. There are no limits on Ann's concern for her friends and for the members of Morningside Presbyterian Church. Ann is a role model for all of us. Ann is a dear friend and she is willing to help you at all hours of the day. We know that because of personal experiences. In my opinion, Ann is an angel amongst us! Thank you Ann--you will be dearly missed!

We welcome a **new class of deacons** and are thankful for the leadership and service that these MPC members bring to our faith community. Get to know the **2023 class of deacons** by reading their bios. Their names have been hot linked, as well, in case you'd like to send a **note of welcome!**



[David Lowery](#)

David Lowery became involved with Morningside Presbyterian in 2012 when his children started attending the preschool. Immediately, MPP felt like the perfect spot for his twins, William and Charlotte, and he became involved by being a substitute teacher and serving on the pre-school committee. David says, "The folks at the preschool really took us under their wings and provided us with a wonderful support system." It was thru this ministry that he grew into becoming a member of the Morningside family, and has since been involved in the Children's Ministry committee, where he volunteers in children's choir, Sunday school, and children's church. David deems it a great honor to serve God and to serve his church in the capacity of Deacon.

Daniel Easton

Daniel celebrated 10 years as a member of Morningside Presbyterian Church this past August. He's been a member of the handbell choir for almost 7 years and has participated in two Morningside Sings! benefit concerts. Daniel is a marketing professional currently consulting with two commercial real estate companies and he enjoys being a "student of the guitar" and taking long ski trips in the winter.



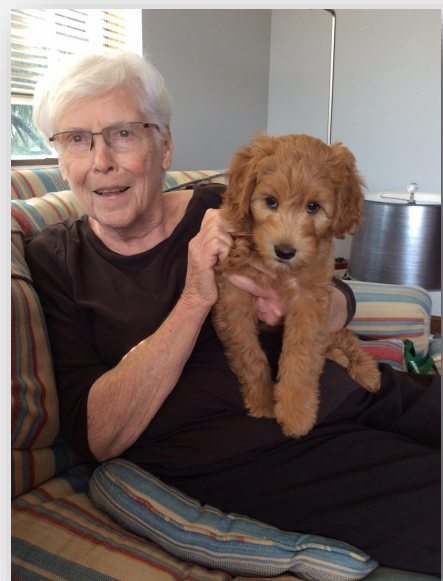
Genine Shafer

Genine Shafer started attending MPC in 2018, after she and her husband, Jason, and their three children, Georgina (8), Julian (6) and Genevieve (3) relocated to Atlanta from a brief time in Franklin, TN. Prior to that she and Jason lived in the city of Chicago for 11 years, and before that New York City for a number of years. Genine joined MPC in 2019, and that summer she co-chaired VBS and got more involved with the Children's Ministry Committee, where she is now a member.

Genine grew up in Sturgis, KY, where her family attended First Presbyterian Church. Her father, Bill Alexander and Grandparents, Dot and Ralph Alexander, were dedicated members of the church, and served as Elders. Her grandmother, Dot, played the organ at the church for more than 50 years, and passed at the golden age of 96 last August. Genine lives in the Morningside Community, and loves traveling for work to the Middle East, where she manages the development and sales of medical foods for Medtrition, Inc. In her spare time, she's involved in school fundraising efforts, and is still an active member of the Service Club of Chicago, the oldest women's philanthropic group, serving special needs organizations, the homeless, under-privileged neighborhoods, abuse victims, as well as supports the arts. She is also training as a fencer to compete in the USA Veterans Fencing League after competitions resume sometime in 2022. She is looking forward to expanding her role at Morningside Presbyterian, and continuing her commitment and support of others.

My name is Alexandra Ryan named after my Scottish grandfather, who in his best brogue, announced I would be called Sandy. Hence, my dual first names in the MPC archives. A cradle Presbyterian I have been a member of several Presbyterian churches, the longest being 50+ years at Georgetown Presbyterian Church where I have served several times as Deacon and Elder. My church life and work life have centered around education, health and social justice. Ten years ago I moved to Atlanta, looked at Churches and chose Morningside. Early on I organized an interfaith weekend of seminars Not One More: Ending Gun Violence inviting the two principal speakers from DC, one being Rev. Jim Atwood, the author of PC(USA)'s polity on gun violence and author of three books. I was a member of Outcry, have been involved with the Kinumba-Bauma family including helping Bienfait pass the drivers tests and continued help especially with the kids at this COVID time. I am a member of Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. I am honored to be asked and am looking forward to being an active deacon at Morningside.

Sandy Ryan



STAY CONNECTED...

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

December Birthdays

- 1 [Olivia Hunter](#)
- 1 [Melissa Lawson](#)
- 3 [Dawn Bell](#)
- 4 [Akin Adams](#)
- 4 [Alyssa Durden](#)
- 5 [Allie Roach](#)
- 6 [Tamara Nix](#)
- 6 [Ted McMahan](#)
- 7 [Christopher Crowder](#)
- 7 [Charlotte Hunter](#)
- 7 [Carolyn Terry](#)
- 7 [Eva Terry](#)
- 9 [Derek Matthews](#)
- 9 [Caroline Nuckols](#)
- 10 [Trey Coogle](#)
- 11 [Calvin Yntema](#)
- 12 [Ginger Floyd](#)
- 12 [Dianne Johnson](#)
- 12 [Sharon Pace](#)
- 13 [Tony Menefee](#)
- 13 [Linda Sweum](#)
- 15 [Meredith Bell](#)
- 15 [Charlotte Lowery](#)
- 15 [William Lowery](#)
- 17 [Phil Regnault](#)
- 18 [Bryn Gorman](#)
- 18 [Leah Gorman](#)
- 20 [Elizabeth O'Brien](#)
- 20 [Charlie Stewart](#)
- 23 [Ali Howell](#)
- 24 [Claire Burke](#)
- 25 [Bridget Ryan](#)
- 27 [Anna Nuckols](#)
- 27 [Brooks Nuckols](#)
- 30 [Margaret Loring](#)
- 30 [Annie McNeill](#)
- 30 [Caroline Slayton](#)
- 31 [Joseph Stewart](#)
- 31 [Mary Ulep](#)



erry Christmas from the MPC Staff! Click [here](#) for a holiday playlist that is almost as fun as this jolly bunch!

(Back row: Megan, Pastor Emma, Victor, Randy, Dr. Nadia; front row: Pastor Katie, Jonathan, Amanda, and Sam.)



MPP VIRTUAL SANTA FUNDRAISER

Being safe doesn't mean you won't be able to see Santa this year. Sign up to meet Santa virtually. Let your kids have a special one on one meeting with good old Santa Claus. An added bonus is that 15% of the sales will benefit MPP and help us keep the school safe for our kids during the pandemic. Click [here](#) to signup.



(Click on a name to send a birthday greeting. A child's name will link to a parent's email address.)

THANK YOU!

“Thank you Morningside for the use of desks and chairs for each of us and backpacks filled with school supplies, we use them every day and we are happy.”
-Ezekiel and Dorcas



ESL TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a current or former ESL teacher to help Georgine how to read English. Adult ESL experience is preferred, but any training or experience in teaching non-English speakers is welcome. For now, the learning will take place online. Georgine is very eager to learn! Click [here](#) if you can help.



Serve Together

Click [here](#) for updates on our mission partners. Go shopping and check names off your Christmas list through mission partners like Intown Collaborative Ministries; Memorial Drive Ministries—Just Bakery, Amani Women’s Center, and Johari; and Meals on Wheels Atlanta. A little bit goes a long way when you donate items to Clifton Sanctuary or money to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



December 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	<p>30</p> <p>7 Women's Roundtable - Advent Musings</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff meeting</p> <p>5:30 MPC Kids Small Group (PreK & K)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3 Youth Group Study Hall</p> <p>7 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir Zoom</p>	<p>8:30 Morning(side) Lift</p> <p>7:30 Elder & Deacon Orientation</p> 	 <p>4</p>	<p>6 LGBT & Friends Zoom Christmas Cocktail Hour</p>  <p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p> <p>12:30 Deacons Meeting</p> <p>2 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p> <p>7 Youth Group</p>	 <p>7</p> <p>9 Partner with the Preacher</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff meeting</p> <p>5:30 MPC Kids Small Group (1st & 2nd)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3 Youth Group Study Hall</p> <p>7 Book Study with Pastor Emma</p> <p>7:30 Strategic Implementation</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 Morning(side) Lift</p> <p>7:30 LGBT & Friends Social Hour Zoom</p> <p>7:30 Elder & Deacon Orientation</p>	 <p>11</p>	<p>7 MPC Couples & Friends Zoom</p>  <p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p> <p>1 RHO Readers Zoom</p> <p>7 Outdoor Youth Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 Partner with the Preacher</p> <p>6:30 Joint Session & Deacons Meeting Zoom</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>1:30 Staff meeting</p> <p>5:30 MPC Kids Small Group (3rd-5th)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3 Youth Group Study Hall</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir Zoom</p>	<p>8:30 Morning(side) Lift</p>  <p>17</p>	<p>18</p> 	 <p>19</p>
 <p>20</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p>	 <p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11 Virtual Yoga with Pam</p> <p>6:30 Theology on Tap Zoom</p> 	 <p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>4 Outdoor Progressive Lessons & Carols</p> <p>8 Virtual Traditional Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>  <p>25</p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p> <p>9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom</p> <p>11 Virtual Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>		

