

SERVE TOGETHER

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with our Mission Partners is a long-standing MPC tradition.

- Come serve a hot breakfast at **Intown Collaborative Ministries** on Saturday morning, 1/18.
- On Monday morning, 1/20, **Memorial Drive Ministries** is hosting an outdoor property-tidying event.
- Already have plans for MLK Day? On President's Day Weekend, 2/14-2/17, you can come with us on the **Florida Panhandle Mission Trip** to help Hurricane Michael recovery.
- Looking for something in the evening close to the church? **Rebecca's Tent's** annual January & February dinner hosting event at Shearith Israel is close to MPC and is only a one or two-hour commitment.

- Serving dinner at **Clifton Sanctuary Ministries** on 1/25 is another quick commitment.
- These events are for all ages and capabilities (children & youth accompanied by parent or guardian). And don't let transportation stop you! We have a church van and many like to carpool, as well!



INTOWN COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES MLK BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18; 10:30AM - 12PM
[MCIVER HALL, DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN](#)

Let's honor the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by serving breakfast to our unsheltered and food-insecure neighbors. We need cooked casseroles, biscuits, other items AND enthusiastic volunteers. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome, too! If you want to prepare food, as well as volunteer, please sign up under both categories on this [Sign Up Genius page](#). Contact [Nancy Collins](#) if you only want to prepare food and would like delivery assistance.

MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES MLK WORK DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 20; 9 AM - 1 PM
[MEMORIAL DRIVE MINISTRIES CAMPUS](#)

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., let's work together to keep the grounds of MDM looking great! Wear old clothes, bring saws, clippers, and other yard tools that might be helpful. Lunch will be provided. All are invited with no age exclusions, as long as parents come along with the kids! RSVP [here](#) and contact [Lloyd Prince](#) with questions.

FLORIDA PANHANDLE MISSION TRIP

FRIDAY, FEB. 14 - MONDAY, FEB. 17

MPC is partnering with 4 other Atlanta-area PCUSA churches for a Florida Panhandle Mission Trip help with repairs from the devastation of Hurricane Michael. All ages welcome, but children and youth will need parental supervision. All skill levels of work are needed, from experienced carpenters to general cleaning and assisting. Cost is around \$150 per person with meals included; payment upon arrival at the Dogwood Acres Retreat Center in Chipley, FL. All climate-controlled cabins have 2 bedrooms/1 bathroom. Inquire about the family rate! Contact [Roland Behm](#) for more info!

REBECCA'S TENT WOMEN'S SHELTER 2020 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 19; 6PM - 8PM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16; 6PM - 8PM
[SHEARITH ISRAEL REBECCA'S TENT](#)

This is the 35th year that Shearith Israel has hosted the women's shelter. Almost 400 volunteers help staff each year between November and March. MPC provides two volunteers per night for two five-day periods this year. During the two-hour commitment, you'll serve the women returning from work or their job searches, pack up leftovers for the next day's lunches, and clean up the kitchen. Men and women are invited to sign up for openings on the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board. Or contact [Phyllis Grimes](#).



CLIFTON SANCTUARY DINNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25; 5:30 PM
[CLIFTON SANCTUARY MINISTRIES](#)

In 2020, MPC will continue to provide and serve dinner to the gentlemen at Clifton. Pick-a-pan up from the Narthex on Sunday, 1/19, fill it with something delicious to eat for the dinner on 1/25. Contact [Ann Watson](#) or [Joe Floyd](#) to arrange drop-off of your dish or to let them know you can join in and help!

January 5 - Epiphany Sunday

Visit from the Magi
Communion
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18
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January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
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January 19 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
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January 26 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23
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The PCUSA uses the Revised Common Lectionary schedule of readings or pericopes (a set of Bible verses that forms a coherent unit or thought), which complement the Sundays and festival days which make up the Church calendar. Typically, each Sunday is assigned an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel pericope, from which a preacher might choose to focus his or her sermon. Daily lectionary readings can be used in personal devotions, helping to digest what the reader heard in corporate worship.

If you would like to volunteer to be a lay reader for Sunday worship, contact [Susan Oder](#). On your assigned week, you'll receive



full instructions, as well as the Scripture passage you'll read for the service. Children and Youth are invited to participate, too!



Nicholas House Christmas Joy

Thank you all a millions times over for your generous gifts. They are greatly appreciated and made three families' Christmases that much merrier. Thanks again for contributing!

From Katie Watts, Kelly Anderson and the MPC Children's Ministry Team

2020 Sunday School for all ages

9:45, Sunday mornings

In addition to *Faith Development* (Room 109) and *Families in Faith* (Room 201), **Scripturally Speaking** is our newest Adult Sunday School class, in Room 005, with the aim of taking a deep dive into the Bible. This class begins with the Book of Genesis and explores Scripture weekly, working our way through the story of God's relationship with creation. Whether you're a biblical beginner, someone with lots of questions, or know scripture like the back of your hand, this class is for you!

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Infants and toddlers will explore well-known Bible stories that introduce God and faith through pictures and play. *Pre-schoolers through 5th-graders* will be following the lectionary with our *Whirl* curriculum to help them grow in faith as they work their way through the Bible in conjunction with the church calendar.

Nursery - Room 105

2's & 3's - Room 012

PreK-K - Room 011

1st - 2nd - Room 001

3rd - 5th - Room 003

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Please consider volunteering for at least one Sunday this semester with our MPC Kid's Sunday School and Children's Church programs. Parents - we challenge you to sign up for at least two Sundays this semester! We need help with all ages, from infants to 5th grade, and no special skills are necessary. Come see our kids grow in faith and share in their journey! Click [here](#) to sign-up!



MPC Affinity Groups

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Arts & Crafts

Monday, 1/6 @ noon

Monday, 1/20 @ noon

MPC, Room 201

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MPC Couples & Friends

Saturday, 1/11 @ 6 p.m.

[Kathy & Alan Bremer's House](#)

RSVP to [Kathy](#).

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One Gray Hair Luncheon

Wednesday, 1/15 @ 12 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

RSVP to [Sarah](#).

Drs. Leslie & David Taylor will talk about fall prevention. The *Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries* (STEADI) initiative was developed by the CDC to prevent falls and decrease fall risks for older adults. Come learn about simple steps you can take to reduce your fall risk.

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RHO Readers

Sunday, 1/19 @ 12:30 p.m.

MPC, Session Room

Bring title suggestions to help schedule the year's books. Newbies are welcome to come "check us out" (library pun intended)!!!

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Theology on Tap

Tuesday, 1/21 @ 7 p.m.

Location TBD.

RSVP to [Lloyd](#).

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Women's Roundtable

Friday, 1/27 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lynn Young's [home](#)

RSVP to [Sanda](#).

Guest speaker, TBD.

To our Outgoing Officers:

Thank you so much for your service to this community. To be honest, 'thank you' doesn't seem strong enough to express my gratitude for the time and considerable gifts you've given to the church. It has been a joy to serve alongside you, learn from your wisdom, and be energized by your presence. The importance and role of elders and deacons is, in my opinion, one of the best things about our Presbyterian polity. Without each one of you, the work of the church could not be done. So, enjoy your well-earned 'break' from leadership, and know that I think that y'all are just the greatest. - *Pastor Emma*



Some of our outgoing officers (L to R): Michael Pittman, Sarah Beth Gehl, Nancy Collins, Michael Siedschlag. Not pictured: Allen Burke, Martin Dunlap, Catherin Fleming, Julie Green, Emilie Paille, Leslie Prince, and Emilie Terry.



SOPHIE RYAN

"Love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness and generosity. Those are the things Jesus has taught us to show other people, and those are the things that I strive to incorporate into my everyday life. I believe if we live by His example, then we will be guided by His example. I also believe that even though I may not be sure what my future holds, I know that God does and that through Him all things are possible."

JACK KLOTZ

"I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and by divine providence and a little luck, married a life-long Presbyterian. It was after many years of study in the Reformed faith that I began to understand the sovereignty of God. As creator of all, God has authority and control over everything. The Bible shows us that God repeatedly renews God's covenant with us, giving us unmerited, irresistible and unending grace. The best example was that God sent God's only son to save us and to be an example of what we should strive to be. The Holy Spirit breathes life into us continually.

My response to God's love is to worship God and work towards a life of stewardship of worship, study, giving, service, and reconciliation. That last one is probably one of the hardest to do but something Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

My faith-walk hit a road block in 2002 when our son came out to us. We went to our previous church staff and had a heart-to-heart talk. The senior pastor said it may be best for us to find a new church home. Jill and I attended a PFLAG meeting and another mother came up to us and said that we had to meet her pastor: Joanna Adams. And the rest is history. We joined after Joanna became Morningside's pastor and know that our faith has deepened immensely since that day.

Our son, James', passion was to become a minister and when 10-A passed, everyone at Morningside mentored and supported him along the way. James is now an ordained PCUSA minister.

When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2009, we were immediately enveloped with love and compassion from all of you here at Morningside. Your care and support really made a difference in that journey. We were never alone. Morningside people are indeed the hands and feet of God.

STATEMENTS OF OUR FAITH

JOE BALLAY

"I must be some sort of religious mongrel. The relatives who surrounded me and influenced me when I was growing up included two Unitarians, one Catholic refugee, two Episcopalians, a spiritualist, a Free Thinker, two or three who weren't quite sure, and one Presbyterian.

Projected against this backdrop was another religion -- the worship of knowledge -- the belief that intelligence was the path to salvation in the brave new world after World War II. It was a lot to think about.

In every age, we humans have tried our best, with every practical and spiritual resource at hand, to understand how the world works, how to thrive in that world and how to love one-another. Whether through religion, philosophy, economics, science, humanism or creative expression, we strive to find the language that explains our understandings and expresses our longings. And yet there is the gap, the incompleteness, the mystery.

So the god of our day, like the god of Israel, remains other, ineffable, un-nameable. Yet, regardless how incomprehensible this universal power, I can approach it through the life of Jesus and through the shared spirit of my community. And the contradictions I find along the way become enlightening. The paradoxes become a source of joy. While our world seems solidly anchored in place, I know that all matter is in motion, down to smallest quark -- and that's cool. I understand how light actually does bend around massive stars -- that's impressive. And I watch us acting out our tribal origins in daily life -- whether comedy or tragedy, it's great theatre.

When I say I believe that God created us, or we created God, it's like believing that light is both a wave and a particle. If I let the creativity in, I find myself on the threshold of new reforming belief in the wonder of existence. The salvation is in the process -- the wondering."



Some of our Incoming officers (L to R): Cindy Humphries, Miranda Brownlee, Joe Ballay, David Stewart, Tamara Nix, Lisa Ladds, Sophie Ryan, Jack Klotz, Brenda Fishpaw. Not pictured: Ali Bradway & Susan Oder.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jack Brewster	12 John Watson
2 James Klotz	13 Vivienne Anderson
3 Jack McNeill	13 Mary Hampton Smith
4 Jack Klotz	13 Kenneth Williams
5 Ellen Behm	14 Lynn Daniel
5 Jack Ladds	15 Jane McRae
5 Elizabeth Gottlich	17 Rex Ruby
5 Michael Boorman	17 Heather Scribner
6 Michael Lowry	17 Kate Scribner
6 Suzanne Wolfe	18 Vanessa Ryan
8 Katrina Weis	19 Tish Woolley
8 Lynn Young	19 Madeline Selness
8 Arabella Wolfe	20 Jeanne McCarthy
9 Ashley Hoffman	20 Marshall Williams
9 Wesley King	22 Stephen Smith
10 Betsy Holland	24 Jennifer Williams
10 Shari Tant	26 Brad Millard
11 Mia Smith	26 Beth McClintock
12 Jack Knezevich	26 Nathan Hartman
12 Carolyn Morton	29 Suzanne Macpherson
12 Jane Stack	30 Adrienne Mogge

Coffee and conversation...on a weekday! We are starting a new group for folks who want to meet informally during the week. No agenda or commitment--come every week or once a year, stay to say "hello" for 5 minutes or stay to chat for an hour.

Details: [San Francisco Coffee](#); Thursdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.; beginning January 9.



Already fed-up with trying to keep that long list of Resolutions? Need a little more instant gratification?

Want some goals that will benefit you and others?

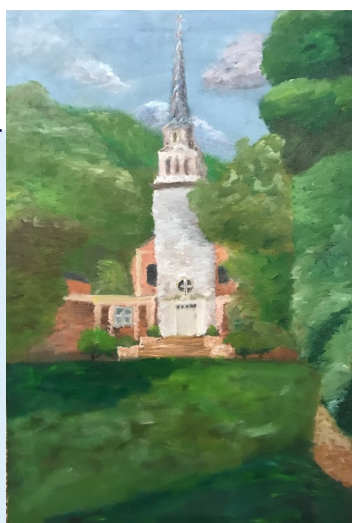
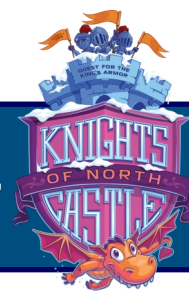
Below are five, 5-minute (or less!) New Year's resolutions that MPC members can accomplish and keep!

Plus, these are great ways to connect you to your community!

Five, 5-minute New Year's Resolutions for MPC Members:

- ◇ **Wear my nametag at church.** Need a nametag? Need an *updated* nametag? Email [Megan](#).
- ◇ **Login to REALM.** First time logging in to REALM? Click [here](#) for simple instructions.
- ◇ **Update my REALM profile.** Have a new photo or phone number? Click [here](#) for instructions on how to edit your profile.
- ◇ **Manage my profile privacy.** Control what personal contact information is available to other members by clicking [here](#).
NOTE: Other members cannot see *any* of your info until you allow it. *And* your contact info is not ever accessible to the public.
- ◇ **Download the REALM CONNECT app to my device.** On-the-go and need to call an MPC pal? There's an app for that! Click [here](#) for instructions to download and use REALM CONNECT. Remember to enable notifications!

Vacation Bible School 2020 will be here before you know it! **June 8-11!!** Save the date and join us for another year of fun and excitement as we invite children to be strong in the Lord by exploring how we put on the armor of God at "Knights of the North Castle!" Click [here](#) to give us feedback about VBS and let us know if you will be registering!



Over the years, our MPC facilities have become a vital part of the Morningside-Lenox Park community as a whole. Each school day, our halls and classrooms are filled with learning and fun with Morningside Presbyterian Preschool. MPP Enrichment programs are held in the early afternoons. A Weight Watchers chapter, a women's AA Group, and the Parliamentarians have each been meeting at MPC for over 2 decades! The Morningside-Lenox Park Association holds their Zoning, Organization, Master Planning, and Board Committee meetings here. MPC hosts quarterly meetings for the Grady High School Foundation. Four different scouting groups meet several times each month in our MPC classrooms, too.

MPC member, [Bob Wells](#), facilitates Tai Chi and Tai Chi for people with Parkinson's disease (the only class of its kind in Atlanta!) on Tuesdays. MPC houses three different yoga studios which offer various classes throughout the week: MPC member, [Pam Sharpe](#), instructs on Tuesdays and Thursdays; [Pat Hudson](#) leads on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings; [Ayla Harris](#) teaches on Thursday evenings and a unique class on Wednesday mornings focusing on moms and moms-to-be!

MPC has also become an instructional and rehearsal home for a variety of music groups. Long-time MPC tenants, the [Atlanta Mandolin Society](#), rehearse weekly on Monday evenings and invite any interested guest to enjoy the music. Once a month, the [Atlanta Recorder Society](#) holds a beginner's class followed by a group rehearsal. Our own Jonathan Crutchfield is the collaborative pianist for the elite, Atlanta-based professional chamber choir, [Coro Vocati](#). Along with Jonathan, MPC member and bass section leader, Brandon Odom, and tenor section leader, Kirby Eicholtz, can be found rehearsing with this group in our Fellowship Hall multiple times a month! And, newest to our musical collection is the history-making, nationally-acclaimed, [Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus](#), which makes MPC its rehearsal home beginning in February!

It is thrilling to know that the welcome extended from the pulpit on Sunday mornings is experienced the rest of the week by our community and neighborhood. (For more information on classes, rehearsal schedules, or concerts, click on the facilitator or group name.)

JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 Coffee & Convo 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship - Communion 12 Weekly Fellowship Called Session meeting 6 Youth Group	6 12 Arts & Crafts Guild 1:30 Staff Mtg 7 Children's Ministry	7 2:15 Parkinson's Tai Chi 7:30 Handbell Rehearsal	8 10:30 Dobbs Tutoring 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 8:45 Coffee & Conversation (offsite) 	10	11 6 MPC Couples & Friends
12 Baptism of the Lord 9:30 Coffee & Convo 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship - Ordination and Installation of New Officers 12 Weekly Fellowship 12:30 Deacons mtg 6 Youth Group	13 7 Session 	14 1:30 Staff Mtg 2:15 Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 Tai Chi 7:30 Handbell Rehearsal	15 12 One Gray Hair Luncheon 6 Rebecca's Tent 6 Children's Choir 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	16 8:45 Coffee & Conversation (offsite)  6 Rebecca's Tent	17 6 Rebecca's Tent	18 10:30 Intown Collaborative Ministries Breakfast 6 Rebecca's Tent
19 9:30 Coffee & Convo 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship 12 Weekly Fellowship 12:30 RHO Readers 6 Rebecca's Tent	20 MLK DAY 9 Work Day @ Memorial Drive Ministries 12 Arts & Crafts Guild	21 1:30 Staff Mtg 2:15 Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 Tai Chi 7:30 Handbell Rehearsal	22 6 Children's Choir 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	23 8:45 Coffee & Conversation (offsite) 	24	25 5:30 Clifton Sanctuary Dinner
26 9:30 Coffee & Convo 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11 Worship & Annual Congregational meeting 12 Weekly Fellowship 12 Weekly Fellowship 6 Youth Group	27 6:30 Women's Roundtable	28 1:30 Staff Mtg 2:15 Parkinson's Tai Chi 4:30 Tai Chi 7:30 Handbell Rehearsal	29 6 Children's Choir 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	30 8:45 Coffee & Conversation (offsite) 	31	1 7 CORO VOCATI CONCERT