MONTH AT GLANCE - JANUARY 2020

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

We enter the season of Epiphany looking for signs of hope and help, and the Psalmist reminds us that our true help and hope comes from God who made heaven and earth. God has indeed been our help throughout this whole journey together. I joined you in June in the midst of the pandemic and we have made a way in the wilderness. I give thanks for Virtual Fellowship Hours and zoom affinity group gatherings, a Partner with the Preacher Bible study, drive thrus and backyard commitment gatherings that gave me the chance to get to know you on a deeper level. I never set out to be a televangelist, but we have found ways to continue to worship together online and have endeavored into outdoor worship in our parking lot as a way to be together safely. We've done all of these things because the pandemic shed light on our need for community and connection with God and one another.

As we look to 2021, I pray for a season of reconnection, renewal, and return. Though the pandemic is not yet over, the arrival of a vaccine turns our hopes toward the ability to gather in person again for worship and fellowship. We'll be working in 2021 toward a shift to livestreaming so that we can begin that transition. We're also looking toward ways to safely return to the building and in-person activities. One of the heartfelt questions we will be asking as we do, though, is: what have we learned? what do we want to keep doing online and what is essential to do in-person? how do we release ourselves from the griefs and trials of this time but carry the blessings and silver linings with us into the future? and most importantly, where is God calling us now?

As we look toward the Epiphany, Lent, and yes, even Easter, we'll be asking those questions individually and as a congregation. Where is God calling me? Where is God calling us? What does our faithful response look like as we reconnection and re-imagine together?

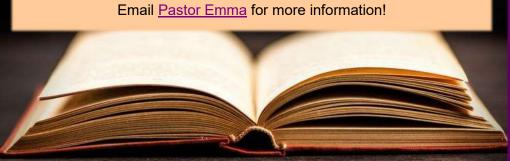
With courage for the journey together, Pastor Katie

STAR WORDS

January 6th marks the season of Epiphany when the Magi followed the star and found the gift of the Christ child. We too are seeking God, trusting that God gives us signs (stars) to guide us toward the divine presence. In the new year, be on the lookout for a postcard with an Epiphany "Star Word" to guide you in your spiritual life in 2021. You'll hear more about this in worship on January 3rd, so tune in!

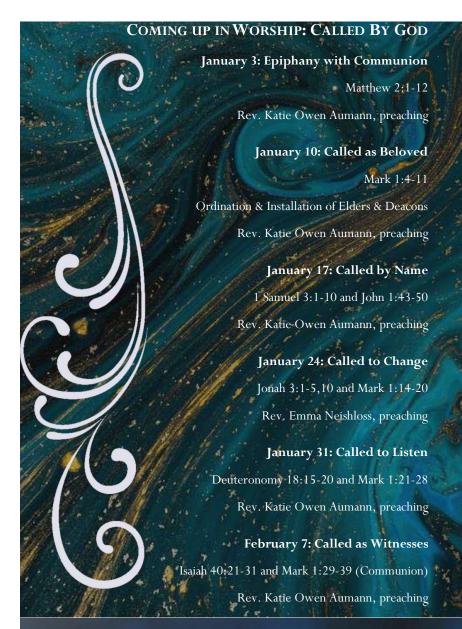
We'll kick off 2021 reading Fire by Night: Finding God in the Pages of the Old Testament by Melissa Florer-Bixler. The Old Testament can often be puzzling and even disturbing. But rather than throw it out entirely, Rev. Bixler invites us to journey deeper into those pages — finding stories of grace, hope, and redemption. Book Study meets Wednesdays @ 7pm (beginning Jan. 6) or Sundays @ 2pm (beginning Jan. 10).

Email Pastor Emma for more information!



PARTNER WITH THE PREACHER RETURNS!

Are you looking for a way to connect more deeply with God and scripture in 2021? Join Pastor Katie on Monday mornings at 9am over ZOOM for a Bible study as we explore the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday together. No experience or preparation required. Come with a curious mind, an open heart, and listening ears and we'll dive into the text together. A small group of us had a great time this fall and we're open to adding new voices as the new year begins. Email Pastor Katie if you'd like to join!



Endurance & Character & Hope & Love.

COMMITMENT SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone who has committed to journey together into 2021! We are celebrating a successful commitment season and your gifts and generosity will enable us to dream big as we plan for a season of return, reconnection, and re-imagining life together. As of December 30th, we are giving thanks for \$733,299 in pledges from 135 family units and we are confident that we will meet our goals for the coming year. Please be in prayer for your Session as they discern our priorities in setting the budget. You will hear more at the annual congregational meeting in the next month.

We give particular thanks for the Commitment Team:
Suzanne Macpherson and Susan Oder, elders; Bill
Humphries, treasurer; and Sarah Beth Gehl, Joe
Floyd, Tom Daniel, Kim Nuckols, Amy Jensen, and
Kimberly Williams, committee members.









A DIFFERENT "CHRISTMAS EVE EVE"

We celebrated the birth of the Christ
Child this year like never before--on a
walking lessons & carols journey
following the star around the church.
A huge thanks to the planning team--Van
Jensen, Jeff Peters, Julie Green, Michael
Siedschlag, Jonathan Crutchfield, Roland
Behm, and Katie Aumann. There are too
many people to thank for making the
evening possible, but we avoided the
rain and found a way to hear the
Christmas story with fresh ears. The light
shines in the darkness, and Christ comes
even in a pandemic.



A YEAR IN REVIEW...AND A LOOK FORWARD.

From Pastor Emma

PC Youth jumped into January like they do any year – youth group meetings, a new Confirmation class, and plans for a summer mission trip back to Mobile. By late February, it was clear that 2020 was not going to be a normal year. We suspended in person youth group meetings from March to August – gathering occasionally on Zoom. Our COVID Confirmands and their faithful Mentors continued to meet weekly on Zoom. They were finally confirmed in May during our online worship service. We were so grateful that technology allowed our Confirmation process to continue AND that the youth were still able to put on a thoughtful and challenging Youth Sunday Worship service. In August, we started meeting in person – socially distanced and outdoors. Our outdoor meetings have even started to feel normal! We're looking forward to more outdoor gatherings, and hopefully being able to move indoors at some point. With some modi-

fications and help from the organizing church, we'll be able to head back to Mobile in July for some mission









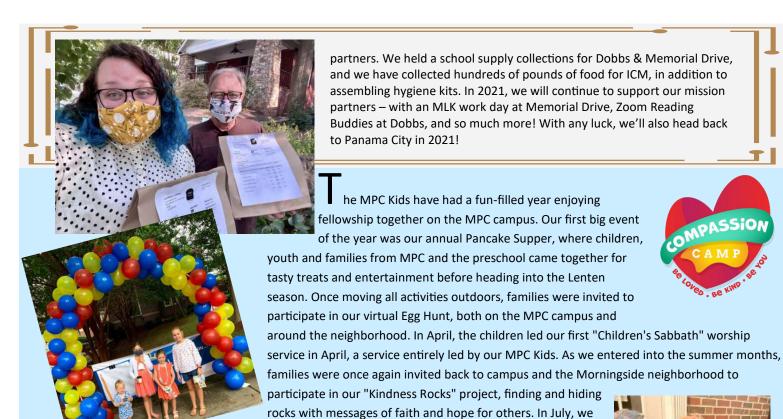
Adult Education at

Morningside refused to be slowed down by a global pandemic! All of our affinity groups have continued to gather via Zoom. LGBT & Friends even hosted a Zoom Christmas Sing Along! Sunday School resumed (digitally) in September with a whole host of interesting and challenging topics. We've studied everything from the Great Ends of the Church to grief to Richard Rohr. Sunday School will continue meet virtually in 2021, and we're looking forward to new topics and robust discussions! In January, we will welcome Princeton PhD Candidate, Chelsea Williams, who will lead us for 4 weeks on Karl Barth. In response to the need for social distancing, Adult Ed began two book study gatherings. Since we started, we've read 5 books together. After a brief holiday hiatus, Book Study resume with Fire By Night: Finding God in the Pages of t

book study gatherings. Since we started, we've read 5 books together. After a brief holiday hiatus, Book Study will resume with Fire By Night: Finding God in the Pages of the Old Testament. The Adult Ed committee, in partnership with our clergy and Mission committee, invited folks to participate in the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge and subsequent discussion groups. In 2021, we are committed to continuing to learn about and advocate for racial justice in this country.

M ission at MPC kicked off 2020 with a fun intergenerational mission trip to Panama City, Florida over President's Day Weekend. Joining

with 3 other churches in our presbytery and Catholic Charities, we spent the long weekend doing repairs and projects on houses who were damaged in Hurricane Michael. Once the pandemic was in full force, mission became more vital than ever as our mission partners saw massive increases in need. We have continued financial support of all of our mission



energizers, devotionals, games, and mission activities.

Compassion Camp was open to children of all ages and was held outdoors where we had plenty of space to spread out and be together safely. With the return of the school year, we initiated Tuesday night fellowship, "MPC Kids," where each age-group from PreK-5th grade was able to meet once a month for outdoor games, devotionals, and a picnic dinner together. Club 46 continues to meet once a month and is a chance for our 4-6th graders to grow in faith together as they prepare to transition to the youth group. This fall

held Compassion Camp, which consisted of 5 days of music,

they enjoyed a private Screen on the Green in front of the church, playing capture the flag, having a color party, and participating in a tacky Christmas gathering with games and s'mores. In November, we dedicated more than 60 Bibles which were given to children from birth through 5th grade during

our Bible Dedication Event. Finally, we wrapped up the year with over 50 children participating in our virtual Christmas pageant which aired during online worship and also included our kids serving as liturgists and musicians. We look forward to the possibilities that await us in 2021 as we continue to journey together.





MPC's Clerk of Session, **Curt Barrett**, individually thanks and reflects on the 5 out-going elders of the **class of 2020**. Each elder's name is hyperlinked, in case you would like to **send a note of thanks**, as well!

Beth Farnsworth - As a leader of Session's Strategic Planning Committee, MPC's Journey Together road could not have been paved more beautifully without Beth's steady leadership and thoughtfulness. Her perennial collaborative spirit helped bring our strategic plan and vision to life in 2018 and she has kept it on a steady, thriving course ever since. As with others in her 2020 graduating elder class, the past three years have been filled with lots of change and transition. Beth loves her MPC community and thus jumped at the chance to serve on the PNC in addition to her elder duties. We are thankful for Beth's hard work and we joyfully embrace the fruits of her labor as much today as we will in the days to come.

Lisa Jern - Lisa's time as elder has not been without an abundance of excitement in MPC's Human Resources department. As a leader of Session's HR Team, she agreed in late 2018 to fill 2 years of an unexpired elder term. And while it might have felt like 3 years' worth of work, Lisa's depth of experience and servant spirit reigned supreme with every goal line she sprinted across. We cheered her on, as does a devoted session, and rejoiced in her dispatch. We are grateful to Lisa for every contribution, delivered with kindness, finesse and an assurance that all things on the HR front are in excellent order.

Stephanie Libby - Families who find out about MPC quickly learn that their children have a fertile, flourishing environment in which to raise their toddlers and teenagers. Thanks to Stephanie's leadership of session's Children and Families Ministries Team for the past 3 years, MPC's rising youngster census is a thing of glorious wonder. Thoughtful, in-depth programming, music, Sunday school and outright fun activities spark interest and engender learning about the grace of God and how to be good, contributing members of our local community and of communities beyond the horizon. Ever so creative, Stephanie and team have gone above and beyond to ensure every detail of a child's experience here is one to remember and cherish.

<u>Suzanne Macpherson</u> - Commitment. Well, that's a loaded word if you ask Suzanne. And true in every sense. Daunting to many but a piece of cake for her, or so it always appeared, she served as member and leader of session's Commitment Team for her 3-year term. Every year Suzanne and her team did outstanding work designing a campaign and accompanying "marketing materials." Realistic timetables were set while methodical plans were executed with precision. Collaboration and communication are key elements of a successful commitment campaign and Suzanne's mastery of both is to be celebrated time and time again.

Sophie Ryan - Sophie showed her willingness to not only jump into the work of Mission with our 2 mission projects during the MLK celebration in January 2020 but also to get her fellow youth to get involved. There were over 30 MPC members, mostly our youth, who served over 80 folks who were coming to get canned food and also were served a hot breakfast by our youth. Two days later 20 MPC members including Sophie held a work day at our mission partner MDM. Sophie has also been faithful in attending our quarterly Mission Committee meetings as well as the monthly Session meeting. We wish her well in her future endeavors and sure that with her commitment and desire she will succeed in whatever she undertakes.

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



Jeff has been a member of Morningside Presbyterian since 2007. Throughout 2019-2020, Jeff had the privilege of serving on Morningside's Pastor Nominating Committee. He is the director of Morningside's Handbell Choir and sings baritone with Morningside's Chancel Choir. Throughout the summer months, Jeff enjoys directing MPC's annual concert fundraiser, Morningside Sings! Contributions raised through Morningside Sings! benefit MPC's music programs and the many ministries which MPC serves. Over the years, Jeff has served as a Deacon and an Elder at Morningside and is honored to be called to this new class of Elders. Jeff enjoys a career in advertising, marketing and brand innovation and spent more than two decades working on Madison Avenue in New York City. Jeff's most joyous memory at Morningside was when he and Michael Siedschlag were married in the Sanctuary in January 2016.

Jeff Peters

Hillery McNeill

Hillery and her family (John, Jack and Annie) joined Morningside 25+ years ago. She is an ordained Elder, and has served on Session with every Pastor since she has joined the church. She has Chaired Commitment and Chaired/Co-chaired two Capital Campaigns. She most recently served as Chair of the PNC responsible for calling Katie. She has been a Sunday school teacher, served on the Children's Ministry Committee, and at one point was the Director of Children's Ministry. She was also a member of the Committee that started our Pre-school. Through the years she has been involved with Mission, including working with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans.



Joe Floyd

Joe is a fourth generation Presbyterian, who grew up in Augusta worshiping at the church that his grandfather had pastored. Joe received his undergraduate and M.D. degrees from Emory. He retired from full time practice of anesthesia in 2017. He was ordained as an elder in 1990. Joe joined Morningside in 2017 and has been involved as one of the Shepherds for Clifton Shelter, as well as Faith Development class, Theology on Tap, and the Commitment Committee. Joe is also on the examinations Commission for the Presbytery. Joe has been married to Ginger for 43 years, who is an Associate Professor of medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine. They have a daughter (Lauren) who has 2 sons, and a son (Justin) who practices law in New York City.

Philips Hawkins

Philip Hawkins is a native Atlantan growing up in nearby Ansley Park. He attended Grady High and received a BA in Business Administration from Georgia State University. He is a self-employed accredited Personal Property Appraiser focused on appraisals for Estates (Tax and Equitable Division) and Insurance Coverage. Since joining Morningside in 1989 he has served terms as Elder and Deacon, served as Church Treasurer, and has participated in several committees including Christian Ed, Property, Worship and the Sanctuary Renovation Committee. Philip is currently active in the Sanctuary & Sacraments sub-committee of the Worship Team, Theology on Tap and Adult Sunday School. Personal interests include history, architecture, and antiques. Philip has a 10 year old Sheltie, Trevor.



Anna Miles

Anna Miles first came to Morningside the summer of 2015 as a prospective worship intern while pursuing her Masters of Divinity at Emory's Candler School of Theology. She lived near Emory and would often walk to church down Johnson Road that first fall. During her time as an intern she served in multiple areas of the church and has preached from the Morningside pulpit a few times. She eventually became a member at Morningside and completed her M.Div. in spring 2017, when she also got married to Khoi Trieu. Anna is a fifth-generation Presbyterian and she has taught the Faith Development class multiple times. She has also preached to congregations throughout Flint River Presbytery, although this will be her first time to serve in a leadership position at Morningside. She is very excited for the opportunity to serve God in this capacity and she looks forward to getting to know the church and the congregation better.

Katye found a home in MPC 13 years ago when Rev. Joanna Adams was serving as pastor. She and her then boyfriend, Alex, attended church here until they left for DC in 2010. When they returned to Atlanta in 2013 they officially joined the church, and a week later, were married by Rev. Dr. Baron Mullis. In a former life, Katye was a neuroscientist at the National Institute of Mental Health. Now, she focuses her attention on her two children, Finley (5) and August (1), with a passion for early childhood education, project-based learning, and serving the community at large. She has served on the Morningside Presbyterian Preschool Committee for the past 4 years. Katye's deepest desire is to help people lead stronger, healthier lives, while lifting up those who are marginalized or vulnerable. Her passion for helping communities thrive has been put to work as the Junior League Chair of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) and the Partnership Again Domestic Violence (PADV), treasurer for Code/Out, a nonprofit devoted to reducing recidivism by training and placing graduates with a living wage job, as well as the Chair of both Young Adult and Family volunteers at MPC and shepherd of Nicholas House. She has enjoyed serving on the Children's Ministry Committee since its inception and looks forward to serving as chair for the next two years.

Katye Watts



Will Hunter



Will Hunter is a sophomore at Grady High School. At school, he is in Jr. ROTC and enjoys playing basketball. The leadership skills Will has learned through these programs have transferred to his involvement at church. He has attended MPC with his family since birth—he was even baptized here! Will goes to Youth Group every Sunday and tries to take each opportunity to be at church especially now, because he misses being in-person on Sundays. Youth Group encourages him to get closer to God. For instance, recently they learned about the Prophet Isaiah. Will says, "The scripture we read taught me a lot about what God can do for me." He is excited to have the opportunity to be a youth elder and be more involved in the church.

Tamara Nix has been a member of the MPC community since returning to her hometown 12 years ago. She loves this church community for many reasons - the people, the music, the spiritual growth offered each Sunday - but especially for being such a welcoming, open and warm community. Tamara has served roles in both the preschool and church community, including serving as Children's Choir parent liaison and serving on the Mission Committee. She has just completed a one-year term as Elder of Discipleship and is privileged to be asked to serve for another year, completing the term for Elder of Fellowship. She has had the privilege of singing in the Chancel Choir for 11 years and participating in Morningside Sings!. Tamara is a partner in a private pediatric practice, Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. She and husband Bryan Smith have been married for 17 years and have two children, Mia (15) and Austin (13). They love spending time together outdoors, listening to live music, and supporting Grady and Howard Ultimate Frisbee.

Tamara Nix





January Birthdays

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

MLK Workday Save-the-Date

Your MPC Mission Committee is planning a workday at Memorial Drive Ministries on Monday January 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00p.m. We will be outdoors clearing brush like we did last year. MDM's Executive Director David Roth would also love to have some gutters cleaned out as well as painting over some graffiti on an exterior wall, so the more volunteers, the better! Lunch will be provided and all ages are invited (children must be accompanied by an adult). Stay tuned for a sign-up sheet!





New Year's resolution? To eat superhealthy whole grain bread from Just Bakery Atlanta! Pick up your order at the Cobb's home (1150 Saint Charles PL NE) in the Morningside area on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Click to place your order for pick-up before noon on Monday. For those closer to Candler Park, Amy Jensen hosts a pick-up on the 1st Thursday of the month. Click to place your order before noon on Wednesday. For more information, check out Just Bakery, as well as their partner, Memorial Drive Ministries, which provides below-cost space to support this awesome organization.



<u>Update from Lori White, director of</u> Community Relations:

- We were able to install a new vent hood and fire suppression system in our kitchen. This enabled us to renew our contract with the VA, and continue serving meals in our kitchen.
- We hosted several volunteer groups that generously came and served around the shelter cleaning out our food pantry, doing landscaping, washing our van, bringing food and fellow shipping with our guests.
- We are thankful that we can report there has been no cases of COVID among our staff or guests! We continue to administer COVID tests bi-weekly and keep in place all CDC guidelines and recommendations.
- So many individuals have stepped up and provided dinner meals for our guests throughout this season. We are grateful!

We continually stand in amazement of how we operate in abundance because of God's provision through you!

Great cooks and Clifton Shepherds Ann Watson and Joe Floyd will prepare and deliver dinner to Clifton on January 23rd. We are thankful for this opportunity to continue providing meals throughout the year for our friends at Clifton. With the support of the wonderful Clifton staff, MPC, and the community, the men can continue to work towards greater independence in their lives.





Many thanks for over 1000 lbs. of food donated

during our Intown Collaborative Ministries Advent Food Drive!

ICM client list is still growing and they will continue to need food during the winter, such as:

Pop top canned or packets of tuna, fish, chicken, green veggies, potatoes, Spam, Vienna sausages

Mac & cheese, pasta/pasta sauce, instant oatmeal, and Uncrustables

Shelf-stable milk and water bottles

Pasta/pasta sauce

You can take your food items to ICM at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church.

The donation drop off table is open outside McIver Hall Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9-12.

There are also volunteer opportunities available at ICM. For more info, contact Nancy Collins.

Did you know that you can support ICM while you shop on Amazon through AmazonSmile? Use ICM's Organization Number, **FI588** to make sure the proceeds go to Intown Collaborative Ministries!

Support while you shop



2020 certainly has been a year each of us will remember for various reasons. I will remember this year mainly because of the ways in which we have adapted our worship and, most specifically our music. Whether or not to remain connected to one another through worship was never an issue. The answer always was that this church would continue to worship together. Music stood beside the spoken words as beacons of hope. The musical hero's and heroines, above all, are our Chancel Choir members and our staff singers. Early in the pandemic our music making was quite different - video and audio recording ourselves individually from our homes using techniques Bob Wells taught us. The introduction of a virtual choir produced varying levels of comfort. Was it stressful? Yes! But it worked, and we were glad to be part of worship. The relaxation of pandemic restrictions in June brought sighs of relief, but sadness, as well. Only a few musicians could participate together in the Sanctuary while others could not. Through zoom meetings, the choir learned that we could remain connected despite our distances. The advent of Katie Aumann's installation service gave us an opportunity to gather together the singers who felt comfortable doing so to record using the front steps of the church. And it worked! What a gift to see each other and sing together once again. Outdoor worship services allowed music to be created in parking lots, as did our outdoor Lessons and Carols in December. All Saints Sunday produced another way for the choir to engage. Four separate ensembles comprised of 9 singers each recorded four movements of the Fauré Requiem. As the year grew to a close, we found not only a sense of waiting and hoping for a pandemic-free day, but a renewed sense that together we will be the church, no matter what the methods might be. Thank you, church, for your kind words of encouragement through this year. - Jonathan Crutchfield

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
for the Con		111	T. A.	11:21/	1	2
				01	New	
	112				Year's	
	GLO	9 A			Day	
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11 Virtual Worship	9 Partner with the Preacher	11 <u>Virtual Yoga</u> with Pam	7 <u>Book Study</u> with Pastor Emma	8:30 Morning(side) Lift		
		1:30 Staff meeting 5:30 MPC Kids Small	7:30 Strategic Implementation			
		Group (PreK &K))				_
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom	9 <u>Partner with</u> the Preacher	11 <u>Virtual Yoga</u> with Pam	3 <u>Youth Group</u> Study Hall	8:30 Morning(side) Lift		7 MPC Couples & Friends Zoom
11 Virtual Worship	7 Session Meeting	1:30 Staff meeting	7 Book Study	<u>=</u>		<u></u>
12 Deacons Meeting 1 RHO Readers Zoom	Zoom	5:30 MPC Kids Small Group (1st & 2nd)	with Pastor Emma 7:30 Chancel Choir			
2 <u>Book Study</u> <u>with Pastor Emma</u>			<u>Zoom</u>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom	9 <u>Partner with</u> <u>the Preacher</u>	11 <u>Virtual Yoga</u> with Pam	7 Book Study with Pastor Emma	8:30 Morning(side) Lift		Clifton
10 Outdoor Worship		1:30 Staff meeting		<u>=</u>		Dinner
11 Virtual Worship 2 <u>Book Study</u>	MLK Day	5:30 MPC Kids Small Group (3rd-5th)				
with Pastor Emma	Workday	6:30 <u>Theology on</u> <u>Tap Zoom</u>				
	@ MDM			0		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom	9 <u>Partner with</u> the <u>Preacher</u>	11 <u>Virtual Yoga</u> <u>with Pam</u>	7 <u>Book Study</u> with Pastor Emma	8:30 Morning(side) <u>Lift</u>		
11 Virtual Worship 2 Book Study		1:30 Staff meeting	7:30 <u>Chancel Choir</u> <u>Zoom</u>			
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