



"And their eyes were opened and they recognized him." -Luke 24:31

This Sunday, the church building reopens for worship! It is the day I have been waiting for almost a year, and I couldn't be more excited! But I am aware that even as joyful as this Sunday will be, times of transition are full of emotion. Some are ready and full of joy; others carry with them the grief of the past year and need a word of hope. Some aren't yet ready to return, and others will do so with anxiety because this is the first "crowd" you've been in since last March. All of us have changed in this time. Our kids have grown. More than a dozen babies have been born. Regardless of what you are carrying, we gather as community because we need one another and we are called to support one another as we journey together.

So in this season of transition, I hope that you will find ways personally and communally to share your true self with the community and to be patient enough to listen to other's stories. In Luke's Easter account, Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus and listened to the disciples share their grief and hope, all while they thought he was a stranger. But then he shared a meal with them and "their eyes were opened and they recognized him." I wonder if this isn't our Easter work to do together in the coming weeks and months. To be a resurrection people is going to require us to listen to one another's stories and to get reacquainted so that even old friends who now feel like strangers can once again be the presence of Christ to us by listening and sharing together. I, for one, can't wait to share those conversations with you.

With joy on the journey, Katie

Building Reopening—All the info!

- ◆ **How many people will be able to attend each week?** 75. *This ensures social distancing for everyone present.*
- ◆ **When can I sign up?** *We will publish the signup link the Monday before the upcoming Sunday each week. The signup link will be in the mid-week eNews and on the homepage.*
- ◆ **Does it matter if I'm vaccinated?** *No. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated, but you may attend regardless of vaccination status. We ask that you stay home if you have a known exposure or feel sick. If you have been vaccinated, we still ask that you wear your mask at church.*
- ◆ **Will there be childcare?** *Yes, in a modified form. We'll offer childcare for kids 2-2nd grade on the playground following the time with children during worship. The nursery will be available to parents who need a quiet place to calm a child or for diaper changes but will not be staffed for drop-off yet.*
- ◆ **What about communion?** *We will celebrate communion on the 1st Sunday using pre-packaged communion elements that you will receive before the service.*
- ◆ **Will there still be fellowship time?** *This week, directly following worship, there will be a fellowship outside on the patio of the Welcome Center with pre-packaged snacks and drinks. We encourage you to converse with friends outdoors at a healthy distance. Going forward, we will offer "fellowship hour" on the 2nd Sunday of each month.*



(above) Our socially distanced choir prepares for a joyful Sunday of worship in the sanctuary.

As we prepare to offer in-person worship and indoor gatherings, we ask that everyone on our campus follow the following guidelines:

- **Masks are still required** indoors and outdoors for everyone over 2 years old regardless of vaccination status. As a matter of Christian hospitality and safety, we ask that everyone continue to wear masks as a way of showing love to your neighbor.
- Please **pre-register** for all indoor, in-person events including worship.
- If you are feeling sick or have a known exposure to Covid-19, please **stay home** and join us in online formats.
- Continue to practice **social distancing** from those outside your household, even outdoors.
- Use **hand sanitizer** at any of the available stations as you enter and exit the building.
- If a small group or ministry team you serve with would like to meet in-person, please contact the [church office](#) to schedule a room. We have CDC-guided room capacity for each room to allow for proper ventilation and social distancing.

MAY PREACHING SCHEDULE

At the Threshold

We stand in a time of transition, at the threshold of what was and what is yet to come. Throughout scripture, we find stories of faithful servants standing at points of decision and transition. What can we learn from them about how we can faithfully make this transition into a new, yet familiar way of being church post-pandemic?

5/2—5th Sunday of Easter

“What’s Next?”

Joshua 1:1-9

Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

5/9– 6th Sunday of Easter

Youth Sunday

“Love”

John 15

5/16—7th Sunday of Easter

“A Grace-Filled Reunion”

Genesis 33

Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

5/23—Pentecost Sunday

“A Fresh Start”

Acts 2:1-13 (14-22)

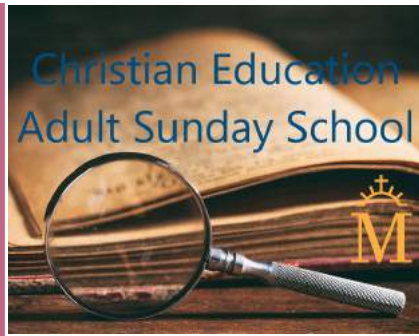
Katie Owen Aumann, preaching

5/30—Trinity Sunday

“If Not Now, When?”

Esther 9:4-17

Emma Neishloss, preaching



ADULT ED SUNDAY SCHOOL HYBRID

Bill Humphries leads Adult Sunday School this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.! Together we will discuss hymns that we find inspiring and hymns that trouble us. Please come prepared with a hymn that you find meaningful and/or difficult. You can join us, as always, via Zoom or for in-person class. Click [here](#) to sign-up.

MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTES

Submit your Mother's Day Floral Tribute by Monday, May 3. Suggested donation for each tribute is \$10, payable by cash, check, or by choosing "Mother's Day Floral Tribute" in the drop-down menu on [Realm](#). Click [here](#) to submit a tribute.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us on May 9 for our annual Youth Sunday service! MPC's marvelous Youth are planning and leading worship. Come hear their thoughts on John 15 and why love is, perhaps, our highest calling.

WORSHIP FLOWERS

As we return to worshipping in our Sanctuary, we would like to also reopen the flower sign-ups to provide flowers for worship. Click [here](#) to sign-up for a Sunday. The goal is to have flowers in the chancel on the 1st Sunday of every month, but if you'd like to schedule a special Sunday, email the [church office](#). Contact [Lynn Daniel](#) or [Georgia Marshall](#) for more information.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 14-18, 9 A.M.—NOON

VBS Registration is open! We will explore how we put on the armor of God at "Knights of the North Castle." Click [here](#) for more information and to register as a participant or volunteer. The cost for VBS is \$25 per child. Click [here](#) to submit payment.



MENTAL HEALTH MONTH: A LAND OF EXILE AND GOD'S CALL TO COMFORT

Our church acknowledges God's call to be among and comfort persons with mental illness and their loved ones. Persons living with mental illness are often exiled by the covenant community not because they themselves have disobeyed God, but because of a lack of information and understanding in the faith community.

If we reflect deeply enough we will realize that the people exiled include not only those with a mental illness, and their families and caretakers, but also the covenant community itself; for exiling others alienates the majority and fractures the family of God. The church by its own actions becomes exiled from its holier possibility, the covenant community that it is called to be.

Christ came to bring reconciliation and wholeness to the broken communities of this world. May is Mental Health Month and realizing that we have exiled others and thereby alienated ourselves from the promised glory of God, the church acknowledges this mandate from the Lord: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." (Isa. 40:1, NRSV)

[Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness](#), edited here by Roland Behm.

May is National Mental Health Months and the National [Action Alliance](#) for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance) Faith Communities Task Force is hosting a National Weekend of Prayer for Faith, Hope, & Life from May 14 to 16. During that time, faith communities across the nation are invited to pray for those affected by suicide.

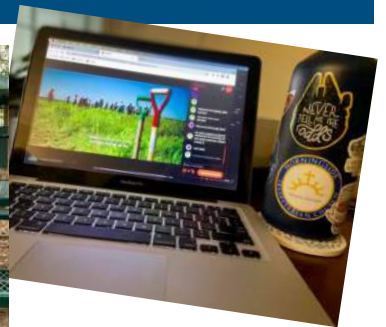
To learn more and get involved, watch the National Weekend of Prayer [video](#), pledge your commitment to participating, and help promote the observance in your community.



April Gatherings



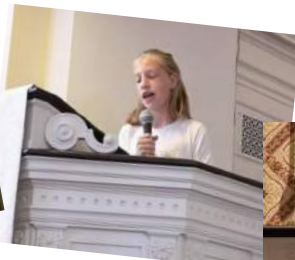
EASTER SUNDAY



EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS



CHILDREN'S SABBATH



MPC KIDS!



DUELING SOPRANOS: HIGHER AND LOUDER!

What could be more fun than enjoying an evening of music by some of Morningside's musical best — Joanna Burrell and Megan Reader with Jonathan Crutchfield at the piano. Combining their talents to help raise funds for MPC choir members to represent this church in Ireland June, 2022, the divas will tickle your funny bone with vocal fireworks. "Anything you can sing, I can sing higher." Add this to your calendar today: *June 5 at 7pm in MPC's Sanctuary*. 75 folks can attend in person; the event also will be live streamed. Donations can be made at the door and online, or by sending a check to the church marked "Choir Trip 2022 donation".



IRELAND TRIP 2022

A trip to Dublin and Belfast is being formed and all are invited to be part of it, singers and non-singers alike. June 11-18, 2022 are the target dates. Registration is now open! Interested? Contact [Jonathan](#) for more information.



CALL FOR TECH VOLUNTEERS!

We are hoping to expand our tech team to assist in our on-going live-streaming services. If Talk to Bob Wells or Lloyd Prince to learn more about what's involved or [email](#) the church office to volunteer.



Serve Together.

Researched
and compiled
by Jill Klotz

ICM

INTOWN COLLABORATIVE
MINISTRIES

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

MPC's Lenten ICM Food Drive total came to 584 lbs.! Many thanks to all who shared their bread with so many who had none.



DRIVERS NEEDED

ICM is in need of drivers with vans or pickup trucks to pick up ICM food orders from the Fountain of Hope Food Bank every Thursday at 10:30am. Please sign up [here](#) if you have availability to help!

Drivers are also needed every Saturday to deliver groceries from the ICM Food Pantry to their clients' homes. Please sign up to deliver groceries [here](#)!

THE MASKED MAN

Who is this masked man (above)? It's MPC's own Bill Humphries, Chair of ICM's Board of Directors. Bill frequently volunteers at ICM at the food pantry, as well as, a delivery driver! Thank you, Bill!

How you can help - donate food!

ICM needs right now are:

Canned chicken	UHT Shelf Stable Milk
Tuna packets	Cooking oil
<u>Uncrustables</u>	Pop-top beans
Canned soups	Canned fish
Peanut butter	Instant oatmeal/grits
Cereal	Grocery bags

ICM'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

If you would like to volunteer at the Food Pantry, volunteer slots are limited because of COVID guidelines. Contact ICM Food Pantry Coordinator [Laura Degroot](#).

FOOD DONATIONS & INFO

Contact-free donations can be dropped off at ICM at their donation table outside McIver Hall on Fridays from 9-12.

For more info about donating or volunteering, contact [Nancy Collins](#).



CSM

CLIFTON SANCTUARY MINISTRIES

CLIFTON DINNER COOKOUT SAVE-THE-DATE

MPC's CS Shepherds hope that the warmer weather and vaccinations for all will allow for us to have revisit the annual Clifton Cookout this year! Save-the-date of May 22 on your calendar and be on the lookout for more details.

OUR HOMELESS VETERANS

Did you know that homeless veterans are younger on average than the total veteran population? Approximately 9% are between the ages of 18 and 30, and 41% are between the ages of 31 and 50. Conversely, only 5% of all veterans are between the ages of 18 and 30, and less than 23% are between 31 and 50. Two-thirds served our country for at least three years, and one-third were stationed in a war zone. -National Council for Homeless Veterans

RECOVERY CONSULTANTS OF ATLANTA, INC.

Clifton recently had the opportunity to host Recovery Consultants of Atlanta, Inc. Their program called STRIVE, Supportive Training Reintegration Initiative for Veterans Empowerment, provides supportive services that assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force, link veterans to training, and address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. Meeting the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at Clifton each month, Clifton grateful to have this resource for the men.



JB

JUST BAKERY

MORNINGSIDERS JB PICK-UP HOSTS

- Amy and Van Jensen host as a pick-up point on the 1st Thursdays of the month. Get in your order the Wednesday before.
- Sarah and Richard Brownlee host as a pick-up point on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Get in your order the Monday before.
- Julie Greene and Mardee Rightmyer host as a pick-up point on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Get in your order the Wednesday before.

MOTHER'S DAY

Order limited edition Mother's Day gifts from Just Bakery and other local partners: 68th & Monroe and Fiber Parts to celebrate mom. Just Bakery is making Bhima's royal iced cookies, fruit tarts, dark chocolate ganache tarts with and without raspberry, petite chocolate & raspberry cakes, take 'n' bake mini cinnamon rolls, & lavender shortbread. Order your gift for mom [here](#).

Order deadlines: Order by 11 pm on Sunday 4/2 for 4/7 deliveries and pick-ups. Order by 11 pm on Tuesday, 5/4 for 5/8 pick-ups.



MOWA

MEALS ON WHEELS ATLANTA

THANK YOU, SARAH & RICHARD!

Many thanks to Richard and Sarah Brownlee for steadfastly delivering Meals-on-Wheels meals every week throughout the pandemic. We are also very thankful to all of our returning Meals-on-Wheels delivery volunteers as we strive to serve our vulnerable neighbors.

Richard and Sarah also delivered lovely plant gift bags made by a First Presbyterian Church Atlanta member to our MOWA friends.



MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Turn up the glamour, cut out the work, and give Mom a Mother's Day Brunch to remember. Former Four Seasons Atlanta Executive Chef, Robert Gerstenecker, has created a menu fit for a queen! Place your order [here](#). ALL proceeds to benefit Meals-on-Wheels Atlanta. Deadline to order is Tuesday, May 4. Pick-up May 8.



LIKE TO HIKE?

This summer your MPC C.A.R.E. team will be sharing a hike of the month. It is our hope that Morningsiders will get out and explore Creation! To kick off our season of hitting the trails, we will be offering group hikes on Saturday, May 8 at 10am at three locations. Each hike has been hand-picked by a member of the C.A.R.E. team with options for all ages and all skill levels. Click [here](#) for all the info!

If you are unable to join us that Saturday, we hope you'll find other times to hike! Take photos, keep track of your miles, and tag @morningsidepres in your posts!

"KISS THE GROUND"

If you were unable to attend last month's *Kiss the Ground* Netflix Watch Party, this inspiring documentary is still available on Netflix. Many thanks to Katye Watts for her IT help!

JWDES

J. W. DOBBS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



DOBBS READING BUDDIES

Dobbs Reading Buddies are wrapping up this year of tutoring via Zoom. Tutoring was rewarding yet challenging due to slow and inconsistent internet service at students' homes.

TUTORING AND VOLUNTEERING

There are high hopes to be back in the school for in-person tutoring next year, starting Sept 2021. If so, there will be an urgent need for more MPC volunteer tutors to help our kids recover from last year's school interruption.

Stay tuned for information about Teacher Appreciation events and School Supply collections! Contact [Bill Means](#) to get involved.

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

HAVE A NEED?

Throughout this whole pandemic, we've learned that the best way to weather anything is to do it together! If you have a need or prayer request, contact your Shepherding Deacon. Don't know who your Shepherding Deacon is? Email office@morningsidepc.org or Sandy Ryan (amsr@outlook.com) to find out! Our deacons are on a mission to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our faith community. Click [here](#) for the prayer list.



May Birthdays

- 1 Linda Marie Johnson
- 2 Kate Jern
- 2 Libby Jern
- 2 Anna McKelvey
- 2 Rachel Spears
- 3 Beth Farnsworth
- 4 Jen James
- 4 Maren Millard
- 7 Katie Aumann
- 7 Brooke Williams
- 8 Liz Land
- 8 Emmerson Millard
- 9 Daniel Easton
- 10 Brent Drone
- 11 Kayla Cobb
- 11 Bob Wells
- 12 Caroline Lowery
- 12 Haden Holloway
- 14 Sarah Gehl
- 14 Mardee Rightmyer
- 14 Sarah Beth Gehl
- 15 Ian Irwin
- 15 Harris James
- 16 Amanda Kemery
- 16 Bryan Smith
- 17 Gracie Boswell
- 17 Silas Jensen
- 19 Ame Frease
- 19 Ashby Wolf
- 19 RoseMary Wells
- 20 Anthony Cochran
- 21 Lauren Fairleigh
- 21 Ann Marie Knezevich
- 21 Brianna LeGate-Selness
- 22 Kait Lowry
- 22 George Vandermeer
- 23 Oliver Loring
- 23 Vicky Jones
- 24 Daniel Straley
- 24 Ben Straley
- 25 Alex Holland
- 25 David Lowery
- 26 Madeline Selness
- 27 Stephanie Libby
- 29 Juliette Gaare
- 31 Kate Parrish



MPC Affinity

Groups

MPC COUPLES & FRIENDS

SATURDAY, MAY 8 @ 7:00 VIA ZOOM

This month's virtual gathering will be hosted by Kathy and Alan Bremer. Click [here](#) for info.



MPC Couples & Friends



RHO READERS

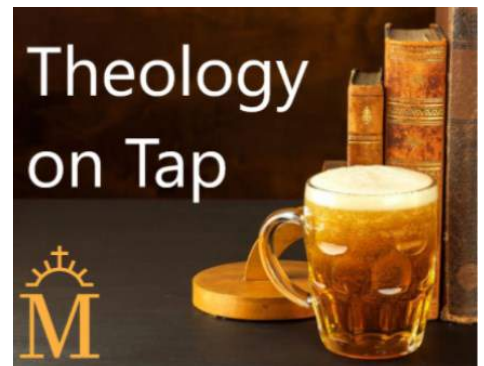
SUNDAY, MAY 16 @ 1:00 VIA ZOOM

Carol Senf leads discussion on May's book *Vesper Lights* by Helen Macdonald. This book is about the notions of captivity and freedom, immigration and flight, the unexpected guidance and comfort we find when watching wildlife and how we make sense of the world around us.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

TUESDAY, MAY 18 @ 6:30 VIA ZOOM

Join in conversation with Mr. Clyde Higgs of the Atlanta BeltLine. Click [here](#) for info.



WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE

MONDAY, MAY 17 @ 6

This group will gather for a casual dinner together at an outdoor restaurant for all who feel comfortable attending face-to-face. More details to come!



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School 11 Worship 12 Outdoor Fellowship	3 9 Partner with the Preacher 12 Arts & Crafts Guild	4 11 Yoga with Pam 1:30 Staff meeting 5 MPC Kids Small Group (PreK & K) 7 Counters Training	5 7 Book Study with Pastor Emma 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 11 Yoga with Pam 7 Deacons Meeting 7:30 Strategy Team	7  MPC C.A.R.E. Cultivating Awareness Renewing Energy	8 MPC C.A.R.E. Hike Day (various times/locations) 7 MPC Couples & Friends Zoom
9 9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School 11 Worship 2 Book Study with Pastor Emma	10 9 Partner with the Preacher 7:30 Worship & Arts	11 11 Yoga with Pam 1:30 Staff meeting 5 MPC Kids Small Group (1st & 2nd)	12 7 Book Study with Pastor Emma 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 11 Yoga with Pam 7:30 Strategy Team	14	15
16 9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom 11 Worship 1 RHO Readers Zoom 2 Book Study with Pastor Emma 6:45 Youth Group	17 9 Partner with the Preacher 12 Arts & Crafts Guild 7 Session 6 Women's Roundtable	18 11 Yoga with Pam 1:30 Staff meeting 5 MPC Kids Small Group (3rd-5th) 6:30 Theology on Tap	19 7 Book Study with Pastor Emma 7:30 Chancel Choir	20 11 Yoga with Pam	21 11 MPP Pre-K Graduation	22 Clifton Cook-out!
23 9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom 11 Worship 2 Book Study with Pastor Emma	24 9 Partner with the Preacher	25 11 Yoga with Pam 1:30 Staff meeting	26 3 Youth Group Study Hall 7 Book Study with Pastor Emma 7:30 Chancel Choir	27 11 Yoga with Pam	28	29 
30 9:30 MPC Kids! & Adult Sunday School Zoom 11 Worship 2 Book Study with Pastor Emma	31 9 Partner with the Preacher Memorial Day	<h1>May 2021</h1>				

