

Notes about Worship at MPC

Welcome! We are so glad you are here. For those who are visiting MPC, please stop by and introduce yourself to our pastor, Courtney Pittman, or to one of the ushers. We want to celebrate your presence! We know there are a lot of demands on your time, so we are thrilled that you have chosen to spend your Sunday morning at MPC!

Children's Church—Children age 3 and up are invited to join our leaders for fun and faith in Children's Church located in the fellowship building following Let the Children Come. Pick up is immediately following the service in the fellowship hall.

Stewardship—Should you feel called to give today, ushers will be passing around the offering plates during the Invitation to Generosity. Giving is also available online at <https://madisonpresbyterian.church/generosity>.

Language—The words we use are important! So often we go into “autopilot” during worship and we miss the meaning of the words we say each Sunday. In an effort to be more conscious of the language we use during worship, some words in our liturgy will change monthly; but please know that you may pray in whatever way you feel comfortable. We are family here!

Coming Up in the Life of the Church

Save the Date! The Women's Retreat will be held March 8-10. The facilitator will be Joy Maple and the theme will be “Finding Joy in Our Story.” **If you are interested** in helping plan the upcoming Women's Retreat please contact Lori Hume at loridhume@aol.com.

We Are Hiring! Madison Presbyterian Church is Seeking a Part-Time Director of Children's Ministries. This individual will plan and lead children's Sunday School, worship, Wednesday night programming, and special events for children ages 3-11. Applicants should have experience leading children in a Christian environment and be able to pass a criminal background screening. Formal Christian Education training preferred. 10 – 12 hours per week. Annual Salary of \$15,000. Full job description available at <https://madisonpresbyterian.church/kids-online>. Applicants may send their resume to Jenny Arthur at jenny.arthur@trustmineral.com.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: The Bible—it's one of the most influential books in human history. It explores the big questions of why we exist. It's inspired many people to do amazing things...and it has confused many others. And you've probably got at least one Bible sitting around somewhere. Many of us have read the Bible or heard parts of the Bible read all of our lives...but what is it exactly and where did it come from? Join the Wednesday morning Bible Study as we learn about the Bible—the different literary styles, the plot, the characters, and how it all fits together to tell one big unified story. This is for everyone who wants to know more about how to read the Bible and get the most out of it. Beginners and more experienced readers will find a deeper level of appreciation and understanding of this most powerful and life-changing book. Each Wednesday, January 24, **10:00 am—11:30 am in the church library**. Come and bring a friend.

MPC Preschool Registration will be held Friday, February 9, 8:30 am—11:30 am for church members (not currently enrolled) and open enrollment. Classes are offered for ages one thru Pre-K. For more information, contact our Director, Ashley Brown at 706-342-4350 or preschoolmpc@gmail.com.

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for January: The Caring Place is a food pantry established in Madison to help families who struggle to have enough food for their families. A food box is provided to each family which includes non-perishable food items such as cereal, bread, cans of soups, vegetables, fruits, tuna, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and packages of hot dogs. The food items come from sources such as the Atalanta Food Bank, donations from local stores, and donations from individuals like yourself. Located next to the Highway Patrol office on Hwy. 83, the boxes are given out on Friday mornings. Staffed totally by volunteers, this ministry serves those with food insecurity which is a very real issue in Morgan County. Items to fill your bag include healthy cereal, soups, can vegetables, can fruits, cans of tuna, packages of macaroni and cheese, and peanut butter. Thank you for sharing your love!

The Week Ahead

- **Monday, January 29** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry (Church Library)
- **Tuesday, January 30** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, January 31** 7:15 am Youth Breakfast Club (Chick-fil-a); 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (church library); 5:15 pm JAM Children's Ministry; 6:00 pm Bible Study; 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 28, 2024

11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



382 South Main Street
Madison GA 30650
(706) 342-2813 phone
(706) 342-4350 fax
www.madisonpresbyterian.church

Gathering as God’s Beloved

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Loving God, whose touch can heal the broken places of life,
touch us today.

God of peace, whose spirit of peace can quiet our spirits of confusion and despair,
reassure us today.

Forgiving God, whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace,
place your mercy in our souls today.

You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned, who bring justice in the midst of oppression and strength in the midst of weakness,

pour out your spirit of power upon us today.

Open our hearts to new faithfulness, redirect our waywardness,
hold us gently in your goodness.

We confess our need to you, and we turn to you with hearts filled with hope,
remembering the promises you have made to us.

May your name be glorified in us and through us.

We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus, Amen.

*Hymn 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*Confessing Together

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

(We continue in silence....) **Amen.**

*Assurance of God’s Love

Fear not, for our creator, the loving maker of all reality, forgives us and redeems us from violence and oppression. God sows the good news in tiny seeds, inviting us to tend the soil of community, and marvel as they grow. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **We are free to try again. Alleluia. Amen.**

*Response to God’s Grace (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

And also with you!

Proclaiming the Word

Let the Children Come!

Prayer for God’s Wisdom

First Reading: Psalm 111

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

arr. John Ferguson

Second Reading: Mark 1:21-28

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

By Whose Authority?

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*Affirming our Faith

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Redeemer who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response (Hymn 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Gratitude

Being the Church in the World

*Hymn 327

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Annual Congregational Meeting

*Charge and Blessing

Postlude

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor

Karisa Seymour—Music Director

Meghan Shafer—Accompanist

Christie Jones—Liturgist

Kathleen McWhirter—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist