

## 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!

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### Coming Up in the Life of the Church

**Adult Choir Rehearsals** have resumed each Wednesday from 7:00—8:15 pm. All are welcome!!

**Youth Breakfast Club** will resume on Wednesday, January 10, 7:15 am at Chick-fil-a.

**Save the Date!** The Women's Retreat will be held March 8-10 with facilitator Kim Ness. Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.

**New Member Sunday** will be January 21st. The Session will welcome our new members immediately following worship.

**There will be an Annual Congregational Meeting** immediately following worship on Sunday, January 28. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the 2023 Annual Report, the 2024 Ministry Plan and elect a Trustee.

**The 2024 Flower Calendar** is now available on the bulletin board by the stairway in the education building. Sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

If you are interested in helping plan the upcoming Women's Retreat please contact Lori Hume at [loridhume@aol.com](mailto:loridhume@aol.com).

**Please Note:** The Cultural Center parking lot will not be available from January 19-27. It will be fully occupied with oversized rigs while filming is happening nearby. Please be sure to find alternative parking on these days.

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### 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 Atlanta 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 8** 12:30 pm Prayer Ministry (Church Library)
- **Tuesday, January 9** 7:30 am Men's Breakfast/Bible Study
- **Wednesday, January 10** 7:15 am Youth Breakfast Club (Chick-fil-a); 5:15 pm JAM Children's Ministry; 6:00 pm Bible Study; 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
- **Thursday, January 11** 11:30 am meet at Ricardo's



### Serving in Worship

Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor  
Karisa Seymour—Music Director  
Meghan Shafer—Accompanist  
Christine Smith—Liturgist and Baptismal Elder  
Auja Stearns—Acolyte

**Sunday, January 7, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**



“Beloved” by Lauren Wright Pittman, a sanctified art | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

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## Gathering as God’s Beloved

### Gathering Music

### Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

### Welcome

#### \*Call to Worship

*A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

**Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to God. You are God’s beloved.

**Friend, you belong to God. You are God’s beloved.**

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

**Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.**

#### \*Hymn 401

*Here in This Place*

#### \*Confessing Together

*A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

**Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on the phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. (*We continue in silence....*) Amen.**

#### \*Assurance of God’s Love

*A Sanctified Art—Rev. Sarah Speed*

Family of faith, God’s grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

**Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! 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!

#### Baptism of Madelyn Ruth Cochran

#### \*Congregation’s Profession of Faith—The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### Baptismal Response (Hymn 188)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tell me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

### Prayer for God’s Wisdom

#### First Reading: Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:9-11

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

### Anthem

#### Second Reading: Luke 3:21-22

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

### Sermon

We Trust our Belovedness

## Responding to the Word

### \*Renewal of Baptism (see insert)

### Prayer after Renewal

### Invitation to Generosity

### Offertory

#### \*Response (Hymn 606)

Praise God, from 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

## The Eucharist

### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### Lord’s Prayer

**Our Redeemer who art 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.**

### Words of Institution

### Prayer After Communion

## Being the Church in the World

#### \*Hymn 475

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

#### \*Charge and Blessing

### Postlude

### Remembering our Baptism

As you leave, please stop and touch the baptismal waters as a reminder that you are a beloved child of God, always. There are fountains at both the front of the sanctuary as well as in the Narthex.

\*Please stand in body or in spirit