

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 4 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

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, **10:00 am—11:30 am in the church library**. Come and bring a friend.

Women's Coffee Morning Thursday, February 29, 8:30 am—10:00 am: We could all use a little more joy in our lives! Join us for coffee, pastries, fellowship and discussion in the Fellowship Hall to discuss "Finding Joy in Sticky Situations." This is a casual get together, so come as you are and bring a friend if you'd like! Contact Lori Hume (404-432-0684 or LoriDHume@aol.com) if you've got suggestions for future women's events!

Women's Retreat March 8-10: *Finding Joy in Our Stories* This year's women's retreat asks the question, "What's Your Story?" Everyone has one. No matter what your story involves, we want you to feel connected to one another, to embrace one another's stories, to find joy in our story and explore the impact our story has on others. May this brief break from our daily schedule and responsibilities refresh your spirit and provide renewed energy to grow your faith in real and amazing ways. Cost \$250. Contact Lori Hume (404-432-0684 or LoriDHume@aol.com for questions or to confirm attendance.

Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, March 5, 1:00—6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. To make an appointment please visit redcrossblood.org. Donors will receive a \$10 gift card to Pet Merchant of choice.

Join Your Church Family for Wednesday Night Dinners beginning March 6, 5:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person (children 10 and under are free). Reservations and money are due to the church office no later than March 1 at 3:00 pm. No reservations will be taken without payment or after the deadline. Use the QR code to make reservations and drop your money off in the church office or in the offering plate by March 1. March 6 Menu: Baked Ziti, corn salad, seasoned broccoli, garlic bread.



Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

Ministry Bags for February: We will be collecting items for Circle of Love. This is a ministry for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. Five counties are served by this ministry which is located in a private location to protect these families. Many women and their children arrive searching for safety from an abusive spouse or partner with only the clothes on their backs. At this shelter they find security and safety as well as love and counseling. They are helped to find a new location to live and a new job to get them on the road to a new life. They are in need of toiletry items such as soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo for all ages and races. They are also in need of devotional books.

Each ministry of MPC now has their own email address. Please feel free to use these emails with any correspondence/questions you might have.

personnelmadisonpres@gmail.com
congregationallifemadisonpres@gmail.com
faithformationmadisonpres@gmail.com
outreachmadisonpres@gmail.com

communicationsmadisonpres@gmail.com
financemadisonpres@gmail.com
buildingmadisonpres@gmail.com
worshipmadisonpres@gmail.com

Sunday, February 25, 2024
11:00 AM
The Second Sunday in Lent



"Lift Off" by Nicolette Peñaranda

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

Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters.

the courageous and the fearful,

the hungry and the hopeful,

the impatient and the reserved.

God welcomes the young and the old,

the poets and the prophets,

the faithful and the tired,

the curious and the convicted.

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

there is room for all to gather here.

This is God's house.

Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.

*Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

*Confessing Together

Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray... (We continue in silence....) Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

Adapted from Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

Family of faith, you could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Church, we are forgiven. **We are free to try again. Alleluia, Amen.**

*Response to God's Grace (Hymn 582, verse 1)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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 22:23-31

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

Anthem

As the Deer

John F. Wilson

Second Reading: Matthew 14:22-23

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

Sermon

Wandering Heart: Rescue me from danger

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

*Affirming our Faith

Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage. I believe in a God who invites me to be brave. I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey. I believe in a God who knows my name. I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. Amen.

Prayer of the People and Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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.

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 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*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

Christine Smith—Liturgist

Mason Hawk—Acolyte

Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist