

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. There is a nursery available for children under 4.

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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Join us on Tuesday mornings from 11:00 am—12:00 pm as we study Sarah Bessey's new book, *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith*. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16 and will continue each Tuesday until our last meeting on May 14 (One exception—we will not meet on May 7, but will meet on Thursday, May 9 instead). There is a guided journal that accompanies the book but it is totally OPTIONAL! (Just make sure you are ordering the book and not the journal!) Email Courtney if you have any questions: courtneypittmanmpc@gmail.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, **10:00 am—11:30 am in the church library**. Come and bring a friend.

Ladies Coffee Circle will meet Tuesday, April 2 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. For more information contact Susan McCullar at srmac49@gmail.com.

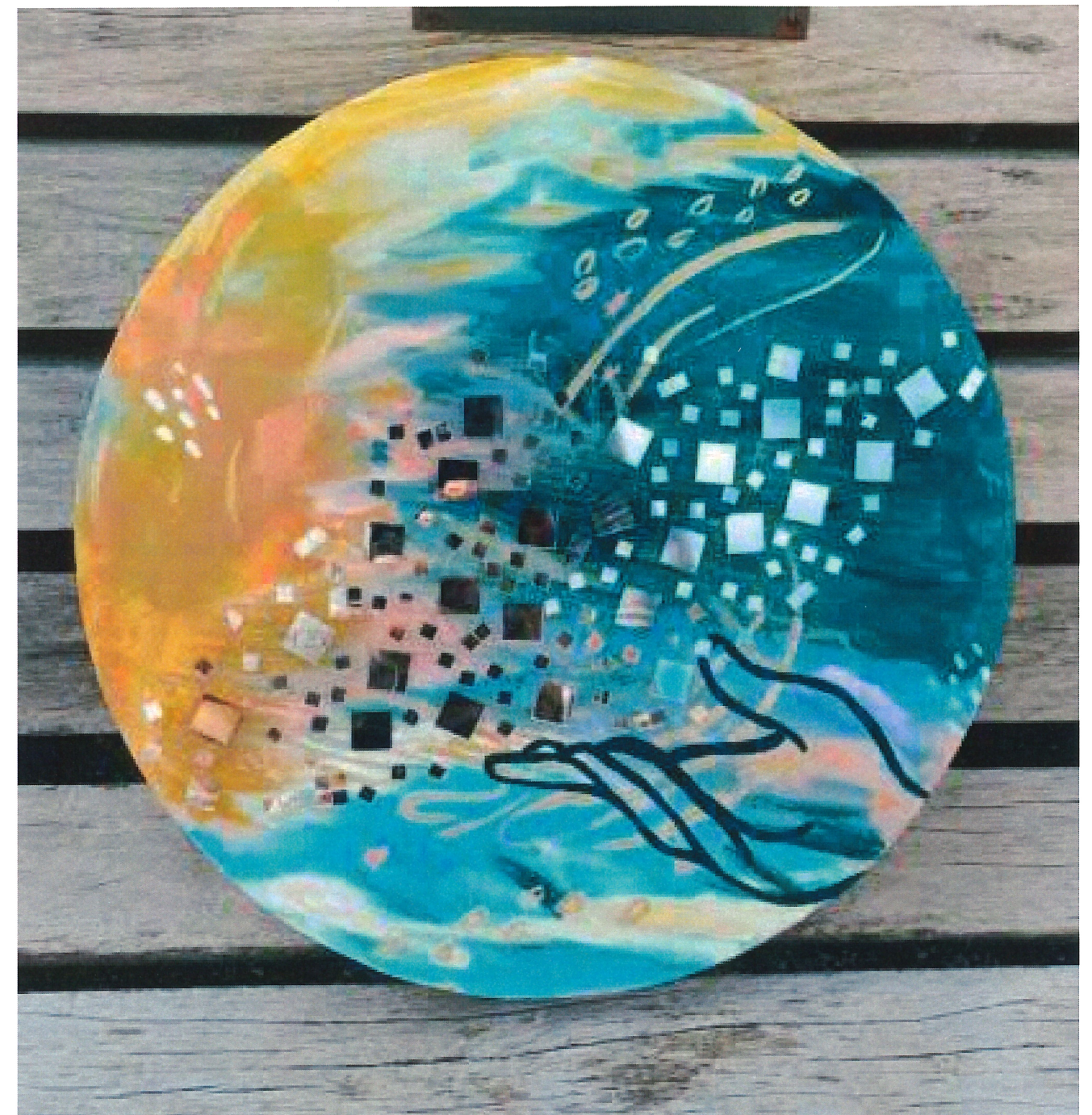
Young at Heart will meet Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 for lunch at Captain D's then join us for canasta and dominoes in the fellowship hall. For more information contact June Jones at cjwjones0@gmail.com.

MPC Preschool Sunday: Join us for worship on Sunday, April 21 as we celebrate Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool. We will have special music, pocket-sized guest choir members, liturgists, and ushers. :) There will also be a picnic following worship at Hill Park (more details to follow). We hope to see you there!

Opportunities for Outreach and Mission

April Ministry Bags will support the Morgan County Humane Society. The focus for The Humane Society is to rescue dogs and cats who have been neglected, abused, or lost. After getting the animals healthy and neutered, the goal is to find each dog and cat, no matter the kind, size, age or color, a wonderful new home where they will be loved and cared for in a healthy and safe environment. The following items are needed: kitten food (dry or wet), puppy food (dry or wet), dog toys (large/small, soft/hard), cat toys (all kinds) and dog treats.

Sunday, March 31, 2024
7:00 AM
Easter Sunrise Service



"Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus" by Courtney Anne Henry

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Madison Presbyterian Church
Easter Sunrise Service
March 31, 2024

***Welcome**

One: He is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

***Call to Worship**

One: Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

All: **But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real.
Today we know that Christ is here.**

One: We have reason to hope.

All: **We have reason to sing!**

One: Alleluia!

All: **Alleluia! Christ is risen today!**

***Opening Prayer**

***Song of Praise**

What a Beautiful Name

Hillsong

***Call to Confession**

***Confession Together**

The stone is rolled away! We assume it is a mistake. The angels say, “He is not here!” We assume their news is fake. The women tell the story, but we do not want to hear it. Peter runs to the tomb, but we do not understand. Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death. Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief. Amen.

***Assurance of God’s Love**

Church, we are forgiven. We are free to try again. Alleluia. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Prayer for God’s Wisdom

First Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Homily

“And I hope”

Rev. Courtney Pittman

Transformation of the Cross

***Song of Praise**

Great Are You Lord

All Sons and Daughters

Litany

One: O Christ, after your resurrection you appeared to your disciples; you breathed on them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. You gave joy and exultation to the whole creation. Through your victory, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

One: O Christ, after your resurrection you sent out your disciples; to teach all nations and to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; your promised to be with them and us until the end of the world. Through your victory, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

One: O Christ, through your resurrection you lifted us up, and filled us with rejoicing. Through your salvation you enrich us with your gifts. Renew our lives and fill our hearts with joy. Through your victory, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

One: O Christ, you are glorified by angels in heaven, and worshipped on earth. On the glorious feast of your resurrection, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

One: Save us, O Christ our Lord, in your goodness, extend your mercy to your people who await the resurrection, and have mercy on us. By your mercy, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

One: O merciful God, you raised your beloved Son, and in your love you established him as head of your church, and ruler of the universe. By your goodness, we pray to you:

All: **Hear us, Lord of glory.**

***Song of Response**

Amazing Grace

***Charge and Blessing**

*Please stand in body or in spirit

Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor
Tommy Arthur and Barrett Adams—Musicians