

## 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!

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## 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](mailto:courtneypittmanmpc@gmail.com)

**MPC Preschool** is taking orders for flats of beautiful begonias and mixed master arrangement hanging baskets which would make a great Mother's Day gift. The cost is \$25.00 per flat or basket. Sign up on the church bulletin board or email Ashley Brown [preschoolmpc@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolmpc@gmail.com) to place your order. Checks can be made out to MPCP and placed in the envelope on the bulletin or left in the preschool office. The flowers will be ready for pick-up on Friday, May 10, 8:00 am—12:00 pm. just in time for Mother's Day. Deadline for orders is April 22. Thank you in advance for supporting our preschool with this fundraiser.

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## 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.

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## In Appreciation

**Thank you to our wonderful Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool Staff.** We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to our littles!! Director—Ashley Brown; One Year Old Class—Danielle Doss and Maricel Crawshaw; Two Year Old Class (5 days) - Jordan Newman and Lauren Watkins; Combined Class (2's and 3's) - Meghan Guest and Mandy Tolbert; Combined Class (2's and 3's) - Shaner Johnson and Ashley Hyatt; Threes Class (5 days) - Regilyn Fish and Lindsey Waters; PreK Class—Sarah Ball and Carrie Miller; Resource Teacher—Sandy Cawley.

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## Serving in Worship

Rev. Courtney Pittman—Senior Pastor  
Karisa Seymour—Music Director  
MPCP Preschool and MPC Children—Liturgists and Worship Leaders  
Preschool/Church Children—Acolytes  
Meghan Shafer—Accompanist  
Ashley Brown—Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool Director  
Tommy Arthur—Communications Technologist

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Preschool Sunday**



Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool  
PreK Class of 2024

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

## Gathering as God's Beloved

### Gathering Music

#### Chiming of the Hour

#### Prelude and Processional

*This Little Light of Mine*

Children's Choir

#### Welcome

Madison Presbyterian Church Preschool Update

Director, Ashley Brown

#### \*Call to Worship

**I AM the good shepherd.**

The one who tends us, guides us into pastures, who recognizes the sound of our names.

**I AM the good shepherd.**

The one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us, who gives up everything for us all.

**I AM the good shepherd.**

The one whose rod and staff comfort us, whose strength and love holds us, whose cup of love runneth over.

**I AM the good shepherd.**

And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Let us gather here, God's People in God's love for God's world. Amen.

#### \*Hymn 188

*Jesus Loves Me*

#### \*Confessing Together

*Presbyterian Church of Canada*

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships—with you and with others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. God, have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honor and glory forever.....*(We continue in silence....)* Amen.

#### \*Assurance of God's Love

My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around; gathering us in to the people of God. Let us rejoice in God's mercy! **Church, we are forgiven. We are free to try again! Alleluia, Amen.**

#### \*Response to God's Grace (Hymn 648)

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done. Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

#### \*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!

Affirmation of Faith

*PCUSA Children's Catechism*

**Who are you?**

I am a child of God.

**What does it mean to be a child of God?**

That I belong to God, who loves me.

**What makes you a child of God?**

Grace—God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

**Don't you have to be good for God to love you?**

No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

**How do you thank God for this gift of love?**

I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

### Affirmation of Faith (continued)

#### How do you love God?

By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

#### What did God create?

God created all that is, seen and unseen.

#### What is special about human beings?

God made us in the image of God.

#### What does it mean that we are made in God's image?

It means we are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom, and love.

### Prayer for God's Wisdom

#### First Reading: Luke 15:1-7

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Anthem

*Amazing Grace for the Lost Lamb*

Ruth Schram

#### Second Reading: John 10:11-18

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

## Responding to the Word

#### \*Hymn 754

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

#### Prayers of the People and the 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.**

### Invitation to Generosity

### Offertory

#### \*Response (Hymn 609)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully know; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

#### \*Prayer of Gratitude

## Being the Church in the World

#### \*Hymn 487

*These Treasured Children*

#### \*Charge and Blessing

### Postlude

\*Please stand in body or in spirit