

2017



Psalm 23

I'd heard the story – supposedly true - about a house party in one of those big English country houses that was given to celebrate the Allies' victory in World War II. Often after dinner at these parties people would give recitations, sing, and use whatever talent they had to entertain the company. One year a famous actor was among the guests, an actor known around the world for his oratorical skills. When it came his turn to perform, he recited the twenty-third psalm, probably the most beloved psalm in the Bible. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.* His rendition was magnificent, and the crowd stood as one and filled the room with spontaneous applause.

At the end of the evening, someone noticed an elderly woman curled up in a chair in the corner dozing. She was as deaf as a post and had missed most of what was going on, but the guests urged her to get up and recite something. In those days people used to memorize a lot of scripture. So she stood up, and in a quivering voice barely louder than a whisper she started, *The Lord is my shepherd*, and went on to the end of the psalm. When she finished, there was not a dry eye in the room and the only sounds to be heard were handkerchief-stifled sniffles.

Later one of the guests approached the famous actor. "You recited that psalm absolutely superbly. It was incomparable! So why were we so moved by the funny, little old lady?" He replied, "I know the psalm. She knows the shepherd."

In light of the Resurrection may we take time to know more deeply the Good Shepherd, the one who leads us beside still waters, who walks with us through the darkest valley, who prepares a table for us, who comforts us and restores our souls, who promises us that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.

Lent-Easter-Pentecost Ministry Guide

To grow as a family of disciples...

We grow as a family, a community of believers, when we come together to worship the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us. As followers of

MARCH 19
Third Sunday in Lent
Woman at the Well: He Knows Me!

If you would like to serve or have questions about the work of a particular committee, subcommittee, or task force, please contact the chairperson of the committee, subcommittee, or task force:

Jesus Christ, we are challenged to fling wide our doors and share the good news of God's love for the world with neighbors hungry for such love. So, come, let's be the church together and invite others searching for a family shaped by Love.

John 4:5-42

WORSHIP

During the Season of Lent we will hear as if for the first time, the wonderful biblical stories included in the lectionary that reveal the rich dimensions of resurrection. Our worship will be enhanced visually with beautiful quilt hangings designed and created by our own "needle and thread" artist, Carol West. These quilts will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall for all to enjoy!

MARCH 26
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Man Born Blind: I Can See!
John 9:1-41

Our MPC Children's Choir shares the gift of music with us.

APRIL 2
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Lazarus: Unbind Him!
John 11:1-45

MARCH 1
Ash Wednesday
Giving Up
Matthew 5:29-30, 16:26, Philippians 2:5-11
We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion and the Ritual of the Imposition of Ashes during worship, 7:00 p.m.
Join us for a simple meal of soups, salads, and breads in the Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.
Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192
Childcare will be provided.

APRIL 9
Palm Sunday
Woman with the Alabaster Jar: Anointed
Matthew 26:1-16

We will confirm our 2017 confirmands during worship and everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall after worship for a potluck congregational luncheon and an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds for toddlers – fifth graders at 1:00 p.m.

SHARP!

APRIL 13
Maundy Thursday
Tenebrae: A Service of Deepening Shadows
We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion during worship, 7:00 p.m.
Join us for a simple meal of soups, salads, and breads in the Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.
Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192.
Childcare will be provided.

MARCH 5
First Sunday in Lent
Tempted
Matthew 4:1-11

MARCH 12
Second Sunday in Lent
Nicodemus: Born Again?
John 3:1-17

APRIL 16
Easter

Nurseries for infants – preschoolers are located across from the church office on the first floor, and parents are invited to bring their children to them before worship or at the conclusion of the Children’s Moment during worship. Worship bags for young children are hanging in the entrance to the sanctuary and they are invited to enjoy them during worship in the sanctuary. Young children are invited to the Fellowship Hall following the Children’s Moment for an age-appropriate, creative worship experience. Children’s Worship volunteers will bring them back to the sanctuary for holy communion or during the singing of the last hymn.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICES

APRIL 10 – APRIL 14

Holy Week Services at the Monticello First United Methodist Church

Come to the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. to hear various speakers share their Easter faith followed by lunch in the MFUMC Fellowship Hall.

APRIL 16

Easter Community Sunrise Service
7:00 a.m.

Bring your lawn chair to the Historic Square to hear with our sisters and brothers in Christ the Good News!

Following the service, join us in the MPC Fellowship Hall for breakfast.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

MPC Children’s Choir

Young singers, 3rd – 8th graders, are invited to be a part of our children’s choir which rehearses in the Music Room on Wednesdays, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m., throughout the month of March.

MPC Chancel Choir

Calling all high schoolers and adults who love to sing! Our Chancel Choir rehearses in the Music Room on Sunday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

MPC Handbell Choir

Our gifted handbell musicians rehearse in the Music Room on Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m., March 13, 27, April 12, 16, 24, and May 3.

OTHER WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Liturgical Arts Team, AKA Women’s Sewing Group

Do you have creative gifts that you’d like to share with our worshipping community? Consider becoming a part of our Liturgical Arts Team, also known as the Women’s Sewing Group, which meets to brainstorm and create fresh and exciting ways to enhance our worship using different artistic mediums. This team of talented artists and crafts people have supported photography installations, art installations, and banner making workshops. This season they are creating a quilt installation and making paraments for the sanctuary furniture. Questions? Please see co-chairs Lura Currie and Jill Dyer!

Prayer Ministry

God continually invites us into a deeper relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, others, and ourselves through prayer. Prayer boxes and cards are placed at the entrances of our sanctuary and you are invited to place your requests in them at any time. Prayer Request cards are also available in our pew racks, and you are invited to fill out a card and place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Our contemplative prayer group receives these requests weekly and includes them in their devotional practices. Prayer Request pages are updated monthly and placed in the worship bulletin the first Sunday of every month and in racks on tables near the sanctuary doors. Our sanctuary is open for silent prayer and meditation during office hours, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. If you have a prayer request that you would like to extend to our members and friends, please call (706.468.6192), text (678.231.7556), or e-mail (mpc31064@bellsouth.net) the church office or pastor and your request will be placed on our Prayer Chain e-mail as quickly as possible.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

As Christians shaped by a particular faith tradition, the Reformed Tradition, we value the life of the mind and the heart. We take seriously the challenge of the Apostle Paul, the Early Church Fathers and Mothers, and the first Reformers to build up our minds, bodies, and spirits in the knowledge of God and ourselves so that we may learn how to love others as Christ loved us.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS AT MPC

March 8 – April 5

Looking for ways to deepen your journey to the cross? Here are some choices!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

9:00 -9:30 a.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary for a time of silent reflection and prayer shaped by the weekly biblical story and quilt hanging used in our Sunday worship.

LUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

and

DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Using James W. Moore's book, *Give Up Something Bad for Lent*, we'll look at giving up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often we give up something like chocolate (or coffee!!) knowing that after Easter we can once again enjoy what we have given up. Moore will challenge us to take it further to give up something we are better off not doing. He invites us to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. Imagine the new life!

Join us for a simple meal in the Fellowship Hall,
11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192.

Childcare will be provided for evening sessions.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

*Gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and Sunday School Assembly
9:45 a.m.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

10:00 a.m.

Infants

Bring your infants to our Nursery located on the first floor across from the church office.

Toddler/Waddlers

Children, ages 18 months – 3 years old are encouraged to come to the Toddler/Waddler Nursery located on the first floor across from the church office for learning about God's love through story, arts and crafts, and play

Preschool – Fifth Graders

Children will meet upstairs in the 2nd-3rd Grade Room for Bible stories, crafts, fun activities, prayer, and snacks.

Middle Schoolers

Middle Schoolers, 6th – 8th graders, are invited to gather upstairs in the Middle School Room to “feast on the Word of God” through story and creative activities.

High Schoolers

High schoolers, 9th – 12th graders, will begin an informal series on ROFL issues (bonus points for figuring out what this acronym means!) that will continue through April. Come to the downstairs Mega TV Room for conversation, snacks, prayer, and fellowship.

Adult Classes

College Age and Young Adults

Looking for lively discussion and a walk through the Bible, chapter by chapter? Join discussion leaders as they facilitate conversation meant to deepen faith by seriously engaging challenging biblical texts. The class meets in one of the end rooms across from the Upper Room Classroom on the third floor.

Upper Room Class

This eclectic group of disciples tackles serious theological and biblical issues and themes using a discussion format facilitated by a group of leaders. Currently, the group is exploring angelology as revealed in Scripture. The class meets in one of the end rooms across from the College Age and Young Adult Classroom on the third floor.

Epiphany Class

Are you seeking a disciplined way to grow in your faith – one that invites you to respond to the challenges of daily living in light of the Holy Scriptures? Using the workbook series, *MasterWork*, discussion leaders are exploring *What a Savior!* and *Traveling Light* in the coming weeks. The class meets in the Epiphany Room, the former parlor, across from the Music Room on the second floor.

Present Word Class

A team of leaders inspires a fresh look at biblical stories using the uniform series, *The Present Word*. This spring conversation will center around the topic of *God Loves Us*. The class meets in the Music Room on the second floor.

Worthy Conversations Class

In a follow-up to the thought and spirit-provoking class on the *Confession of Belhar*, discussion leaders will explore the classic work by theologian Shirley Guthrie who probes the important question: how can Christians maintain their identity in a pluralistic society without becoming exclusive, intolerant, and irrelevant? Using Guthrie's book, *Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World*, three distinguished theologians reflect on Guthrie's original question while commenting on and enlarging other key themes in his work, including the Trinity and the church, world spirituality, and God's freedom. The class meets in the hospitality center of the Fellowship Hall.

New Member Class

Care 2B Committed Seminar

Are you interested in exploring the meaning of membership in MPC, a congregation proud to be a member of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (USA)? Join us for a Saturday

morning seminar on what it means to say *YES!* to the invitation to “throw in your lot” with us, your brothers and sisters in the faith that rejoice in calling themselves members of MPC. The date and time of this seminar will be announced so check the Sunday worship bulletin and weekly church e-mails.

YOUTH GROUPS

Who are our brothers and sisters in Christ? Our young people live that question weekly in our collaborative children and youth ministry with our fellow Christians of the Monticello First United Methodist Church.

Missed-It Movie Night at MPC

Friday, March 3 and Friday, March 24

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

All kindergarteners – 5th graders are invited to the Mega TV Room located downstairs for popcorn, Kool-aid, and an Easter-themed movie.

Kindergarten – Fifth Grade Youth Group

Sunday evenings, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall of the MFUMC

Middle School – High School Youth Group

Sunday evenings, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Youth House of the MFUMC

Northeast Georgia Presbytery Retreat for Middle Schoolers – High Schoolers

Change in Action: A Spring Retreat focused on serving others, making friends and having fun

Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Augusta

March 17-19, 2017

Presbyterian Women's Circles

It is a long-standing tradition in Presbyterian churches for women to gather regularly for Bible study, fellowship, and mission. This year our women will take a fresh look at the life of Jesus, *Who is Jesus: What a Difference a Lens Makes*. The night circle meets in the Music Room the first Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. The morning circle meets in the hospitality center of the Fellowship Hall the first Tuesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. If you have questions, please contact PW Moderator, Leah Wilson.

Confirmation Class

Young people, 6th – 12th grades, are invited to explore their faith as they enter a disciplined study of God's Word, the Reformed Tradition, and engage in hands-on mission in our community.

Sunday afternoons immediately following worship

March 5, March 12 (meet with session), April 9 (confirmed during worship)

...so that we may reach out as Christ's body in service to our community.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

We are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our world. Our call as Reformed Christians committed to shouldering our crosses daily, is to witness to the presence and work of God in our homes, schools, places of work and leisure, community, and world. To this end, we reach out in love to our "brothers and sisters, the least of these in the kingdom of God."

Jesus was a teacher...

We have a wonderful opportunity to help the children in our community achieve higher goals in math and reading. You are invited to volunteer as a classroom tutor in the Washington Park Elementary School, throughout the month of March. Debby Kelly is coordinating this important community ministry, and she invites you to contact her, roykelly@bellsout.net, with your questions.

Jesus fed the hungry...

Our 2017 Confirmation Class chose as its class project, the ministry of feeding our hungriest neighbors through the Jasper County Food Bank. Put these items on your weekly shopping list and bring them to worship on Sunday mornings:

Mar. 5 – Fountain of Fruit...bring canned fruit

Mar. 12 – Mountain of Macaroni...bring boxed pasta products

Mar. 19 – Tunnels of Tuna...bring canned tuna fish

Mar. 26 – Pinnacles of Peanut Butter and Jelly...bring jars of peanut butter and jelly

Apr. 2 – Sea of Soup...bring canned soup

April 9 – Continents of Cereal...bring boxes of breakfast cereal

Jesus said a Helper/Comforter/Advocate would come...

As faithful Christians we are called to share the financial gifts entrusted to us with a hurting world. We will receive two denominational offerings during this season: the One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, April 9 and the Pentecost Offering on Sunday, June 4. The One Great Hour of Sharing gifts support the vital ministries of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People. The Pentecost Offering supports denominational programs focusing on at-risk children, Young Adult Volunteers, and Youth Ministry. Forty percent of the proceeds of this offering remain in Jasper County and will be given to the Jasper County Food Bank to help address the summer needs of our most vulnerable families.

Jesus said, "Go!"...

This summer we will sponsor four mission trips involving over 50 of our children, youths, and adults: Kindergartners – Fifth Graders (local mission sites), Middle Schoolers (Cross Mission at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC), High Schoolers (Central Arkansas Mission Program at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Arkansas) and Honduras (Honduras Outreach International, Inc.) You are invited to support our volunteer missionaries through your financial gifts. As we did last year, a Wall O' Mission with gift envelopes will be on display throughout the Lenten Season and a congregational offering will be received on Sunday, April 30.

Interfaith Partnership with St. John CME Church

Join us as we explore issues of diversity, unity, mission, and community with our Christian brothers and sisters. Questions? Please contact Betty Jean Jordan.

Women's Sewing Group

Do you enjoy serving Jesus Christ through the work of your hands? Come be a part of the "fellowship of needle and thread" as we work together on craft mission projects to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ – near and far away. Questions? Please contact Lura Currie.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Fellowship Gatherings

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday Dinner

6:15 p.m.

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soups, salads, and breads

Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192

Lenten Meals

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

We'll gather for light meals prior to our Lenten Bible studies

Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192

Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday

6:15 p.m.

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal of soups, salads, and breads

Reservations may be made by calling the church office, 706.468.6192

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

Come to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for a potluck meal and bring a dish or two to share!

Easter Egg Hunt for Toddler/Waddlers – Fifth Graders
1:00 p.m., Church grounds

Sunday, May 7

9:00 a.m.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast as we celebrate our high school, college, and graduate school graduates!

Tuesday, May 16

Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Meeting at MPC
All hands on deck as we host this gathering of church leaders

Questions? Please contact Lura Currie

"Casserole" Ministry

Whenever a family experiences a hardship in their lives, caring volunteers deliver meals to show our members and friends the meaning of God's love in a very concrete way. We are always in need of labeled, single serving soups and casseroles which will be placed in the church freezers and delivered in times of need to show that we care. Please consider "cooking up" a little extra and bringing a dish or two to the church kitchen!

MANAGEMENT

Administration

Although the management of the institution of the church may strike some as mundane, routine, and less than exciting (!!) the smooth-working of our session, committees, subcommittees, and task forces enhances pastoral care as it bears witness to scripture and our Reformed Tradition of doing "everything decently and in order" to glorify God. Our session is composed of eight men and women, ruling elders elected by the congregation, who serve two year terms. Ruling elders are responsible for the life and witness of the Church, and as such, they deal with policy, structure, and matters outlined in the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*. Session meets in the fellowship hall on the third Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m., January, March, May, July, September, and November, at other times as deemed necessary, and via e-mail.

In the Presbyterian Church, the hands-on work of the local church takes place at the committee, subcommittee, and task force level. This work is critical, and you are invited to be a part of "laboring to bring in the Kingdom" by sharing your gifts and talents with your fellow believers committed to our work in our community and world. The Church at Work is a time for all committees, subcommittees, and task forces to gather in the fellowship hall to collaborate in the fulfilling of God's will in our "small piece of the vineyard". We meet on the third Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m., February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Lura Currie.....Congregation Care Com.,
and Fellowship Subcom.
David Dyer.....Stewardship Subcom.,
Endowment Subcom.
*Ed Edwards.....Property Subcom.
*Gail Harrell..... Personnel Subcom.
and Insurance
Lyndsy Holman.....Spiritual Formation Com.
*Betty Jean Jordan.....Outreach & Evangelism Com.
*Jimmy Jordan.....Nominating Com.

*Joanne Jordan.....Congregation Care Com.,
Endowment and Communications Subcom.
Linda Jordan.....Treasurer, Finance Subcom.,
Endowment Subcom.
Lynne Jordan.....Worship Com.
*Sam McCowan.....Property Subcom.
*John Stork.....Clerk of Session
Bob TrouteaudTechnology Subcom.
*Leah Wilson.....Management Com.

*Ruling Elder Serving on Session

Office Volunteers

Are you interested in helping with the day to day tasks of running a church? We are in constant need of volunteers to fold bulletins and newsletters, complete mailings, stuff children’s worship bags, prepare the sanctuary, answer telephones, and other assorted tasks. If you have time and are available during the church business hours, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., please contact Jennifer Whitmire in the church office.