The Worship of God
at Myers Park Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Second Sunday of Advent

2 December 2018
Inspired by the bold and boundless hospitality of Jesus, we are “open to all,” which means we welcome and accept all people into the life of our Church without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, political affiliation, physical or mental capacity, or religious belief. We believe that God’s call is given to all people, and we embrace the Spirit that continues to cross boundaries in order to unite the world.

The Silent Meditation

If you want to end the war, then instead of sending guns, send books. Instead of sending tanks, send pens. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers. - Malala Yousafzai

If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation . . . . - Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Ringing of the Angelus Bell

The Prelude

“A Christmas Carol” Charles Ives (1874-1954)

Bill Miller, piano

The Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Childcare is available for children ages birth through five years – please see a greeter for more information. Worship kits for children are available in the Narthex.

*The Opening Sentences

Leader: Comfort my people, says the Lord. Speak unto them words of deliverance.
People: God will break the chains of the bound.
Leader: Comfort my people, says the Lord. Speak unto them words of peace.
People: God will cast out the fears of the troubled.
Leader: Comfort my people, says the Lord. Speak unto them words of justice.
People: God will hallow the cause of the righteous.
Leader: Comfort my people, says the Lord. Speak unto them words of assurance.
People: God will raise the spirits of the hopeless.

*The Procession and Opening of the Bible

“Comfort, Comfort You My People ”

Psalm 42

*The Lighting of the Candle of Peace

Jill Scheidt, Jeff Barnett and Sedona Barnett

Leader: “Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build, to see the promise of the day fulfilled, when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.”

All: Then faith and hope will shake hands, and love and justice will embrace.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.
Singing:

*THE PEOPLE CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS*

The Kyrie Eleison

Text: Richard Leach

Scottish folk tune

2. Peace is a candle to show us a pathway, threatened by
gusts from our rage and our greed. Friend, feel no envy for
those in the shadows: violence and force their dead-end course.

Jonathan Crutchfield

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,
Lord, to me give mercy.

The Invitation to Silent Confession

The Prayer of Confession

We come before you, O God, confessing that we cannot find peace within us.
We search in vain for peace as we blame others for our distress.
We see war and violence around us as we whisper there is nothing we can do.
We seek freedom from adversity as we retreat to our safe places.
God of Grace, forgive us for our foolish ways.
Help us to find inner peace in the midst of our chaotic lives.
Enlighten us on ways we can bring peace into a world in need of comfort.
Humble us so that we can prepare ourselves for unconditional love in our midst.
Encourage us to be willing to go to difficult places in order to experience lasting peace.
Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

*The Canticle (Glory to God in the highest.)*

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1979


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The Passing of the Peace

If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 474747 or fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate during worship as your gift to us.

Children ages 3, 4 and TK/K will leave with their adult teachers;
1st-5th Graders will leave for Children’s Worship with their adult teachers.
Following worship, 3’s and 4’s may be picked up in Room 107; TK/K may be picked up in Room 108;
1st-5th graders may be picked up in Room 3 beneath the sanctuary.

The Welcome of Our Guests

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED AND HEARD

The Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:2
“The People That Walked in Darkness” from Messiah
George Frideric Handel

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Patrick Hughes, bass

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:5-23 (NRSV)

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Luke 1:59-80 (NRSV)

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is
John.” And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

*The Sermon Hymn
“Blest be the God of Israel”

Merle’s Tune

The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson

The Embodiment of Peace

The Time for Silent Reflection

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO GOD’S WORD

The Church at Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Offering

Mobile giving is available – see page __.

Gifts of loose cash in December benefit Med Assist, a nonprofit pharmacy program providing access to life-saving prescription medications, patient support, advocacy and related services to poor, vulnerable, and uninsured North Carolina residents.

The Anthem

“O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
They shall prosper that love thee.

The Chancel Choir

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)
The Rice Bowl
If you wish to help alleviate hunger in the world through the Rice Bowl Offering, come forward and place your contribution in the basket at the Chancel steps. The Rice Bowl Offering is designated for Hunger Relief: Loaves and Fishes (local) and Stop Hunger Now (international).

*The Presentation of Gifts
As the Deacons bring the offering forward, the congregation is asked to stand. This presentation enacts our self-offering and gratitude to God.

*The Doxology
Old Hundredth
O Glorious God, to you we bring
All that we are as offering;
Spirit of peace, among us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

*The Prayer of Dedication
THE COMMUNITY IS SENT INTO THE WORLD FOR MINISTRY

*The Procession into the World and Closing of the Bible
Beach Spring
Who is this whose silent advent summons mortals now to see?
Word of God made flesh in secret, wisdom of eternity.
Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.
Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!
Reason cracks; it cannot hold him. God and man enfleshed as one!
Faith alone, mind’s transformation, leads us to embrace the Son.
God’s abode enclosed no longer, by the cult to temple tied.
Holiness is loosed among us, all creation sanctified!
Harbinger of final triumph, infant born in Bethlehem;
come in fullness now to save us, break into our lives again!
Stand amazed as you behold him: paradox of God’s design.
Lord transcendent, yet incarnate: fully human and divine!

Lynn M. Labs, 2004

The Benediction

The Postlude
“Vieux Noel”
César Franck (1822-1890)

Following worship, all are invited to coffee fellowship in Heaton Hall Foyer.
Following worship, 3’s and 4’s may be picked up in Room 107; TK/K may be picked up in Room 108; 1st - 5th graders may be picked up in Room 3 beneath the sanctuary.
Leading worship today with The Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson, Associate Minister, are the Reverend W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister, The Reverend Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister, The Reverend Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, and Jeff Trenning, Member of the Congregation.

The Chancel Choir leads worship through music with Frances L. Morrison, Minister of Music, and John Richardson, Organist.

The sound technician is Eric Roberts. The webcast technician is John Bambach.

The new Advent banner is given in grateful memory of Frances Bryant, Edith Collins, and Lea Harrison, who loved the Church and served it so dearly, by Mollie and Pat Brugh.
THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

Why do we worship?
Worship at Myers Park Baptist is the gathering of a diverse, intergenerational, ecumenical community of faith, celebrating God’s active and timeless presence in the world. In worship, God re-forms our hearts, minds and bodies, and ignites our imaginations with sacred stories—stories that invite us to question, explore mystery, express joy and grief, and deepen our faith. We worship to learn how to develop caring, empowering relationships with each other, and to stay centered in God as the world swirls around us. We worship to be inspired and prepared to exemplify the compassion and justice of Jesus in our church family and in the world. Through worship, God frees and transforms us in heart, mind and body, so we can make a difference within ourselves, in our relationships and in our community.

How do we worship?
Focusing on God, worship at Myers Park Baptist unfolds consistently with the Isaiah 6 scriptural model: praise, confession, pardon, calling to respond, commitment and sending out. All our worship services are built on this ancient structural form, regardless of worship style, venue or theme. Communal practices within worship — radical hospitality, confession and assurance of pardon, passing the peace, silence and listening, spirited hymn singing, presentations of gifts, and active participation in Communion—transform worshipers into newness with God and one another. Themes for services, based on lectionary scriptures, annually portray the narrative arc of God’s redeeming love for humankind.

MOBILE GIVING
You can now text your contributions and offerings to MPBC! It is secure, simple, and efficient:

- Start a new text message to phone number 73256.
- In the message of the text, enter 1900Q, a space, and the amount you want to give (i.e., 1900Q 100).
- The system will return a message to you; click on the link provided and follow instructions.
- You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received. It is that simple!
- Next time, since your setup is already done – just text “1900Q, a space, then amount you wish to give” to 73256.

Questions? Contact Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, at 704.334.7232 x116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org.
### The Season of Advent and Christmas 2018

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5</td>
<td><strong>Awakening the Body Series: Incarnation</strong></td>
<td>6:30p</td>
<td>Heaton Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 9</td>
<td><strong>Advent III – Joy</strong> Worship</td>
<td>11:00a</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 12</td>
<td><strong>Coping With the Holidays: Hope vs Despair Gathering</strong></td>
<td>6:30-8:00p</td>
<td>Cornwell Conference Center</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 16</td>
<td><strong>Advent IV – Love</strong> Festival of Lessons and Carols</td>
<td>11:00a</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Farewell Reception for Rev. Chrissy Williamson</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Heaton Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Taizé Service to Mark the Changing of the Seasons</td>
<td>5:00-6:00p</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 19</td>
<td><strong>Service of Lament and Loss with Communion</strong></td>
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<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 23</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Family Worship</strong></td>
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<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Monday, December 24</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Music of Christmas with Harp</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Candlelight Worship with Communion</td>
<td>6:00p</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nativity Tableau with Communion</td>
<td>7:30-8:00p</td>
<td>“drop in” in the Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 30</td>
<td>Jazz in the Round</td>
<td>11:00a</td>
<td>Heaton Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 6, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Epiphany Sunday Worship with Communion</strong></td>
<td>11:00a</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sunday, December 9, 2018
The Third Sunday of Advent | Reverend Ben Boswell Preaching

I think the most terrifying human experience is joy. It’s as if we believe that by truly feeling happiness, we’re setting ourselves up for a sucker punch. We simply cannot know joy without embracing vulnerability - and the way to do that is to focus on gratitude, not fear. The good news is that joy, collected over time, fuels resilience - ensuring we’ll have reservoirs of emotional strength when hard things do happen. - Brene Brown

Sorrow prepares you for joy. It violently sweeps everything out of your house, so that new joy can find space to enter. It shakes the yellow leaves from the bough of your heart, so that fresh, green leaves can grow in their place. It pulls up the rotten roots, so that new roots hidden beneath have room to grow. Whatever sorrow shakes from your heart, far better things will take their place.
- Rumi

Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God. - Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy. - Thich Nhat Hanh

Welcome. We’re glad you’re here.

If you are our guest, we’d love to hear from you! Please share with us a little about who you are:

- text “guest” to 474747 OR
- fill out a guest card located in the pew rack. Simply return the guest card in the offering plates during worship as your gift to us.

If you would like to learn more about us, stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex after worship to speak with one of our members or ministers.

FEATURES

Awakening the Body Series
Wednesday, December 5 | 6:30 - 8:00p | Heaton Hall
Kicking off the season of Advent, Chrissy and Ben present the theme of "an incarnate God," which will explore scriptures, theologies, and spiritual practices that connect us with the God who took on human flesh. The theme of an incarnate God will be further explored in sermons and podcasts throughout the month of December.
Hang Out With the Pastor
Monday, December 3 | 5:00 - 7:00p | Suffolk Punch
Hang Outs continue on the first Monday of each month at The Suffolk Punch (2911 Griffith St, Suite A, Charlotte 28203). All are invited! Bring the family and your pups - Suffolk Punch has great outdoor seating. Bring your appetite - they have great food. Not crazy about beer? No problem! Not everyone drinks and there are plenty of other options. This is a casual opportunity to connect. Want to know more? Contact Dave Dougherty (dave.n.dougherty@gmail.com) or Tucker Pearsall (tucker.pearsall@domtar.com). We hope to see you there!

Stewardship | Empower Church | Finish Strong
What would we do without music and worship leaders? We cannot be the body of Christ without leadership for our children and youth, can we? Who will ensure the integrity of our administration and finances? Your financial support of the Church we love makes these important life-changing, Kingdom-building things happen. Go to www.myersparkbaptist.org/online-giving to participate.

Coping During the Holidays - Hope vs Despair Gathering
Wednesday, December 12 | 6:30 - 8:00p | Cornwell Conference Center
How are you coping? Are the holidays almost too much to bear? A prevalent theme during the Advent Christmas season is "hope." Yet, for so many in our society, a prevalent theme is "despair." Feelings of loss, grief, health issues, job pressures, strained finances, and estranged family relationships can be intensified during the holidays both by massive commercialization as well as expectations of family and/or friends.

How does one cope? What about self care (guilt free). What are some decisions you can make to lessen the negative impact of the holiday season on your life? Join us for helpful ideas and suggestions that may strengthen your hope and begin to change how you experience Christmas.

Alex Gniska, PhD, LPCS, Assistant Vice-President of Addiction Services, Atrium Health, will lead our discussion. This event is sponsored by the Stephen Ministry of MPBC.

Be An Angel - Lakewood Angel Tree
Deadline Thursday, December 6
Be an angel for a Lakewood neighborhood family this Christmas! The Cornwell Center is collecting Walmart, Target, MasterCard and Visa (Vanilla) gift cards for the Lakewood Community families. Please leave the gift card ($50 maximum) with a Cornwell Welcome Desk associate. When you drop off your donation you will receive personalized wings to put on the Angel Tree.
Small Group: Cratters
**Saturday, December 8 | 1:00 - 4:00p | Shalom Hall**
Whatever your craft, age, or gender, bring your project and materials to Shalom Hall to work, share, and chat with others while creating. Think: beading, tie-flying, sewing, smocking, knitting, scrapbooking, etc. Tables, chairs, and some outlets provided. Becky Rizzo will be the group facilitator. Register through myMPBC. Questions? Contact Caroline Manning (cmanning@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x115).

Plans for a Columbarium Expansion
Our Columbarium is an outdoor burial and garden. It provides spaces, or "niches," in a wall and sites in the ground for the cremated remains of deceased Church members and their families. It is a peaceful setting for remembrance, prayer, and meditation. All niches in the existing Columbarium have been reserved, and the Ministry of Facilities Management is in the process of planning for an expansion. You can see the plan drawing in Heaton Hall Foyer. It is our hope to meet the final resting place needs of our congregation for many years into the future. We are gathering interest and need before we commit to moving forward. If you would be interested in reserving a space in the Columbarium expansion, please contact Leigh Anne Hagerman (704.334.7232 x116 or lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org).

Room In The Inn (RITI)
**Every Saturday Through March 30, 2019**
Each winter, MPBC participates in this temporary shelter program through the Urban Ministry Center. We open our doors on Saturday evenings and provide warm food, beds, facilities, and fellowship for our neighbors who are homeless. **YOU make it happen! Here is an opportunity for everyone to participate - make a bed, bring a meal, drive the van, be a host for our guests. Volunteer at www.myersparkbaptist.org/event/room-in-the-inn-riti.**

Oatmeal and Staples Food Drive
**Continuing Through January 15**
Our 12th annual drive supports Charlotte's homeless shelters and hurricane relief. We are collecting oatmeal (old fashioned preferred), flour, grits, all types of canned goods and non-perishables (no glass, please), and 5 lbs. or larger sugar (white or brown). For information about drop-off locations or to make a monetary donation, click the oatmeal icon at www.myersparkbaptist.org or contact Bob Bishop at food4thehomeless@gmail.com.

**CHILDREN**

Parent's Night Out | Pajama Jam + Movie Night
**Friday, December 14 | 6:00 - 9:00p | Cornwell Center Gym**
Parents, you deserve a Friday night out! Leave the childcare to us. Kids will enjoy a fun-filled night including play and exploration, pajama jam movie, and dinner. This is a drop-off event for children ages 6-weeks and older. The cost is $25 for the first child and $10 for each additional child in the same household. Cancellations must be received by December 12 by 5:00p or a $5 charge will be placed on account per child registered. Please call 704.927.0774 for reservations or cancellations.

Children Prepare to Sing in Family Christmas Service
On December 23, children ages 3-years-old through 1st grades will sing in worship. Charlotte Judge and Anna-Catherine Fowler will be visiting their Faith
Formation classes on Sunday mornings to teach them the song “Dance and Sing.” In addition to our Faith Formation and Children’s Choir friends, we will include children from Through-The-Week School. Charlotte will be working with the TTWS children throughout December. Please make plans to have your child(ren) attend Faith Formation during the month so that they can learn the song with us. If you would like more information, please contact Charlotte at cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org.

Children’s Ministry Opportunities
Our children’s ministry is for families with children birth - fifth grade. With trained paid staff and volunteers, we want every child to know that they are prepared for and cared for each time they are on our campus. Here is what your family can expect in December:

- During the Faith Formation hour (9:45 - 10:45a), our three-year-olds - fifth graders will learn the Christmas story.
- During the Worship hour (11:00a - noon), children in kindergarten and younger experience the beginning of worship in the Sanctuary and then go to their classrooms for play and fun. Our first - fifth graders continue their Children’s Worship experience as they learn how Advent worship prepares them for Christmas.
- On Wednesday evenings, our kindergarten - fifth graders will prepare to lead us in worship on December 16 during Lessons and Carols and on December 23 at our Family Christmas Service.
- While children are in choir, parents are invited to Coffee Chat, a time for community building and sharing our lives together.

To learn how your family can be involved, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 118) or Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music (cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 121).

YOUTH

Discipleship
Sunday, December 9 | 12:30p | Youth Hall
Discipleship Class is for youth who have completed 7th grade and who want to join together on a journey of faith leading to a decision about baptism and membership in our Church. If you are interested in learning more, we hope you will join us. During this meeting, we will discuss the process, give guiding questions, and discuss mentor selection. Questions? Please email Allen Davis at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Youth Choir
Sundays | 5:00 - 6:00p | Berry Hall
Youth Choir is open to all 6-12 graders who love to sing, learn a lot, practice hard, make friends, and have fun spending time together. We meet on Sunday evenings and we lead in worship throughout the year. Registration is available through myMPBC. Come sing with us! Questions? Contact Charlotte Judge (cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x121).

Kanuga 2019 | January 18-20
Music, laughter, and snow! This January, youth in grades 6-12 will retreat to the Kanuga Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains. Join us for this wonderful weekend of fellowship and community as we share and learn together while having fun. We will have small and large group sessions with
Celebrate This Week

**Sunday, December 2**

*The Second Sunday of Advent* | *Rice Bowl* | *Reverend Chrissy Tatum Williamson Preaching*
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11:00a - Noon | Worship | Sanctuary
11:15a - Noon | Children's Worship | Sanctuary Lower Level, Room 3
Noon - 12:30p | Coffee Fellowship | Heaton Hall Foyer
3:30- 5:00p | Youth Fellowship
5:00 - 6:00p | Youth Choir Rehearsal | Berry Hall
6:00 - 6:45p | Youth Instrumental Ensemble | Sanctuary

**Monday, December 3**

5:00 - 6:00p | Hang Out With The Pastor | The Suffolk Punch

**Tuesday, December 4**

11:00a - Noon | Reading Between the Lines | Parlor
6:00 - 7:00p | Ministry of Congregational Care Meeting | Library

**Wednesday, December 5**

8:00 - 11:30a | Reading Between the Lines | Conference Room and Room 256
4:00 - 5:30p | Music Together | Room 29 (registration required)
5:00 - 5:05p | Children's Choirs | Grades K-5 | Room 21
5:05 - 5:45p | Carol Choir | Room 7
5:45 - 6:15p | Chapel Choir | Sanctuary Lower Level, Room 10
5:45 - 6:15p | Coffee Chat | Parlor
5:45 - 6:30p | Carol Choir | Sanctuary Lower Level, Room 10
5:45 - 6:30p | Chapel Choir | Room 7
6:00 - 7:00p | Strategic Planning Council Meeting | Library
6:30 - 8:00p | Awakening the Body Series: *An Incarnate God* | Heaton Hall

**Thursday, December 6**

10:30 - 11:30a | Prayer Group | Parlor
6:00 - 7:30p | Charlotte Community of Mindfulness | Room 27
7:00 - 9:00p | Chancel Choir Rehearsal | Berry Hall

**Friday, December 8**

**Tucker Pearsall Shares About the Dedication of the MPBC Choir**

Tucker's introduction to the MPBC choir started when his grandmother, Lauretta Short, invited him to go with her to the annual retreat at Blue Ridge Assembly. Read the story here: www.myersparkbaptist.org/tucker-pearsall-mpbc

2018 Donations

As the year comes to a close, please note the following deadlines for donations: cash received by noon on December 31 will be credited on 2018 contribution statements; checks postmarked by December 31, 2018 and received by January 5, 2019 will be credited on 2018 contribution statements; and stock gifts received by our advisor by 3:00p on December 31 will be credited in 2018.
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<td>10:00 - 11:45a</td>
<td>Music Together</td>
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<td>1:00 - 4:00p</td>
<td>Small Group: Crafters</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00p - 9:00a</td>
<td>Outreach Opportunity</td>
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**Sunday, December 9**
The Third Sunday of Advent | Reverend Ben Boswell Preaching
8:30 - 11:00a | Charlotte Community of Mindfulness Meditation Group | Room 27
9:30 - 10:45a | LIFE Class | Shalom Hall (*Note change in location*)
9:45 - 10:45a | Children's Ministry Faith Formation | Preschool and Elementary Wings
9:45 - 10:45a | Youth Faith Formation | Youth Hall Wing
9:45 - 10:45a | Adult Faith Formation | Education Building
9:45 - 10:45a | Sunday Morning Yoga | Cornwell Group Exercise Studio
10:15 - 10:30a | Chancel Choir Warm-Up | Sanctuary
11:00a - Noon  | Worship | Sanctuary
11:15a - Noon  | Children's Worship | Sanctuary Lower Level, Room 3
Noon - 12:30p   | Coffee Fellowship | Heaton Hall Foyer
3:30 - 5:00p    | Youth Fellowship | Youth Hall
5:00 - 6:00p    | Youth Choir Rehearsal | Berry Hall
6:00 - 6:45p    | Youth Instrumental Ensemble | Sanctuary

**CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Please remember the following members of our congregation (as of Tuesday, November 27, 2018).

**DISCHARGED FROM A MEDICAL FACILITY**

- Bill Pearce

**LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO**

- Mary Cranford on the death of her husband, Steve and Koren Cranford on the death of his father, and Will and Adam Cranford on the death of their grandfather, Henry Lee Cranford, Jr., on November 22, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.
- Susan Crane on the death of her father, Francis Joseph Cook, on November 24, 2018 in Charlotte, NC.

*We rely on friends and relatives to keep us posted on hospitalizations, births and deaths. If you know of any member not listed, please contact Joe Aldrich, Associate Minister (704.334.7232 x113 | jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org).*
OUR COVENANT

We, the members of the Myers Park Baptist Church, are a people on a journey of faith. By God’s grace we are experiencing God’s love through Jesus Christ and in the community of the faithful. We are discovering in this experience our freedom to become new creatures and our responsibility to be faithful stewards of our lives and of this world.

We will be open to all new light, strengthened by God and each other in our faith. We will sustain a critical examination of Scripture, belief and ritual as interpreters of God’s active presence in the world. We will accept controversy as a reality of life together and an opportunity for growth toward maturity. We covenant to be a community of God’s new creation and affirm that we are open to all and closed to none.

We covenant to nurture this Church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in this world: by worship, by Christian education, by the dedication of our personal and material resources and by all the other ways we express the significance of our lives with God and one another.

We covenant together to be priests celebrating God’s presence in community and in the world, believing we are participants in God’s kingdom on earth.