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

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Jazz in the Round

4 August 2019
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.

Childcare is available for children ages birth to four years. Please meet our paid staff at the rugs.

**GATHERING**

**Silent Meditation**
“I’d like to point out to people the divine in a musical language that transcends words. I want to speak to their souls. My music is the spiritual expression of what I am -- my faith, my knowledge, my being. God breathes through us so completely...so gently we hardly feel it...yet, it is our everything.”

– John Coltrane

“I’ll tell you what freedom is to me: no fear. I mean really, no fear!”

– Nina Simone

“Jazz is a white term to define black people. My music is black classical music.”

– Nina Simone

“How can you sing of amazing grace and all God's wonders without using your hands?”

– Mahalia Jackson

**Gathering Song**
“Over My Head”
Over my head I hear music in the air.
Over my head I hear music in the air.
Over my head I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere!...

**Call to Worship**
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

*Opening Sentences*
Leader: Walking as a pilgrim people on the path to peace, we come together to be awakened and renewed.
People: Nourished by the oasis of faithful community, we join our voices with all who seek the face of God.
Leader: Assured that we are made for union with Creator and creation, we open our hearts to the divine mystery of eternal love.
People: Listening to our need for grace, we turn to sacred rhythms that remind us that we are accepted.
Leader: Summoned by the lure of wonder, we joyfully approach the threshold of heaven.
People: Trusting in the presence of God, we worship with open palms – ready to give and to receive.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*
*Opening Song

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, 
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, 
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; 
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, 
Leaning on the everlasting arms; 
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, 
Leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, 
Leaning on the everlasting arms; 
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, 
Leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain.

*Prayer of Invocation

CONFESSION AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

Invitation to Silent Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, it is with humility we come to you asking for forgiveness.
We admit that we have let our fears rule us, 
determining our words and actions.
We admit that we have let our desire for control 
determine how we treat others.
We admit that there are sins we have fallen into and 
sins that we have outwardly plotted.
In your grace, forgive us.
In your guidance, remind us of who we are created to be, bearers of light and love.
May we walk in the ways that lead us and others closer to you. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, hear this good news. Truly, God can do what we cannot.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.

*Passing of the Peace

At this time, children ages 3 and 4 and TK/K will leave with paid providers and may be picked 
up in Room 107 after TalkBack. Please take children to the rug or to Room 107. Children in 1st - 5th grades 
will meet Jennifer Jennings in Heaton Hall foyer for a time of Children’s Worship in Berry Hall.

Welcome of our Guests

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.
**HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**Hebrew Scriptures**

**Hosea 11:1-9 (NRSV adapted)**

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but they are not raised up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

**Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (The Inclusive Bible adapted)**

Give thanks for God’s goodness; God’s love endures forever!” Let these be the words of God’s redeemed, those redeemed from the oppressor’s clutches, those brought home from foreign lands, from east and west, from northern lands and southern seas. Some lost their way in the wilderness, in the wasteland, not knowing how to reach an inhabited town; they were hungry and thirsty, and their courage was running low. They called to God in their trouble, and God rescued them from their sufferings, guiding them by a direct route to an inhabited town. Let them thank God for this great love, for the marvels done for all people – for God has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things....If you are wise, study these things and realize the great love of God.

**Musical Interlude**

“I Wish That I Knew”


Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But Jesus said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then Jesus told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And the man thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

**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.
*Congregational Song
“Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around”  
Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around...  
Turn me around...  
Turn me around...  
Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me around...  
Keep on walkin’, keep on talkin’  
Marching up to freedom land....

Sermon  
“Jazz and Double-edged Grace: The Irony of It All”  
Dr. Bill Leonard

Silent Reflection

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers for the People  
Austin Maynor

The Lord’s Prayer  
Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing of Gifts  
Please place gifts and member/guest cards in the basket as it is passed.  
Mobile giving is available – see page 9.  
Gifts of loose cash in August will benefit Time Out Youth, which offers support, advocacy, and opportunities for personal development and social interaction to LGBTQ+ youth ages 11-20.

Offertory Music  
“Visions”  
Stevie Wonder (b. 1950)

*Doxology  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures, here below. Alleluia. Alleluia!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Prayer of Dedication  
Rev. Carrie Veal

SENDING

*Closing Song  
“Down By the Riverside”  
arr. Mahalia Jackson

I’m gonna lay down my burden  
down by the riverside...  
I’m gonna lay down my burden  
down by the riverside to study war no more.

I ain't gonna study war no more  
ain't gonna study war no more  
I ain't gonna study war no more....
Following worship, all are invited to remain in Heaton Hall for Sermon TalkBack.  

3's and 4's and TK/K may be picked up in Room 107;  
children in grades 1 - 5 may be picked up in Berry Hall.  
There will be childcare for TalkBack in Room 107 for children of all ages.
Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard, Guest Preacher, are Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, Austin Maynor, Pastoral Intern, and Lisa Bambach, Member of the Congregation.

The Jazz Ensemble leads worship through music:
- Sean Higgins, piano
- Greg Jarrell, saxophone
- Mike Gudbaur, bass
- Ocie Davis, drums
- Dawn Anthony, vocals

Today's opening sentences were written by Austin Maynor, Pastoral Intern.

The sound technician is Eric Roberts.
The webcast technician is Ken Steiner.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Charlotte C. Judge, Associate Director of Music, who joined our staff on August 8, 2016.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Allen Davis, Director of Youth Ministry, who joined our staff on August 9, 2016.

We give God thanks for the work and ministry of Austin C. Maynor, Pastoral Intern, who joined our staff this summer and is returning to Duke Divinity School.
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.

HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as easy as filling out a Joining Card. To receive a card or learn more, stop by the Welcome Table in Heaton Hall Foyer.

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
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.

WEEKLY NEWS

August 5-11, 2019

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

SUMMER WORSHIP

10:00a Worship | 11:00a Sermon TalkBack
Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Sunday, August 11
The Ninth Sunday of Pentecost | Rice Bowl | Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching
"Don't Be Anxious, Get Ready!" | Luke 12:22-40

FEATURES

Awakening Shalom | PROUD THEOLOGY: a 4-part podcast series

Does my sexuality separate me from God? Is there relevant God-talk that centers LGBTQ+ people?

On August 18, we will march as a people on a journey through the streets of Charlotte as we celebrate our PRIDE. In conjunction with that celebration, join us as we embark on a conversational journey that will center on Queer Theory and Queer Theology, rooted in groundbreaking publications that center the voices of queer-identifying theologians. This integrative dialogue will also highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the Emmy Award-winning show, POSE, and other cultural and theological references. The 4-part series begins August 8 and will be led by Rev. Boswell, Senior Minister, and Mia McClain, Associate Minister.
Relevant publications for your library:

- **Radical Love: An introduction to Queer Theology**, written by Patrick S. Cheng, PhD, a pastor and theologian who offers us an excellent introduction to LGBTQ theology.
- **Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology**, written by Pamela R. Lightsey, PhD, a contextual theologian who explores the impact of oppression against Black LBTQ women.
- **Queer Theology: Beyond Apologetics**, written by Linn Marie Tonstad, PhD, a constructive theologian working at the intersection of systematic theology with feminist and queer theory.

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**PRIDE Weekend**

Saturday, August 17 - Sunday, August 18, 2019

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**Sunday, August 18**

The Tenth Sunday of Pentecost | PRIDE Sunday | Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell Preaching

"It’s a Great Time to be Divided" | Luke 12:49-56

**What is PRIDE? and How Are We Participating?**

Since the 1970s, Charlotte has had a variety of PRIDE events at different locations around the city. In 2000, Charlotte PRIDE was officially organized; and since then, there have been events and programs to show support for the LGBTQ+ Community. This year we recognize the 50th Anniversary of the events that took place at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York City.

MPBC will again host a booth and march in the PRIDE Parade to show our support for our sisters and brothers. You can take part by volunteering at the booth and/or marching in the parade. Make sure you wear our MPBC t-shirt (see below) so we can show the community who we are as a Church.

The Saturday events begin at 11:00a and run until 6:00p. If you are thinking about marching with us on Sunday, you must register through myMPBC to obtain details about arrival location. Be prepared to arrive no later than 11:45a.

For more information, please contact Nancy Walker (nanwalk7@icloud.com), Lewis Bozard (lewis.bozard@gmail.com), Mia McClain (mmclain@myesparkbaptist.org) or Carrie Veal (cveal@myesparkbaptist.org).

**Make Sure You Have Your MPBC Shirt**

Did you know that we have specially designed MPBC t-shirts for everyone to wear at various events like the PRIDE Parade, RAIN AIDS Walk, and MLK Holiday Parade (and of course any day you like)? You can purchase yours for $15 in the Church Office by contacting Caroline Manning (cmanning@myesparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 115). So, let's come together wearing our MPBC shirts as we show our support of our fellow brothers and sisters.

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**Town Hall Meetings**

The Board of Deacons would like to hear your thoughts about the "Reimagining Lay Leadership" proposal that was presented at the Congregational Meeting on June 2. We are offering two more one-hour
Town Hall meetings. Both will be led by Marcy McClanahan. Childcare will be provided. We encourage you to sign up through myMPBC to attend.

- Saturday, August 17 | 10:00a
- Wednesday, September 11 | 7:00p

Awakening Shalom Podcast Series: Identity Crisis
Those who have listened to the series have shared how wonderful, educational, funny, informative, and thought provoking they found it to be. If you haven't taken time to listen yet, please do! We think you will be glad that you did. The series includes conversation about topics like: Who are we? How are we communicating who we are? What does it mean to be Baptist? Do denominations even matter anymore? What's in a name? You can easily access it on your computer either through iTunes or the Church website.

We Don't Want You to Miss Out!
Have you signed up to receive emails and updates from the Church? Did you know that if you opt out of ONE email from us, you are not going to get ANY email from us? Maybe your email address changed and you forgot to let us know. We want to make sure that you are up-to-date on all that's happening, because we have lots to share throughout the new Church Year! Sign up for our email lists at www/myersparkbaptist.org/communications! Have a specific list you want to be on? Contact Amy Jones (ajones@myersparkbaptist.org or 704.334.7232 x 126) and she will take care of it! We also hope you will follow us on social media.

Volunteer Temporary Parking Permits
You may have noticed that the parking lot next to the Church Offices is now a "Permit Only" parking lot with the exception of a designated handicapped parking space. This applies Monday through Saturday. If you are coming to the Church, please use the other parking spaces around campus. If, however, you are coming to drop off items or are serving as a volunteer for an event that requires you to be able to unload/load several items from your car, please see Carol Cedar at the reception desk in the Church office to obtain a temporary parking pass to place on your dash board. We appreciate your cooperation.
Awakening to Environmental Injustice | Launching September 22
Reconciling with the earth, Reconciling with each other, Reconciling with God
"The Lord God took Adam - made from the ground - and put him in the garden of Eden to serve, work, and worship the earth." Genesis 2:15

We are a people on a journey, and this fall, we eagerly invite you to join us on a voyage through an exploration of environmental injustices in our city, state, country, and beyond. From August 2019 to May 2020, we aim to explore how the mismanagement of natural and human-made resources are in direct relation to racism, class-ism, and disembodiment - how the misuse of our planet stems from a lack of seeing ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth as divine - sacred - holy.

Save the date for this exciting event that will be part of our Awakening to Environmental Injustice series:

Awakening Now! Featuring "Little Miss Flint"
Saturday, November 2 | Noon - 3:00p
Join us this fall for our first ever intergenerational Awakening Forum, featuring Amariyanna "Mari" Copeny, popularly known as "Little Miss Flint." In early 2016, the then 8-year-old from Flint, Michigan wrote a letter to President Obama, describing the unending plight of her community, which had been living with lead-contaminated water since 2014. Since then, Mari has fundraised over $500,000 with the nonprofit organization, "Pack Your Back," that has impacted over 25,000 children in Flint and beyond. Come and engage with local environmental justice organizations and initiatives, and hear what "Little Miss Flint" has to say about the ongoing crisis and how young people can get involved in justice movements around the country. This event is free and open to the public. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Children's Sunday Morning Faith Formation
Rev Carrie Veal shares, "Ms. Helton, The Gillis', and Clara . . . these were just a few of the lay leaders who shaped my faith as a child. They were present, not perfect; they offered space for questions, even if they did not have all the answers. They made an impact on my life."

You can make an impact through the Children's Ministry here at MPBC. We are adding to our Faith Formation Team, asking for just one Sunday a month from adults. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our children and their families.

We will offer teacher training on Saturday, August 17 from 11:00a - 1:00p. Childcare and lunch will be provided. You will be provided with teaching resources, meet your teaching partner (if you don't already know who they are), pick your preferred Sundays and more. And, we will have some fun as well! Sign up now through myMPBC. To learn more, please contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 118).
How did you learn about body image? Who told you the facts about life? Where was the Church in all of this?

On September 27 and 28, we will host the SAFE Seminar, a workshop for parents, grandparents, educators, non-parents, all of us who are on this journey of faith together. The workshop is led by LeAnn Gardner, an ordained minister, a mom, a social worker, and a professional therapist. To get a sense of what you can expect, watch a short video (available on our website) where LeAnn shares how SAFE came about and why she is so passionate about the topic.

Intergenerational Family Retreat
February 28 - March 1
We will be heading to the mountains for a weekend of sabbath and fellowship at Montreant Conference Center. We are excited to announce that our retreat leader will be Rev. Dana Trent, author of Saffron Cross, For Sabbath’s Sake, Dessert First, and One Breath at a Time. Mark the dates Friday, February 28 - Sunday, March 1 on your calendars and stay tuned - many details to come!

COMMITTEE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Hang Out with the Pastor
Monday, August 5 | 5:00p | The Common Market South End
We get together on the first Monday of each month at 5:00p at The Common Market in South End at 235 W. Tremont Avenue. All are invited to this casual time of fellowship! Bring the family, bring your appetite, or just come and hang out. There is something for everyone. We hope to see you there.

Meditation With the Pastor
Wednesdays | 11:30a - Noon | Room 250
Rev. Ben Boswell will guide a weekly meditation on Wednesdays throughout the summer. This dedicated time begins with a word, poem, or insight pertaining to mindfulness, followed by peace, quiet, calm, clarity, and quite possibly a transformed life. Inhale, Exhale. Our lives rest in the balance of these simple actions. Come catch your breath with us.

Rituals and Relationships
School, work, sports, vacations, and more - our lives are full, and we are constantly moving. Taking time to talk can become challenging. Rituals and Relationships is designed to help families make space for this important time together. The topic for the week of August 5 will be "including everyone." This session of Rituals and Relationships will be emailed to you, posted on the Children’s Ministry Facebook Page, and the Children's
Summer Youth Gatherings
This summer, we have fun opportunities to get together. MPBC youth are going to the Whitewater Center on August 13. Please check your inbox for an email from Allen Davis with details about this gathering and others. If you have any questions, please email him at adavis@myersparkbaptist.org.

Stephen Ministry Is Here For You
Are you feeling stressed, lonely or depressed? Do you need support? We are here to help. Contact Rev. Ben Boswell.

SUNDAYS

Sermon TalkBack is Also Online!
Note: In lieu of TalkBack on August 18, all are encouraged to join us at the PRIDE Parade. Details are listed above.
We continue our tradition of Sermon TalkBack following worship. We are excited to also offer online TalkBack. Rev. Ben Boswell will field questions from both those present in Heaton Hall and those who will be able to tune in online and send in their questions through the MPBC Facebook page. Our goal is to provide TalkBack to everyone who wishes to participate, even if they can’t be onsite. So, join the conversations this summer!

Summer Sunday Morning Yoga
On Sunday mornings, a Yoga 1, 2 class will be offered at 9:00a in the Cornwell Center's Group Exercise Studio. This gentler, slower paced practice makes it more accessible for people of all sizes, ages, and fitness levels. It assists with stress management and restoration of the mind, body, and soul while creating an atmosphere of safety and comfort that fosters self-esteem and body awareness. Childcare is available in Room 107.

Summer Choir - All Are Welcome!
Summer is a great time for anyone who would like to give choir a try without making a commitment and for any who would love to sing throughout the year but are unable to do so to join us! Questions? Contact Matt Caine (mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 158). Our final summer rehearsal will be Thursday, August 8 from 7:00 - 8:00p in Berry Hall. Sunday Worship we rehearse at 9:00a and service begins at 10:00a in the Sanctuary.

Children's Summer Worship
This summer, our interns will lead children's worship on a rotation basis. Since a child’s faith formation is paramount to any church, we want to give the interns as much exposure as possible. We will follow our usual worship liturgy with the children hearing different voices and experiencing different styles of leadership. Be sure you offer
encouragement to our interns who are learning while teaching! Questions? Contact Rev. Carrie Veal (cveal@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 118) or Jennifer Jennings (jjennings@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 610).

SCHEDULE

Looking for Our Schedule of Activities and Meetings?
An always-current calendar is available on our website, through myMPBC, and on the ChurchLife App (find out how to get the app at www.myersparkbaptist.org/about-us/mypbc-member-directory.

Summer Office Hours
Front office traffic during our summer months slows down significantly. As such, on Fridays, June 7 - August 30 the Church Office will close at noon.

CONGREGATIONAL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please remember the following members of our congregation (as of Tuesday, July 30, 2019.)

NOVANT - PRESBYTERIAN

- Jerry Hoogenakker

CMC - MERCY

- Mary Lou Buck

LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO

- Vikki Campbell Hunley on the death of her father, Benjamin Franklin Campbell, on July 27, 2019 in Monroe, NC.
- Cindy Clemens and Marcy McClanahan on the death of Cindy’s uncle and Lucy Clemens on the death of her great-uncle, Fred Clemens, on July 29, 2019 in Blacksburg, VA.

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 Carol Cedar (704.334.7232 x 100 | ccedar@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.

INCLUSIVITY | COMMUNITY | SPIRITUALITY | JUSTICE

myersparkbaptist.org

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OUR MINISTERS

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