You can take the person out of the church, but not the church out of the person.
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.

We are using gluten-free wafers for Communion today.

Gathering Song
“On the Road Again”  
_Canned Heat_

Call to Worship
Rev. Mia M. McClain

Opening Song
“Hey, Joe”  
_Jimi Hendrix_

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon  
Dr. Matt Caine

Welcome of Our Guests  
Rev. Carrie Veal

Waving/Texting of the Peace
If you are our guest today, please text “guest” to 474747 so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.

Hebrew Scripture Reading -Jeremiah 29:1-14 (NRSV)  
Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.
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.

**Sermon Song**
“Voodoo Child”  
*Jimi Hendrix*

**Sermon**
“Restoring the Dream”  
*Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell*

**Musical Reflection**
“Working on a Dream”  
*Bruce Springsteen*

**Sharing Our Gifts**
*Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman*

**Music at the Offering**
“Piece of My Heart”  
*Janis Joplin*

*Gifts to “Loose Plate Offering” will benefit the Ministry of Outreach partners.*

**Church at Prayer**
*Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich*

**Communion**
*Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell and Rev. Carrie Veal*

*The Communion wafers are gluten-free.*

**Music During Communion**
“Let’s Work Together”  
*Canned Heat*

**Benediction**
*Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell*

**Sending Song**
“Me and Bobby McGee”  
*Janis Joplin*

Leading worship today with Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell are Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich, Associate Minister, Rev. Mia M. McClain, Associate Minister, Rev. Carrie Veal, Minister of Children and Community Life, and Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator.

Leading worship through music are Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship, and “Randy Franklin and The Sardines”: Randy Franklin, guitar and vocals Ed Leitch, lead guitar Steve Foley, bass and vocals Shannon Lee, vocals Donnie Dover, keys and vocals Tom Thomas, drums and vocals Bob Jennings, audio
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 worshippers 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 easy! Please reach out to Rev. Carrie Veal at cveal@myersparkbaptist.org

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 77977.
• In the message of the text, enter giveMPBC (not case-sensitive).
• The system will return a message to you; click on the link provided and follow the instructions.
• You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received. It is that simple!

Questions? Contact Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman, Church Administrator, at lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org
MPBC HEADLINES

A Two-Day Event with Mark Charles

WED | Sept 23 | 6p | Webinar
SUN | Sept 27 | 10p | Worship

We are excited to welcome Mark Charles to MPBC as part of the newly re-imagined Faith in the 21st Century series. In preparation for our conversation with him, we'll be reading his new book and we'll get together on Sundays, September 13 and 20 for a Book Club to read the book he co-authored with Soong-Chan Rah, the new book entitled "Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery" (IVP, 2019).

DEACON NOMINATIONS

Email your recommendations for 6 candidates by 5:00p on SUN, Sept 20

Deacon Nominations

This week, September 13–20, MPBC members will nominate up to 6 candidates to serve as Deacon for 3 years. The process and nomination forms have been sent via email and USPS (for those without an email address in our system). Signed forms or email nominations are due by 5:00p on Sunday, September 20.

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW

Talk Back Tuesdays

Begins Sept 15 | 5:30p | Zoom Webinar

Let's talk about it . . . at TalkBack Tuesdays! Join the conversation about the sermonizing process, followed by Q&A.
Community Groups
Find connection in a Community Group. See upcoming opportunities below and on our website (look for the colorful fish image).

LGBTQAI+ Community Group
WED | Sept 16 | 7p | Zoom
Nancy Walker and Katie Fowler will lead this gathering to plan future events for those who identify.

Coffee and Conversation
SUN | Begins Sept 20 | 9a | Zoom | Password: coffee
Faith Formation | Sunday Mornings beginning Sept 20

COVID Stories
Starting WED | Sept 23 | 5:30p
We're sharing our coping with COVID stories and ideas. We'll release a new story each WED. Tune in.

Men's Community Group
TUE | Oct 6 & 20 | 8–9a | on Campus
Bring your coffee and join Rev Joe Aldrich and others who identify as men for this casual gathering.

Navigating MPBC
SUN | Sept 13, 20, 27 | 4–5p
Are you new to the Church? Are you wondering about how to get involved, how to meet other guests, new members, and more? Then Navigating is for you!
Chancel Choir Re–Envisioned
THU | Sep 17 | 6:30p | Zoom

Bring your dinner and a beverage, if you wish, and join us online! We’ll talk about the fall, music, and begin to develop a new vision for choir in the pandemic. Questions? Email Charlotte Judge, cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org.

Hang Out with the Pastors
MON | Sept 21 | 5p | Roswell Circle

Now that we are settling into our fall rhythm, we are excited to be able to offer casual outdoor gatherings on campus. We are able to safely welcome 20 participants for this event, but registration is required.

What Does It Mean to Be White? Nov Series

Put your name on the list! We are excited by the response to this important series and our sessions have been filling up quickly. If you haven’t had an opportunity to participate yet, make sure to put your name on our waiting list. More sessions coming in Nov and this winter.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Faith Formation
This fall we will remain virtual in our Faith Formation. All children ages birth – 5th grade are given a To Go Bag containing all the materials they will need. Contact Rev. Carrie Veal to get yours.

Children’s Worship
Each week’s worship for ages 4–2nd grade will be pre–recorded and sent to you on Fridays in your weekly email from the Children’s Ministry. It will also be available on the Children’s Ministry Facebook Page. Contact Rev. Carrie Veal with any questions.
Faith Formation
Lesson recordings will be emailed to youth bi-weekly on Sunday mornings beginning Sept 27. Questions? Contact Allen Davis

Youth Fellowship
Fall Kick-Off | SUN | Sept 20 | 3p | outdoor gathering | Registration required

Parenting in the Possibilities
THU | begins Sept 17 | 8 – 9p | Zoom
This group is for parents who would like to gather with other parents to talk about challenges, ask questions and offer tips and ideas.

Children's Choirs
WED | begins Sept 16 | Zoom
TK/K – 2nd grade | 5 – 5:20p
3rd – 5th grades | 5:30 – 6p
Our children need sounds in their ears, faith in their hearts, and scripture in their minds – they need art and music, and they need God!

Youth Choir
SUN | begins Sept 27 | 5-6p | Online
It will be a very different kind of youth choir this year. We are working on some cool technology to help us sing together. Come help us discover the possibilities!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Do you need some help? Would you like a visit?
We are here for you. Please contact Rev. Joe Aldrich at 704.560.0422 or jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org.

Would you like to join our list of volunteers?
We have several opportunities with varying time requirements. Contact Rev. Joe Aldrich at 704.560.0422 or jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org for Congregational
### SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON</td>
<td>Meditation with Barbara Linney</td>
<td>11:30a – Noon</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>Talk Back Tuesday</td>
<td>5:30 – 6:30p</td>
<td>Zoom Webinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>Meditation with the Pastor</td>
<td>11:30a – Noon</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>Password: breathe (case sensitive)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>We Invite You to the Sanctuary for Prayer and Reflection</td>
<td>4–6p</td>
<td></td>
<td>no registration needed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children's Choirs</td>
<td>5 – 5:20</td>
<td>Kinder and Carol Choirs</td>
<td>TK/K – 2nd grade</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>5:30 – 6</td>
<td>Chapel Choir</td>
<td>3rd – 5th grades</td>
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<td>Please register online</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LGBTQAI+ Community Group</td>
<td>6–7p</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU</td>
<td>Chancel Choir Gathering</td>
<td>6:30 – 7:30p</td>
<td>with Charlotte Judge</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<td>8–9p</td>
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<td>9a</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virtual Worship</td>
<td>10a</td>
<td>online, website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Fellowship Kick-Off</td>
<td>3–4p</td>
<td>On campus</td>
<td>Registration Required</td>
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<td>5:30 – 6:30p</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td>Register Online</td>
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</tbody>
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### RESOURCES
News You May Need

NC Absentee and Early Voting Deadlines

COVID | It’s a Mix for Labor Day — a Mix of Concerns, of Opportunities and How to Have a COVID-Safe Labor Day

COVID | Three Weeks Into NC School Reopening, Promising Signs And Lingering Questions

Our Outreach Partners in the News

Roof Above buys east Charlotte apartment complex to preserve affordable housing

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

How Black Lives Matter is Changing the Church

MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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Charlotte, NC 28207-2582
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MPBC Marketplace

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WE AT MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE
BLACK LIVES MATTER
CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL
NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL
ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD
WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice

OPEN TO ALL
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.

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. Dr. W. Benjamin Boswell
Senior Minister | bboswell@myersparkbaptist.org

Dr. Matt Caine
Minister of Music and Worship | mcaine@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Joseph D. Aldrich
Associate Minister | jaldrich@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Mia M. McClain
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Belinda Geuss
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