THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

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.

Silent Meditation

“The song of Mary is the oldest Advent hymn. It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might even say the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung. This is not the gentle, tender, dreamy Mary whom we sometimes see in paintings; this is the passionate, surrendered, proud, enthusiastic Mary who speaks out here... This song... is a hard, strong, inexorable song about collapsing thrones and humbled lords of this world, about the power of God and the powerlessness of humankind. These are the tones of the women prophets of the Old Testament that now comes to life in Mary’s mouth.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The Magnificat is a revolutionary song of salvation whose political, economic, and social dimensions cannot be blunted. People in need in every society hear a blessing in this canticle. The battered woman, the single parent without resources, those without food on the table or without even a table, the homeless family, the young abandoned to their own devices, the old who are discarded: all are encompassed in the hope Mary proclaims.”

—Sister Elizabeth Johnson

“During the British rule of India, the Magnificat was prohibited from being sung in church. In the 1980’s, Guatemala’s government discovered Mary’s words about God’s preferential love for the poor to be too dangerous and revolutionary... Thus their government banned any public recitation of Mary’s words. Similarly, after the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo—whose children all disappeared during the Dirty War—placed the Magnificat’s words on posters throughout the capital plaza, the military junta of Argentina outlawed any public display of Mary’s song.”

—Jason Porterfield

Ringing of the Angelus Bell

Prelude

“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

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.

*Opening Sentences

Leader: Our hearts sing with the joy of the Lord who is our power.
People: There is no one like you Lord; no rock like our God.
Leader: For you are a God of knowledge by whom all actions are weighed.
People: The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble take on strength.
Leader: You care for poor and for rich. You bring low and you exalt.
People: You raise the poor from the dust and the needy from the ashes.
Leader: The lowly sit with princes and the poor inherit a seat of honor.
People: For the pillars of the earth are yours, for on them you set the world.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.
*Procession and Opening of the Bible

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Solo: Once in royal David’s city stood a低ly cattle shed, 
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed: 
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Harper Harris, soloist

Choir only: 
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, 
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; 
with the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Congregation (singing): 
For he is our childhood pattern, day by day like us he grew, 
he was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; 
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love, 
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; 
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Bidding Prayer

Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell

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.

Anthem

“Mary Had a Baby”

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! 
What did she name him, yes, Lord! 
Named him King Jesus, yes, Lord! 
Where was he born? Yes, Lord! 
Born in a manger, yes, Lord! 
Shepherds came to see him, yes, Lord! 
Angels were a-singing, yes, Lord! 
Glory hallelujah to the newborn King!

*Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made, the time to hear the story of salvation, 
to listen for the rustle of angels’ wings, and to run to the manger to see a newborn baby. 
Listen, those who have ears to hear. Look, those who have eyes to see. 
Behold the dawning of amazing grace!

People: O God, give us the humbleness of the shepherds 
who had ears to hear and eyes to see, in the cold December darkness, 
the coming of light and the Advent of Joy!

(Lighting the Candle of Joy.)
*Response: (Choir sings once, Congregation repeats.)

Response:

text: Richard Leach

Scottish folk tune

3. Joy is a candle of mystery and laughter, mystery of light that is born in the dark; laughter at hearing the voice of an angel, ever so near, casting out fear.

*Passing of the Peace

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.

First Lesson

God comforts people and calls them to prepare for redemption. Isaiah 40:1-5

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Kinlaw Largen, reader

Anthem

“Sans Day Carol”

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our savior for to be,
and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry, a bright shade of red,
then trust we our savior who rose from the dead... --Traditional Cornish carol

Second Lesson

The Messiah's birthplace in Bethlehem is foretold. Micah 5:2-5a

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Alicia Green, reader

Anthem

“On This Day”

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our king, born on earth to save us; him the father gave us.

Sing for joy, sing for mirth; when he came down to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and sheep beside him from the cold would hide him.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo! (Therefore, glory to God in the highest).

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's king, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.
Third Lesson  
God promises a child known as “God with us.”  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Conor Dougherty, reader

Anthem  
"Hodie Christus natus est" from A Ceremony of Carols  
Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Youth Choir

Fourth Lesson  
The prophet foretells Jesus’s mission on earth.  
Isaiah 61:1-3  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Lucy Boswell, reader

*Carol  
“Canticle of Turning”  
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

See page 10.

Fifth Lesson  
The angel Gabriel salutes Mary.  
Luke 1:26-38  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Tucker Pearsall, reader

Anthem  
Богородице дево  
Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Chancel Choir

Sixth Lesson  
Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her joy.  
Luke 1:39-56  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Marcy McClanahan, reader

Anthem  
“Magnificat”  
Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977)  
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Chancel Choir
Ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes,
quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen ejus,
et misericordia ejus a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
Dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui;
Deposit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepti Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

Gloria Patri et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Bethany Wherry, soloist

Seventh Lesson
Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Devin Green, reader

Anthem
"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"
Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabella!
Un flambeau, courons au berceau!
C’est Jésu, bonnes gens du hameau
Le Christ est né, Marie appelle,
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que la mère est belle,
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que l’enfant est beau!

C’est un tort quand l’Enfant sommeille,
C’est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l’un l’autre, d’abord!
Au moindre bruit, Jésu s’evelle,
Chut! Chut! Chut! Il dort à merveille,
Chut! Chut! Chut! Voyez comme il dort!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village.
Christ is born, and Mary calls us;
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the son.

It is wrong when the baby is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, now as you gather around him.
Talk and noise might awaken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! marvelous is the baby;
Hush! Hush! see him as he sleeps!

Eighth Lesson
The shepherds go to the manger.
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Bridget Dougherty, reader

--Luke 1:46-55 with the Lesser Doxology

Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Devin Green, reader

Anthem
"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"
Un flambeau, Jeanette, Isabella!
Un flambeau, courons au berceau!
C’est Jésu, bonnes gens du hameau
Le Christ est né, Marie appelle,
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que la mère est belle,
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que l’enfant est beau!

C’est un tort quand l’Enfant sommeille,
C’est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l’un l’autre, d’abord!
Au moindre bruit, Jésu s’evelle,
Chut! Chut! Chut! Il dort à merveille,
Chut! Chut! Chut! Voyez comme il dort!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village.
Christ is born, and Mary calls us;
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the son.

It is wrong when the baby is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, now as you gather around him.
Talk and noise might awaken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! marvelous is the baby;
Hush! Hush! see him as he sleeps!

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Le Christ est né, Marie appelle,
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C’est un tort quand l’Enfant sommeille,
C’est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l’un l’autre, d’abord!
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Chut! Chut! Chut! Il dort à merveille,
Chut! Chut! Chut! Voyez comme il dort!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the cradle run.
It is Jesus, good folk of the village.
Christ is born, and Mary calls us;
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the son.

It is wrong when the baby is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud.
Silence, now as you gather around him.
Talk and noise might awaken Jesus.
Hush! Hush! marvelous is the baby;
Hush! Hush! see him as he sleeps!
Anthem
“Child in the Manger”
Child in the manger, infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all!
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
all our demerits upon him fall.

Monarchs have tender, delicate children
nourished in splendor, day by day;
death soon will banish honor and beauty,
pleasure shall vanish, forms all decay.

Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder,
angels beheld him upon his throne;
worthy our Savior of all their praises;
happy forever, are his own.

*Carol
“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

Ninth Lesson
The Word was made flesh and we have seen its glory. 
John 1:1-14
Leader: The story of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.
Christopher Dougherty, reader

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO GOD’S WORD

Offering
Mobile giving is available – see page 9.
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.

Anthem at the Offering
“Christmas Day” (Choral Fantasy on Old Carols)
Chancel Choir
Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

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.

Doxology
“O come, all ye faithful”
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*Prayer of Dedication
Mia McClain
*Procession into the World and Closing of the Bible
tagline: “Joy to the World”

Number 110

ANTIOCH

Benediction

Postlude
tagline: “In Dulci Jubilo”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Following worship, 3's and 4's may be picked up in Room 107;
tagline: TK- Kindergartners may be picked up in Room 108.

Leading worship today with Rev. W. Benjamin Boswell, Senior Minister,
are Mia McClain, Associate Minister,
KINLAW LARGEN, ALICIA GREEN, CONOR DOUGHERTY, LUCY BOSWELL,
TUCKER PEARSSALL, MARCY MCCLANAHAN, DEVIN GREEN, BRIDGET DOUGHERTY,
and CHRISTOPHER DOUGHERTY, members of the congregation.

The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Chapel Choir and Carol Choirs
lead worship through music
with Dr. Matt Caine, Minister of Music and Worship,
Charlotte Judge, Associate Director of Music,
DR. JUSTIN SMITH, INTERIM YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR,
John Richardson, Organist,
Emily Urbanek, Pianist,
Janice Bradner, Pianist,
Ashley Norton, Kinder Choir Director,
Harper Harris, Soloist
and Bethany Wherry, Soloist.

The acolytes are Megan Merritt, Conor Dougherty and Alicia Green.

The sound technician is Eric Roberts.
The webcast technician is Seph Rackley.
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 the Narthex.

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
1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a
4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the
work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your
member who holds us fast; God's mercy must de-

wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
livered us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the
This saving word that our forebears heard is the

weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the Magnificat, Mary's
song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of
the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.
name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.
### The Season of Advent and Christmas 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| **Wednesday, Dec 18** | Service of Lament and Loss  
*Service of Lament and Loss with Communion | 6:30p in the Sanctuary* |
| **Sunday, December 22** | Advent IV – Love  
*Worship | 11:00a in the Sanctuary* |
| **Tuesday, Dec 24** | Christmas Eve  
*Christmas Family Worship | 11:00a in the Sanctuary*  
*The Music of Christmas | 5:30p in the Sanctuary*  
*Candlelight Worship with Communion | 6:00p in the Sanctuary |
| **Sunday, Dec 29** | Jazz in the Round | 11:00a in Heaton Hall |
| **Sunday, Jan 5, 2020** | Epiphany Sunday  
*Worship with Communion | 11:00a in the Sanctuary* |
Welcome. We’re glad you’re here.

If you are our guest, we’d love to hear a little about you!
• 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, stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex after worship to speak with one of us.

WEEKLY NEWS

December 16-22, 2019

LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER FOR MPBC!

Everyone can take part in spreading our message.

We need your help to spread the word about our new marketing campaign. Our goal is to start a conversation about our church's identity that reframes how people think about what it means to be a Baptist, a church, and a religious community in Myers Park. Our members and friends will always be our best advertisers and marketers. Statistics show that even in our highly technological world, word of mouth remains the most powerful tool for church growth. Please support our new campaign by sharing the messages from our Facebook page on your own social media. Join us in spreading the excitement about our church with the community and help us make history.

FEARLESS GENEROSITY

FINISH STRONG

Sharing your financial gifts with our church helps us to embody the love, justice, and compassion of Jesus. Can you help us finish strong? It’s not too late to make a stock gift, finish your 2019 financial commitment, or prepay one for 2020 in time to get a 2019 tax deduction. Checks must be postmarked by December 31 and received in the Finance Office by January 10. Stock gifts must be communicated to our office by December 30. To make a stock gift, call Leigh Anne Hagerman at 704.334.7234 x 116.

Service of Lament and Loss

Wednesday, December 18
6:30p in the Sanctuary

Bright lights, laughter, parties, and cheerful music. The sights and sounds of the holidays seem to begin earlier and earlier each year. For those who have experienced loss, the sights and sounds have less twinkle, less joy, and much more heartache. The holidays can remind us what we have
lost – a loved one, a relationship, a pet, a dream. Our Service of Lament and Loss offers space for your grief and loss. Through words and song, we gather to share with one another the comfort that comes from God. If you have not experienced a loss this year, you are invited to come to offer support to others. Childcare will be available.

**ADVENT Sermon Series: The Roots of Redemption**

*Spring, Tree of David, bloom with expectation, bearing salvation through women of God. Man's broken power, turned for God's own glory. O Come let us adore him Christ the Lord.*

This Advent we will be exploring the incredible stories of resourceful women who scandalously appear in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. These powerful women are the unsung heroes of the incarnation and the roots of our redemption. They show us that salvation always comes into the world through a combination of divine initiative and human faith and ingenuity.

**Wednesday, December 18 | 6:30p in the Sanctuary | Service of Lament and Loss | Communion**

**Sunday, December 22 | Advent IV - Love**

**Tuesday, December 24 | Christmas Eve**
11:00a | Christmas Family Worship | Sanctuary
5:30p | The Music of Christmas | Sanctuary
6:00p | Candlelight Worship | Communion | Sanctuary

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

11:00a Christmas Family Worship
5:30p The Music of Christmas | 6:00p Candlelight Worship

Our **11:00a Christmas Eve worship** offers a kid-friendly, interactive worship experience for all ages. You will be greeted with familiar carols played on steel drum and piano as you arrive. The service will include the singing of beloved Christmas carols, the children singing, a brief meditation by Rev. Ben Boswell, Communion, and candle lighting.

At **5:30p, the prelude to our 6:00p Christmas Eve service** will begin with music of the season presented through organ, piano, and vocal music. You'll want to be early to hear the festive music and get a good seat! Our Chancel Choir will lead us in singing beloved Christmas carols, providing additional seasonal music, a Christmas homily by Rev. Ben Boswell, Communion, and candle lighting. Rumor has it that a certain associate minister will also be singing!

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**ROOM IN THE INN**

Be Part of This Heartwarming Outreach Opportunity

**EVERY MONDAY & SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 2 - MARCH 30**
Every Monday and Saturday night, December through March, we host 14 of our homeless neighbors: men, women, children and/or families. Volunteers set up and make beds, drive the church van with our neighbors to and from the Urban Ministry Center, make/serve/share an evening meal, serve as overnight hosts, make sack lunches and provide hospitality for those who have no place to call home. Volunteer and volunteer on our website.

As we prepare for celebrating Christmas with friends and family, let's start with breakfast with our Church family. In lieu of Faith Formation classes, join us in Heaton Hall before worship. We will have pancakes and crafts for the kids. Do you have a dish you would love to share? Let us know what you would like to bring by signing up through our website. If you have questions, please contact Rainey Underwood (runderwood@myersparkbaptist.org | 704.334.7232 x 125).

What is Advent?
What do the colors of the candles mean?
Why are the scriptures in the lectionary so daunting?
Aren't we supposed be talking about the birth of Jesus?

Join Rev. Ben Boswell, Mia McClain, and Rev. Carrie Veal as they explore this sacred time of Advent amidst the commercialized Christmas chaos. They'll be putting pop culture references in conversation with the revelatory lectionary passages that hint at a different kind of hope free from the fetters of end-of-the-year sales and obsessive gift-giving. In this dialogue, they hope to carve out a truer meaning of Christmas at what feels like the end of the world. Episodes 1 and 2 of this 3-part series are available on our website and iTunes.

Mid-Day Women's Bible Study
Wednesday | Dec 18 | 1-2:30p | Parlor

Join us for our final Bible study of the year. We will resume January 8, 2020. This study walks through books of the Bible while opening the floor for questions and conversation. No topic is off limits! Bring your pressing thoughts and inquiries to the circle and let's dive into the text together. To find out more, email Ellen Caldwell at flydusty60@gmail.com or Mia McClain at mmcclain@myersparkbaptist.org.
PHOTO GROUP

Wednesday, December 18
7-9p | Room 250
Topic: YOUR BEST OF 2019

Looking through your photos from the past year, which ones are you particularly proud of? Which show your unique take on the world, or a new subject, technique, or approach?

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE

Selfies with Santa!
Thursday, December 19 | 5:00 - 7:00p
Cornwell Center Lounge

Cornwell Center

TAI CHI SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 21 | Noon - 1:30p
Don't be a victim! You'll learn the Five Circle Exercises that will help you escape a frontal grab, get out of a wrist grab, and hit and kick, if necessary. Tai Chi Mike will also discuss safety tips. Cost $10. Register and pay at the Cornwell Front Desk.

COLLEGE STUDENTS!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Please stop by the Youth Hall or visit Allen's office to pick up your CARE PACKAGE created by the Youth Group. Don't go back to school without it!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Jazz Worship in the Round

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019
11:00a in Heaton Hall
(Faith Formation classes will not meet)

LOOKING AHEAD

YOUTH MINISTRY
KANUGA
JANUARY 17-19, 2020

Music, laughter and snow? This January, youth in grades 6-12 will retreat to the Kanuga Conference Center in the North Carolina mountains for a fun weekend of community building as we share and learn together. We will have small and large group sessions with
plenty of free time throughout. All youth are encouraged to attend. Scholarships are available if needed. Contact Allen Davis for more details. The cost is $200 | discount available if you sign up for the Church-Wide Retreat, as well. Register through our website.

When we went on our retreat in 2018, we were unsure what we should expect. And then any and all expectations were exceeded. Why? Because of those who were there! We were able to break away from our lives. We were able to watch children play, sit with adults and talk, and so much more. Some went hiking; some took a nap; some went into town to explore. Whatever you wanted to do, you could!

As we are putting this year's retreat together, we have a team who will be working together to make the 2020 retreat an even better experience. And we would love to hear from you! Let us know about activities you would like. Share an idea for our community play night. Offer your gift of music or worship leading. Maybe you want to give towards our scholarship fund. Whatever it might be, let us know. You can email Rev. Carrie Veal and she will pass along whatever you have to share. Registration is available through our website and we hope you will sign up soon!

Retreat Team: Janet Miller, Rex and Anne Jones, Wendy Strickland, Elizabeth Hunter, Tucker Pearsall, Artemis Elias, and Carrie Veal

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Help us welcome
CORNWELL CENTER'S NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Howard Glover
He will be focusing on member engagement, community outreach, and staff management.

COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION PROJECT

Our Columbarium has been at full capacity for several years. In our desire to be able to offer our church community a final resting place, the Board of Deacons recently approved a construction project which will expand our Columbarium by 204 niches, or spaces. We expect construction to begin in the spring, but would like to offer the opportunity to purchase a niche now to reserve a spot. The cost is $2,500 per niche. One niche can hold the cremains of two persons. To reserve a spot, please call or email Leigh Anne Hagerman (704-334-7232 x 116 | lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org).
Monday, January 6 | 5:00p | The Common Market South End
Our monthly hang outs will continue into the new year. We gather 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.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

Grief Support Groups
now available through the Ministry of Congregational Care

Following the death of a family member or friend, grief is something we cannot escape. When the loss sinks in, we do not know what to do. Grief affects every part of us, and we all grieve in different ways at different times. Though there is not simply one way to deal with our grief, being a part of a caring group of people who are also experiencing grief can help us realize we are not alone. If you are interested in being a part of a Grief Support Group, please contact Rev. Joe Aldrich. Meeting dates and times to be determined.

Are You Interested in Becoming a Stephen Minister?
The Stephen Ministry Leadership Team is in the process of developing a new training class for 2020. The caring skills that will be taught in the class can be life changing for you and for those you serve. We hope to add 5-7 new Stephen Ministers to our team. If you have questions about the training class or are interested in learning more, please contact Rev. Joe Aldrich.

Looking for Our Schedule of Activities and Meetings?
An always-current calendar is available on our website and on the ChurchLife App. You can find out how to get the app by searching "Member Directory" on our website.
Access our online calendar
SUNDAY SERVICES AND SERMONS
Did you miss a worship service or would you like to experience one again? Our services and sermons are available 24/7 on our website. Watch them or listen on the go. Sermons are also available on iTunes. We are updating our website to make accessing audio and video files even easier. So, check back often. Go to services and sermons now >

RECURRING OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAYS

Our Wednesday programs and dinners will resume January 8, 2020.

SUNDAYS

Faith Formation Classes will resume January 5, 2020.
Adults | 9:45 - 10:45a | Education Building | Questions? Contact Mia McClain
Youth | 9:45 - 10:45a | Youth Hall | Contact Allen Davis
Children | 9:45 - 10:45a | Preschool and Elementary Hallways | Contact Rev. Carrie Veal

Children’s Sunday Worship (Grades 1-5)
11:00a Sanctuary | pick-up after worship - Transept | Contact Rev. Carrie Veal

Youth Choir will resume January 5. Contact Charlotte Judge.
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. 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

Mia M. McClain
Associate Minister | mcmclain@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Leigh Anne Hagerman
Church Administrator | lhagerman@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Carrie Veal
Minister of Children and Community Life | cvveal@myersparkbaptist.org

John Richardson
Organist | jrichardson@myersparkbaptist.org

Charlotte C. Judge
Associate Director of Music | cjudge@myersparkbaptist.org

Allen Davis
Director of Youth Ministry | adavis@myersparkbaptist.org

Pamela Handon
Director of the Cornwall Center | phandon@cornwellcenter.org

Belinda Guess
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MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Inclusivity | Spirituality | Community | Justice