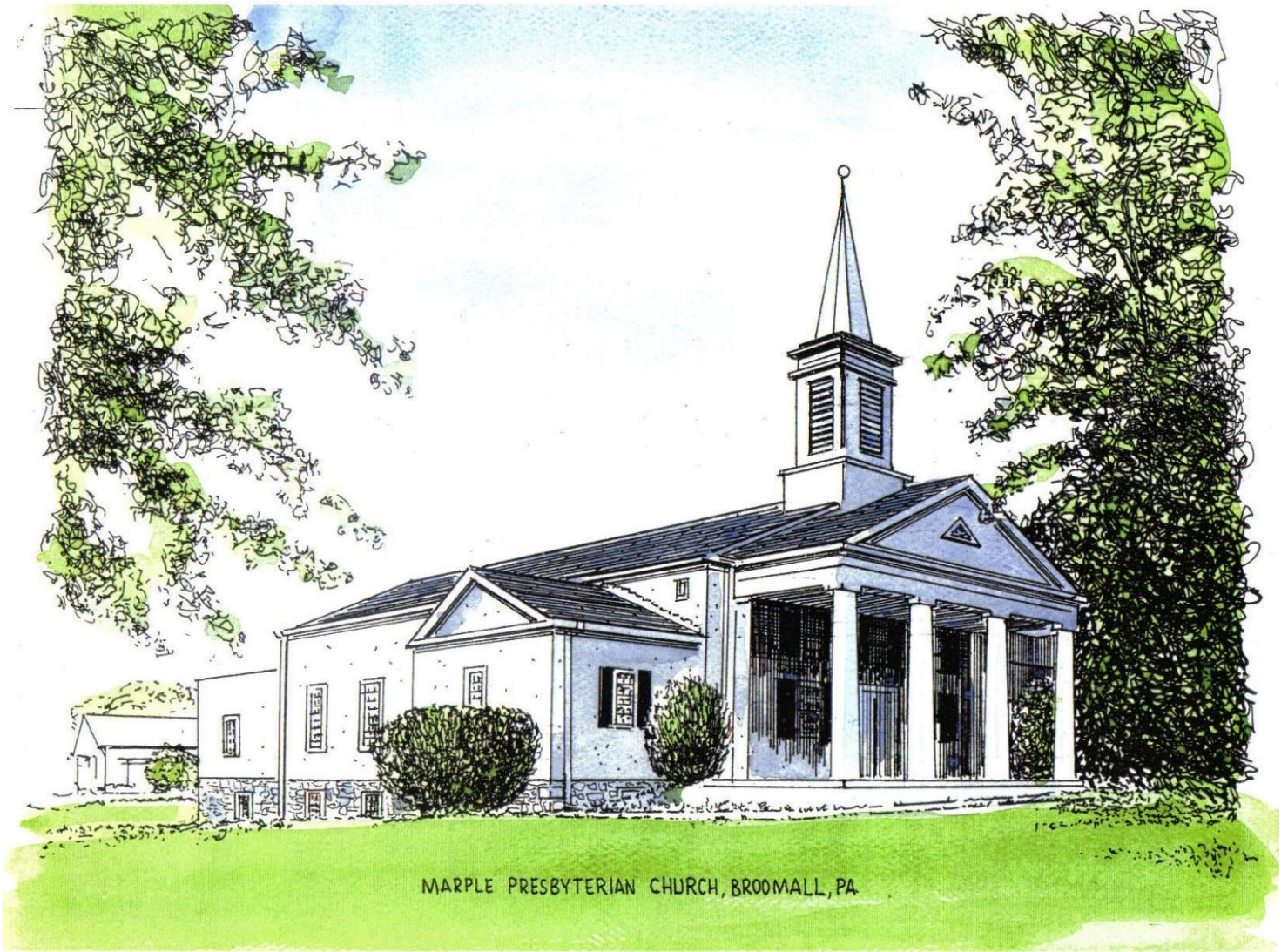

Marple Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROOMALL, PA

“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
105 N. SPROUL ROAD | BROOMALL, PA 19008
610-356-1098 | marplepc@gmail.com | www.marplepres.org

Welcome

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



Today – September 20, 2026

LITURGIST:

HEAD USHER: Tom Trumbetas



New Here?

Welcome to Marple Presbyterian Church! We're so glad you came to worship with us and want to do all we can to help you feel at home.

- All visitors are encouraged to take the information brochure in the pew and place the visitor's section in the offering plate.
- Children are welcome in the service! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Nursery care is also available for children thru age 3. The nursery is located directly underneath the sanctuary.
- Assistive Listening Units are also available – please see any usher.

RESOURCES

Contact Us | 610-356-1098

marplepc@gmail.com

Website | www.marplepres.org

facebook.com/MarplePresbyterian

HOW DO I CONNECT?

Clerk of Session | [Kristen Mitchell](#)

Christian Education | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Deacons | Linda Pursley & Joyce Holmwood
marplepresdeacons@gmail.com

Fellowship | [Debbie Pettinelli](#)

Finance | [Kerri Robinson](#)

Mission | Session Members

Music | [Susan Greene](#)

Nursery | [Amy Eckels](#)

Personnel | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Property Management | [Paul Avazier](#)

Rentals | Church Office

Stewardship | Session Members

Treasurer | [Bill Brower](#)
marlepctreasurer@gmail.com

Worship | [Amy Eckels](#)

Youth Group | [Ben Mitchell](#)

For more contact info, please contact the church office.

September 20, 2026

10:30am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in your name.

People: We come to offer you our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and our prayers.

Leader: Come among us, living Lord through the power of your Holy Spirit,

All: transform our hearts and minds so we may

recognize your presence, hear your voice,

know your will, and walk in your ways.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

***Opening Hymn | *How Firm a Foundation* | #361**

***Opening Prayer**

All generations praise you, God, for every day your unbounded love surrounds us, your grace is shared abundantly, your mysterious and holy nature is revealed throughout creation. We praise you because you do not stand idly by, but join us in our struggles and doubts, creating space for us to discern your presence and trust in your leading.

Choir Anthem | *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Schrader

Call to Confession

Before we speak God knows our needs. Our words name what overwhelms us. Let us open our hearts to God's grace for ourselves and others. Let us, in words and in silence, seek what God provides.

Prayer of Confession

God, so many around us, and even we, find it hard to settle down, to stop rushing in our thoughts and in our actions. Circumstances in our lives, in our world and in our families, send our hearts racing. When we are weighed down by anxiety, confusion and uncertainty we block you out. We cannot keep going and we cannot find rest. We know we are creatures of your breath, please calm us as we wait for the stillness you would breathe in us. We know we are creatures of your word and we wait for you to speak to us. Help us to breathe in your faithful presence. Help us to be silent and trust in you.

Moment for personal confession as we remember the places we need for God's grace and love...

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: As Jesus reached out in healing love – to those who sought relief for their suffering – God comes to all who earnestly seek a new life.

Friends hear the good news – and live your life as one who believes it –

All: In Jesus Christ we are a forgiven people.

***Congregational Response | *Gloria Patri* | #579**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

*** Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Since Christ has opened his hearts to us – let us open our hearts to one another – so we may be people of peace in Christ.

You are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

Saying: the peace of Christ be with you and responding...

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Jonah 2:1-10

Old Testament pg. 811

Psalms 4

Old Testament pg. 464

Sermon | In A Tight Spot | Rev. Roberta Kearney, Transitional Pastor

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn** | *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness* (see insert)

The Choir will sing verse 1 then the congregation will sing all the verses.

***Affirmation of Faith** | *A Song of Faith, the United Church of Canada*

We sing of God the Spirit,
faithful and untameable,
who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy
not only in what is familiar,
but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit,
who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
transforming us and the world.

We offer worship
as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
and a practice of opening ourselves
to God's still, small voice of comfort,
to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.

Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
in community and in solitude,
God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

We sing to God with trust.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

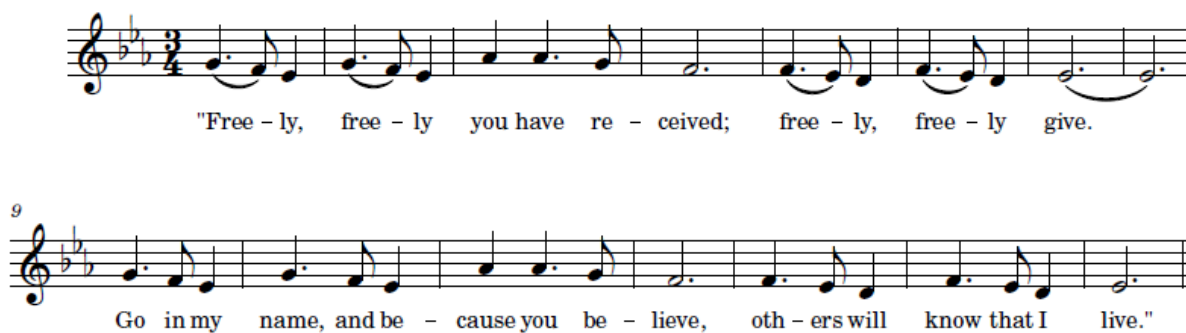
The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

***Congregational Response** *Freely, Freely* written and composed by Carol Owens



The musical notation is written on two staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

"Free - ly, free - ly you have re - ceived; free - ly, free - ly give.

9
Go in my name, and be - cause you be - lieve, oth - ers will know that I live."

*Offering Prayer

Jesus, give us faith to see, it is into your hands we offer our gifts and
it is your feet we follow as we go out to serve others, equipped by your Holy Spirit.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

***Closing Hymn | *Be Thou My Vision* | #339**

Charge and Benediction

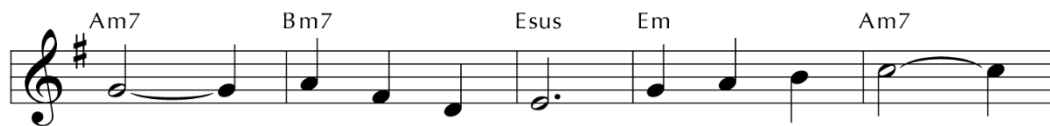
Postlude

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness 314

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

This Week

MONDAY

Cub Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

TUESDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am–3 pm

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

WEDNESDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

Boy Scout Troop 151 Meeting | *Hall* 7-9 pm

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 7-8 pm

THURSDAY

Joys & Concerns Chat | *Zoom* 3-4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 PW MPC

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm

SATURDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am–4 pm

SUNDAY

AA Meeting | *Lower CE Bldg.* 8-9 am

Worship, Anniversary Sunday 10:30 am

Looking Ahead

OCTOBER 4

Worship, Communion 10:30 am

OCTOBER 7

Deacon's Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm

OCTOBER 21

Session Meeting 7:00 pm

Learn More



Sunday School - MPC Sunday School is open to children ages 3 and up and runs weekly during the 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service.



Youth Group is open to all youth from 6th to 12th grade and meets twice a month between October and May. Please see the full Youth Group calendar for meeting dates, special events, and retreats. Contact the Youth Group Leaders at youthgroup@marplepres.org for additional information.



Information needed for Anniversary Sunday – September 27.

Anniversary Sunday is a great time to celebrate 50 years of faithful church membership.

This year – Roberta would like to add an additional piece to the Anniversary celebration, in order to recognize folks who have been church members for 50 years, whether or not those years were all at Marple.

The idea of celebrating 50 years of membership comes from the Freemasons. The celebration serves as a reminder that long term faithfulness blesses our church. It dates from an era when most folks lived in the same place their entire lives.

Now, as people are much more mobile, they may have joined Marple 20 or 30 years ago,

but may not ever attain 50 years at Marple, even as they have been faithful to God and the church for five or more decades.

If you have been a church member anywhere, for 50 plus years, are close to being a 50-year member of Christ's church please let us know.

At the same time, we would like to gather important information you wish to share, from all our members:

Please feel free to call the church office with this information (610-356-1098) or send an email to marplepc@gmail.com

Name

- Birthday – Month and Day
- Wedding Anniversary, if applicable
- Year you joined Marple Presbyterian Church
- How long you have been a church member elsewhere, before coming to Marple.

Touchpoint Church Growth Plan

Ministry Invitation

Anyone who regularly worships at Marple, online or in person whether or not a church member, is invited to be part of this team.

Marple has been invited to participate in a 12-month program to determine the best ways to reach and welcome people to join in ministry and life at Marple.

The goal is to develop a plan specific to Marple to grow membership by 10% within 12 months. Formation of the plan will occur over four to five months. The remaining months will be spent applying the plan and learning what uses of social media would be most beneficial in our area. The work begins in October and will be done on Zoom. It involves a monthly 2-hour commitment.

The plan includes 5 steps, the first three of which can begin in as soon as 2-3 people commit to being on the Growth Team. Participation on the team is open to all friends and members of Marple. Additional

Marple team meetings, on Zoom, and actions include a 4-8 hour/month commitment.

Broadly, Steps 1-3 are as follows:

1. Work with our church to learn what kind of fellowship events we would invite friends and family to attend at church. Pick the event, then invite family, friends, and former church members to attend.
2. In weekly worship celebrate a blessing in the church or community. Invite inactive or community people to attend.
3. Identify someone who needs a little help, or a celebration, or a bit of encouragement in the neighborhood or church. Meet the need and then celebrate in worship.

John Strain is the contact person to learn more.



Our Thrift Shop is open:

Tuesdays from 10 am – 3 pm

Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm

Please come by to shop the new arrivals.

We are thankful for Amy and her team of faithful volunteers. We are always grateful for any help. It is a great way to volunteer at MPC.

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs.

You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood

jholmwood433@comcast.net

610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley

lpursley1981@gmail.com

631-942-5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Listening devices are available for individuals who have a hearing impairment.

Please speak to an usher for more information or to request a device.



SESSION

DEACONS

Paul Avazier '26

Faye Allison '28

Amy Eckels '28

Marion Brower '27

Patricia Gwartz '28

Bette Downs '27

Ben Mitchell '27

George Guyer '28

Kristen Mitchell, Clerk

Greg Hoffman '27

Debbie Pettinelli '27

Joyce Holmwood '26

Kerri Robinson '26

Linda Pursley '27

Lynn Smith '28

Carol Robinson '28

John Strain '27

Diane Valaitis '26

Kim Wertz '28

Shirley Wise '26