
Marple Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025



“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, DECEMBER 28, 2025



First Sunday in Christmastide

LITURGIST: Douglas Ballard

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 | [Mack Smith](#)

Finance | [Kerri Robinson](#)

Membership Development |

Mission | [Session Members](#)

Music | [Susan Greene](#)

Nursery | [Amy Eckels](#)

Personnel | [Ben Mitchell](#)

Property Management | [Paul Avazier](#)

Rentals | [Church Office](#)

Stewardship | [Joanne Trumbetas](#)

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

Worship | [Amy Eckels](#)

Youth Group | [Ben Mitchell](#)

For more contact info, please contact the church office.

*Now that the time has come wherein
Our Savior Christ was born,
The larder's full of beef and pork,
The granary's full of corn,
As God hath plenty to thee sent,
Take comfort of thy labors,
And let it never thee repent
To feed they needy neighbors.*

Poor Robin's Almanack (1677)

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude | Susan B. Greene

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Hymn** | On This Day Earth Shall Ring | #46

***Call to Worship** |

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

People: We have beheld his glory. Alleluia!

Leader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

People: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Special Music |

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with
our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what
we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of
your holy name.

Moment for personal confession and reflection.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.**

Congregational Response **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice | #28, stanza 3*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and call you all
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: We are all one in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, who came down to Earth, and whose dwelling place is with God's people.

People: **Christ lives among us as our peace.**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Time with Children

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

***Hymn** | *O Little Town of Bethlehem* | #44

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Ecclesiastes 2:22-40

New Testament pg. 55

Galatians 4:4-7

New Testament pg. 178

Sermon | In the Fullness of Time | Pastor Jim Reisner

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;

He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 **O Come, All Ye Faithful | #41*
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

*Prayer of Dedication

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

***Closing Hymn |** Go, Tell It on the Mountain | #29

Charge and Benediction

Postlude | Susan B. Greene



A New Year Laurel

...not to us but to your name be the
glory, because of your love
AND FAITHFULNESS.

PSALM 115:1, NIV

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

SATURDAY

Thrift Shop 10 am-4 pm

SUNDAY

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

Looking Ahead

JANUARY 4

Communion

JANUARY 7

Deacon's Meeting 7:30 pm

JANUARY 10

Session Retreat

JANUARY 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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As we step into the new year, many of us reflect on resolutions and goals to improve our lives. Often, these resolutions focus on personal health, finances, or relationships. But what if we expanded our perspective to include Stewardship—a holistic commitment of time, talents, and treasures in service to God and others?

In Scripture, we are reminded that everything we have comes from God. Psalm 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Because God has shared with us what we have, we are now called to share what we have with others. Stewardship isn't just about giving money; it's about recognizing God's provision and using our resources for God's glory. This includes our time, abilities, and financial gifts.

This January, consider making Stewardship a part of your New Year's resolutions.

- Time is one of our most valuable resources. How can you dedicate more of it to God's work this year?
- God has blessed each of us with unique skills and abilities. How can you use your talents to serve?
- Financial Stewardship is another extremely important aspect of our faith, and is an important part of a balanced life of discipleship. Review your giving plan for the year and consider increasing your regular offerings as you are able. The work of the church is always growing, and your support of our ministry is what makes that work possible.

By making Stewardship a priority in your resolutions, you're not just setting a goal—you're embracing a lifestyle of gratitude and service. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

Happy New Year 2026 to All!



YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR 2025-2026

MPC's Youth Group is open to all youth currently in 6th to 12th grade, regardless of membership at Marple Presbyterian Church. We typically meet a few Sundays per month from 4 – 7 pm in the Rowland Room at MPC, 105 N. Sproul Rd, Broomall, Pennsylvania. See below for meeting dates and special events!

Youth Group Meeting Dates:

October 19	February 15
November 2	March 1
December 7	March 15
December 21* – Christmas Party!	April 5
January 11*	April 19
January 25*	May 3
February 1	May 17

**For the Christmas Party, Youth Group will run from 3 pm to 6 pm. Youth are invited and encouraged to stay and attend MPC's Longest Night Service which is from 7-8 pm.*

**For January meetings, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at the normal time.*

Special Events:

November 15-16 – Lock-in @ MPC

December 27 – Go Karts Trip

***We would like to plan an away retreat once we have a sense availability for our members in the Spring. We will announce dates and information after the holiday season.*

June 6 – Youth Group BBQ

***We are considering turning the BBQ into a campout at the Mitchells' house if members are interested in trying this. We have access to two campers, some indoor accommodations and may be able to procure tents for anyone really wanting to "rough" it.*

For more information, contact Kristen Mitchell at klizzano@gmail.com or 302-494-1146.



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	Douglas Ballard '25
Amy Eckels '25	Marion Brower '27
Ben Mitchell '27	Bette Downs '27
Kristen Mitchell, Clerk	Virginia Geisbert '25
Debbie Pettinelli '27	Patricia Gwartz '26
Kerri Robinson '26	Greg Hoffman '27
John Strain '27	Joyce Holmwood '26
Joanne Trumbetas '25	Linda Pursley '27
Kim Wertz '25	Diane Valaitis '26
Alfie Wilkes '25	Shirley Wise '26