Marple Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026



"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, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Today – November 15, 2026

LITURGIST: Patricia Gwirtz

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 under the sanctuary.*
- ***Assistive Listening Devices*** *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*
marplepctreasurer@gmail.com
Worship | *Amy Eckels*
Youth Group | *Ben Mitchell*

For more contact info, please contact the church office.

November 15, 2026 10:30am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude | Matthew Knecht

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship |** based on Psalm 82

One: God presides in the heavenly council, in the assembly of those so-called gods, making a decision.
All: You must stop judging unjustly.
Right: You must no longer be partial to the wicked!

Left: Defend the rights of the poor and the orphans.
Right: Be fair to the needy and the helpless.
Left: Rescue them from the power of the wicked.

Right: How ignorant you are!
Left: You are completely corrupt, and justice has disappeared in the world.
All: Come, O God, and rule the world; all the nations are yours.

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

***Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we thank you for your promise to be with us and among us today as we worship you in a spirit of humility and holiness. You hold up before us your Word in such a way that we see our true selves. Help us also to see in a new way the fullness of your glory, grace and mercy. We seek your word for us so we may be empowered to live in the world, announcing your rule of justice, reconciliation and peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and guide.

Special Music | *I Need Thee Every Hour* arr. Crockett | Douglas Ballard, Soloist

*Please stand as you are able

Call to Confession

Trusting, with the psalmist, that God is truly good and upright, and willing to teach sinners in God's own ways, let us confess our sins with confidence, seeking God's instruction.

Confession | based on Psalm 25

One: Merciful God, forgive us when we stray from your path and succumb to the temptation of the moment

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your path.

One: Forgive us for failing to see every person as one of your beloved people.

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your path.

One: Forgive us when we fail to share from the resources we have, when others go hungry for lack of food, or have no place to rest.

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your path.

One: Forgive us when we hold onto our anger and hurts, failing to forgive as you have forgiven us.

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your path.

One: Forgive us when we forget to live our lives in a way that shows that you are our God and we are your people.

All: Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your path, for you are our God who saves us. Always, we trust in you.

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

Assurance of Pardon

One: This is our assurance: God forgives us. This is our hope: God's love is everlasting. This is our truth: God is with us always. Brothers and Sisters, hear the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: Hallelujah. Amen.

***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**

One: Christ comes to announce peace – to those who are near – and to those who are far off – so that we might no longer be strangers and aliens – but members of the family of God. You are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another by turning and greeting each other saying the Peace of Christ be with you and responding…

All: And also with you.

*Please stand as you are able

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Psalm 25:4-10, 21	Old Testament pgs. 475-476
Exodus 18:13-27	Old Testament pgs. 62-63

Sermon | Stewardship of Delegation | Rev. Roberta Kearney, Transitional Pastor

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn |** *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind* | #244

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

In baptism we are asked to reject sin, profess faith in Jesus Christ; and to confess the faith of the church. And so, we declare our faith in our triune God by responding:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
I believe 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 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
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.

*Please stand as you are able

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 |** *Go with Us, Lord* | #535

Go with us, Lord and guide the way
Through this and every coming day,
That in Your Spirit strong and true
Our lives may be our gift to you.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

Generous God, our lives are renewed as we remember your goodness. You have made us in your image and placed in our hearts the memory of your love made flesh in Jesus Christ. That memory calls us to give and to embrace your world as we offer these gifts. May our lives be invested through these offerings to create a new reality and to extend your grace in remembrance of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

WE ARE SENT IN GOD'S NAME

***Closing Hymn |** *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* | #419

Charge and Benediction

Postlude | Matthew Knecht

*Please stand as you are able

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

Session Meeting 7 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 10:30 am

Workday after Worship 11:45 am

Looking Ahead

NOVEMBER 24

Mn Clergy Assoc. Interfaith Service TBA

NOVEMBER 25-27

Church Office Closed

DECEMBER 2

Deacon's Meeting via Zoom 7:30 pm

DECEMBER 6

Worship, Communion, Luncheon 10:30 am

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. For the full Youth Group calendar for meeting dates, special events, and retreats, please contact the Youth Group Leaders at youthgroup@marplepres.org for additional information.

Touchpoint Growth Program

Those interested in helping us grow our church family and weekly church attendance will meet again after church this Sunday, November 15. We had an excellent discussion with great ideas emerging last week! Thanks to all those who have shown interest and have contributed creative ideas for the program. Please join us, if you are curious about the program and have not been able to attend earlier sessions. It's never too late to help. Besides working on ideas to grow our attendance, I want this to become a fun as well as a worthy endeavor. The meetings at the front of the church have been running about 15 minutes so this is not a huge investment of your time.

John Strain

Marple Presbyterian Church will be collecting donations for Chester Eastside on Sunday, Nov. 22.

CHESTER EASTSIDE
Est. 1985

The CEI Food Pantry Most Needed Items:

- beans, rice, and pasta
- soup, stew
- canned fruits and vegetables
- peanut butter and jelly
- tuna fish and canned fish/meat
- biscuit/pancake mix
- instant mashed potatoes
- cornbread mix



The CEI Clothes Closet Most Needed Items:

- socks, underwear, hats
- blankets
- toiletries



Please mark your calendars for Nov. 22 – we will have a workday after Worship to sort items from the MPC Thrift Shop for Chester Eastside. Any time you can give to help is appreciated.

Stewardship

GROWING OUR FAITH

Stewardship of Delegation and Sacred Limits

Without naming it as “God’s economy,” we have been reflecting on the core values of living in accord with God's economy and how God shows us these values in Exodus.

Much of how our human economy as it is designed – creates isolation from one another, a feeling of not being or having enough, of feeling our worth comes only from what we can produce, and fear and control. Whereas God’s economy operates by building our connections with others, trusting there is enough for everyone, working together with a sense of shared calling, and where everyone has something to contribute, by sharing burdens, accepting of each person’s gifts, and the blessing of God’s grace.

Even after liberation, Moses slips back into the economy of Egypt, carrying too much work and burning out. Jethro's loving confrontation reminds us that doing too much is not faithfulness. In God's economy, limits are sacred and accountability is a gift.

Moses's father-in-law, Jethro, acts as a wise and caring voice of counsel in this week's passage. Moses has taken on too much and Jethro shows up as the kind of mentor and friend we all need sometimes. He approaches Moses first with curiosity and questions. We might read his questions with a tone of criticism or judgement, but that might be the voice of judgement we hear in our own heads.

What if we imagined Jethro joining Moses during a lull in the crowd of people, sitting down beside him. Or, perhaps he brought Moses a cool drink or a snack in the midst of a busy day? Then he asks a few questions with gentle care, showing genuine curiosity and concern for Moses's well-being. Maybe Moses's answers confirm his suspicions and Jethro shares ideas of other ways to do things. Or maybe he is an idea guy, who is brainstorming ideas at that moment. Jethro is a mentor, who seeks to offer support.

The plan Jethro suggests leans into God's economy of uncovering people's gifts, sharing in leadership and care together, and trusting in the abundance of resources in the community. This requires the people to trust in themselves and in each other.

This plan also requires Moses to actually believe in the value of the new way God has offered. It requires him to trust other people and to accept care for himself. It requires him to trust there is enough in the gifts and abilities of others and trust this enough to rest. The new way of God's economy takes practice. Practice not just individually, but as a community, by learning to be accountable to one another along the way. Living and being accountable to the Sabbath practice of rest, and our need of rest in other settings.

Making Room for Everyone

The Pew Planner, link below, lets you test seating layouts on a computer screen before we ever finalize a plan to move a single pew. Detailed instructions on using the app are found on the site.



How to Use It

1. Go to **www.1031f.com/pew-planner.html** on a computer or tablet.
2. Click a pew and press Delete to remove it. Drag a pew from Pew Stock to place it.
3. Check the Totals panel, then name your layout.

Your Part

Try the planner and email your plan to **benmitchelliii@gmail.com**. As you work, consider:

- A baptism or wedding with a member of your family in a wheelchair. How close would you want them to sit?
- Any of us may need mobility help someday. Where would you want to sit then?
- How close do you want to be to your usual seat, and what would you adjust so others can sit near their families?

Pray about it, then send us your plan.
Ben Mitchell III



Angel Tree 2026

Marion Brower is again leading our Angel Tree Campaign.
Details are expected around Thanksgiving.

A Feast of Carols: Nourishment for Body and Soul

Sunday, December 6, 2026

Following Worship

We will be having a Caroling Luncheon after worship on Sunday, December 6, 2026. We will have a time of fellowship and singing to welcome in this season of Advent.

Please RSVP by Nov. 29 if you plan to attend. Please let Debbie or Lori know if you will attend.

We would ask that each of you brings a potluck dish to share.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to bring a potluck dish or dessert.

Please contact Debbie if you have any questions or would like more information.





MY FAVORITE CAROL

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year features the ways carols have shaped our faith experiences. We want to know about your favorite carols and perhaps a bit about why you like them. This handout helps you do that AND helps you dig a bit deeper into the study of the carol to learn about its history. You can search the internet for the history of any carol!

My favorite carol of the season _____

I like this carol because _____

_____

This carol brings up memories of _____

_____

This carol reminds me that _____

_____

Here is what I learned or know about this carol _____

_____

My name is (we might share the information above so you can tell us your name, or not!)

_____



Please fill out this form and return to the church office with your payment, no later than Sunday, December 13th, if you would like to place a poinsettia in the Church Sanctuary for Christmas. Poinsettias may be taken home at the conclusion of the Candlelight Service on December 24th.

Names will appear in the bulletin exactly as printed below.

Quantity: _____ @ $8/plant Paid via: ❑ Cash ❑ Check #_____

Given by: _____

In honor/memory of:

_____

In honor/memory of:

_____

In honor/memory of:

_____

In honor/memory of:

_____



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.

Please be sure to e-mail Pastor Roberta as well at rkearney@marplepres.org

SESSION	DEACONS
Paul Avazier '26	*Faye Allison '28*
Amy Eckels '28	*Marion Brower '27*
Patricia Gwirtz '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*