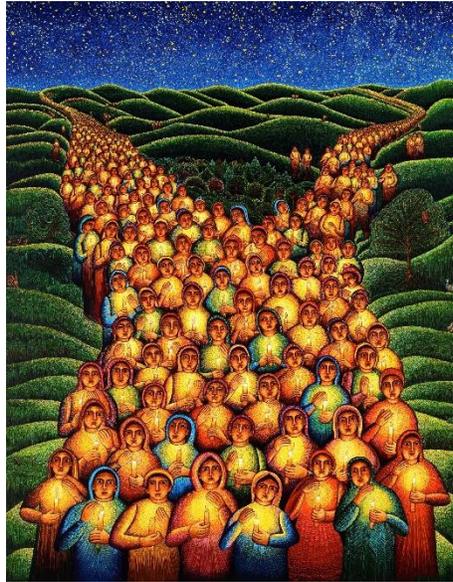


Myers Park United Methodist Church



Festival of Lights © 2012
John August Swanson | Eyekons

A Service of Christian Worship

January 6, 2019

8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Epiphany Sunday

WE GATHER

Welcome

Please pass the hospitality pads at this time.

Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Holy Trinity

Opening Voluntary
Benedictus

Alec Rowley

† **Call to Worship**

Darkness is banished!

God's light has come to us!

The brightness of the Star leads us!

We come to celebrate God's abiding love!

Glory be to God in the Highest!

And on earth, peace forever.

† **Processional Hymn No. 220**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

† **The Creed No. 881**

The Apostles' Creed

† **Gloria Patri No. 71**

GREATOREX

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.

Prayer of Confession

God of starlight,

shine your love into the darkness of our lives.

Preoccupied with ourselves,

we forget the needs of others;

we participate in systems that oppress;

we accept violence as a way of life;

we fail to respond to the cry of others.

May your light illuminate the darkness,

and may your love wash away our indifference.

Give us courage and strength to follow you

into the unfamiliar places of this world,

of this city, and of our hearts. Amen.

Words of Assurance

...In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (9:45, 11:00)

Congregational Response (9:45, 11:00)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God your loving parent,
learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
trust and love God more than all.**

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn of Preparation No. 242

Love Came Down at Christmas

GARTAN

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

† Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayers of the People

After each petition, we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Offertory

We Three Kings

arr. Tom Trenney & Jeremy Bankson

Choir: We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**All: O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Men: **Born a King of Bethlehem's plan;
gold I bring to crown him again,**

King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

**All: O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Women: **Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high.**

**All: O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Choir: Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume

Breathes a life of gathering gloom;

Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

**All: O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**All: Glorious now, behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.**

**O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

† Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

† Closing Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

DIX

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day spring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see;
till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.**

† Benediction

† Benediction Response

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.**

† Closing Voluntary

Toccata on REGENT SQUARE

Albert Travis

† Stand as you are able

WORSHIP LEADERS

✠

PREACHER

Dr. James C. Howell, Senior Pastor

✠

LITURGISTS

Rev. Uiyeon Kim, Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Barbara Barden, Pastor of Lay Involvement

✠

LAY READER

Jack Hankins (8:30), Jennifer Harmeling (9:45), Gentry Caudle (11:00)



MUSICIANS

James R. Jones, Director of Music and Organist
Evan Wesley Currie, Music Associate and Organist
Small Ensemble (8:30)
Chancel Choir (9:45, 11:00)



CRUCIFERS

Sarah Holshouser (8:30), Caitlyn Waters (9:45), Grace Harrell (11:00)



ACOLYTES

Nick Janak and Katie Janak (8:30)
Mary Holland Waters and Tucker Mullinix (9:45)
Ava Harrell and Nelson Daniels (11:00)



BIBLE CARRIERS

Nicholas Smith (8:30), Mallie Waters (9:45), Ava Giordano (11:00)

TODAY AT MYERS PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME! We are thankful you are here worshiping with us. Check out the *Guest Information* bookcases in the narthex gathering space outside the Sanctuary or drop by the Welcome Center in the lobby of the Parish Life Building for resources so you can get to know us better. New guests are invited to pick up a complimentary drink tumbler in the Sanctuary narthex. Our *Discover Myers Park* class is designed to welcome you and help get you connected as we share a snapshot of our history and ministries. The informal gathering meets next at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, January 20, in Francis Chapel. Details: Rev. Uiyeon Kim at 704-295-4840 or UKim@mpumc.org.

HOLY COMMUNION THIS MORNING Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the memorial chapel behind the Sanctuary except when it is given in worship services.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Receiving the sacrament of Baptism at the 9:45 a.m. service is *Malcolm Helms Faulkenberry*, son of *Lauren and Hayes Faulkenberry*. Being Baptized at the 11:00 a.m. service are *Everett Stephen Maciag*, son of *Meghan and Stephen Maciag*; and *Francis Jane Skouras*, daughter of *Hope and Spyros Skouras*.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUPS Sunday night youth groups meet from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. Youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us in Jubilee Hall for Hubee D's food truck (\$7). After dinner, youth break off for Sixth Grade Quest, Seventh Grade Thrive, Eighth Grade Confirmation and High School.

RIDE THE SUNDAY SHUTTLE The convenient Sunday shuttle bus service runs continually from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. between the church and Myers Park Traditional at 2132 Radcliffe Avenue off Selwyn Avenue, so you don't have to hunt for a parking space.

SERVING OTHERS...

DISASTER RECOVERY On January 16-19, our church will send an Early Response Team (ERT) to do disaster recovery work in Rowland in eastern North Carolina. We will depart early morning Wednesday, January 16, and return the evening of Saturday, January 19. We can accommodate any amount of time you are available. Reach Rick Gaskins at gaskinsrichard@gmail.com as soon as possible to join us for all or part of the trip. For more, visit www.myersparkumc.org/disaster-recovery-2019.

FOR THE LOVE OF READING Substitutes are needed for our reading program at Dilworth Elementary-Sedgefield campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 to 10:45a.m. Details: Beth Gage at BethGage@me.com.

BORDER RESPONSE Rev. Nathan Arledge will lead a team traveling to McAllen, Texas, for our next Mexican border experience February 17-21. Join this team by registering at www.myersparkumc.org/border-response to serve and pray for migrant families detained at the border.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING Thank you for giving so generously this Christmas Eve to children locally and around the world! We will send more than \$15,000 to ZOE in Kenya, which works to empower orphaned and vulnerable children. We will designate the same amount to support our school partnerships in Charlotte.

COLLEGE MEXICO MISSION Are you college-age and have a heart for missions? Sign up now to join our team of college students headed to Reynosa, Mexico, May 26 to June 1. Our team will work alongside Faith Ministries to build friendships while constructing a house and more. Cost is \$750 including airfare. Register at www.myersparkumc.org/college-mexico.

ROOM IN THE INN Each Thursday and Friday night through March 31, we open our church doors to provide warm meals, beds and fellowship for homeless neighbors. There are many opportunities for individuals, families and groups to participate, such as driving the van, preparing and serving a meal, and staying overnight. Reach Greg Wells at 704-609-4036 or greg@willisengineers.com.

WHY GIVE TO JUBILEE PLUS!? In 2018, your gifts to *Jubilee Plus!* supported local partners including A Child's Place, Beds for Kids, Care Ring, Changed Choices, Charlotte Community Health Clinic, Charlotte Rescue Mission, Community Link, Council for Children's Rights, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Florence Crittenton Services, Friendship Trays, Hope Haven, Lily Pad Haven, Men's Shelter of Charlotte, Pat's Place, Samaritan House, Second Harvest Food Bank, Supportive Housing Communities, The Learning Collaborative, The Relatives, UMAR, Urban League, Urban Ministry Center and Urban Promise, plus partners in Armenia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico and Puerto Rico. Give to *Jubilee Plus!* year-round at www.myersparkumc.org/jubileeplus or write a check to the church with *Jubilee Plus!* in the memo line, put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST...

RETURN YOUR ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD Please return as soon as you are able your Estimate of Giving card to support the 2019 operating budget and *Jubilee Plus!* outreach fund. You can also make an estimate of giving, or gift, at www.myersparkumc.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE What a glorious Christmas Eve at our church: Attendance at the six services totaled 4,775, compared to 3,842 the year before. The Christmas Eve offering for our school partnerships and ZOE in Kenya surpassed \$30,000. Thank you for your generosity! Read more about Advent and Christmas Eve in the next *Cornerstone* church newsletter in print and at www.myersparkumc.org.

SUPPORT THE LABYRINTH Once Francis Chapel reopens, you'll be able to walk the permanent labyrinth installed in the floor of Francis Chapel. You are invited to donate \$150 for a tile for the labyrinth. Order forms are outside Francis Chapel in the Parish Life lobby. Complete the form and return it with your check

to Myers Park United Methodist Church (attention Saribeth Dozier) at 1501 Queens Road, Charlotte NC 28207. Checks should be made out to the church with *Labyrinth* in the memo line.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE The Children's Circle church preschool will host open houses for prospective families at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, and Thursday, January 10, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. A school tour is included. TCC will also offer a Transitional Kindergarten Information Session at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, January 10, in Room 107. Enrollment deadline is February 1 for all families, returning and new. Children must be 12 months by August 31 to enroll in the youngest class. The half-day preschool is for ages one to five. Details: Patty Matthews at 704-376-5208 or pmatthews@mpumc.org.

H.O.T. WEDNESDAY IS BACK! H.O.T. Wednesday offers a delicious meal and fellowship from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in Jubilee Hall. This week's menu: Taco Night – Chicken meat, seasoned beef, taco shells, lettuce, cheese, sour cream, salsa, Spanish rice, black beans, desserts and ice cream. Make reservations at HotWednesday@mpumc.org or call 704-376-5520 (option six) by noon each Tuesday. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and \$25 for family (two adults and three children under age 12). The Goodness Gracious! shop in the Parish Life lobby – where sales support outreach – is open until 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays when H.O.T. Wednesday meets.

SHOOT HOOPS Men of all skill levels are invited to play basketball at 8:30 a.m. each Saturday through April 27 in the Youth Building Gym. Questions? Reach Bob Clark at 704-366-4981.

SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS All who face the challenge of caring for a loved one are invited to the monthly gathering of the Caregivers Support Group, the next one at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 22, in Room 105 in the Parish Life Building. Come and share your experiences with others walking the same road. Details: Parish Nurse Susan Mobley at 704-295-4836 or smobley@mpumc.org.

GIVE BLOOD Donate blood from 7:30 a.m. to noon Sunday, February 3, in the Youth Building Gym. You can make an appointment from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Sunday, January 13, 20, and 27 in the Parish Life lobby. Walk-ins are also welcome February 3. Details: Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818 or crivera@mpumc.org. The drive honors Mitchell Bays Turner, who died as the result of leukemia on Palm Sunday 2014. He was two.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR Rev. Bill Roth and counselor Bronah Livingston will lead a *Marriage Matters* seminar from 9:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, February 9, in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building. This meets the premarital counseling

requirements for those getting married at our church. You must preregister. Reach Carmen Rivera at 704-295-4818 or crivera@mpumc.org.

GROWING IN FAITH...

LEARN ABOUT 'A WAY FORWARD'

We will host an opportunity for our congregation to receive information and ask questions regarding our denomination's February 2019 General Conference, called to consider recommendations related to human sexuality and LGBTQ inclusion. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10, in Jubilee Hall, Dr. Howell, Will Barr and Kate Maynard will review the history of these issues, alternatives to be considered at General Conference, actions undertaken here thus far and take questions. An email – questions@mpumc.org – has been set up to receive your questions. You can use this at any time, including during the meeting. The session will be livestreamed and recording posted at www.myersparkumc.org. For more, visit www.myersparkumc.org/announcement/a-way-forward.

TOMORROW: GOD AND SPORTS Dr. Howell will present a multimedia program on *God And Sports* at 6:45 p.m. Monday, January 7, in Jubilee Hall. The program will go for an hour, so everyone can make it home for the 8:00 p.m. start of the Clemson-Alabama championship game. How do we think spiritually about competition and rivalries? What can sports teach us about church and God? Should NFL players take a knee during the National Anthem? Our Senior Pastor will explore those questions and talk about Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Babe Ruth and other sports figures.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY Dr. Howell's weekly Bible study on *Familiar Bible Passages: A Closer Look* will explore *Moments In The Life Of Jesus, In The Gospel Of Luke* at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday through Easter in Room 108 of the Parish Life Building.

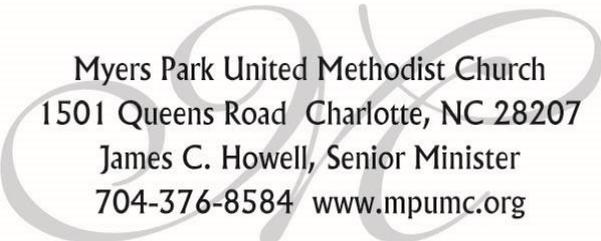
JOIN A SMALL GROUP New Small Groups are starting for study, spiritual growth and fellowship. Short-term groups are forming at various days and times beginning Thursday, January 10. Titles include: *Grounded In Prayer, The Way Of Forgiveness, Praying Our Goodbyes, and The Letters Of Paul* from Disciple Fast Track. Registration and purchase of the class book are required. Learn more and register with your Realm login or at www.myersparkumc.org/small-groups.

AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN: 'I'M STILL HERE' At 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 14, in Jubilee Hall, Austin Channing Brown will explore how to be the church, and how we learn about ourselves and grow as we learn about and care for our community. She is the author of *I'm Still Here*. For more about her, visit www.austinchanning.com.

AMERICANA MUSIC At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 27, in Jubilee Hall, Martha Bassett and her band will present a concert and share how they see God and faith in secular music. Band members include Sarah Howell-Miller, daughter of James and Lisa Howell. Learn more at www.marthabassett.com.

'RIFF OF LOVE' Greg Jarrell of ministry partner QC Family Tree will present a program at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 4, in Jubilee Hall based on his book, *A Riff of Love – Notes On Community And Belonging*. Greg will talk about QC Family Tree's work in the Enderly Park neighborhood of west Charlotte and play the saxophone as he links music and ministry. Learn more at www.qcfamilytree.org or www.gregjarrell.com.

WOMEN'S RETREAT The 13th annual Women's Retreat will be February 8-10, 2019, at Caraway Conference Center near Asheboro, N.C. Megan Argabrite, our Director of Worship and the Arts, invites us to *Encounter – The Everyday Art Of Worship*. Cost, other information and online registration is at www.myersparkumc.org/women. Scholarships are available. Reach Rev. Barbara Barden at 704-295-4813 or bbarden@mpumc.org.



Myers Park United Methodist Church
1501 Queens Road Charlotte, NC 28207
James C. Howell, Senior Minister
704-376-8584 www.mpumc.org

Myers Park United Methodist Church Mission Statement:
We are the body of Christ, growing in faith and serving others.