

*Building of the Myers Park Baptist Sanctuary, c. 1952*

The Worship of God  
**Founders' Sunday**

January 11, 2026 | 10:00a



**MYERS PARK  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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.

**Childcare is available for birth – kindergarten in the childcare room located in the Cornwell Center (on main level). Please see a greeter for more information.  
Worship activities for children are available in the Narthex.**

### **Prelude**

“Psalm Prelude”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

Herbert Howells

*"Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night as clear as the day: the darkness and light to thee are both alike." -- Psalm 139:11*

### **Call to Worship**

Rev. Dane Jordan

**Leader:** We gather carrying the stories, struggles, and songs that shape us.

**People:** We honor the sacred past that roots us and teaches us who we are.

**ALL:** With courage and joy, we step into God’s unfolding future, open, hopeful, and becoming.

### **Invocation**

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

“The Church is One Foundation”

Number 220

AURELIA

*This was the opening hymn for the first service held at MPBC in 1943.*

### **Welcome of Our Guests**

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

*If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below so we may offer you our gratitude for joining us today.*



### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **A Moment of Centering**

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

*Isaiah 40:31*

*But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

*Take a few moments to breathe and still the mind.*

**Sing:** Come and find the quiet center,  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace and simply be.

BEACH SPRING

### Hebrew Scripture – Joshua 4:1-9 (NRSV)

Deborah Steiner, Choir Member

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.’” Then Joshua summoned the twelve men whom he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So, these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever.”

The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

### \*Sermon Hymn

“The Church of Christ in Every Age” stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 5

Number 219  
WAREHAM

### Sermon

“What Mean These Stones?”

Rev. Layne Smith

### A Moment to Reflect

### Church at Prayer

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

### The Lord’s Prayer

Our God who is 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

### Invitation to Offering

Ellen Caldwell, Congregant

*You are invited to give by scanning the QR code below or  
dropping your offering in the plate.*



## Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir  
Mark Hayes

“To Love Our God”

Where does the wind come from? Where does it go?  
Blowing north then south, how does it know?  
O where does the wind come from? O where does it go?  
Blowing north then south, how does it know?

The rain flows gently to the sea, yet the sea is never full.  
How can these things be? How can these things be? How can they be?  
Humanity works hard to make a name, toiling in the sun, yet nothing gained.  
We all return to dust from whence we came. All is empty. All is vain.

To love our God, the reason we live; to love like God, the highest call.  
Nothing satisfies our soul, gives life meaning, makes us whole.  
For this purpose, we were made ... to love our God.

To love our God, the reason that we live is to love like God.  
To love our God, the reason we live; to love like God, the highest call.  
Nothing satisfies our soul, gives life meaning, makes us whole.  
For this purpose, we were made ... to love our God, to love like God,  
to love our God!

## \*Reading of the Church Covenant (See Back Page)

Rev. Layne Smith

## \*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures, here below.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts.  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Layne Smith

## \*Closing Hymn

“We Are a People on a Journey”

See page 7  
FOREVER FORWARD

## Responding to the Word

Rev. Layne Smith

## Commissioning of Senior Minister Search Committee

### Questions to the Search Committee:

Leader: You have been chosen by this congregation to help discern God’s call for the next Minister of Word and Sacraments. Do you accept this responsibility?

Committee: **We do, God being our helper.**

Leader: Will you seek God’s guidance with prayer, wisdom, courage, and care for this congregation?

Committee: **We will, God being our helper.**

### Questions to the Congregation:

Leader: These members are serving on your behalf in this season of transition. Will you pray for them, support them, and trust God as they discern what comes next for our church?

**Congregation: We will, God being our helper.**

Leader: May God bless us all as we move forward together.

### \*Sung Congregational Benediction

“Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

DENNIS

*This hymn was sung at the first service held at MPBC in 1943*

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred ties is like to that above.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

### Postlude

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

arr. Robert Hobby

***If you are our guest today, please connect with a  
minister after worship and receive a Welcome Bag.***



Audio/Video Team Members are Wes Cobb (sabbatical), Joe Kuhlmann,  
Hannah Combs, and Eric Roberts.



At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language. However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



### HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

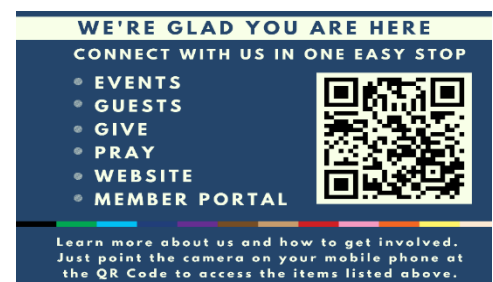
Becoming a member of Myers Park Baptist is as simple as filling out a joining card.

To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Marina Luckhoo at

[mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org).



***To learn more about upcoming events,  
our church portal, social media pages,  
and weekly newsletter,  
simply scan the QR code to the right .***



## **FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**

Henry B. Benoit	Rush S. Dickson	John R. Knott
J. Herbert Bridges	W. Carey Dowd, Jr.	Lex Marsh
James R. Bryant	W. Frank Dowd, Jr.	William Marvin Scruggs
Guy T. Carswell	Fred B. Helms	Charles W. Upchurch

## **THE FOUNDERS DAY BANNER**

When they bravely stepped forward in 1943 to establish this community of faith called Myers Park Baptist Church, our founders embarked on their unique journey of faith. The founding Covenant states “... we seek to live to the glory of God who has called us out of darkness into God’s marvelous light.” May we continue to seek this light and truth.

This banner honors our founders and was given by Doug and Jeanne Robertson in memory of Doug’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Douglas Robertson Sr., and Jeanne’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. (Jack) Musgrove.

## **SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Bob Thomason, Chair

Carol Reid-Fricke, Vice Chair

Mike Bowen

Deborah Moore Clark

Carla Hines

Marcy McClanahan

Mary Miller

Jay Rivers

Mac Sasser



# We Are a People on a Journey

1. We are a peo - ple on a jour - ney, o - pen to all and closed to none,  
 2. O - pen to all new light be - fore us, guid - ing be - yond what we can see,  
 3. When on our jour - ney we en - coun - ter stran - gers ig - nored or friends in need,  
 4. Come, lift your voice in cel - e - bra - tion; join the pro - ces - sion through the world:

led by the love we've known through Je - sus, warm - ly em - brac - ing ev - ery - one.  
 trust - ing a faith in - formed by rea - son, chal - lenged with - in com - mu - ni - ty,  
 na - ture ne - glect - ed, life en - dan - gered, vic - tims op - pressed by power and greed,  
 grow - ing, ex - plor - ing, march - ing, sing - ing, ban - ners of love for all un - furled!

On the path of faith pro - gress - ing, firm - ly stead - fast, bold - ly free,  
 we'll ex - plore vast ways of wis - dom, search for mean - ing all a - round  
 we will take a stand for jus - tice; we will join our hands for peace;  
 Liv - ing just - ly, serv - ing kind - ly, walk - ing hum - bly through our days,

we will move for - ev - er for - ward grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty,  
 as we move for - ev - er for - ward seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found,  
 then we'll move for - ev - er for - ward bear - ing hope that fear may cease,  
 let us move for - ev - er for - ward rais - ing songs of joy and praise,

grow - ing in di - ver - si - ty.  
 seek - ing truth wher - ev - er found.  
 bear - ing hope that fear may cease.  
 rais - ing songs of joy and praise!

Words and Music: Larry E. Schultz

FOREVER FORWARD

Irregular

Commissioned by Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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## 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 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 together to nurture this church as a community of faith and as an instrument for reconciliation in the 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

#### J. Kevin Gray

Minister of Music & Worship  
[kgray@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:kgray@myersparkbaptist.org)

#### Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth  
[djordan@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:djordan@myersparkbaptist.org)

#### Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister  
[mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org)

#### Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister  
[lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org)

704.334.7232

[mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org)

We are affiliated with  
[allianceofbaptists.org](http://allianceofbaptists.org)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Sunday, January 11

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15am-1:00pm | Congregational Lunch and  
Conversation with the Transition Team – Heaton  
Hall

#### Monday, January 12

9:45am-12:00pm | Roundtable Meeting – Parlor

#### Tuesday, January 13

8:00am-3:30pm | Roof Above Meal Prep – Kitchen

#### Sunday, January 18

10:00am-11:00am | Worship – Sanctuary  
11:15am-1:00pm | Spiritual Growth Classes for all  
ages – Multiple Locations  
4:00pm-6:00pm | The Youth Journey Fellowship –  
Youth Hall

*We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | [lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:lgeer@myersparkbaptist.org).*

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