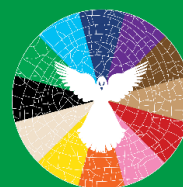


The Worship of God

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

January 18, 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.**

We invite you to prepare for worship in silence while listening to the prelude.

Prelude
“Elegy”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
William Grant Still

Call to Worship

J. Kevin Gray

Leader: We gather remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who taught us that faith must move our feet toward justice.

People: We come not only to remember his dream, but to live it with courage and love.

Leader: God calls us to be more than observers of pain, more than witnesses of need.

People: We answer by becoming helpers, healers, and part of the change our world is longing for.

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

See pages 8 and 9
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Welcome of Our Guests

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. Dane Jordan

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we confess that we have not always sought justice or lived as though all people are equal. We have been silent when we should have spoken and comfortable when we should have acted. Forgive us, renew our hearts, and help us do better, that we may choose love, seek justice, and walk more faithfully in your way.

Words of Assurance

Hear this good news: God’s grace is deeper than our failures and stronger than our fear. In love, God forgives, restores, and invites us to begin again. We are freed to rise, to love, and to work for justice with hope.

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*Please take the time to reflect on the ways you personally will do more
to be part of God's Holy work in our world.*

The Gospel Reading – John 1:35-42 (NRSV)

Carla Hines, Senior Minister Search Committee Member

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You are to be called Cephas."

Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Song

"I Don't Know About You"

J. Kevin Gray

Solo: Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
changed for the good, changed for the good.

Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
since I started following Jesus Christ.

**All: Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
changed for the good, changed for the good.**

**Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
since I started following Jesus Christ.**

Solo: Well, I don't know about you, but my feet are ready to move,
ready to move, ready to move.

Well, I don't know about you, but my feet are ready to move,
since I started following Jesus Christ.

**All: Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
changed for the good, changed for the good.**

**Well, I don't know about you, but I've been changed for the good,
since I started following Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

"Make a Difference"

Rev. Layne Smith

A Moment to Reflect

Musical Reflection

Emil Foster, Choir Member

"If I Can Help Somebody"

A. Bazel Androzzo

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
if I can cheer somebody with a word or a song,
if I can show somebody they are travelling wrong,
then my living shall not be in vain!
Then my living shall not be in vain,
then my living shall not be in vain!

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
then my living shall not be in vain!
If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,
if I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought,
if I can spread love's message that our Jesus taught,
then my living shall not be in vain!

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

Amy Johnson, Congregant

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



Offertory Anthem

Chancel Choir

“God Has Work for Us to Do”

Mark A. Miller

‘Til all the jails are empty, and all the bellies filled,
‘til no one hurts or steals or lies, and no more blood is spilled:

Refrain:

God has work for us to do, God has work for us to do,
‘til God's will is done and all things are made new;
God has work for us, work for us to do.

‘Til age and race and gender no longer separate;
‘til pulpit, press, and politics are free of greed and hate. *[Refrain]*

In tenement and mansion, in fact’ry, farm and mill;
in board room and in billiard hall, in wards where time stands still;
in classroom, church, and office, in shops or on the street;
in every place where people thrive, or starve, or hide, or meet.
God has work for us.

By sitting at a bedside to hold pale, trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless against unjust demands;
by praying through our doing, and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow will bring God’s harvest near. *[Refrain]*

***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**

Amy Johnson, Congregant

***Closing Hymn**

“For the Healing of the Nations”

See page 10
CWM RHONDDA

Responding to the Word

Rev. Layne Smith

Pastoral Blessing

Postlude

“Festal March”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist
Florence Price

*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.



*The arrangement on the altar is given to the glory of God in loving memory of William Scott Hopewell
by Jane Hopewell and the Hopewell family.*



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.




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

WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

CONNECT WITH US IN ONE EASY STOP

- **EVENTS**
- **GUESTS**
- **GIVE**
- **PRAY**
- **WEBSITE**
- **MEMBER PORTAL**



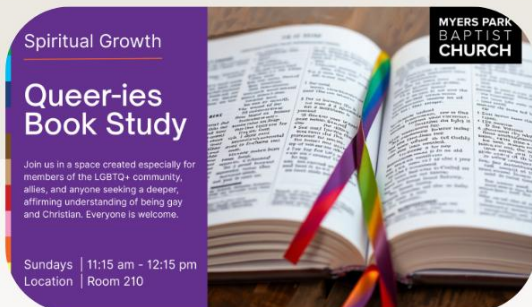
Learn more about us and how to get involved.
Just point the camera on your mobile phone at
the QR Code to access the items listed above.

Join Us After Worship for a **SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP**



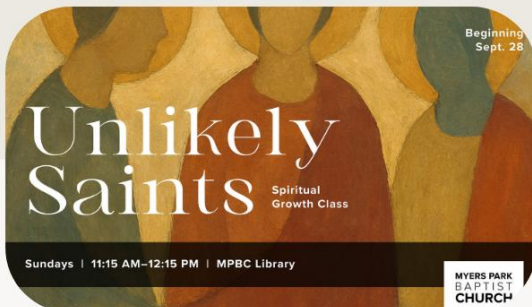
FAITH & COMMUNITY

What can our community leaders and influencers teach us as a people of faith? Join us for guest speakers each week who will cover a variety of topics to challenge us to live out our faith in community. This week's topic: Buddhism



QUEER-IES BOOK STUDY

Join us in a space created especially for members of the LGBTQ+ community, allies, and anyone seeking a deeper, affirming understanding of being gay and Christian. Everyone is welcome.



UNLIKELY SAINTS

Scripture can be complicated and confusing. To address these challenges, join us as we take an open minded and imaginative approach to seeking how God continues to be known to us through the Bible.



FOR CHILDREN

Our loving teachers welcome children in grades 1-5 into a joyful, creative space where friendships grow, faith comes alive through playful activities, and tasty snacks fuel learning. Every child is seen, celebrated, inspired, and encouraged.



FOR YOUTH

Youth in grades 6-12 gather for meaningful, youth-led sessions exploring biblical journeys and their relevance today through discussion and creativity, building community, deepening faith, and discovering how God walks with us in every moment.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

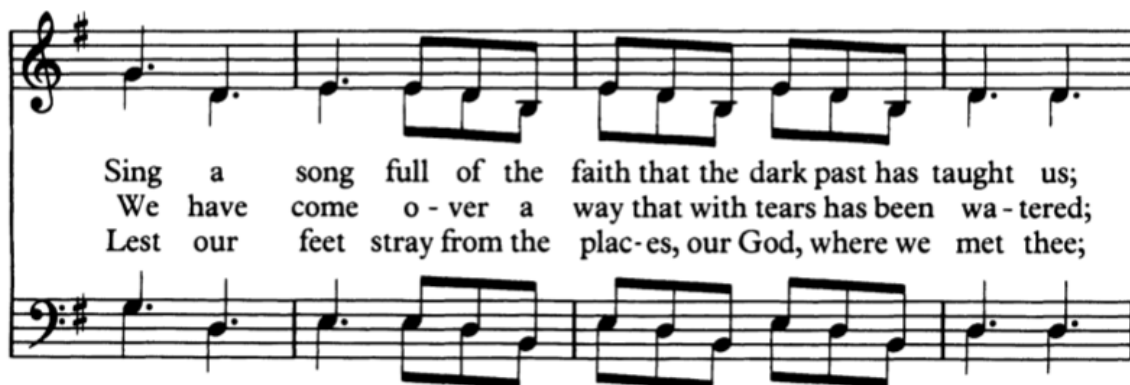
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

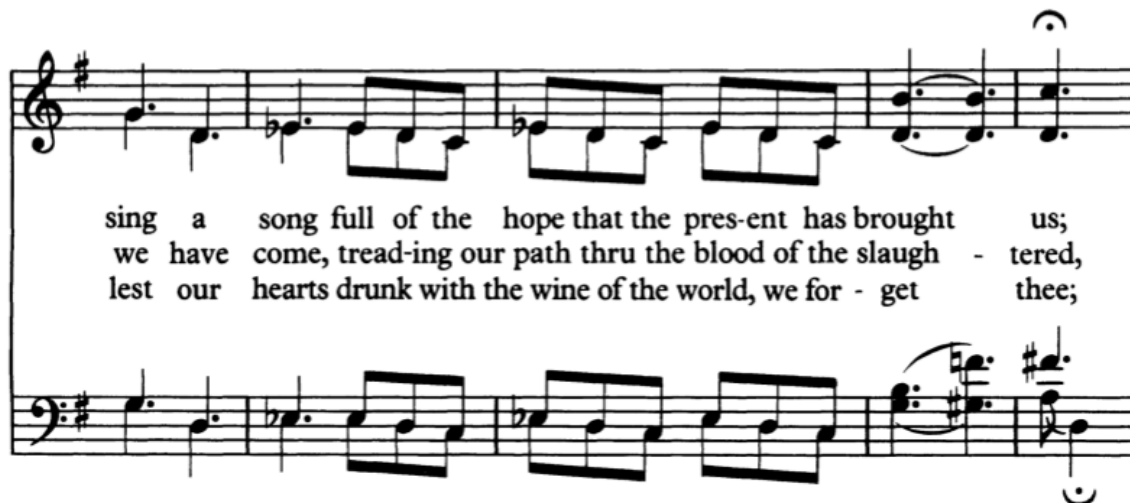
let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921
 © 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company, renewed

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 Irr.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921

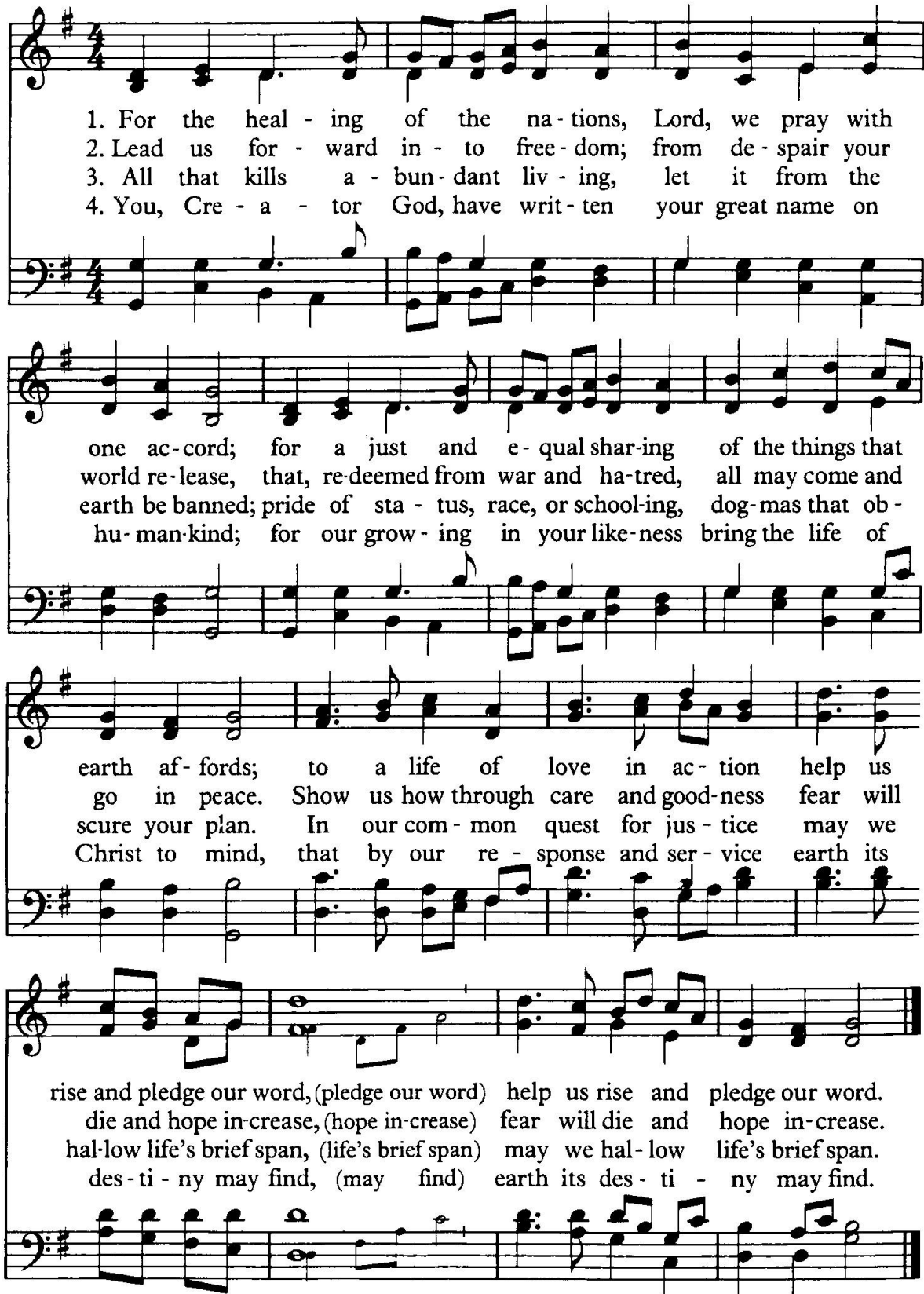
MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

© 1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company, renewed

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Irr.

For the Healing of the Nations



1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of

earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will
 scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its

rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1965 (Rev. 21:1-22:5)

MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA

87.87.87

Words © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.



The Lasting Impact of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't just change laws—he changed the spirit of a nation. Armed with nothing more than conviction, courage, and an unshakable belief in nonviolence, he showed America—and the world—how ordinary people can reshape history. His leadership during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which ultimately led to a Supreme Court decision striking down bus segregation, proved the extraordinary force of peaceful resistance.

King's vision reached far beyond the victories of the 1960s. His work paved the way for landmark protections such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, laws that forever altered the landscape of American equality. These achievements didn't stop with racial justice—they sparked broader movements, influencing later milestones like Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, both grounded in the same insistence on dignity and fairness for all.

Even after his death, King's voice continues to echo. The National Civil Rights Museum reminds us how his teachings still guide today's fights against poverty, wage inequality, and educational injustice. Annual celebrations—from the national holiday to long-standing community traditions—carry his message forward inviting each generation to pick up where he left off.

More than a leader, King remains a moral compass. His dream challenges us to believe we can build a world rooted in justice, compassion, and shared humanity—and to act as though that world is possible.

Today, King's legacy invites not only reflection but faithful response.

A Call to Action for Myers Park Baptist Church

As a church committed to radical hospitality, courageous inquiry, and justice-seeking faith, we are called to carry King's legacy forward. His dream echoes our own mission: to build a world where every person is welcomed, valued, and empowered to thrive. Let us continue his work by standing boldly for equity, listening deeply across differences, and engaging in compassionate action wherever injustice persists. King reminds us that the Beloved Community is not just a hope—it's a responsibility. And together, we can help bring it to life.

Source: drmartinlutherkingjr.com; americanbar.org; civilrightsmuseum.org; britannica.com; jsonline.com

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

Rev. Dane Jordan

Interim Minister of Youth
djordan@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Marina Luckhoo

Associate Minister
mluckhoo@myersparkbaptist.org

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

Interim Senior Minister
lsmith@myersparkbaptist.org

704.334.7232

mpbc@myersparkbaptist.org

We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monday, January 19

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 20

10:00am-11:30am | Creative Friends – Room 32

Wednesday, January 21

10:00am-12:00pm | Volunteer Appreciation

Reception – Heaton Hall Foyer

Sunday, January 25

10:00am-11:00am | Worship and Congregational Meeting – 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.