

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

# Start Up Sunday

September 28, 2025

10:00am

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**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

“Cello Suite, Number 1, Prelude”

Oksana Mcarthy, Cellist  
J. S. Bach

### Call to Worship

Rev. Dane Jordan

Leader: Come, beloved community—young and old, joyful and weary, seekers and skeptics.  
Come with your springtime hope, your summer joy, your autumn questions, and your winter of doubts.

**People: We come as we are, in every season of life, trusting that God meets us here.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who holds all our seasons, who sows grace in our soil, and calls us to bloom, again and again.

**People: We worship with open hearts, ready to be renewed, transformed and ready to share God’s grace with all!**

### Invocation

#### \*Opening Hymn

“Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Number 55  
LOBE DEN HERREN

### 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

J. Kevin Gray

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.

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*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

## Seasons of Life, Journeys of Faith

Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* is one of the most iconic works in classical music, celebrated for its vivid portrayal of nature and its pioneering use of programmatic elements.

### Here's a summary of the history:

The work consists of four violin concertos, each representing a season: *Spring*, *Summer*, *Autumn*, and *Winter*. Each concerto is divided into three movements (fast–slow–fast) and paired with a sonnet, possibly written by Vivaldi himself, describing the scenes and emotions of the season.

Vivaldi used musical motifs to depict natural sounds and scenes—chirping birds, thunderstorms, icy landscapes, and rustic dances—making it one of the earliest examples of program music, where the music tells a story or paints a picture.

This morning's performance will feature selected movements rather than the complete work. These excerpts are curated to serve as a musical meditation, offering the listener space for reflection following a spoken meditation. The intention is to create a contemplative atmosphere—one that invites stillness, introspection, and emotional resonance.



## Meditation

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

## Musical Reflection

“Four Seasons, Spring, *Allegro*”

String Quartet  
Vivaldi

## Meditation

Mary Miller

## Musical Reflection

“Four Seasons, Summer, *Adagio*”

String Quartet  
Vivaldi

## Meditation

Robin Buck

## Musical Reflection

“Four Seasons, Autumn, *Allegro*”

String Quartet  
Vivaldi

## Meditation

Carol Reid

## Musical Reflection

“Four Seasons, Winter, *Allegro*”

String Quartet  
Vivaldi

## 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

Nancy Culp, Deacon

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



## Offertory

“Light in the Midst of the Machine”

String Quartet  
J. Kevin Gray

### **Program Note** – World premiere performance

In a world brimming with motion, labor, and the constant hum of daily life, we often find ourselves swept along by routine and noise. Yet, within even the most ordinary moments—amid the clatter of dishes, the shuffle of footsteps, the quiet pause between tasks—there exists a Divine presence.

-J. Kevin Gray

**\*Presentation of Gifts and the Doxology**

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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Nancy Culp, Deacon

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

Number 327  
SLANE (adapted)

**Responding to the Word**

**Pastoral Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Layne Smith

**Postlude**

“Allegro from Concerto II in a minor after Vivaldi”

Dr. Matthew Manwarren  
J.S. Bach

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



*Myers Park Baptist Church is delighted to  
warmly welcome our special guest musicians:*

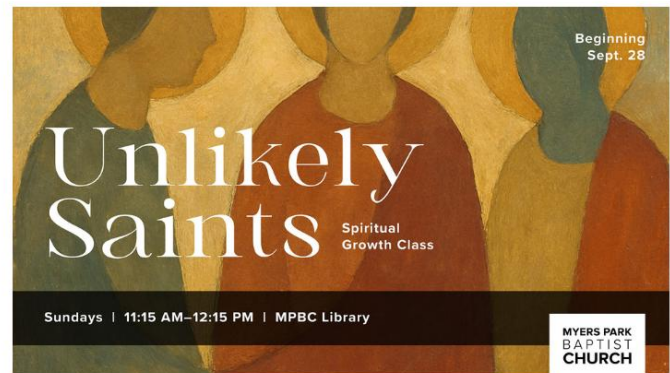
Tatiana Karpova – Violin

Jane Hart Brendle – Violin

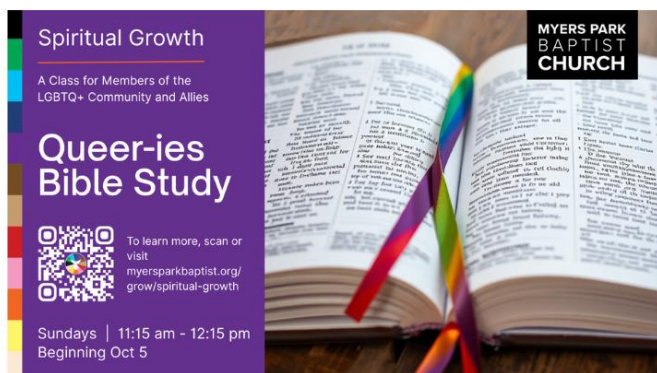
Shawn Snider – Viola

Oksana McCarthy – Cello

Everyone is invited to join us for Spiritual Growth opportunities after worship today.

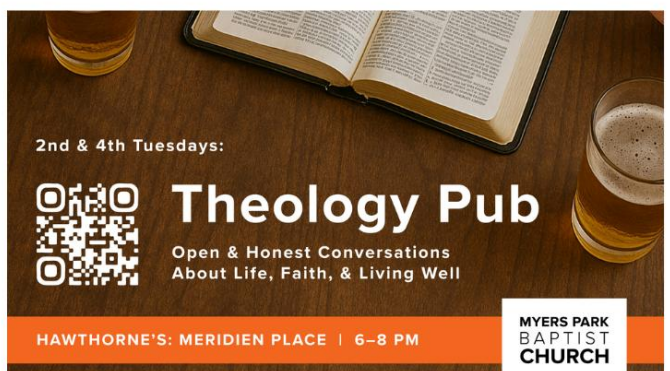


— More opportunities are coming in October! —



We also have opportunities during the week.

Visit our website for more information.



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



At Myers Park Baptist Church, we strive for inclusive language.

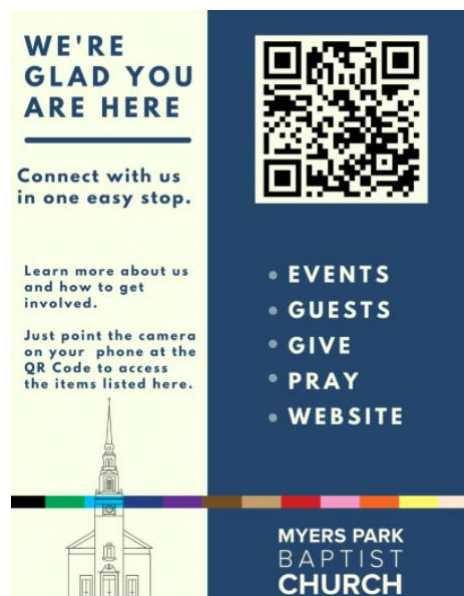
However, there are times due to the historical nature or context of the text that we choose to leave language unchanged as initially presented. Be assured that MPBC holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.



### 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).





## 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, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

11:15am-12:15 Faith Formation Classes for Adults and Children – Multiple Locations  
4:00pm-6:00pm The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

#### **Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

11:30am-12:00pm Meditation-Zoom

#### **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

11:15am-12:15am Faith Formation Classes for Adults and Children – Multiple locations  
4:00pm-6:00pm The Youth Journey Fellowship – Youth Hall

#### **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

10:00am-11:30am Sage-ing Lunch (featuring speaker Gay Casper) – Heaton Hall

#### **Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

5:30pm-7:30pm Hangout with Layne and Dianne – The Residence at SouthPark

*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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