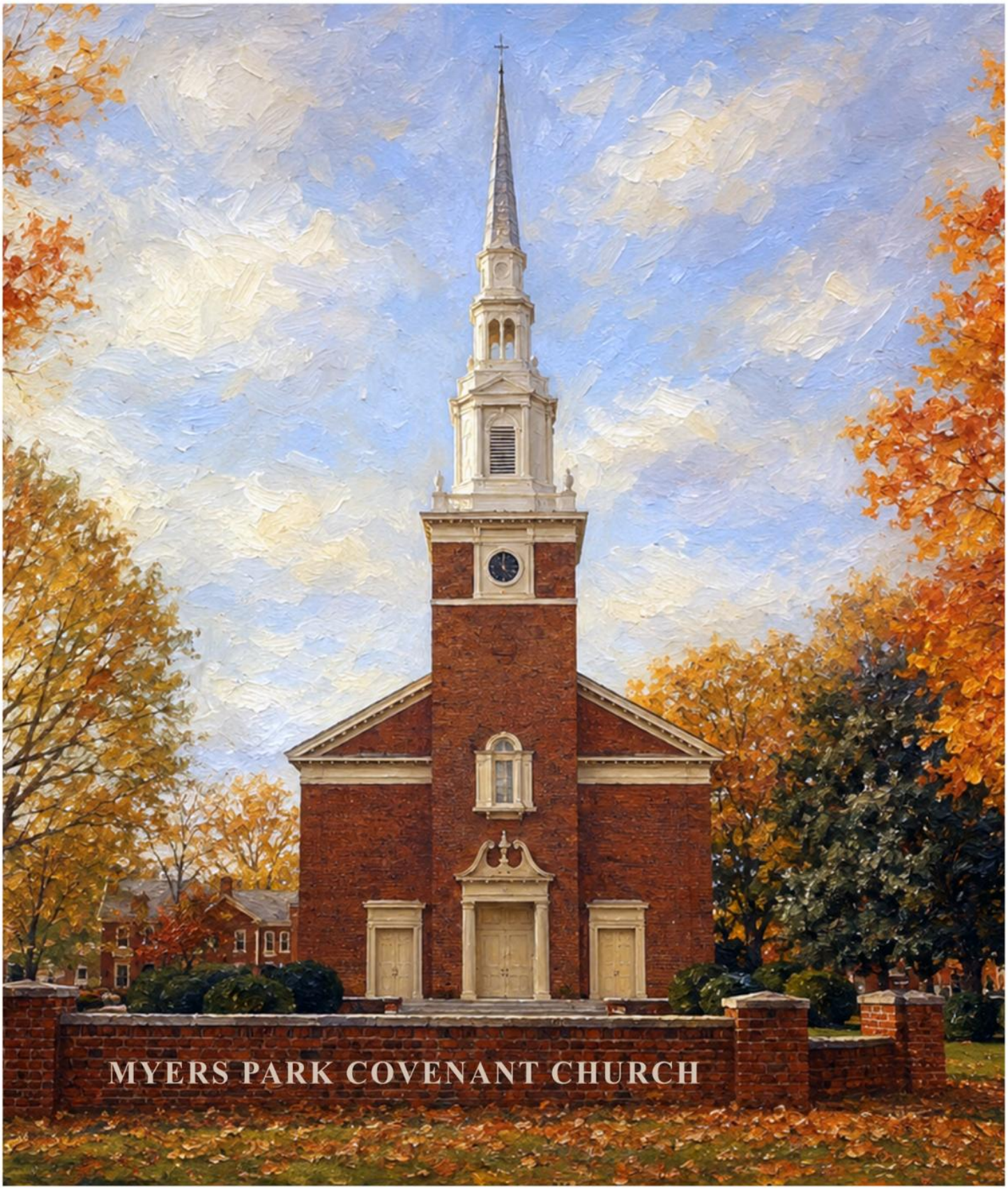


MYERS PARK
COVENANT
CHURCH

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

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

Toccata in D Minor ("Dorian"), BWV 538 J.S. Bach

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

Call to Worship Dane Jordan

Leader: LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Leader: You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

People: **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, like a watch in the night.**

Leader: For all our days pass away under your watch; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; they are soon gone, and fly away.

People: **So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

[adapted from Psalm 90]

Invocation

***Opening Hymn No. 52** LEONI

"O God of Earth and Space" Jane Parker Huber

Welcome Tim Moore

If you are our guest today, please scan the QR code below.

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***Sing** DENNIS

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds" John Fawcett

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

The Prayer of Confession

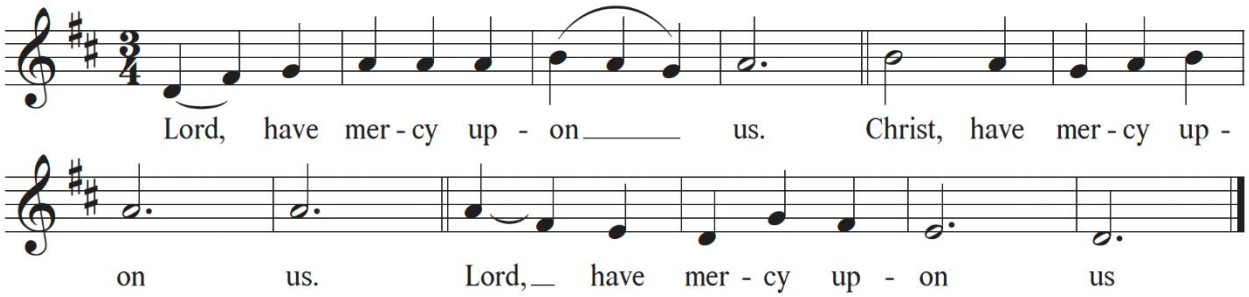
Dane Jordan

Merciful God, we raise our humble plea.
Christ in your mercy,
enslave every malice within us,
transform every heartache to glee.
Rain mercy upon us;
Beloved, conform us,
to Heaven's harmony.
Where we think only of ourselves,
and act for our behalf alone,
Where in selfishness we demand
others to change for us,
Rain mercy upon us;
Beloved, conform us,
to Heaven's harmony.
Forgive us for acting out of fear,
for pushing others down
in order to climb higher.
Rain mercy upon us;
Beloved, conform us,
to Heaven's harmony.
In Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.

[Adapted from *In the Land of the Living*, by Ken Sehested]

The Silent Confession

The Kyrie Eleison



The Assurance of Pardon

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is [God's] steadfast love toward those who [revere God]; as far as the east is from the west, so far [God] removes our transgressions from us."

[Psalm 103:8, 11-12]

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVU)

Mark Chatman and Deborah Steiner

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** ANGEL'S STORY

"Oh God, We Yearn for Safety" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don't demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.

Sermon

"Playing it Safe is a Losing Hand" Tim Moore

A Moment to Reflect

Church at Prayer 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.

Ministry Moment and Invitation to Offering Ed Hinson, Stewardship Speaker

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

Offertory

God of Grace and God of Glory Harry Emerson Fosdick; Paul T. Langston

God of grace and God of glory,
on Thy people pour Thy pow'r;
Crown Thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour!

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives, that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set all free.
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
Amen.

Chancel Choir; Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

***Dedication of the Stewardship Commitments**

At the conclusion of the anthem, everyone is invited to come forward with your pledge card or the bookmark in your pew rack indicating your Stewardship Commitment for 2027.

***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** Marina Luckhoo

***Closing Hymn No. 254** SCHUMANN
"We Give Thee but Thine Own" William Walsham How

***Responding to the Word** Tim Moore

***Benediction**

Postlude
God of Grace, and God of Glory Paul Manz

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

The arrangement on the altar is given to the glory of God by Bob Thomason and his family.

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. Dane Jordan, Interim Minister of Youth | djordan@mpcovenant.org

Rev. Dr. Marina Luckhoo, Associate Minister | mluckhoo@mpcovenant.org

Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, Interim Senior Minister | tmoore@mpcovenant.org

David Tang, Interim Minister of Music and Worship | dtang@mpcovenant.org

❖

Audio/Video Team: Wes Cobb, Joe Kuhlmann,
Hannah Combs, Eric Roberts, and Jesmark Garcia.

❖

At Myers Park Covenant 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 Myers Park Covenant Church holds God as non-gender-specific; God's essence encompasses all.

Myers Park Covenant Church is a faith community on a journey seeking a welcoming, loving, and just world.

❖

HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK COVENANT CHURCH

Becoming a member of Myers Park Covenant Church begins by filling out a joining card. To receive a card or learn more, contact Rev. Marina Luckhoo.
mluckhoo@mpcovenant.org

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



We occasionally take photographs during our worship service. If you would prefer not to be included, please contact Laura Geer | Communications Director | lgeer@mpcovenant.org.

One License A-729324 | WorshipCast License CCS # WC-12779 | CVLI Video License #504 239 870

Our Covenant

We, the members of the Myers Park Covenant 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.

GET INVOLVED AT MPCOVENANT

NEXT WEEK

WED, NOV 18	11:30am | **Just Breathe Meditation** | Online 5pm | **Wednesday Supper Connections with Troubadour Books and Children's Author, Dawn Anthony**| Heaton Hall
THU, NOV 19	10am | **Cuppa Community** | Amelie's Park Road 6pm | **Mecklenburg Interfaith Thanksgiving** | Heaton Hall 7pm | **Choir Rehearsal** | Berry Hall

COMING SOON

SUN, NOV 22	9am – 12pm | **Childcare** (Birth – 5 years) | Cornwell Center Childcare Room 9am | **Faith and Community with Joe Hamby, Cher Lindblom, and Robin Buck speak on the upcoming year of Roof Above |** Parlor 10am | **Worship** | Sanctuary 11:15am | **Spiritual Growth** for all ages **Adults: Unlikely Saints** - Room 250 | **Queeries** - Room 254 | **The Journey Begins, Continuing the Conversation Coffee Hour** - Heaton Hall Foyer **Youth** (Grades 6-12) Youth Hall **Children** (Grades K-5) Godly Play | Room 211 12:15pm | **Stew-pendous Sunday Lunch by Youth Ministry** | Heaton Hall 4:30pm | **Youth Fellowship** | Youth Hall

SAVE THESE DATES

WED, NOV 25	Church Office Closed
THU, NOV 26	Church Office Closed
SUN, DEC 6	11:15am | **Congregational Meeting** | Sanctuary