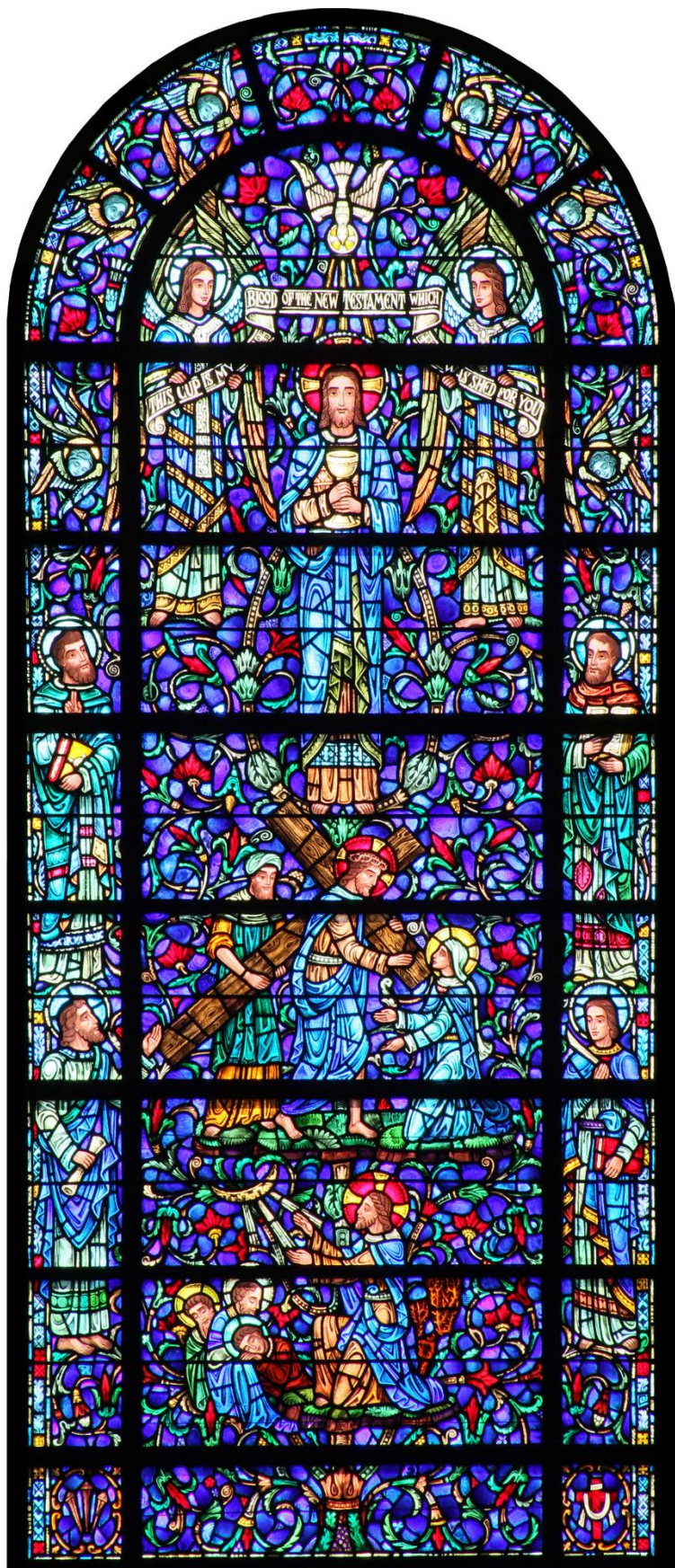




THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Sage-ing Sunday

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August 9, 2026

10:00a

MYERS PARK  
COVENANT  
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.

### Opening Voluntary

Aria

Craig Phillips

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organ

### Call to Worship

Ernie Abernethy

Leader: Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel,

**People: who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb;**

Leader: Hear the word of the LORD, “Even to your old age I am your God,

**People: even when you turn gray, I will carry you.**

Leader: I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.”

**People: The steadfast love of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! Alleluia!**

[adapted from Isaiah 46]

### Invocation

Gary Hudson

### \*Opening Hymn No. 23: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE  
Isaac Watts

### Ministry Moment

Betsy Thigpen

***The Sage-ing Journey: Moving from Senior to Elder***

### Special Reading

Jeanie and Alvin Phillips

#### ***Developmental Tasks and Practices in the Third Stage of Life***

For everything there is a season, and a time for  
every matter under heaven

A time to resist ageism within and without

A time to slow down and a time for calmness

A time to prevent isolation and loneliness by  
embracing community

A time to cultivate gratitude and kindness

A time to move the egocentric ego from the driver seat  
to the back seat

A time to bring the shadow to consciousness for  
healing and integration

A time to bring personal gifts and talents to serve others

A time to review life and prepare for its end

Listen to me, I bore you and carried you in my womb  
I gave you life and will carry you in old age when  
you turn gray  
you are mine  
I am with you  
Always

*This reading has been informed and shaped by selected scriptures from Ecclesiastes 3 and Isaiah 46.  
It is a collaborative work by author Connie Zweig, Betsy Thigpen, Kate Green, and Gary Hudson.*

## Welcome

Dane Jordan

*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

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

## \*Sing (after Passing of the Peace)

We are one in the Spirit;  
we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit;  
we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity  
may one day be restored:

**REFRAIN:**  
And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love,  
yes they'll know we are Christians  
by our love.

We will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other;  
we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news  
that God is in our land:  
[Refrain]

## Hebrew Scripture – Ruth 4:13-17 (NRSV)

Ted Phillips

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may [God’s] name be renowned in Israel! [God] shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.



## Special Music

### How Can I Keep from Singing

Rev. Robert Lowry; Arr. Adam and Matt Podd

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations.  
I hear the real though faroff hymn that hails a new creation.

#### REFRAIN

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love prevails in heav'n and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest 'round me rose, I know the truth it liveth.  
And though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

#### [Refrain]

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it.  
And day by day, this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.

#### [Refrain]

#### KEEP SINGING!

Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte; Claudio Olivera, piano; John Quillin, conductor

## Sermon

"The Sage-ing Journey with Naomi"

Nancy Sehested

## A Moment to Reflect

## Church at Prayer

Tim Moore

## 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

"The Lord's Prayer" - Swahili by Chris Kiagiri; Christopher Tin, Arr. Roger Emerson

### Baba Yetu

#### CHORUS:

*Baba yetu, yetu uliye mbinguni, amina!*

**Our Father, our Father who art in heaven, amen!**

*Jina lako litukuzwe.*

**May your name be glorified.**

*Utupe leo chakula chetu, tunachohitaji.*

**Give us today our food, what we need.**

*Utusamehe makosa yetu, hey! Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.*

**Forgive us our trespasses, hey! As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

*Usitutie katika majaribio, lakini utuokoe, na yule muovu emilele!*

**Do not lead us into temptation, but save deliver us from the evil one!**

*Milele na milele, amina!*  
**Forever and ever, amen!**  
**[Chorus]**

*Ufalme wako ufike, Utakalo lifanyike, duniani kama mbinguni. Amina!*  
**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen!**  
**[Chorus]**

Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte; Chancel Choir; John Quillin, conductor  
Jordan Greene, vocal solo; Claudio Olivera, piano; Matthew Tully, percussion

**\*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**

Kate Green

**\*Closing Hymn No. 371: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"**

THE ASH GROVE  
Omer Westendorf

**Responding to the Word**

Tim Moore

**Closing Prayer**

Marina Luckhoo

**Prayer for New Beginnings**

based on a prayer by Christina Caine

Gracious and loving Creator,  
Cut the Cord. Pull the plug.  
Break the chains that tie and bind us.  
Help us to walk free into the possibility of a new path  
where our enemies are surprised by our new grace.  
Help us to let go of the past.  
Awaken us to signs and wonders.  
Make us more aware of wise guides pointing and reassuring the way.  
Help us to find our Anam Cara\* -  
our soul friend, those people and places who feed our souls.  
Awaken us to the hope of resurrection in each new day –  
lead us to make peace, be pure of spirit,  
walk humbly, love mercy and kindness,  
and do the good you know to do.  
Give us new eyes to see the path that has always been,  
that leads to where we belong – that leads us home.  
Amen

**Benediction**

Nancy Sehested

\*Anam Cara is a Celtic word meaning "soul friend."

## Closing

### *Take Us Home by Another Way*

Christopher Grundy, Stan Rogers

#### **REFRAIN:**

Spirit, take us home, take us home by another way  
Take us long way 'round the tyrants & their schemes  
Give us strength to walk, show us dreams of a better day  
And we'll pave the way with justice going home by another way

#### VERSE 1:

The mountains & the hills laid low, the rough places made plain  
The tyrants thrown down from their thrones 'til only love remains

#### **[Refrain]**

#### VERSE 2:

No offerings for billionaires to make them richer still  
Bring all your frankincense & myrrh that the hungry may be filled

#### **[Refrain]**

#### VERSE 4

So when things get tough & feet are tired, we'll know it'll be ok  
'Cause we'll pave the way with justice going home by another way

#### **[Refrain]**

Adrian Fullerwinder, David Young, Zachary Hugo, David Tang

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



We welcome today's musical guests:  
The Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte – John Quillin, Managing Director.



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



On Friday, June 26, 2026, Myers Park Baptist Church officially announced the results of the congregational election to change our name to **Myers Park Covenant Church**.

As we begin this exciting new chapter, you may notice a mix of our old and new names across our website, printed materials, signage, and other communications over the next few months. We are working diligently to update everything as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support during this transition. We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to embracing this new season together.

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.



### 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.



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

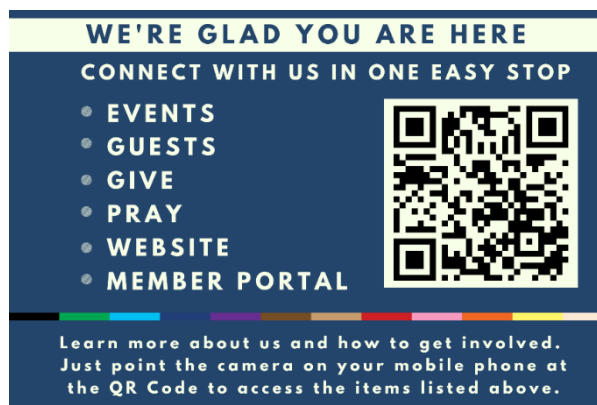


### HOW TO JOIN MYERS PARK COVENANT CHURCH

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 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 below.*



## 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.

### OUR MINISTERS

#### Rev. Dane Jordan

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

#### Rev. Dr. Marina Luckhoo

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

#### Rev. Dr. Tim Moore

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

#### David Tang

Interim Music and Worship Minister  
[dtang@myersparkbaptist.org](mailto:dtang@myersparkbaptist.org)

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

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



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 Sage-ing Sunday

9:45a-12p | Preschool Childcare | Cornwell Center  
Childcare Room – Main Level

10a-11a | Worship | Sanctuary

11:15a-12:15p | Sermon Talk Back | Heaton Hall

11:15a-12p | Elementary Sunday School | Room 210

12p-1p | 2nd Sun Lunch Bunch | Meet in HH Foyer

#### TUESDAY, August 11

8a-3p | Roof Above Meal Prep | Kitchen

#### WEDNESDAY, August 12

11:30a-12p | Meditation | Zoom

#### SATURDAY, August 15

12p-10p | Pride Booth | Charlotte Pride

#### SUNDAY, August 16 Pride Sunday

9:45a-11:15a | Preschool Childcare | Cornwell Center  
Childcare Room – Main Level

10a-11a | Worship | Sanctuary

12p-6p | Pride Booth | Charlotte Pride

1p-4p | Pride Parade | Meet in VAPA Center Parking  
Lot (College & 11<sup>th</sup> Streets)

*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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