



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

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

The Peace May Be Exchanged, from Rubrics

Dan Locklair

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist

Call to Worship

Marina Luckhoo

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord; call on God’s name; make known God’s deeds among the peoples.

People: Let us sing to the Lord, sing praises to God; tell of all God’s wonderful works.

Leader: Seek the Lord and God’s strength; seek the Lord’s presence as we worship.

People: Glory in God’s holy name; let our hearts seek the Lord and rejoice in all the goodness of life.

Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done: the gifts of creation, commands for living, and care for the poor and outcast.

People: O Lord, we love to worship in this house, among your people and surrounded by your glory and presence.

[adapted from Psalm 105]

Invocation

*Opening Hymn No. 48:

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO (JOANNA)
Walter Chalmers Smith

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)

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Peter Scholtes

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]

We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
we will work with each other;
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity
and save each one's pride.
[Refrain]

An affirmation of Faith

Marina Luckhoo

We are not alone,
 we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to love and to serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* The Affirmation of Faith is from the United Church of Canada.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 14:22-23 (NRSV)

Deborah Moore Clark, Deacon

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" "And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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, stanza 3**
"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY
John Ernest Bode



Sermon

"In and Out"

Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis

A Moment to Reflect

Church at Prayer

Dane Jordan

A Ministry Moment

Robin Buck, Ministry of Justice and Outreach

Invitation to Offering

Tony Dick, Deacon

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



Offertory

I Choose Love

Lindy Thompson; Mark Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love (repeat)
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.
I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace (repeat).
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.
I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise (repeat).
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.
I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love (repeat).
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.
I choose love.

Akeira Hill, alto and Chris Nolan, baritone soloists; Chancel Choir;
Dr. Matthew Manwarren, piano

***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**

Tony Dick, Deacon

***Closing Hymn No. 323, stanzas 1-3**

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

John Rippen

***Responding to the Word**

Dane Jordan

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible

arr. Marianne Kim

Dr. Matthew Manwarren, organist

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



OUR MINISTERS

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

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

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

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



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

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 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.

A graphic with a dark blue background and a light blue circular pattern. It features a QR code in the center-right. The text is white and blue. The top section has a blue header with white text. The middle section has a list of links. The bottom section has a paragraph of text.



Our new logo is made up of a “mark,” the new church name and a tag line.

The mark is inspired by the compass star in Heaton Hall. The entwined compass rose and circle represent directional points that evoke guidance and vision. The four points play two roles: creating an abstract cross and calling out the four pillars of Myers Park Covenant Church: spirituality, inclusivity, community and justice.

The design is symmetrical and looping, always connected, much as Myers Park Covenant Church is connected to the community and its journey of faith. The tagline’s role is to quickly show MPCOV’s identity and ties to the Covenant. PROGRESSIVE FAITH. WORKING FOR JUSTICE.



Our Name Change to Myers Park Covenant Church

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.



We are affiliated with
allianceofbaptists.org

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.

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, Sept 30	11:30am Just Breathe Meditation Online
THU, Oct 1	7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Berry Hall
SAT, Oct 3	9am Catawba Riversweep Cleanup Sugar Creek Greenway 9:30am Sister Act Sage-ing Trip to Flat Rock Playhouse Meet in Roswell Parking Lot

COMING SOON

SUN, Oct 4	9am – 12pm Childcare (Birth – 5 years) Cornwell Center Childcare Room 9am Faith and Community Shalom Hall 10am Worship Sanctuary
World Communion Sunday	11:15am Spiritual Growth for all ages Adults: Unlikely Saints – Room 250 Queeries – Room 254 The Journey Begins – Parlor Youth (Grades 6-12) Youth Hall Children (Grades K-5) Godly Play Room 211 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship Youth Hall

SAVE THESE DATES

TUES, Oct 6	12pm Sage-ing Lunch Heaton Hall
WED, Oct 7	5:30pm October Hangout Suffolk Punch SouthPark
SAT, Oct 10	9:30am Sage-ing Retreat Heaton Hall
SAT, Oct 17	3-8pm Community Fall Festival Front Lawn of the Cornwell Center