



Wings of the Spirit

September 2025

Manassas Presbyterian Church, 8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas VA 20109
www.mpc-va.org • office@mpc-va.org • 703.369.2058

GET FIRED UP FOR **FALL 2025**

AT MPC

Sunday, September 7

Potluck Barbecue

BRING LAWN CHAIRS AND
A SIDE DISH THAT SERVES 8

Parent & Participant Registration

SIGN UP YOUR CHILD/YOUTH FOR
FAMILY MINISTRIES PROGRAMMING

**Program
Kick-off
Sept. 14**





As the season turns cooler, we will be looking at what it means to be God's Covenant Community together. In this worship series and in our ministry teams, guided by our elders, we will lean into our imaginations of how God is calling us to dream bigger, risk lovingly, and imagine more deeply how MPC will move into the future as the Body of Christ. The New Covenant (aka the New Testament) is the Good News of the Gospels partnered with letters from Paul and a few others of how to be the church, Christians together. Then it concludes with a really confusing bunch of eschatology about what end times will be like before the final coming of God's Kingdom. What does this covenant ask of me in response to this promise of love from God? Nothing is required, but responding is our joy and calling as Christians.

Ideas of your dreams for the church - reach out to one of your session elders: Ray Langley, Brad Bradley, Christy Tayler, Laura Kimberly, Pat Hodgdon, Dave Williams, Jim Chagnon, Jeff Shriver, JoAnne Gutliph, Carl Dattel, Jim Short, and Kathy Massie. Share your dreams, hopes (or maybe a thank you!) with these leaders. I often hear the larger church is declining from its heyday - when the reality is that it is moving into a different future from the path mapped out my people. That future may not look like the church of our childhood. As a people of the resurrection, we should expect the unexpected and be ready to step out in faith for where Christ is leading next.

September will have opportunities for service in Weekend Food For Kids packing and blood donating; as well as discipleship as our classes, choirs and programs kickoff for the school year; and fellowship - time to be together in food, fun and dance! As we are reminded at communion - *This cup is the New Covenant of my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it in remembrance of me.* Christ loves us that much - has enough faith to nudge and challenge us to love more and be more so Christ's light and hope shine out from this place.

Shalom,
Pastor Laura

We believe God calls us to reflect Christ's love and mercy by

- **WORSHIPING** as a community of diverse ages, backgrounds and cultures;
- **ENGAGING** the whole congregation in fellowship, learning, service, and outreach to the wider community;
- **SERVING** by caring for each other and reaching out to the world God loves, seeking to understand and respond to needs;
- **GROWING** as individuals, families, and community as we continue to discover who we are in Jesus Christ; and trying to follow his example.

MPC Invites You to Join Its

Family Ministries Programs

**SUNDAYS
BEGINNING
SEPT.
14**

- **Adult Discipleship 8:45 AM**
- **Children's Church (Ages 4 and under) during worship**
- **K-2 Discipleship and Music @ 11:30 AM**
- **3-5 Discipleship and Choir @ 11:30 AM**
- **Youth Discipleship and Choir @ 11:30 AM**
- **Adult Bible Study on Zoom @ 6:30 PM**



Church Flowers

If you'd like to provide church flowers for worship, please use this website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ADA623A5FFC16-54102886-worship#/>

Session—News from the Clerk

What is a Presbytery? What's Happening in Our Presbytery?

In the Presbyterian Church USA, a presbytery is a regional governing body that is made up of local churches. Our presbytery is the National Capital Presbytery. I encourage you to check it out by going to <https://thepresbytery.org>.


Once at the site, you will see information about our Presbytery focus on creative ways churches are growing and impacting their communities. Click on **LEARN MORE** to see a video narrated by General Presbyter John Molina-Moore.

Recently MPC has welcomed new members. We are growing. We are a welcoming congregation. Members of the session would love to hear from you if you have ideas about how we can grow and make an impact in the Manassas area.

So Our Churches Can Grow

National Capital Presbytery is **Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic!** In the coming year we will direct our resources to help our congregations **GROW**. We will highlight churches that creatively use initiatives that reach and impact their communities in a new way... *"So That Our Churches Can Grow!"*

LEARN MORE



Deacons in Action

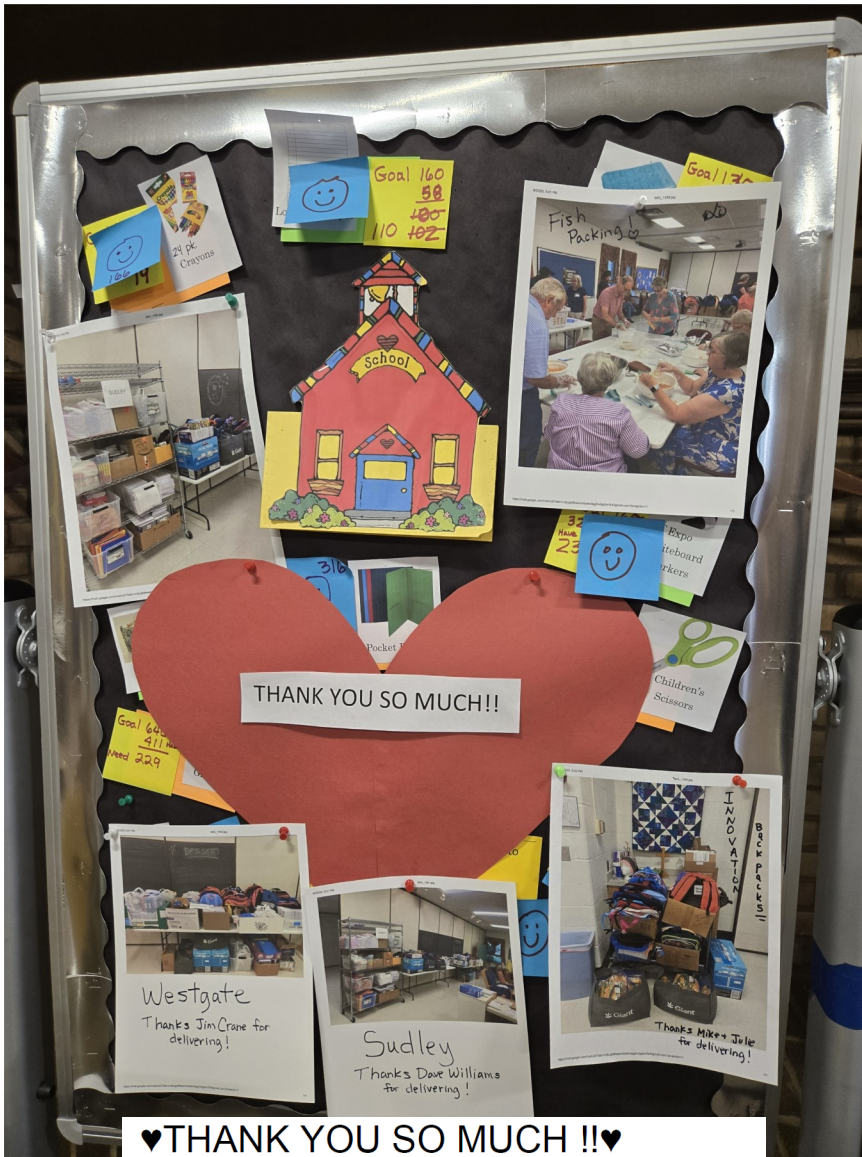
September 28th Blood Drive

It is not too late to sign up.

VISIT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MPC0928](https://bit.ly/MPC0928)
CALL 1.866.256.6372,
USE CODE 8215



SCHOOL SUPPLIES



♥THANK YOU SO MUCH !!♥

For: 260 Backpacks

178 packs of colored pencils

2000 pencils

185 scissors

350 Composition books

160 Loose leaf paper packs

And so much more!!

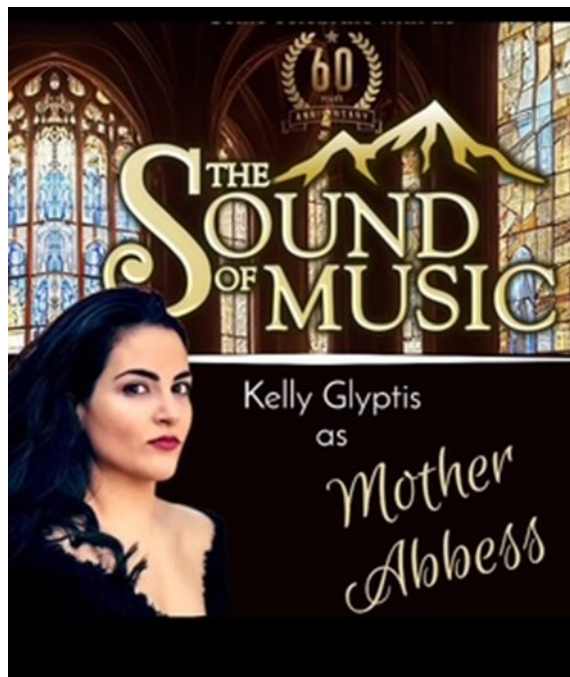
Innovation kindergarten teachers were already looking for snacks. Children were not bringing them. They are very grateful!! Blessings upon our generous hearts!!!





Worship & Music Notes

Deborah Panell



Kelly's journey from Manassas to Europe and back:

<https://princewilliamliving.com/from-manassas-to-the-mother-abbess-kelly-glyptis-returns-home-with-the-sound-of-music/>

Riverside Center for the
Performing Arts
Fredricksburg, VA

MPC Group Reservation
Thursday, September 25

5:30 Dinner

7:00 Show

\$76 per person - group rate includes dinner, show and gratuity

RSVP no later than September 9

Email: dpanell@mpc-va.org

Payment information will be sent
when RSVP is received.



MAKE MUSIC FOR THE LORD TO HEAR!

"O Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise..." *Psalm 95:1*

"...but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord..."

Ephesians 5:18b-19

"He says, I will declare your name...in the assembly I will sing your praises."

Hebrews 2:12

These are 3 of over 500 music references in the Bible.

A new season of singing and ringing begins this month! Come be a part!

**JERUSALEM CHOIR (Adults)
KICKOFF**

September 10 @ 5:45 pm - Sanctuary

**JOYOUS RINGERS (Adults)
KICKOFF**

September 10 @ 6:30 – Sanctuary

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS

For information about K – 12th grade music opportunities, please contact:

dpanell@mpc-va.org.

MPC CHOIRS “GOODWILL” CONCERT VENUES IN PORTUGAL, OCTOBER ‘25

Cathedral in Porto



Senior Living Facility in Lisbon



DRIVERS FROM MPC TO DULLES AIRPORT NEEDED:

Monday, Oct. 6 @ 1:00 pm

Contact: dpanell@mpc-va.org

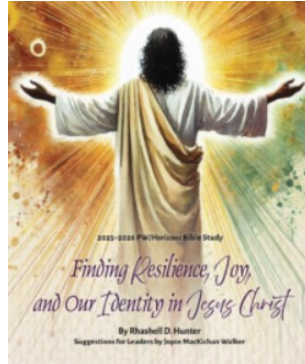
DRIVERS FROM DULLES AIRPORT TO MPC NEEDED:

Tuesday, Oct. 14 @ 3:45 pm

Contact: dpanell@mpc-va.org

Presbyterian Women

September is here and Presbyterian Women will begin a new Bible study. Bible study is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together and the women of MPC are no exception. We have three Circles that gather “to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study,” which is part of the Purpose of Presbyterian Women across the world. The 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter with Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker will be the study for all three Circles this year.



Here's the description of the Introduction of the 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study:

In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience? Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ. We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

Interested in finding out what Circles are like? You are welcome to attend any of the Circles. Come and hear God's Word for you! The Circles will hold their first meetings as follows: September 2nd at 10AM with Martha Circle; September 16th at Noon with Alpha-Agape Circle; and September 23rd at 7PM with Covenant Renewal Circle.

For more information contact one of the Circle representatives: Martha Circle - Christy Tayler & Pam Shriver (Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10AM); Alpha-Agape Circle - Lois Franco & Julie Mahoney (Meets the third Tuesday of each month at noon); or Covenant Renewal Circle - Rebecca Shell (Meets through Zoom, the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7PM). There's still time to join the Study!

From The Loving Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Loving Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued its mission of spreading God's love and comfort. In August 15 prayer shawls and lap robes were gifted to SPIRITUAL CARE SUPPORT MINISTRIES INC. of Warrenton and 15 shawls and lap robes were presented to WILLING WARRIORS in Haymarket.



On Sunday, September 21 the most recent shawls will be blessed during our church service. Feel free to join this shared ministry by wearing your prayer shawl that day.



Our ministry has many "sides". For Weekend Food For Kids we include messages with treats each month. Special small handmade items will sometimes be placed in the 160 bags with weekend food. As we continue to create hats and scarves, we prepare for their blessing and distribution on October 30.

Thank you for your donations which make it possible for free mailings. Request a prayer shawl by letting us know - a note in our mailbox in the office, a personal request to Dana or an email.

Respectfully,
Dana Renninger

News from Weekend Food for Kids (WFFK) Mission Program

The first packing of the 2025-2026 school year is September 21 after worship service with setup on Saturday, September 20 at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be supporting 160 students: 50 students at Sudley and WestGate Elementary Schools and 60 students at Innovation Elementary School, our neighbor. This first packing will be for five weeks in October for a total of 800 gallon bags containing nonperishable food items for the kids for the weekend. There will be eight more setup and packing events this school year. Mark your calendars!

Setup (Saturday) and Packing (Sunday) Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year

2025

Setup: November 1;	Packing: November 2 (4 weeks)
Setup: Friday, November 21;	Packing: Saturday, November 22 (3 weeks)

2026

Setup: January 3	Packing: January 4 (4 weeks)
Setup: January 31	Packing: February 1 (4 weeks)
Setup: February 28	Packing: March 1 (4 weeks)
Setup: March 21	Packing: March 22 (4 weeks)
Setup: May 2	Packing: May 3 (4 weeks)
Setup: May 30	Packing: May 31 (2 weeks)



School supplies and cheddar fish snacks were sorted and packed after worship on August 17th. Over 960 snack bags of cheddar fish were packed to help support the teachers at the three schools MPC supports. Thanks to everyone who helped and a huge shout out to Julie Mahoney for her leadership on the school supplies effort! See the school supplies article in this newsletter for more details.

We need your help with the positive message favors that go into each gallon food bag for the coming year and the following year.

For this year's favors we need:

By October 1st we will need 18 bags of 20 oz candy corn and 9 bags of 11 oz candy pumpkins. (The candy is for the November turkey topper snack bag favor)

For the 2026-2027 October favor we will need:

An assortment of plastic bugs no bigger than two inches, for example a spider ring and/or glow in the dark bugs. Since Halloween is right around the corner it would be a good time to find and buy them. Whatever you can find would be greatly appreciated!

Other ways the congregation can support this program are by bringing boxes of Rice Krispie Bars (60 or 40 bars) and Fruit Gummies (40 or 90 packages) and placing them in the big yellow bin in the Narthex or you can give financially, noting "WFFK-Food" on your donation, either written or electronic.

We continue to be amazed by the support of the congregation for this program supporting kids in need. Thank you for are in for sharing Christ's love!

Manassas Presbyterian Church
8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas VA 20109



Community CELLIDH

Music: Irish Breakfast Band
Caller: Janine Smith

No partner, No experience required!
Open and FREE to the public!

Good Will Offering to Benefit
MPC's Early Learning Ctr. Scholarships

September 27, 2025 3-5:30 pm

Early Learning Center

Susan Ferguson

ELC MISSION REFLECTION SUMMARY

A MINISTRY OF MANASSAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

At the Early Learning Center, we believe
**every child is a unique and
precious child of God.**

- Seeing each child as **an individual** with distinct needs, strengths, and potential.
- **Nurturing the whole child**—cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, and creatively.
- Providing **rich, meaningful experiences** that encourage exploration, learning, and growth.
- **Balancing independence and interdependence**, helping each child learn to belong while developing their own identity.

Our work is grounded in the belief that every child should develop a **positive self-concept** and feel confident, secure, and deeply loved.



Teachers have been back in the building since the first week of August, but we gathered as a group for the first time on the 18th. Over the course of the week, we reviewed policies, engaged in team building activities and participated in professional development. This year we took a deep dive into our Mission Statement and how we live it out daily in the classroom. It will provide our connecting theme for the school year even as each class develops its own unique personality. We also welcomed 6 new staff members, completing our staff of 18. The week ended with Teacher Meet & Greets, allowing students to come in and meet their teachers, explore their classrooms and play with some new toys and friends.

CHURCH
CALENDAR



To view the current MPC calendar, check the church website at

PRAYER
Requests

To submit a prayer request, please email it to prayers@mpc-va.org. To receive the prayer list, please email the church office at office@mpc-va.org



SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Graham Moore |
| | Alana Orlando |
| 6 | Leigh Ellen Baca |
| | Rebecca Appah |
| 7 | Evan Moore |
| 8 | Liliia Kemp |
| 9 | Bruce Druetzler |
| | Rev. Rebekah Greniven |
| 12 | Sarah Gwangwaa |
| 14 | Diana MacKenzieStuart |
| 15 | Lilla Helgason |
| | Trish Purschwitz |
| 16 | Laura Maimon |
| | Angela Shoemaker |
| 17 | Eric Bard |
| | Helena Asante |
| 18 | Lindsay Rutz |
| 20 | Linda Wendle |
| 21 | Aliyah Hall |
| 23 | Ishmael Obuabang |
| 24 | Chris Ulrich |
| | Sylvia Chandler |
| | Hannah Stokes |
| 26 | Debbie Saylor |
| | Samuel Stokes |
| 27 | Kara Mahoney |
| | Laura Kimberly |
| | John Mitchell |
| | Patrick Keith |
| 29 | Ed Flournoy |

(IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE)

Mission Outreach

Food Collection Dates

September 14th and 28th

Serving Friends

with Gainesville UMC at MPC

Tuesdays at 3:00pm

Neighbor Picnic *Sept. 30th*

Weekend Food For Kids

WFFK Set up and Packing

Set-up - *Saturday, 20th - 10 am*

Packing - *Sunday, 21st -*

After service

RISE AGAINST THE HUNGER SAVE THE DATE!



On **Sunday, November 9**, Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is back at MPC! The Mission Ministry team invites you to help at an in-person meal packing event to pack 10,000 meals.

It's not too early to start signing up because we need as many volunteers as possible. Please consider joining us to share our love across the globe using the MPC event registration site home page for [Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Events](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page to register).

Food insecurity is an unfortunate reality for many countries around the world. Learn how Rise Against Hunger activities are impacting world hunger by visiting their site at [Stories of Impact - Rise Against Hunger](#).

Direct questions to Paul Veronic or anyone on the Mission Ministry team.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Church Office Closed - Holiday Labor Day	2 10:00am Martha Circle 3:00pm Serving Friends 7:00pm Board of Deacons	3 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 12:30pm Retired Men's Lunch (ROMEOs) 5:00pm Portugal Choral Rehearsal	4 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	5 Church Office Closed	6 Family Ministry Sunday - Setup 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
7 9:00am Family Ministries Teacher Training 10:00am Worship with Communion and Family Ministries Commissioning 11:00am Family Ministries & Music Meeting 11:00am Potluck Barbecue	8 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 7:00pm Family Ministry Team ZOOM	9 3:00pm Serving Friends 3:00pm Worship and Music Ministry Team 7:00pm Mission Team Meeting via Zoom	10 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 5:00pm Jerusalem and Portugal Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	11 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team 4:00pm Personnel Team Ministry Meeting	12 Church Office Closed	13 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
14 Family Ministries Classes and Choir Kickoff 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship - Special Offering - Faith Ministry Mission Trip 11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom	15 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	16 12:00pm Alpha-Agape Circle 3:00pm Serving Friends 6:00pm Session Meeting	17 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 5:00pm Jerusalem and Portugal Choral Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	18 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	19 Church Office Closed	20 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:30am Weekend Food for Kids set-up
21 Prayer Shawl Blessing 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship 11:15am Weekend Food for Kids Packing 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom	22 First Day of Autumn 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	23 3:00pm Serving Friends 5:00pm Presbytery Meeting 7:00pm Covenant Renewal Circle	24 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 3:00pm Admin./ Finance Meeting 4:00pm Portugal Chime Rehearsal 5:00pm Jerusalem and Portugal Choral Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	25 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team 6:30pm MPC Book Club	26 Church Office Closed Reserved for Irish Social Dancing	27 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:30am Deacon Blood Drive - Setup 3:00pm Celidh Irish Square Dancing
28 Portugal Choir and Chime Trip Commissioning 7:30am Deacon Blood Drive 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship 11:00am Portugal Choir Trip Meeting 11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom	29 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	30 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm Neighbor Picnic 3:00pm Serving Friends				