

MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER February 2017
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Phone: 540-427-3064 website: mpumc.church

LENT IS COMING!

Lent 2017 begins March 1! Each year we seek to use the 40 days of Lent (Monday through Saturday from Ash Wednesday to Easter) for spiritual disciplines. Be prayerful about ways you can keep a holy Lent this year! Ash Wednesday worship will again be offered. Stay tuned for more info about place and time!

WORSHIP LIVE STREAMING

We have had several hundred online viewers each week since January 8. You can either watch live or later! Go to Pastor Robert's Facebook page, or check out the SERMONS link at mpumc.church. We are working to boost the Wi-Fi signal to make the video work better. Help spread the word! You can also be a missionary to someone who does not have Internet service by bringing your phone and helping them to watch. We even took live song requests over the Internet on the snowy Sunday!

Remember - in case of extreme winter weather, check Channel 7 or Channel 10 for updated scheduling, either on the air or on the WDBJ or WSLS web sites. Even if weather is bad, we will work to have the worship available for you by live streaming!

LIFE GROUP AT PCC

We have a new LIFE Group (Bible/prayer small group) at the Presbyterian Community Center, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. through March 8. It is a great mix of parents from the PCC youth ministry and our own folks from MPUMC! Enter through the Pathways Youth Program door (1228 Jamison Ave. SE). The six topics are:

- FEB. 1 What is the importance of daily time with God and what should I do?
- FEB. 8 How can the Bible become a more vital part of my life?
- FEB. 15 What is the importance of being with other believers?
- FEB. 22 How can I know that I have been saved?
- MAR. 1 How can I overcome temptations and my struggles with sin?
- MAR. 8 What is the importance of hearing the Bible taught and preached?

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

All interested Confirmation students need to register NOW for the class. This includes the multi-state CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCE March 3-5 in North Carolina. There will be a brief meeting for all confirmation youth and parents on Sunday, February 19, following the Mardi Gras luncheon at church. Don't miss it. Confirmation is a special time of faith training for middle school and high school youth. It offers preparation for making a decision on baptism or baptism renewal and public faith commitment! See Pastor Robert RIGHT NOW to sign up!

EXTENDING THE COMMUNION TABLE

You can help bring Communion to someone who can't attend. Please let Pastor Robert know if there is a need, or if you would like to help! We have folks ready to assist!

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for January

Jan. 1	51	Jan. 22	60
Jan. 8	12**	Jan. 29	67
Jan. 15	69**		

**1/15 includes Second Saturday; 1/8 was "bad weather day"!

On-line views to date:

Jan. 8	580	Jan. 22	193
Jan. 15	337	Jan. 29	324

For 2016, our worship average was 67, which was an increase over 65 for 2015. Can we "break" 70 in 2017?

Jan. 2017 Average	52	Jan. 2016 Average	48
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OUR GIFTS

January Offerings/Income	\$ 8,990.50
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other January Income	\$ 966.18

**Other offerings/income for the month include Christmas offering (\$470), Ghana (\$185), Backpack (\$131), Kroger Fund (\$86.18), Memorial (\$50), Youth (\$25), Communion (\$19).

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS! Our 2017 general budget is \$124,048. So we need around \$10,337 monthly to fully fund our ministries. You may hear talk about something called apportionments. That's UMC lingo for "A PORTION" of each offering "MEANT" for the work of the church in Virginia and around the world. Each church family has their fair share! For us, it means a little over \$500 a week to fund our 2017 apportionments!

But some of this benefits us right here! Our single largest apportionment item is \$221 a week for "ACTIVE CLERGY HEALTH." This means your pastor's health insurance plan is funded through shared apportionments and not through a bill. This is a great help to smaller churches! "We are all in this together!" (Pastor Robert says a big THANK YOU, since this provides him a direct benefit! YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!)

OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS - Thank you for your daily prayers for our ministry, for sharing your prayer requests and praise reports, for giving of your time, energy and talents, and for making a positive witness for Christ and his church!

"SECOND SATURDAY" - FEBRUARY 11

Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on February 11 for the next "SECOND SATURDAY" – community-based casual worship with Communion and lots of singing! Help share the word! This is great for folks who cannot attend at the usual time! Worship is followed by fellowship and food – feel free to bring munchies to share and stay a while! (Over half of our attenders come from beyond our own church family!)

WANT TO REBOOT?

Might you be interested in a learning experience called "REBOOT YOUR WORSHIP"? We learn about ways to grow in the spirit of our Sunday worship experience! Let Pastor Robert know! We'll let you know where and when!

PASTOR CHATTER

It has been quite an experience working through the books of the Old Testament in our Bible challenge. You may have been amazed to hear some of the stories we don't read very often. Parts of the Bible are very challenging, and can leave us confused. But other parts will show forth God's power with clarity.

Before reading, ask God to show you what you need to hear. Otherwise, we can easily get derailed onto small things that distract us. John Wesley encouraged his Methodist followers to "use Scripture to interpret Scripture." Bring the light of Jesus with you even as you read the Old Testament, and he WILL guide you in an amazing way!

Pastor Robert



BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

JAN. 29 – FEB. 4	Exodus 33-40, Leviticus 1-13
FEB. 5-11	Leviticus 14-27, Numbers 1-2
FEB. 12-18	Numbers 3-17
FEB. 19-25	Numbers 18-34
FEB. 26 – MAR. 4	Numbers 35-36, Deuteronomy 1-16
MAR. 5-11	Deuteronomy 17 – Joshua 4
MAR. 12-18	Joshua 5 – Judges 2
MAR. 19-25	Judges 3-21
MAR. 26 – APR. 1	Ruth 1-4, 1 Samuel 1-20

(The day-by-day list is available online, on the handout at church, or in the weekly worship bulletin.)

FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Kids Church happens on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.... normally!

We have LOVED starting our journey throughout the Jesus Story Book Bible. It's one that you definitely want for your collection (no matter how old you are!)

Here are our next few lessons!

- * [Sunday, February 5](#) - The Terrible Lie - To understand that our sin spoiled God's perfect creation.
- * [Sunday, February 19](#) - A New Beginning - To understand that God rescued Noah and his family, and promised never to destroy the world with a flood again.
- * [Sunday, March 5](#) - A Giant Staircase to Heaven - to understand that people cannot get to heaven by themselves.
- * [Sunday, March 19](#) - Son of Laughter - To introduce the promise God made to Abraham regarding his family and to understand that God keeps his promises.
- * [Sunday, April 2](#) - The Present - To understand that Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son.
- * [Sunday, April 17](#) - **EASTER SUNDAY!** NO KIDS CHURCH
- * [Sunday, April 30](#) - The Girl No One Wanted - to understand that God chooses those whom others may not choose.

Please join us at [11:00 a.m.](#)!

Youth Group (6th-12th Grades)

No regular youth meetings in February due to other exciting adventures!

Youth Super Bowl Party ([Sunday, February 5](#)) Open to grades 6-12 at Miss Heather's house!

Bring a dish to share!

6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. (or the end of the game)

Come for the game or the fellowship or both... games for both die hard football fans and for those who simply like the commercials.

VT Missions Weekend!

Please pray for the 16 students and 3 adults traveling **February 10-12** to Virginia Tech for a fun weekend of fellowship, outreach and missions. This is the district-wide youth retreat and we are praying for God to move in mighty ways!

A Night with the Newsboys (grades 9-12)

Love live music and have a heart to serve? Join Miss Heather and the Newsboys for their concert in Salem on February 19. Admission is free for those who volunteer to work at the concert. (Adults are welcome, too!)

Starting March 5... Misquoted Sundays 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. with dinner served.

Misquoted is a 4-week sermon series that investigates four popular sayings that are often attributed to the Bible. The only problem is you won't find them in there! The words we speak say a lot about who we are. So it's frustrating when someone takes our words and twists them, because it leads people to believe things about us that aren't true. Likewise, when God is misquoted, it causes people to believe God is someone He is not.

This series challenges students to draw near to God, because the closer we are to someone, the more likely we will know their voice.

Join our Facebook Group

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048130521924244> /) to be kept up to date on all the happenings of youth group!

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt - Tentative Date... Saturday, April 8

Family Movie Nights Are Back!

[Friday, February 17](#) - Trolls

[Friday, March 31](#) - Moana

[Friday, April 28](#) - Movie TBA

Movie starts at [7:00 p.m.](#) Popcorn provided. Please bring a 2-liter to share.

(Elementary Age Children must be accompanied by an adult)

Save your shoes! More details to come on this fantastic opportunity to give back! If you're cleaning out your closets, hang on to those old shoes.

Heather St. Clair,
Director of Children, Teens, and Families

Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Women – Saturday, February 11, at 10:00 a.m., District Training at Greene Memorial UMC.

Sunday, February 26, business meeting after worship.

“Second Sunday” (will be celebrated on Third Sunday) – Before we observe Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, we will celebrate joys of life on February 19 (third Sunday) after worship with a Mardi Gras party. Gumbo, rice and king’s cake will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Senior Fellowship, Tuesday, February 21, at 12:00 noon. Regular monthly luncheon meeting. Pat Musselwhite will entertain with musical “oldies.”

OUT AND ABOUT IN FEBRUARY

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Stop by for chat, coffee, or prayer!

THURSDAY, FEB. 9 -10:30–11:30 a.m.

Tanglewood Mall (mallwalking)

THURSDAY, FEB. 16 – 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon

Sixteen West Coffee Bar, 16 Church Ave. SW

SATURDAY, FEB. 25 – 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Hope’s Café, 3327 Garden City Blvd.

TUESDAY, MAR. 7 - 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans Lounge, 2381 Roanoke Blvd.

REMEMBER that OUT AND ABOUT can be an opportunity to bring a friend to “meet your pastor” in a non-threatening setting.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE

- PUB THEOLOGY on Thursday, February 2, at 6:00 p.m. at Corned Beef and Co., hosted by Thrasher UMC, with the Rev. Brett Gresham, Campus Pastor at the VT Wesley Foundation.
- DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY on Saturday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Greene Memorial UMC. All interested leaders welcome!
- BACK ON THE PATH is a job loss support group on Tuesday evenings at Cave Spring UMC.
- FAITHFUL AGING, a statewide conference on ministry with older persons, Tuesday, March 14, at Lynchburg College. More details to come.
- PAUL BUNYAN DAY at Camp Alta Mons on Saturday, March 18, at 9:00 a.m. Bring work gloves, chain saws, rakes, log splitters, etc. This is a family friendly event to help our camp. All are welcome, and lunch is provided. Remember that Alta Mons is also open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset for hiking and relaxation.
- LAY SERVANT ACADEMY for Virginia is March 31 – April 2 at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration is now open. See Pastor Robert for more info! Courses are open to any interested person wanting to grow as a servant.
- SAVE THE DATE – MAY 21 – for Bishop Lewis’s next visit to the Roanoke District!
- VOICES OF YOUTH, a Virginia UMC summer youth mission choir, is currently accepting applications for their tour July 6-23.

SING, SING, SING!

Thanks to Jane, Eleanor, and all the choir singers who have been adding so much to our weekly worship! If you enjoy singing, come join us downstairs on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. Add your voice as we make a joyful noise!

HAWAII 2017

Space is still available for this inspirational group trip – a cruise to 4 Hawaiian islands, sailing on June 10, 2017. I am one of the trip hosts through Educational Opportunities, a leading provider of Holy Land and other learning and leisure trips for faith-based groups. We may have an opening for a single female who would like to share a cabin. If you are interested in any other kind of faith-based group travel, I can help you find a brochure and sign you up. Just let me know!

Pastor Robert

NOTES OF THANKS!

Wow! That is a wonderful honor and testament to the heart of Mt. Pleasant. We are so grateful for this wonderful contribution (from our 2016 Christmas Eve offering) that will add to the ministry of serving children in poverty by teaching them to read, turn to their faith, and empower parents to bond with their children. Thank you and the servants of Christ at Mount Pleasant UMC.

Becky Parsons

Community Outreach Project Roanoke

Thanks to everyone for their calls, cards, and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. They were greatly appreciated.

Janie Gregory

TO MOUNT PLEASANT METHODIST CHURCH AND ALL GIVERS.

Thank you all for your support to the needy. School re-opened and a lot of money has to go into it to make sure they are in school. I would like to say a big “THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.” I can’t image feeding, sheltering, school fees, medicine, clothing, water to drink, etc., these children, without you. Would they be able to go to school? How would their lives be? Sometimes I try to look for vocals to express my feelings to you but it not available. All I want to say is that these children are in school and moving on with their lives with hope for the future because of your support for them. May the good Lord see you through in every area of your life in Jesus’ Name, Amen. Abraham

February Birthdays

- (3) Michael Hastings
- (6) Brenda Musselwhite
- (7) Debra Heath
- (17) Eileen Wimmer



February Anniversaries

- (14) Ed & Helen Granger

DEADLINE for the March newsletter is **February 26**.