

**MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER March 2017**  
**3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd., Roanoke, Virginia 24014**  
**Phone: 540-427-3064      website: mpumc.church**



**LENT BEGINS MARCH 1**

Lent begins March 1 with our community Ash Wednesday service, 6:30 p.m. at MPUMC. There are 40 days in Lent (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Use this time for the purposes we have been discussing: fasting, forgiveness, repentance, prayer, and acts of love.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK**

**Sunday, April 9**

Palm Sunday with lessons and music and Communion

**Thursday, April 13**

Maundy Thursday Communion at Rockingham Court

**Sunday, April 16**

Easter Sunrise at Garden City Nazarene  
 11:00 a.m. Easter Worship at MPUMC

**GIDEONS MESSAGE - MARCH 5**

Our 11:00 a.m. message on Sunday, March 5, comes from Loy King, our neighbor who is an active Gideon. He will help us see how lives are being changed through this ministry. You may support a special offering for the Gideons. Pastor Robert will be out of town with the Confirmation Celebration, so Communion will be moved to March 12.

**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!

**WORSHIP LIVE STREAMING**

We began our live streaming in January due to inclement weather, and due to several requests, we are trying to keep it going. The video is available live or later on the church's Facebook page (find it and like - @mpumcroanoke). Or you can find recent videos at mpumc.church/sermons. THANKS for helping share this with others beyond our church family and with those who cannot attend regularly.

**TIME CHANGE – SPRING FORWARD!**

Be sure to turn your clock FORWARD an hour on Saturday evening, March 11, so you will be "bright eyed" and "in your seat" by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12!

**"SECOND SATURDAY" MARCH 11**

Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on March 11 for our "SECOND SATURDAY" community-based casual worship with Communion and lots of singing! Help share the word! This is great for folks who can't come on Sunday! 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!)

**FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH**

**OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for January**

Feb. 5	74	Feb. 19	57
Feb. 12	77**	Feb. 26	69

\*\*2/12 includes Second Saturday and youth on retreat

Feb. 2017 Average	69	Feb. 2016 Average	66
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On-line views to date:

Feb. 12	458	Feb. 19	163
		Feb. 26	142

**OUR GIFTS**

February Offerings/Income	\$ 12,709.86
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other February Income	\$ 1,016.18

\*\*Other offerings/income for the month include PCC Hunger Busters (\$679.80 – food plus food items), Ghana (\$340), Bus Ministry (\$250), Backpack (\$203.05), Building Use (\$50), Second Saturday (\$21), Communion (\$20), Youth (\$10)

**YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!** Our 2017 general budget is \$124,048. So we need around \$10,337 monthly to fully fund our ministries. Last month we talked about UM apportionments – "a portion" of each offering "meant" for the work of the church in Virginia and around the world. Two of our apportionment items amount to about \$99 a week for assisting with pensions and health coverage for retired clergy and their surviving spouses. While many employers are drastically reducing retirement benefits, the UM churches of Virginia still seek to compassionately cover part of the cost of retiree health plans beyond what Medicare covers. (Suddenly, Pastor Robert is showing increasing interest in this topic!)

Since 1982, churches have generously funded pastor's pensions through current contributions, but before 1982, pensions were unfunded. Many of our retired clergy and spouses live to a rather ripe old age. This item helps make sure that their pensions are in place despite no contributions having been made at the time they were serving! This obligation will continue through 2021. Future pensions are in much better shape due to the system put into place in 1982.

This budget item helps fulfill the mission of taking care of the clergy (and spouses) who for so long took care of others. We have several clergy and spouses who once served MPUMC who are now blessed by this support. They thank you!

**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!

**SCOUT SUNDAY IS MARCH 12**

We've invited participants from our Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts to worship on Sunday, March 12. This is also our Second Sunday fellowship. Be sure to offer a warm welcome to our Scouting guests!

## PASTOR CHATTER

When United Methodists pastors are preparing for ordination, they are asked by the bishop – “Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?” Although I have participated in fasting from time to time, I realized I have been quite neglectful of that vow, though I clearly answered “YES” along with everyone else.

I have made a plan to include weekly fasting as a part of my Lenten observance. Fasting refers to a complete withdrawal from food intake (though you will continue fluid intakes of course). Abstinence is less extreme and may involve withdrawing certain food items. (Those with diabetes and other significant health issues may want to find other ways to participate without endangering their health.)

Wednesdays or Fridays have been days traditionally associated with fasting. This may be connected to the idea that Wednesday is traditionally the day Jesus was betrayed, and Friday was the day Jesus was crucified.

Note that a 24-hour fast really involves missing two meals. A 12-hour fast may involve simply skipping one meal out of three. The purpose is to discipline yourself through this commitment to draw closer to hunger for spiritual things, and not just physical food! I encourage you to make some kind of fast or abstinence a part of your observance of Lent this year!

Pastor Robert

## BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

FEB. 26 – MAR. 4	Numbers 35-36, Deuteronomy 1-16
MAR. 5-11	Deuteronomy 17-34, Joshua 1-4
MAR. 12-18	Joshua 5 – Judges 2
MAR. 19-25	Judges 3-21
MAR. 26 – APR. 1	Ruth 1-4, 1 Samuel 1-20
APR. 2-8	1 Samuel 21-31, 2 Samuel 1-15
APR. 9-15	2 Samuel 16-24, 1 Kings 1-9
APR. 16-22	1 Kings 10-22, 2 Kings 1-5
APR. 23-29	2 Kings 6-25
APR. 30 – MAY 6	1 Chronicles 1-17

(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.... and we're so excited about our current journey through the Jesus Story Book Bible!!

Here are our next few lessons!

\* [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.](#)!

## This month at youth group!

Youth group happens every Sunday this month at 5:00 p.m. Dinner is served. Our series will be Misquoted!

Misquoted is a 4-week 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!

**An afternoon at the movies.** Saturday, March 11, we'll head to Tanglewood to see "The Shack." (I'm not sure on the time yet, but it will be the mid-afternoon showing.) Afterwards, we'll stop and chat and have dinner at Chick-Fil-A. Please let Heather know if you are interested. Date to RSVP is March 9. (Adults are welcome too!)

## Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt - Tentative Date...

**Saturday, April 1, (this is a new date!)**

We need help with candy! If you have candy that can fit in eggs, and you're willing to pick up some, we'd be super appreciative! This is a community event with participation between the Mt. Pleasant Community. We need to stuff over 1,000 eggs! Thanks for your help with this!

**Easter Egging - April 9 immediately following the church service.** If your family has ever wanted to Egg houses, this might be the event for you! ::giggle:: We'll be spreading the Easter message by hiding eggs in our community neighbor's yards following the service on April 9. Bring a lunch and we'll leave the church for our mission at 12:45 p.m. Please let Heather know if you will be participating by April 2. **(This is a family event.)**

## Family Movie Nights Are Back!

[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!** Do you have unused shoes laying around that you don't need? Bring them in and we'll collect them. (These must be gently used shoes... as in, if you wouldn't give them to your best friend, they might not be best for our drive.) We have partnered with Project Support to aid them in their shoe collection! Drop them in Heather's office when you have them! We will collect through March 13.

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

## OUT AND ABOUT IN MARCH

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

### TUESDAY, MAR. 7 – 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans Lounge,  
2381 Roanoke Blvd.

### THURSDAY, MAR. 16 – 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Southeast Pop-Up Coffee Shop  
806 Jamison Ave., SE

### FRIDAY, MAR. 17 – 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Market Building Food Court, 32 Market Square,  
SE

### MONDAY, MAR. 20 – 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Arby's, 1401 Jamison Ave., SE

### TUESDAY, MAR. 28 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Sixteen West Coffee/Food Court  
16 Church Ave., SW

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, at 3:00 p.m.** – MP United Methodist Women will meet. The program will be "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." All women are welcome!

**MONDAY, MARCH 13** – Lunch Bunch - Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 7:00 p.m.** – Administrative Council.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21, AT NOON** – Senior Fellowship will meet for lunch and a program. Dr. Carolyn Roth will speak on Parables illustrated by plants. Bring a friend and join us.

**EASTER BASKETS** for the Presbyterian Community Center - We will be collecting candy, books, small stuffed animals, small toys, and baskets (smaller Easter baskets) for children at PCC. A box for contributions will be in the downstairs hallway. Items are needed by April 2.

**"SISTER ACT" AT WFHS** - Enjoy some of the lively gospel music of SISTER ACT, presented by the Theater Department at William Fleming HS at 7:00 p.m., March 23-25, and 2:00 p.m. on March 26.

**PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER- "Hunger Busters"**  
You have once again demonstrated your love and care for others. Your participation in February's mission project "Hunger Busters" met another need in our community. Thank you too for pricing the individual food items and including your receipt. Federal guidelines for PCC require that a value be placed on any donation. The total value was \$679.80! The donation was dropped off on Monday and those at the center could not believe we had already priced and totaled all the items! They were truly overwhelmed and happy that the items would immediately go on the shelves!

Please keep PCC, its families, staff and volunteers in your prayers.

### SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY POP-UP COFFEE SHOP

The second Southeast Pop-Up Coffee Shop is Thursday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 806 Jameson Ave. Stop by for coffee and conversation and table games. Meet someone new in a friendly environment!

## COMMUNITY MEETING ON OPIOID/HEROIN ADDICTION

Roanoke County Public Schools will host a community meeting on Thursday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. at William Byrd HS on the current public health crisis related to opioid and heroin addiction. Speakers will represent law enforcement, parents, and those in recovery. The presentation highlights ways in which misuse of prescriptions can lead to abuse. All are welcome.

**COMMUNITY PAINT NIGHT** - Interested folks (drawing or painting experience recommended) are invited to a Community Paint Night on Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 724 Dale Ave. Participants will help create a mural on sheets to be used to wrap the "Gateway to Southeast" art installation on the pillars along Tazewell Ave. under the Interstate! Work takes place indoors!

## ACROSS THE DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE

- FAITHFUL AGING, a statewide conference on ministry with older persons, Tuesday, March 14, at Lynchburg College. See calendar at vaumc.org for more info.
- 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.
- "DEFYING GRAVITY" is a presentation on breaking free from materialism. Saturday, March 18, 9:00 to 3:00, at Fieldstone UMC in Christiansburg. See Pastor Robert for registration info.
- LAY SERVANT ACADEMY for Virginia is March 31 – April 2 at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration is now open. Courses are for anyone wanting to grow as a servant leader.
- ALTA MONS ANNUAL SUPPORTERS LUNCH, Saturday, April 1, at 12 noon at the camp. Learn how to help promote and strengthen the ministries of Alta Mons. RSVP by 3/17 to 268-2409 or to office@altamons.org.
- BISHOP'S CONVOCATION ON PRAYER is Saturday, April 1, at Trinity UMC in Henrico, VA. Cost is \$10. Registration and more info at vaumc.org.
- UMW SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT, Saturday, April 8, at 9:00 a.m. at Alta Mons/Crockett Springs.
- BISHOP LEWIS'S ROANOKE AREA CHAT & CHEW is Sunday, May 21. Meal at 4:30 p.m. and conversation at 6:15 p.m., at Thrasher Memorial in Vinton. Register for meal online (roanokeumc.org) or call 989-3335. Cost \$5 for meal.

## March Birthdays

- (3) Mike Jenkins; (9) Britney Nicole Glisson
- (10) Terri Beck, Mary Beth Sifers
- (11) Mary Workman
- (13) Ray Arthur, Ruby Bradford, Krystal Coleman
- (14) Jordan Taylor; (15) Jan McMillan
- (18) Jackson Honaker; (19) Tariq Nowalish, Ed Granger; (21) Katie Fisher, Joyce Ison; (26) June Lavelle; (30) Wayne Myers

**CORRECTION** to the church directory: Please change the telephone number for Warren and Ruth Robinson to 427-4130.

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