

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2017

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 11:00 a.m.

“His Journey – To Jerusalem, To the Upper Room, To the Cross” a presentation in Word, prayer and song with Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion community service at Rockingham Court UMC

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 10:30am

Neighborhood “Cross Walk” begins at Arby’s, 1401 Jameson Ave.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 6:30 a.m.

6:30 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service at Garden City Church of the Nazarene

11:00 a.m. - Easter Worship at MPUMC (no children’s Sunday School) come have an Easter photo made before or after Easter worship!

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 - Worship video is available most Sundays – live or later – on the church’s Facebook page (find it and like - @mpumcroanoke). Or go to mpumc.church/sermons. THANKS for helping share these with others beyond our church family and with those who cannot attend regularly. Every time you share the video on your Facebook page we wind up getting more views!

A BIG “WOW” - Three of our 6th grade youth were featured in the recent district newsletter, in an article about the youth retreat at Virginia Tech: “The youth went to workshops focused on three justice ministries – Refugee Resettlement, To Our House, and the Flint Water Crisis. The workshops were led by Wesley Foundation students. We were astounded by three young sixth graders from Mount Pleasant UMC that decided to split up and go to each workshop to come back and “report in” to each other! What an awesome Spirit filled moment!”

We are so proud of Grace, Elijah and Phoebe for being recognized in this way! Way to go! (See the picture on the bulletin board downstairs!)

YOU CAN HELP - It was a joy to provide the experience of Confirmation Retreat at Lake Junaluska for five of our teens! This experience was not a part of our 2017 budget planning, since we had never taken a group to this event before! We also did not want cost to keep anyone from attending. The total cost of the event for registration, housing, meals, and van rental (for five students and two adults) came to \$1,464. If you can help with a donation of \$50 or \$100, I believe we can cover most, if not all, of The cost.

Thank you for your patience with this request. If you have a donation to make (of any amount), simply mark your check CONFIRMATION.

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for March

Mar. 5	45	Mar. 19	80
Mar. 12	70**	Mar. 26	65
Mar. 2017 Average	65	Mar. 2016 Average	59
Online Views (to date)			
March 5	124	March 19	51
March 12	183	March 26	259

OUR GIFTS

March Offerings/Income	\$ 8,322.63
Average Monthly Need	\$ 10,337.00
**Other March Income	\$ 957.25

**Other offerings/income for the month include Memorial (\$325), Backpack (\$191), Ghana (\$80), Communion (\$63), Upper Room (\$38.25), Youth (\$10). In addition, during March, we received a special \$250 grant from the Roanoke District to assist with social media outreach during the Easter season!

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS! Our 2017 general budget is \$124,048. So we need around \$10,337 monthly to fully fund our ministries. Part of that supports UMC apportionments – “a portion” of each offering “meant” for the work of Christ around the world.

One big chunk of that money stays right here in Virginia – about \$46 a week for the mission and ministries of the Virginia Conference. Many ministries are supported through this fund, and they focus on fruitful ministries that multiply our shared efforts. This happens both through existing congregations as well as new faith communities. These ministries reach out to all ages, including campus communities, prison chaplaincy ministries, and those affected by natural disasters. When you put our \$46 together with other churches around the state, the total comes to over \$3 million a year! Now THAT is multiplication power! Thank you for your part!

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!

COME ENJOY STORYTELLING AT CAMP BETHEL - If you’ve never been to SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS at Camp Bethel, then what are you waiting for! We’ll carpool together on Saturday, April 29. Meet at MPUMC at 8:45 a.m. and we’ll go together. It’s \$25 for adults and \$13 for children (4-17). Food will be available for lunch and dinner. There will be storytelling and music all day, with breaks for food and nature walks. Stay as late as you want. The last round of storytelling starts at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own vehicle if you’d like to leave earlier! Pastor Robert recommends this event highly!

PASTOR CHATTER

For the week of April 2-9, we will join with the other 1,100+ congregations in the Virginia Annual Conference in "Praying Our Way Forward" week. Together we will pray for a team that is working on issues of unity within our denomination. In a world of much division, a deep disunity is often experienced in the church. Go to the web site umcprays.org for resources.

You are also invited to gather at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 9, for a brief time of prayer in the sanctuary. Where a few gather in his name, we believe there will be movement of God's Spirit. You may also choose to use this prayer shared by our district superintendent:

"Gracious and holy God, our hearts are filled this day and every day with gratitude for your abundant blessings, new mercies, and steadfast love. We lament the ways we grieve your heart by insisting only on our way, refusing to hear the voice of our neighbors, closing our eyes to injustice, dwelling in fear rather than your hope. Free us from the sins to which we cling so closely. Help us to see your mighty hand, beating heart, and powerful presence at work through the people called United Methodist across the globe, within our conference, beyond our borders, around the corner and across the street. As we pray for a way forward, fill us, O God, with the hope of Christ, make us bold participants in the new life to which you call us. We pray in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Pastor Robert

"SECOND SATURDAY" - APRIL 8 - Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on April 8 for our "SECOND SATURDAY" community-based casual worship! Our speaker this month will be Pastor Scott Robertson-Gouge. Scott moved to Roanoke after serving in the Holston Conference. He is now pastor of the Catawba Circuit, but he lives right here in the neighborhood. Let's give him a warm welcome!

Help share the word about Second Saturday! 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!)

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COFFEE AND WORK DAY

The next Southeast Pop-Up Coffee Shop is Saturday, April 8, at 9:00 a.m. The coffee shop will take place, along with a home rehab project, helping to wire the house at 709 Stewart Ave. Get wired while you wire!

OUT AND ABOUT IN APRIL

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Stop by for chat, coffee, or prayer! This can be an opportunity to bring a friend to "meet your pastor" in a non-threatening setting.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 - 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Subway, 1724 Bennington

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Library, 2918 Jae Valley Rd.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 9:00 – 10 a.m.

Hardee's, 605 Ninth St.

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Market Square downtown

(or Market Bldg. in case of rain)



FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

Family Movie Night – March 31

Join us this Friday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. for Moana and Friday, April 28, movie TBA. You bring a 2-liter to share ... we will provide the popcorn! (Children in elementary school or younger must be accompanied by an adult).

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt – April 1

It all happens Saturday, April 1, (no foolin') at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Park. Event is free but you must bring your own flashlight and loot bag. Over 1,000 eggs, prizes, games, and a ton of fun! An adult will be responsible for signing students in and out. Event open to those in grades 5-12. No exceptions. Event ends promptly at 9:00 p.m.

Youth Group – Sundays 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We begin our new series, The Unlikely Dude that Changed the World on Sunday, April 2. Dinner is served.

No youth on April 16 – Happy Easter.

Beyond the Grave series starts April 23.

Easter Service – April 16

Please join us on Sunday, April 16, at 11:00 a.m. for our Easter celebration. Since you have donned your Easter best and will be with family, photos will be offered before the service beginning at 10:00 a.m. and immediately following the service. Digital and print copies are free.

Summer Camp

All the fun of summer camp is right around the corner. Pastor Robert will be the chaplain at camp the week of July 9-14 so if you are more comfortable sending your child when you know someone there ... that's the week to go! (but if that week doesn't work, there are many more opportunities). More information about camp is located here <http://www.altamons.org/summer-camp.html>. (Plus one of our teens will be there all summer as a counselor-in-training. Scholarships are available.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Mark your calendars for Wonderful Wednesdays this summer! The program starts on June 14 and runs through August 2 (no program on July 5). Registration will open in May and there will be a limited number of spaces available. Last year's participants will get the first opportunity to register. We can't wait to spend the summer with your children!

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

LUNCH BUNCH, Monday, April 10 – Lunch Bunch - Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY reception for birthdays and anniversaries will be on Sunday, April 2.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP is Tuesday, April 18, at noon. After lunch, Beth Abbott will speak on end of life decisions.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will have a short meeting after worship on Sunday, April 23.

BISHOP'S BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

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
MAY 7-13	1 Chronicles 18-29, 2 Chronicles 1-12
MAY 14-20	2 Chronicles 13-36
MAY 21-27	Ezra 1-10, Nehemiah 1-9
MAY 28 – JUNE 3	Nehemiah 10-13, Esther 1-10, Job 1-10

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

LIFE GROUP UPDATE!

LIFE GROUP resumes weekly on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. starting April 5! This has been a great mix of parents from the PCC youth ministry and our own folks from MPUMC! We meet at PCC, 1228 Jamison Ave. SE. All are welcome – come to whichever topic interest you! The upcoming topics are:

APRIL 5 - How can prayer become a more vital part of my life?

APRIL 12 - What does it mean to say that "Jesus is Lord?"

APRIL 19 - No meeting – spring break

APRIL 26 - How do I learn to study the Bible?

MAY 3 - How do I make progress in my struggle with sin?

MAY 10 - How can I have enough faith to trust God for my needs?

MAY 17 - How can I learn to start sharing my personal story of faith?

MAY 24 - Where am I now in my relationship with God?

ACROSS THE AREA (go to roanokeumc.org or vaumc.org)

- UMW SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT, Saturday, April 8, at 9:00 a.m. at Alta Mons/Crockett Springs.
- HOSPICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING starts Tuesday, April 11, through Carilion Clinic. Call Sue (224-4795) for more info!
- HERMITAGE SPRING FLING, Friday, April 21, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All welcome!
- HUSTLE FOR THE HUNGRY, a 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m. at Greenfield Park, sponsored by St. Mark's UMC.
- BISHOP LEWIS'S ROANOKE AREA CHAT & CHEW, 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.
- UMW FERRUM DAY, Saturday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m. at Ferrum College.
- UM MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE, June 9-11, at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland.

- ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be June 16-18 in Hampton, Va. Visitors are always welcome to attend.



April Birthdays

- (2) Leon Bradford
- (3) June Sink
- (5) Samantha Wills
- (6) Inez Barton
- (9) Kameron Louis Tuck
- (10) Bobby Hylton
- (13) Earline Tabor
- (14) Sarah Dyess
- (22) Xander Hastings
- (23) Kathryn St. Clair, Richard LaPradd (son)
- (24) Ethan Hastings
- (29) Pat Tabor, Janet McMillan
- (30) Larry Fisher, Brayden Lee Glisson

NEWS FROM GHANA

We have come a long way, seeing these children going to school every morning and having their needs met is a miracle for us to experience. Last month, we were able to buy them new school uniforms in addition to what they already have. Today, we are able to purchase another uniform to put an end to "wash and wear" by your grace. May the good Lord richly bless you.

Sometimes, we pay part of their school needs like, school fees, exam fees, P.T.A. fees, extra classes fees etc, by installments because we have to make sure they have some money for school for food and after school 3 times a day. We buy drinking water because there is no drinking water at some parts of Accra, and our place is one of them. We go to a nearby house to fetch water which we pay for cooking, washing, etc. They have a dug out well in their houses and we fetch and pay. It is very dangerous to drink that water because it is not treated. So you see what you are doing for us. If not for you and your support, it would be very difficult to meet all these needs. Your support for us cannot be described with words, only God can translate it in His words to bless you. May He look down to see what you are doing for the needy and reward you accordingly. You are more than blessing in Jesus name, Amen.

Abraham

A NOTE OF THANKS!

My experience at Mount Pleasant UMC was exceptionally pleasant. I praise God for giving me such a joyous blessing. The offering of \$148 is strong evidence of the congregation's love for lost people and their willingness to provide a copy of God's Word for those who may not otherwise have one. These funds enable the purchase of either 29 Bibles or 118 New Testaments! To God be the glory!

Loy King, Roanoke Gideons

DEADLINE for the May newsletter is **April 30**.