

MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER February 2018
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LENT BEGINS!

February 14 begins the season of Lent 2018, the forty-day observance of renewal leading up to Easter. Some special opportunities are coming up.

LENTEN STUDY – six weeks on “The Final Words from the Cross,” open to anyone Sundays at 9:45 a.m. downstairs (including United Workers Class). Jenny Basham leads this study starting February 18. (See article for more info on the study.)

COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP – 6:30 p.m. on February 14 at Garden City Church of the Nazarene. All are welcome.

TURNAROUNDS – Pastor Robert’s Sunday message series on lives turned around (in the Gospel of John) continues through Sunday, February 25.

THE DANIEL PLAN – this small group series focuses on “God’s prescription for our physical health.” Come to the info session on Sunday, February 4, at 12:15 p.m., or on Wednesday, February 7, at either 1:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. There will be multiple time options, including an online group for women! Small group sessions begin the week of February 18.

LENT STUDY – THE FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This is just one of Jesus’ seven “final words” as he endured the horrible pain of hanging on the cross. These words can teach us about Jesus and his Father, and they also have meaning for us today.

Together with Adam Hamilton’s book, The Final Words From the Cross, we will “explore these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.” The study will be led by Jenny Basham in the Fellowship Hall, Sundays at 9:45 a.m., February 18 through March 25. You are welcome to join us for one or all sessions. A study book may be purchased for \$10, but it is not necessary.

HANDOUTS AVAILABLE

On January 28 we had a “Church Family Meeting” to discuss changes in our church budget and other issues. A copy of material from the meeting is available in the sanctuary during February, or we can email you a copy.

SECOND SATURDAY

Join us downstairs at 5:30 p.m. on February 10 for the next “SECOND SATURDAY” – community-based casual worship with Communion and lots of singing! 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!)

BAPTISM/MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

In the next few weeks we will have a new leaflet to help explain what is expected for baptism (for any age) as well as the options for church membership at MPUMC. Watch for it! Our goal is 52 faith commitments during 2018!

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION THROUGH

OUR PRESENCE – Worship Attendance for January

Jan. 7	53	Jan. 21	81
Jan. 14	63**	Jan. 28	53

**1/14 includes Second Sunday

January 2018 Avg. 63 January 2017 Avg. 52

OUR GIFTS

January Budget Offerings	\$	9,513.67
Average Monthly Need	\$	9,541.00
**Other January Income	\$	441.25

**Other offerings/income for the month include Memorials (\$287), Backpack (\$89.25) and Ghana (\$65).

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS! Part of our monthly budget supports UMC apportionments – “a portion” of each offering “meant” for the work of Christ around the world. One of our most awesome apportionment items is the one for “VIRGINIA CHURCH EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT.” One million dollars is budgeted annually for two important purposes – supporting new faith communities in their first three years and assisting established churches in reaching new people. Our share of that project is included in our budget – approximately \$63 a month. Pray for this important ministry for communities across our state!

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!

SNOW AND ICE...

Remember that in case of snow or ice, you can check the listings on Channel 7 or Channel 10 or their websites - wdbj7.com or wsls.com.

ELEANOR FISHER DAY

On January 14 we celebrated Eleanor Fisher Day in honor of her many years of service as both church treasurer and pianist. Eleanor, we appreciate your faithful efforts for the Lord!

VOLUNTEER MISSION TRIP TO HOLY LAND

A VIM (Volunteers In Mission) trip to Israel and Palestine is set for November 5-17, 2018, sponsored by the Virginia Annual Conference. The trip focuses on learning and service with Palestinian Christians. It includes visits to Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Hebron. There is an info meeting on Sunday, April 8, at 3:00 p.m. at the conference center near Richmond. For more information on the itinerary and costs, please contact trip leaders John Copenhaver (jcopenha@su.edu) or Steve Jones (stevejones@vaumc.org). Some scholarship funds may be available for young adult participants.

PASTOR CHATTER

Perhaps you have read these words before. "He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

"He never wrote a book, never held an office, never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never traveled 200 miles from where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness.

"He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing. His body was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected life on earth as much as that One Solitary Life."

Lent is a time to refocus on the life and message of Jesus. Our journey through the Gospel of John on Sunday morning is helping us to do that, as we look at the way encountering Jesus turned lives around. Our special study opportunities will add even more.

Note that to count forty days of Lent you actually exclude the Sundays. It is the discipline that you do personally Monday through Saturday that can make Lent be a true time of renewal for you. God bless you as you search your heart and seek to grow in him.

Pastor Robert

"LIFE AFTER FIFTY"

All adults over fifty are invited to a weekly senior adult gathering at The Salvation Army, 724 Dale Ave. SE. There is senior exercise in the gym at 9:30 a.m. and the program and lunch follow at 10:00 a.m. Call 343-5335 for more info!



HELP WANTED!

We are looking for a "newsletter helper," who would work at home to receive and compile newsletter articles for this monthly newsletter. Others would write the articles, and then they are assembled into a single document. Is this "up your alley?" See Jenny Basham or Pastor Robert for more info if it is!



FROM THE CHILDREN, TEENS, AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

What an exciting time in children and youth ministry! (Well, it's always exciting with kids!) Look and see what we have going on!

Children

Wonderful Wednesdays is back and we're going through the series "Weird." These are weird stories in the Bible... you know, the ones with talking donkeys, dropping dead after telling a lie, bear attacks and more! It's one of my favorite series. We'll also be traveling to the Mt. Pleasant Library after school on the 7th for science fun and on the 14th for a Valentine's Party! We are so grateful for this community partnership!

How can you help? I'm glad you asked! Pray for us! We're working through the school year and are already planning the summer program. We need help with the after school program and the summer! Can you spare one day a month to help right now from 2:30-5:30? Can you help on Wednesdays this summer? We need all the help (and prayer we can get!)

Youth

Youth Group is back and we've kicked off with our series "Why Jesus?" We're asking and answering some tough questions about Jesus! No youth on February 4 or 11.

Super Bowl Party at Miss Heather's on Super Bowl Sunday from 6:30p-10ish (when it's over!) Let me know you're coming and bring a dish to share!

VT Wesley District Youth Retreat! Registration is closed but please be in prayer for the 16 students traveling this weekend. Want a great weekend of fun and worship? We'd love to have you come with us!

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 17. Make plans now to attend. Bring a friend and a bag to haul your loot!!

How can you help with Youth? Are you able to cook for 10? We're so appreciative of Joyce, Eva, and Jenny for providing meals this month and last! We aren't picky! But it's such a help to have this done for us on Sundays!

We need candy for the egg hunt! Please make sure it is wrapped AND can fit in an egg... :)

Pray for us! (And pray about coming to hang with us! We're a super great group of kids! You would be blessed to spend time with them.... and the kids on Wednesday, too!)

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

OUT AND ABOUT IN FEBRUARY

Pastor Robert will be OUT AND ABOUT this month at these locations. Others may be added and listed in the weekly bulletin. 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.

THURSDAY, FEB. 8 - 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

RT Smith’s Deli, 10 Campbell Ave. SE

THURSDAY, FEB. 15 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Earth Fare Café, 2203 Franklin Rd.

THURSDAY, FEB. 22 - 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

No Fear Café, 344 Church Ave. SW
(lunch in basement of First Christian)

FRIDAY, MAR. 2 - 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant Library, 2918 Jae Valley Rd.

MONDAY, February 12 - Lunch Bunch – Meet outside the entrance at K&W Tanglewood at 11:30 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY, February 11, potluck lunch after worship. We will celebrate Mardi Gras and Valentine’s Day. Pat Musselwhite will provide music. Please join us for great fellowship.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet February 18, after worship, for a short business meeting.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP, Tuesday, February 20, will meet for lunch and music (jazz and golden oldies) by Pat Musselwhite. This is open to the community. Invite a neighbor!



February is **Hunger Busters** Month!

The **Hunger Busters** program was established at the Presbyterian Community Center to join forces with others to fill the food pantry shelves. All eligible clients receive a food order that is made up of a variety of nutritious canned and packaged food. One food order is enough food to last a couple of days. Can you help?...whatever you can will make a difference to someone who is hungry in SE, NE Roanoke and Vinton. Suggested items include:

Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Tuna and Salmon
Pork & Beans, Other Canned & Dry Beans

Soup: Chicken Noodle & Tomato

Breakfast: Oatmeal, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Dry Cereal

Peanut Butter & Jelly - Mac & Cheese

Canned Fruit - Powdered Milk

Please include your store receipt... or price each item before delivering your items. It saves volunteer time and the food can go directly on the shelves. **If you would like to help, but shopping is difficult, a cash/check donation is welcomed. Please put your donation in an envelope and mark it PCC-food and we can do the shopping! We will be collecting through February 28. Thank you for your continued support and help.**

NOTE OF THANKS

We received your donation of \$213 to the ministries of Henry Fork Service Center. Thank you for showing our children God’s love in action!

Judy Anderson
Henry Fork Service Center

(NOTE: Henry Fork is a longtime United Methodist mission agency with at-risk children in Franklin County. One-half of our Christmas Eve offering went to support Henry Fork ministries.)

THANK YOU, BRENDA!

We would like to thank Brenda Musselwhite for all her hard work and time she has put into compiling our church newsletter each month. She has taken on this job for several years and we truly appreciate all that she has done.

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

- DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING, originally scheduled for February 17, has been moved to April 28. Watch for more info!
- LAY SERVANT ACADEMY is March 2-4 at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake. This is an important next step for any church members wishing to grow in their role of leading and serving. See Pastor Robert for all the info!
- PAUL BUNYAN DAY at Camp Alta Mons is Saturday, March 17. Meet at the camp at 9 a.m. to help gear up for spring and summer. Lots of jobs of different types – something for everyone. Free lunch for all volunteers!
- DISTRICT WOMEN’S SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT is April 14 at Crockett Springs/Alta Mons.
- THE NEXT MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER is posted mid-February at roanokeumc.org. More news is also available at the conference web site – vaumc.org.



February Birthdays

- (3) Michael Hastings
- (6) Brenda Musselwhite
- (7) Debra Heath
- (15) Landon Wyatt Alexander Beckner
- (17) Eileen Wimmer



February Anniversaries

- (14) Ed and Helen Granger

DEADLINE for the March newsletter is **February 25**.