



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church  
3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd. Roanoke, VA 24014

MARCH 2018  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## Holy Week services begin March 25

Christians around the world will observe HOLY WEEK beginning Palm Sunday, March 25, and leading up to Easter Sunday, April 1. This is the high point of the Christian calendar, and the culmination of the season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday. Make note of special worship opportunities during Holy Week:

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

MARCH 4	John 18:12-27 <i>Peter's denial</i>
MARCH 11	John 18:28-40 <i>Jesus and Pilate</i>
MARCH 18	John 19:1-16 <i>Jesus condemned</i>
MARCH 25	PALM SUNDAY John 19:16-22 <i>The crucified Messiah</i>
APRIL 1	EASTER John 20:1-18 <i>Resurrection</i>

SUNDAY, MARCH 11



### BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

MARCH 1-3	Numbers 14-20, Psalm 90
MARCH 4-10	Numbers 21-36
MARCH 11-17	Deuteronomy 1-20
MARCH 18-24	Deuteronomy 21-34, Psalm 91, Joshua 1-8
MARCH 25-31	Joshua 9-24, Judges 1-5
APRIL 1-7	Judges 6-21, Ruth 1-4
APRIL 8-14	1 Samuel 1-24, Psalms 11, 59

The complete day-by-day list is available in printed form or online at [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org).

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25** 11 a.m.  
Shout HOSANNA and remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29** 7 p.m.  
Community worship with the Lord's Supper at Rockingham Court UMC.

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30** 11 a.m.  
Cross Walk through Southeast Roanoke, beginning near Arby's and ending at the Rescue Mission – all are welcome.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1** 6:45 and 11 a.m.  
Community Sunrise Worship hosted here at MPUMC at 6:45 a.m. with light refreshments to follow. Easter Celebration worship at 11 a.m. including Communion and Confirmation! Rejoice!

### Small group studies continue

Our small group studies continue during the month of March, and you are still welcome to jump in and participate!

"THE FINAL WORDS FROM THE CROSS" meets on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. downstairs, and is led by Jenny Basham. Each session explores what it would have been like to hear and experience those words from the cross from the viewpoint of those who were there.

DANIEL PLAN small groups continue weekly with a choice of meeting times – Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs classroom, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. (at PCC) or 6:30 p.m. (downstairs). Join us as we learn about look at physical health and goals from a biblical perspective!

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

Feb. 4	11*	FEB. 2018 AVG.	44
Feb. 11	73**		
Feb. 18	44	FEB. 2017 AVG.	69
Feb. 25	47		

\* icy roads

\*\* includes Second Saturday and youth retreat

### OUR GIFTS

February Budget Offerings	\$ 8,445.05
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,541.00
**Other February Income	\$ 110.00

\*\*Includes Ghana (65.00), Backpack (25.00) and Hunger Busters (20.00 cash donation). We also received over \$700 worth of food donations!

### OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

Thank you for your daily prayers for the ministries of MPUMC, 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!

We have been through some big changes after the retirement of Eleanor Fisher as our long-time treasurer. We need new hands to help share the load of financial record-keeping. These are tasks that might be right up your alley, and there is often flexibility in times to serve. Please see Jenny Basham, Winky McCann or Pastor Robert for more information about the tasks that are involved!

### 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. This month we highlight one of these line items - the "EPISCOPAL FUND." You may wonder what this even means. Simply put - the word "episcopal" means "referring to church bishops," and this fund helps provide the support for the work of the bishops of the United Methodist Church. There are 46 active bishops in the U.S., and 20 additional bishops who serve around the world in other countries. Retired bishops no longer have a "service area," but they continue to serve as part of the Council of Bishops. Bishop Sharma D. Lewis has led the Virginia Conference since 2016. Each pastor can trace back their ordination through the authority of bishops in Methodist tradition. Pastor Robert was ordained in 1978 by Bishop Crutchfield, who was only four steps removed from ordination by Bishop Francis Asbury, one of the first two U.S. Methodist bishops! Small world!

### BIG THANKS!

Thanks for your FANTASTIC response to the February food collection for the PCC food pantry! The total collection of items amounted to over \$700! PCC thanked us many times for pricing and pre-sorting so that food can go immediately on the shelves. We partner with the PCC food pantry so that many more people can be served!

## OUTREACH...fill the basket!

We are collecting items for Easter baskets for children at PCC - small books, toys, etc. needed! There is a collection container in the downstairs hallway. Deadline for donations is Palm Sunday, March 25.

### Across the area...

"BEYOND SUNDAY SCHOOL" is a learning event on Saturday, March 10 in Christiansburg. See Pastor Robert if you can attend - we have a space for you!

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!

PIPELINE PRAYER VIGIL on Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m. at the Village Green in Newport, Va. (Co-sponsored by Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC.)

DISTRICT WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT is April 14 at Crockett Springs/Alta Mons.

NEXT GENERATION SUMMIT on Saturday, April 21 at Raleigh Court UMC - vital ministries with younger generations!

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING is Saturday, April 28 in Christiansburg. Sessions on our response to poverty, homelessness, mental health, race, and sexuality. Watch for more info!

THE NEXT MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER is posted mid-March at roanokeumc.org. More news is also available at the vaumc.org web site.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Mike Jenkins
- 7 Abigail Smith, Gabrielle Smith
- 9 Britney Nicole Glisson
- 10 Terri Beck, Mary Beth Richardson
- 11 Mary Workman
- 13 Ray Arthur, Krystal Coleman
- 14 Jordan Taylor
- 15 Jan McMillan
- 16 Annalise Grace Creel
- 18 Jackson Honaker
- 19 Tariq Nowalish, Ed Granger
- 21 Katie Fisher, Joyce Ison
- 26 June Lavelle
- 30 Wayne Myers

*NOTE: We include birthdays and anniversaries which are on file. Our list is not complete, so see Jenny Basham to make sure we have your info!*

# MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

## Children/Youth/Family Stuff!

Here's what's going on this month in the Children, Teens and Families Department!

### Children

Wonderful Wednesdays is continuing in the "Weird" series. 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 again travel to the library twice this month and are so very grateful for the 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!) I am in need for adult and teen helpers (must be Grade 8-12) to help this summer. Our program will run from June 13 - July 25. We can't do it without an adequate number of helpers!

### Youth

Youth Group just wrapped up the "Why Jesus" series where we asked some tough questions about Jesus. We will continue this month with a game night on March 4, "Jesus Goes to the Movies" on March 11, and then begin a new series on March 25. No youth group on March 18.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 17, 7 to 9 p.m. Make plans now to attend. Bring a friend and a bag to haul your loot!! We are accepting donations of candy... can you help???

How can you help with Youth? Are you able to cook for 10? We aren't picky! But it's such a help to have this done for us on Sundays!

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

## Don't miss these...

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

"Second Saturday" community casual worship at 5:30 p.m. downstairs. Lots of singing – Communion – fellowship and food after worship!

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Time Change – "spring forward" one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

"Second Sunday" reception after worship celebrating March birthdays and anniversaries.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Lunch Bunch at K&W Tanglewood – meet in entrance area at 11:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

United Methodist Women meet at 3 p.m. in the "green classroom" upstairs! The program will be on "Call to Prayer."

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

We've invited participants from our Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts to worship on Scout Sunday! Be sure to offer a welcome to our Scouting guests!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Senior Fellowship at 12 noon – Dr. Carolyn Roth will be the guest speaker.

## The Upper Room...

Since 1935 "The Upper Room" has been used as a bimonthly daily devotional guide available in the sanctuary entrance hall. There is a money slot if you wish to help defray the cost. Since we purchase in quantity, the cost of each edition is approximately \$1.15. You can read the devotional online at [upperroom.org](http://upperroom.org). When in Nashville, be sure to visit the famed Upper Room Chapel!



NOW is the time (believe it or not) to sign up for your turn at lawn mowing duty. Our church finances are helped tremendously by relying on volunteers to help with this task. See Ray Arthur or Pastor Robert if you are available to "take a turn." Many hands make light (well somewhat lighter) work!

## PASTOR CHATTER

Well I guess it is confession time! February was a tough month for this preacher.

This may have been the first time in my ministry in Roanoke that Sunday attendance lingered in the “below 50”

territory for an entire month. I know I should not measure effectiveness based on numbers, but I honestly sometimes question whether maybe I am missing some signals from above or something.

But I also took time to look over the list of folks who connect on a regular or occasional basis to our church family. Some have had extended illness. Some are careful not to get out when weather is precarious. Others are struggling with FPS (“full plate syndrome”)!

Rather than feeling sorry for myself, perhaps Lent is also a time for me to redouble my efforts in seeking God. Perhaps Lent is a time to pray harder for the entire church and community – those whose faces I see regularly – and those who have been spending their Sundays elsewhere. Would you join me in that prayer effort? Thanks!

Meanwhile Easter is right around the corner, not to mention the beauty of a Blue Ridge Mountain springtime! I do believe that will help revive my drooping spirit. What about you? See you Sunday!

*Pastor Robert*

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## PASTOR OUT & ABOUT

Stop by for chat, coffee or prayer. This can also be an opportunity to bring a friend to “meet your pastor” in a friendly setting.

*MONDAY, MARCH 5*

*3:30 p.m. Hill Senior Center  
802 Washington Ave., Vinton*

*THURSDAY, MARCH 15*

*7 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Ball Fields,  
3071 Pitzer Rd.*

*MONDAY, MARCH 19*

*9 a.m. R. T. Smith's Deli,  
10 Campbell Ave. SE*

*MONDAY, MARCH 26*

*East County Café (Vinton Library)  
300 S. Pollard, Vinton*

**If you have items for the April newsletter, please prepare in written form by March 25 and give to Heather, Robert or Jenny!**