



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

APRIL 2018  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## All-church meeting on April 15

All are welcome to stay after worship on Sunday, April 15 for a brief all-church meeting beginning at 12:15 p.m. This meeting is called as a “church conference” to handle one important item of business. At this meeting we will finalize the recommendation to reconfigure the pastor salary compensation package at MPUMC to a “three-fourths time position.” This change was already approved by the Church Council last year, and was also explained at our “church family meeting” in January. It has also been approved by the bishop and district superintendent.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- APRIL 1                    John 20:1-18  
                                  *Resurrection*
- APRIL 8                    John 20:19-31  
                                  *Thomas*
- APRIL 15                  Acts 9:1-19a  
                                  *Paul's conversion*
- APRIL 22                  Acts 16:16-34  
                                  *Paul and Silas*
- APRIL 29                  Acts 17:16-31  
                                  *Paul's sermon at Athens*
- MAY 6                     Philippians 1:1-18a  
                                  *Partnership in the gospel*

### BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

- APRIL 1-7                Judges 6-21, Ruth 1-4
- APRIL 8-14              1 Samuel 1-24  
                                  Psalms 11, 59
- APRIL 15-21            1 Samuel 25-31  
                                  Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52, 56, 120  
                                  140-142, 17, 35, 54, 63, 18, 121  
                                  123-125, 128-130, 2 Samuel 1-4
- APRIL 22-28            1 Chronicles 1-6  
                                  Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21, 43-45, 49  
                                  84-85, 87, 73, 77-78, 81, 88, 92-93
- APRIL 29 – MAY 5    1 Chronicles 7-16  
                                  Psalms 102-104, 133, 106-107, 1-2  
                                  15, 22-24, 47, 2 Samuel 5-6
- MAY 6-12                2 Samuel 7-10  
                                  Psalms 89, 96, 100-101, 105, 132, 25  
                                  29, 33, 36, 39, 50, 53, 60, 75, 20  
                                  65-67, 69-70, 1 Chronicles 17-19

*The complete day-by-day list is available in printed form or online at vaumc.org.*

Because it goes into effect officially on July 1, this is the last step in finalizing the changes. If you have questions about this proposal, please contact Pastor Robert or one of our church leaders before the meeting. We would LOVE to answer your questions. We hope the meeting will go rather quickly! ☺

## An Amazing April

There are some amazing training and learning opportunities coming up later this month! Don't miss it! God may be tapping YOU on the shoulder to venture into a new area of interest! There is an info sheet at church with more info!

NEXT GEN SUMMIT is Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Raleigh Court UMC. The focus is on how to position churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life and energy into the whole church. Cost is \$45 (with lunch provided). More or info or register at [vanextgensummit.com](http://vanextgensummit.com).

FAITHFUL AGING CONFERENCE is Tuesday, April 24, 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. in Williamsburg. Cost is \$40. Register by April 6.

LEADING ON THE EDGE is Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fieldstone UMC in Christiansburg. This training addresses very sensitive, difficult issues in our faith and society – poverty, homelessness, mental health, race relations and human sexuality. Cost is \$10 (with lunch provided). More info or register (by April 25) at [roanokeumc.org](http://roanokeumc.org).

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

|          |      |                 |    |
|----------|------|-----------------|----|
| March 4  | 45   | MARCH 2018 AVG. | 57 |
| March 11 | 66*  |                 |    |
| March 18 | 82   | MARCH 2017 AVG. | 65 |
| March 25 | 33** |                 |    |

\* includes Second Saturday

\*\* snowfall

### OUR GIFTS

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| March Budget Offerings | \$ 7,644.07 |
| Average Monthly Need   | \$ 9,541.00 |
| **Other March Income   | \$ 1,340.10 |

\*\*Includes Backpack (1,194.00) and Ghana ministry (146.10).

### 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!

### 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 the VIRGINIA EDUCATION FUND (\$50 per month for our "share"). The VEF supports six UMC-related schools in our ministry area - Ferrum, Randolph, Shenandoah, Virginia Wesleyan, Randolph-Macon College and Randolph-Macon Academy. Each school provides scholarships to UMC students, and the fund also supports chaplains providing ministry to the entire campus communities. Many Virginia clergy have roots in these schools. Your support means so much, and conference-wide the support goal amounts to \$800,000! Changing our shared future through the power of your gifts!

#### THANKS FROM PASTOR ABRAHAM IN GHANA:

Because annual rent has increased we have made a down payment on some land on the outskirts of town where land is reasonable, and we are praying to build soon. We thank all of you givers! God knows you and will meet your needs accordingly. Your monthly support took care of the children's needs (books, etc.) while my allowance took care of the land. We will be in a better position to build a LEARNING CENTER offering free afterschool, with access to computer, library, rec center. When I went to the site, two young boys followed me looking for work, and I asked why they were not in school. One said he had no uniform and the other had no footwear. I believe that one of my visions is to work among the needy people as Paul did with the Gentiles. I have accepted the challenge, and it will be part of my ministry to help the poor and make impact in peoples' lives.

The children are doing very well and this year we hope to move them to another class to prepare for secondary. May the good Lord continue to bless you all for your good work. Thank you so much!

## WELCOME to MPUMC!

SYLVIA ADDIS is welcomed as the newest member of Mount Pleasant UMC! She joined us officially on March 18 by reaffirmation of her vows of faith. MPUMC is Sylvia's home church so we are delighted to say "Welcome back, Sylvia!"

Watch for the new baptism/membership leaflets in the pew racks - coming soon! In the meantime, please contact Pastor Robert for more information on baptism and/or membership. Baptisms or new member receptions may take place at any time, but we also have special Sundays for that. Our next Baptism/New Member Sundays will be April 1, April 29, and May 20.

### Across the area...

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

SPECIAL TRAINING EVENTS take place on April 21, 24 and 28 - (see front page "Amazing April").

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

KIT COLLECTION for annual conference (June 15-17) will focus on hygiene, school and cleaning kits only! See Pastor Robert if you are interested!

ALTA MONS SUMMER CAMP registration has begun! Info at altamons.org. Options for K-12!

**FROM UMCOR:** Thank you for partnering with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) through your \$70.19 Global Migration Sunday offering. You help to provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. 100% of your gift goes directly to the people who need it the most. For more info about UMCOR's work go to umcor.org. You can also sign up there for regular weekly email updates.

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 June Sink
- 5 Samantha Wills
- 6 Inez Barton
- 9 Kameron Tuck
- 10 Bobby Hylton
- 14 Sarah Dyess
- 22 Xander Hastings
- 23 Kat St. Clair, Laken Musselwhite
- 24 Ethan Hastings
- 29 Pat Tabor, Janet McMillan
- 30 Larry Fisher, Brayden Lee Glisson

*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!

### → CHILDREN

**Wonderful Wednesdays** began our final series – “Candy.” We learn life lessons about worldly temptations, growing in Christ and living for God. We will travel to the library for a fun science lesson and a neat springtime craft. We’re grateful for the partnership with Mt. Pleasant Library. Wonderful Wednesdays Afterschool will conclude May 16.

**Summer Wonderful Wednesdays** run from June 13 through July 25. Our theme is AMAZONIA! We will explore the jungle and learn more about who God is and how his character can impact our daily lives.

**How can you help?** I’m glad you asked! Pray for us! 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). Without help, we will not be able to offer the program again this year. We are in immediate need for at least two adult helpers. You do not need to be able to work all weeks. (We understand vacations and time off!!) We also appreciate monetary donations. Please pray about this wonderful program and the part you play.

**Helping Hands Missions Experience** (June 28-29) for rising 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders! We’ll be participating again and would love to have your student with us! Cost is \$36 and includes meals and a t-shirt. This is a great way to introduce your student to an overnight missions experience. Register by May 1 at

[www.mpumc.church/hh](http://www.mpumc.church/hh)

### → YOUTH

**Sunday Youth Group** We’ll jump back into our weekly meetings on April 15 at 5 p.m. No youth meetings on April 1 or April 8 - Enjoy Spring Break!

**How can you help with Youth?** Are you able to cook for 12? We aren’t picky! But it’s such a help to have this done for us on Sundays! (April 22 and 29 are currently available!) 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!

**Bible Quiz Teams Forming!** We have eight students and three leaders interested! Do you have a student that would love to participate? It’s a great way to have your student in God’s Word - competing AND having fun! See Heather if you need more info. Open to those in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and will begin in August. We’ll be studying the book of John next year.

Heather

## Our PCC partnership

Great things are happening in our partnership with the Presbyterian Community Center. In addition to our February Hunger Buster food drive, we once again provided baskets, candy, books, and toys for Easter gifts to the Pathways families. In addition, MPUMC hosted the Pathways (afterschool ministry) Easter egg hunt in our building on March 27. Members of our youth group helped stuff the Easter eggs! We also have three Pathways parents participating in our Daniel Plan groups! And, as always, Pastor Robert helps provide the Monday afternoon devotionals for the elementary and middle school groups. These families are most appreciative of your prayers and support!

## Women’s spiritual life retreat

The annual Roanoke District United Methodist Women’s SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT is Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crockett Springs UMC and Camp Alta Mons in Montgomery County. Cost of \$10 per person includes lunch. If you plan on attending, please contact Winky McCann BEFORE APRIL 2 so reservations can be made. We plan to carpool together. This is one of the best events of the year for our women’s ministry!

## Don’t miss these...

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

“Second Sunday” reception after worship. Join the fun and fellowship as we celebrate April birthdays and anniversaries.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Brief United Methodist Women meeting after worship. All women welcome.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

Senior Fellowship at 12 noon. The Virginians will perform gospel music. This event is open to the community! Call Karen Tate 427-1884 for more info.

**MOUNT PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**3035 Mount Pleasant Blvd.**  
**Roanoke, Virginia 24014**

## PASTOR CHATTER

As I think about the the DANIEL PLAN groups, the obvious focus is on FOOD and FITNESS. But we went through a mind revolution in beginning to see these issues from a FAITH point of view!

In addition to faith, food and fitness, two of the vital pieces are FOCUS and FRIENDS. In the Focus unit we were reminded of the importance of being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). We were reminded that distractions can easily get us off track if we do not remain focused!

In the Friends unit, we learned that the “secret sauce” for success is community – encouraging one another. “Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed (Ecclesiastes 4:9 nlt).”

I want to rewatch the videos and read the DANIEL PLAN book in the next several weeks. You might want to get a copy of the book. Let me know if you want one. We will also place a copy on the UMW reading shelf downstairs for you to borrow. It is also available at local libraries! You’ll be challenged and blessed!

*Pastor Robert*

## 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, APRIL 2*

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

*THURSDAY, APRIL 12*

*4 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Ball Library  
2918 Jae Valley Rd.*

*MONDAY, APRIL 16*

*12:30 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings  
1502 Williamson Rd. NE*

*THURSDAY, APRIL 26*

*Mt. Pleasant Park & Ball Fields  
3071 Pitzer Rd.*

**If you have items for the May newsletter, prepare in written form by April 29 - give or email to Heather, Robert or Jenny!**