



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

JULY 2018  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## Preaching series on prayer - "DEAR GOD..."

Do you ever start to pray and say "DEAR GOD..." and then draw a blank? Pastor Robert's July series is called "DEAR GOD..." We'll look at important Bible learnings about prayer. We'll cover some frequently asked questions: How do I pray (or should I keep praying) when the situation is nearly hopeless? How do I learn to pray for God's will instead of my will? How can the Bible be a resource in helping me pray? Is a quick, short prayer adequate? The "DEAR GOD..." series begins on July 8. If you have a question about prayer, let Pastor Robert know!



### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- JULY 1 Ephesians 6:10-20  
*Pray for one another*
- JULY 8 Matthew 6:5-8  
*He knows your need*
- JULY 15 James 4:4-10  
*Draw close to God*
- JULY 22 Matthew 26:36-42  
*Thy will be done*
- JULY 29 Psalm 119:97-105  
*Thy word is a lamp*
- AUGUST 5 2 Timothy 3:1-16  
*All scripture is inspired*

### BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

- JULY 1-7 Obadiah 1, Psalms 82-83  
2 Kings 1-14,  
2 Chronicles 24-25, Jonah 1-4
- JULY 8-14 2 Kings 15  
2 Chronicles 26-27, Isaiah 1-12  
Amos 1-9, Micah 1-7
- JULY 15-21 2 Chronicles 28-31  
2 Kings 16:1 – 18:8, Isaiah 13-27  
Psalm 48, Hosea 1-14
- JULY 22-28 Isaiah 28-48  
Psalms 76, 46, 80, 135  
2 Kings 18:9 – 19:37
- JULY 29 – AUG. 4 Isaiah 49-66  
2 Kings 20-21, 2 Chronicles 32-33  
Nahum 1-3

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

### Welcome to MPUMC

We welcome these newest members of the MPUMC family.

PAUL & JOANNA

SCHROEDER joined by transfer on June 9 from Eagle Mountain International Church in Newark, Texas.

SCOTT & BETH WHITEHEAD, EMORY and CONNOR joined on June 10 by transfer locally from another UM congregation.

### What's a pastor to do?

Pastor Robert will give a presentation called "WHAT'S A PASTOR TO DO" on Sunday, July 22 at 9:45 a.m. downstairs. We'll discuss what pastor roles are most important and how to effectively schedule availability! Your input will be very helpful! If you are interested, but can't attend, we'll arrange a repeat presentation in August!

### Do you have a God sighting to share?

Recently we were blessed to have two of our teens share ways in which God is at work in their lives. How awesome! Thanks, Jackson and Isaac. Do you have a story worth sharing? We'd love for the church family to hear it! Let Robert, Jenny or Heather know if you do. If you can't bring yourself to speak, you can write it out and have someone else read it for you!

### "Second Saturday" July 14

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on July 14 for our monthly "SECOND SATURDAY" casual worship! It's a time of singing, devotion, prayer and Communion. Help share the word about Second Saturday! This could be a special opportunity for someone who can't attend on Sunday! Worship is followed by fellowship and food – feel free to bring munchies to share! (Over half of our attenders come from beyond our own church family!)

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

|         |     |                |    |
|---------|-----|----------------|----|
| June 3  | 45  | JUNE 2018 AVG. | 51 |
| June 10 | 63* |                |    |
| June 17 | 45  | JUNE 2017 AVG. | 61 |
| June 24 | 53  |                |    |

\* includes Second Saturday

### OUR GIFTS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| June Budget Offerings  | \$ 8,084.90 |
| Average Monthly Need   | \$ 9,625.00 |
| **Other June Income  | \$ 288.00   |
| **Samaritan/Hermitage (\$110), Ghana (\$85),<br>Wonderful Wednesday (\$40), Backpack (\$37),<br>Communion (\$16) |             |

### 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 giving supports UMC apportionments - "a portion" of each offering "meant" for the work of Christ around the world. This month we highlight the ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING. This is not an apportionment, but is a voluntary gift, collected from churches and attenders at conference. Our church supports the offering with \$200 each year. The Annual Conference Offering literally spans the globe, supporting numerous projects. This year's projects go to CAMBODIA (church growth, health, agricultural development), BRAZIL (shade and fresh water ministry with children), MOZAMBIQUE (raising up leaders), CUBA (hurricane recovery), HAITI (mission teams), PUERTO RICO (hurricane recovery), RUSSIA (seminary scholarships) and the U.S. (mission teams in Native American ministry). WOW! Go to [vaumc.org/ac2018](http://vaumc.org/ac2018) for a link to give additional support directly. Thank you for being a blessing!

### THANKS FROM PASTOR ABRAHAM IN GHANA!

(NOTE: We received a full-page letter from Abraham and copies are available. Here are some highlights.)

Thank you! Your gifts helped us to purchase items like soap, rice, oil, LPG gas for cooking, sugar, salt, pepper, tomato, cassava, yam, maize, onion, water for bathing, washing and drinking, bread, milk, palm nuts and ground nuts for soup. We cannot express our gratitude for what you do - it is a dream fulfilled. It is our duty to care for the young ones, else they will turn against us. We have to train them in the way they should go!

We came to MPUMC some years ago and met a woman pastor who took good care of us. We got to know Kirk, Judy and many others. I wish to visit again one day, and expect you to visit Ghana one day to help in teaching the children! We hope to move to our new site before the end of the year to avoid the increasing amount for rent and to establish the Learning Centre to help mankind. We love you all, and may the Lord bless you. Amen!

## Praying for our UMC...

As you pray for next February's General Conference, here are three challenges:

- 1) Weekly Wesleyan fast from Thursday evening (after dinner) through Friday afternoon.
- 2) Daily prayer at 2:23 a.m. or 2:23 p.m.
- 3) Pray each week for church leaders and conference delegates (see names at [umcprays.org](http://umcprays.org)).

In August, Pastor Robert will give a presentation on the options being considered by the February General Conference.

## Across the area...

WELCOME to Nathan Colwell, the new pastor at Rockingham Court UMC, and best wishes to Seung Hae Yoo-Hess - she was ordained elder at this past annual conference, and goes to serve now in the Winchester District!

JULY PATRIOTIC CONCERT features the combined choirs of Thrasher and Greene Memorial - Sunday, July 1 at 5 p.m. at Thrasher (picnic following) or Tuesday, July 3 at 7 p.m. at Greene (cookout preceding). No charge - all are welcome!

MISSION ENCOUNTER is a 3-day event on living our mission, with classes for men, women and children! The event is July 27-29 at the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center. See Pastor Robert for more info.

LAY SERVANT ACADEMY for the conference is August 17-19 at Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center. This is a very convenient location. See Pastor Robert for more info on the leadership opportunities available at this event!

ALTA MONS will host the 6<sup>th</sup> annual District Cookout on Saturday, Aug. 25! This is always great fun! Watch for details in the August newsletter!

THE NEXT MONTHLY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER is posted mid-July at [roanokeumc.org](http://roanokeumc.org). More news is also available at the [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) web site.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Hope Patsel
- 7 Pat Musselwhite
- 11 Julie Holmes
- 14 Megan Gilmore
- 17 *Benny & Jenny Basham*
- 19 Naomi Bolling
- 22 Rick Beck
- 25 Jonathan Williams, Joshua Williams
- 30 Betty Clark
- 31 Emily Fisher

# MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

## Children/Youth/Family Stuff!

**Wonderful Wednesdays.** Can you believe that we are halfway through our Wonderful Wednesday program? We've built towers and robots out of Legos. We've made rain sticks, snakes, and tiki necklaces. We've crowned the winner of Survivor: Mt. Pleasant! And thanks to our friends, Cruz and Ace, we've explored the jungle, and we've discovered who God is and how his character impacts our daily lives.

There is no Wonderful Wednesday on July 4 and the last day is July 25. Please continue to keep this ministry (in its sixth year) in your prayers. Pray also for all the families who are participating!

**MP Youth.** Sunday evenings through August 5 we will meet with Brookhill youth group on Sundays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Additionally, these fun fellowship events are happening in the month of July:

**July 1 Swimming at Smith Mountain Lake.**

Leave after church – back at 6 p.m. – \$4 plus money for food.

**July 13 Movies on the Market.**

Leave church at 6 p.m. Bring a blanket to sit on and snacks to share.

**July 16 Monster Hunt through Downtown!**

\$20 (limited space available) - please sign up by July 5.

**July 26 All Day Movie Marathon**

Come and veg out at the church! Beat the heat while we watch movies and just hang out.

**Aug. 10 Movies on the Market.**

Leave church at 6 p.m. Bring a blanket to sit on and snacks to share

Are you available to come play with us this summer? You are welcome at any youth event! Just let Heather know!

**Coming Up in August!** Watch for all the info about Back-To-School Sunday. This is also our closing celebration for Amazonia, with another of our great pastor challenges! Don't miss the excitement. Details and date to be shared soon!

Heather



## It's almost JANUARY!

Well...not really! But it IS time for us to be thinking about leadership positions for 2019. The Nominations Committee will be starting work soon to help select recommendations for our leadership positions for the coming year. Many hands make "lighter work," so if you have an interest in serving, please contact Pastor Robert or Jenny Basham, lay leader. We'd love to let you know more about available opportunities!

## Don't miss these...

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Pastor Robert leads a brief online men's study each week at 9:36 p.m. Contact Robert for info on how to log in on Periscope! Our upcoming series is called STARTING OVER – thinking about what to when everything falls apart. (This is a small group, but we have had participants from Virginia, North Carolina and Maine!)

### SUNDAY, JULY 8

"Second Sunday" celebration after worship with SUNDAES! Join us as we celebrate July birthdays and anniversaries!

### MONDAY, JULY 9

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

### TUESDAY, JULY 10

United Methodist Women will meet for a salad lunch, program and business meeting. Linda Sabel will speak on "Essential Oils." Women of all ages are welcome!

### THURSDAY, JULY 19

Church Council meets for its regular meeting at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

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

## PASTOR CHATTER

I really can't believe that July 2018 has rolled around! This is a big moment for me as it marks my official retirement as a UMC pastor. However, as you know, it is a sort of a "fake news" retirement, as I continue to serve as your pastor – now as a "three-fourths time" (30 hours a week) pastor instead of a "full-time" pastor.

We have tried to explain what this means, but it can still be confusing to some. An important shift for me will be to be very intentional about my "day off" each week. Of course full time pastors normally take a day off, but I have been rather flexible (or maybe "disorganized") about mixing my "on time" and my "off time." Mondays will be my new DAY OFF when I will normally be disengaged from pastor roles! (When Monday is a major holiday, my day off will fall on Tuesday.) Most of my during-the-week ministry work will focus Tuesday through Thursday. There will always be exceptions, and pastors are ALWAYS "on call" 24/7 for emergency ministry needs, even when you are "part time!"

Mount Pleasant UMC folks have always been easy to work with, and I expect this to be an easy and healthy adjustment. Nevertheless, if you have questions or issues or suggestions, please let me know!

*Pastor Robert*

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

## 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.

*JULY 1-7 no "Out & About"  
Pastor at Camp Alta Mons*

*TUESDAY, JULY 10  
7:30 p.m. MP Ball Fields  
3071 Pitzer Rd.*

*WEDNESDAY, JULY 18  
8:30 a.m. Earth Fare (café)  
2203 Franklin Rd.*

*THURSDAY, JULY 26  
4 p.m. MP Library  
2918 Jae Valley Rd.*

*TUESDAY, JULY 31  
1 p.m. Lucy Kat's Diner  
3808 Yellow Mountain Rd.*

*TUESDAY, AUGUST 7  
National Night Out (time and  
location to be announced)*