



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.

Roanoke, VA 24014

540-427-3064

JANUARY 2019

mpumc.church

7 resolutions that could change your world

1. Begin every day with a prayer, a smile, and a humility check. How we begin a day almost always determines how we end one.
2. Return evil with good. It won't be easy. A grudge or sarcastic remark seems so much more fulfilling. Imagine a world where you influence others by how you DON'T respond!
3. Never let the sun go down on anger. Anger can grow overnight. We may not be able to resolve all disagreements, but we can resolve to be at peace as much as it depends on us.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

JANUARY 6	Matthew 2:1-23 <i>The visit of the Magi</i>
JANUARY 13	Matthew 3:1-17 <i>Jesus is baptized</i>
JANUARY 20	Matthew 4:1-17 <i>Jesus is tempted in the wilderness</i>
JANUARY 27	Matthew 5:1-20 <i>The Beatitudes</i>
FEBRUARY 3	Matthew 6:7-34 <i>Treasure in heaven</i>

BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

JANUARY 1-5	Genesis 1-15 Romans 1-5
JANUARY 6-12	Genesis 16-30 Romans 6-10
JANUARY 13-19	Genesis 31-48 Romans 11-15
JANUARY 20-26	Genesis 49-50 Romans 16, Isaiah 1-13 Mark 1:1—4:20
JAN. 27 – FEB. 2	Isaiah 14-31 Mark 4:21—7:37
FEBRUARY 3-9	Isaiah 32-46 Mark 8-11

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

4. Don't use social media as a forum to bash others. Let's act like real people may actually see what we write. Let's post in a way which encourages and builds each other up.
5. Develop our patience muscle. What if we thought about the common things which test our patience and asked God to help us deal with it BEFORE we experience it – each time?
6. Remember that it's not about us. What if we valued others and demonstrated that to them by how we treat them, what we say to them, our facial expressions, or even our thoughts?
7. Listen more than we speak. It's hard to value others when we are doing all the talking. It's also hard to hear from God! When we listen, it guards the tongue, protects relationships, and we might actually learn something!

This is adapted from a longer piece by Ron Edmonson (viewable online at rondemondson.com).

First Council meeting for 2019

Our first Church Council meeting for 2019 is Thursday, January 17 at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All Council members are urged to be present. Church Council is an open meeting and you are always welcome to attend.

Calling all food packers!

January is our church's month to pack the weekend food backpacks at Mt. Pleasant Elementary! Contact Jenny Basham for more information, or see the signup list in the church sanctuary. This is a fun way to serve! (We do the packing right there in the office at MPES!)

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

December 2	71*	DEC. 2018 AVG.	55
December 9	cancelled (snow)		
December 16	47**	DEC. 2017 AVG.	65
December 23	55		
December 30	49		

* includes Second Saturday

** includes winter campers at Alta Mons
Christmas Eve Attendance 87

OUR GIFTS

December Budget Offerings	\$ 14,875.30
(includes "December Special" giving)	
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,625.00
**Other December Income	\$ 1,162.41
**Christmas Eve (\$737), Backpack (\$183.35), Ghana (\$135), Kroger rebate (\$95.06), Communion (\$12)	

The Christmas Eve offering was given entirely to outreach, divided between local Meals on Wheels and UMCOR disaster relief. Our DECEMBER SPECIAL offering was \$3,077 as of Dec. 30, and is included in the monthly budget offerings above. Thank you so very much for your generous support!

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 time, energy and talents to make 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. Our two largest apportionment items in the 2019 budget are for health coverage for active and retired clergy of the Virginia Conference. Our share of these two items amounts to \$1,019 each month. Health care is a big expense for many, and you can be grateful that the conference works so hard to provide health coverage for these who serve and have served all across the state.

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for helping send us to camp. We are so glad that we got to go!
Elijah and Peanut Manuel

Thank you so much for the good and all who contributed to help us for so many years. You have done a great job and I will never forget it. I pray that God will count every cent you contributed and bless you accordingly. I pray that you will never lack. We have received the money you sent last week but I am short of words to appreciate what you have done. One thing I know is that the Holy Spirit will do proper thanks before the throne on your behalf. On behalf of all who have benefited from your support, I say GOD BLESS YOU ALL AMEN.
Pastor Abraham in Ghana

Events near and far...

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 19 at Woodlawn UMC.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DAY in Richmond Jan. 31.

UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE called session is Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis. Please be in prayer (umcprays.org).

DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT at Virginia Tech March 1-3.

PAUL BUNYAN WORK DAY at Camp Alta Mons March 16.

150th BIRTHDAY OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN March 23.

"CHAT AND CHEW 3.0" discussion with Bishop Lewis April 6. Location to be announced.

VOICES OF YOUTH mission choir trip to Poland June 19 - July 10. Apply now.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for annual conference here in Roanoke June 20-22. Call 989-3335 for more info. You can give just a few hours to be a greeter, an usher, or help unload food donations.

CAMP ALTA MONS is hiring a full-time property coordinator and also part-time kitchen workers. Call Ronda at 268-2409 for more info.

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

In case of snow or ice...

We finally had one of those snow days fall on a Sunday, so we did not have worship on Dec. 9. Thanks to our "snowplow angels" who clear our parking lot so kindly!

As in past years, we work with Channels 7 and 10 to announce closings. Do note that there are several Mt. Pleasant UMC's in other counties! You can also find the info at wdbj7.com or wsls.com. We make every effort to be open but PLEASE use good sense and discretion if your roads or sidewalks are hazardous.

We try to open the doors for anyone who shows up! And even if we must cancel worship, we do our best to go live on Facebook, depending on power! This audio is available to you live or later!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Wayne & Charlotte Myers
- 10 Brittany Stanley
- 20 Jennifer Holmes
- 21 Sam Heath Bradford
- 24 Rahim Brownell, Audree Mae Smith

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!



Moving on to MATTHEW

In our fourth annual Sunday journey through the Bible we finally reached the New Testament on Dec. 23! We'll spend an amazing 19 weeks working our way through much of Matthew's gospel, taking us all the way up to the Sunday after Easter!

We'll see how Matthew emphasizes connections between the life of Jesus and references from the Scriptures of Israel (that we call the Old Testament). Jesus is seen as the fulfillment of these great promises. At the same time Matthew shows us how Jesus is a light to ALL the nations, not just one nation among many! We will spend a lot of time with the teaching of Jesus – the parables, and his "sermon on the mount." Pray for these 19 weeks to be a time of great blessing for you and for our church family!

Kids Church continues

A big THANK YOU to Nicole Jennings, Terri Beck, Emory Whitehead and Betsy Stutes for providing leadership for KIDS CHURCH for the last several months. KIDS CHURCH is normally offered on the first and third Sunday of each month for those in grades K-5. Kids are in the sanctuary for the first part of 11 a.m. worship time, and then we will announce when it is time to go downstairs!

Second Saturday Jan. 12

You are invited to our monthly Second Saturday worship on Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m. This is a non-denominational monthly time of prayer, praise, Communion and fellowship. Maybe you know someone who can't participate on Sunday mornings. Give them an invite to Second Saturday!

"Next Step" online group

Pastor Robert's NEXT STEP online group for men continues most Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. The brief Bible study is completed by 10 p.m. so that it fits well into most folks' schedules. If you miss it, you can watch it later. We have moved to Facebook Live so you can participate on your phone or on your computer. It is a closed group so you need to enroll. See Pastor Robert for more info!

MP YOUTH

Mark your calendars for the following:

YOUTH GROUP LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP on
Sunday, January 20.

ROANOKE YOUTH PRAISE EVENT on Sunday,
February 10 (tentative at this time – details to follow).

DISTRICT YOUTH WEEKEND at Virginia Tech,
March 1-3.

Watch also for updates on the MP Youth Facebook page! MP Youth is for those in middle school and high school age (6th-12th grade).

Don't miss these...

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

"Dutch treat" lunch at 2nd Helpings. Meet at church at 11 a.m. to carpool. 2nd Helpings is part of the ministries of the Rescue Mission – wonderful food!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

"Second Sunday" reception after worship – celebrating January birthdays and anniversaries.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Senior Fellowship meets at noon for fellowship lunch. Gloria Harris of LOA will speak on senior nutrition. Invite a friend! For more info, contact Karen Tate (427-1884).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

United Methodist Women will have a short meeting after worship to begin the new year. Women of all ages are welcomed!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

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

Ghana ministry update

We are so grateful to Judy Gibson for coordinating the Ghana ministry contributions for so many years. Beginning this year, if you wish to make a contribution to Pastor Abraham and the ministry in Ghana it will be sponsored by Christ's Fellowship Church.

To make donations, please make your check to Christ's Fellowship Church, marked for "Ghana." These may be mailed to Cindi McMillan, 3830 Sun Valley Lane, Roanoke VA 24014. Thanks for the difference you have made in the lives of so many youngsters. Cindi will coordinate forwarding the money to Ghana.

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Wow it's already 2019! These are times of big adjustments for Betsy and me. Some of those adjustments are very exciting, but they can also be stressful.

This has been a time of adjustment for our church family as well. I appreciate so much those who have stepped up to serve in special ways as we said "Good-bye" to Heather as our director of children and youth ministries. It is a true reminder that the gifts Heather shared with us are blessings that continue to touch lives!

I'm also so thankful for those who stepped up with generous gifts during December. Surely no one enters seminary thinking about the fact that they are being prepared to serve in administering the financial affairs of a non-profit organization. But that is part of the package! You really do make it happen, and I am so very grateful.

2019 is the time for the UMC's called General Conference (Feb. 23-26) in St. Louis. I will be attending part of that conference as a spectator, and please be in prayer for all those who are serving as delegates. The UMC is facing the possibility of big adjustments, and we truly need the Spirit's guidance as we face hard issues in a spirit of love. I will seek to keep you well informed on the outcome.

Pastor Robert

If you have items for the February newsletter, prepare in written form by January 27 - give or email to Robert or Jenny!



PASTOR
CHATTER

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.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

*3:00 p.m. Sweet Donkey Coffee
2108 Broadway*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

*11:30 a.m. 2nd Helpings
1502 Williamson Rd. NE*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

*4:00 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Library
2918 Jae Valley Road*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

*4:00 p.m. East County Café
300 S. Pollard (Vinton Library)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

*11:30 a.m. Subway
1724 Bennington*