



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.

Roanoke, VA 24014

540-427-3064

NOVEMBER 2018

mpumc.church

“HOKIE SUNDAY” on Nov. 11

How exciting to announce that Sunday worship on Nov. 11 will be led by students from the Virginia Tech Wesley Foundation (our United Methodist campus ministry in Blacksburg). Even if you are a UVa fan, I know you will appreciate the ministry spirit of these Hokies!

VT Wesley has been served by the Rev. Bret Gresham since 2009. Each spring the leaders of Wesley bless our district youth by putting together an awesome weekend retreat. Don't miss HOKIE SUNDAY on November 11. Let's give Bret and the gang a great Mount Pleasant welcome! (Go to vtwesley.com to learn more about their ministries.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

NOVEMBER 4 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Elisha heals Naaman

NOVEMBER 11 Micah 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

A ruler will come from Bethlehem

NOVEMBER 18 Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20

Isaiah 37:1-7 Isaiah 2:1-4

Swords into plowshares

NOVEMBER 25 Jer.1:4-10, 7:1-11

Jeremiah's words of judgment

DECEMBER 2 Habakkuk 1:1-7;

2:1-4; 3:17-19

There is still a vision

BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 1-3 Matthew 20-21

Luke 18;15 – 19:48, Mark 11, John 12

NOVEMBER 4-10 Matthew 22-26

Mark 12-14, Luke 20-22, John 13

NOVEMBER 11-17 John 14-21

Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16

Luke 23-24, Acts 1-6

NOVEMBER 18-24 Acts 7-16

James 1-5, Galatians 1-3

NOV. 25 – DEC. 1 Galatians 4-6

Acts 17-19, 1 Thess. 1-5, 2 Thess. 1-3

1 Corinthians 1-11

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

November 11 potluck

It's time for our annual potluck on Veteran's weekend. Our table display has room for you to bring photos or memories of veterans who are special to you. If you have grandma's best recipe, we'd love for you to bring that dish! (Think "COMFORT FOODS!")

The potluck takes place right after 11 a.m. worship on Nov. 11. Note that we want to spread a generous table to help provide for our Virginia Tech guests too! November birthdays and anniversaries will also get a "shout out!"

Advent begins December 2

Advent includes the four Sundays before our celebration of Christmas. Advent always begins either late in November or early in December. Although we'll experience many festive events during December, the real focus of Advent is preparation. Scriptures in December will help us navigate the transition from Old Testament prophecies of hope to the fulfillment in Christ.

For 2018 our special Advent theme will be CALM AND BRIGHT (based on the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the beloved Christmas hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night"). Watch for special opportunities to reflect on the meaning of this great carol.

It can be hard to keep a clear focus on the message of Advent due to all of our December merry-making! One hour on Sunday won't be enough, so begin thinking and praying now about your own spiritual life as well as how your daily activities might open your heart to God's powerful message this December.

District conference Nov. 18

All are welcome to the 2018 District Conference on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. at First UMC Salem. There will be a small amount of necessary business, but the real excitement is the opportunity to worship and serve! Come be a part of the larger UMC family!

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

October 7	48	OCT. 2018 AVG.	52
October 14	72*		
October 21	42	OCT. 2017 AVG.	66
October 28	47		

* includes Second Saturday

OUR GIFTS

October Budget Offerings	\$ 7,153.00
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,625.00
**Other September Income	\$ 447.17
**Gideons (\$148), Ghana (\$135), Kroger Rebate (\$79.17), Backpack (\$55), World Communion (\$30)	

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. Out of all our apportionment items, the very smallest one is the five dollars a month that supports "INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION." You probably realize that the heart of United Methodist tradition always includes a deep respect for neighbors of other faith traditions. The UMC participates in these cooperative ministries and conversations, and this fund helps make that happen. It is an awesome thing when Christians can work together despite their differences!

NOTES OF THANKS

Many thanks for your contributions to Samaritan Inn. Collections included 24 lbs. of sugar, (plus Splenda packets), 36 lbs. of coffee, 11 lbs. of creamer, 18 jars of jam, 10 jars of peanut butter, and white socks! Your donations will give comfort to many in Jesus' name!

Karen Tate, Outreach

As of Nov. 3, Pastor Lawrence Stevens was hospitalized in Austria after a third occurrence of massive pulmonary embolisms in both lungs. He was pastor here at MPUMC in 2007 and 2008. Despite this precarious medical situation, he sends this message to the church family: "Please give the church my greetings and tell them they hold a very special place in my heart."

Lawrence Stevens

On behalf of our school, faculty, staff and students, I want to thank you for opening up your church building to us for our evacuation drill this past Thursday, Oct. 18. Your kindness is appreciated.

Ellen Walton, MPES principal

We regularly pray for all pastors in this area, but today (Oct. 13) we chose to pray specifically for you, your church, and your ministry in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gideons - Roanoke City East Camp

Events near and far...

CONVERGENCE – a presentation on science and faith for senior high youth, Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. at Southview UMC.

BOOK FAIR at MP Elementary is a schoolwide fundraiser. The Book Fair is open on Election Day, Nov. 6, 8:30 – 3:30 in the school library.

CONFERENCE FALL RETREATS for youth are Nov. 9-11 (middle school) and Nov. 30 – Dec. 2 (high school) in Lynchburg.

PRESENTATION ON FRACKING 10-3 on Nov. 10 at Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC in Giles County. Learn more about both sides of the concerns related to fracking. No charge to attend – lunch available for purchase. Register with JaydeeHanson@gmail.com.

DRIVE-THROUGH NATIVITY Dec. 1-2 at Rockingham Court needs many volunteers for serving as costumed characters or helping with support. Call 427-0112 to volunteer.

WATCH FOR a short promotional video on finding faith at Christmas – this was produced by district ministries.

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. 150th BIRTHDAY OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN is March 23.

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

WESLEY HERITAGE TRIP TO ENGLAND with Bishop Sharma Lewis, April 23 – May 1, 2019. Don't miss it!

VOICES OF YOUTH mission choir trip to Poland is 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.

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Grace St. Clair
- 4 Charles Grant, *Mike & Denise Gray*
- 5 Dean Shell
- 8 Josette McMillan
- 14 Johnnie Williams
- 16 Clara "Winky" McCann, *Jan & Janet McMillan*
- 17 Danny Dyess
- 18 *Rick & Terri Beck*
- 19 *Mike & Kim Gembala*
- 20 Judy Gibson
- 24 Zayden Christopher Holmes

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

Community Thanksgiving worship

It's wonderful for neighbor churches to worship together, and once again we will celebrate the Thanksgiving season with community worship. This year we will gather at Garden City Church of the Nazarene, 3401 Garden City Blvd., on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 6 p.m.

Often we have a community choir open to all, and if you'd like to sing with that group, simply show up early at 5:30 p.m. in the worship center!

God smiles when his children join together in a spirit of praise!

Second Saturday Nov. 10

All are invited to our monthly Second Saturday worship on Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m. This is a non-denominational monthly time of prayer, praise and fellowship. During October we had a grand time saying "Welcome back" to Pastor Jay Fields! Maybe you know someone who can't participate on Sunday mornings. Give them an invite to Second Saturday!

Alta Mons winter camp

Registration is open for 2018 Winter Camp, Dec. 14-16 at Alta Mons! The theme is "Beauty of Thy Peace" – and no, we don't sleep under the stars in December! Visit

altamons.org for more information or to register your child. We also have registration forms available at the church building. Open to grades 2-12. It's a blast!



"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 before 10 p.m. so that it fits well into most folks' schedules. If you miss it, you can watch it later. IMPORTANT: We have moved from Periscope to Facebook Live so you can watch/participate on your phone or on your computer. It is a closed group to keep it personal, but we will be happy to welcome you. We're also open to those outside the area – we have had participants from two states besides Virginia! Message Pastor Robert for info on how to get included in this Facebook group!

Community honors veterans

Once again the community is welcome to join with students and staff of Mount Pleasant Elementary School for the annual Veterans' Day presentation at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 9 at the school. The program is always a great time of tribute!

Don't miss these...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

United Methodist Women will meet after worship to celebrate "World Thank Day" – women of all ages are welcome!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Meet at 11 a.m. at church to carpool to 2nd Helpings for a "Dutch treat" lunch.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

"Second Sunday" potluck (see front page).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MP Youth (grades 6-12) at 5 p.m. Come learn more about how you can be in the live nativity in December!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Church Council at 7 p.m. Open meeting – you are welcome to attend!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Senior Fellowship meets at noon for lunch and program in Fellowship Hall. Nicole Jennings from Presbyterian Community Center will bring the program!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

United Methodist Women meet at 8:30 a.m. for potluck breakfast. This includes the annual "pledge program," and we will also collect items for 2019 birthday gifts for children and Henry Fork. Please do not wrap gifts. Price limit is \$10.



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It was a blast to be able to attend my 45th high school reunion in Newton, Texas. Along with seeing lots of friends, I was invited to bring the Sunday message at the church that was my home congregation during high school.

PASTOR
CHATTER

Newton is a small town (population 2,478) located in the “piney woods” of East Texas, just a few miles away from the Louisiana border. It lies in the easternmost county in Texas! For my message at Newton I noted that Luke’s version of the “beatitudes” is quite different from Matthew’s version. In addition to the blessings, Jesus also shares the woes. You might be surprised who gets the woes: *Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.* (Luke 6:24-26)

It occurred to me that Jesus’ “woe pronouncements” are the very things we tend to take pride in or be thankful for. As Thanksgiving approaches, be sure to go deep into the Jesus way of thinking about life. You might see blessings in a whole new way. Read the blessings in Luke 6:20-23!

Pastor Robert

If you have items for the November newsletter, prepare in written form by November 25 - give or email to 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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

3:30 p.m. East County Café
300 S. Pollard, Vinton (Library)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. Mt. Pleasant Elementary
3216 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

11:30 a.m. Hope’s Café
3327 Garden City Blvd.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. Hardee’s
605 9th St.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

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