



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.

Roanoke, VA 24014

540-427-3064

SEPTEMBER 2018

mpumc.church

2019 Charge Conference is Oct. 3

Plan now to attend our 2019 Charge Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. We will host this event at our church, and it will include our church family along with Rockingham Court UMC. This conference represents the annual “official visit” of our district superintendent, the Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster. Most of the official business and reporting of the conference is done in advance, and so our time together is designed as a time of fellowship and spiritual reflection.

This year you are asked to think about some important questions in preparing for the time of “holy conferencing” with our superintendent:

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2 Genesis 9:8-17
All scripture is inspired

SEPTEMBER 9 to be announced

SEPTEMBER 16 Genesis 12:1-8
Abraham obeys God’s call

SEPTEMBER 23 Genesis 39:1-23
God is present with Joseph in prison

SEPTEMBER 30 Exodus 14:5-29
Deliverance through the Red Sea

OCTOBER 7 Exodus 19:3 – 20:17
God’s covenant and commandments

1. Describe a time in the last year when you feel your church was at its most fruitful and effective in serving others outside of your church.
2. What is your best advice for engaging people in your church to serve those outside of your church?
3. What question do you have for the other churches in the room about the challenges of serving people outside of your church?

Staff changes announced

Recently we announced some “happy/sad” news – that Heather St. Clair has accepted a new position as director of youth ministries at Penn Forest Worship Center.

We have been so blessed to have Heather help launch new programs and ministries here at Mount Pleasant over the past six years. We can’t imagine life without her, but we know God has great things in store for her ministry, and that God will provide new opportunities for us.

Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee is determined to keep effective children and youth ministries as a high priority. With God’s help (and in God’s time) we will discern the appropriate staff to help move us forward.

Please join us for a “GOD BLESS YOU CELEBRATION” for Heather and her family in worship on Sunday morning, Sept. 23. A light lunch will be served following worship, and there will be a basket for you to share cards, notes or love gifts.

Pastor Robert is doing a survey of families with children, and if you have any specific suggestions or concerns about keeping our children and youth ministries strong, please let him know.

BISHOP’S BIBLE CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 1 Ezekiel 18-19

SEPTEMBER 2-8 Ezekiel 20-39

SEPTEMBER 9-15 Ezekiel 40-48
 Joel 1-3, Daniel 1-6

SEPTEMBER 16-22 Daniel 7-12
 Ezra 4-6, Psalm 137, Haggai 1-2,
 Zechariah 1-14

SEPTEMBER 23-29 Esther 1-10
 Ezra 7-10, Nehemiah 1-13, Psalm 126

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 6 Malachi 1-4
 Luke 1-5, John 1-4
 Matthew 1-4, Mark 1



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

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

August 5	54	AUG. 2018 AVG.	62
August 12	75*		
August 19	62	AUG. 2017 AVG.	79
August 26	57**		

* includes Second Saturday

** includes Bible quiz campers

OUR GIFTS

August Budget Offerings	\$ 8,592.00
Average Monthly Need	\$ 9,625.00
**Other August Income	\$ 1,433.09
**Backpack (\$1,134.09), Ghana (\$200), Miscellaneous (\$70), Communion (\$29)	

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. One of our most "close at hand" missions that we support is the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. The annual amount is \$128, and this is pooled with gifts from other congregations to help fund awesome ministries.

VT Wesley offers regular worship, "communities of grace" (small groups), and hands-on mission, including a food pantry for college students in need. The Wesley ministry is led by Rev. Bret Gresham who has served as campus minister there since 2009.

ALSO - Remember that if you choose to leave an offering on the Communion rail, it often goes toward our fund to help neighbors in times of need. During August, we were able to use money from that fund to purchase a grocery store gift card to help a struggling family.

Narrative lectionary round 4...

Three years ago, Pastor Robert began a new preaching approach using the Narrative Lectionary. From September through May each year, the Scripture readings for preaching take us through the whole sweep of the Bible message, from Genesis through the New Testament. Each year focuses on one of the four gospels. The 2018-2019 Narrative Lectionary began with Noah on Sept. 2, and we will journey through the Old Testament again between now and Advent, and then move into the Gospel of Matthew this year. A year from now, Pastor Robert will have to decide whether to continue this approach for a fifth year or try something different, so your feedback is appreciated!

Men's Wednesday online Bible study

The online Bible study resumes Sept. 19 after Pastor Robert's vacation. See Pastor Robert for info on how to join the live discussion. We go live at 9:36 p.m. and are usually done in about 20 minutes. Beginning Sept. 26 we will do a fun new series based on the TV series "The Office!"

Across the area...

YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT sponsored by Virginia Annual Conference is Sept. 14-15 at Camp Overlook.

ALTA MONS SQUARE DANCE FUNDRAISER is Saturday, Sept. 15, 6-9 p.m. Live band and food trucks!

BISHOP LEWIS'S CONVOCATION ON PRAYER is Saturday, Sept. 15 in Richmond. Register now!

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFO SESSIONS on Sept. 17 and Sept. 26 (see article for info).

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION team will be working with ongoing repairs from flooding in West Virginia Sept. 20-24. For info, contact Keith Davis (540-250-5645) or Jackie Nutter (540-230-8176).

RE-GENERATIONS WORKSHOP on Sept. 29 at Greene Memorial UMC. Learn about ministry with all generations. See Pastor Robert to register.

DISTRICT UMW DAY and prayer breakfast is Oct. 13 at 9 a.m. at Southview UMC.

ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION is Oct. 14-19 at Roslyn Retreat Center. Sign up ASAP!

MEN'S SPIRITUAL WEEKEND is Oct. 26-27 in Virginia Beach. Register by Sept. 16 for best price.

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

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Arabella "Peanut" Manuel
- 2 Kirk Gibson
- 3 Kenley Coleman
- 4 Jane Taylor
- 6 Landon Dyess
- 10 Linda Schoonover
- 11 Jacob Jennings
- 12 Isaac St. Clair, Betsy Stutes,
Pat & Brenda Musselwhite
- 13 Jenny Basham, John Leslie
- 14 Kim Gembala, Tom McCann
- 15 Ryan Krawczyk
- 16 John Cline
- 18 Mike Gray, Greg Jackson, Amanda Holmes,
Ryan Nicholas Krawczyk
- 21 Jase Beckner
- 22 Nicole Jennings
- 22 David Krawczyk
- 24 James Dillon, Shayna Hastings
- 30 Brandi Smith

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

Wonderful Wednesday afterschool resumes!

It's BACK!! Wonderful Wednesdays Afterschool resumes September 19! This free program is open to students in grades K through 5 and meets on Wednesdays from the end of school until 5:30pm.

But we need your help to make it run! Would you be willing to volunteer one Wednesday a month to love on kids for a few hours? Or maybe you could pick up snacks for 20 while you're out shopping one week?

Will you pray for the leaders, those who have already stepped up and those God is preparing, as well as for the families of these students? Please see Jenny Basham for more information!

A note from Heather

On a personal note, you need to know how much I love the people of this church, this community, and the students I've been blessed to love on for the past six years. Truth be told, I didn't go looking for greener grass. Rather I was in the planning stages of fertilization for my own little patch here. I don't know why God does what he does, but I do know that I strive to follow the path he sets for me.

While I'm excited and terrified for the next stages, I am very sad to say goodbye to MPUMC. If there is anything that I can do in the next few weeks as we make this transition, please let me know. I am praying for you all and I hope you'll be praying for me. :) I love you.

Heather

General Conference info sessions

The February 2019 called session of the UMC General Conference has the potential to bring the church toward more unity or more division. During September, there are two learning opportunities if you would like to know more about the proposals being considered. You are invited to attend either event.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Southview UMC, 3539 Peters Creek Rd. NW. Live presentation by Martha Stokes, one of our Virginia representatives to General Conference.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at 7 p.m. at Thrasher UMC, 707 E. Washington Ave. in Vinton. Live streaming of Q&A event in Richmond, featuring Bishop Lewis, the Rev. Tom Berlin and Martha Stokes.

MP Youth mystery trip with Pastor Robert

Oh how fun this will be! This is open to youth in grades 6-12 – we'll have a Sunday afternoon mystery trip on Sept. 16. Meet at the church at 4 p.m. and prepare for something very interesting. Supper will be Pastor Robert's treat so you won't want to miss this. Dress comfortably – and you don't need to bring anything. We will be back by 9 or so.

Alta Mons winter camp

Mark your calendar for Winter Camp! We'll head to Alta Mons again December 14-16 for a weekend filled with camp activities, Christmas and Jesus. Visit altamons.org for more information or to register your child. Open to grades 2-12. It's a blast! Sometimes a frigid blast! But you don't have to sleep outside haha!

Nominations needs your help!

The Nominations Committee is working to make recommendations for our leadership positions for 2019. If you have an interest in serving, or if you know of someone who might be a good choice, please contact Pastor Robert or Jenny Basham, lay leader.

Don't miss these...

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Join us after worship to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with our monthly "Second Sunday" reception!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

MP United Methodist Women will meet at 3 p.m. for a program and business meeting. Women of all ages are welcome!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Meet at 11 a.m. at the church to carpool to 2nd Helpings for a "Dutch treat" lunch. Question? Call Karen Tate 427-1884.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Senior Fellowship meets at noon for lunch and program in Fellowship Hall. Open to the community – bring a neighbor!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Church Council meets at 7 p.m. Note date change!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Lunch Bunch at K&W Tanglewood – meet in entrance area at 11:30 a.m. (now on 4th Tues.)

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Roanoke, Virginia 24014

This is an interesting story shared with me by Paul Nickerson. He was our ministry coach in the “How to Reach New People” training, that showed us the importance of getting outside the church building!

This story comes from a pastor in Massachusetts whose church had started a book club discussion that met in the public library. As the pastor was setting up, a man wandered by and saw Bibles that had been set out, and inquired about the gathering.

He wound up joining the discussion group that day, and received an invitation to come again and to visit worship.

Nickerson notes that “none of this would have happened if the Bible study had happened in the church parlor and if the pastor had been preparing in the church office. If we want to meet new people we need to regularly be out in our neighborhoods. Go and do likewise!”

Speaking of getting “out in our neighborhoods,” I hope you will support the Sept. 22 Rec Club BBQ. This is one of the great annual events in our community. Don’t just show up to eat – find opportunities to mix and mingle and connect new friends and old!

Pastor Robert

If you have items for the October newsletter, prepare in written form by September 30 - give or email to Heather, 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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
12:30 p.m. 2nd Helpings
1502 Williamson Rd.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
11:30 a.m. Arby’s
1401 Jameson Ave.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
11 a.m. MtP Rec Club BBQ
3216 Mount Pleasant Blvd.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
6:30 p.m. Wm. Byrd HS Stadium
2902 E. Washington Ave.