



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

APRIL 2019  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## The Great Fifty Days

Many Christians know more about the “40 days” of Lent than the “50 days” of Easter? What’s that? FIFTY DAYS? The time from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week is a time of discipline and repentance. But the fifty days from Easter to Pentecost also have quite a history. These are days of celebration and rejoicing and renewal! We find ourselves moving from FASTING to FEASTING!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- APRIL 7                      Matthew 25:31-46  
                                    *The last judgment*
- APRIL 14                     Matthew 21:1-17  
                                    *The triumphal entry*
- APRIL 21                     Matthew 28:1-10  
                                    *The resurrection of Jesus*
- APRIL 28                     Matthew 28:16-20  
                                    *The great commission*
- MAY 5                        Acts 10:1-17, 34-48  
                                    *Peter’s vision*



### BISHOP’S BIBLE CHALLENGE

- APRIL 1-6                    Proverbs 25-31  
                                    Leviticus 1-7    Hebrews 3-8
- APRIL 7-13                Leviticus 8-20  
                                    Hebrews 9-13
- APRIL 14-20              Leviticus 21-27  
                                    Daniel 1-7    Revelation 1-7
- APRIL 21-27              Daniel 8-12  
                                    Ecclesiastes 1-12    Numbers 1-2  
                                    Revelation 8-14
- APRIL 28 – MAY 4        Numbers 3-19  
                                    Revelation 15-21

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

Our Bible readings for this season will move us beyond the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. We’ll see how the life and power of Jesus was made real among the people even after he ascended into heaven! The stories of the New Testament church are not just to be admired. They help us understand how God is at work right here and right now! Make these great fifty days a special time for you and your journey of faith!

### Holy Week worship

- SUNDAY, APRIL 14  
Palm Sunday worship at 11 a.m.
- THURSDAY, APRIL 18  
Maundy Thursday Communion  
6:30 p.m. at Rockingham Court
- FRIDAY, APRIL 19  
Good Friday Cross Walk  
10:30 a.m. beginning near  
Domino’s on Bennington
- SUNDAY, APRIL 21  
Easter Sunrise Worship  
6:30 a.m. at Garden City Baptist Church  
Easter Sanctuary Worship  
11 a.m. at MPUMC



### Open house

Pastor Robert and Betsy invite you to a come-and-go “Open House” at their new place on Sunday, April 28 between 3 and 5:30 p.m. The address is 52 Somerset Ave. in Daleville. This is a new street and may not show up on your GPS! Take US 220 north to the second light past Lord Botetourt HS. Turn left into Daleville Town Center. The single family houses are located just behind the apartments and the new townhouses. Street parking is available, but you may want to “carpool!”

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

March 3	54*	MAR. 2019 AVG.	58
March 10	79**		
March 17	58	MAR. 2018 AVG.	57
March 24	47		
March 31	51		

\* includes youth at district retreat

\*\* includes Second Saturday

### OUR GIFTS

March Budget Offerings	\$ 9,105.25
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,826.00
Other March Income	\$ 270.47
Backpack (\$143), Kroger Rebate (\$94.97), Communion (\$32.50)	

### 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!

Thank you for a strong month of offerings in March! One of our longtime UMC outreach ministries is the highly respected Africa University. A recent mission update tells about five AU students who completed research on building a biogas digester to produce renewable clean energy for household use in rural communities. A student named Monalisa says "Working on this project has made me feel like I am so much capable of greatness, and at the same time realizing that I have not been using my potential to the fullest."

The digester technology will be good for the environment since users would recycle waste which would then be fermented to produce heat for cooking and lighting. Our church partners with all other UMC congregations in the U.S. to help provide mission support for Africa University. Your dollars help to change lives!

### NOTE OF THANKS

TO MPUMC:

At PCC the kindness shown in support of our mission and PCC clients is inspiring. Today we thank you for being such a wonderful advocate and generous partner. The food collection (\$551.57 in groceries and \$160 in a check) was most appreciated. The pantry shelves have been well stocked...again...because of your congregation! Delivering the food all sorted and priced was a huge gift that you also provide. On behalf of our clients, the staff at PCC thanks you for partnering with us in serving those less fortunate in our community.

Cheryl H. Poe  
PCC director of volunteers

## WELCOME to MPUMC!

A big welcome to JIM BRABHAM (Kim Gembala's dad) as the newest member of Mount Pleasant UMC! He joins us by transfer from Crafts UMC in Franklin County, but was a member at MPUMC some years ago. He recently moved back to Virginia from Florida, so we are delighted to say "Welcome home, Jim!"

### Events near and far...

5K FUNDRAISER FOR GARDEN CITY and Crystal Spring PTA on April 6 at 9:30 a.m. on the Greenway.

ALTA MONS SUPPORTERS LUNCHEON is noon on April 6. All are invited!

MT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 4-7 p.m. on April 6.

BENEFIT CONCERT for the Rescue Mission by Roanoke College - April 12 at 6 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church.

DISTRICT WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT is April 13 at Crockett Springs UMC/Camp Alta Mons.

GOSPEL SING with "Beckon Call" at Rockingham Court UMC at 6 p.m. on April 13.

"BEAUTY OF THE CROSS" display of crosses around the world - April 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Raleigh Court UMC.

ROANOKE VISION DAY is April 27 at First UMC Salem. (See article for more info.)

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY for Roanoke Church Women United, 9:30 a.m. on May 3 at the Rescue Mission.

BISHOP'S SCOUTING DINNER May 23 at St. Mark's UMC.

OPEN MEETING WITH INTERIM BISHOP PETER WEAVER on June 1, 3 to 5 p.m. at Bethlehem UMC in Moneta. Bishop Weaver will discuss the impact of General Conference 2019.

SOLAR POWER FOR PUERTO RICO is a project to help in ongoing recovery from Hurricane Maria. Some areas still are without electricity. The goal is to raise \$50,000 in the Roanoke District by June 9.

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. There were also be an areawide 5K walk/run for early risers at 6:15 a.m. on June 22!

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 June Sink
- 6 Inez Barton
- 9 Kameron Tuck
- 10 Bobby Hylton
- 13 Michelle Krawczyk
- 14 Sarah Dyess, Gabe Leslie
- 22 Xander Hastings
- 23 Laken Musselwhite, Kat St. Clair
- 24 Ethan Hastings
- 29 Janet McMillan, Pat Tabor
- 30 Larry Fisher, Brayden 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 ministry update from Krae!

Mt. Pleasant Youth (grades 6-12) continues to meet at the church on Sundays, 5 to 7 p.m. We've been having a great turnout! Invite your friends! Note that we will NOT meet on Easter Sunday afternoon (April 21). We also had one of the larger youth groups at the recent district retreat at Virginia Tech. Keep an eye out for updates on the MP Youth Facebook page.

We are looking at several volunteer opportunities for members of the youth group – including doing yard projects at church along with volunteering in the community. Adult help is always appreciated, including help with food and snacks on Sundays. See Krae for more info.

KIDS CHURCH for the elementary age continues on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday mornings each month, and Wonderful Wednesday afterschool wraps up the season on April 10. Thanks to Jenny Basham and her team for making this such a special ministry. Stay tuned for updates on what the summer ministries will involve for our elementary age group.

## General Conference updates

At the global UMC General Conference in February, there was a strong push for something called the One Church Plan. This was a proposal to give pastors and congregations more freedom to determine their approach to diverse ministries without requiring global compliance on practices related to same-sex marriage and inclusion of LGBTQ persons.

The One Church Plan only received about 47% support, and in its place, the Conference actually approved stronger restrictions on pastors and congregations. Some saw this as a positive move, but it caused much distress for others, especially in the U.S. (About 42% of the conference delegates are from outside the U.S.)

The results of the conference were discussed at Pastor Robert's presentations during March, but if you have questions or concerns, he is happy to visit with you. It appears that there may be efforts to divide the UMC in some way so that various groups can minister as they feel called. These are difficult times, and you are urged to continue in prayer for the people of the UMC and for all who need the Lord. More information will be available at Bishop Weaver's presentation to our district on Saturday, June 1.

## Mark these dates...

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next Step – a 15-20 minute online Bible study/devotional for men – Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. See Pastor Robert for info on joining this online group!

### TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Senior Fellowship meets at noon for fellowship lunch. This is our special spring event featuring a music program from the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at MPES! Do you have a neighbor that would enjoy this?

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

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

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat at Crockett Springs UMC – meet at church to carpool.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m., with food and fellowship afterward! All are welcome!

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

"Second Sunday" celebration of April birthdays and anniversaries after worship.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

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

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

MP United Methodist Women will have a short meeting after worship. All women welcome.

## Roanoke Vision Day April 27

Have you ever wondered how a neighborhood church could reach people other than through the sanctuary worship on Sunday morning? Roanoke Vision Day is designed to help us think about "Fresh Expressions" of what a faith community might look like. Let's put together a lively team to attend this event! It's set for Saturday, April 27, 9:30 to 3:30 at First UMC in Salem. We will cover the registration for any of our Mt. Pleasant folks who are willing to attend! See Pastor Robert for a copy of the brochure, or go to [freshexpressionsus.org](http://freshexpressionsus.org) for more info about this exciting way to reach people with God's love.

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

On April 7, our worship bulletin had an insert with an article on reclaiming the importance of relationships. It was a powerful reminder that sometimes a church calendar can be very active with meetings, activities and projects and still fail in its mission of helping people connect to God and one another.

PASTOR  
CHATTER

This is not just a problem with large churches. Even in a small church that prides itself on “everyone knowing everyone,” it is so easy for some folks to fail to connect.

I recently received an email that had a reminder that even in the best Bible study group, the most important thing that happens is not absorbing more information about the Scriptures. Even more important is the development of strong faith relationships among one another.

The Greek word in the New Testament “KOINONIA” is often translated fellowship. But too often we think of fellowship as just enjoying the opportunity to chat and munch together. Now there’s nothing wrong with chatting and munching, but the Bible vision for koinonia is so much deeper. It means discovering the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit through sharing life together. Join me in praying for God to help us find ways to not just be a “busy church,” but to experience that power with each other!

*Pastor Robert*

**If you have items for the May newsletter, prepare in written form by April 28 - 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.

*TUESDAY, APRIL 2*

*3:00 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Library  
2918 Jae Valley Rd.*

*THURSDAY, APRIL 11*

*11:30 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings  
1502 Williamson Rd. NE*

*TUESDAY, APRIL 16*

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

*TUESDAY, APRIL 23*

*3:30 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Library  
2918 Jae Valley Rd.*

*TUESDAY, APRIL 30*

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