



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

AUGUST 2019
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

August 25 is “Back to School Sunday”

Whatever your age, join us for BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY on August 25. Our 11 a.m. worship will be “all age friendly,” with maybe a few surprises for the younger set! Families with school age kids – make every effort to be present! Following 11 a.m. worship we will enjoy an old-fashioned POTLUCK PICNIC! (This year we plan to enjoy an indoor air-conditioned picnic, but you are still welcome to dress casually and comfortably!) Hot dogs with all the trimmings and beverages will be provided. You are invited to bring sides and desserts to share. We’ll also celebrate August birthdays, anniversaries, and anything else that needs celebrating!



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- AUGUST 4 Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-30
A competent wife
- AUGUST 11 Luke 2:41-52
Young Jesus in the temple
- AUGUST 18 Luke 18:15-17
Let the children come to me
- AUGUST 25 Luke 9:46-48
Who is the greatest?
- SEPTEMBER 1 Genesis 3:1-24
Adam and Eve’s disobedience

BISHOP’S BIBLE CHALLENGE



- AUGUST 1-3 Psalms 57-65
Acts 21:18—23:15
- AUGUST 4-10 Psalm 66-80
Acts 23:16—28:31
- AUGUST 11-17 Psalms 81-99
1 Peter 1-5 Galatians 1-2
- AUGUST 18-24 Psalms 100-118
Galatians 3-6 2 Corinthians 1-3
- AUGUST 25-31 Psalms 119-134
2 Corinthians 4-10

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

NOTE: If you have items for the September newsletter, prepare in written form by August 25 and give or email to Robert or Jenny!

Paint the pastor!

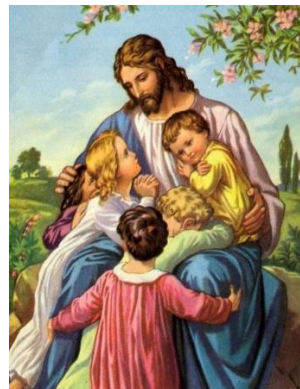
After enduring slime, ice water, a Mohawk haircut, eating insects, and many other indignities the last few years, Pastor Robert will be ready for a new challenge on Aug. 25. All children and youth will have the opportunity to help “PAINT THE PASTOR” following our picnic lunch. Bring your artistic skills and give him a makeover to remember!

Thank you!!

Thank you for your generous contributions of school supplies for children at Henry Fork Service Center in Franklin County. Over \$275 of items were delivered on July 30.



New message series “All the Children of the World”



Pastor Robert’s message series for August 11-25 is titled “All the Children of the World.” As we celebrate “back to school” time we will be looking at some Bible passages that help reveal the heart of God for children – with lessons that all of us need to learn. We will also enjoy singing some new and old kid-friendly songs each Sunday in worship!

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

July 7	35	JUNE 2019 AVG.	44
July 14	54*		
July 21	43	JULY 2018 AVG.	56
July 28	45		

* includes Second Saturday

Let's work hard to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy!

OUR GIFTS

July Budget Offerings	\$ 7,768.80
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,826.00
Other June Income	\$ 482.28
Backpack Ministry (\$280), Kroger Rebate (\$123,28), Communion (\$52), Fundraiser (\$27)	

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!

Many church folks have inquired as to whether UMCOR has been able to provide assistance to children being detained at the U.S. border with Mexico. Unfortunately, government regulations do not allow UMCOR to provide assistance to children being detained in holding facilities along the border. However UMCOR has been able to distribute over 46,000 hygiene kits to six transitional shelters along the border. Additional ministries are provided in several cities through the "Justice For Our Neighbors" program. Keep everyone involved in your prayers, but especially the youngest and least of these.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3	Krae Heath
4	Kacy Milton
6	Blanche Hill
10	Michael & Shayna Hastings
11	Ryan & Michelle Krawczyk
12	Marie Carter
16	Benny Basham
20	John Mathena
23	Scott Whitehead
24	Timber McMillan
25	Robert Stutes
26	Robert & Betsy Stutes
29	Ruby McMillan
30	Elijah Manuel
31	Eleanor Fisher, Jacqueline Ratliff, Branden Purtell

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!

Update on General Conference

The recent session of the Virginia Conference considered motions related to the 2019 General Conference on how to be an inclusive church for all people. The action of the global General Conference has not been welcomed by the majority of U.S. annual conferences, so there will continue to be much discussion during 2019 and 2020.

On Sunday, August 11, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Pastor Robert will share an update on the actions in Virginia and what might be ahead for our United Methodist Church. This will include a video update of what has unfolded in the last year. Please continue to be in prayer for the whole church and for all God's people!

Church that may not look like church

FRESH EXPRESSIONS is an awesome way to discern more about how a church might "do church" in ways that may not look like church – to help reach folks who might never be part of our Sunday morning sanctuary experience.

Anyone is welcome to join Pastor Robert and attend the Roanoke Vision Day roundtable on Wednesday, Aug. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Cave Spring UMC. Robert and Jennie attended the first Fresh Expressions event and it would be great to have a few more folks at the next one! See either of us for more info!



Events near and far...

DISTRICT STEWARDS meet 7 p.m. August 6 at St. Paul's UMC in Christiansburg.

RECEPTION HONORING ELLEN WALTON, retiring principal of Mt. Pleasant Elementary, 2-4 p.m. August 11 at Mt. Pleasant Baptist.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CAMP (for children with an incarcerated parent) needs volunteer mentors and drivers August 11-16. Contact Lori Smith (571-245-9591).

ROANOKE VISION DAY ROUNDTABLE August 14 (see article).

DISTRICT COOKOUT AT CAMP ALTA MONS August 24 (see article).

BISHOP'S CONVOCATION ON PRAYER September 14 in Richmond.

HERMITAGE GUILD FUNDRAISER September 21 – save the date and watch for more info!

VIRGINIA MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE September 27-28 in Virginia Beach. See Pastor Robert for info!

VISIT THE HOLY LAND with Bishop Sharma Lewis in February 2020. See Pastor Robert for a brochure.

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

BACKPACK MINISTRY UPDATE

School is around the corner, and it's time again to plan for the Backpack Program at Mt. Pleasant Elementary. Aug. 12 is the first day of school. We plan to send food home the following week. This ministry provides food each week for about 50 students who may have little or no food for the weekends. We combine our efforts with MP Lions Club and four other churches (Brookhill, Rockingham Court, MP Baptist and Bedrock) to meet this growing need.



SO HOW CAN YOU HELP? Each group has responsibility for certain items, and our church provides Beanee-Weenees (individual servings), small individual boxes of cereal, and Mac & Cheese (individual microwave servings). You can help by donating these items or by making a monetary donation. The cost of the items we provide is \$1.88 a week per child. For 50 children the cost for our church is \$376 a month. Please make checks payable to Mt. Pleasant UMC and mark for "Backpack Program."

Remember that this ministry is supported above and beyond our regular giving. It is a special mission for us, and not a part of our general budget. You can also help by helping pack the bags at the school. Our church will cover the months of August and September. Signup sheet is in the sanctuary! We usually pack Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. but we can work any day, other than Friday, as long as bags are ready by noon on Thursday. You will definitely receive a blessing. It's wonderful fellowship. Any questions, contact Jenny Basham (wbasham843@aol.com or 427-5248 or 797-4003). I really need your help! Thank you!

Children & youth ministry update from Krae!

KIDS – don't miss BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY on August 25. Hot dogs after worship, plus an opportunity to "paint the pastor!" TERRIFIC TUESDAYS completed the "Cooking With Jesus" series on July 27. Thanks to all our great workers and helpers!



Kids Church for elementary age on first and third Sundays of each month. We go downstairs after the offering time for a special age-friendly lesson! On other Sundays, Pastor Robert looks for ways to include the younger set in the worship experience, including the activity/bingo handouts! If you have ideas for making worship more kid-friendly, talk to Krae or Robert!

Sunday afternoon youth group meets Aug. 11 and Aug. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. for fun, food and learning. On Sept. 8 we return to our every week schedule! Rising 6th graders come join us. And see the youth Facebook page (@mtpleasantyouth) for all the info and for youth group updates!

Krae

"SHARE THE LIGHT" update

At last report, \$39,537 has been raised by the Roanoke area churches for the solar panel project for parts of Puerto Rico that still have no power after Hurricane Maria. Pastor R. J. Jun and his team are equipping a team to help deliver and install the kits this fall. If you are interested in being a part of this volunteer team, please contact Pastor R. J. at Raleigh Court UMC (540-344-6011). Continue to keep the people of Puerto Rico in your prayers.

Mark these dates...

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next Step – a 15-20 minute online devo for men on Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. See Pastor Robert.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Meet at 11 a.m. to carpool to "Dutch treat" lunch at 2nd Helpings, or join us there at 11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Finance Committee at 7 p.m. "Open meeting" – you are welcome to attend!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

MP United Methodist Women meets after worship for a short business session. Women of all ages are welcome to participate!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

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

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A few weeks ago we began a series on our Wednesday evening online men's group called LESSONS FROM FOOTBALL FOR THE GAME OF LIFE! Football season is right around the corner and it certainly brings out the passions in many of us. One of the things I noticed in this series is how many athletic images are used in the letters of Paul. He encourages all of us to be diligent in "running the race."

PASTOR
CHATTER

While others are still at the beach in August, football players are spending their hot days training for the upcoming season. Some will probably wilt and drop out. Others choose to stick with it.

"Stick with it" is a good lesson for us as disciples of Jesus. Even the Bible talks about the time when many in the crowds found Jesus' words too challenging, and so they turned away.

Athletic contests are fun, whether you are a participant or a spectator, but the game of life is the one that really matters. Have you been drooping in your faith? Listen to the words from the Bible: "I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14 ceb)."

Keep your eyes on the prize!

Pastor Robert

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, AUGUST 1

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

*12:30 p.m. Lucy Kat's
3808 Yellow Mountain Rd.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

*12:30 p.m. Arby's
1401 Jameson Ave.*