



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

NOVEMBER 2019  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## Celebrating Thanksgiving 2019

THANKSGIVING is right around the corner! It is such a special day for our country. We will celebrate Thanksgiving themes in our worship on the preceding Sunday, November 24, and our choir has been working on a special musical piece for that day, a song called "Lord of the Harvest!"

We will also enjoy a neighborhood tradition with our community Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening, November 24 at 6 p.m. This year our host congregation is Rockingham Court UMC, 4615 Bryan Rd., right off of Yellow Mountain. Pastor Robert will bring the message for this community service. As in previous years, any singers are invited to come a bit early at 5:30 p.m. that evening to practice a community choir song. Don't miss this special opportunity to worship with our neighbor church friends!

### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- NOV. 3 Numbers 14:1-12, 16:1-5, 23-25  
*The rebellion and complaints of the people*
- NOVEMBER 10 Numbers 11:16-35  
*Moses chooses seventy leaders*
- NOVEMBER 17 Numbers 17:1-13; 21:1-15  
*The staff of Aaron and the bronze pole*
- NOVEMBER 24 Psalm 104  
*Giving thanks for creation and harvest*
- DECEMBER 1 Exodus 1:8-14, 22; 2:1-10  
*Jochebed and the birth of Moses*

### BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

- NOVEMBER 1-2 2 Samuel 19-22  
2 John, 3 John
- NOVEMBER 3-9 2 Samuel 23-24  
Nahum 1-3, Habakkuk 1-3, Zephaniah 1-3  
Ezra 1-8, Colossians 1-4, 2 Timothy 1-3
- NOVEMBER 10-16 Ezra 9-10  
1 Chronicles 1-18, 2 Timothy 4  
Luke 1:1—2:24
- NOVEMBER 17-23 1 Chronicles 19-29  
2 Chronicles 1-9, Luke 2:25—6:26
- NOVEMBER 24-30 2 Chronicles 10-24  
Luke 6:27—9:36

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

**NOTE: If you have items for the December newsletter, prepare in written form by November 24 and give or email to Robert or Jenny!**

### Celebration potluck on Nov. 10

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 10 after worship for a fellowship potluck! We will be celebrating Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, birthdays, anniversaries, and anything else we can think up! Please bring a dish to share and join the celebration. A main dish (Thanksgiving ham) and beverages will be provided, so bring all the goodies to fill out the table!

You are also invited to bring a photo of your favorite veteran for our traditional remembrance display table in fellowship hall.



### Mistletoe Market at the Hermitage

Don't miss the excitement at the MISTLETOE MARKET, Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Hermitage Roanoke. Sponsored by the Hermitage Guild, the market features a bake sale, crafts, silent auction, and used book sale. To be a success, we also need your donation of these items. Good silent auction items include items you want to "re-gift" or a gift card from a business (like 2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings Café). If you have any questions, please contact Winky McCann. Items other than baked goods need to be given to Winky by Nov. 12. Thanks in advance for your help! All funds are used to enhance the lives of Hermitage residents!

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

October 6	57	OCT. 2019 AVG. 49
October 13	63*	
October 20	45	OCT. 2018 AVG. 52
October 27	31	

\* includes Second Saturday

Oops! Let's do our best to honor the Lord's Day.

### OUR GIFTS

October Budget Offerings	\$ 9,980.68
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,826.00
Other October Income	\$ 331.00
Communion/UMCOR (\$124), Backpack Ministry (\$107), Repair Project (\$100)	

### 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 talent to make a positive witness for Christ and his church!

### YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!

Your generosity in October was awesome, Your gifts will help keep our ministries strong as we draw close to the end of the year, and will insure 100% support of our shared mission causes.

This summer we saw a great example of global partnership as Pastor Alex Joyner traveled from Virginia to the African country of Burundi, where he spent 10 days as one of the instructors of a group of some 200 pastors in a "course of study!"

One of the unanticipated questions was when he was asked about how to perform a full immersion baptism when there were hippos in the water!

Joyner was also impressed by the spirit of the Burundi pastors, as two Methodist groups that had gone through a time of division had recently reunited! During the 12 year time of division, there was very little pastor training available! Praise the Lord for this effort.



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Grace St. Clair
4	Charles Grant, <i>Mike &amp; Denise Gray</i>
5	Dean Shell
6	<i>Walter &amp; Deb Heath</i>
8	Josette McMillan
14	Johnnie Williams
15	Riley Felicita
16	Winky McCann, <i>Jan &amp; Janet McMillan</i>
17	Danny Dyess
18	<i>Rick &amp; Terri Beck</i>
19	Lindy Manuel, <i>Mike &amp; Kim Gembala</i>
23	Walter Heath
24	Zayden Christopher Holmes
29	Sharon Hylton, Beth Whitehead

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!

## Advent begins December 1

The season of Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas, and it always begins either in late November or early December. Our festive celebrations in December sometimes cause us to lose sight of the real focus on Advent. Prayerfully use our Sunday worship experiences and your daily devotional times to keep your focus!

This year our December scriptures have a unique theme – "IMPORTANT BIRTHS" (see list on front page). We will see some common themes in these four stories of times when God used the birth of a child to transform many lives!



### The light is shared in Puerto Rico

A recent Roanoke Times article highlighted the completion of the district SHARE THE LIGHT mission project in Puerto Rico. The district volunteer mission team served in Vieques, Puerto Rico October 6-14 and completed the delivery of solar panels to areas still affected by Hurricane Maria. Team members assisted with deliver, set up, and training for the residents.

Thanks to all who supported this outreach ministry! We collected our offering of \$343.54 earlier this year!



### Events near and far...

"PARIS TO PITTSBURGH" is a National Geographic film on climate change, being shown Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. at Raleigh Court UMC.

CAMP ALTA MONS ANNUAL MEETING Nov. 10 at 1:30 p.m. at Thrasher UMC.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. at Thrasher UMC. Tom and Winky McCann serve as our official representatives, but all are welcome to this time of celebration and inspiration. There is a short time devoted to necessary annual business, but the main thing on the agenda is worship and fellowship together! A districtwide combined choir will present special music!

DRUMSTICK DASH – 5K race and family walk at 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day to benefit the Resuce Mission of Roanoke.

WOUNDED HEARTS/HEALING LOVE RETREAT for singles who are struggling with pain as the holidays approach – Dec. 6-8 at Camp Overlook (540-269-2267).

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 8 – 11 a.m. on Dec. 7 at the Mount Pleasant Lions Club Building on Mayfield. This annual event is offered to ALL AGES at no charge by the Lions Club. Help spread the word to your neighbors!

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

# MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!



## Children & youth ministry update from Krae!

MP Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) continues on Sundays at 5 p.m. We have also begun work on trying to clear out and clean up the old scout building (next to the picnic shelter) so future use in youth activities! Please see me if you have materials or furniture that you might be able to donate to help with this project! We are also working on setting dates for community service in November. We would also love to have more "sponsors" to assist with the meal for one or more Sunday evenings for these hungry teens. Just see Krae for more info! Parents - keep in touch with the MP Youth Facebook (@mtpleasantyouth) page for updates, changes or special events.

Kids Church (K-5<sup>th</sup>) continues to meet twice a month (Nov. 1 and Nov. 15). We go downstairs after the offering time for a special age-friendly lesson! On other Sundays, we work to include kids in special ways.

Krae

## All Saints recognition

On Sunday, November 3, we join with Christians far and wide in observing All Saints Sunday, remembering and honoring the heroes of faith who have gone on before us. We also take time to give thanks to God for the lives of these MPUMC members and friends who were commended to God's eternal care in the past twelve months: Peggy Richardson, Joyce Heath and Ruth Robinson.

## Winter camp at Alta Mons

WINTER CAMP is December 20-22 for grades 2-12. S'mores over a campfire, hikes to the (potentially frozen) waterfall, starry nights, and camp friends are all waiting for you.



Winter Camp incorporates the highlights of summer camp along with fun Christmas activities (decorating cookies, making ornaments, and other fun surprises). You can register online now at [altamons.org](http://altamons.org). Print brochures are also available!

## "Coats-Giving" for the Rescue Mission

We continue to collect new or gently used winter coats for men, women and children to help our neighbors stay warm. There's a collection box up in the sanctuary. Thanks for sharing and caring!

## Mount Pleasant 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 Monday, Nov. 11 at the school. The program is always a great time of tribute! Please come whether you are a veteran, or wish to honor our veterans!



## Mark these dates...

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next Step – a 15-20 minute online devo for men on Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. We continue the series "Lessons From Football For the Game of Life." See Pastor Robert for info.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m., with food and fellowship afterward! All are welcome to this non-denominational time of inspiration and fellowship.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Finance Committee meets to make plans for the 2020 church budget. If your ministry area has specific budget requests for the coming year, please let us know ASAP!

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings "Dutch treat" lunch – meet in church parking lot around 11:15 a.m. to carpool. You can also meet us there around 11:30 a.m.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Senior Fellowship meets at 12 noon for lunch. Program will be "Share a Memory." If you wish, bring a memento of family or friends – display it and share the memory! Open to the community, so invite a neighbor!

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

United Methodist Women meet at 3 p.m. for Pledge and World Thank Offering.

*K&W 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Lunch Bunch will resume in January 2020!*

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



It was a privilege last month to attend the Duke Pastor's School as a part of my continuing education. Even though I have been preaching weekly for over forty years now, I still find it necessary to continue my education, and it is always eye-opening to

participate in events like this.

One of the presentations was by a Duke faculty member who noted some stunning statistics on resource utilization in the local church. In particular, this researcher looked at the large number of church buildings in all kinds of settings – urban, suburban, small town and rural. It was estimated that about 14% of the buildings' weekly capacity was actually being used. This was compared to a business metric that suggested that at least 68% of a building's capacity needed to be used for optimal effectiveness.

It is stunning to think about the number of church buildings across Roanoke where many of the rooms are maybe used for one hour a week. Fortunately at MPUMC we do have a few spaces that are used for multiple purposes, but our church building is no exception to this concern. The point was that we fail to see our facilities as an asset that can help drive new ministries! Pray about this and maybe God will place an inspiration on your heart!

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, NOVEMBER 7*

*8:00 a.m. Hardee's  
605 Ninth St. SE*

*THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14*

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

*TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20*

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

*TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3*

*4:00 p.m. Sweet Donkey Coffee  
2108 Broadway*

