



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

JANUARY 2020
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

Pray for our 2020 church leaders!

Leadership positions for 2020 were elected at our Charge Conference in October, and they take office now. Keep them in your prayers. Remember that there are many ways to serve as a part of the ministry of MPUMC! There's a place for you! And all are welcome to our first Council meeting on Jan. 16.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Winky McCann (chair), Karen Tate (vice-chair, UMW, family/social, outreach), Jenny Basham (lay leader), Kim Gembala (secretary), Joyce Ison (lay member annual conference), June Sink (membership secretary), Sylvia Addis, Hope Patsel (nurture), Terri Beck (worship), Krae Heath, Ryan Nicholas Krawczyk, Marie Carter, Kathy Ray, Tom McCann, Janet McMillan, Beth Whitehead, Bobby Hylton, Brenda Musselwhite, and the chair of the Trustees

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

JANUARY 5	John 8:12-20 <i>Light of the world</i>
JANUARY 12	John 3:22-36 <i>John's testimony</i>
JANUARY 19	Matthew 21:33-46 <i>Parable of the wicked tenants</i>
JANUARY 26	Luke 6:46-49 <i>Parable of the wise and foolish builders</i>
FEBRUARY 2	Luke 5:33-39 <i>Parable of the wineskins</i>

BISHOP'S BIBLE CHALLENGE

For 2020 readings, go to vaumc.org/
BishopLewis or see the printed
handouts.



TRUSTEES: Danny Dyess, Bill St. Clair, John Mathena, Scott Whitehead, Ryan Krawczyk, Paul Schroeder, Michael Hastings, June Sink, Kathy Ray

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS: Kim Gembala (chair), Jenny Basham, Ray Arthur, Janet McMillan, Joanna Schroeder, Terri Beck, Kim Gembala, Beth Whitehead, Nicole Jennings

NOMINATIONS/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Robert Stutes (chair), Jenny Basham, Karen Tate, Rick Beck, Joyce Ison, Hope Patsel

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Karen Tate (chair), Robert Stutes, Joyce Ison (treasurer), Jenny Basham, Sylvia Addis (financial secretary), Kim Gembala, Winky McCann, John Leslie, Trustees representative

ADDITIONAL: Tom & Winky McCann (delegates to district conference), Ray Arthur (district steward), Winky McCann (Hermitage Guild representative), Joyce Ison & June Sink (Communion stewards), Ray Arthur (district board of missions), Krae Heath (scout representative)

POSITION OPEN: Alta Mons representative

What is Epiphany?

January 6 is the day of Epiphany. The word literally means "manifestation." It is traditionally the culmination of the Advent/Christmas message, celebrating God made manifest in the flesh – coming into the world in the person of Jesus!

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

December 1	41	DEC. 2019 AVG. 48
December 8	54	
December 15	49*	DEC. 2018 AVG. 55
December 22	49	
December 29	48	
Christmas Eve	75	

* includes Second Saturday

OUR GIFTS

December Budget Offerings	\$ 9,519.00
(includes "December Special" giving)	
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,826.00
Other December Income	\$ 2,226.56
Memorials (\$840), Christmas Eve (\$594.86), Backpack Ministry (\$376), Kroger Rebate (\$119.70), Paraments (\$100), Outreach (\$100), Communion (\$56), Flowers (\$40)	

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!

Our Christmas Eve offering was given entirely to outreach beyond our church family! The amount was divided between the Babyfold ministry in Zimbabwe and the Blue Ridge Women's Center right here in Roanoke! Our DECEMBER SPECIAL offering was \$1,117 as of Dec. 29, and is included in the monthly budget offerings listed above. Each generous offering means so much in helping us once again be a 100% supporter of our apportionment goals for shared ministry!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Wayne & Charlotte Myers
- 5 Callie Foutz
- 10 Brittany Stanley
- 20 Jennifer Holmes
- 21 Sam Heath Bradford
- 24 Rahim Brownell, Audree Mae Smith
- 29 Tina Workman

Worship notes for January

Beginning January 19, Pastor Robert will start a new message series on the Parables of Jesus. The teachings of Jesus so often come to us in story form, and many times the message they bring is one that is not at all what we might expect. Open your mind and heart to God's leading as we hear again these surprising stories of Jesus!

In memory

BETTY GRANT	BETTY CLARK
December 15, 2019	December 29, 2019

We commend these sisters in the Lord to his eternal care, and pray for God's watchful care for their loved ones.

Welcome to MPUMC

What a joy it is to welcome NICOLE JENNINGS, 1025 Barrens Village Ct., as the newest member of the MPUMC church family. Nicole is the director of family programs at the Presbyterian Community Center. She and her husband Patrick and son Jacob have been attending here for some time and this past summer they moved from Franklin County to Roanoke. She comes by transfer from her home church, Three Bells UMC in Duffield (Scott County), Va.

Events near and far...

YOUTH/PARENT EVENT Jan. 12 at Windsor Hills UMC (see article).

CHURCH TREASURER/FINANCE COMMITTEE TRAINING Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at FUMC Salem.

UNITED METHODIST DAY Jan. 30 at Virginia General Assembly in Richmond (see article).

"RECONNECT" – TIME WITH BISHOP LEWIS live stream Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. at Thrasher UMC (includes lunch – see article).

LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON RACIAL RECONCILIATION Feb. 15 at 9 a.m. at Central UMC Salem.

PAUL BUNYAN DAY at Camp Alta Mons March 21.

FAITHFUL AGING CONFERENCE at Bonsack UMC March 31.

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

Re-Connect with Bishop Lewis

Bishop Sharma Lewis invites folks from around Virginia for a time of "re-connection" following her return from medical leave – Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (includes lunch). The event will be live streamed across the state, and our location is Thrasher UMC in Vinton. "It is my deep desire to reconnect with you in a personal and special way having been away for six months," Lewis said. "Let us come together for a time of worship, fellowship, anointing, sharing our hearts, and re-connecting. I want to hear from you and I want to share my journey with you."

MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

Youth stuff from Krae!

As we begin to enter a WHOLE new decade we are very excited for what 2020 holds in store for us. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support throughout 2019; we could not have done it without you! 2020 is looking to be a big year for the Mount Pleasant Youth. Our dream to convert the Scout Building into our new Youth Room continues. There is some construction and electrical work that we may not be able to complete ourselves, so if you are skilled in either of those, or know someone who is, please reach out to me. We are still looking for furniture donations as well! We are also currently organizing community service activities for the year, so if anyone has any input or potential activities, let me know!

Upcoming events:

Feb 16 - District Youth Mystery Party, more details to come.

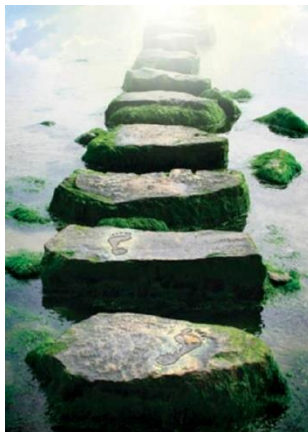
Feb 28-March 1 - District Youth Weekend at Wesley - the students of Wesley at Virginia Tech will lead us over the weekend in activities, worship and mission. Cost is \$20 per person.

April 26 - District Youth Skate Party

July 23-24 - Helping Hands - Local children's mission experience.

20/20 VISION FOR THE TWENTIES!

The Roaring Twenties are back! What will the coming decade look like for our church family? What might our NEXT STEP look like? It is hard to anticipate next week, much less ten years from now. Put on your thinking cap, and start dreaming! On Sunday, Feb. 2, Pastor Robert will crawl out of his groundhog hole and share some thoughts about a vision for the Twenties! You can help by sharing your hopes and dreams during this month. Send them by text, Messenger, email or write them on the yellow cards. Let's dream big!



Thank you messages

To the ladies in the kitchen! Thanks so much for the delicious array of food that you provided for my family and friends. A number of people remarked on how good it was. Of course I was not able to eat that day but I am still enjoying the good that Jenny sent home with us! Even though I am not a member of your church, I feel very close to most of you. I used to tell Ed that we had the best of both worlds!
Helen Granger

A special "Thank you" to Rev. Stutes for visiting Mom and Dad through the years. Mom spoke of you often. Also want to thank the sweet ladies of the church for the luncheon they prepare for all of us. Dad loves you all so much. Thank you.

The Grant family
Danny, Lynn, Chuck, Gaynelle and Charlie

Mark these dates...

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Next Step – a 15-20 minute online devo for men Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m. Starting new series on "fruit of the Spirit."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

2nd Helpings "Dutch treat" lunch – meet in church parking lot at 11 a.m. to carpool or meet us there at 11:30.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Second Sunday Fellowship after worship honoring January birthdays and anniversaries!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

First Church Council meeting of the new year at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

United Methodist Women has a short meeting after worship – women of all ages welcome!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Senior Fellowship meets at 12 noon – open to the community – Hannah Anderson will bring the program!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

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

In case of snow or ice...

As in past years, check with Channels 7 or 10 (television or online) for updates on closings due to weather. Do note that there are several Mt. Pleasant UMC's in the viewing area! We make every effort to be open, but PLEASE use good sense and discretion. Our road may be open, but yours many not be. We try to open the doors for anyone who shows up. If we must cancel worship (as we did once in December 2018), we'll do our best to go live on Facebook, depending on power! This audio is available to you live or later on our church's Facebook page!

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Roanoke, Virginia 24014



THE TWENTIES. It's hard to believe that we are in the Twenties now! It's also hard to believe that I am in my seventh year at MPUMC. On Sunday, Feb. 2, I'll share some of my hopes and dreams for our church family – on this 2020 Vision Sunday. Please

share your hopes and dreams with me this month as we look ahead to this very special Sunday. I hope you will be present!

HEADLINES. This week brought national headlines proclaiming that UMC leaders had arranged a split of the denomination. Please note that the headlines are quite premature. What actually happened is that a small group representing various opinions has developed a proposal to provide options for those who wish to exit the UMC. This proposal was only released on January 3 so it is really fresh, but is causing much conversation. I will do a little more reading and praying and then share some initial thoughts at our Council meeting on January 16. Council meetings are open to all, so I invite you to come! You may also join me at Out and About times to share thoughts together! If there is additional information, I may add a more detailed session in the near future, perhaps in February. Pray for the witness and mission of our beloved United Methodist Church!

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.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

*12:30 p.m. Hardee's
605 Ninth St. SE*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

*12:00 noon Lucy Kat's
3808 Yellow Mountain Rd.*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

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