



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

FEBRUARY 2020
540-427-3064 mpumc.church



“Mardi Gras” potluck - Feb. 9

We had so much fun at our last MARDI GRAS potluck, that we are doing it again! Sunday, Feb. 9 after worship – you won’t wanna miss it. You may not even know that Mardi Gras is connected to the traditional Christian calendar – a day and season of feasting and celebrating before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. We’ll also celebrate February birthdays and anniversaries as well. There will be lots of purple, green and gold. Bring a favorite dish and join the fun!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 2	Luke 5:33-39 <i>Parable of the wineskins</i>
FEBRUARY 9	Luke 11:5-13 <i>The persistent friend</i>
FEBRUARY 16	John 6:26-71 <i>The bread of life</i>
FEBRUARY 23	John 7:32-52 <i>Living water</i>
MARCH 1	John 13:31-38 <i>A new commandment</i>

FEBRUARY WORSHIP NOTES

We continue our message series on the parables Feb. 2 and 9, and then we will look at some of Jesus’ mysterious statements about himself in the Gospel of John. The crowds weren’t sure how to respond when he described himself as “the bread of life” or “living water.”

For March, Pastor Robert will have a series on LOVE – looking at the four different Greek words for love and what the Bible teaches. Pastor Robert and Betsy will be on vacation March 3-11 and Nathan Anderson will speak at worship on March 8.

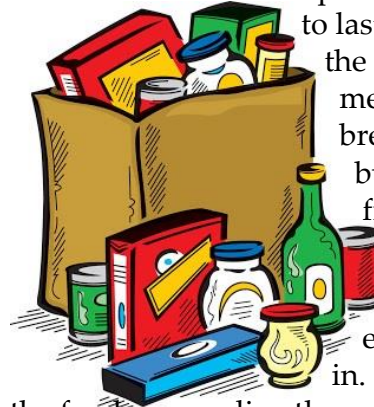
BISHOP’S BIBLE CHALLENGE

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

February is HUNGER BUSTERS month

Once again, February is HUNGER BUSTERS month at MPUMC. We will be collecting food for the PCC food pantry all month. Hunger Busters seeks to help people in the community get involved in helping others. And what a blessing it has become with many churches, organizations and neighborhoods joining forces together to fill the food pantry shelves.

Eligible clients receive a food order with a variety of nutritious canned and packaged food. One order is enough to last a few days. Here are some of the most needed items: canned meat, fish, stews, soup; beans; breakfast items; dry cereal; peanut butter; mac & cheese, canned fruit, powdered milk.



PLEASE include your store receipt, or mark the price on each item before bringing them in. This saves volunteer time and the food can go directly on the shelves. You may also make a monetary donation – mark your check or envelope “PCC-FOOD” and we’ll do the shopping for you! Grocery bags with the full “shopping list” are available at church. Return your items by Sunday, Feb. 23. Whatever you can give will make a difference to someone who is hungry in SE, NE Roanoke or Vinton.

Ash Wednesday - Feb. 26

Lent begins with our community Ash Wednesday worship service on Feb. 26. Time and place to be announced!

OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

OUR PRESENCE

January 5	42	JAN. 2020 AVG. 43
January 12	53*	
January 19	42	JAN. 2019 AVG. 51
January 26	34	

* includes Second Saturday

OUR GIFTS

January Budget Offerings	\$ 6,307.71
(includes additional "Dec. Special" giving)	
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,805.00
Other January Income	\$ 1,231.89
Backpack Ministry (\$702.89), Memorials (\$360), Memorial/Christmas Eve Outreach (\$150), Communion (\$19)	

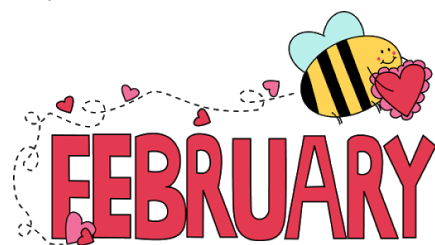
OUR PRAYERS, SERVICE AND WITNESS

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! Invite someone to church every week.

YOUR GIVING HAS RESULTS!

Once again MPUMC will be on the 2019 list of "100+% Churches" on Virginia. Your steady giving made that possible. The Roanoke District has more 100+% churches than any other district, because the district voluntarily adds two percent to the amount asked to help do MORE than our part! Thanks to all who gave to make this possible!

Amazingly, in addition to our support of shared giving, we raised OVER \$5,100 for special outreach projects: Backpack ministry, "Share the Light" to Puerto Rico, Babyfold in Africa, Blue Ridge Women's Center, Hermitage, Annual Conference Offering (for ministries in Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Mozambique, Brazil, and Virginia), Roanoke Builders Club, Gideons, Presbyterian Community Center, Mount Pleasant Elementary, and Ghana missions! Your dollars literally stretch around the world!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3	Michael Hastings
5	Shelby Krawczyk
6	Brenda Musselwhite
7	Debra Heath
13	Alisa Felicita
15	Landon Beckner
17	Eileen Wimmer
18	Meagan Creel

Events near and far...

PASTOR ROBERT will attend the conference-sponsored ethics training event on Feb. 5 at Culpeper. Every pastor is required to do an ethics training event once every four years. This year's theme is "The Minister as Moral Theologian."

"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.

FERRUM COLLEGE CHOIR IN CONCERT Feb 23 at 2 pm at Thrasher UMC in Vinton.

VISION – DISTRICT YOUTH WEEKEND at Virginia Tech, Feb. 28 – March 1.

PAUL BUNYAN DAY at Camp Alta Mons March 21.

FAITHFUL AGING CONFERENCE at Bonsack UMC March 31.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN CAMPS next summer are for children age 7-12 who have an incarcerated parent. Volunteers are needed to serve as mentors. Contact Lori Smith at 571-245-9591.

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

Backpack Ministry update

THANKS for your support of the Mount Pleasant Backpack Ministry. Your prayers and donations have continued to answer a need in our community. Remember this is an ongoing program for the school year.



Right now our resources are low and we need your help to continue to do our part in providing 40 children food for the weekend. Our church donates the small individual cereal boxes as well as the small individual servings of "Beanee- Weenees" and "mac and cheese" (microwave). Weekly cost of these items is \$1.88.

The cost for 40 children is \$300.80 each month. This ministry is not part of our regular budget. It is supported entirely by your "second mile" gifts. It is our largest ongoing mission project. Make your checks payable to Mt. Pleasant UMC and mark it for "Backpacks." If you have any questions, contact Jenny Basham (427-5248, 797-4003 or wbasham843@aol.com).

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!

Upcoming youth group events!

- FEB 2 No youth group on Super Sunday
FEB 16 District youth mystery "Whodunnit" party
FEB 28 – MAR 1 District youth retreat at VT Wesley
Escape room (date to be announced)
St. Patrick's scavenger hunt (date to be announced)
APR 26 District youth skate party
MAY 23 Cookout at Krae & Colleen's
Putt-Putt and Thunder Valley (dates to be announced)
JUL 23-24 District youth Helping Hands
July All Nighter (date to be announced)

Krae

Sign up now for Confirmation Class (6th-12th grade)

Pastor Robert will offer Confirmation Class this spring. We have scheduled a trip to the areawide Confirmation Retreat at Lake Junaluska, May 1-3. Confirmation is preparation for making an individual faith commitment to Christ and his church (for youth in grades 6-12). The retreat allows youth to get a full sense of the larger church of which they are becoming a part! Contact Pastor Robert ASAP to sign up. Space is filling for the May event. If your youngster is interested, but cannot attend the May 1-3 event, please see Pastor Robert. You may be able to attend with your youngster on an alternate date.

Spring Bible study

Pastor Robert will offer another 6-week Bible study beginning in late March. This will be "Intro to the Old Testament." We hope to again have a Wednesday evening AND a Thursday morning option. Watch for details!

Check that door

"THANKS" to all who supported our fund raising for replacing the hardware on the back downstairs door. We no longer have to chain it! If you lock up after an event, you may do so with your key. Stop to make sure that the door closes all the way. Every now and then it will "almost" close but fail to catch. Thanks for your help!

In case of snow or ice...

Check Channel 7 or 10 (TV or online) for weather closing info. Note that there are several Mt. Pleasant UMC's in the area! We make every effort to be open, but PLEASE use good sense and discretion. Our road may be open, but yours may not be. If we cancel, we'll do our best to go live on Facebook, depending on power! The audio is available live or later on our church's Facebook page!

From the Gideons

PRAYER-GRAM: Pastor, it is our joy to regularly pray for all pastors in this area, but today we chose to pray specifically for you, your church, and your ministry in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Roanoke City East Camp – Gideons International 1/18/20

Update on UMC plans...

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 16, Pastor Robert will give an update on recent proposals for handling differences of opinion in The United Methodist Church. Headlines in early January may have implied that a decision had been reached, but any new proposal must still come before General Conference in May. The newest proposal does have a wider base of support and may indeed pass in some form. Pastor Robert will help explain this newest proposal and will answer any questions or concerns you might have. Join us Sunday, Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m.



Mark these dates...

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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, FEBRUARY 9

Mardi Gras Potluck after worship (see front page)!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

United Methodist Women business meeting after worship – all women are welcome!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Senior Fellowship lunch 12 noon. Local Office On Aging presents "Aging in Place." Lunch and program free and open to the community. Do you have a neighbor you might invite?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Finance Committee meets at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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

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Roanoke, Virginia 24014



I remember when a pastor friend was sent to a new church in the Houston area. I noticed that in every one of her church newsletters, you could find this little tagline at the top of the page – “INVITE, INVITE, INVITE!”

I realized that I never really asked her why this was always at the top of the page, but I think I figured it out on my own. You see, all of us realize how important a personal invitation to church might be. But too often we just don't get around to it. Or we think that others might be offended. Some of us can remember back when finding a friendly neighborhood church was high on the list of many folks relocating to a new area. We know that is no longer the case.

This is why it is even MORE important for us to remember the little admonition – to “INVITE, INVITE, INVITE.” By the way, you might be surprised that even folks who don't attend church will often be responsive to an invitation to help with a project. When you sign up to pack food for Backpack ministry or Hunger Busters, invite someone to come. If you are working on the lawn at church, invite someone to come. If you are bringing school supplies to Henry Fork, invite someone to come. You might be surprised at the response!

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, FEBRUARY 7

*4:00 p.m. Little Green Hive
16 Church Ave. SW*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

*12:00 noon Arby's
1401 Jamison Ave. SE*