



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

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

MARCH 2020  
540-427-3064 mpumc.church

## The season of Lent begins

The 40-day season of Lent began with our community worship service on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, and continues through Saturday, Apr. 11 (the day before Easter). The forty days actually do not include Sundays. This is a reminder that our disciplines of Lent (fasting, prayer, abstaining from pleasures) are our faith practices on Monday through Saturday. This year we have a devotional guide you can use that coordinates with our Sunday worship themes. Pick up your copy at church, or if you want we can email you an electronic copy!



### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

MARCH 1	John 13:31-38 <i>A new commandment</i>
MARCH 8	Guest preacher
MARCH 15	Luke 5:17-26 <i>The faith of friends</i>
MARCH 22	Song of Solomon <i>Love is as strong as death</i>
MARCH 29	John 3:16-17 <i>Unconditional love</i>
APRIL 5	John 12:12-16 <i>Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem</i>

### MARCH WORSHIP NOTES

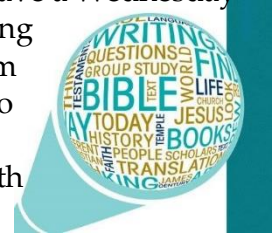
For March, Pastor Robert will have a series on LOVE – looking at the four different Greek words for love and what the Bible teaches us about love. Pastor Robert and Betsy will be on vacation March 3-11 and Nathan Anderson will speak at worship on March 8. Pastor Robert will be away on Palm Sunday, April 5, and we will welcome Joy Sylvester-Johnson to bring the message.



Turn your clocks forward ONE HOUR on Saturday, March 7 so you'll be on time on Sunday, March 8!

### It's BIBLE STUDY time again

Sign up with Pastor Robert for our spring Bible study. will follow the same format as last fall, this time with six sessions on the Old Testament. We'll have a Wednesday evening group AND a Thursday morning group (beginning March 25-26). Let him know ASAP if you plan to participate so we can order student books. Books are \$14 each, and you may share a book with a family member!



Long ago ancient peoples gathered and told stories of how the world began, what the first people were like, and which of them were heroes or failures. They tried to make sense of the world around them and tried to sort out who the gods were and what those gods wanted from them.

Years later, one set of those stories has come down to us in the form of the Old Testament. It is the story of the Jewish people and their distinctive God, giving us a glimpse through story, song, history, and law of the rocky, raucous, faithful, fumbling beginnings of one of the oldest religions on earth. This course will help you better understand the Old Testament in the context in which it was written. You will come to a new appreciation for this amazing collection of ancient texts and the faith that they represent.



### Girl Scout Sunday March 8

Each week young lives are touched through our willingness to host a Girl Scout troop here at MPUMC. On Sunday, March 8 we will celebrate GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY, and we look forward to this annual update on the good work that takes place by this group. Be here to give them a church family welcome!

## OUR FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

### OUR PRESENCE

February 2	44	FEB. 2020 AVG.	51
February 9	64*		
February 16	50	FEB. 2019 AVG.	53
February 23	44		

\* includes Second Saturday

### OUR GIFTS

February Budget Offerings	\$ 7,980.25
Average Monthly Need	\$ 8,805.00
Other February Income	\$ 1,083.00
Backpack (\$492), Memorials (\$360), Hunger Busters/PCC (\$180), Christmas (\$30), Communion (\$16), Upper Room (\$5)	

### 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!

Here's a mission project you may have never known about - the NOMADS - a group of about 850 RV-owners who serve on a regular basis doing hands-on helping projects! The NOMADS have only one actual employee. Everyone else volunteers! The ministry began in 1988 with a group of Methodist snowbirds who wintered in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas each year. The ministry eventually became incorporated as part of the UMC's Global Ministries organization!

Their services are particularly valuable to smaller churches that may not have money to pay for needed projects. One pastor commented: "They come with a lot of skills - painters, plumbers, electricians, you name it. But the big thing is, they come with a servants heart!" For more information, go to [nomadsumc.org](http://nomadsumc.org).



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Joe Stanley
- 3 Mike Jenkins, Gail Thurman
- 7 Abigail Smith, Gabrielle Smith
- 9 Britney Nicole Glisson
- 10 Terri Beck, Mary Beth Richardson
- 11 Mary Workman
- 12 Paul & Joanna Schroeder, Ray & Mary Workman Arthur
- 13 Ray Arthur, Krystal Coleman
- 14 Jordan Taylor
- 15 Jan McMillan
- 16 Annalise Creel
- 18 Jackson Honaker
- 19 Tariq Nowalish
- 21 Katie Fisher, Joyce Ison
- 26 June Lavelle
- 30 Wayne Myers
- 31 Janette Sandidge

## Events near and far...

ROANOKE DISTRICT BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION meets March 8 at 3 p.m. at Locust Grove UMC. You are welcome to attend.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY TRAINING on March 10 and 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at PCC. (Must attend both days.) Contact Susan Frank at 540-982-2911.

PAUL BUNYAN DAY at Camp Alta Mons March 21 - volunteers of ALL AGES wanted! Meet at the Dining Hall at 9 a.m. (rain or shine) to begin the day's work of raking, trail clearing, log splitting, mattress washing, pool cleaning, etc. Free for all volunteers!

FAITHFUL AGING CONFERENCE at Bonsack UMC March 31. Register by March 13.

UMW SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT April 4 at Alta Mons.

MAUNDY THURSDAY community worship service April 9 at 7 p.m. at Rockingham Court UMC.

LAY SERVANT TRAINING April 25 at Southview UMC.

UNITED METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE meets May 5-15 in Minneapolis.

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](http://roanokeumc.org). More news is also available at the [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) web site.

### In memory

**DUANE ISON**  
February 3, 2020

**KATHRYN "KAT" ST. CLAIR**  
February 7, 2020

**We commend Duane and Kat to the Lord's eternal care, and pray for his watchful care for their loved ones.**



### A big thank you!

Dear Church Family and Friends,  
THANK YOU! The Family/Social and Outreach ministry teams have been extremely busy for several months.

Your willingness to help out, when and where needed, is greatly appreciated! Many blessings to you!

Karen Tate

### Nurses needed...

Do you know a registered nurse who might be willing to use his or her skills in a camp setting? Camp Alta Mons is looking for RNs who can give a week of their time as a volunteer camp nurse. Yummy meals and excellent lodging provided (including wi-fi). Camp season is June 21 through July 17. If you need more information, contact Meredith Simmons at 540-268-2409. Camp happens because of these generous folks, so if you know someone, pass the word!

# MINISTRY WITH ALL AGES!

## Upcoming youth group events!

- \*\*\*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)
- JUNE – JULY Summer camp sessions at Alta Mons (registration is open)
- JUL 23-24 District youth Helping Hands
- \*\*\*July All Nighter (date to be announced)

Krae

## Sign up now for Confirmation Class (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Notes of thanks

On behalf of Kat's family, we want to thank each of you for your many expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. You showed your love by cards, calls, flowers, and your attendance at her service. She was special to all of us.

The family of Kat St. Clair

Dear Church Family, Thanks so much for your prayers, cards, calls, and visits during the loss of our mom. Your many acts of kindness are greatly appreciated, as friends and family have been a great comfort to us during this difficult time. We miss Mom every day, but take solace in the fact that she is in heaven, and we will all be reunited one day. With grateful hearts,

The family of Betty Clark  
Gary, Denise, Mike and Chad

A big THANK YOU for your support for our Hunger Busters food collection. The total (including food items and monetary donations) came to \$734.04. What a great response! Thanks so much, and thanks to youth group members who helped pack the food for delivery to PCC!

## Books and more books!

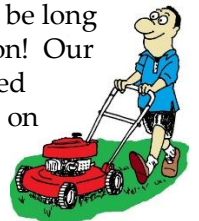
The UMW has several outdated books from our past reading library, and these are free to anyone interested. They are displayed on a table in Fellowship Hall. Please help them find a good home!

## Mark these dates...

- EVERY WEDNESDAY  
Next Step – a 15-20 minute online devo for men Wednesdays at 9:36 p.m.
- SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
"Second Sunday" reception after worship to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11  
Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Women will meet at 11:30 a.m. for business and a "lite" lunch, followed by the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 12  
Meet at the church at 11 a.m. to carpool to 2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings for "Dutch treat" lunch!
- SATURDAY, MARCH 14  
Second Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m., with food and fellowship afterward! All are welcome to this casual, non-denominational time of inspiration.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 17  
Senior Fellowship will meet at 12 noon for lunch, and then enjoy music by Mt. Pleasant Elementary second graders. The community is welcome!
- THURSDAY, MARCH 19  
Finance Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. and Church Council meets at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend!
- TUESDAY, MARCH 24  
Lunch Bunch at K&W Tanglewood – meet at 11:30 a.m. in entrance area.

## You can help!

Believe it or not, it won't be long until lawn mowing season! Our church finances are helped tremendously by relying on volunteers to help with this task. Volunteers usually take a month at a time. Let us know if you would like to "take a turn" at mowing duty this year!



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When many of us think of the season of Lent, we think of giving things up. I remember a time when our Catholic friends did not eat meat on Fridays. Now this is done only during the season of Lent. That explains some of the awesome fish dinners served at

some of our neighbor churches during Lent! (I love those dinners, but I'm not sure that I'm really giving up all that much

I was surprised to hear this week that the new "imitation beef burgers" were ruled unacceptable by a Catholic church leader in Pennsylvania. His ruling was that since it was so much like beef, we should not indulge in it either! (That might be a great marketing opportunity for the fake beef folks!)

Why would we fast or give up certain foods? Denial of familiar pleasures can be a helpful discipline to remind us of our dependence on God. If I undergo a 24-hour fast, each time I feel a hunger pang, it may remind me to seek first God's kingdom.

Our United Methodist Church does not have a bunch of mandatory rules for Lent. You're invited to live it out in a way that's meaningful for you. Just don't be one of those who gives up broccoli for Lent and thinks that's a good goal...haha! Blessings.

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, MARCH 12*  
11:30 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Helpings  
1502 Williamson Rd. NE

*WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18*  
3:30 p.m. Mt. Pleasant Library  
2918 Jae Valley Rd.

*THURSDAY, MARCH 26*  
4:00 p.m. Starbucks  
915 Hardy Rd., Vinton

*THURSDAY, APRIL 2*  
12:00 noon Hardee's  
605 Ninth St. SE