



The Mount Pleasant Messenger

October 2021

From Pastor Robert ...

I am excited about the opportunity to attend the 2021 Leadership Institute hosted by Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City (Sept. 29 - Oct. 1). It has been a long time since I have been able to attend a face-to-face event like this. It is hard to believe that I am beginning my ninth year of ministry here at MPUMC. Before this time, the longest I had ever lived in one place was seven years!

We have an outstanding team that is looking at the future of our church's mission and ministry. These are very difficult times for church families as we face so many things beyond our control. Yet time and again we see signs that we are not alone. God is with us as we face each new challenge. Pray for the help of the Holy Spirit in discerning our next steps together.

--Pastor Robert Stutes

OLD TESTAMENT SERIES CONTINUES

Our Sunday morning journey continues as we look at great themes of the Old Testament. During October we will cover chapters 6-10 of *We Make the Road By Walking*. Follow the Scriptures each week to prepare for worship:

- OCT 3 Genesis 12:1-9 Galatians 3:6-9 Mark 11:15-19
- OCT. 10 Genesis 18:9-33; 22:1-14 Micah 6:6-8 Acts 17:19-34
- OCT. 17 Genesis 32:22—33:11; 50:15-21 Matthew 25:31-40
 Luke 10:25-37
- OCT. 24 Exodus 1:1-14; 3:1-15 John 8:1-11 Galatians 5:1, 13-15
- OCT. 31 Exodus 20:1-21 Matthew 22:34-40 Hebrews 10:1-18

CHURCH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7th



This year our annual Church Conference will take place immediately following worship at 12 noon on Sunday, November 7. In addition to the usual reports and action items, we will have the opportunity to take action on a special item. Our PRG (Post-Covid Re-Entry Group) recommends the adoption of a new "simplified board" structure for MPUMC beginning in 2022. Four administrative groups - Council, Trustees, Finance and Staff-Parish - are combined into a single Leadership Board. If you have questions about this proposal, please contact Pastor Robert, Lay Leader Jenny Basham, or SPR Chair Kim Gembala! (When a charge conference is opened to the vote of all church members, it is labeled as a "Church Conference.") A pizza lunch will be provided for all following the meeting!



- Oct 3 World Communion Sunday
- Nov 7 Church Conference (After Worship)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- 7 Claudine Wagner
- 11 Charlotte Myers
- 16 Emory Whitehead
- 27 Hunter Musselwhite
- 31 Tommy Booth

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Danny & Sarah Dyess
- 23 Chuck and Della Mattox

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Robert Stutes, Pastor
Krae Heath, Dir of Children and Youth
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 3rd

For many years, the first Sunday of October has been designated as "World Communion Sunday." It is a time when many congregations of various traditions celebrate the Lord's Supper. Join us on Oct. 7 as we observe this special time at the Lord's table.



A NOTE OF THANKS

The Virginia Annual Conference wishes to thank Mount Pleasant UMC for the donation of \$420 to this year's special offering. This

2021 offering focused on food insecurity in the Commonwealth and our Partnerships of Hope. Over \$90,000 was raised and the funds were distributed to both causes. Visit vaumc.org/acoffering for more info. Thank you again for your generosity. May God continue to bless your commitment to mission and ministry.

--Rev. Seungsoo "RG" Jun
Associate Director of Serving Ministries

MEET OUR LAY LEADER!



Jenny Basham and her husband of 50 years, Benny, have been worshipping with us since 2005, and we often hear it said, "What would we do without Jenny!"

A long-time elementary school teacher, Jenny spent 22 years at our neighbor school, Mount Pleasant Elementary, teaching 5th graders. When asked about her career, she told us, "I taught all subjects, but math and science were my passion. Science was a door that I could open and help a student become more excited about learning."

She used a hands-on approach with lots of experiments stating, "there was more thinking and sharing ideas and drawing conclusions" with science

and math. That "hands-on approach" continues in her role as our lay leader as she serves as Pastor Robert's right hand!

We asked her what her greatest blessing and her greatest challenges are as lay leader. She responded, "This may not seem a blessing, but as Lay Leader I'm required to attend all committee meetings! You may cringe at the thought of all those meetings, but it has been a blessing in that it helped me to see how our church works together in all areas and complement each other. Plus, I've been able to meet and get to know many people in the church. My biggest challenge as Lay Leader is staying on top of things and knowing where I'm needed and where God wants me to be."

Thank you, Jenny, for sharing your heart and your passion with us. We are blessed!

From Hope's Heart ...

Hope Patsel is a lifelong member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and dearly loved by all. We have asked her to share a few words with us each month. We look forward to more from Hope!



The telephone rang AGAIN! I glanced at the number, and it didn't seem familiar. Since I was a little weary of telemarketers, I decided to use a new approach. I picked up the phone and said, "Well, good morning! It's a beautiful day here in Virginia. My name is Hope! Now, what is the nature of this call?" There was a brief pause and a voice said, "Hope, this is Ann!" Needless to say I was embarrassed and apologized from the bottom of my heart to my dear friend. (She does live in a different area and we don't talk very often.)

Sometimes we may do or say things that can be a little impulsive, even harmful, to someone's feelings. We should always weigh our words carefully, no matter to whom we are speaking! My friend Ann was very understanding and forgiving, and we have talked again since that day.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14

LEADERSHIP BOARD UPDATE

At the September meeting of the Administrative Council, those present voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed Simplified Accountable Structure leadership change. A formal proposal will come from the Council for vote at the Church Conference on November 7th. Upon approval, our assigned coach will begin meeting with the Nominating Committee, chaired by Pastor Robert, to be trained on the structure so they can begin seeking individuals willing to serve on this 9-member Leadership Board.

During the next month, members of this team (who are also the post-covid re-entry group) will be meeting with individuals and families in the church to gather thoughts on how they envision the church's "new normal" as we begin to come out of this pandemic.

COVID-19 UPDATE

FROM THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE:

The conference continues to allow local congregations to set safety measures that work well on a local basis rather than having conference-wide requirements. The most recent update from the conference is a reminder that the more recent relaxed requirements have also meant an increase in the number of local church exposures across the state. Fortunately, the high level of vaccination compliance has meant that mass outbreaks have been avoided.

The current best practices come not as a mandate, but as a request. If you are eligible to be vaccinated, we encourage you to get vaccinated. For everyone 2 years and older, we encourage you to wear a mask for the protection of others when gathered in an enclosed area.

If you attend church gatherings and subsequently test positive, we encourage you to share the news so we can control the spread. Please continue to offer remote worship options for those who prefer this way of attending.

The conference expresses its thanks to all leaders who are working so hard to make their churches a safe and healthy environment. We are all in this together, but most importantly, God goes before us and is leading us forward.



Krae Heath, Director

October Kid's Memory Verse:

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God, I trust and am not afraid." Psalm 56:3-4

October Children/Youth Birthdays:

Emory Whitehead - October 16th

Nursery Update: We can provide care if you have nursery-aged children, but we ask you to give us advanced notice to ensure we have someone to man the nursery!

Confirmation Class: Pastor Robert is Holding a Confirmation Class for those who are at confirmation age! We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, feel free to call, text, or email me:

540-467-2406

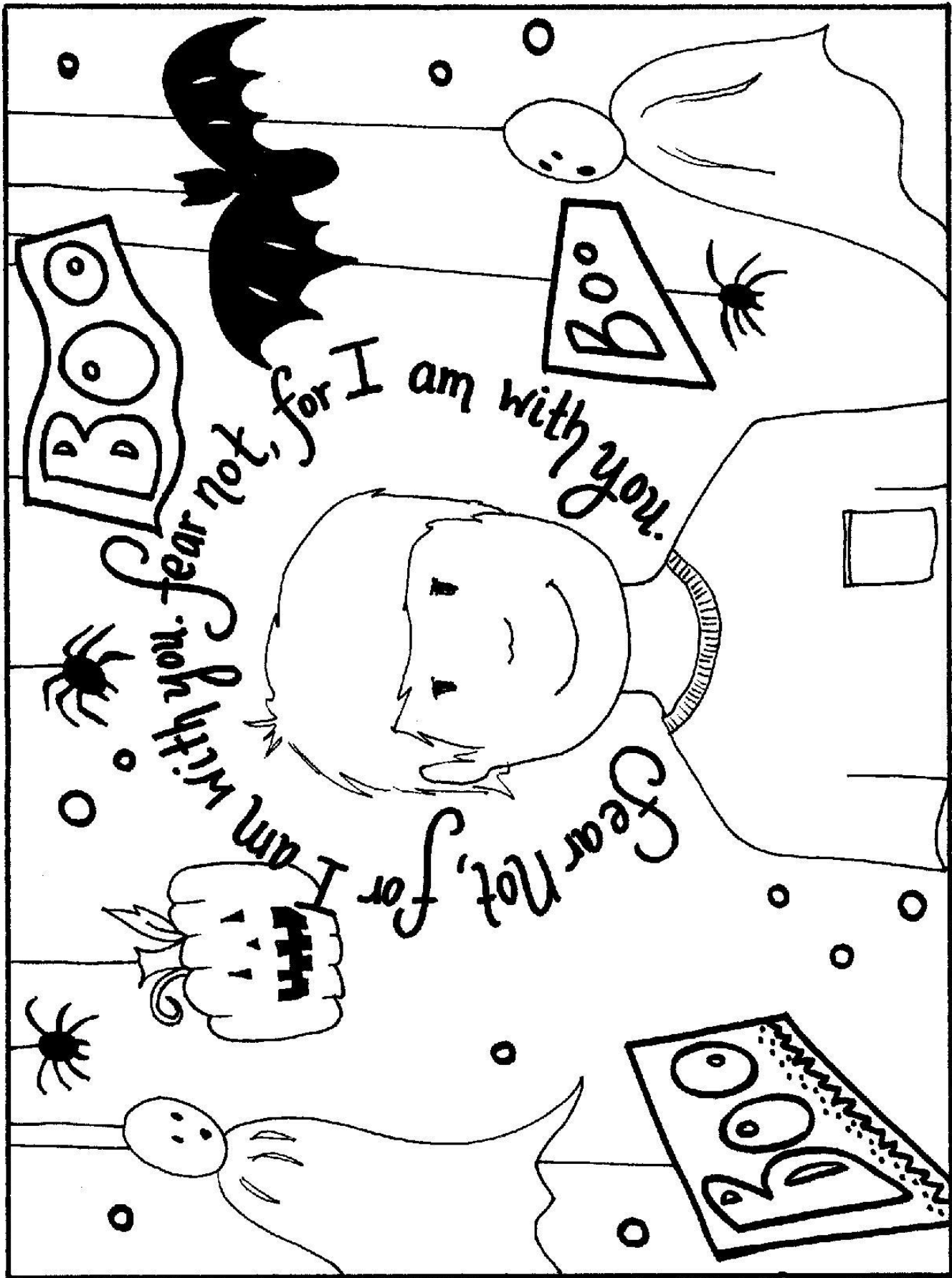
wkheath@gmail.com.

UMW OCTOBER SOCK DRIVE

Homeless individuals often have inadequate foot hygiene practices and improperly-fitting shoes. How can you help with this? Support the UMW's October drive to collect **white socks** for the guests at Roanoke's Samaritan Inn day shelter. A collection box will be in the downstairs hallway. If you wish, you can make a monetary donation. Make your check payable to Mount Pleasant UMC.



From Krae for our Kiddos ... A Halloween Coloring Page!



ministry-to-children.com

Mandy Groce '10

