



The Mount Pleasant Messenger

December 2021

From Pastor Robert ...



-
- 4 Conf Youth Rally
 - 5 Council Meetings
(Noon and 4pm)
 - 9 Lunch Bunch 11:30
 - 14 UMW Pot Luck 12:30
 - 16 Council Meeting 7pm
 - 17 Winter Camp @
Alta Mons
 - 24 Christmas Eve
Worship 6pm
 - 25 Merry Christmas!
-

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- 1 Chuck Mattox
 - 6 Jane Burks
 - 9 Joanna Schroeder
 - 10 Paul Schroeder
 - 10 Robert Workman
 - 11 Karen Tate
 - 14 Brandon Taylor
 - 26 Billy Altice
 - 24 Sylvia Addis
 - 29 Della Mattox
-

No Anniversaries in December!

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Robert Stutes, Pastor
Krae Heath, AV & Media
Outreach Coordinator
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

What music do you think of when you think of Advent? Some pastors and churches are very traditional, and they defer the singing of all Christmas carols until Christmas Eve. It's hard to do this in our culture, when Christmas melodies start drifting through the stores shortly after Halloween!

During December, even as we focus on the important themes of Advent, we'll also enjoy some of the favorite Christmas music of the season. But we'll also use Advent songs - both those that are familiar and some that aren't so familiar. (You hardly ever hear an Advent hymn in Target or Walmart.)

Some of the lesser-known Advent hymns have amazingly wonderful messages for us. Flip through the hymnal some time and take a look at the words from 196 through 214.

The song "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (UMH 213) has a stanza which invites us to "fling wide the portals of your heart," to "make it a temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy."

The song "Hail To the Lord's Anointed" (UMH 203) is one that reminds us how Jesus' coming has earth-shattering power to change everything: "He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity."

I encourage you NOT to devote only one hour on Sunday to the themes of Advent. Let the Scriptures and devotionals and music of the Advent season be a blessing to you each day between now and Christmas Eve!

--Pastor Robert Stutes

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES

Our series "We Make the Road by Walking" moves now to finding our place in the story of Jesus. Here are the Scriptures for December, following chapters 15-18 of the guidebook. Read these Bible selections as you prepare for worship.

- DEC. 5 - Luke 1:5-55; Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7; Romans 12:1-2
- DEC. 12 - Jeremiah 32:31-35; Micah 5:2-5a; Matthew 1:18—2:15
- DEC. 19 - Psalm 34:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 2:8-20
- DEC. 24 - Isaiah 60:1-3; John 1:1-5, 9-10; 3:19-21;
8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36, 46
- DEC. 26 - Psalm 117; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:25-32

CHURCH COUNCIL TO MEET THREE TIMES!

Believe it or not, we will have THREE important Church Council meetings during December. Our regular meeting will be **Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7 pm**. This will include the approval of the 2022 budget and nominations reports. We are also having an important meeting on **Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 pm** called as a "Charge Conference" by our district superintendent. All churches that have had Cub Scout and/or Boy Scout groups are meeting simultaneously and are asked to act on an important legal matter related to the reorganization of Scout relationships with sponsoring churches. We will also have a short meeting of Council members immediately **following 11 am worship on Sunday, Dec. 5** to help explain the Scout issue, and reach a consensus for our vote on that afternoon. Your patience and your attendance are appreciated, and all are welcome to attend these meetings.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

Please consider a special gift during December to help us to finish the year well, and to begin the 2022 in a healthy way. Your faithful giving (along with careful financial management) has helped us to stay current with this year's apportionments for district, conference and global ministries! We are so very grateful to each of you! Now let's finish well! Enclosed is an envelope you may use to bring or mail your December offering.

Youth Activities

CONFERENCE YOUTH RALLY

December 4 is the first district or conference youth event in a long time, and we are excited to have a group of three adults and five youth to attend the rally at Randolph-Macon College. Keep these folks in your prayers - Robert Stutes, Krae Heath, Janette Sandidge, Emma Adams, Sophia Adams, Landon Dyess, Samantha Garcia, and Riley Slusher. The event includes worship, special speakers, and serving opportunities for grades 6-12!

WINTER CAMP AT ALTA MONS

Registration for youth winter camp (Dec. 17-19) at Alta Mons is full. This year's theme is "THE JOY OF ALL CREATION," and camp is planned for grades 2-12. For information about registration wait listing, please call the camp at 540-268-2409.



*Winky McCann lights the Hope Candle
for the 1st Sunday in Advent*

CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES AT MT. PLEASANT UMC AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Come and fellowship with The Lunch Bunch on Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 at K&W cafeteria on Hershberger Road.

UMW CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK

Karen Tate will host the UMW in her home for a Christmas Pot-Luck on Tuesday, December 14 at 12:30. Bring your favorite dish to share! At this time, the UMW will be collecting toys to be donated to the Henry Fork Center for their birthday celebrations in 2022. (Price Limit \$10)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT

Candlelight Communion on Christmas Eve is a special tradition at MPUMC! Join us at 6 pm on Friday, December 24 in the sanctuary. It's a great time to extend an invitation to friends and family, neighbors and coworkers. Plan now to send an invitation message, email or note to at least five persons or families during December. Our offering on Christmas Eve will go 100% for special mission opportunities - both local and global. Watch for more info!

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT THE HERMITAGE

Don't miss the second annual "Festival of Lights" at the Hermitage Roanoke, 1009 Old Country Club Rd. The lights will shine from 6 to 9 pm each evening from Dec. 4 through Jan. 2. On opening night, the first 500 children will receive a treat. Everyone is invited to drive through and enjoy the beautiful display!

SPECIAL DECEMBER MUSIC AT SOUTH ROANOKE UMC

The public is invited to these special musical events at South Roanoke UMC, 2330 S. Jefferson:

THE MESSIAH SING ALONG is Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 pm, featuring young artists from Opera Roanoke.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS is Saturday, Dec. 18 at 3 pm, featuring David Stewart Wiley, piano; Tara Bouknight, mezzo soprano; Philip Bouknight, bass; and Julie Hickcox, piccolo and flute. Masks are required. Donations are accepted.

MOUNT PLEASANT FIRE-EMS STATION ANNUAL SANTA DRIVE-BY

Watch for Santa to come through the Mt. Pleasant community on Sunday, December 19th! As always, Santa will be on the Fire Truck!! Be sure to wave ... and give a shout out to the First Responders too!!



Sophie and Emma Adams show off the no-bake Pumpkin Pies they made in Sunday School. Their lesson taught them to follow the instructions in a recipe for cooking and follow the instructions in the Bible for life.

From Hope's Heart ...

Hope Patsel is a lifelong member of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church and dearly loved by all.



What are some of the special memories you have of Christmas? Is it the Christmas you put up your tree in your very first home of your own? Is it the Christmas you watched your child or your grandchildren in the Christmas parade? Is it the first Christmas after you became a new parent or a new grandparent? Is it the times you rode around looking at all the lights and decorations? Is it the special foods you only have at Christmas time? Is it Christmas plays, the beautiful pageants, and the candlelight service at church on Christmas Eve?

In our special times with family and friends may we always remember with joy our Lord Jesus who was born in a manger and served among us as an example of how we too should live and love.

"To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11



JANUARY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

January Leadership Training for our district is Saturday, January 22, and will feature a ZOOM presentation on "preaching and hearing sermons in a polarized age" by Bishop William H. Willimon. There will also be a variety of workshops for pastors and church members. Watch for more information on the details!



A Thank You from The Samaritan Inn

"We so appreciate your giving and praying for us! God is so good to us all. We are keeping the faith here at

Samaritan Inn thanks to God's faithful providing and work on our behalf. Please continue to pray for our guests on these colder nights.

Thank you for the socks!! Love that it was a 'Lawrence Clark' sock project! What a great way to remember him."

– Georgia, Administrator/Director

An additional Care Package for our college students and military members was sent to Josette McMillan. We apologize that she was somehow omitted from our list last month. Josette is a student at VCU in Richmond and will graduate in December 2022.



June Sink and her granddaughter Brittany are shown here with Mt. Pleasant Fire and EMT workers.

Thanksgiving meals of roast turkey with all the trimmings were delivered to Mt. Pleasant #6 and Roanoke City #11 Stations on Monday November 22. Thank you ladies of the church who participate in this ministry!

Chrismon ornaments were first developed by Frances Kipps Spencer at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. In 1957, Mrs. Spencer began thinking about a way to decorate the Christmas tree in her church that would be more suitable for a Sanctuary. She thought that the traditional bright ornaments were not appropriate for a worship setting and began looking for something that would reflect the Christian faith.

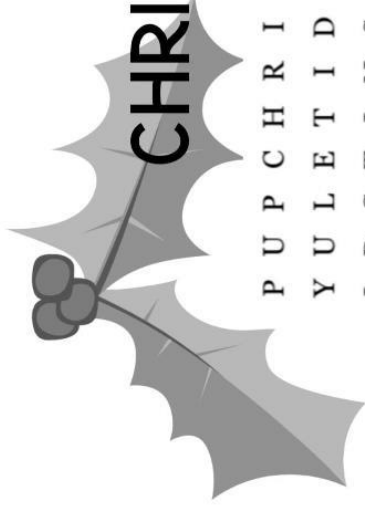


*The Chrismon Tree in our Sanctuary
We are grateful to Peggy Richardson (dec. 2019) for bringing us this tradition.*

Thinking of the tradition of decorating a birthday cake with the honoree's name, Mrs. Spencer decided to place the name of Jesus and his title, Christ, on the tree. Rather than using English, however, she used the Greek monograms. Thus the Greek "Chi Rho" became one of the earliest Chrismons because they are monograms for Christos, the Greek word for Christ. These simple monograms and some crosses decorated the first Chrismon Tree.

Over the years, Frances Spencer added other designs using signs and symbols utilized by the early Christians. As these designs increased in number, they included references to Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings. Chrismons are traditionally white, gold, and/or silver. White is the Church color for Christmas and symbolizes his Majesty and Glory.

Source: <https://www.carolinaseniorcare.org/blog/history-chrismon-tree>



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

P U P C H R I S T M A S N D N L I C
Y U L E T I D E O M H F C P U F E
L D C T I N S E L C O K R R T M R L
I E A E I M Y N P Z L E H E C V U E
G C R G U L I J O L L Y O S R C I B
H O O G I X A S Y W Y S L E A L T R
T R L N N N B T R F N I N C X C A
S A E O O H G D M L R L D T K C A T
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E I S B L S L O R M I T Y K R C E K
S O S N O W M A N B Y T O B E L L S
T N K V M X H D L Y R A W E Z S G T
I S V C H E S N U T S E J I N G L E
V O R N A M E N T S C G A R L A N D
E P M P O I N S E T T I A D T R E E

Angel

Bells

Carolers

Celebrate

Chesnuts

Christmas

Decorations

Eggnog

Festive

Fruitcake

Garland

Gingerbread

Holiday

Holly

Jingle

Jolly

Lights

Mistletoe

Noel

Nutcracker

Ornaments

Poinsettia

Presents

Snowflakes

Snowman

Tinsel

Tree

Yuletide

