



THE MOUNT PLEASANT

MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

January 2022

- 9 Leadership Board Installation and Reception following Worship
- 16 UMW Meeting after Worship
- 20 Lunch Bunch 11:30 at K&W
- 20 Leadership Board 7 pm
- 22 District Leadership Training
- 24 Newsletter Deadline
- 27 UMC Day @ General Assembly

From Pastor Robert ...

There are two prominent cycles of holy days in the Christian calendar. One is the Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycle. This year it begins on March 2 and continues through June 5.

Right now, we are nearing the conclusion of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle. Everyone knows about From Pastor Robert ...

Christmas - the festival honoring the nativity on December 25. Most of us are familiar with Advent - the four Sundays that precede Christmas.

But what is the Epiphany all about?

The actual day of Epiphany takes place on January 6. Some cultures observe this as a major festival. Most Methodist churches emphasize Epiphany on a Sunday in early January. The word "epiphany" refers to the shining of light, and it is a day when we remember the story of the visit of the wise men to the child Jesus, as the light is made manifest to all nations.

Two other special feast days are coming soon - The Baptism of the Lord (January 9) and the Transfiguration (February 27). Both also focus on the manifestation of the glory of Jesus.

Pay attention to the Bible texts and music that we use during January and February, and you might have an epiphany of your own. The light of Jesus may just shine into the place where you need Him the most!



- 9 Heather St. Clair
- 10 Brittany Stanley
- 20 Jennifer Holmes
- 20 Paul Schroeder
- 29 Tina Workman



- 1 Wayne & Charlotte Myers



Our series "We make the Road by Walking" continues to focus on finding our place in the story of Jesus. Here are the Scriptures for January, following chapters 19 – 23 of the guidebook. Read these Bible selections as you prepare for worship:

- January 2: 1 Kings 3:1-28; Luke 2:39—3:14; 3:21-22; 1 Timothy 4:6-16
- January 9: Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 4:1-30; 5:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:1-9
- January 16: 2 Samuel 11:26—12:15; John 2:1-12; Mark 1:21-28
- January 23: Proverbs 3:1-26; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 4:1-34
- January 30: Ezekiel 34:1-31; Luke 5:17-32; 18:15—19:9

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SPECIAL OFFERINGS!

Thank you for your generosity in supporting two special offerings this past month. Our December Special offering helps us to faithfully complete all our 2021 budget commitments and to begin the New Year in a stronger place. Our Christmas Eve offering goes entirely to outreach, and this year supports UMCOR's storm relief in the U.S.

Your 2021 giving records will reflect all donations received or post-marked by December 31. Of course, you can continue to support these causes with your January giving. Mark your check carefully if you wish to support "DECEMBER SPECIAL" or "STORM RELIEF." We will have an updated total for these offerings soon.



The preacher for January 23 will be announced soon.

(Remember this is Pastor Robert's vacation - not YOUR vacation from church! You will want to be in your usual place!)

Pastor Robert and Betsy will be on vacation in late January, and he will be away for two Sundays - January 23 and January 30. The Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt will be guest preacher on January 30. Donna served for years as the senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Roanoke, and now serves as a hospice chaplain.

From Hope's Heart ...

Where did 2021 go? I find it hard to believe January is just a day or two away, and when asked, I couldn't believe I hadn't written my newsletter article yet! I was then asked to write what my hopes and prayers are for our church in 2022. Such an easy question me to answer. For 2022, and always, my prayer is that each one of us draws closer to God, and closer to each other.

I wish every one of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Please know I cherish each of you as family and I love all of you dearly.



HIGHLIGHTING WINKY MCCANN

We don't believe anyone has worn more hats at MPUMC than Winky McCann! The youngest of the amazing Pearman family, a family that has long ties to our church, Winky has been actively involved since she joined the church in 1949. She moved to Florida in 1955 where she met a young pharmacist and married the love of her life, Tom. While in Florida, they welcomed their only child, Vickie, into their world. They returned to Roanoke in the late 60's, rejoining our church family in 1970.

Winky and Tom quickly became youth leaders and over the years impacted the lives of dozens of young folks. Winky has served in almost every position possible: UMYF leader, UMW President, Chair of the Education Committee, Financial Secretary, active on the Finance Committee and Chair of the Council on Ministries and the Administrative Council, a Sunday School teacher, and a long-time member of the choir (and we are sure we have missed others!)

This year she is "retiring" from our Council, having served as its Chair for the past 15 years (and under five pastors). When asked what she loves most about MPUMC, she was quick to answer: "I love the fellowship and love that we show that to one another." When asked her hopes and dreams for our future, she responded, "I want young families to return to our church. I want them to absorb the love we have for them and for their children. I would love to see active youth again. They are missing out on what the church has to offer."



Thank you Winky for being a friend to all, a "mom" to many, and a faithful servant leader in our church!

BLESSING OUR NEW LEADERS

Worship on January 9 includes a special time of blessing our newly elected church leaders. This year we are excited to launch a new Leadership Board that will help us faithfully fulfill our God-given mission. Join us in worship on January 9 to honor and pray for these leaders. (A reception will follow the worship service.) The Leadership Board will meet the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm (January's date is the 20th). These are open meetings, and all interested folks are invited to attend.

SCOUTING MINISTRIES UPDATE

Late in December, United Methodist leaders reached a settlement in the matter of the Boy Scouts of America's pending bankruptcy proceedings. Ministry and funding are being made available to work for the benefit of survivors of abuse. Details of the proposed settlement are available from the conference.

We held a church conference to approve the recommendations of the annual conference for this matter. Please see Pastor Robert if you have any questions about this.



THANK YOU FOR DOING HEALTH CHECKS!

It seems like every bit of good news with COVID brings new concerns. The newest variant may be less severe, but it is also extremely contagious. Thank you for doing everything possible to monitor your health. If you are showing symptoms, do yourself and your friends a favor, and don't share it!

Some area churches have had to suspend worship services on occasion. Hopefully it won't come to that for us, but if it does, we will continue our online worship service for you! Thanks for your patience!

JANUARY 22 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training for our district is Saturday, January 22, from 9 am to Noon. It is offered online, and includes a presentation on "preaching and hearing sermons in a polarized age" by Bishop William H. Willimon. There are a variety of workshops for pastors and church members. Register in order to receive the link to participate. Go to roanokeumc.org for the link to "BI-DISTRICT TRAINING," or call the District office at 540-989-3335 for more information.

UMC DAY AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UMC Day at the General Assembly is Monday, January 27, 7:30 am to 3 pm at the Pace Center, 700 W. Franklin St. in Richmond. Church folks will connect with delegates and senators to discuss faith-related issues. All are welcome. For more info, go to vaumc.org website, or contact Pastor Robert!

PRAYER SCHOOL STARTS FEBRUARY 27

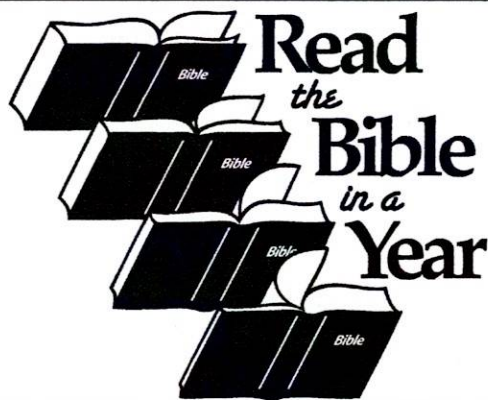
Could you devote four and a half hours in 2022 to a learning event on prayer? "PRAYER SCHOOL" by Pastor Brian Zahnd comes highly recommended! Normally you would have to travel to Missouri to attend, but in the era of COVID, it is now available online.

Zahnd is pastor of Word of Life Church in St. Joseph, Missouri. Go to wolc.com for information about the event. Tickets are available for a donation of any amount.

Each of the three sessions lasts ninety minutes, beginning at 9 pm Eastern, on Sunday, February 27, and continuing on February 28 and March 1. If you don't have healthy Internet access, consider linking with a friend.

Prayer School helps you gain a fresh perspective on the purpose of prayer and provides you with a helpful framework for your own daily personal prayers.

EVENTS & NEWS



In the new year, consider accepting Bishop Lewis' challenge and join others in the Virginia Conference and read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Below are the readings for January. You can find the full year of readings on the Conference website:

<https://vaumc.org/2022biblechallenge/>

January

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Genesis 1:1-2:25	Matthew 1:1-2:12	Psalm 1:1-6	Proverbs 1:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Genesis 3:1-4:26	Matthew 2:13-3:6	Psalm 2:1-12	Proverbs 1:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Genesis 5:1-7:24	Matthew 3:7-4:11	Psalm 3:1-8	Proverbs 1:10-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Genesis 8:1-10:32	Matthew 4:12-25	Psalm 4:1-8	Proverbs 1:20-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Genesis 11:1-13:4	Matthew 5:1-26	Psalm 5:1-12	Proverbs 1:24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Genesis 13:5-15:21	Matthew 5:27-48	Psalm 6:1-10	Proverbs 1:29-33
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Genesis 16:1-18:15	Matthew 6:1-24	Psalm 7:1-17	Proverbs 2:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Genesis 18:16-19:38	Matthew 6:25-7:14	Psalm 8:1-9	Proverbs 2:6-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Genesis 20:1-22:24	Matthew 7:15-29	Psalm 9:1-12	Proverbs 2:16-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Genesis 23:1-24:51	Matthew 8:1-17	Psalm 9:13-20	Proverbs 3:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Genesis 24:52-26:16	Matthew 8:18-34	Psalm 10:1-15	Proverbs 3:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Genesis 26:17-27:46	Matthew 9:1-17	Psalm 10:16-18	Proverbs 3:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Genesis 28:1-29:35	Matthew 9:18-38	Psalm 11:1-7	Proverbs 3:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Genesis 30:1-31:16	Matthew 10:1-23	Psalm 12:1-8	Proverbs 3:13-15
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Genesis 31:17-32:12	Matthew 10:24-11:6	Psalm 13:1-6	Proverbs 3:16-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Genesis 32:13-34:31	Matthew 11:7-30	Psalm 14:1-7	Proverbs 3:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Genesis 35:1-36:43	Matthew 12:1-21	Psalm 15:1-5	Proverbs 3:21-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Genesis 37:1-38:30	Matthew 12:22-45	Psalm 16:1-11	Proverbs 3:27-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Genesis 39:1-41:16	Matthew 12:46-13:23	Psalm 17:1-15	Proverbs 3:33-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Genesis 41:17-42:17	Matthew 13:24-46	Psalm 18:1-15	Proverbs 4:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Genesis 42:18-43:34	Matthew 13:47-14:12	Psalm 18:16-36	Proverbs 4:7-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Genesis 44:1-45:28	Matthew 14:13-36	Psalm 18:37-50	Proverbs 4:11-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Genesis 46:1-47:31	Matthew 15:1-28	Psalm 19:1-14	Proverbs 4:14-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Genesis 48:1-49:33	Matthew 15:29-16:12	Psalm 20:1-9	Proverbs 4:20-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Genesis 50:1 - Exodus 2:10	Matthew 16:13-17:9	Psalm 21:1-13	Proverbs 5:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Exodus 2:11-3:22	Matthew 17:10-27	Psalm 22:1-18	Proverbs 5:7-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Exodus 4:1-5:21	Matthew 18:1-20	Psalm 22:19-31	Proverbs 5:15-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Exodus 5:22-7:25	Matthew 18:21-19:12	Psalm 23:1-6	Proverbs 5:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Exodus 8:1-9:35	Matthew 19:13-30	Psalm 24:1-10	Proverbs 6:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Exodus 10:1-12:13	Matthew 20:1-28	Psalm 25:1-15	Proverbs 6:6-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Exodus 12:14-13:16	Matthew 20:29-21:22	Psalm 25:16-22	Proverbs 6:12-15