



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

February 2022

- 6 Leadership Board 5pm
- 13 "SOUPer" Bowl Sunday
- 17 Leadership Board 7pm

FEBRUARY



- 3 Michelle Hastings
- 5 Shelby Krawczyk
- 7 Deb Heath
- 17 Eileen Wimmer

FEBRUARY



None this month!

From Pastor Robert ...

At this moment, we are in the beautiful state of Florida. We've been spending a lot of time outdoors. We traveled along a highway in southern Florida called the Tamiami Trail. It was called this because it was designed in the 1920's to connect Tampa and Miami.



Pastor Robert and Betsy enjoying Epcot Center

An amazing amount of effort went into the construction of the Tamiami Trail, particularly the very southern part of the highway where it diverts away from the Gulf Coast and eastward toward Miami. It was completed in 1928.

If you know anything about this part of Florida, this was not prime territory for the building of a highway! These are the Everglades where there is a literal "river of grass." The builders had to use explosives to create a huge canal, and then build up the land to create a road.

Sadly, this wonderful new highway had a devastating effect on the Everglades. It literally had a damming effect upon the ecology of southern Florida.

Twelve years ago, in 2009, a new effort began to partially undo the damage of Tamiami. Sections of the old highway have been replaced with elevated roadway, permitting the water flow to begin again.

cont. pg. 2 ...



Our series "We Make the Road by Walking" continues to focus on finding our place in the story of Jesus. For February, we are on chapters 23-27 of the guidebook. (Feb. 13 covers chapters 24 and 25. Read these Bible selections as you prepare for worship.

- February 6 Ezekiel 34:1-31; Luke 5:17-32; 18:15—19:9
- February 13 Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 25:31-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 53:1-12; Matthew 16:13—17:9
- February 20 Mark 2:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-18; 1 John 1:1—2:6
- February 27 Matthew 5:1-16

From Pastor Robert *(cont. from pg. 1)*

After nearly a hundred years of destruction, the waters are beginning to flow again. We were able to drive across this new elevated highway. We were able to see the amazing "rivers of grass" that comprise the Everglades. There are times in our lives that we make decisions that seem really constructive, and we don't realize that we are creating unintentional damage. The lesson of the Tamiami Trail is that rebuilding is possible. We can restore the flow of God's life-giving water. But it does take time and effort.

As the season of Lent begins next month, could you use the weeks of February to consider what parts of your life need some restoration? What might it take to get the water flowing again?

- Pastor Robert

Many thanks to my church family for the wonderful surprise on Sunday, January 9th. I appreciate the kind words, beautiful flowers and delicious lunch that was delivered to my family and I at my home. I also want to thank you for the kindness shown to Tom and I during the last few years. May God bless each of you.

- Love, Winky

I thank you for all the cards, calls, flowers and prayers during the holiday season. I pray each of you had a blessed Christmas.

- Helen Graner



From Hope's Heart ...

I sincerely believe that most parents will do all they can to care for and make their children happy. When I was in elementary school, Valentine's Day was one of the highlights of the school year. The teacher would decorate a box in which we put valentines for our classmates, and they would be handed out on Valentine's Day.

Our valentines had to be ordered from Montgomery Wards or Sears. One year, our valentines did not arrive on time. I was so disappointed. I went to bed, I'm sure, wondering how I was going to get through the next day. When I woke up the next morning I discovered that our dad had stayed up and had drawn, colored and cut out valentines for me to take to school the next day. I'm sure our mom was right there with him.

If our parents love us that much and sacrifice for us, just think what our Heavenly Father did and does for us! *"See what the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and this is what we are."* 1 John 3:1



SOUPer Bowl Sunday

And no, that's not a typo! Plan to be with us on Sunday, February 13. At the end of worship, all will receive a "SOUPer Bowl treat to take home and enjoy before the big game.

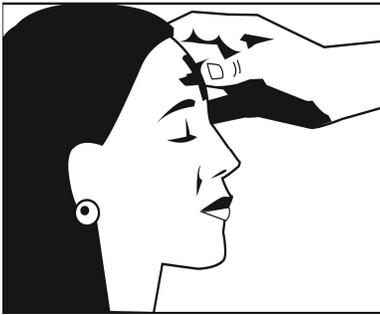
Community Outreach

Would you like to help? Joyce Ison is leading the charge, saying "Thank You" to the First Responders in our neighborhood (both the City and the County Fire/EMS stations).

If you'd like to be a part of this ministry, give Joyce a call. 540-761-4341. She would love to have your help!!

Ash Wednesday

Lent Begins March 2



Lent begins on March 2 with a brief in-person Ash Wednesday worship service at two different times on that date - 12 noon and 7 p.m. We'll also have "drive-by" ashes in the back parking lot between 6 and 6:45 p.m. for anyone who prefers to avoid a group setting.

The imposition of a small mark of ash on the forehead lifts up two special themes. First, we are reminded of our mortality ("ashes to ashes, dust to dust"). Second, we are reminded of the call to repentance.

This year during Lent we will focus on Jesus' sermon on the mount (chapters 5-7 of Matthew). Since Lent is only a month away, now is a good time to begin thinking about disciplines you will want to include during Lent. Our worship during February will help us prepare for Lent.



We have already had one Sunday cancelled with reduced attendance. Hopefully that is behind us, but in case of inclement weather, remember to 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. Remember that even if in-person worship is cancelled, we will still share our worship video on YouTube.

PRAYER SCHOOL STARTS FEB. 27

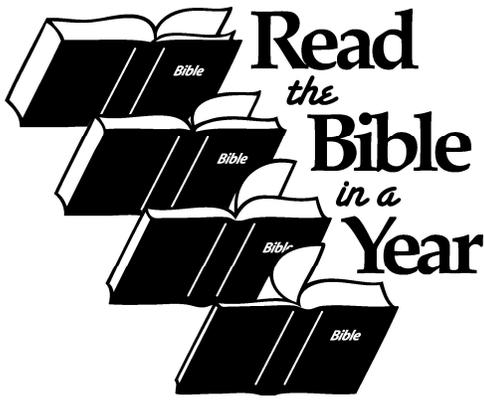
Could you devote four and a half hours in 2022 to a learning event on prayer? "PRAYER SCHOOL" by Pastor Brian Zahnd comes highly recommended! Normally you would have to travel to Missouri to attend, but in the era of COVID, it is now available online.

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 p.m. Eastern, on Sunday, Feb. 27, and continuing on Feb. 28 and Mar. 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. During the next few weeks, Pastor Robert will share a little bit more about Prayer School!



EVENTS & NEWS



Accept Bishop Lewis' challenge and join others in the Virginia Conference and read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

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

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

February

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Exodus 13:17-15:18	Matthew 21:23-46	Psalms 26:1-12	Proverbs 6:16-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Exodus 15:19-17:7	Matthew 22:1-33	Psalms 27:1-6	Proverbs 6:20-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Exodus 17:8-19:15	Matthew 22:34-23:12	Psalms 27:7-14	Proverbs 6:27-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Exodus 19:16-21:21	Matthew 23:13-39	Psalms 28:1-9	Proverbs 7:1-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Exodus 21:22-23:13	Matthew 24:1-28	Psalms 29:1-11	Proverbs 7:6-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Exodus 23:14-25:40	Matthew 24:29-51	Psalms 30:1-12	Proverbs 7:24-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Exodus 26:1-27:21	Matthew 25:1-30	Psalms 31:1-8	Proverbs 8:1-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Exodus 28:1-43	Matthew 25:31-26:13	Psalms 31:9-18	Proverbs 8:12-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Exodus 29:1-30:10	Matthew 26:14-46	Psalms 31:19-24	Proverbs 8:14-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Exodus 30:11-31:18	Matthew 26:47-68	Psalms 32:1-11	Proverbs 8:27-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Exodus 32:1-33:23	Matthew 26:69-27:14	Psalms 33:1-11	Proverbs 8:33-36
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Exodus 34:1-35:9	Matthew 27:15-31	Psalms 33:12-22	Proverbs 9:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Exodus 35:10-36:38	Matthew 27:32-66	Psalms 34:1-10	Proverbs 9:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Exodus 37:1-38:31	Matthew 28:1-20	Psalms 34:11-22	Proverbs 9:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Exodus 39:1-40:38	Mark 1:1-28	Psalms 35:1-16	Proverbs 9:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Leviticus 1:1-3:17	Mark 1:29-2:12	Psalms 35:17-28	Proverbs 9:13-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Leviticus 4:1-5:19	Mark 2:13-3:6	Psalms 36:1-12	Proverbs 10:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Leviticus 6:1-7:27	Mark 3:7-30	Psalms 37:1-11	Proverbs 10:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Leviticus 7:28-9:6	Mark 3:31-4:25	Psalms 37:12-29	Proverbs 10:5
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Leviticus 9:7-10:20	Mark 4:26-5:20	Psalms 37:30-40	Proverbs 10:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Leviticus 11:1-12:8	Mark 5:21-43	Psalms 38:1-22	Proverbs 10:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Leviticus 13:1-59	Mark 6:1-29	Psalms 39:1-13	Proverbs 10:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Leviticus 14:1-57	Mark 6:30-56	Psalms 40:1-10	Proverbs 10:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Leviticus 15:1-16:28	Mark 7:1-23	Psalms 40:11-17	Proverbs 10:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Leviticus 16:29-18:30	Mark 7:24-8:10	Psalms 41:1-13	Proverbs 10:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Leviticus 19:1-20:21	Mark 8:11-38	Psalms 42:1-11	Proverbs 10:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Leviticus 20:22-22:16	Mark 9:1-29	Psalms 43:1-5	Proverbs 10:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Leviticus 22:17-23:44	Mark 9:30-10:12	Psalms 44:1-8	Proverbs 10:19