



THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

August 2022

- 2 National Night Out
6:30 – 8:30
- 9 Leadership Board
6:00pm (please arrive by 5:50!!)
- 25 Lunch Bunch
11:30 am
- 28 Bible Study: Our Christian witness
In a post-Roe v. Wade World
5:00 pm

From Pastor Robert ...

#BeUMC is a new campaign honoring the core values that connect the people of The United Methodist Church. Go to vaumc.org/BeUMC to read or to share your story. You can also post a story, video or photo on social media using hashtag #BeUMC.

The #BeUMC movement builds upon powerful stories of congregations and people living their faith, and it celebrates the things that draw us to the UMC and what we aspire to be.

The full story of The United Methodist Church reflects all of our interwoven experiences. We are challenged to consider our common roots and come up with our own answers to the question - "Why am I United Methodist?"

Certainly I can't answer that question apart from my experience as a UMPK (United Methodist Preacher's Kid). By the time I had left for college, I had lived in eleven different Methodist parsonages! (My dad was still serving student churches at the time I was born, and in those days, all of his assignments were for three years or less.)

When I headed off to college, I could make my own decision about my faith home. But I already knew where my home was. I found both a Wesley Foundation UMC campus ministry AND a neighborhood UMC where I participated in the choir. Worship for me was every Thursday evening on campus, PLUS on Sunday mornings at Riverside UMC. Wednesday evenings were choir night at Riverside, and one day a week meant free lunch at the Wesley Foundation.

(continued on page 2)

AUGUST



- 3 Krae Heath
- 5 Hannah Akers
- 6 Blanche Hill
- 12 Marie Carter
- 16 Benny Basham
- 23 Scott Whitehead
- 25 Robert Stutes



Only five chapters remain in our book WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING. During August we continue our emphasis on how we experience and respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our church, and in our world! Between now and Sept. 4, we are on chapters 48-52. Read these Bible selections as you

- August 7 Acts 4:1-31 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Ephesians 6:10-20
- August 14 Psalm 98 John 14:15-18, 25-27; 15:26-27; 16:33
1 Corinthians 3:9-15; 15:20-28
- August 21 Psalm 90 Luke 20:27-38 Philippians 1:20-30
- August 28 Psalm 126 Revelation 1:9-19; 19:11-16; 21:1-8; 22:16-21
- September 4 Luke 15:11-32 Romans 8:31-39 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.
Roanoke, VA 24014
540.427.3064
www.mpumc.church
Robert Stutes, Pastor
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

From Pastor Robert *(continued from page one)*

When I headed off to college, I could make my own decision about my faith home. But I already knew where my home was. I found both a Wesley Foundation UMC campus ministry AND a neighborhood UMC where I participated in the choir. Worship for me was every Thursday evening on campus, PLUS on Sunday mornings at Riverside UMC. Wednesday evenings were choir night at Riverside, and one day a week meant free lunch at the Wesley Foundation.

Actually my introduction to campus ministry was not even at the worship service. It was when George and Linda would invite us over their parsonage for a home cooked meal. The dorm kitchens were closed on Sunday evenings, so they opened up their home every other week! I still remember Linda's "King Ranch chicken." (That may be a Texas thing, so you might have to Google it!)

For me, church has ALWAYS meant more than just a Sunday morning thing. I remember going to summer church camp (first as a camper, later as a counselor), to district and conference youth events, to the spring campus ministries retreat, to School of Christian Mission, and going to annual conference sessions.

Never did I experience the United Methodist Church trying to make me conform into a narrow understanding of biblical truth. I am most grateful for my heritage of faith, and I gladly commit myself to continuing to serve in leadership in the UMC! God is moving in special and amazing ways!

Pastor Robert

"OUR CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN A POST ROE V. WADE WORLD" SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 5 P.M.

Join us for Bible study and open sharing about our Christian witness on this difficult topic. All points of view will be honored and respected. We will have printed copies of the most recent statements of the United Methodist Social Principles on abortion. Attenders may bring diapers to share with local outreach ministries! Guests from the community and from other churches are most welcome.

SPECIAL COMMUNION OFFERING FOR BUCHANAN CO. FLOODING

Our August Communion offering supports disaster relief for our neighbors in Buchanan County due to recent floods. You may also send a check to MPUMC marked FLOOD RELIEF and we will pass it along. When we receive word about in-person disaster relief efforts, we will let you know. We are asked us to refrain from sending donations of physical items as their donation site is currently overwhelmed. The best way to help is through monetary donations.

"KITS AND CANS" UPDATE

As of July 19, the Virginia Conference has collected 18,811 kits with a value of over \$303,000. 12,611 pounds of food was collected for outreach across the state. Over \$140,000 was received in the Annual Conference offering.

Thanks to all who participated! On July 18, the kits were loaded and sent to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania (our closest UMCOR supply depot). The monetary offering supports "Partnerships of Hope" (Brazil, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mozambique, and U.S. Native American ministries) along with training for military chaplains who serve our forces across the world.

On top of all this, an unscheduled special offering for children and youth ministries received gifts and pledges amounting to \$66,000!

OCTOBER MISSION TRIP

A district mission trip is scheduled for October 16-22 in partnership with the Carolina Rebuilding Ministry, doing home repairs and upgrades in a poor, rural area near Plymouth, N.C. Cost is around \$100 per person. See Pastor Robert for contact information if you are interested in this trip.

OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE

January	\$8993.00	July*	\$6934.65
February	\$9431.55	August	
March	\$8006.00	September	
April	\$7149.00	October	
May	\$6639.00	November	
June	\$6484.00	December	

**Does not include Sunday July 31st.*

Amount needed each month to meet our budget is \$8564.44



Karen Tate hosted the ladies of the UMW at her home on Tuesday July 11th for their annual Salad Luncheon. Thank you, Karen for being such a gracious host!!

Sarah Dyess helped Karen sort and pack up your donated school supplies for the Henry Fork Service Center. In total, \$529 in supplies were collected. Members of the UMW journeyed to Henry Fork and delivered the schools supplies as well as paper towels and paper cups. THANK YOU for your continued generosity to those in need. YOU are amazing!



Jessica Hunt, Executive Director at Henry Fork, poses with Pastor Robert and some of our UMW members.



And it's not a trip to Henry Fork unless you stop at Ruth's Place in Rocky Mt. for lunch!



How exciting that there will be a National Night Out event this year right here in Mount Pleasant! The MP Lions Club is hosting the event along with other area neighborhood groups on Tuesday, August 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. OUR CHURCH is working WITH the Lions Club by providing the site. The event will take place on our church lawn!

National Night Out is designed to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. It also provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances!

We will honor first responders, and law enforcement folks will serve free hot dogs to the community! Please bring sides and/or sweets to share for an old fashioned potluck! Bottled water and soft drinks will be provided. Pat Musslewhite will serve as DJ for the event, providing entertaining music! There will be corn hole, along with sidewalk chalk and face painting for the little ones. An antique fire engine and some vintage cars will also be on hand.

You will want to bring lawn chairs for outdoor seating. Invite your neighbors and come meet a new neighbor!



**Thursday
August 25th
11:30**

K & W on Hershberger

Come join us for good friends, good food and good conversation!

Let us know if you need transportation.

From Hope's Heart ...

One of the most useful and most used items in my household is my grabber (or it could be called a picker-upper!). Early in the morning I use it to pick up my newspaper from the driveway. Later in the day it may be picking up clothing items, a drink bottle, a magazine, a pill bottle ...any number of things. At this point, I really need and appreciate it.



In thinking about picking up things, do we pick up our Bibles regularly and study His Word? Do we pick up the phone and offer words of encouragement to family and friends? Do we pick up some extra food at the grocery store to help someone in need? Do we offer what gifts we have in service to Jesus in gratitude for all He has done for us?

"Do unto others as you would have them do to you."

Luke 6:31



A Neighborhood Bible Study For Women with Hannah Anderson

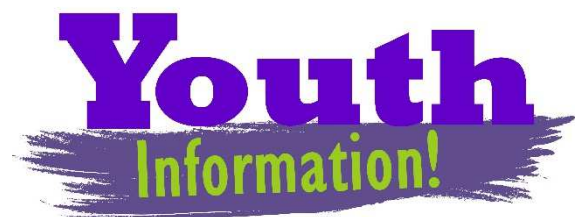
Tuesday Mornings
September 20 thru October 25

Brunch at 10:00
Bible Study follows at 10:30

This will be a study of Hannah's first book, "Made for More." Although not required to participate, copies will be made available for \$15 each.

Pre-Registration is helpful but not required

Invite your family and friends to participate!



Weather brought the July 10th Outdoor Movie Night into the Fellowship Hall, but it didn't stop those attending from having a good time. Thank you, Scott and Beth Whitehead for organizing the event and providing the popcorn (you can't have a movie without good popcorn!) and Jenny Basham, June Sink and Sarah Dyess for helping with the meal!

Yard Games Sunday, August 14 6 – 8pm

Dinner will be included (BBQ is on the menu!). Don't miss this opportunity to spend time with your church friends... and invite others to join us!!

Senior Fellowship Tuesday September 5th Noon

Plan to attend ...
and invite a friend!



Congratulations to Heather St. Clair, Ordained by The Wesleyan Church

Heather served our congregation for 6 years, initially under the leadership of Rev. Liz Mortlock (September 2012) and then Pastor Robert (June 2013). She came at a time when our children and youth numbers were low, and her enthusiasm, vision and unbounding energy (along with the ability to develop great relationships both within our church and also the community) helped our children and youth programs grow. Heather was the creative force (and workhorse) behind Wonderful Wednesdays, and at the end of its first year, 60-plus elementary age kids were attending each week. Every year after that there was a waiting list.



Dr. Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church North American General Conference, ordained Heather St.Clair on July 11, 2022.

Heather made the decision to leave us in 2018 and returned to her home church, Penn Forest Worship Center, to serve as their Student Ministries Pastor.

Heather's call to ministry came in 2007 while chaperoning teens at a youth conference in Orlando, Florida. She knew then it was what God was calling her to do, but it wasn't until 2019 that she went back to school with the Wesleyan Church and received her local pastor license (she wanted the authority to perform marriages for her youth when they were ready for marriage). She then took the next step and became a Commissioned Minister with a specialty in youth ministry.

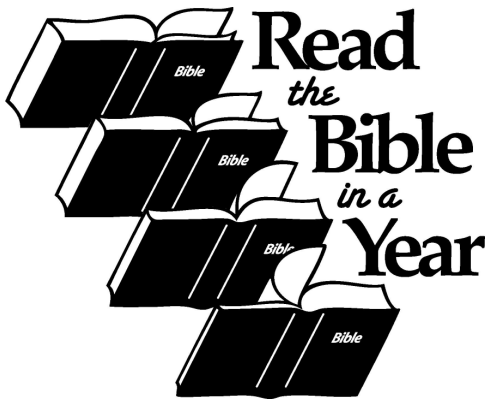
Throughout that journey, Heather continued to pray, asking God to "tell me if I gotta keep going." She states she constantly felt affirmed by family and friends that she needed to continue.

After completing all of the required courses at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Kingswood University, she was ready for ordination.

Heather continues to serve Penn Forest Worship Center as their Student Ministries Pastor (part-time). She recently left her full-time teaching position at Kings Christian Academy to focus specifically on Penn Forest. She believes she has gifts that she can use to serve her church beyond children and youth ministries. In addition to her regular duties, she co-leads a nondenominational youth ministry, ilumen8, which meets at Penn Forest Worship Center and is designed to reach out to youth at churches that do not have youth ministry staff.

When asked about her time at Mt. Pleasant, Heather responded, "The best thing that happened to me while serving at Mt. Pleasant is that I was affirmed that at that moment, I was exactly where God was calling me to be, and that God was calling me to move forward in ministry. When God gives you a vision for something to happen, even something as crazy as an all summer long VBS, you just know that you are where you are supposed to be. It affirmed me as to what my gifts were best suited for at that time, and it taught me that if I don't use my gifts in the best way, I will always be a little off balance. Yep. Mt. Pleasant is where I learned that!"

We are so grateful we were a part of Heather's journey and wish her the best as she continues to go where God is calling her.



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 August. You can find the full year of readings on the Conference website:

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

August

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
□ 01	2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21	Romans 15:1-22	Psalms 25:1-15	Proverbs 20:13-15
□ 02	2 Chronicles 32:1-33:13	Romans 15:23-16:9	Psalms 25:16-22	Proverbs 20:16-18
□ 03	2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33	Romans 16:10-27	Psalms 26:1-12	Proverbs 20:19
□ 04	2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23	1 Corinthians 1:1-17	Psalms 27:1-6	Proverbs 20:20-21
□ 05	Ezra 1:1-2:70	1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5	Psalms 27:7-14	Proverbs 20:22-23
□ 06	Ezra 3:1-4:23	1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4	Psalms 28:1-9	Proverbs 20:24-25
□ 07	Ezra 4:24-6:22	1 Corinthians 3:5-23	Psalms 29:1-11	Proverbs 20:26-27
□ 08	Ezra 7:1-8:20	1 Corinthians 4:1-21	Psalms 30:1-12	Proverbs 20:28-30
□ 09	Ezra 8:21-9:15	1 Corinthians 5:1-13	Psalms 31:1-8	Proverbs 21:1-2
□ 10	Ezra 10:1-44	1 Corinthians 6:1-20	Psalms 31:9-18	Proverbs 21:3
□ 11	Nehemiah 1:1-3:14	1 Corinthians 7:1-24	Psalms 31:19-24	Proverbs 21:4
□ 12	Nehemiah 3:15-5:13	1 Corinthians 7:25-40	Psalms 32:1-11	Proverbs 21:5-7
□ 13	Nehemiah 5:14-7:73	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Psalms 33:1-11	Proverbs 21:8-10
□ 14	Nehemiah 7:73-9:21	1 Corinthians 9:1-18	Psalms 33:12-22	Proverbs 21:11-12
□ 15	Nehemiah 9:22-10:39	1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13	Psalms 34:1-10	Proverbs 21:13
□ 16	Nehemiah 11:1-12:26	1 Corinthians 10:14-33	Psalms 34:11-22	Proverbs 21:14-16
□ 17	Nehemiah 12:27-13:31	1 Corinthians 11:1-16	Psalms 35:1-16	Proverbs 21:17-18
□ 18	Esther 1:1-3:15	1 Corinthians 11:17-34	Psalms 35:17-28	Proverbs 21:19-20
□ 19	Esther 4:1-7:10	1 Corinthians 12:1-26	Psalms 36:1-12	Proverbs 21:21-22
□ 20	Esther 8:1-10:3	1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13	Psalms 37:1-11	Proverbs 21:23-24
□ 21	Job 1:1-3:26	1 Corinthians 14:1-17	Psalms 37:12-29	Proverbs 21:25-26
□ 22	Job 4:1-7:21	1 Corinthians 14:18-40	Psalms 37:30-40	Proverbs 21:27
□ 23	Job 8:1-11:20	1 Corinthians 15:1-28	Psalms 38:1-22	Proverbs 21:28-29
□ 24	Job 12:1-15:35	1 Corinthians 15:29-58	Psalms 39:1-13	Proverbs 21:30-31
□ 25	Job 16:1-19:29	1 Corinthians 16:1-24	Psalms 40:1-10	Proverbs 22:1
□ 26	Job 20:1-22:30	2 Corinthians 1:1-11	Psalms 40:11-17	Proverbs 22:2-4
□ 27	Job 23:1-27:23	2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11	Psalms 41:1-13	Proverbs 22:5-6
□ 28	Job 28:1-30:31	2 Corinthians 2:12-17	Psalms 42:1-11	Proverbs 22:7
□ 29	Job 31:1-33:33	2 Corinthians 3:1-18	Psalms 43:1-5	Proverbs 22:8-9
□ 30	Job 34:1-36:33	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Psalms 44:1-8	Proverbs 22:10-12
□ 31	Job 37:1-39:30	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10	Psalms 44:9-26	Proverbs 22:13