

# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 6 Senior Fellowship
- 7 WOW Wednesday
- 8 UMW Potluck 12:30
- 13 Leadership Board 6pm  
(please arrive by 5:50)
- 14 WOW Wednesday
- 20 Ladies Brunch and  
Bible Study 10am
- 21 No WOW Wednesday  
(due to school's early dismissal)
- 22 Lunch Bunch 11:30
- 27 Ladies Brunch and  
Bible Study 10am
- 28 WOW Wednesday



- 08/31 Eleanor Fisher  
*(omitted last month in error)*
- 09/02 Kirk Gibson
- 04 Jane Taylor
- 06 Landon Dyess
- 11 Jacob Jennings
- 12 Isaac St. Clair
- 12 Betsy Stutes
- 13 Jenny Basham
- 13 John Leslie
- 14 Kim Gembala
- 15 Ryan Krawczyk
- 18 Mike Gray
- 18 Ryan Nicholas  
Krawczyk
- 22 Nicole Jennings
- 22 David Krawczyk
- 24 Shayna Hastings

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.  
Roanoke, VA 24014  
540.427.3064  
[www.mpumc.church](http://www.mpumc.church)  
Robert Stutes, Pastor  
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church      September 2022

## From Pastor Robert ...

Recently I read about anthropologist Margaret Mead being asked what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

Surprisingly, Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thigh bone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger. You can't get to the river for a drink. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell. Someone has bound up the wound. Someone has carried the person to safety, and has tended the person through recovery. "Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts," Mead said.

Our faith community at its best is just that. A place where we help one another through difficult times!

- Robert Stutes

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**Your Leadership Board** will be meeting this month on Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00pm. Would you please take a few minutes and review our working Vision Statement:

"Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church is a neighborhood church committed to making room for all God's children. We have found hope in the life and message of Jesus, and we would love for you to find that hope as well. Our worship services and our ministries are focused on making that happen."

As you read and pray about this, ask yourself if this statement represents our church. Is there anything you would like to add or change? We have asked for your input once before, and we thank those of you who presented your thoughts. Remember this statement stands for our church and for the work we do in the name of Jesus Christ. Remember all of our ministries and functions should align with our Vision Statement and, of course, our Mission Statement which is "to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

If you have any thoughts, please pass them on to either Joyce Ison, Karen Tate, Ray Arthur, Scott Whitehead or Jenny Basham. You are always welcome to join us at our monthly meetings and we encourage your participation as well as presenting any concerns. Any ideas for a new ministry or mission project? Is there a need that we could meet? Let's look at our community through the eyes of Jesus!

- Jenny Basham  
Lay Leader/Leadership Board Chair

## CAMP ALTA MONS UPDATE

Wow, what a summer. Alta Mons served 289 campers - up over 40 compared to 2021. It was a summer of teamwork, compassion, serving, and sharing in Christ-filled community. Meanwhile plans are already underway for Winter Camp at Alta Mons, December 16-18. Go to [altamons.org](http://altamons.org) for more info.

In June our church ladies provided lunch for the camp staff as they gathered on Sunday to start their week. We received the following thank you note:

Kim ☺ Mt. Pleasant UMC -  
Thank you so much for  
coordinating and delivering  
Sunday staff lunch for week 1  
of Summer Camp @ Alta Mons.  
That made such a positive impact  
on our whole day! Lunch provided  
a great time of fellowship for  
our staff and helped them  
start the week off strong for  
our campers. I really appreciate  
you doing this so much.  
Warm  
Regards - Meredith Petty,  
Program Director

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## INTERFAITH CLIMATE REVIVAL SEPTEMBER 13

Across the state there will be an "Interfaith Climate Revival" on Tuesday, Sept 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. Our local gathering is at Williams Memorial Baptist Church, 2104 Carroll Ave. NW. The theme is "IT'S TIME TO ACT." People of faith are called to prioritize our focus on caring for the earth and caring for neighbors.

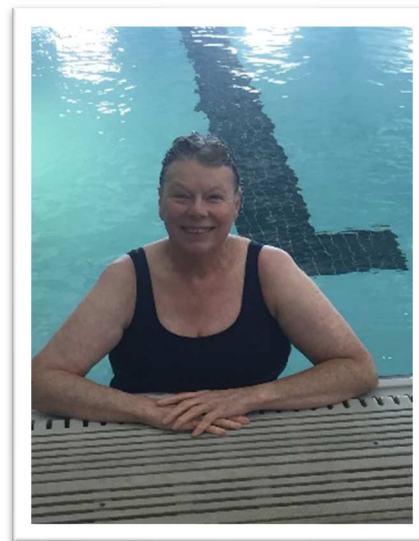
## PASTOR SIGHTINGS

Pastor Robert and Betsy will be out of town September 20 to October 5. If there is a ministry need during this time, please contact lay leader Jenny Basham, or leave a message on the church phone 540-427-3064.

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## HAVE YOU NOTICED ...

We've been seeing less and less of our pastor's wife, Betsy, lately?



About three years ago a lifeguard at the Botetourt Family YMCA suggested she take on their pool challenge ... to swim the distance of the Blue Ridge Parkway (Virginia only - which is 400 plus miles). She accepted, and ten months later completed the challenge!

In May, the YMCA had a challenge to swim 100 miles in three months. Betsy continued to ramp up the number of miles she swam each week. Many weeks she swam eleven miles (each mile is 66 lengths of the pool) and was the only swimmer to complete the challenge. In May, Betsy completed the challenge by swimming 120 miles. She continues her routine of swimming six days a week, and even while traveling seeks out a YMCA pool to swim. You might say she's the Forest Gump of the water (swim Betsy, swim!). As a result, she has melted off 60 plus pounds; hence, we are seeing less and less of her! When asked what she's thinking as she swims each lap, she grinned and responded, "Just counting off the laps!"

**Congratulations Betsy!** Your church family is proud of you!

## GETTING TO KNOW CINDY WEIKEL

We have been blessed to have Cindy at our piano over the past several weeks and are excited that she has accepted this position on-going.

Cindy began taking lessons as a six-year-old and has been playing in churches since she was a teen. In addition to the piano, Cindy also plays the organ and handbells. She has always passed on her love of music to others by teaching piano and voice. Cindy and her husband Dwayne are parents to a daughter (Amanda) and son (Matthew) and have four grandchildren (Brianna, Makiya, Darci and Adrianna). She and Dwayne live in Vinton; however, she grew up in Mt. Pleasant and continues to have strong ties to our community.

In addition to her Sunday morning commitment, Cindy is leading the charge for WOW Wednesday, our one day a week afterschool children's ministry. Her excitement for this program is infectious! When asked about her goals for this program, she responded with a quote by Ken Ham: "Imagine if we started raising generations of children who stood uncompromisably on the Word of God, knew how to defend the Christian faith, could answer the skeptical questions of this age, and had a fervor to share the gospel from the authority of God's Word with whomever they met! This could change the world!"



### *From Hope's Heart ...*

"Hey You!"

Do you like being spoken to in that way? Seems very impersonal, doesn't it? If we're honest, we would probably like to always be acknowledged in a little more personal way wherever we are.

Going to the grocery store is not my favorite thing to do, but as it happens, there is one checker at one of our local stores who now recognizes and acknowledges me. (If Winky is not in line with me, she asks about her.)

In this day, when even our grocery shopping and medical appointments can be done remotely, let's not forget to acknowledge, as far as possible, all those with whom we come in contact. Jesus never failed to acknowledge the individual as well as all the crowds who gathered.

*"Then He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and it was restored as sound as the other."*

Matthew 12:13



### **OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE**

January	\$8993.00	July	\$7724.65
February	\$9431.55	August	\$7989.00
March	\$8006.00	September	
April	\$7149.00	October	
May	\$6639.00	November	
June	\$6484.00	December	

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



In August we used the balance of our "Discretionary Fund" to assist a beloved family in avoiding a utility shutoff. Several have already given offerings to help us in this effort.

Your immediate generous gift to our "Discretionary Fund" will be used to "be a blessing" to others in times of significant need. Mark your check "Discretionary Fund" and it will be set aside for this purpose.



**Wednesdays 2:30 to 5:00**  
**September 7 - December 14**  
**Grades 2 through 5**

Space is limited ... but we still have a few openings available!!

Kids will have a **WOW!** experience as they learn **Words Of Wisdom** through Music, Arts and Interactive Bible Study. They will also enjoy a play time, snack time and homework time each week.

To request a registration packet:

- Go to our website: [mpumc.church/wow-wednesday](http://mpumc.church/wow-wednesday)
- Email [info@mpumc.church](mailto:info@mpumc.church)
- Call 540.427.3064

Cost is \$20 for the 12-week\* session.  
Payment to be made the first week.

Jenny Basham and Joyce Ison will pick up the children from school at 2:30 and walk them to the church. Kids not from MP Elementary would need to be brought to the church no later than 3:00.

Children may be picked up at the church at 5:00, no later than 5:30. Anything outside of this time must be arranged in advance.

The church will follow Roanoke County School's district guidelines re: Covid precautions. As of now, masks are not required.

If Roanoke County Schools are closed *for any reason* WOW! Wednesday will be cancelled.

*\*There will be no session 11/23 due to Thanksgiving or on schedule early dismissal days.*

## **Community Senior Fellowship** **Tuesday, September 6** **Lunch at 12:00**



Diane Kelly, retired Executive Director at Mental Health America, will present our program:

### **"The Hymns We Sing"**

Learn the story behind some of your favorite hymns ... and come prepared to sing!

You **do not** have to RSVP to attend, but it would be helpful in our meal planning! Call Kim 540.588.8286 if you would like to RSVP.

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### **"Made for More"**

#### **A Neighborhood Bible Study for Women with Hannah Anderson**

**Tuesday Mornings**  
**September 20 thru October 25**

Brunch served at 10am; Bible Study follows at 10:30

This will be a study of Hannah's first book:

#### **"Made for More: An Invitation to Live in God's Image"**

From Hannah's website, [sometimesalight.com](http://sometimesalight.com):

*"In Made for More, Hannah Anderson invites you to re-imagine yourself, not simply as a set of roles and categories, but as a person destined to live in the fullness of God Himself.*

*Starting with our first identity as image bearers, Hannah shows how Jesus Christ makes us people who can reflect His nature through our unique callings. She also explores how these deeper truths affect the practical realities that we face as women — how does being an image bearer shape our pursuit of education, our work, and even our desire for holistic lives?"*

Purchase of the book is not required; however, copies are available for \$15 each.

# Youth Information!

In July, our youth met at the church for a Dinner and Game Night:



Pastor Robert and Emma



Scott Whitehead and Emma



Sara Dyess with Landon and Emma

## An Opportunity to Support the Presbyterian Community Center

Pathways for Youth is a comprehensive and caring after-school program for children in grades 3 through 12. The program is the cornerstone of the Presbyterian Community Center's commitment to keeping children in school through graduation. Individual tutoring by community volunteers, mentoring, on-site counseling, life-skills training, field trips, cultural and academic enrichment opportunities, and community service activities help children attain the social and academic competency necessary to succeed in school and in life. \*

MPUMC has made a commitment to help provide snacks for the Pathways program during the 2022/2023 school year. Your donations can be left at the church, or if you desire, you can make a financial donation and we will do the shopping for you. They are requesting the following items:

- Snack Crackers (peanut butter/cheese)
- Mini-Muffins
- 100% Juice Boxes or Pouches
- Nutrigrain bars, Variety of Granola Bars
- Fruit Gummies
- Pudding and Jell-O cups  
*(the shelf-stable ones; not the refrigerated ones)*
- Individual Bags of Chips
- Graham Crackers and Vanilla Wafers
- Fruit Cups
- Goldfish
- Individual Bags of Trail Mix

\*From the PCC website [pccse.org/pathways-for-youth](http://pccse.org/pathways-for-youth)



## UMW Potluck Lunch Thursday, September 8th 12:30

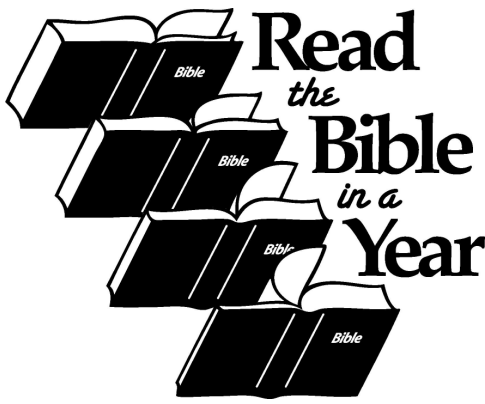
Mount Pleasant United Methodist Women will meet for a potluck lunch on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karen Tate. Changes in the structure of the United Methodist Women will be discussed. The new name for the UMW is "United Women of Faith." Thank you Karen for opening up your home for them!



Our Lunch Bunch always has a good time! Come join us on Thursday September 22 at 11:30 at the K&W at Crossroads.

Good Friends and Good Food  
Always

Come join us!



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

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

## September

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Job 40:1-42:17	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	Psalms 45:1-17	Proverbs 22:14
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Psalms 46:1-11	Proverbs 22:15
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7	Psalms 47:1-9	Proverbs 22:16
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18	2 Corinthians 7:8-16	Psalms 48:1-14	Proverbs 22:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Psalms 49:1-20	Proverbs 22:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16	2 Corinthians 8:16-24	Psalms 50:1-23	Proverbs 22:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14	2 Corinthians 9:1-15	Psalms 51:1-19	Proverbs 22:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Isaiah 1:1-2:22	2 Corinthians 10:1-18	Psalms 52:1-9	Proverbs 22:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Isaiah 3:1-5:30	2 Corinthians 11:1-15	Psalms 53:1-6	Proverbs 22:28-29
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Isaiah 6:1-7:25	2 Corinthians 11:16-33	Psalms 54:1-7	Proverbs 23:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Isaiah 8:1-9:21	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Psalms 55:1-23	Proverbs 23:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Isaiah 10:1-11:16	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalms 56:1-13	Proverbs 23:6-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Isaiah 12:1-14:32	2 Corinthians 13:1-14	Psalms 57:1-11	Proverbs 23:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Isaiah 15:1-18:7	Galatians 1:1-24	Psalms 58:1-11	Proverbs 23:12
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Isaiah 19:1-21:17	Galatians 2:1-16	Psalms 59:1-17	Proverbs 23:13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Isaiah 22:1-24:23	Galatians 2:17-3:9	Psalms 60:1-12	Proverbs 23:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Isaiah 25:1-28:13	Galatians 3:10-22	Psalms 61:1-8	Proverbs 23:17-18
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Isaiah 28:14-30:11	Galatians 3:23-4:31	Psalms 62:1-12	Proverbs 23:19-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Isaiah 30:12-33:9	Galatians 5:1-12	Psalms 63:1-11	Proverbs 23:22
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Isaiah 33:10-36:22	Galatians 5:13-26	Psalms 64:1-10	Proverbs 23:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Isaiah 37:1-38:22	Galatians 6:1-18	Psalms 65:1-13	Proverbs 23:24
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Isaiah 39:1-41:16	Ephesians 1:1-23	Psalms 66:1-20	Proverbs 23:25-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Isaiah 41:17-43:13	Ephesians 2:1-22	Psalms 67:1-7	Proverbs 23:29-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Isaiah 43:14-45:10	Ephesians 3:1-21	Psalms 68:1-18	Proverbs 24:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Isaiah 45:11-48:11	Ephesians 4:1-16	Psalms 68:19-35	Proverbs 24:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Isaiah 48:12-50:11	Ephesians 4:17-32	Psalms 69:1-18	Proverbs 24:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Isaiah 51:1-53:12	Ephesians 5:1-33	Psalms 69:19-36	Proverbs 24:7
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Isaiah 54:1-57:14	Ephesians 6:1-24	Psalms 70:1-5	Proverbs 24:8
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Isaiah 57:15-59:21	Philippians 1:1-26	Psalms 71:1-24	Proverbs 24:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Isaiah 60:1-62:5	Philippians 1:27-2:18	Psalms 72:1-20	Proverbs 24:11-12