



The Mount Pleasant MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

December 2022

- 7 WOW Wednesday
- 13 UMW Christmas
Pot Luck 12:30pm
- 14 WOW Wednesday
- 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
6pm
- 25 Christmas Day
Lessons and Carols
11am



- 1 Chloe Akers
- 6 Jane Burks
- 8 Mike Gembala
- 9 Joanna Shroeder
- 10 Paul Schroeder
- 10 Robert Workman
- 11 Karen Tate
- 14 Brandon Taylor
- 16 Billy Altice
- 24 Sylvia Addis
- 29 Della Mattox

3035 Mt. Pleasant Blvd.
Roanoke, VA 24014
540.427.3064
www.mpumc.church

Robert Stutes, Pastor
Cindy Weikel, Pianist and
WOW Director
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

WORDS FROM PASTOR ROBERT:

Advent has already begun! Sometimes it begins in November, and sometimes it begins in December, depending on the day of the week. It always involves the four Sundays that precede Christmas Day.

If you were to ask 100 United Methodists the meaning of Advent, perhaps 99 of them would say - "a time to prepare for Christmas." That's ALMOST the best answer.

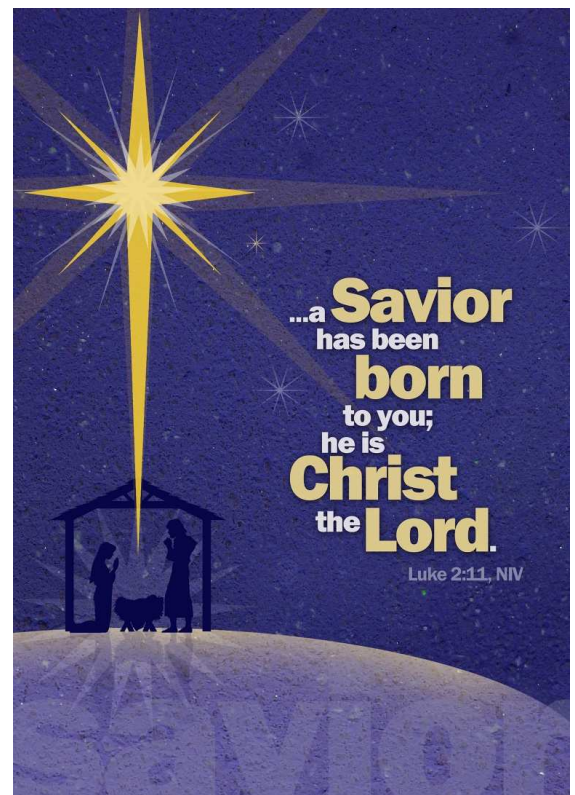
But the best answer is this. Advent is a time to prepare for CHRIST. The traditional Advent lessons and hymns spend almost as much time focusing on the Second Coming of Jesus as they do on his first coming!

Some churches are very strict in saving Christmas carols for Christmas Eve and the "twelve days of the Christmas season!" This year we will try to play to both sides of this debate. In our Advent worship services, we will begin each Sunday with a brief carol medley, and then also include traditional Advent elements.

We will also be using a form of contemplation called a "breath prayer." There is a brief prayer phrase for each inhale, followed by a brief prayer phrase for each exhale. This may be something that you would like to try on your own as well. The "breath prayer" is also included on our worship service on YouTube.

SCRIPTURES FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP:

- December 4 Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
- December 11 Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
- December 18 Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
- December 24 Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20
- December 25 Lessons and Carols
- January 1 Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12.
Matthew 2:1-12



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING



This is one of those rare years in which Christmas Day falls on a Sunday.

Of course, we will offer our traditional Candlelight Communion service on Christmas Eve. This year our Christmas Day worship will include the traditional "Lessons and Carols" format that puts the story of the birth of Jesus in context of the Old Testament Scriptures that lead us from Genesis all the way to the manger! The Christmas Day worship experience will be posted online so that you can experience it in the time and place that lines up with your family observances. We will also share it in the sanctuary for those who want to experience it in community.

Mark your calendars now:

Saturday, December 24th

Candlelight Communion at 6 pm

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Lessons and Carols at 11 am
(also available online)

As we have done for several years, 100% of our Christmas Eve offering will be shared in outreach. This year our Dec. 24 offering will go to UMCOR to support the restocking of flood buckets. UMCOR maintains a large supply of these items to help provide immediate assistance to areas suffering flooding. Recent storm and rainfall events have made a big dent in the supply, so Virginia United Methodists have been asked to help replenish the stock.

Each flood bucket contains a variety of helpful items: detergent, household cleaner, dish soap, air freshener, insect repellent, scrub brush, cleaning wipes, scouring pads, clothesline, clothes pins, trash bags, dust masks, kitchen gloves and work gloves. This truly represents love in action!



United Methodists from Virginia
loading flood buckets

Welcome

To Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

This past month we learned that the Virginia Conference will be receiving Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson as our new leader beginning January 1. She has been serving as bishop of the Atlanta area (North Georgia Conference) and now comes to serve in Virginia. Bishop Sharma Lewis will be continuing her ministry in the Mississippi Conference.

You are encouraged to send notes and cards of blessing to both bishops:

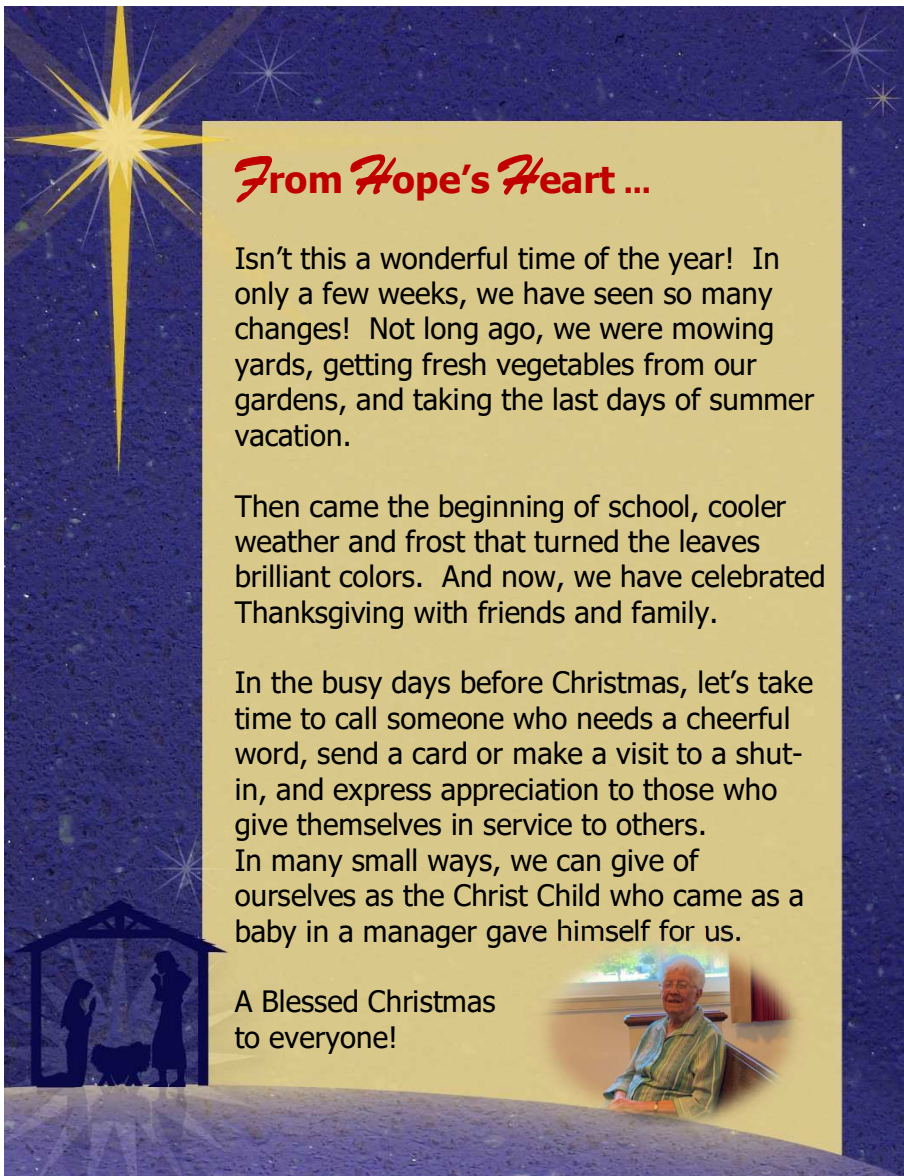
Bishop Sharma Lewis
PO Box 5606
Glen Allen, VA 23058

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
1700 Century Circle NE
Atlanta, GA 30345

*Thank
you*

Many thanks to all of you for the loving blessings you shared on Nov. 13 for Clergy Appreciation. What a joy to be able to participate as a worshiper instead of a worship leader. The breakfast was wonderful, the gifts and cards were so kind, the worship was a blessing, and your kind words meant so much. We truly appreciate all your expressions of kindness!

Pastor Robert and Betsy



From Hope's Heart ...

Isn't this a wonderful time of the year! In only a few weeks, we have seen so many changes! Not long ago, we were mowing yards, getting fresh vegetables from our gardens, and taking the last days of summer vacation.

Then came the beginning of school, cooler weather and frost that turned the leaves brilliant colors. And now, we have celebrated Thanksgiving with friends and family.

In the busy days before Christmas, let's take time to call someone who needs a cheerful word, send a card or make a visit to a shut-in, and express appreciation to those who give themselves in service to others. In many small ways, we can give of ourselves as the Christ Child who came as a baby in a manger gave himself for us.

A Blessed Christmas to everyone!



Christmas Potluck Luncheon Tuesday, December 13th 11:30

Once again, Karen Tate is graciously opening up her home to host the UMW's December meeting and potluck luncheon. Birthday gifts will be collected for the Henry Fork Center (to be delivered to them in January). The group will also participate in the "World Thank Offering."

All women are welcome!

Come and Fellowship with the Lunch Bunch!

Thursday, December 22nd
11:30
K&W Crossroads

It's always a good time with great fellowship. All are welcome!!





Joyce Ison loads her car with food for post-Thanksgiving Dinners for Fire/EMS workers and volunteers at Mt. Pleasant Fire Department as well at the Roanoke City Station 11 on Bennington Rd.

Joyce and her faithful helpers have provided meals, as well as goodies and treats throughout the year to these two stations, expressing our church's appreciation for their service to our community.

You can be a part of this wonderful ministry. Joyce could use your help with Christmas goodies and snacks for a December 22nd delivery to these two stations. Let her know what you can cook up for her!

Thanks FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE

We have an updated total for contributions for hunger relief in this year's Roanoke Valley CROP Hunger Walk. \$20,876.11 was received, and there were 150 walkers from 21 teams. 25% of the funds will provide healthy meals to at-risk children and senior citizens in our area. The rest of the funds will be shared across the country and around the world for those who are facing food insecurity because of natural disasters, wars, and effects of the pandemic. \$910 was raised by MPUMC - that put us in "SIXTH PLACE" in the list of money collected by area churches! How awesome!

FROM THE RAM HOUSE

A "Thank You" card was received from Melissa Woodson, Executive Director of the RAM House, Roanoke:

This card is sent with love and gratitude for your recent donations to Roanoke Area Ministries as we meet the needs daily of our guests within the Ram House. We are so deeply appreciative of the help that comes from local churches. Currently, along with my job as Director, I am handling all executive assistant duties so we may save money in our budget. The items you so thoughtfully supplied free me up to do other tasks and it frees up our limited staff as well. I cannot possibly express the gratitude I have for each of you other than to say, may you be blessed for your kindness.

WOW WEDNESDAY CLOSING PROGRAM

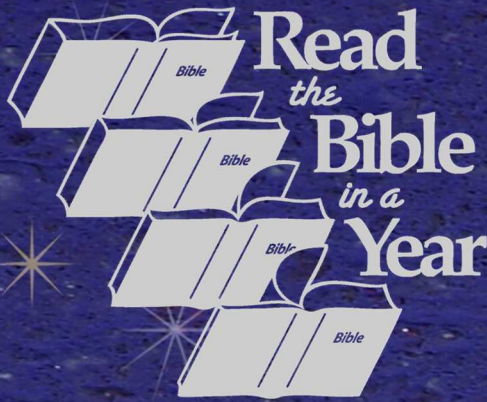
2022 WOW Wednesday will end on December 14th. We've had twenty amazing kids participate. They will present a Christmas Program to their parents on the 14th at 4:30pm, followed by refreshments. You are also invited! Come see what they've been up to, and show your appreciation to the team that's been leading them.

In addition, there are tentative plans for a WOW Christmas Movie Party on Sunday December 18th.

OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE

January	\$8,993.00	July	\$7,724.65
February	\$9,431.55	August	\$7,989.00
March	\$8,006.00	September	\$5,999.00
April	\$7,149.00	October	\$7,728.00
May	\$6,639.00	November	\$5,665.00
June	\$6,484.00	December	

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



Below are the final readings for 2022. Did you complete the challenge? Let us know if you did!

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

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

December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Daniel 8:1-27	1 John 2:1-17	Psalm 120:1-7	Proverbs 28:25-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Daniel 9:1-11:1	1 John 2:18-3:6	Psalm 121:1-8	Proverbs 28:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Daniel 11:2-35	1 John 3:7-24	Psalm 122:1-9	Proverbs 29:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Daniel 11:36-12:13	1 John 4:1-21	Psalm 123:1-4	Proverbs 29:2-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Hosea 1:1-3:5	1 John 5:1-21	Psalm 124:1-8	Proverbs 29:5-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Hosea 4:1-5:15	2 John 1:1-13	Psalm 125:1-5	Proverbs 29:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Hosea 6:1-9:17	3 John 1:1-15	Psalm 126:1-6	Proverbs 29:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Hosea 10:1-14:9	Jude 1:1-25	Psalm 127:1-5	Proverbs 29:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Joel 1:1-3:21	Revelation 1:1-20	Psalm 128:1-6	Proverbs 29:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Amos 1:1-3:15	Revelation 2:1-17	Psalm 129:1-8	Proverbs 29:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Amos 4:1-6:14	Revelation 2:18-3:6	Psalm 130:1-8	Proverbs 29:21-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Amos 7:1-9:15	Revelation 3:7-22	Psalm 131:1-3	Proverbs 29:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Obadiah 1:1-21	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalm 132:1-18	Proverbs 29:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Revelation 5:1-14	Psalm 133:1-3	Proverbs 29:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Micah 1:1-4:13	Revelation 6:1-17	Psalm 134:1-3	Proverbs 30:1-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Micah 5:1-7:20	Revelation 7:1-17	Psalm 135:1-21	Proverbs 30:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Revelation 8:1-13	Psalm 136:1-26	Proverbs 30:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Revelation 9:1-21	Psalm 137:1-9	Proverbs 30:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalm 138:1-8	Proverbs 30:11-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Revelation 11:1-19	Psalm 139:1-24	Proverbs 30:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Zechariah 1:1-21	Revelation 12:1-17	Psalm 140:1-13	Proverbs 30:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Revelation 13:1-13:18	Psalm 141:1-10	Proverbs 30:18-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Revelation 14:1-20	Psalm 142:1-7	Proverbs 30:21-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Revelation 15:1-8	Psalm 143:1-12	Proverbs 30:24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Zechariah 8:1-23	Revelation 16:1-21	Psalm 144:1-15	Proverbs 30:29-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Zechariah 9:1-17	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 145:1-21	Proverbs 30:32
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Zechariah 10:1-11:17	Revelation 18:1-24	Psalm 146:1-10	Proverbs 30:33
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Revelation 19:1-21	Psalm 147:1-20	Proverbs 31:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Zechariah 14:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15	Psalm 148:1-14	Proverbs 31:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Revelation 21:1-27	Psalm 149:1-9	Proverbs 31:10-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Malachi 3:1-4:6	Revelation 22:1-21	Psalm 150:1-6	Proverbs 31:25-31