



# THE MOUNT PLEASANT MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church      November 2022

- 2 WOW Wednesday
- 9 WOW Wednesday
- 13 Pastor Appreciation Breakfast 10am
- 16 WOW Wednesday
- 17 Lunch Bunch 11:30am
- 20 UMW Business Meeting after church
- 23 WOW Cancelled
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 29 Leadership Board 7pm
- 30 WOW Wednesday



- 1 Grace St. Clair
- 4 Charles Grant
- 5 Dean Shell
- 8 Josette McMillan
- 16 Winky McCann
- 17 Danny Dyess
- 20 Judy Gibson
- 23 Walter Heath
- 29 Beth Whitehead
- 29 Sharon Hylton

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 540.427.3064  
[www.mpumc.church](http://www.mpumc.church)  
 Robert Stutes, Pastor  
 Cindy Weikel, Pianist and  
 WOW Director  
 Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

## PASTOR ROBERT'S REPORT TO THE OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> CHURCH CONFERENCE:

The struggles of being a strong neighborhood church in a post-pandemic world continue to be real. Our attendance has not bounced back significantly in the past year. In 2019, the last full year before the pandemic, our weekly worship average attendance was 50. This year, to date, we are averaging 20. But despite the challenge of this decline, we do have significant ministries to celebrate.

We launched our Leadership Board in January, 2022, and that has given us a fresh opportunity to build a strong core team and have holy conversation about our spiritual health. Eliminating the complex committee structure has helped us make decisions in a more timely way.

Although financial giving is lagging behind last year, we remain able to live within our means and offer 100% support to our connectional giving through the district and conference.

For the first time in several years, we had a confirmation class with six youth professing their faith and becoming professing members of the church family.

We have completed two successful community women's Bible studies with significant participation beyond the church family.

Our women's group continues to meet regularly and offer tremendous community and outreach opportunities for the participants.

It has been a true blessing to relaunch Wednesday afterschool ministries (WOW Wednesdays). The response from the community has been outstanding, and we do see the hand of God at work in touching young lives, many of whom have had little faith background.

*(cont. on page 2)*

## PASTOR SIGHTINGS:

Pastor Robert and Betsy will be out of town for a special family gathering in Thailand, Nov. 14 through Nov. 24. 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. Pastor Robert will not have normally cell service while out of the country, but will have occasional access to email!

## Pastor Robert's Report ...

(cont. from pg. 1)

We have been delighted to welcome Cindy Weikel as our pianist and as staff coordinator for WOW Wednesdays.

We received generous gifts that enabled us to do a gasoline giveaway in June!

In August, we partnered with the Lions Club to host a neighborhood event for National Night Out.

Pastoral connection to the community continues to be somewhat different than it was before 2020, but I continue to be involved in helping lead vespers and music at the Hermitage on some Sunday afternoons, and I continue to be active in the local Lions Club. I also work with the district superintendent to be involved in district and conference leadership when called upon.

The challenges before us continue to be many, but we do have so much to celebrate at MPUMC.

- Pastor Robert Stutes

## **LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING**

The Leadership Board will meet Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 (please arrive by 5:50 pm). This will be our final meeting for 2022 (no December meeting!). All current and new members are asked to be present.

## **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6**

Each year on the first Sunday of November, we honor the saints of faith who have gone before us, and we give special honor to those of our church family who have died during the preceding twelve months. This year we give thanks to God for the lives of Donald Mullins, Chuck Mattox, Marie Carter, Warren Robinson, and Naomi Bolling.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones (Psalm 116:15)."*

## **DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

The District Conference for the Valley Ridge District will be an online Zoom event on Sunday, November 13 at 3 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend! Go to [valleyridgeumc.org](http://valleyridgeumc.org) for more info.

## **ADVENT IS COMING!**

The First Sunday of Advent is on November 27. These four weeks preceding Christmas are a traditional time not only to prepare for Christmas, but to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ's return and reign. Keep an eye on our church Facebook page for Advent devotional material.

## **CHRISTMAS READERS NEEDED**

In addition to our traditional Christmas Eve worship, we will make a Christmas Day worship experience available for you to use at home. It will include the traditional Christmas lessons that span from the creation story in Genesis to the beautiful stories of Christ's birth. We will need lots of readers to help us put this together. See Pastor Robert ASAP if you are willing to take one of the Bible readings to record in advance of Christmas Day.

## **WINTER CAMP AT ALTA MONS**

Winter Camp at Camp Alta Mons is December 16-18, for those currently in grade 1 through 12. S'mores, campfires, hikes, starry nights, making ornaments, decorating cookies, and camp friends await you. Space is limited, so sign up now. Go to [altamons.org](http://altamons.org) or call 540-268-2409 for registration information.

## **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	
June	\$6,484.00	December	

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



Due to several illnesses within our church family, our Pastor Appreciation celebration, originally scheduled for Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> was rescheduled for Sunday, November 13. We will

celebrate Pastor Robert beginning with a full breakfast at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. Following breakfast, Pastor Robert will have the unusual opportunity to sit with his wife Betsy through morning worship as we give him the morning off!

Please hold this date on your calendar and plan to be with us!

*"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!" 1 Thessalonians 5:23*



Our United Methodist Women will have a brief business meeting following morning worship on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. A Christmas Pot-Luck is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at the home of Karen Tate. As is our tradition, we will be collecting items for the children at the Henry Fork Service Center, to be used as birthday gifts in 2023.



Our Lunch Bunch always has a good time! Come join us on Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the K&W at Crossroads.

Good Friends and Good Food  
Always

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## **REQUESTED RECIPES**

Our Fall Community Bible Study brunches produced a couple of recipes we've had lots of requests for. Enjoy!

### **Sausage-Hash Brown Casserole** *(Jenny Basham)*

1 lb. milk pork sausage  
1 lb. hot ground pork sausage  
1 (30 oz) pkg. frozen hash browns  
1-1/2 tsp. salt, divided  
1/2 tsp pepper  
1 cup shredded Cheddar Cheese  
6 large eggs  
2 cups milk

Cook sausages in large skillet over medium high heat, stirring until sausage crumbles and is no longer pink. Drain well.

Prepare hash browns according to package directions, using 1/2 tsp salt and pepper.

Stir together hash browns, sausage and cheese. Pour into a lightly greased 13x9 baking dish.

Whisk together eggs, milk and remaining tsp of salt. Pour evenly over potato mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes.

### **Overnight Brioche French Toast** *(Kim Gembala)*

1 lb. loaf of thick crusted french bread  
8 large eggs  
2 cups half and half  
1/2 cup whole milke  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
1/3 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 Tbsp vanilla extract

Spray a 9 x 13 casserole dish with cooking oil.

Tear or cut bread into large pieces and place into the prepared pan.

Using a whisk or blender, mix the eggs, half and half, milk, sugars, cinnamon and vanilla until combined.

Pour mixture over bread in casserole. Push the pieces down if they begin to float!

Cover with plastic wrap or foil and place overnight in the refrigerator.

Mix 1/2 cup softened butter, 1/2 cup all purpose flour, 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon and 1/2 cup chopped nuts. Crumble on top of casserole and bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes.

# Outreach MINISTRIES

## CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE



We had three MPUMC walkers at the Crop Hunger Walk on October 9, and our total contributions amounted to over \$900! Areawide, about \$17,000 was raised as of the day of the walk, with more contributions coming in. Thanks for your support!

### **Reminder ...**

*Our collection of after-school snacks for the PCC's Pathways program will be ongoing through the school year. Donation boxes are located in the narthex and also in the downstairs hallway. Thank you for your generosity in September!!*

## IN SUPPORT OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



On Sunday, October 30 Pastor Robert and Joyce Ison delivered Halloween candy to the Mt. Pleasant Fire Station and the Roanoke City Riverland Rd. Station. We appreciate our community's first responders! Joyce Ison is pictured above with members of the Mt. Pleasant Squad.



Thank you for your generous response to our collection of toothbrushes and razors for RAM House in Roanoke. RAM House is the largest day shelter in Roanoke and is open 365 days a year. Every day they provide its guests with a continental breakfast and nutritious hot lunch as well as toiletries, clothing, and other necessities. They also provide emergency financial assistance that helps with rent and utility bills.



# WOW WEDNESDAY!



Our WOW Wednesday program continues to be blessed abundantly each week. Our kids are learning to "role play" in biblical characters as Jenny Basham leads them in bible study. It's amazing to see their excitement when they are volunteering to portray the characters in the story. Jenny continues to teach them weekly "lessons in life" within each bible character. Thank you, Jenny for being part of our amazing WOW TEAM each week!



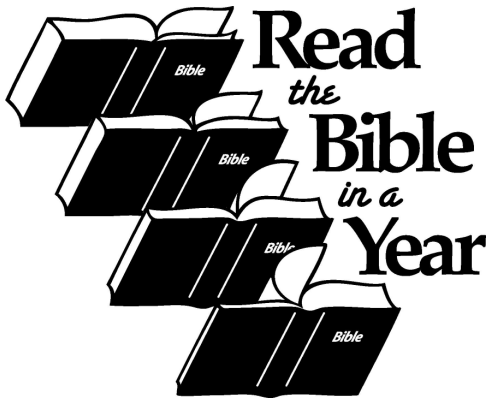
It's snack time!



A lesson on fear  
(using the fear of water as an example!!)



And time for some old-fashioned silliness!



In the new year, Bishop Lewis' challenged us and others in the Virginia Conference to join her and read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

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

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

## November

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 Ezekiel 1:1-3:15	Hebrews 3:1-19	Psalm 104:1-23	Proverbs 26:24-26
<input type="checkbox"/>	02 Ezekiel 3:16-6:14	Hebrews 4:1-16	Psalm 104:24-35	Proverbs 26:27
<input type="checkbox"/>	03 Ezekiel 7:1-9:11	Hebrews 5:1-14	Psalm 105:1-15	Proverbs 26:28
<input type="checkbox"/>	04 Ezekiel 10:1-11:25	Hebrews 6:1-20	Psalm 105:16-36	Proverbs 27:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/>	05 Ezekiel 12:1-14:11	Hebrews 7:1-17	Psalm 105:37-45	Proverbs 27:3
<input type="checkbox"/>	06 Ezekiel 14:12-16:41	Hebrews 7:18-28	Psalm 106:1-12	Proverbs 27:4-6
<input type="checkbox"/>	07 Ezekiel 16:42-17:24	Hebrews 8:1-13	Psalm 106:13-31	Proverbs 27:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/>	08 Ezekiel 18:1-19:14	Hebrews 9:1-10	Psalm 106:32-48	Proverbs 27:10
<input type="checkbox"/>	09 Ezekiel 20:1-49	Hebrews 9:11-28	Psalm 107:1-43	Proverbs 27:11
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 Ezekiel 21:1-22:31	Hebrews 10:1-17	Psalm 108:1-13	Proverbs 27:12
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 Ezekiel 23:1-49	Hebrews 10:18-39	Psalm 109:1-31	Proverbs 27:13
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 Ezekiel 24:1-26:21	Hebrews 11:1-16	Psalm 110:1-7	Proverbs 27:14
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 Ezekiel 27:1-28:26	Hebrews 11:17-31	Psalm 111:1-10	Proverbs 27:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 Ezekiel 29:1-30:26	Hebrews 11:32-12:13	Psalm 112:1-10	Proverbs 27:17
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 Ezekiel 31:1-32:32	Hebrews 12:14-29	Psalm 113:1-114:8	Proverbs 27:18-20
<input type="checkbox"/>	16 Ezekiel 33:1-34:31	Hebrews 13:1-25	Psalm 115:1-18	Proverbs 27:21-22
<input type="checkbox"/>	17 Ezekiel 35:1-36:38	James 1:1-18	Psalm 116:1-19	Proverbs 27:23-27
<input type="checkbox"/>	18 Ezekiel 37:1-38:23	James 1:19-2:17	Psalm 117:1-2	Proverbs 28:1
<input type="checkbox"/>	19 Ezekiel 39:1-40:27	James 2:18-3:18	Psalm 118:1-18	Proverbs 28:2
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 Ezekiel 40:28-41:26	James 4:1-17	Psalm 118:19-29	Proverbs 28:3-5
<input type="checkbox"/>	21 Ezekiel 42:1-43:27	James 5:1-20	Psalm 119:1-16	Proverbs 28:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/>	22 Ezekiel 44:1-45:12	1 Peter 1:1-12	Psalm 119:17-32	Proverbs 28:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/>	23 Ezekiel 45:13-46:24	1 Peter 1:13-2:10	Psalm 119:33-48	Proverbs 28:11
<input type="checkbox"/>	24 Ezekiel 47:1-48:35	1 Peter 2:11-3:7	Psalm 119:49-64	Proverbs 28:12-13
<input type="checkbox"/>	25 Daniel 1:1-2:23	1 Peter 3:8-4:6	Psalm 119:65-80	Proverbs 28:14
<input type="checkbox"/>	26 Daniel 2:24-3:30	1 Peter 4:7-5:14	Psalm 119:81-96	Proverbs 28:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/>	27 Daniel 4:1-37	2 Peter 1:1-21	Psalm 119:97-112	Proverbs 28:17-18
<input type="checkbox"/>	28 Daniel 5:1-31	2 Peter 2:1-22	Psalm 119:113-128	Proverbs 28:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/>	29 Daniel 6:1-28	2 Peter 3:1-18	Psalm 119:129-152	Proverbs 28:21-22
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 Daniel 7:1-28	1 John 1:1-10	Psalm 119:153-176	Proverbs 28:23-24