

# THE MOUNT PLEASANT

# MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

February 2023



**FEBRUARY**

## CALENDAR

- 1 WOW Wednesday
- 8 WOW Wednesday
- 15 WOW Wednesday
- 19 Mardi Gras Potluck  
Lunch following church
- 20 UMW Meeting 1pm
- 21 Leadership Board 6pm
- 22 WOW Wednesday
- 23 Lunch Bunch 11:30am
- B



- 3 Michael Hastings
- 5 Shelby Krawzyk
- 6 Brenda Musselwhite
- 7 Debra Heath
- 13 Patty Patsel
- 17 Eileen Wimmer

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

## WORDS FROM PASTOR ROBERT:

As I write, it is still 24 days until the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday 2023 falls on Feb. 22. That begins forty weekdays of Lenten observance (plus six Sundays) until Easter on April 9.

Some people adopt special disciplines during Lent. So NOW is the time to prepare. Some choose an indulgence to give up. Others find spiritual disciplines to add. Upcoming sermons in the FROM ONE TO TEN series will help you.

Sometimes it is hard to think about adding or subtracting something for forty days. Let me challenge you to think about a "one time a day" discipline.

Every morning during Lent, try praying the "SHOW ME PRAYER." I can't remember where I first heard about it, but it goes something like this:

*"Dear Lord, just for today please SHOW ME one special way in which I can share light and love to someone. SHOW ME one thing I need to stop doing or saying. And SHOW ME one special thing that I can learn about you."*

If you will keep a SHOW ME list during these forty days of Lent, it will help you learn so much about how the Lord is leading you in your faith journey!

## "FROM ONE TO TEN"

Continue to use your study booklet to prepare for upcoming topics in the "FROM ONE TO TEN" series. Bible study passages are included:

- February 5 4 Sources of Authority
- February 12 5 Vows By the People
- February 19 6 Works of Piety to Practice
- February 26 7 Deadly Sins to Avoid
- March 5 8 Works of Mercy To Do

Pick up your booklet at worship, or let us know if we can email one to you.



**FEBRUARY 22ND**

We will mark the beginning of Lent with the service of ashes and repentance on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Services will be shared with our friends from Rockingham Court. Come at the time that works best for you.

12 noon - Service at Mount Pleasant UMC  
6 p.m. - Service at Rockingham Court UMC, 4615 Bryan Rd.



**Did you know ...** "Mardi Gras" is a French term which translates in English to "Fat Tuesday?" It reflects the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season. In the Christian Church it is referred to as "Shrove Tuesday" and is the last day of the Christian liturgical season. It is often celebrated in churches at Pancake Breakfasts (symbolizing the final eating of our richer, fatter foods before we fast). Also on Shrove Tuesday churches will burn the palms used during the previous year's Palm Sunday to make the ashes for their Ash Wednesday service.

Come join us for our Mardi Gras Potluck on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> following our worship service. There's sure to be lots of rich, fatty food (and of course, some good healthy choices). Wonder if anyone will bring pancakes?

## CONFERENCE & DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

There's a lot going on this time of year! Check out these opportunities at the conference ([vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org)) and/or district ([valleyridgeumc.org](http://valleyridgeumc.org)) web sites, or check with Pastor Robert for more info.

February 3-5  
Virtual Mission Encounter: "Who Can We Be Together?"

February 11  
Installation Service for Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson at Woodlake UMC in Chesterfield

February 17-19  
District Youth Retreat at Alta Mons led by Virginia Tech Wesley

February 22 7pm  
Heart Havens ([hearthavens.org](http://hearthavens.org)) Virtual Meet and Greet Event

March 4 7am to 5pm  
Lay Servant Training (In Person)  
Fishersville UMC

DID YOU KNOW that The United Methodist Credit Union ([tumco.org](http://tumco.org)) offers competitive interest rates for auto loans?

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## LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on Tuesday, February at 6pm at the home of Jenny Basham. Please arrive by 5:50 so the meeting can start on time!

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## OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE

January	\$12,355.50	July
February		August
March		September
April		October
May		November
June		December

*Amount needed to meet budget each month: \$8,262*



## HUNGER BUSTER!

*for the Presbyterian Community Center Food Pantry*

Weekly, the Presbyterian Community Center hears heart wrenching situations from current clients and a steady stream of new clients who share their stories of hardship. With your help the PCC Food Pantry can offer assistance to these individuals.

Can you help? Whatever you can contribute will make a difference to someone who is hungry in our community. On behalf of each person receiving these food orders, the PCC staff THANKS YOU, the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church congregation, for supporting this ministry.

Please include your store receipt or price each item before delivering food items. Financial donations should be made out to the church and marked Hunger Buster or PCC. Please have your items to the church by Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **SUGGESTED ITEMS:**

**Proteins:** Canned Chicken, Tuna, Salmon, Beef Stew, Chili, Canned and Dry Beans

**Breakfast:** Boxed Cereal, Oatmeal, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Jelly

**Miscellaneous:** Spinach, Carrots, Beets, Mixed Veggies, Turnips, Diced Tomatoes, Canned Pasta, Fruit, Rice, Snacks

**For Homeless Orders:** Pull Top Cans, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pop Tarts

## **NEWS FROM OUR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Our United Methodist Women held a Christmas Potluck in mid-December at the home of Karen Tate. Thank you Karen for always being such a gracious host!

As is tradition, toys were collected for the children at the Henry Fork Service Center ([henryforkcenter.org](http://henryforkcenter.org)) and were delivered to them in early January, followed by lunch together at Ruth's Place (another tradition!!). These toys will be used throughout the year as the Center Many thanks to all who gave so generously to the toy collection!

The UMW will meet on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the church fellowship hall. Jenny Basham will present the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program which will focus on racial justice and the UMW's campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline "because we believe that racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ." Come be a part of the UMW this year! You will find Karen provides amazing leadership and Jenny's programs never disappoint!

## **OUTREACH TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**

We continue to provide meals and treats to our community's first responders. The dates for 2023 are 2/17, 4/14, 6/16, 8/18, 10/27, and 12/15. If you would like to help with this ministry, contact Joyce Ison 540-761-4341.

## **JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH!**

Thursday, February 22nd 11:30am

Always good friends, good conversation and good food! All are welcome.



# What's happening at ...



## 2023 IS A NEW YEAR FOR WOW!

Our scripture verse for Winter/Spring is:

"Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven!"  
Matthew 5:16

We are talking about how our light shines and how to glorify our Father in heaven. Each week we have:

- Our Bible study time, led by Jenny, where we are trying to build a relationship with Jesus by learning who He was from birth to his ministry. The kids were surprised to know that sometimes He even got into trouble with his parents. Remember the story in Luke 2 when Jesus remained at the temple to talk with the Rabbis and his parents couldn't find him! We hope you enjoy looking at the pictures from our "role play" study of how to be fishers of men.
- In music, we've been using "red solo cups on the table" learning beats in 4 groups with all different beats.
- Betsy plans our art each week and continues to surprise the kids whether it's building a maze or creating fish with a unique design.
- Kim provides our snacks and the kids are always wondering what she has for them!
- And, we can't forget Joyce, our two Patti's, and my granddaughter Brianna who help everyone with what's needed – art projects, homework, dressing kids in their costumes, comforting an upset child, etc.

The WOW Kids and their families will be shining their light brightly as they help our church with its annual Hunger Buster mission for the Presbyterian Community Center.

We are blessed to continue to have eighteen children enrolled as our WOW kids! Our team is each praying throughout their week for specific WOW kids by name. All are being covered in prayer!



It's been truly amazing each week to watch the kids add their prayer requests to our Prayer Cross which is displayed in our Fellowship Hall. It's a precious time each week.

We ask you to continue praying for our team and for God's plans. We continue to see God's mighty work! Thank you for your prayers!

Cindy Weikel  
Director

# OUR WOW KIDS HAVING LOTS OF FUN!!

