

# THE MOUNT PLEASANT

# MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

April 2023



## CALENDAR\*

- 5 WOW Wednesday
- 8 Easter Egg Hunt 11am
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 11 UMW Potluck Lunch
- 12 WOW Wednesday
- 18 Leadership Board 6pm
- 19 WOW Wednesday
- 22 Women's Spiritual Life Retreat
- 23 Family Friendly Faith Time 11 am
- 26 WOW Wednesday
- 27 Lunch Bunch
- 30 Family Friendly Faith Time 11 am

\*Please see page two for special communion dates in April.



- 3 June Sink
- 5 Connor Workman
- 9 Kameron Tuck
- 10 Bobby Hylton
- 13 Michelle Krawczyk
- 14 Sarah Dyess
- 14 Gabe Leslie
- 20 Peggy Akers
- 22 Xander Hastings
- 22 Brayson White
- 23 Laken Musslewhite
- 24 Ethan Hastings
- 29 Janet McMillan
- 30 Braydon Glisson

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Robert Stutes, Pastor  
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

## WORDS FROM PASTOR ROBERT:

Starting Ash Wednesday and through the end of March, I have taken Communion nine times! Frequent Communion is part of my Lenten discipline. I'm grateful for College Lutheran Church in Salem. They have weekly Wednesday noon Communion. CLC is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The UMC and the ELCA are in full Communion with one another, so they welcome me not just as a guest but as family! What a blessing it has been to receive Communion in a place where I'm not presiding at the table! I will be sure to maintain this discipline even after Lent ends.

It has also been a joy to share in home Communion. Last week Hope and I shared Communion with Dean Shell and a table mate of hers. Dean is now in memory care but she was doing well and we had a great visit.

During Lent/Easter, we've had teaching opportunities with adults, youth and children about the meaning of the Lord's Table. Our last session is being recorded, so if you missed it, it will be available. Just check our Facebook page for the link. We have several Communion opportunities between now and May 7. The schedule is a bit different, so check it out. Our desire is to have EVERYONE be able to come to the Lord's Table at least once during Lent/Easter. Check the schedule and make your plan.

If you can't come in person, let us know and we'll bring Communion to you! If you live at some distance from Roanoke and need help locating a church at which to receive Communion, just contact me at 540-427-3064 or at [info@mpumc.church](mailto:info@mpumc.church) and I will help you out!

We were all challenged when we studied the words of John Wesley. He reminded us that the only worthiness to receive Communion is to open your heart to your need for Jesus. Don't stay away from the table for any reason! Come with a heart full of anticipation for a mighty work of God. What we anticipate is what we will receive!

- Pastor Robert



Sunrise Communion 6:30 am

Worship at 11:00 am



**For Holy Week and Easter**

- Wednesday, April 5 5 pm
- Thursday, April 6 (Maundy Thursday)  
12 noon or 7 pm
- Sunday, April 9 (brief Easter sunrise Communion)  
6:30 am (front lawn)
- Sunday, April 16 11 am
- Sunday, May 7 11 am

Take Communion as often as you are able during this holy season, but make sure you definitely have at least one opportunity to be at the Lord's Table. And let us know if you would prefer to have home Communion.

**WELCOME JOY SYLVESTER-JOHNSON**



We are happy to have Joy Sylvester-Johnson as our guest preacher for Palm Sunday, April 2. Joy has been with us before, and you may remember her many years of service with the Rescue Mission of Roanoke.

Pastor Robert and Betsy will be out of town on a basketball watching trip to Houston with Robert's brother. He will be back in Roanoke on Wednesday, April 5.

**LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING**

The Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00 pm. Please arrive by 5:50 so the meeting can start on time!

Our Leadership Board has worked on the issue of making Sunday mornings more accessible to families with small children. A lot has changed since the pre-COVID days when we would have Kids Church twice a month.

For three consecutive Sundays (April 23, April 30 and May 7) we are thinking outside the box and offering "Family Friendly Faith Time." We'll meet downstairs for a worship time that will be appealing to all ages. Family-friendly worship will last for 45 minutes and at 11:45 you'll be invited to remain for light snacks.

Kids will have the opportunity to move around during worship. Things will be a little noisier and messier than usual. Do you know someone who has anxiety about bringing their child to worship. Invite them to check things out on one of these three Sundays.

Where do we go next after these three weeks? Wherever God leads us! Family

Family Friendly Faith Time is for all of God's children - whether you are nine weeks old or 99 years old or somewhere in between! See you there! (For these three Sundays, we will be downstairs and not in the sanctuary at 11 am.)

**Youth Event May 21**

Middle school and high school youth are invited to a districtwide youth event on Sunday, May 21 from 5 to 7 pm at Windsor Hills UMC in Roanoke. The event includes a meal and will feature WE RISE, a local contemporary Christian music band. Let Pastor Robert know if you will be attending!



**OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE**

January	\$12,355.50	July
February	\$ 6,372.00	August
March	\$ 5,970.00	September
April		October
May		November
June		December

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



## UMW Potluck Luncheon April 11

Our UMW will meet at the home of Karen Tate On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for a business meeting and potluck. It's always a fun time at Karen's house! Come join us!



Please consider helping us collect items for the Health Kits to be delivered to the Virginia Conference in June. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. There will be a collection basket downstairs and in the sanctuary.

Materials needed for one Health Kit:

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)  
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
- One comb: Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks  
Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth.
- One toenail or fingernail clipper. No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger). No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging.
- 10 adhesive bandages (Band-aids ¾ by 3 inches)
- One adult toothbrush\*
- Financial contributions are also needed. We need to send \$1 per kit to cover the cost of toothpaste and \$1 per kit for shipping.
- Financial donations are also accepted and we will shop for supplies for you.

\*UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure the produce does not expire before it is sent.

The collection is sponsored by our United Methodist Women. Collection ends May 28; to be delivered to main collection station on Sunday May 28.



Our youth gathered to sort through, total and pack up your donations to this year's Hunger Buster for the Presbyterian Community Center. Thanks to your generosity we were able to donate \$546.23 in food items and a total of \$300 monetary donations.

## CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

Old Fashioned Gospel Sing at Rockingham Court UMC, Sunday, April 2 at 6 pm. featuring the singing group Beckon Call.

District United Women in Faith Spiritual Life Retreat Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 am at Camp Alta Mons. The theme is MOSAIC OF FAITH, with Martha Stokes. Karen Tate has registration forms if you plan to attend. Registration info is also available at [valleyridgeumc.org](http://valleyridgeumc.org). or call Mona at 540-556-5238. Registration is due by April 12.

Spring Craft Show - Saturday, April 22 - 10 am - 2 pm at Raleigh Court UMC, 1706 Grandin Road (sponsored by their Celebrate Recovery group).

## Alta Mons Updates

Summer camp at Alta Mons begins June 25 and registration is already open.

Camp Alta Mons also needs a camp nurse for July 2-7. Camp nurses spend Sunday afternoon to Friday afternoon on site. Nurses can send one child to camp for free as a "thank you." If you know someone who might be interested, have them contact Camp Alta Mons at 540-268-2409 or [office@altamons.org](mailto:office@altamons.org).



## **Good Friday Cross Walk**

All are welcome to the Good Friday Cross Walk sponsored by area churches and organizations. The walk begins at 11 am on Friday, April 7 at Belmont Presbyterian Church, 1005 Ninth Street, SE. There will be stops along the way for readings from the gospel of Mark. Lunch will be served back at the church at the end.

## **Annual Rec Club BBQ** **April 22**

The annual Mount Pleasant Rec Club BBQ fundraiser will be Saturday, April 22, with serving starting at 11 am. Prices are \$10.50 for a pork bbq dinner plate and \$5.50 for a hot dog dinner plate. (Both include drink and dessert.) You can pay by plastic, or save 50 cents by paying cash. Of course you can take out, but showing up and eating with your neighbors is a rare opportunity for us! (The club chose pork bbq instead of chicken due to supply issues this year.) This is a great way to support youth activities in our community.

## **Love Thy Neighbor Walk** **April 29**

Roanoke Church Women United is hosting a "Love thy Neighbor Walk at 9:30 am on Saturday, April 29. Walk and learn how God is working in the Loudon Avenue and West End communities. The walk is about two and a half miles, and there will be places to stop and pray along the way. No charge, but please pre-register by April 20. Begins and ends with lunch at Loudon Avenue Christian Church, 627 Loudon Ave. NW. CWU is a wonderful group that connects women across denominational and racial lines! (Participants who cannot walk will be given information about how to drive to each stop.)

## **Mt. Pleasant Fire Department Spaghetti Fundraiser - May 6**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 6, the date of the Mount Pleasant Fire Dept. drive-through spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Serving runs from 12 noon to 6 pm (or until sold out. \$10/plate includes your dinner, drink and dessert. Kids under 6 are free.

## **Community Nights at Morningside Urban Farm**

Carillon Clinic and Morningside Farm Community Nights are each Thursday at 6 pm beginning April 20. Health and wellness activities for all ages, and free produce to take home. Each week will have a learning opportunity:

April 20 - Fresh From the Farm: Salad Greens  
April 27 - The Food-Mood Link  
May 4 - Explore Southeast

The farm is located at 917 Morgan Ave, SE just off of Ninth Street. Other learning opportunities at the Urban Farm during April:

How to Start Your First Vegetable Garden (5:30 pm on April 6)  
Rain Barrel Workshop (5:30 pm on April 13)  
Monthly Healing Arts Events begin in May. Go to

[CarillonClinic.org/calendar](http://CarillonClinic.org/calendar) for a full schedule.



**Saturday, April 8**

**11:00 am**

**Mount Pleasant Baptist Church**

Once again this year, we are working alongside MPBC to provide candy-filled eggs and to help where we can!

## From Hope's Heart ...

Recently Pastor Robert and I visited one of our shut-in members. The Covid outbreak prevented our making such visits for about three years so I was excited and happy for this privilege.

We traveled a short distance north to Canterbury Place which is a part of The Glebe Retirement Village. There we shared a very special time with one of our dear shut-in members, Dean Shell. We shared with her news of our congregation. I think she was as happy to see us as we were to see her!

Dean's loving, outgoing personality has brought joy to all who know her. She shared her musical talent many times and has always been concerned for and interested in other people.

Before we said our good-byes, we shared Communion with Dean and one of the other residents. It was a special Christ-filled time.

*"Above all, clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."  
Colossians 2:14*



Kids from our WOW Wednesday program welcomed Rev. Dr. Dale White, Director of Congregational Excellence for the Valley Ridge District today. Dr. White was excited to meet our team, see the kids in action, and plans to make another visit to bring a team from another District church to see our Wednesday program in action (their church building is also across the street from an Elementary School).



## Can you help us?

Most of the time when a school asks for help with school supplies, we think of notebook paper, glue sticks, notebooks, etc. But this time, our community school, Mt Pleasant Elementary needs **COPY PAPER!** Yes, **COPY PAPER!** The price of copy paper *has doubled* and, this is the time of the year, when teachers are preparing the children for the state mandated tests. Practice tests and study helps need to be run off and there is a need for more paper. Recently, the UMW has helped by purchasing 4 boxes of 10 reams each to help with this need. Each box was around \$52 and one ream or package would cost \$5 -\$6.00. Grocery stores even carry reams of copy paper!! If you could help us with a making a donation of a ream or a financial donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Questions, contact Jenny Basham (540-797-4003) or [wbasham843@aol.com](mailto:wbasham843@aol.com). Financial gifts should be written to the church with a note for copy paper. Thank you.



This really is a special time! Come and join us for food, fun and fellowship!

**Thursday  
April 27  
11:30 am  
K&W Cafeteria**

# What's happening at ...



WOW Wednesdays continue to WOW each one of us on the team! And, the WOW is coming from Jesus and how he continues to work in our midst. We have been studying scripture that explains Jesus' last days on this earth. After looking at the festival of Passover we began our walk with Jesus' as he entered into Jerusalem. Jesus "rode" his makeshift donkey colt leading his disciples and followers as palm branches swayed. I wish you could have heard the kids singing "Hosanna"! It was beautiful and quite the celebration!

Then we planned for the Last Supper as Christ tried to explain to his disciples about the bread and the wine and what would be happening to Him. Pastor Robert gave the kids a lesson on the sacrament of Communion. Their curiosity was so innocent and beautiful as questions were answered. He is also planning to offer communion to the WOW parents and children in the sanctuary when they pick them up at 5:00pm on April 5. Please join us.

The Garden of Gethsemane followed with the kids acting out the betrayal of Judas. One of our boys did a great job portraying Jesus, showing his sadness and misery.



Then we continued with the trial in front of Pontius Pilate and how Jesus was tormented and tortured as he headed for the cross.

After spring break, we pick up with His burial and the resurrection. The kids are working on a special craft, a cross that is large enough to hang on a wall. They are decorating their cross with their own personal touches. They will be beautiful and something that will help them remember Jesus' sacrifice.

Please continue to pray for the WOW Wednesday program and for each member of the team, Kim, Joyce, Patti, Betsy, Pastor Robert and Jenny, that we continue to follow His path and help these children build a relationship with Christ. Amen.

-Jenny Basham

