

THE MOUNT PLEASANT

MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

March 2023



CALENDAR*

- 1 WOW Wednesday
- 5 Youth 4pm
- 8 WOW Wednesday
- 15 Music Practice 1:30pm
- 21 Leadership Board 6pm
- 22 WOW Wednesday
- 23 Lunch Bunch 11:30am
- 29 WOW Wednesday

*See page 2 for dates/times of special communion events



- 3 Mike Jenkins
- 9 Britney Nicole Glisson
- 10 Terri Beck
- 10 Mary Beth Richardson
- 11 Mary Alice Workman
- 13 Ray Arthur
- 14 Jordan Taylor
- 15 Jan McMillan
- 15 Janie Gregory
- 16 Analise Creel
- 18 Jackson Honaker
- 21 Katie Fisher
- 21 Joyce Ison
- 30 Wayne Myers

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Robert Stutes, Pastor
Cindy Weikel, Pianist & WOW
Director

Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

WORDS FROM PASTOR ROBERT:

Hi friends. I need your help!

FIRST - Please participate in one of these upcoming learning sessions. "UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S TABLE" will help you appreciate what our faith family teaches about the meaning of Communion. Don't miss it.

SECOND - Please make sure you share in Communion AT LEAST ONCE during the Lent/Easter season. I'm not blaming anyone, but I feel like I have done an exceptionally poor job of emphasizing the significance of regularly gathering for Holy Communion. It is our number one channel for being renewed in our life in Christ.

THIRD - Please join me in praying as we plan opportunities for transforming our Sunday worship to be more accessible to families with small children. Our Leadership Board has some ideas up our sleeve, and you will hear more about those next month. This is an "after Easter" project that should be very exciting. Please pray!

Look for the articles about the learning sessions (offered at multiple times) and about seven different opportunities to take Communion in the next several weeks! God is ready to pour out abundant blessings. Are we ready to receive?

- Pastor Robert

PASTOR SIGHTINGS:

Pastor Robert will be out of town on a basketball watching trip to Houston, March 30 through April 4.



Don't forget to spring forward
and turn your clocks AHEAD
one hour on Saturday night,
March 11.

LEARNING SESSIONS: UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion is important to so many, but different groups see it in quite different ways! It can leave us quite confused!

The UMC has a wonderful statement called "THIS HOLY MYSTERY." It eliminates confusion and helps us understand what the Lord's Table means for us. Please take advantage of one of the upcoming learning opportunities we'll be offering. This will be a fun and interesting learning experience. We have several time slots and formats:

SUNDAY MORNING - four weeks at 9:45 am beginning next Sunday, March 5.

WEDNESDAY MORNING - three weeks at 11 am to 12 noon beginning Wednesday, March 8 in the conference room at Presbyterian Community Center, 13th and Jameson. Enter by the PATHWAYS door and bring a canned good if you "can."

SPECIAL BRIEF YOUTH SESSION - during our service project on Sunday, March 5 at 4 pm. Door prizes for EVERY youth attender!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SINGLE SESSION - 4:45 to 7 pm on Sunday, March 12.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SINGLE SESSION - 6:45 to 9 pm on Wednesday, March 15.

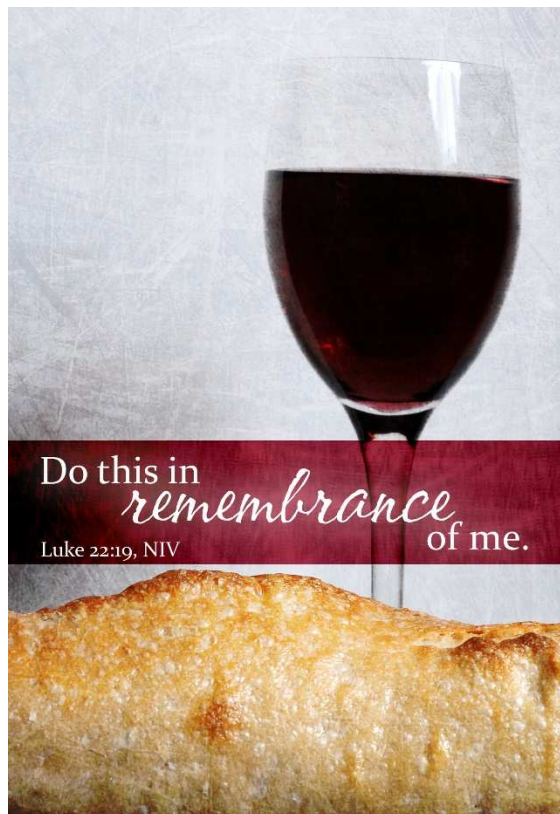
SPECIAL "WOW WEDNESDAY" SESSION - on Wednesday afternoon, March 22.

SINGLE SESSION BY ZOOM (ONLINE) - 2 to 4 pm on Tuesday, March 28. Watch online emails for information on how to connect.

Pastor Robert says - "I initially set a goal of having fifty people attend this class, but with several time choices, I think we can do much better than that."

Don't miss this opportunity to be renewed in your spiritual life. After taking this class, you will know WAY MORE than the average Methodist!

You don't have to pre-register, and guests are most welcome! Those marked "single session" will breeze through the entire content in one gathering.



TAKE COMMUNION DURING LENT/EASTER

In order to make it possible for EACH of you to take Communion during the Lent/Easter season, we will be offering Communion on seven different occasions in the next month and a half:

Sunday	March 5	11 am
Sunday	March 26	11 am
Wednesday	April 5	5 pm
Thursday	April 6	12 Noon, 7 pm
(Maundy Thursday)		
Sunday	April 9	6:30 am
(brief Easter Sunrise Communion on the front lawn)		
Sunday	April 16	11 am

In addition, for those who cannot be present in person we would love to schedule a home Communion visit during March or April. Please let us know if this would be beneficial for you.

Pastor Robert has set a lofty goal of having 150 different persons receive Communion at least once during this six-week stretch of time. This is a goal that we cannot do on our own. But with God's help we can have a marvelous turnout and open ourselves to amazing blessings!

SHOW ME PRAYER

Don't forget to pray the "SHOW ME PRAYER" each day during Lent:

"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."

Keep a notebook or journal to write down how you hear the Lord leading you!

Join us and Sing!

On Wednesday, March 15, singers will gather at the church at 1:30 p.m. to record some songs for our online worship use during the Lent and Easter season.

We did this before Christmas and it was a wonderful way to enjoy music and to share a blessing with our listeners.

We will meet upstairs in the sanctuary and record several songs. Please join us if you can!



LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING

The Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 6 pm at the home of Jenny Basham. Please arrive by 5:50 so the meeting can start on time!

OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE

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

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

CONFERENCE & DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

February 3-5

Virtual Mission Encounter:
"Who Can We Be Together?"

March 4

Lay Servant Training (in Person)
Fishersville UMC 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MARCH 8 is "Giving Day for Mental Health" for United Methodist Family Services. (Go to umfs.org for more info or to donate.)

SUMMER 2023 "All God's Children" camps need mentors. These are weeklong overnight camps for children with an incarcerated parent. Email agcc@vaumc.org for more info.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Church Women United in the Roanoke Valley is holding their annual World Day of Prayer meeting on Friday, March 3 at 10 am at Thrasher Baptist Church in Vinton. Registration begins at 9:30.



Some members of our UMW are planning to attend. If you would like to go (and carpool), meet at the church at 9:15.

CWU will be collecting food for the Edgewood Christian Church Veterans Food Pantry, and are asking for peanut butter and canned or microwavable meals (e.g. Hormel, Dinty Moore, Chef-Boyardee, etc.).

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, March 23rd at K&W Hershberger Rd. The group meets in the front lobby at 11:30. Come gather 'round the table with us!

WORD SEARCH FOR LENT



To all youth and those who think young!

Mark this date on your calendar!

Sunday, March 5, 4-5:30pm
Mt Pleasant United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

We need your help marking, sorting, and packing up the donations for Hunger Buster for the Presbyterian Community Center.

It is a great time of fellowship and there will be food that includes *Walking Tacos*, and, of course, some other goodies.

There will also be a **DOOR PRIZE FOR EVERY YOUTH THAT SHOWS UP!**

Invite a friend to join in the fun and bring your phone since we will need calculators to add up the cost of the items!

We'll be looking for YOU!



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|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Abstinence | Fasting | Lent |
| Adoration | Forgiveness | Liturgy |
| Almsgiving | Forty Days | Palm Sunday |
| Ash Wednesday | Good Friday | Passion |
| Atonement | Holy Saturday | Prayer |
| Celebration | Holy Thursday | Preparation |
| Communion | Holy Week | Promise |
| Confession | Indulgence | Purple |
| Easter | Last Supper | Resurrection |

From Hope's Heart ...

Following some recent surgery on my forehead, I was unable to wear my glasses for a few days. I could see well enough to prepare my meals and do my housework, but I couldn't see well enough to read. I could see the television, but it was a little blurry. I was thankful when I was healed enough to put my glasses back on. I could read again and everything looked clear.

Are we sometimes without our spiritual glasses? Do we see the need around us? Do we see the lonely shut-in? Do we see the child or youth who needs a word of encouragement? Do we see and act upon the many opportunities we have to serve others through our church?

My prayer is that we will always, as we have done many times, open our hands and hearts to the need around us.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
 Galatians 6:2*



What's happening at ...



WOW Wednesdays have been an amazing time for all of us this month. And, we give God the praise and the glory and thank Him for how He has worked in our midst!

Here's what I mean by amazing! Just as a Bible lesson was beginning, one of the girls asked if she could get her Bible out of her bookbag. She did and then wanted to know the scripture for that lesson. With help, she found the scripture and then another child repeated the same request, can I have a Bible? And, then another! And then another until all the children had a Bible off the shelves! Another child shared that she had been to the library after that day to check out a Bible! It doesn't stop there! A donation had been given to WOW and, just recently, all nineteen children received a Bible written on a reading level appropriate for their needs. They are learning about how the Bible is organized and how to locate scripture.



Pastor Robert leads WOW kids in prayer for RAM Blessing Bags

Prayer requests are taken each Wednesday. Yes, prayer requests! A child who has a request will go to a table and either write down their prayer or ask another a team member for help writing their need down. The child will then pin it on the cross on our Prayer Wall.



While this is happening, Pastor Robert is playing the piano and we are quietly sitting! Now, think about that! Nineteen children sitting quietly and recognizing how special this time is! God is at work!

Our Bible time has been focused on the beginning of Jesus' ministry and his miracles. This coming month will be centered around the time when Jesus entered Jerusalem and celebrated the Passover as the last supper, the time he spent praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial, crucifixion, death, burial, and his resurrection. Each lesson will be tied into scripture. As one child shared, "I like reading the Bible."

The songs, "Our God is an Awesome God", God's Not Dead", the WOW song, and the books of the Bible song will be our focus in Music. The children will, also, be making instruments to accompany their singing. We pray that God will be praised in this time.

God continues to amaze us! We ask for your prayers as we minister to the children God has sent us.

- Jenny Basham