

# THE MOUNT PLEASANT

# MESSENGER

A publication of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

June/July, 2023

## JUNE Calendar

- 4 Trinity Sunday  
"Peace with Justice"  
Sunday
- 13-17 Annual Conference
- 14 UMW Potluck Noon
- 18 Father's Day
- 22 Lunch Bunch 11:30
- 25 Graduate  
Recognition

## JULY Calendar

- 23 Henry Fork donations  
due!
- 27 Lunch Bunch 11:30

## JUNE Birthdays

- 1 Kristi St. Clair
- 2 Barbara Blankenship
- 3 Samantha Garcia
- 15 Aiden Akers
- 16 Denise Clark Gray
- 26 Lisa Workman

## JULY Birthdays

- 4 Hope Patsel
- 5 Alex Workman
- 7 Pat Musselwhite
- 11 Julie Burrell
- 22 Rick Beck
- 26 Mike Rowe
- 29 Connor Whitehead
- 31 Emily Fisher

*Please note: There will not be a newsletter mailed in July. If things come up, we will email, facebook, or mail postcards as needed.*

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Roanoke, VA 24014  
540.427.3064  
[www.mpumc.church](http://www.mpumc.church)  
Robert Stutes, Pastor  
Jenny Basham, Lay Leader

## WORDS FROM PASTOR ROBERT:

On May 21, I was privileged to attend a retirement celebration for two district superintendents in Houston. They are longtime friends, and we are all part of a clergy band that has performed across the years.

It was great to get together and do music for this event. And it was so good to see so many friendly faces. On the same trip, I was able to attend a "chartering Sunday" worship service for a new congregation in the Houston suburbs. 200 or more people joined the church in one day! It was so exciting to see the birth of something new.

We live in a time when there is so much discouraging news all around us. It's a hard time to be God's faithful church. But if we open our eyes we will find relationships and celebrations that mean so much.

Thanks to ALL of you as we find new ways to serve in changing times. Your cooperative spirit makes it a delight to be a pastor here. We know God has grace ready to pour out on his faithful servants. Lord, help us to be faithful.

- Pastor Robert



We celebrated the end of our 2022/2023 WOW Wednesday program on May 17<sup>th</sup>. In this picture the kids are displaying the bibles the church gifted them for completing their year. Kudos! to the WOW Team for an amazing season: Jenny Basham, Joyce Isom, Patty Patsel, Betsy Stutes and Kim Gembala!! God used each of you in a mighty way in the lives of these young people!

## **Evaluating the Class on Communion**

From Pastor Robert: A big THANK YOU to all who participated in the class UNDERSTANDING THE LORD'S TABLE. I presented the results of this project as part of a class I am taking on pastoral leadership in changing times! I was able to get some written feedback from some of you, but I invite others of you to share written feedback that will help me finalize the written form of the project results! Here are the questions you might consider. Your written reflections can be as long or short as you want! Positive and negative feedback is so helpful. Thanks again!

- ◆ What was the one thing you most remember from the teaching on Communion?
- ◆ What surprised you the most?
- ◆ Are there ways in which our church's practice might change over the coming years based on what we have learned?
- ◆ Are there things you see quite differently than the way the class presented ideas on Communion?
- ◆ What reflections do you have on the way Pastor Robert presented the class and the project?

## **Update on UMC Issues**

You may have seen news reports about some UMC congregations leaving the denomination. There have been some Virginia Conference churches that have made this decision, but we have not lost any congregations in the Roanoke-Salem area. Pastor Robert will give an update on these issues on Sunday, June 11 at 5 p.m. downstairs. All interested folks are welcome.

## **OFFERING TOTALS YEAR-TO-DATE**

January	\$12,355.50	July
February	\$ 6,372.00	August
March	\$ 5,970.00	September
April	\$ 9,266.00	October
May	\$ 5,775.00	November
June		December

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

## **Peace with Justice Sunday June 4**

Our faith challenges us to love our enemies, to seek justice, and to serve as reconcilers in times of conflict. Sunday, June 4 is observed by United Methodists as "Peace With Justice Sunday." Continue to pray for the people of God to be an effective witness for peace - not just as an absence of strife - but as a positive move for justice in a broken world. Our bulletins will have information on how you can participate in the UMC Peace With Justice offering.

## **Annual Conference Serving Hands Needed June 13 – 17**

Roanoke area churches are asked to provide volunteers to serve during Annual Conference at the Berglund Center, June 13-17. Tasks include hospitality, parking lot workers, greeters, registration, ushers, and more. You can find a way to serve. Go to [valleyridgeumc.org](http://valleyridgeumc.org) to find the latest, or you can call Donna Desper at 540-932-1055, or email [DonnaDesper@vaumc.org](mailto:DonnaDesper@vaumc.org). You may also enjoy attending some of the sessions of conference since it is located right here in Roanoke this year. Go to [vaumc.org](http://vaumc.org) for more info on the sessions!



The annual Samaritan Fund Offering provides financial assistance to Pinnacle Living residents who have outlived their monetary resources and can no longer afford the full cost of their care. Our Mount Pleasant contributions are normally designated for residents of Hermitage Roanoke. The time between Mother's Day and Father's Day is designated as the time to support this ministry. Offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary, or just mark your check for "Samaritan Offering!" Go to <https://www.pinnacleliving.org/samaritan-offering> for more information about this ministry opportunity. Your generosity means so much.

## From Hope's Heart ...

Many years ago, our mother and dad lived in Florida. About once a year our family would drive down to visit



them. For several years they were in Miami, so that meant two days of travel. The was quite a while before supper highways, drive-in food placed on every corner, monstrous billboards, and sky-high gas prices (imagine 25¢ a gallon or less!). Lunch was many times from a picnic basket when we could find a quiet spot just off the highway.

Since that time, I think of the many wonderful things that have happened: all the changes that have taken place in medicine, transportation, education, and communication (cell phones!). Sometimes it's almost overwhelming! But there is one thing we can always be assured of that NEVER changes ... and that is God's unending love for US, his children. He is ALWAYS with us, every second of every minute of every day! Isn't that the most reassuring message you ever heard? God NEVER leaves us!

*"And remember I am with you always,  
To the end of the age."  
Matthew 28:20*

## Lunch Bunch!!

**This summer, come be a part of The Lunch Bunch!** We meet every 4th Thursday at K&W Cafeteria on Hershberger Road. Their food is good, but the friendships made as we fellowship around the table is excellent! This summer the Thursday dates are June 22, July 27 and August 24. Please join us ... and bring a neighbor, friend, or family member with you!

## Rockingham Court UMC

located at 4615 Bryan Road, will have a huge **YARD and BAKE SALE** on Friday, June 9, 8 to 4, and Saturday, June 10, 8 to 1. They'll have clothes, household items, books, and lots more! They'll also have biscuits for breakfast for sale and their "famous hot dogs" for sale at lunch. Vendor spaces are available if anyone has items they would like to sell those days - call 540-427-0112 for information. This is a great way to support our neighbor church!



Thank you for your generous support of items for the health kits for UMCOR. This year we provided 50 kits!



Each kit included a hand towel, washcloth, comb, toenail or fingernail clipper, bath-size soap, adhesive bandages, and an adult toothbrush. \$1 per kit is given to cover the cost of toothpaste and \$1 per kit is sent to cover the cost of shipping. Your generosity amounted to approximately \$600!



Thank you Karen Tate for organizing this drive and Winky McCann for assisting Karen with the assembly.



The UMW will meet on Wednesday, June 14 at Noon for a **summer potluck luncheon** at the home of Karen's home. There will be a short business meeting and devotion. Women of all ages are welcome!

In July, the UMW will hold their annual collection of school supplies for **Henry Fork Service Center**. Specific school supplies are needed and/or financial donations can be made and a member of the UMW will purchase for you. We must have all donations (supplies or financial) by Sunday July 23 to deliver to the center early that next week.

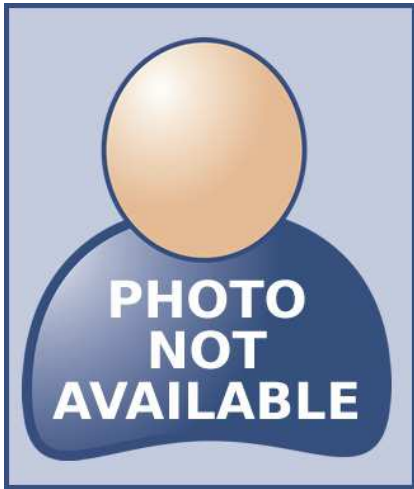
See the information printed on the back page of this month's newsletter for more information. If you'd like to learn more about Henry Fork, visit <https://henryforkcenter.org/>

# Congratulations Graduates

## Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 25

On Sunday, June 25, we will recognize our graduating high school seniors in worship. We have four graduates who are a part of our church membership and extended church family.

We look forward to surrounding these four with our love and prayers as they enter new chapters in their lives and work!



Samantha Garcia graduated this year from Patrick Henry High School. Post-graduation she will continue in a program at Patrick Henry for the next two years.

Samantha was too shy to allow us a picture! She is the daughter of Jeanette Sandridge.

Emory Whitehead graduated from William Byrd HS and plans to attend VWCC this fall, pursuing her education in Human Services. She is the daughter of Scott and Beth Whitehead.



Connor Workman graduated from William Byrd HS and is headed to the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, NC. He is the son of Robert and Tina Workman.

Grace St. Clair graduated as Salutatorian from Roanoke Valley Christian School. She has been accepted into the art program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. She is the daughter of Heather and Bill St. Clair.

# What's happening at ...

We met with our WOW Wednesday kids one last time for this school year on May 17th. And, what a celebration!



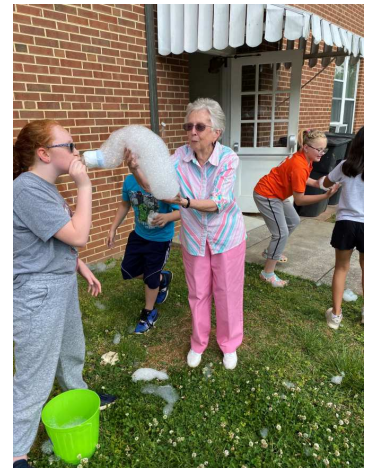
The team provided the usual activities starting with our snack, but this time, out at the picnic shelter. It was a beautiful day for a picnic! This was followed by our Bible story on the Ascension of Jesus. To help the kids experience what it was like for the disciples at the Mount of Olives, we released a helium balloon and watched as it ascended into the clouds! We then reviewed our songs for the program using the palm branches and maracas the kids had made. What beautiful music they made! Pastor Robert was quick to praise the kids for how well they followed directions especially with the maracas! Such wonderful praise for our Lord!



We then returned to the picnic shelter where we worked on our craft, colored sand art in a bottle. After some play time outside and learning how to blow "snake bubbles" we came back inside to ready ourselves for the program. You'll have to ask Winky about the "snake bubbles"!!



Our end of the year program was very gratifying and humbling! Each child was presented their own Bible and our seven fifth graders also received a journal with notes from each of the WOW Team members. Dinner was served to 58 guests, and many of them expressed their thanks for WOW Wednesdays. Right now, we have eleven of our kids returning in the fall. The WOW Team is taking a break this summer to reenergize for this coming fall.



I would like to personally thank everyone on our team. Thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers. We make a great team with Jesus at the helm!

Would you pray with me? Lord, we praise you and thank you for all your many blessings, great and small. We pray that you will continue to bless the WOW mission. We pray that you will bless the kids and their families. We pray that you will give us the courage to step forward as we all continue to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Jenny Basham





## WORD SEARCH

### BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Q	S	P	R	B	H	S	U	G	P	U	E	Z	N
T	C	N	L	E	U	K	A	S	T	C	A	N	H
D	H	U	A	T	V	L	R	E	T	E	P	O	O
P	A	E	I	I	A	E	S	A	D	C	S	M	J
P	H	T	S	T	S	N	L	U	M	N	O	E	F
Y	M	I	I	S	A	S	J	A	A	R	P	L	O
K	M	A	L	M	A	T	O	I	T	H	R	I	R
L	N	A	O	I	I	L	H	L	E	I	H	H	E
S	S	R	T	M	P	T	O	S	O	E	O	P	T
U	G	E	O	T	N	P	I	N	B	C	L	N	T
Q	N	T	M	I	H	A	I	R	I	U	S	G	E
Q	H	H	R	A	N	E	E	A	K	A	V	T	L
Y	J	O	O	S	J	W	W	E	N	E	N	C	F
H	C	F	C	J	S	W	H	J	W	S	Q	S	K

Please support the  
United Methodist Women's  
Annual Drive for school supplies for the  
Henry Fork Service Center.  
Below you will find a list of needed supplies:

- Pencils, packs of 8-10
- Pencil top erasers
- Fat pinkie erasers
- 3-ring pencil pouches to go in binders
- Plastic 3-ring binders with POCKETS
- Wide-ruled notebook paper
- Black & white composition notebook
- Spiral notebooks
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Crayons

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| MATTHEW<br>MARK<br>LUKE<br>JOHN<br>ACTS<br>ROMANS<br>CORINTHIANS | GALATIANS<br>EPHESIANS<br>PHILIPPIANS<br>COLOSSIANS<br>THESSALONIANS<br>TIMOTHY<br>TITUS | PHILEMON<br>HEBREWS<br>JAMES<br>PETER<br>LETTER OF JOHN<br>JUDE<br>REVELATION |
|--|--|---|

Donations are needed by Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Financial contributions are also welcomed.  
Any help will be appreciated. Thank you.

