



Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday
April 21

7:00, 8:15, 9:45, 11:15

Easter Live Streaming

@ 9:45 & 11:15 AM



Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

Pastor & Head of Staff

Penitence in an Age of Divisiveness

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. (1 Corinthians 1:10-11)

With Easter Sunday still several weeks away, we find ourselves today only about halfway down the hopeful but laborious journey of Lent. Many of us have given up things that we normally enjoy. Others have added healthy disciplines to daily routines.

The work of Lent is never easy, but this year I have noticed that it seems harder than ever to be truly penitent. Penitence requires humility. Penitence presumes that we can admit that we may possibly be wrong. Penitence demands that we always consider the needs of others. Unfortunately, the world seems bent on destroying these sentiments. It sometimes feels like examples of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22) can hardly be seen anymore, while examples of their opposites – idolatry, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, and factions – seem to grow exponentially every day. How can we practice penitence in an age of divisiveness?

I recently found a ray of hope in a little book written by Pope Francis called *The Name of God is Mercy*. As the pontiff reflected on our call to penitence, he shared a story of Father Gaston, a priest who finds himself hearing the confession of a dying German soldier during World War I. The soldier confesses his preoccupation with women and his many dalliances with them. The priest urges the man to repent of these sins in order to be forgiven. "How can I repent?" the man replies. "It was something that I enjoyed, and if I had the chance I would do it again, even now. How can I repent?"

Father Gaston does not know what to say. And then, a light of inspiration entered his mind. "But are you sorry that you are not sorry?" the priest asked.

The soldier does not answer right away, but his face softens. "Yes," the soldier quietly replied, "I am sorry that I am not sorry." As the pope observed, "the door was opened just a crack," but it was enough for "absolution to come in."

In this age when we all seem to be set in our ways...when the distance between people seems so great...when we don't seem to be sorry about much of anything...may the grace of God open the doors of our lives just enough for true penitence to find its way in.

Blessings and peace,

April 2019

Connect With Us

SUNDAYS

Worship: 8:15 & 9:45 AM, Sanctuary
11:15 AM, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall (The Net)

Sunday School: 9:45 am (All Ages)

Fellowship Breakfast

9:00 – 11:00 AM, Fellowship Hall

Childcare

Available during every service, Seabrook
Secure Check-In & Background Checks

Sermons

[Live Streaming](http://mppc.net/watch-live): mppc.net/watch-live

[Sermons](http://mppc.net/sermons): mppc.net/sermons

[Podcast](http://mppc.net/podcast): mppc.net/podcast

WEDNESDAYS

Get Fed: Faith, Fellowship & Food

mppc.net/get-fed

Events, Registrations & News

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mppc.net 843.884.4612



Easter

April 21

7:00, 8:15, 9:45 & 11:15

Family Easter Egg Hunt

April 13, 10 AM

The children are encouraged to bring their baskets and enjoy the hunt, face painting, and Easter card decorating. Candy donations for treat bags are graciously accepted in the office. For more info or to volunteer, contact Susan Dalton (sdalton@mppc.net).

Easter Lily Offering For Worship Order Online (mppc.net/events)

MPPC offers members and friends the opportunity to purchase lilies which will adorn the worship on Easter morning. They may be purchased (\$15 each) in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Donations received by April 8 will be published in the Easter bulletin insert. Lilies may be picked up after 11:15 AM worship. For more info, contact Barbara Loehr-Fox (bloehr@mppc.net).

Easter Sunday Childcare

Volunteers: Easter Sunday is a wonderful day of celebration at MPPC and a very busy one with lots of children. Please consider helping our amazing team of childcare workers at the 8:15, 9:45, or 11:15 AM services. Contact Susan Dalton (sdalton@mppc.net).

Easter Sunday Childcare

Check-In: If you are new to MyMPPC, please [request a login](http://mppc.net/mympc-questions) (mppc.net/mympc-questions) to ensure a smooth check-in for childcare on this extra busy Sunday morning. Contact Michael Hardee with any MyMPPC questions. There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday: Apr. 18, 7:00 PM Friendship AME Church, 204 Royall Ave

Join us for an ecumenical communion service with our brothers and sisters from Olive Branch AME and Friendship AME. The pastors and choirs of all three congregations will help us observe the final meal that Jesus spent with his disciples. Special thanks go to our Bridge-Building Ministry for laying the foundation for this very special service of worship.

Good Friday: Apr. 19

Prayer Vigil: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Ecumenical Prayer Walk: 3:00 PM

Our church and neighboring churches (Hibben United Methodist, Friendship AME & St. Paul's Lutheran) will gather for an Ecumenical Prayer walk. We will leave from the steps of MPPC at 3:00 PM and walk through the Old Village stopping several times as we remember Christ's crucifixion and death through scripture and song.

EASTER SUNDAY

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering:

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Learn more at specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs

Flowering of the Cross: All ages are invited to bring flowers to decorate the crosses (Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary) on Easter Sunday. This 6th century tradition is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death on Good Friday. Flowers need a three inch stem to be placed on the cross.

Worship

Lenten Worship & Lunch

Beginning at 12 Noon, enjoy a 30-minute service with a light lunch to follow. For more info, contact Barbara Loehr-Fox (bloehr@mppc.net). **Apr. 4** – Worship w/ Communion @Palmetto Presbyterian; **Apr. 11** – Worship w/Communion @MPPC, Christopher Teves, classical guitar

LOGOS Musical: Apr. 28, The Net

From the foreword in the musical, Allen Pote writes, "Oh, Jonah! is meant to be a whale of a good time for both performers and audience as the story of the prophet Jonah is brought to life with music and merry-making. It's more than just a story about a whale swallowing a human. It's a story about us. It's a tale involving responsibility, repentance, listening for the word of God in our lives, accepting people who are different from us, and believing that there is mercy and compassion for all who turn toward God – serious thoughts, but told with a sense of humor and frolicking fun." We hope you can be a part of this time of worship.

Presbyterian Women's

Birthday Offering: Apr. 28

Since 1922, the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. Prayerfully consider giving to these worthwhile projects. This year's Birthday Offering recipients are: Disaster Response Team; Presbytery of Charlotte, North Carolina; Effingham Child Development Center; Inclusive Playground Effingham, Illinois; Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.; Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center Residents Phelps, Kentucky; Wings of Refuge; Restoration Home Iowa Falls, Iowa. [Learn More](#)

Confirmation Sunday: May 5

Bible Studies

New Adult Sunday School Class 11:15 AM, Grace Hall 123-125

Get Fed: Practicing Lent

Apr. 3, 10, 24

On Wednesdays during Lent, our Get Fed adult study will focus on spiritual practices and disciplines. Spiritual practices are anything we do with intention that opens us to the presence of God. Each week we will address a particular style of prayer, meditation, Bible study or worship. We invite you to learn about and try some new experiences, allowing your spiritual life to be refreshed and renewed.

Apr. 3: The Mustard Seed, Praying in Color

Apr. 10: Laborers in the Vineyard, Lectio Divina

Apr. 24: Widow and the Judge, Approaches to Prayer

Fellowship

PYC Cookout: Apr. 28

Lunch Bunch: Apr. 29, 11:30 AM

Fellowship Hall: Bring a covered dish and join us for great food, fun, and fellowship! For more information, contact Alexis Wright Singleton (843-884-4612, asingleton@mppc.net).

Men's Spring Hike: May 2-5

Register Online: mppc.net/events

We will team up with Palmetto Presbyterian for a 4-day wilderness adventure in which we seek to grow in our relationship with God, enjoy His creation and the company of our brothers in Christ. Hike: \$55, Base Camp: \$65 (stationary team). Base camp is tentative - depending on interest. For more information, contact [Kim Trimboli](mailto:Kim.Trimboli@mppc.net) (843-884-4612).

Missions

Presbyterian Women Spring

Gathering - Apr. 13: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

"For Everything There Is A Season," Cost: \$15

Guest Pastor: Lib McGregor Simmons

Edisto Presbyterian Church, 1890 Cypress Bottom Road, Edisto Island - Pick up a registration form in the office, complete and submit with registration fee. You may register the day of the event, but will not be guaranteed lunch.

Saturday of Service: May 11

8:00 – 8:30 AM Check-In

Register Online: mppc.net/events

Saturday Of Service (SOS) is more than just a church work day. That would be good enough, service to our congregation, but it is so much more. SOS provides an opportunity for us to deepen our discipleship by serving Christ in service to others: in our congregation, our community, and in the world.

East Cooper Faith Network (ECFN)

Back in 2011, members of our congregations and Greater Goodwill AME began recruiting volunteers for I-Beam to be paired with second and third graders who were struggling with reading and/or social skills. ECFN continues to grow with additional initiatives such as Camp I-Beam and Fix-It thanks to your financial support through the local missions budget and with your time and talent!

I-Beam : volunteers now serve 9 schools in East Cooper. Camp I-Beam: volunteers, in the summer, take on the issue of "summer loss" when the children are out of school. Fix-It: volunteers provide needy homeowners with essential home repairs. If one of these initiatives touches your heart or you have a skill set that can be helpful, you can find out more information through mppc.net/missions or contacting Benjamin Shaeffer (bshaeffer@mppc.net).

BIRTHS

Lillian Grey Beech, daughter of Cassi & Joshua Beech (DG #50), Feb. 14.

Chloe Victoria Knight, granddaughter of Mona & Jim Knight (DG #29), Feb. 23.

Maddyn Rose Hubbard, granddaughter of Judy & Mark Hubbard (DG #25), Mar. 1.

DEATHS

Virginia Jones, grandmother of Mark Scruggs (DG #68), Feb. 1.

Ann Witherspoon, daughter of Sam Witherspoon (DG #2), Feb. 6.

David Massie, son of Danny & Tita Massie. February 12.

Norman J. Walton, Jr., father of Jason Walton (DG #54), Feb. 12.

Julia Rainero, sister-in-law of Joe Rainero (DG #67), Feb. 13.

BAPTISMS

Amelia Louise Buganski, Mar. 10

Fletcher Tate Sikes, Mar. 10

Corbin Jones Kern, Mar. 17

Selah Miller Valley, Mar. 24

Cora Keating Griffin, Mar. 24

HOPE HOUSE

Donation given by Avis and Jeff Griffith.

In **MEMORY** of

Jack Huckabee, given by Miff and Karl Cone.

ENDOWMENT

In **HONOR** of

Chris Sarkowski given by Dorothy Anne Bowers.



Youth Local Missions

"God's People at Work!" That's what the sign says as you drive by. In big bold letters. Only when you look closer do you see the fine print – "Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church" – That is how it should be, identifying ourselves with God first, group second.

However, we do need to let our church family know just what has been going on in our Local Mission youth efforts – and this does not include the work of our Confirmands and their mission service projects.

There are two recurring mission events our youth (middle school & senior high) participate in: Cross Mission and Salkehatchie Mission. These are all participation based, youth (and their chaperones) don't just get a tour of a mission site but actively work there, hands on, learning what the mission site does by doing the work.

- **Cross Mission** sponsored by Myers Park Presbyterian Church (the other MPPC), the mission team spends a week going to two work sites each day working in urban missions. These young people cook meals at mission locations, work in community gardens, build furniture for

transitional housing, sort goods at Second Harvest and even run the bingo game at a senior center. They even hand out bottled water to folks on the streets of Charlotte – fulfilling Christ's first question "Did you give me water to drink?"

- **Salkehatchie Mission** is when our High School youth go out with other youth and rebuild homes in Bamberg, SC. Their day starts at breakfast at 6:00 AM (no one sleeps in) and ends after worship services in the evening, usually after 9:30 PM. And when we talk rebuilding a house, we're talking shoring up foundations, major plumbing (replace water heater, bath tubs, kitchen sinks), electrical (new conduit, light fixtures, fans), building access ramps for the disabled and major roofing projects in the hot July sun. Of course vermin removal is sometimes required!

Over the past year our MPPC youth have provided over 115 work days to these two programs. Our youth are planning to go out on these trips again this summer, Cross in June and Salkehatchie in July.



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464

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Chelsea (left) with her mom (right) on their January 26 visit to Hope House.



< How Hope House Found Its Purpose

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18

In August 2009, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church was planning to renovate the recently-purchased old house next door. What to do with it was still up for debate. That's when Mary and Robert (Bud) Hess of Blufton, SC knocked on the door. Their 19-year-old daughter, Chelsea, had been in a near fatal auto accident and flown to MUSC in very critical condition. Her parents knew every penny had to go to her care...not hotels. Don Horres, on the Hope House Ministry Team and MPPC Executive Director, said they were welcome to take a look at the old house. They did, and accepted the church's offer to stay there. Bud recalled "what a wonderful peaceful home this turned out to be," complete with a garden cat named Smokey and a cardinal perched outside. Mary believes they "were signs from God to comfort us." The Hesses stayed for more than two months. For most of that time, Chelsea was in a coma. When Chelsea visited Hope House about three years later, she said how appropriate the name was, since it had given her parents "Hope." Today, Chelsea describes herself as "a normal 29-year-old woman, happily single –for the moment," with a Jack Russell terrier named Tinkerbell and two 9-year-old turtles. She teaches English as a second language, privately tutors children with special needs and hostesses at the Mexican restaurant where she used to work.

Hope House continues to provide a safe, secure, temporary home-away-from-home...full of Hope...for those with loved ones in a Charleston area hospital. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Beth Moore (843-532-4892, bmoore@carolinaone.com).

< Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at MPPC meets each week to knit and crochet beautifully made items for those in need. Their loving gifts have blessed the Hollings Cancer Center (shawls, lap robes); Florence Crittendon Home (baby blankets, sweaters, caps); Dee Norton Family Center (Christmas scarves & caps), Ronald McDonald House (baby blankets & quilts), Samaritan's Purse (knit caps), MPPC Hope House (shawls and scarves), and for those in our church family and community who are ill or shut in. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please join us as we pray together, enjoy a devotional and great fellowship. For more information (schedule/donations), please contact the church office (843-884-4612).