

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

December 2019



STRAW FOR THE MANGER

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

Pastor & Head of Staff



"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

During the season of Advent, we straddle the boundary between life without Christ and the new life in Christ... between vulnerability and security... between the difficulties of this world and the blessings of heaven. As Frederick Buechner more eloquently puts it, Advent lives "somewhere between the fact of darkness and the hope of light." And there is perhaps no greater symbol of this tension than the manger of Bethlehem. It is a refuge, but a very imperfect one. The child who will fill it will be warm, but also exposed. It is bathed in light, but the darkness lurks close by.

As disciples who are called into this tension, the teachings of Christ in Matthew 25 speak powerfully to the ways we are called to live. Our hope is that the Lord will say to us *"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*

In certain churches of Eastern Europe, a very special Advent tradition has developed around this calling to serve. At the beginning of the season, an empty wooden manger is placed at the front of the church. Each week in worship, the children of the congregation come forward to place pieces of straw in the box. Each piece represents an act of love or kindness that they have offered to another person. As each boy and girl add their offerings of grace, the bed for Jesus is filled -- just in time for the candlelight mass on Christmas Eve. If you are intrigued by this practice, or the idea of "a Matthew 25 Advent season" in general, I would encourage you to follow along with the daily devotional published in the latest issue of *Presbyterians Today*. Dan Wiard has made these available in the eNews and website. Limited copies are also available in the church office.

Regardless of how you choose to mark and observe this important boundary season, I pray that the grace of the manger will capture you in a new and powerful way this December. And, to paraphrase Hebrews, as we seek together to love and serve one another, let us not neglect to meet together, but rather encourage one another in faith, in love, and in service as we *"see the Day approaching."*

Blessings and peace,

New Worship Times

Starting Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020



9 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Children and Youth Sunday School
Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Alternative Worship in the Net
Adult Sunday School

Children's Worship Opportunities Coming Soon...

SHARING GOD'S LOVE



WISE GIVING
Give a Gift of Hope and Love. Give a Wise Gift.
Nov. 17-Dec. 23

The holidays are almost here! Most likely, you will soon be making a Christmas gift list. What do you get that person who has everything and needs nothing? There is no better gift to give or receive than to help someone in need.

Wise Giving is MPPC's annual, alternative gift giving campaign that supports our trusted local and international mission partners. Wise Gifts can be given in honor of your family, friends, secret Santa, neighbor, or really anyone. A Wise Gift is a double gift. The person who is honored by a Wise Gift will be blessed by knowing that someone is being helped, and the partner who receives your donation helps someone in need. It is also a wonderful way to introduce your children to the true meaning of Christmas.

Wise Giving is another wonderful example of Christian love at MPPC. Since 2014, we have raised over \$210,280 through Wise Giving. Let's continue the tradition! November 17 is our kickoff—we will check everything off of your Christmas gift list! You can give online or shop on campus.

How to Give

1. Online: mppc.net/wisegiving
2. Select Give Now button.
3. Enter amount, choose mission partner(s) under "Fund" option.
4. To support multiple partners, select "Multiple Fund".
5. Your generosity is posted to your MPPC Contribution Statement.

On Campus

Fellowship Hall on Sundays
between service (through Dec. 23)

- Office: M-Th: 8:30 AM - 5 PM; F: 8:30 AM - 1 PM

Gift Cards

Each Wise Gift comes with a gift card so that you can highlight each mission to improve the lives of those in need.

Do you ever wonder how to tell your children about the true spirit of Christmas giving? How do we tell them and show them that the meaning of Christmas is not all jingle

bells, Black Friday sales, and endless holiday jingles? How can we tell them about how our greatest gift of love from our father God, was his son, Jesus?

Wise Giving is a perfect opportunity, a beautiful time, to teach our children about sharing God's love at Christmas.

At your dinner table, have a conversation with your kids! Talk about the Wise Gifts that you might give and ask them if they have anyone they'd like to give a Wise Gift to — a loved relative, a teacher, a friend from down the street.

Show them how their gift will shine God's light of love into those dark places where some of our neighbors don't often see that light as they struggle with staying alive day by day. Use the **Little Wise Giving** page from the Wise Giving catalog to make it easy for your child to see what each gift can do!

There's a child nearby who has no mom or dad and lives in a home with other children that have no moms or dads.

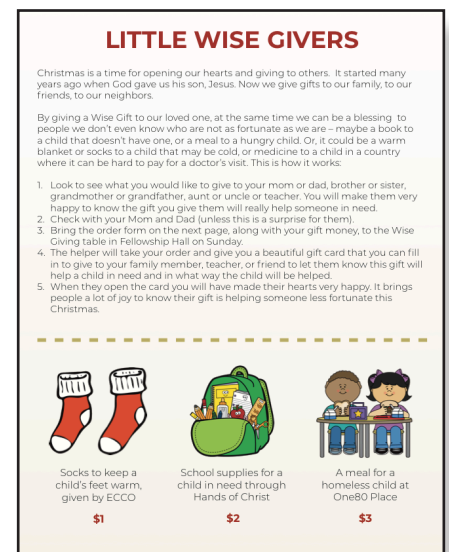
The gift of a blanket to keep him warm on these winter nights is a small gift to give but a huge gift for the child, something to snuggle under and keep the cold away.

There's another child, living in the city with his mother, but they have no home, so they stay at a shelter with other families who have no homes. A small gift could give that child a warm meal.

On the island of Haiti, one of the poorest islands in the Caribbean, ravaged by earthquakes and hurricanes, for less than the cost of a Happy Meal for us, we might give a child school supplies so that she may attend school and start on the road to an education and out of her poverty.

Now, by giving a Wise Gift to our loved one, we can also be a blessing to people we don't even know who are not as fortunate as we are.

Visit mppc.net/wisegiving to learn more or to give a gift! You will also be able to purchase gifts in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday through Dec. 23.






LITTLE WISE GIVERS

Christmas is a time for opening our hearts and giving to others. It started many years ago when God gave us his son, Jesus. Now we give gifts to our family, to our friends, to our neighbors.

By giving a Wise Gift to our loved one, at the same time we can be a blessing to people we don't even know who are not as fortunate as we are — maybe a book to a child that doesn't have one, or a meal to a hungry child. Or, it could be a warm blanket or socks to a child that may be cold, or medicine to a child in a country where it can be hard to pay for a doctor's visit. This is how it works:

1. Look to see what you would like to give to your mom or dad, brother or sister, grandmother or grandfather, aunt or uncle or teacher. You will make them very happy to know the gift you give them will really help someone in need.
2. Check with your Mom and Dad (unless this is a surprise for them).
3. Bring the order form on the next page, along with your gift money, to the Wise Giving table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday.
4. The helper will take your order and give you a beautiful gift card that you can fill in to give to your family member, teacher, or friend to let them know this gift will help a child in need and in what way the child will be helped.
5. When they open the card you will have made their hearts very happy. It brings people a lot of joy to know their gift is helping someone less fortunate this Christmas.

		
Socks to keep a child's feet warm, given by ECCO	School supplies for a child in need through Hands of Christ	A meal for a homeless child at One80 Place
\$1	\$2	\$3

HOPE HOUSE

A Season of Giving

"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

It's that time of year again... the hustle and bustle of Christmastime when everyone's focused on decorating for the holidays, buying gifts, getting together with family & friends, and celebrating Advent.

A joyous time to be sure...but not for all.

When a loved one is rushed to a hospital miles from home, many families struggle to cope with the unknown in strange surroundings.

Those who make their way to Hope House find peace and comfort, forming bonds with volunteers or other guests. Many rediscover the spirit of the Season, giving back in small ways: making sure that coffee is brewing first thing in the morning, helping fellow guests with laundry, or preparing meals for those who stay late at the hospital.

And they know that at the heart of it all is YOU, the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church family, that supports this Ministry in countless ways all year long.

If you would like to help and get to know our many wonderful guests who stay at Hope House and Hope Cottage, please contact Beth Moore at (843) 532-4892 or bmoore@carolinaone.com for information about volunteer opportunities.



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

DEC. 5

In Honor of Jean Fowler on her birthday, Given by Elaine and Sam Fowler

DEC. 6

In Honor of Mary Sims deHoll's birthday, Given by Mark and Jennifer Davidson

DEC. 8-14

In Memory of William Edward (Eddie) Twilley Jr's. Parents,

William E. Twilley, Sr. and Mildred Twilley, Given by Beth Fondren and Eddie Twilley

DEC. 23

In Honor of my special Aunt, Beth Cottingham of Kingstree, SC, Given by Lynn McCants

DEC. 23

In Honor and In Memory of our cousins, Given by Diane and Joe Molinari

DEC. 23

In Memory of Daddy, Erhard Stiepel, Given by Angi Case

DEC. 24

Happy Birthday to Paul, Given by Elizabeth Grantham

DEC. 25

Thank you God for giving us your Son and saving us from our sins. Merry Christmas. Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

Donations to Hope House

Hope House: Avis and Jeff Griffith, Don and Terry Horres, Anonymous, Todd Graham, Mike and Pam Murray, Hal S. Currey

In Memory of: Dr. Carlton G. Force, Given by Mike and Janet Dusharm, Dick and Mills Loucks

In Memory of: Lori Blackburn, Given by Paul and Elizabeth Grantham

"Thank you so much for the *blessing* of this house...Having a temporary home near the hospital allowed us to spend more time with our MiMi before she joined Jesus. Please never have any doubt that *this house is serving God.*"

--the D., S. & M. families--

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Looking to get involved at MPPC? What about Youth Ministry? When I ask this question to members of the congregation, they come back by saying..." I am not cool enough," or "I wish I had time", or "I am too old for those young wild youth." If this has ever been you, I challenge you TO get involved. The youth at MPPC are the most welcoming group and love to meet members of all ages and trust me, their Director of Youth Ministries will never have a cool factor, so do not worry about that either! I challenge you to learn from these young people by becoming a youth advisor on Sunday nights, or helping with Prayer Breakfast, or even helping lead a bible study with me. If you open your heart to the youth, they will open theirs right back to you and that is something that is indescribable for both faith journeys. We also have A LOT OF FUN!!! Come join us!

By emailing me I can tell you how to get involved as much or as little as you would like. To continue the great things in Youth Ministry we need YOU -church members of all ages to make it happen!

If you would like to give in another way you can also help provide a meal on Sunday morning or Sunday night for Sunday School or Youth Group. Those links can be found in the weekly enews.

Peace,

Courtney Kraus
*Director of
Youth Ministries*
ckraus@mppc.net



Youth Ministry Save the Dates

(Please RSVP for events on Realm)

- **Sunday, Dec. 1:** High School Bethelwoods Registration begins
- **Sunday, Dec. 8:** Caroling at Franke Home, 1:30-3:30
- **Wednesday, Dec. 11:** Middle School Montreat 2020 Registration begins
- **Sunday, Dec. 15:** Youth Group Christmas Party, 5:30-7:00 (Last Youth programming event of 2019. Programming will resume Jan. 7)
- **January 10th-12th:** High School Youth Ski Trip (two male chaperones needed)

CAROLING AT FRANKE HOME

**When: Sunday Dec.
8th from 1:30-3:30**

**Where: meet at the
church and we will
ride together to
franke home**





62 youth and adult volunteers from MPPC spent their Sunday evening packing 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger to help feed hungry children around the world!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I had the opportunity to spend some time with my youngest son in Washington DC this past month. I went with only one agenda: enjoy my son. It was a fantastic week doing the things *he* does in a large metropolitan area at *his* pace. We rode the Metro, saw DC at night, went to a Capitals hockey game, walked his girlfriend's dog, met up with his sister, drooled in Best Buy, slept late, and shared memories. It was a "perfect" weekend together.

Christmas season is busy. Sometimes it can get too busy; we lose sight of those around us. I am fortunate that some of the memories my son and I shared began in the church. Christmas pageants, Sunday School, worship, youth group, mission trips, and church-wide outings helped us define part of our relationship today. I hope that you will find opportunities to develop your relationships this Christmas, from a Family Advent Wreath Workshop to Worship and Sunday School and all the extras on the side. May Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church provide you a foundation for the relationships around you.

Merry Christmas!

Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education
dwiard@mppc.net



Get Fed

January 15 - April 29, 2020

Get Fed takes a short break over the holidays but returns January 15, 2020, with classes and opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Registration for elementary children's LOGOS opens **Monday, Dec. 2**. New to this winter's registration is a Parent Covenant parents must sign before a child can register. This covenant allows opportunities for adults to participate in all aspects of LOGOS. Children will see the fruits of parent involvement in smaller Bible Time groups, structured recreation, more hands-on-deck in music, and more opportunities to build relationships with adults during dinner. By the end of LOGOS, in addition to learning more about Worship and Jesus (curriculum themes), we are hopeful children will be able to name five adults who care about them and their spiritual growth.



Wednesday Night Schedule

- 4:45-5:30: LOGOS choir
- 5:30-6:00: Dinner for ALL ages
- 6:00-6:30: LOGOS Bible Time
Angel Notes Choir
- 6:30-7:00: LOGOS Recreation
Angel Notes Bible Time
- 6:00-7:00: Adult Study Electives
(See next page)
- 6:30-8:00: Adult Choir

Dinner is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (55+), \$5 per child (ages 6-17) and children under 5 eat free. \$25 family maximum.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Get Fed Adult Electives

***UNAFRAID: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Rev. Adam Hamilton**

In this 5 week series, we explore the most common worries and fears experienced by Americans today, consider practical steps for overcoming these fears, and reflect upon fear in the light of scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we don't need to live in fear. Let's live with courage and hope. For anyone struggling with fear, worry or anxiety, or wonders how families and communities can live as peacemakers in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Each lesson will involve 15-20 min video, group discussion and table discussion. **This study will meet in the Parlor and will be led by Rev. Bart Edwards.**

Books are available for purchase through the church. (It is not necessary to purchase the book, but it is helpful.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 15	Understanding and Countering Fear
January 22	Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
January 29	Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
February 5	Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
February 19	Aging, Illness, Dying and Fear of the Lord

New Director of Children's Ministries

The Director of Children's Ministry Search Committee is pleased to announce that Sarah Harbin-Coleman has accepted the position.



Sarah comes to us from Summerville Presbyterian Church where she was Director of Children's Ministry. She is also a licensed S.C. Professional Counselor. Sarah is looking forward to meeting and working with MPPC families.

Her first day will be Sunday, Dec. 1. Please join us as we welcome our newest addition to the Christian education team!

"I am thrilled and grateful to join the staff of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church and to serve the children and families of the church in faith formation, worship, and fellowship. There is little more exciting than the moment a child grasps the meaning of a Bible story, internalizes the love of Christ, or connects with someone else in the congregation, and I consider it an honor to be part of that experience. I truly believe that strong childhood faith builds strong adult faith. I cannot wait to meet the children of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian and discover how God is calling me to serve the church." - Sarah Harbin-Coleman

Get Fed Adult Electives ***The Gospel of John, The Film***

Many of us have read or are familiar with the Gospel of John. We know it is the fourth Gospel in the New Testament. The Leadership Bible says, "John provides a treasure trove of Jesus' stories and teachings not found in the other Gospels. John is also the simplest and most profound of the Gospels. Rich in insights and application, this book is the greatest evangelistic tool ever written."

While this may all be true, when we see the Gospel of John come to life in film, our understanding of who and what Jesus was like might change. "Is this the Jesus we read about in scripture?" We wonder. "Is this the Jesus I know? My Jesus does not (or maybe does) look like the Jesus depicted in the film." Over five weeks leading up to Lent, we will watch the film *The Gospel of John*, a word for word adaptation of the Good News Bible translation and explore questions that arise as we interpret what we see. The only text you will need is your Bible. **This study will meet in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Dan Wiard.**

GET INVOLVED



Oyster Roast

The MPPC Annual Oyster Roast and Chili Cook-off will take place **Jan. 8, 2020!** Early Bird Registration opens Dec. 1 at mppc.net/events. You can also register in person after church starting Sunday, Dec. 8. Childcare will be provided.

Early Bird Discount:

- \$15.00/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- \$7.50/person Chili and Hotdogs
- Chili Cook-off Participants eat free
- Children 12 and under eat free
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$30.

After January 6th:

- \$20.00/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- \$10.00/person Chili and Hotdogs
- Chili Cook-off Participants eat free
- Children 12 and under eat free
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$40.

Active Duty Service

If you know a member who is currently active duty in the military, please **let Linda Schreck know** by contacting her at lschreck2@comcast.net.

Community Christmas Caroling

Please join us for community wide Christmas Caroling in the Old Village with other local churches. We will also be collecting donations for a local mission partner and enjoying some fellowship, hot chocolate and Christmas goodies on **Sunday, Dec. 15** starting at **6 p.m.** We'll meet at the church at 6 p.m. and depart from there and will return around 7:30 p.m. If there is inclement weather, we'll look to reschedule.



Sunshine Group

The Sunshine Group is a brand new Deacon-led committee serving our members in a variety of ways.

Are you or someone you know a member that is:

1. a family with a new baby (or expecting a baby soon)?
2. age 90 or older?
3. currently serving in the military?
4. a student away at college?

We are here to support and spread sunshine to YOU! Please send us the member's name and contact information. If you are not a member in one of those categories, but would like to VOLUNTEER to help us with our mission, we want to hear from you! **Contact Sarah Wendell** at sarah.dixon.wendell@gmail.com.

Angel Tree

We are called to love and help our neighbors. What better way to do this than to transform Mount Pleasant into a Christ-like community one child at a time. Through MPPC's Angel Tree, gifts will be given to help area families in need. We are working to empower the parents as well as the children.

The children on the tree this year are from local elementary schools and Windwood Farms. Each child has 3 angels on the tree, 1 for toys, 1 for books and school supplies and one for clothes. Visit the Fellowship Hall to pick an angel from the tree between **Nov. 24 and Dec. 15**. Gifts are due back Dec. 15, WRAPPED with the Angel attached. Last year over 120 children were served making that over 300+ gifts donated.

For more information please contact Emily Shortridge at eeratt65@gmail.com or 843-452-4447.

Advent Wreath Worship

The Church Family Advent Wreath Workshop is **Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This festive evening is open to the congregation and includes pizza, a family Advent Wreath, and craft and mission activities for children. Reservations are required for the workshop; children must be accompanied by an adult. If you have not registered yet, contact Dan Wiard at dwiard@mppc.net.



Celebrate With Us:

Advent & Christmas Season

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Dec. 8 | Cantata Sunday

9:45 & 11:15 a.m. – Sanctuary*

Regular Worship: 8:15 a.m. – Sanctuary*
& **11:15 a.m.** – The Net, Fellowship Hall*

Dec. 11 | Children's Choirs Concert

6 p.m. – Sanctuary*

Dec. 18 | Christmas Eve for Travelers

7 p.m. – Sanctuary*

Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship

3 & 4 p.m. – Sanctuary (Family Services)

4 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

6, 8 & 11 p.m. – Sanctuary,
(Lessons & Carols with Communion & Candles)
Overflow in Fellowship Hall

Dec. 29 | Worship Service

10 a.m. – Sanctuary* (No Sunday School)

** Childcare is available*



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mt. Pleasant, SC
29464
PERMIT No. 28

CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAYS

Worship:

8:15 a.m. Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. The Net | Fellowship Hall

Sunday School:

9:45 a.m. (All Ages)

Fellowship Breakfast:

9–11 a.m. Fellowship Hall

CHILDCARE

*Available during every service in the
Seabrook Building*

Secure Check-In & Background Checks

SERMONS

Live Streaming: mppc.net/watch-live

Sermons: mppc.net/sermons

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events-registration

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

mppc.net/email

FOLLOW US



[@mtpleasantpres](https://twitter.com/mtpleasantpres)

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net

843-884-4612