

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

October 2019



FROM THE PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum

Pastor & Head of Staff



At the stated meeting of the session on September 24, 2019, the Worship and Christian Education sessional committees jointly recommended the approval of the following motion:

That effective January 5, 2020, MPPC move to two Sunday morning worship times of 9:00 a.m. (Sanctuary) and 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary and the Net), with Christian Education opportunities throughout the week including Sunday morning.

This motion followed prayerful discussion in both of the committees, followed by a joint session in which they compared their various deliberations. Having reviewed the feedback received from the survey circulated during the summer, each of these sessional committees has come to the conclusion that the summer pattern we have followed for the past few years is the best path forward.

A primary factor was the increased energy, spirit, and fellowship felt when the worship spaces were full. Although consideration was given to eliminating our 9:45 worship time to create a dedicated Sunday school hour, the committees elected to prioritize worship time in the center of the morning and create other opportunities for Christian education

throughout the week. On Sunday mornings, Children's Sunday School classes would be held during the 9 o'clock hour, while adult classes will be offered at 9:00 and 10:30 with breakfast available in between in the Fellowship Hall.

In order to keep the congregation informed of the ongoing discussion, and to provide additional time for consideration, the session elected to defer action on this motion until the next session meeting, which is scheduled for October 22, 2019. In the meantime, you are invited to share your opinion with any of the ruling elders on the session or with any of the pastors. We covet your prayers as we all seek to do what it best for our worship life here at MPPC, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit on these important decisions.

Blessings and peace,

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ruling Elders and Staff

Jim Deavor, 2020, Clerk
deavorj@gmail.com

Elizabeth Amory, 2022
elizabethamory@hotmail.com

Christian Blackburn, 2019
christian.w.blackburn@gmail.com

Ellen Creed Branham, 2022
ellencreedbranham@gmail.com

Lindsay Bruorton, 2022
lindsay.bruorton@gmail.com

Hugh Burgess, 2022
dhughburgess@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
pbynum@mppc.net

Joe Coates, 2020
jacoates1865@yahoo.com

Paula Custer, 2021
paula.custer03@gmail.com

Andrew deHoll, 2020
andrew.deholl@gmail.com

Scott Douty, 2022
douty5@bellsouth.net

Rev. Bart Edwards
bedwards@mppc.net

Evie Evans, 2021
evie.evans517@gmail.com

Tina Garrett, 2020
tgarrett@gsgd.com

Liston Guerry, 2021
listonguerry@gmail.com

Len Hutchison, 2020
lhutch602@gmail.com

David McNair, 2020
davidm@themcnairgroup.com

Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons
lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net

Joe Molinari, 2021
molemail01@aol.com

Coby Mozingo, 2021
cobymozingo@gmail.com

Bob Ostrom, 2020
rbolaw@aol.com

Kim Richardson, 2022
wkrichardson@comcast.net

Tim Sease, 2021
tsease1@att.net

Wade Thompson, 2022
wade.thompson@comcast.net

Rev. Kimberly Trimboli
ktrimboli@mppc.net

Hank Tschantz, 2019
hanktschantz28@gmail.com

Mitch Witherspoon, 2021
mwith713@aol.com

GET INVOLVED



Women's Retreat

It's time to start thinking about the annual MPPC Women's Retreat! It is a wonderful week-end of fellowship and faith building. This year's event—*Mindful, Grateful, Joyful*—will be Friday, Jan. 24–Sunday, Jan. 26, and you are invited!

Registration will be earlier than usual, so we encourage you to join us for an informal, informational meeting on **Oct. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall** to learn more! A light meal will also be provided.

Family Camping Trip

Spend a few days camping Jamestown, SC during the Family Camping Trip on Nov. 1–2, 2019. The cost of the trip is \$70 per family or \$25 per individual. Be sure to register by **Oct. 18** at mppc.net. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Coates, Sr. at 843-884-8257.



Montreat Youth Conference

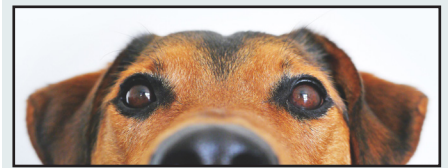
Calling all Senior High Youth and Confirmants! Registration for the 2020 Montreat Youth Conference opens **Oct. 13** for those in grades 9–12, and **Oct. 16** for confirmants and rising 9th graders. The conference will be held on **June 13–20, 2020**. You will need to pay your deposit of \$150 to hold your spot. You must register in person.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith, develop closer relationships with your youth group, and build new relationships with youth from other churches from all over the country!



Fall Festival

Join us for our Annual Fall Festival at MPPC on **Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 5–7 p.m.** There will be games, face painting, trunk-or-treat, food, a jump castle, a cake walk and hay rides. Young children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and to bring a friend!



Blessing of the Animals

Join us for MPPC's first Blessing of the Animals Worship Service on **Sunday, Oct. 6 at 4 p.m.** on the Fellowship Hall porch. We will express our thanks for God's creative power and sustaining care. We will also acknowledge God's call to us to be stewards of creation and especially the animals that are placed in our care. You are welcome to bring your animal companions—leashed or caged, real or stuffed or represented by a photograph. Please also bring a chair for sitting, if desired, and a voluntary offering of pet food and/or money.

Pacesetters

Chris Williams, an award-winning jazz musician, will be performing at this month's Pacesetters event. With his spirited sax, keyboard and vocals, Chris has

performed with national recording artists around the world. Come and enjoy delicious food, great fellowship and one of the best jazz musicians in Charleston! The event takes place on **Friday, Oct. 11**, doors open at **5:45 p.m.** Please RSVP to Douglas Mellichamp (843-224-5359 or douglasmell@me.com) by **5 p.m. on Oct. 7**.



GET INVOLVED



Rakes on Wheels

Three weeks out from Hurricane Dorian, we have both members of MPPC and some recipients of Meals on Wheels that have been unable to clear their yards.

The MPPC Local Missions Team has organized a Hurricane Yard Cleanup for Saturday mornings in the month of October. We are inviting all members of our congregation, individuals and groups, to help our NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

Choose any Saturday morning and plan to bring your gloves at 9 a.m. and rake for 2-3 hours of yard cleanup max!

To volunteer, call Alexis Wright-Singleton, at 843-884-4612 to tell her the date you want to volunteer, OR sign up at the Fellowship Hall table on any Sunday between 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Families with kids are welcome!

MPPC members who have been unable to clean up their yards from the storm should call the church and speak to Alexis to have their yard placed on our work list.



Sanctuary Flowers

The following Sundays are still available on the flower calendar!

October 27
November 17
December 1
December 8

Please contact Martha Waters at mbwmpsc@gmail.com or 843-345-8167 to reserve a date or for additional information on how to provide an arrangement for our worship services.



Second Sunday Speaker Series

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the exciting new Second Sunday Speaker Series, starting on **Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall!

Sponsored by the MPPC Bridge Builders Team, this event will feature a speaker for 30 minutes, followed by round table discussion, and time for snacks and fellowship.

Neighboring congregations are encouraged to attend as well in order to have a diverse crowd with different perspectives to share!

Second Sunday Speaker Series Line-Up:

October 13

Brian Hicks, a writer for *The Post and Courier* and author of the book, *In Darkest South Carolina: J. Waties Waring and the secret plan that sparked a civil rights movement*.

November 10

Louise Brown, a participant in the MUSC hospital workers strike 50 years ago.

December 8

Rabbi Stephanie Alexander from Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE) Synagogue in Charleston

We look forward to seeing you, spread the word and bring your friends and family!

Local Missions Endowment

God is good and we have some very exciting news to share! Two of our longtime church members, Lynn and Stephanie McCants have given \$50,000 to the MPPC Endowment to support Local Missions!

We're all hoping their generous gift will inspire you to help double its impact for Local Missions by making this a gift of \$100,000 to the Endowment.

Help us make a major difference for our MPPC's Local Missions long term work today! This campaign is running only the month of October.

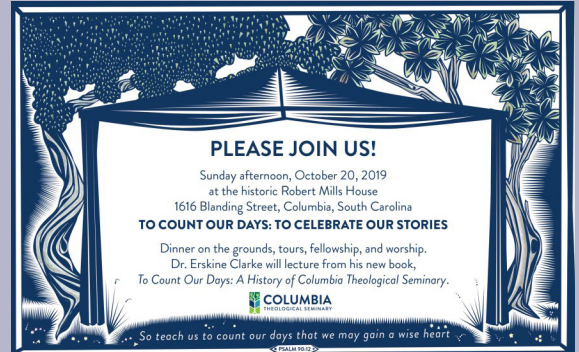
You can give two ways:

- Dropping a check by the church/offering plate noted "Local Missions Endowment Gift"
- Online at mppc.net/giving

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Erskine Clarke in Columbia, SC

Dr. Erskine Clarke, a former parish associate and scholar-in-residence at MPPC, has completed a new book, *To Count Our Days: A History of Columbia Theological Seminary*. He will lecture on his book at the Robert Mills House in Columbia, SC on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019. That Sunday afternoon, tours of the Robert Mills House and Woodrow Wilson's childhood home will be available. At 3 p.m., Erskine will lecture, then we'll move into a worship service, and culminate with dinner on the grounds at 5 p.m. For more information go to CTSnet.edu/to-count-our-days. If you would like to join other MPPC members in traveling to Columbia, SC, for the Oct. 20 events, please contact Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons (lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net).



Do You Know What You Believe About Your Faith?

It can be an awkward conversation with our significant other, peers, children, or even a stranger we meet on the street, "What do you believe about God?" "Who is Jesus?" "Why do we believe that?" "Is it okay if I don't agree with that?" The questions can go on. Have you found yourself at a loss for words trying to express what you believe about your personal faith, or the beliefs of our PCUSA congregation? If so, or even if you want to deepen your understanding, you might find answers in the Sunday School class, "What Do We Believe? An Adult Confirmation Class" that meets in the Parlor from 9:45–10:45 a.m. As a participant in the class, you will have opportunities to discover your faith, what our congregation believes, and what it means to be a connectional church in the PCUSA.

Do you want to help children engage Bible stories?

The Children's Ministry Team is collecting Bible-themed toys for the preschool Sunday School classes. A collection bin is located outside of the DCE office.

New Adult Sunday School Class!

What's the Story? is a new adult Sunday School class for adults (25–45 year-old) who want to get a sense of the complete story of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Through captivating videos, an artist's rendering of Scripture helps participants understand the story of God's people as one continuous story. Participants not only become familiar with *The Story*, but also how biblical events fit on a larger timeline.

Whether a scholar to Scripture or someone wanting to understand the endless story of God's love, this class will offer discussion and countless stories that will captivate the participant to want to learn more! The class meets in GH 222 from 9:45–10:45 a.m. each Sunday.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Stephen Ministry

Are you or someone you know struggling with the loss of a loved one, loneliness, cancer, a lay-off, relocation, divorce, a spiritual crisis, recuperation, single parenthood, or any of countless other life challenges? Help is available! Our Stephen Ministers are trained to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They are available to listen, care, encourage, pray and provide weekly support for as long as needed. Men are matched with men, and women with women. To learn how you or someone you know can connect with a Stephen Ministry caregiver contact Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons (843-884-4612, lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net) or Donna Thigpen (843-345-6221, donnathigpen@hotmail.com).

House Blessing

Everlasting God, make this house your abiding place, and bless all who dwell here. Fill them with your Holy Spirit, and send them out in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Book of Common Worship)

House blessing is a tradition that is both ancient and new, calling upon God to make one's home a welcoming place to nourish the body, enjoy life, laugh, love, rest and be renewed.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) includes a liturgy for the Dedication of a Home—House Blessing in our Book of Common Worship. Recently an MPPC family invited a pastor to come to their new home and lead this short service. If you are moving into a new home, consider including this ancient/new tradition before or after you tackle unpacking all those boxes. To schedule your house blessing, contact Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons.

Do You Want to Help with the Fall Festival?

Fall Festival is a wonderful community outreach event that you can support!

We need the following for a successful event (please bring non-perishables to the church office and place in the "Fall Festival" bin; baked goods can be brought the day-of the October 30 Festival):

- Baked Goods (for the Cake Walk!)
- Individually wrapped Candy
- Prizes (Small, Dollar Store or Oriental Trading type of prizes and goodies)
- Face Painting paints

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Survey Results from the Christian Education Perspective



Over the summer, the Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team gathered information from the congregation about the Christian Education (and worship) ministry of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Like most

congregations, we are a diverse group with many ideas, wants, needs, and hopes. Your responses are insightful and honest, and they will impact faith formation as we move forward into the coming months and years.

The Constant Contact survey offered views and ideas from nearly 250 individuals. Of these, roughly 53% of the respondents were over 60 years of age, 30% 41-60 years of age, and just over 16% were between the age of 25-40. 67% of the surveys came from females. Nearly 80% of all respondents were married, 12% were single. 33% of the respondents indicated they were married with children living at home. Almost everyone who completed the survey is engaged in Sunday worship, where the 9:45 and 11:15 morning services were most represented (nearly 80%). One half of the respondents participate in Sunday School.

So, what did we learn? While many people do attend Sunday School on Sunday mornings, there are opportunities for study and fellowship on other days and nights of the week, both on and off the church campus. Based on the survey, Wednesday was the most popular day for studies, but Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday slots showed significant interest. *Coffee House and Bible on Tap* conversations sparked attention; *small group special interest groups* remain important. *Intergenerational* ministry offers new opportunities.

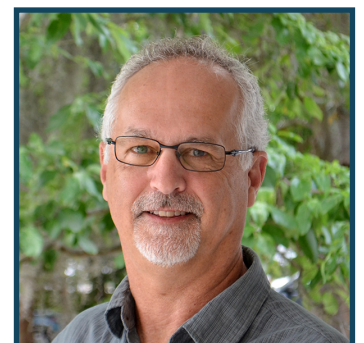
Topics of interest for study include anything Bible, i.e. books, themes, or characters. Prayer and spirituality, applying faith to life, theology, and book reads warrant exploration. And for parents, classes on parenting children and teenagers are important. Demographically, there is interest for Christian education that targets young adult professionals without children and single young adults. During the worship hour, there is opportunity to explore a time for children's "worship" and to provide resources that engage children in worship.



So, what is next? The Adult Faith Formation Team is looking at the survey results and beginning to design an adult faith formation plan that will move us into the 21st Century. Christian education will happen on Sundays during Sunday School, but it will also happen during the week on the church campus, in people's homes, and in places we have not even considered. Some of the ministry will be Ministry Team initiated, much of it will be birthed through your interests and leadership. It will be missional, intergenerational, relational, and demographically based. Most important, Christian education will be about discipleship.

See you in Christian education!

Peace,
Dan



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Get fed

faith, fellowship + food

Whether you are a child, young person, or an adult, Wednesday nights offer rich opportunities for faith formation and fellowship at the church.

Middle school youth coordinate with Courtney Kraus for the youth Bible Study and high school youth are needed as helpers for LOGOS. Adults – or anyone who might be interested in pastor-led studies – do not need to preregister for a class. We invite you to just come, bring a friend, and enjoy the fellowship, supper, and study of your choice each Wednesday night. For adults this fall, two studies are offered simultaneously.

Pastor Led Bible Studies

Come from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights to enjoy Bible studies led by Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum and Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons.

The Acts of the Apostles: Lessons from the Early Church

This study, led by Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum, will explore the lives and actions of the first century followers of Jesus. What lessons can we learn from these earliest Christians, and how can they point us to a meaningful faith life today? Class topics will include “Meaning and Mission,” “Challenge and Conversion,” “Ritual and Redirection,” “Prisons and Politics,” and four others. This study will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

Everything Happens for a Reason...and Other Lies I've Loved

One moment Kate Bowler was 35-year-old wife, mom, and divinity school professor, as she says, “a regular person with regular problems.” The next minute, she was someone diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. In her book *Everything Happens for a Reason And Other Lies I've Loved*, she wrestles with the questions: “Why?” “God, are you here?” “What does this suffering mean?” On four Wednesday evenings, the class will discuss portions of the book, and on four other Wednesday evenings, there will be sessions on how to offer sensitive, genuine, Christ-like support when loved ones face illness and death. This class will take place in the Parlor and will be led by Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons.

Wednesday Night Schedule

4:45–5:30 p.m. LOGOS Choir

5:30–6:00 Dinner for ALL ages

6:00–6:30 LOGOS Bible Study/Angel Notes Choir

6:30–7:00 LOGOS Recreation/Angel Notes Bible Time

6:00–7:00 Adult Study Electives

6:30–8:00 Adult Choir

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



MISSIONS STREET FAIR

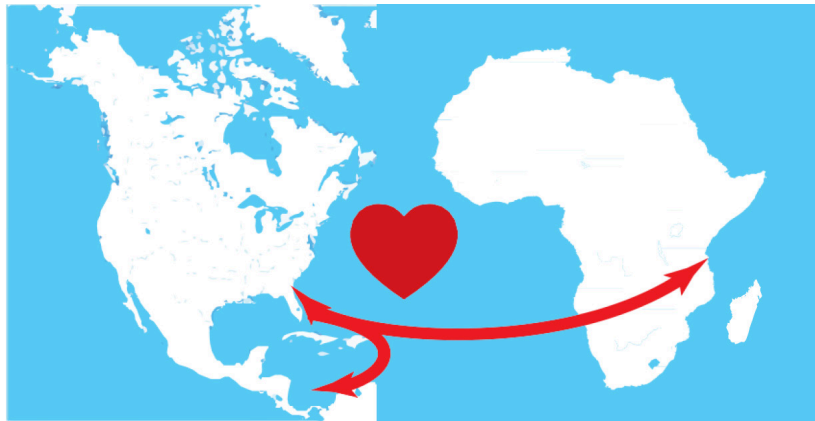
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

MPPC Missions Street Fair

Between the Educational Building and the Sanctuary

Join with us starting at 9 a.m. to experience and learn about the light your dollars, hands, and hearts are shining in this community and the world, sharing God's love. Come and take a peek at our 10 international missions ranging from Central America & the Caribbean to Kenya, along with the 20 missions that we serve in and around Mount Pleasant.

Explore the ways that you and your family can get involved!



LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS

Bridge Builders
Carolina Youth Development
Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center East
Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) East
Cooper Faith Network (ECFN) / I-Beam East
Cooper Habitat for Humanity
East Cooper Meals on Wheels/Rakes On Wheels
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
Florence Crittenton Home
Hands of Christ
Hibben Hospitality/Hibben Cold Shelter
Hope House
Kairos Prison Ministry
Linus Quilt & Prayer Shawl Ministry
Metanoia
One80 Place
Ronald McDonald House
Samaritan's Purse
Thornwell Home
Windwood Farm Home for Children

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

AMOS Health and Hope, Nicaragua
Daystar University, Kenya
Empowered to Lead (E2L) 2019 Project:
Farming & Health Initiatives in rural
Katangi, Kenya
Habitat for Humanity Honduras
Haiti Outreach Ministries
JHC-CDCD Nueva Vida Medical Clinic
Kinyago Dandora School, Nairobi, Kenya
Lamb Institute, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Medical Trinidad Honduras
Palmetto International

MPPC also supports missionaries in Honduras and Iraq

HOPE HOUSE



Gratitude Abounds at Hope House

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause Thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

So often we hear what a Blessing this place is for the many guests who truly feel this is a "home away from home." One recent guest wrote:

"Thank you so much for a place to come home to after a long day at the hospital. It is so peaceful here. I took my coffee out to the little bench outside the Cottage just to pray and be alone." – C.B.

Others find comfort interacting with fellow guests and various volunteers, lending a hand whenever, however they can. Despite the circumstances that

brought them to Charleston, many leave with full hearts.

"You were our God sent Angels during a very difficult time."

"You were our God sent Angels during a very difficult time. God in His divine wisdom took our father out of this world.. We say 'Thank You Hope House' for making the transition easier for our family."

Those who take part in this ministry also feel blessed because of the generous spirit of the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church family. Almost every week, members drop off supplies, snacks or meals for the guests. Others donate new sheets and towels. The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides hand-knit or crocheted shawls for the guests, and they are always so appreciative of this gift.

There are countless others who give of their time and talents to help sustain Hope House. For that we are humbly grateful.

If you would like to hear more about the many ways you can become involved with this ministry, please contact Beth Moore at bmoore@mppc.net.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

OCT. 1

In Honor of our Ministers and Staff for their loving support of Hope House, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

OCT. 4

In Memory of my Father who passed away and is celebrating 25 years in heaven, Given by Mary Linda Witherspoon

OCT. 7

In Thanksgiving for my Brother-in-Law, Terry Lukow for his successful heart transplant, Given by Dean and Jimmy Rowell

OCT. 10

Happy Anniversary to Karl and Miff Cone, Given by Miff Cone

OCT. 11

In Honor of my daughter, Ashley Hall on her 42nd Birthday, Given by Susan Fitzgerald

OCT. 14

In Memory of my Father, Ernest D. Key Jr., Given by Miff Cone

OCT. 20

In Memory of Mitch Snead's Mother and Brother, Given by Mary Linda and Mitch Witherspoon

OCT. 21

In Memory of my beloved Stan's 8th birthday in Heaven, Given by Angi Case

OCT. 23

In Honor of Kate Kennedy on her Birthday, Given by James Kennedy

OCT. 23

In Honor of my daughter, Jennifer Chandler on her birthday, Given by Peggy Leete

OCT. 25

In Honor of the MPPC Prayer Shawl Ministry Team for the prayer shawls we give to our guests, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

OCT. 30

In Honor of Olive Smith "Nan" on her 100th Birthday, Given by Dean and Jimmy Rowell

OCT. 31

In Honor of Julia and John Royall for their continued support of Hope House, Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAYS

Worship:

8:15 a.m., Sanctuary

9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

11:15 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday School:

9:45 a.m. (All Ages)

Fellowship Breakfast:

9– 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

CHILDCARE

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

SERMONS

Live Streaming: mppc.net/watch-live

Sermons: mppc.net/sermons

WEDNESDAYS

Get Fed: Faith, Fellowship & Food

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events-registration/

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

mppc.net/email

FOLLOW US



[@mtpleasantpres](https://www.instagram.com/mtpleasantpres)

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net

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