

Fall 2020

Christian Education at MPPC

Adult faith formation takes on COVID-19 social distancing this fall with more than 20 offerings! From small groups to Presbyterian Women to men's studies scattered throughout the week, there are opportunities we hope will meet many of the congregation's needs as we grow into discipleship. We encourage you to take a look at this booklet as well as our website at mppc.net/christian-education or on Realm to register for all the various faith formation opportunities we are offering this fall!

Bytes of faith

And we invite you to try something new this fall too called **Bytes of Faith**.

Bytes of Faith are short, creative video clips staff and church leaders create that show our real selves, but also engage viewers in the biblical story. Think of the **Bytes of Faith** as digital children's messages, messages with meat that grab the attention of both young and old. They are talking points for in-home faith formation. They tell a story that connects life with Scripture and engages families with an activity and life application. They are short, focused and intentional.

For instance, I might talk about my mom who had dementia and Alzheimer's. I went to visit her once and she was so excited to see me. After we ate lunch together, I brought her to the common area of her care facility and stepped away for a few minutes. When I returned, my mom was so excited to see me, like we hadn't seen each other in months! She was even ready to eat again! Wouldn't it be wonderful if the church welcomed each other like my mom welcomed me!

Bytes of Faith begins by families "inviting" us (the storytellers) into your home for conversations and digital viewing. As social distancing begins to lift, we encourage you to invite other families into your home for **Bytes of Faith** together. These **Bytes of Faith** moments can happen on Sundays, weekdays, day or night, but they are real, and they are connected to the church today and to the church tomorrow. It is a "new" old way of doing church and faith formation.

In September we will provide an introductory video that invites you to **Bytes of Faith**. October will feature our first **Bytes of Faith** message. These will be available on the 7th of each month and can be accessed on our church web site under **Bytes of Faith**. New **Bytes of Faith** will be added, and old messages stored on the site in case you want to share the videos with others or view them again. We hope you will invite us into your homes this fall for some **Bytes of Faith**. We also hope you will invite others into your home to have conversations sparked by the stories and messages of **Bytes of Faith**. Think of it as a type of "house church" focused on Christian Education, maybe like the early church in Acts.



bytes of faith

Opportunities for Adults

Sundays

CONNECT 3 - 9 a.m.

While this Sunday School class typically meets during the last Service of Worship (10:30 a.m.), it currently meeting via **Zoom** at 9 a.m. and offers conversation and discussion geared around Scripture and contemporary studies. From books of the Bible to topical studies, this class offers life application insight into each lesson.

THE MIDDLE - 9 a.m.

We are all in the middle of something. Some of us are in the middle of raising kids, our lives, taking care of parents etc. All of us are somewhere in the middle of our faith journey. This group explores and studies God's message for them in these seasons of life. Meets Sundays, 9 a.m. via **Zoom**.

ACADEMY OF SAINT JOHN - 9 a.m.

The overall purpose of the Academy of St. John class is to equip God's people for a more effective missional presence in, and engagement of, the world through: expanding our knowledge and understanding of Biblical revelation and our theological heritage, deepening our spiritual life and growing in Christ-likeness, cultivating our love of God and the embodiment of that love in service and mission to our neighbor, enlarging knowledge and appreciation of the diversity in Christian belief and practice, understanding the implications of the Christian faith for the critical issues faced in the world, and becoming more knowledgeable about the unique dimensions of our denominational identity. Meets

Sundays, 9 a.m. via **Zoom**. Fall studies include *Max Lucado's You'll Get Through This*, *N. T. Wright's Mark for Everyone*, and *Max Lucado's Advent study Because of Bethlehem*.

SEEKERS AND SOWERS - 9 a.m.

In *Hebrews: Grace and Gratitude*, author and New Testament scholar David deSilva takes participants through a study of Hebrews, tracing the themes of grace and gratitude through this unique New Testament book. In the Book of Hebrews, participants will discover a bold perspective on who Jesus is and what he has done, as well as a powerful reflection on the meaning and significance of his death and resurrection in light of the Old Testament. As you read and study this letter, you will receive a deeper appreciation for the salvation we have received through Christ and hear afresh God's call to a life of gratitude and faithfulness. Meets Sundays, 9 a.m. via **Zoom**.

THE HARBOR - 9 a.m.

The Harbor is an in-depth Bible study that includes presentation and discussion. Past studies include the history of Christianity and Moses. The books of Exodus and Numbers are on tap for the fall. Meets Sundays, 9 a.m. via **Zoom**.

MEN AND WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP - 4 p.m.

Men and women of all ages are welcome to join this study of God's Word that meets weekly on Sundays, 4 p.m. via **Zoom**. Past study included N.T. Wright's study on Philippians.

INTO THE LIGHT: FINDING HOPE THROUGH PRAYERS OF LAMENT - 1st Sundays - 7 p.m.

Most Christians read the Bible for comfort, instruction, and inspiration. Yet the Bible is also a resource that gives us permission to raise our voices to God in pain, anger, protest, and grief. During these challenging days of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter, we can be grateful to PCUSA Presbyterian Women for offering the Horizons Bible Study as a resource for appropriating lament in our faith experience. The class will be taught by the pastors along with Director of Christian Education Dan Wiard on a rotating basis. Participants may wish to obtain a copy of the Horizons Bible Study *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* although this is not required. If you are a circle Bible leader or a circle member who will miss your monthly meeting, you especially will value the monthly study session. And take note: the class is NOT for women only, but for anyone who wishes to deepen one's relationship to God through Bible study and prayer. First Sunday of each month, **September – May**, 7 p.m. via **Zoom**.

***PW CIRCLE 6 - 3rd Sunday - 7 p.m. - Begins Sept. 20**

Opportunities for Adults

Mondays

MOZINGO SMALL GROUP - 4:30 p.m.

This group will look at the main themes of the book of Genesis using the *Six Themes Everyone Should Know* series from the PCUSA. The book, as the church's Scripture, points us toward our beginnings as a human race as well as the beginnings of our faith in the God who is revealed in Genesis. This God cares and loves the creation and provides for the good of human creatures by being present with them. We learn of God's

ways in the world and we find who God is in relation to those who look to God as a good and caring creator. Meets Mondays, 4:30 p.m. **Begins September 21.**

SOUL TRAINING - 6:30 p.m.

This weekly Bible Study is open to men and women of all ages and focuses on spiritual development. Current study: The Book of Acts. Meets weekly on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. via **Zoom**.

Tuesdays

A YEAR WITH THE BIBLE - 12:10 p.m.

It is not too late to join A Year with the Bible reading program. If you couldn't start in January or if you find that you have more time available now than you did then or if the challenge sounds more intriguing to you than it did at the beginning of the year, join us now! The weekly discussion is led by Parish Associate Lib McGre-

gor Simmons. Passages are posted weekly in the eNews. The group currently meets via **Zoom** on Tuesdays, 12:10-1:00 p.m.

***PW CIRCLE 2 - 3rd Tuesday - 10:30 a.m.**

***PW CIRCLE 3 - 2nd Tuesday - 2:30 p.m.**

Wednesdays

***PW CIRCLE 4 - 2nd Wednesday - 9:30 a.m.**

BRANHAM/FELLER SMALL GROUP - 10 a.m.

Philippians: Six Themes Everyone Should Know. Philippi is Paul's first destination outside Asia Minor, his first city to visit in Europe, and his first mission in a place where there was no Jewish community from which to begin preaching. Cynthia Campbell writes that in Paul's letter to the Philippians, we get a unique glimpse of our beginnings as Christians. Some themes explored include the importance of community for followers of Christ, Christian joy despite persecution, the nature of Christian unity, what it means to be "in Christ", and mutual hospitality. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. **Begins September 16.**

GET FED: THE NEW TESTAMENT IN ITS WORLD - 7 p.m. Sept. 23 – Nov. 11

Hosted on **Zoom**, *The New Testament in Its World* is your passageway from the twenty-first century to the era of Jesus and the first Christians. Our study brings together decades of ground-breaking research, writing, and teaching that will open readers' eyes to the larger world of the New Testament. It presents the New Testament books as historical, literary,

and social phenomena located in the world of Second Temple Judaism, amidst Greco-Roman politics and culture, and within early Christianity. Questions we will address include, but are not limited to:

- What is the purpose of the New Testament?
- What was the first century understanding of the kingdom?
- What is the real meaning of the resurrection in its original context?
- What really were the Gospels?
- Who was Paul and why are his letters so controversial?
- As twenty-first-century people, how do we recover the excitement of what it was like to live as Christians in the first or second centuries?

[Study guides will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Suggested donation: \$5.]

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Opportunities for Adults

Wednesdays

GET FED: MISSIONAL RENAISSANCE - 7 p.m. **Sept. 23 – Nov. 11**

Hosted on **Zoom**, join Pastor Bart as we discuss and learn about Missional Renaissance, a way of reframing what it means to be a missional church. Using Reggie McNeal's classic book *Missional Renaissance* as our guide, McNeal identifies in this study three major shifts that must take place in the Church if it is to live into its God-given potential. As Reggie puts it "*The missional renaissance is changing the way the people of God think about God and the world, about what God is up to in the world and what part the people of God play in it.*" He notes that there are three cultural phenomena that are fueling this renaissance:

- The emergence of the altruism economy: people's determination not only to share their wealth but to make a difference with it

- The search for personal growth: the unprecedented pursuit of personal development...a pervasive sense of needing to grow, to learn, to adapt, and to change that has become part of the psyche of our culture
- The hunger for spiritual vitality: a spirituality robust enough to engage people where they live, work, and play

This study will include a wide-ranging discussion about what means for us to call ourselves a Missional Church and how might we be in a time of reframing and reforming in a Missional Renaissance.

[Participants should purchase Reggie McNeal's book *Missional Renaissance* before Get Fed begins. Purchasing options are available through Amazon.com.]

Thursdays

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP: **Unshakeable Hope - 6 p.m.**

Unshakeable Hope. This world has a tremble to it. There are things that seem unsteady in this life. But when we belong to God, it allows us to filter our problems through the promises of God. When we choose to be people of the promise, we choose to build our lives on the promises of God, not the circumstances of life. The stories of the men and women in Scripture were different, but the theme was the same: they were People of the Promise. Because of God's promises, Noah built an ark on dry land, Joshua claimed the Promised Land, David became king, Peter preached the first sermon, and John caught a glimpse of the future. Like them, we can also build our lives on God's promises, and trust him to keep them. This

video Bible study will help you and your church stand on the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to his great and precious promises. Meets Thursday, 6 p.m. via **Zoom**. **Begins September 24.**

DAVIS SMALL GROUP: Esther **- 6:30 p.m.**

Esther: Courage in a Complicated World. Esther's story in ancient Persia is filled with risky twists and turns and often perilous outcomes. How will God use this situation to care for his people and bless others? Open the book of Esther, and you step back in time to ancient Persia around 480 B.C. It is a time of kings and queens in a vast empire covering most of what we know as the Middle East today— and beyond. Esther's story is filled

with risky twists and turns, happy and fearful moments, dangerous and deadly outcomes. What is more, it shows us God's deliverance and care for his people. Scattered throughout the world, the Lord's followers trust that God will keep his age-old promises to make them a great nation and to bless others through them. As you look into Esther's story, keep an eye open for the presence and work of God, who watches over and cares for his people always. Meets Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. via **Zoom**. **(Begins September 24)**

***PW CIRCLE 5 - 2nd Thursday - 7 p.m.**

Opportunities for Adults

Fridays

GATHERING AROUND BOOKS (The GAB Group) - 4th Friday - 5:30 p.m.

Do you love to read and discuss what you have read with fellow bibliophiles? This new group may be just what you looking for! Each month we will read and discuss a fiction or non-fiction book which may not be overtly religious, but contains content and themes that can be discussed from a faith perspective. Dick Query, Ellen Creed Branham, and Lib McGregor Simmons have put their heads together to compile the 2020-2021 list. Even if you have not finished the book (or haven't even cracked it open and gotten as far as the first page!), you are invited to drop in on what promises to be a lively discussion. Meets on the fourth Friday of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

MEN'S MORNING STUDY - 7 a.m.

This is an informal group of men, ranging in age from 20's to 70's dedicated to learning more about the Word. We study the Bible a book at a time, reading and discussing about a chapter of a given book a week. NO HOMEWORK. Only text used is the Bible itself, and we have them available if you forget yours. When social distancing guidelines relax, we will meet for breakfast and fellowship at Page's Okra Grill on the first Friday of the month. Meets Fridays, 7 a.m. via **Zoom**.

***Curriculum Description for 2020-2021 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study**

Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that does not fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

Unless indicated otherwise, faith formation groups are ongoing. Request to join a group on Realm by going to the "Small Group Bible Study" page, or mppc.net/adults or email Dan Wiard.

Join Us for Rally Day 2020!

As part of this year's RALLY DAY, we invite you to help us complete a giant 2'x5' puzzle! Here's how it works: Going on now, blank puzzle pieces are available for families – young and mature, singles and couples and families loaded with kids – to pick up from the front office. (When you pick up a puzzle piece, we ask that you sign your name on a "signup" paper located by the puzzle pieces indicating that you took a piece). One puzzle piece per family! Take your puzzle piece home, color it and decorate it so it is symbolic of your family. While you are coloring it, we hope you will take a quick picture of you and your family, and email the picture to Sarah Harbin-Coleman. Your pictures will be compiled for part of the Rally Day Service of Worship!



Finally, bring your completed puzzle piece to the church immediately following worship on Sunday, September 13, and pick up a special ice cream/icy treat. The puzzle pieces will then be connected to form a complete puzzle of our 2020 Rally Day experience and mounted in the church campus. We look forward to everyone participating!

Opportunities for Youth

CornerStone Youth Ministry

Welcome to CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC! CornerStone is a way for the youth to connect with one another and their leaders in the church. Even though we have a lot of fun and goof around our main priority at MPPC is to instill the Presbyterian values in the youth so that they can share the good news with others. CornerStone consists of three elements: faith foundation, faith formation, and faith transformation. We achieve these three aspects by meeting and learning in different ways. We are developing a more practical way to develop a youth's faith formation.

The "NEW" Normal

You will notice that we are not meeting for Sunday School this year. This is because CORE Group is taking the place of what used to be Sunday School. The youth will still learn about the Bible with various curriculums, we just decided to change the way this looks since the pandemic. You will also notice that BIG Group is taking the place of Sunday Night Youth Group. BIG Group is the time we will have fun and fellowship.

You must be signed up through the Google Form to attend, but friends are welcome to join as well! Make sure you reach out to Courtney Kraus to get plugged in! As we have in person gatherings, you will have to RSVP to attend because spaces are limited.

A WEEK IN YOUTH MINISTRY

CORE Group & BIG Group meetings will alternate weeks at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays (This will begin virtually)

Monthly calendars will be provided for additional youth group gatherings as social distancing guidelines ease

Confirmation Class will meet every Sunday from 9-10 a.m. (This will begin virtually)

Ex: CORE Group will meet Sept. 20th & the following week on Sept. 27th, BIG Group will meet

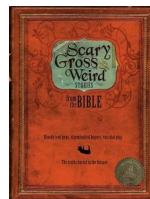
During the summer, we have Peer2Peer (P2P) Groups led by the college students to develop the faith foundations. In the fall, we grow our faith formation through CORE Groups led by church members and below you will see the curriculum each CORE Group is using based on the ages in each group. The last is BIG Group, this is the entire youth group meeting to achieve the faith formation. This means that once the foundation and formation happen the youth will be able to transform this faith and share it with the world. This is done through fun, fellowship, conferences, and mission trips.

Meet Our Group Leaders!

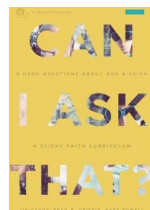
Faith formation will be built this year through CORE groups. Take a minute to learn about our curriculum and leaders!



CORE 1: 6th Graders
Leaders: Missy and Jim Westerhold
Curriculum: *ECHO the Story*



CORE 2: 7th & 8th Graders
Leaders: Claire Whitsett, Will Whitsett, and Clarke Allen
Curriculum: *Scary, Gross, and Weird Stories from the Bible*



CORE 3: 9th and 10th Graders
Leaders: Jennifer Billbro and Jeff Taylor
Curriculum: *Can I Ask That?*

CORE 4: 11th and 12th Graders
Leaders: Cynthia Rivers, Barry Blackburn, and Michael Purcell
Curriculum: *Can I Ask That?*



Confirmation: 8th Graders
Leaders: Shannon Hagood, TJ DelDuca, Courtney Kraus, and Carter Edwards
Curriculum: *Big God Big Questions*

Opportunities for Youth

Youth Trip Information

We will not have any trips for the remainder of 2020. We are hopeful to set dates for the 2021 Summer trips. Due to CCSD academic calendar, we will be moving dates for CROSS Mission Trip and Montreat High School Conference. Stay up to date on all youth trips at MPPC through Courtney's weekly emails. She will send more information about sign-ups for these trips.



Important Dates

- Sunday, September 13th: Rally Day
- Sunday, September 20th: Confirmation Kickoff (Zoom)
- Sunday, November 29th: Thanksgiving Holiday (CornerStone will not meet)
- Sunday, December 13th: CornerStone Christmas Party (last Youth event of 2020)
- Sunday, April 18th: Youth Sunday 2021
- Sunday, May 2nd: Confirmation Sunday

WHAT IS CORNERSTONE YOUTH MINISTRY AT MPPC?



This model has 3 areas that make up the flow of CornerStone. Youth must be a part of all aspects to participate. Sign up on the google form.

Questions?
Contact Courtney Kraus
ckraus@mppc.net

PEER2PEER Group:

This is your **faith foundation** for youth group led by college students. Here youth will spend time digging into the Bible with various studies.

Meets weekly during the Summer



CORE Group:

This is your **faith formation** for youth group led by adults of MPPC. Here youth will gather as two P2P Groups to make a larger group. This will feel like Sunday School with big Bible element plus games.

Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5:30



BIG Group:

This is your **faith transformation** for youth led by the Youth Director and volunteers. Here youth will use what they have learned to share their faith to the world. This may be a mission trip, Montreat, or an event at the church campus. This is when we come together as one BIG youth group. This will feel like Sunday Night Youth Group

Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:30

Opportunities for Children



Sundays

Breakfast & Bibles - 9:15 a.m.

Zoom | Toddlers through 5th Grade

Children are invited to start our day of worship off together with an introduction to the Sunday message. This 30-minute lesson helps prepare children to understand both the context and content of the Bible verses and sermon for the day, and also includes music, activities, and prayer. Bring your toast and juice and start your Sunday with MPPC Children's Ministry!



Weekly Lessons and Independent Study

Released Each Sunday, Fall 2020

Three Videos for Preschool, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary

Capture the wonder and faith formation of Sunday School in a pre-recorded video released just for your child's age group! We are excited to offer the Celebrate Wonder curriculum in a series of videos led by our very own Children's Ministry teachers that are available for your child to watch at any time. Videos will be approximately 20 minutes each week and are available on the [MPPC YouTube page](#).

These special lessons will contain music and lessons from the curriculum, a walkthrough of the week's worksheet, and Bible lessons and activities.

Activity workbooks and family workbooks are provided in print or digitally so your child can participate in the video.

Opportunities for Children

Wednesdays

Fall LOGOS & Angel Notes Sept. 16-Nov. 18 - Zoom not required!

This fall, we will engage in our Wednesday gathering as a hybrid of independent and virtually led study. This means each week, LOGOS participants will receive Bible study, music, and recreation materials on Wednesday mornings for independent study. We will then convene for LOGOS Choir practice at 5:45 followed by Bible study and fellowship over dinner together from 6:00-6:30, all in the same Zoom. We are pleased to announce that we will be using the new PC(USA) Growing in God's Love series as our Bible study curriculum!

Angel Notes preschool choir will meet from 5:00-5:30 by Zoom each week! Angel Notes preschoolers are welcome to join our 6:00-6:30 call for the Bible lesson and fellowship.

This is a take-what-you-will series, meaning you can pick and choose which parts fit your family and schedule! Join us just for the lesson and fellowship Zoom each week, just review the independent study each week, or do all of the above!

[Register on Realm.](#)

Wednesday Schedule

Angel Notes Choir – 5:00-5:30
LOGOS Choir – 5:45-6:00
LOGOS Lessons and Fellowship over Dinner – 6:00-6:30



Other Opportunities for Children's faith formation

Kids Can – MPPC Kids in Mission and Service Opportunities Throughout the Fall

"Kids Can," our MPPC summer camp that introduced our children to all the ways they can serve others, has so much more to give! Join us as we partner with the MPPC Local and International Mission Teams all year to participate in mission in a way that impacts children's understanding of their call to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Special Socially Distanced Visits

You can arrange for Sarah Harbin-Coleman or one of our other awesome Children's Ministry leaders to come by and visit your kids, complete with goodie bag!

Children's Ministry at MPPC Needs YOU!

Our Children's Ministry team is always looking for new members to bring their God-given talents to the table. Whether you're organizational, social, creative, a leader, a teacher, or a planner, we need you!

Need to register or get a Zoom code? Questions? Ideas?

Email Sarah Harbin-Coleman, Director of Children's Ministries at sharbincoleman@mppc.net.

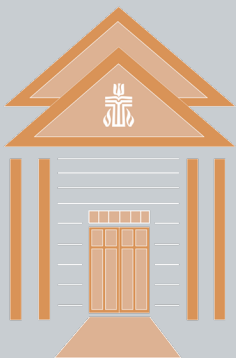
Sign up for all the fun!

Bytes of Faith (led by MPPC staff), prayer boxes, challenges, unexpected activities, and other ways to keep your kids connected are coming your way! Don't miss a beat! Make sure your Realm profile has a current email address and your children are connected to your profile. MPPC children's ministry is also on Remind! Join your child's class for more information by text message.

Children's Ministry Adult Disciples & Leaders - @mppckidmin
Babies to 2 Year Olds - @mppc0to2
3 Year Olds - @mppc3yo
4 Year Olds - @mppc4yo
Kindergarten - @mppc5k
First Grade - @mppcfirst
Second Grade - @mppc2nd
Third Grade - @mppc3rd
Fourth Grade - @mppc4th
Fifth Grade - @mppc5th

Save the Dates:

- September 13 - Rally Day - pick up your fall materials!
- October 18 - Children's Sabbath
- October 28 - Modified Fall Festival



**Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church**

843-884-4612 | mppc.net