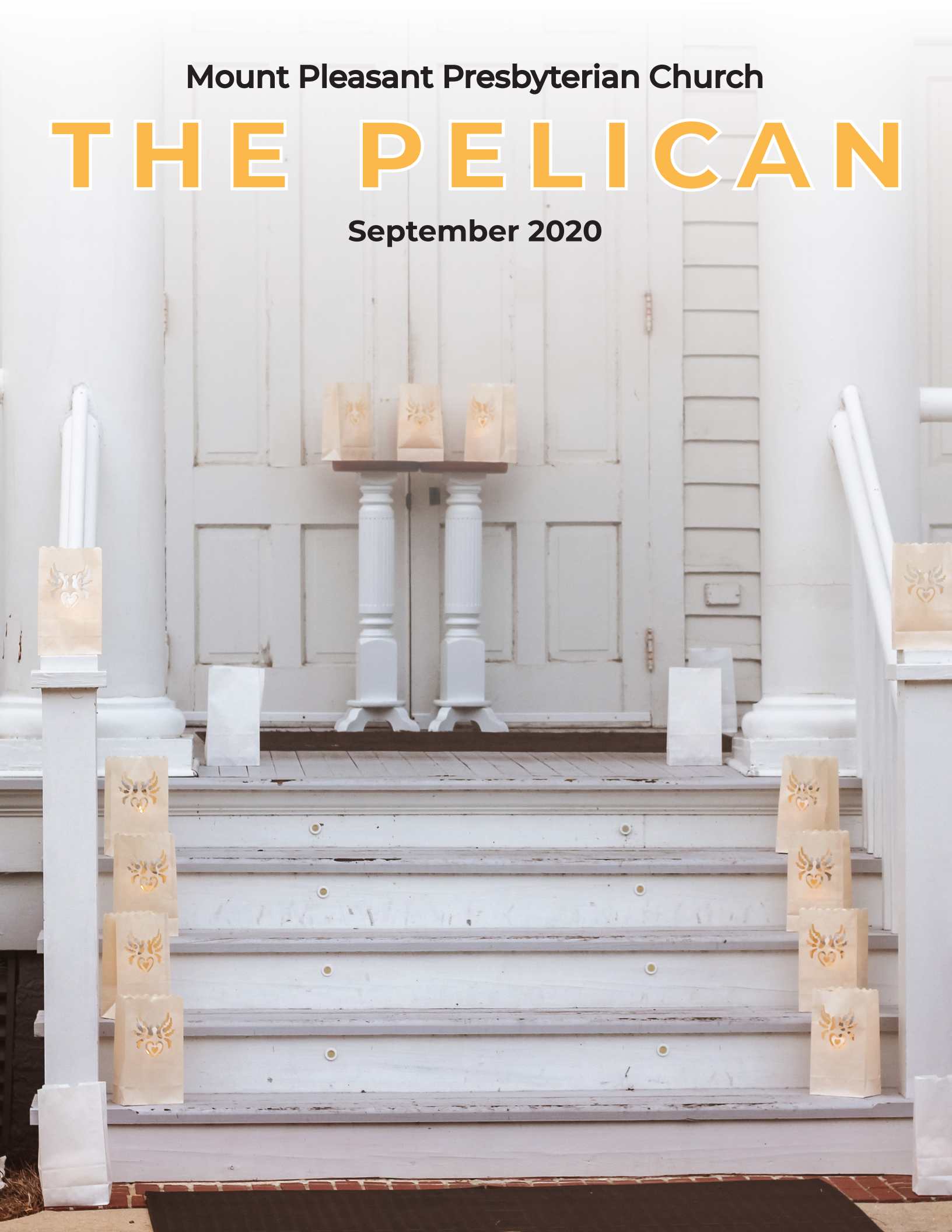


Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

September 2020



FROM THE PASTOR

Rally Day

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
(Deuteronomy 6:4-8)



These verses from the Torah, known as “the Shema,” are some of the most precious words in all of Judaism. And, for thousands of years, devout families have taken them literally. As a reminder that the love of God must always be the highest and most important goal in

human life, these verses are printed on a small piece of parchment paper, which is then rolled up and inserted into a decorative cylinder called a *mezuzah*. The *mezuzah* is then affixed to the doorpost of the home, so that, in each moment of coming and going, each morning and each night, God’s people can place their hands upon a small physical talisman to remind them of who they are... and *whose* they are.

This month, even though we continue to experience physical separation in these difficult and trying times, we will still be observing our own reminder of the Shema.

Each September in the church, we set aside a Sunday to kickstart another year of education, fellowship, and shared discipleship. Some churches call it “Rally Day;” others call it “Promotion Sunday.” Regardless of the name, the purpose is the same. The duty to pass true and authentic faith on to our children, and to remind ourselves of what we are really about, is a sacred calling for every disciple. On that Lord’s Day, we can recommit ourselves to God and to the church. We can proclaim together our faith that the Lord our God really is the highest goal and guiding star of our lives. We can claim again the hope that the law of love will be written upon our hearts, and that we will ponder that love at home and away, when we lie down and when we rise.

I pray that this ancient perspective will capture you, bless you, and turn your faces toward God in the season to come. Hear, O church, the Lord your God is calling!

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

Random Acts of Kindness

*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”
–Matthew 25:40 RSV–*

Caring...Giving...Listening and Lifting others up... this is what Hope House is all about! And it is what many of you have witnessed and experienced during these past six trying months.

Many sweet stories have come from these days of living in the pandemic. Some volunteers have shared tales of spending their time checking on elderly neighbors and taking food to shut-ins. Two residents of the Point Pleasant neighborhood, Coby Mazingo and Elizabeth McDermott, are bringing the MPPC church service to their neighbors. They set up the necessary equipment so the service can be viewed each Sunday, right in the front yard. The chairs are set six feet apart and masks are worn. It has been a great way for neighbors to worship and pray together.

Our own Glenn Hair, MPPC's Finance Director, shared a story of a homeless couple he met. As a result, some of our members have helped this couple out while they are living in a broken- down panel truck.

Hope House volunteers believe, “God is working through all of us to help each other, even when our world is in crisis. Shifting the focus of our own worries to those with greater needs is like breathing a breath of fresh air!”



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

SEPTEMBER 1

In Honor of our 50th Wedding Anniversary; Given by Greg and Judy McCoy

SEPTEMBER 4

In Memory of Patsy Abernathy; Given by Miff and Karl Cone

SEPTEMBER 6

In Loving Memory of Sutton Story; Given Anonymously

SEPTEMBER 7

In Memory of Lewis Teffeau; Given by Linda Parker

SEPTEMBER 12

In Memory of David Smith, Harry Smith's Brother; Given by Lib Tiller

SEPTEMBER 14

In Honor of our Children and Grandchildren; Given by Jeff and Avis Griffith

SEPTEMBER 14

In Honor of Mary Allen Edgerton for being a wonderful teacher and friend; Given by the Shortridge Family

SEPTEMBER 23

In Honor of Jim Gilbert and In Memory of Betty Gilbert; Given by Greg and Judy McCoy

SEPTEMBER 25

In Honor of Andi Awkerman; Given by the Stephen Ministry Team

SEPTEMBER 26

In Honor of our 56th Wedding Anniversary; Given by Doug and Susan Mellichamp

SEPTEMBER 28

In Celebration of the Birthdays of Hugh Summer and his Great Grandson, Chase McNair; Given by David and Merrie McNair

SEPTEMBER 30

In Memory of Avis Griffith's cousin, Gene Berry; Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

Visit mppc.net/hope-house to adopt a day!

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

Faith Formation in a New Time

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles...Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

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. 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.

Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education



Rally Day - September 13th

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: Blank puzzle pieces are currently 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 sharbincolemans@mppc.net. 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 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!

A QUICK GUIDE TO ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sundays	
9:00 a.m.	Connect 3, The Middle, Academy of Saint John, Seekers and Sowers, The Harbor
4:00 p.m.	Men & Women's Bible Study (Small Group)
3 rd Sundays of month, 7:00 p.m.	*PW Circle 6
1 st Sunday of the month, 7:00 p.m.	Horizon Bible Study: Not for Women Only
Mondays	
4:30 p.m.	Mozingo Small Group (Genesis)
6:30 p.m.	Soul Training (Acts)
Tuesdays	
12:10 p.m.	A Year With The Bible
3 rd Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.	*Circle 2
2 nd Tuesday of the month, 2:30 p.m.	*Circle 3
Wednesdays	
2 nd Wed. of the month, 9:30 a.m.	*Circle 4
10:00 a.m.	Branham/Feller Small Group (Philippians)
7:00 p.m.	Get Fed: The New Testament in Its World Get Fed: Missional Renaissance
Thursdays	
6:00 p.m.	Women's Small Group (Unshakable Hope)
6:30 p.m.	Davis Small Group (Esther: Courage in a Complicated World)
2 nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.	*Circle 5
Fridays	
7:00 a.m.	Men's Morning Study
4 th Friday of the month, 5:30 p.m.	Gathering Around Books (The GAB Group)

More details and start dates are available in the Fall Education Booklet on mppc.net/christian-education. Join a group through Realm or email [Dan Wiard](mailto:Dan.Wiard@mppc.net).

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

As we gear up for a Fall unlike any other at MPPC, there are exciting things happening in CornerStone Youth Ministry. We had such great success with CornerStone this Summer that we are going to continue it through the program year. The youth will be participating in something every week, whether that's CORE Group Bible study (the new version of Sunday School) or BIG Group youth gatherings (the new version of Youth Group).

Beginning on September 13th, the youth who participated in Peer2Peer groups this summer will continue to explore and develop their faith in the same pattern we created over the summer months. CORE groups will be made up of about 30 youth and BIG group will be the entire youth group together. This means that for in person activities we will be sending out Sign Up Geniuses to each group to make sure that we do not exceed the recommended number of youth at a gathering. All of this information will be sent out in weekly emails from me or the CORE leaders. In order to get these emails, you must be registered for CornerStone and that link can be received by emailing me directly (ckraus@mppc.net).

A separate part of CornerStone that will happen this year is Confirmation for 8th graders. This is an additional element of youth ministry that will remain the same as it has in years past. Confirmation will begin virtually in hopes of meeting in person on Sunday mornings in the future. Emails about Confirmation have been sent to the appropriate grade level families, so if you have not received this please email me (ckraus@mppc.net) to sign up!



Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries

A WEEK IN YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

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

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

During my time as an intern at MPPC, a lot has happened. Right as I got to know the ways of “normal” youth ministry there was a world pandemic and we had to switch gears. When the daily Zoom calls no longer interested the youth, we had to adapt. So, we changed everything about youth ministry at MPPC, including the name. There was a lot of preparation to make that happen, but but luckily I got to work with some amazing volunteers and leaders to make a bold new vision become a reality. It was all worth it when we saw over 100 youth join the new Cornerstone Youth Ministry. Watching the youth join the Zoom calls week after week, getting excited about the things we were doing, and staying involved reminded me of my time as a youth at MPPC.

Although I am not going into a career in youth ministry, I can take the skills I learned here since January and use them in my future career and personal life. I will miss seeing the youth each week and watching their faith grow, but I know I will be able to keep in touch with them and follow their journey.

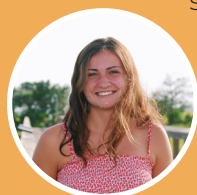
When I started out as an intern I was worried that I would leave and not feel like I did anything. Looking back at my last seven months in this position I know that I have done something. I navigated through this unexpected time in the world with the youth. I helped change the format of youth ministry here to fit the needs of the youth. I built relationships with the youth and watched them grow. I even grew in my faith and as a person while leading the youth. I will always be truly grateful for my time working at MPPC.



Mary Wallace Clement
Youth Ministries Summer Intern

This summer, I had the privilege of serving as the intern for youth ministries here at MPPC. MPPC has always been one of the most important parts of my life- starting with children's ministry, youth ministry, and still today as a college student. I couldn't have been more excited when Courtney presented me with the opportunity to intern, because it was a way for me to stay involved and pursue something I am passionate about. My main role as the summer youth ministries intern was to assist in creating the new Cornerstone Youth Ministry program, and specifically starting the Peer-2-Peer component. Peer-2-Peer Groups were made in order for youth to have a place to stay connected and talk about their faith, and for college leaders to have an opportunity to connect to youth and MPPC. After hearing the thoughts of the college students, it is certain that leading these groups was both rewarding and challenging, and really helped to reconnect us all to our church family.

Youth ministry at MPPC is something that shaped all of us, and it was really special to get to lead the youth involved today. Throughout my internship, I learned about all of the trials and challenges you come across in youth ministry and about all of the hard work that is put into it. It truly takes a team, and I feel so grateful to have worked alongside our awesome youth ministry team- Dan, Courtney, and Mary Wallace. MPPC has given so much to me, and it means so much that I got to be involved as an employee this summer. I can't wait to see the ways that MPPC continues to shape me and for all of my time there to come.



Eleanor Whitsett
Summer Youth Ministries Intern

My name is Carter Edwards and I am the new youth ministries intern! I am so excited to get started and get to know everyone. I am a recent college graduate from Elon University where I majored in Public Health and Policy Studies. Outside of my role at MPPC, I am the Youth Internship Program Coordinator for The Green Heart Project. This is a local non-profit that builds garden-based experiential learning projects and school garden programs to educate students, connect people, and cultivate community through growing, eating, and celebrating food. I love to cook and am passionate about health and fitness. My dad, Pastor Bart Edwards, is also on staff at MPPC and serves as our Associate Pastor. I grew up going to youth group and have some of my best memories on mission trips and ski trips with my friends. I have been to Montreat more times than I can count and have been to Haiti with my dad. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or just want to chat. I hope to see you all virtually soon!

Carter Edwards
Youth Ministries Intern



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

MPPC Families:

This summer has offered many unexpected moments of education, joy, and faith-building. Obviously it's been a challenge to learn "how," but your Children's Ministry team has also been thinking about the "whats" and "whys" of children's ministry. Children need opportunities to learn about the Bible and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, service, and fellowship, and it is our intention to continue providing these opportunities in new and creative ways.

I am excited that we will support our children's faith this fall through a variety of programs. Perhaps most exciting is that our teachers are joining together to create Christian education for children through videos beginning Sunday, September 20! Our kids will get the gifts of our teachers and the structure of our curriculum through independent study. Look for more information coming to your inboxes!

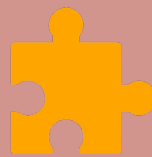
The Sunday morning "Breakfast & Bibles" Zoom has been popular with our children for its fun and busy lessons, but it also helps prepare them for worship. I use the same Bible verses that are used in worship each week to prepare the lessons, so when our kids watch the Sunday service they have already experienced the Bible readings and better understand the message.

If you are not receiving the weekly Children's Ministry email, make sure you check your spam folders and confirm your email address is accurate on Realm. We are working to get our classes together on Remind for the fall so that you can get your information via text, too. If you haven't joined your child's Remind class, email me today!

More than anything, I am keeping all of our children and their families in my prayers as we embark on an unprecedented school year. I pray for their safety, encouragement, and boundless growth in themselves and with God this school year. I hope that MPPC Children's Ministry will be a part of your children's lives every week.



Sarah Harbin-Coleman
Director of Children's Ministries



Rally Day

Join our congregation in this kickoff to a great year of Christian Education! Families can pick up fall study materials, drop off your puzzle pieces for our big church puzzle, and pick up First Grade Worship booklets and Third Grade Bibles from Spring 2020. Don't forget your ice cream treat!

Celebrate Wonder with Bible Study Videos!

We know our kids are missing our lessons on campus on Sunday mornings, and their teachers miss them! Our wonderful teachers will create video lessons each week that are targeted for your child's age group and will include all of the videos and activities your kids love from our on-campus lessons! All families will receive a digital version of the Celebrate Wonder curriculum activity sheets, or you may email Sarah at sharbincoleman@mppc.net to reserve a printed copy.

LOGOS

Our Wednesday program is still on, just different! LOGOS helps kids learn and enjoy fellowship through music, study, recreation, and a shared meal. This fall Barbara Loehr-Fox will engage our kids in LOGOS choir from a distance. Your kids will have an opportunity to explore the Bible through the new PCUSA Growing in God curriculum, learn some fun new games to play, and engage in fellowship over a shared meal via digital meeting. Kids are invited to participate in part or all of LOGOS! Register on Realm!

Kids Can!

This summer's Kids Can event taught our kids so much about being in service to God's kingdom, and we will continue to engage our children in local and international mission efforts throughout the year.



Fall Festival

This opportunity for fellowship and fun is important to all of our church, so we are working on a modified event that will give our families and the community a chance to gather and enjoy time together in a new way.

MPPC

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Weekly age-based independent video study led by MPPC children's teachers
- Sunday mornings "Breakfast & Bibles" Zoom for all children at 9:15 a.m. with Ms. Sarah
- Wednesday LOGOS programming with music, lessons, recreation, and Zoom fellowship over a meal
- Drive-by visits with goodies
- Challenges and other fun activities
- Monthly "Bytes of Faith" offerings from MPPC staff
- "Kids Can" Mission opportunities for kids

SAVE THE DATES:

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

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays 10:00 am

Website, Facebook Live, YouTube Live

OUR MINISTRY IS ON REMIND!

Contact to connect to your child's class:

Sarah Harbin-Coleman
Director of Children's Ministries
sharbincoleman@mppc.net
843-608-9798



CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

Music is a fair and glorious gift of God. I wish to see all arts, principally music in the service of Him who gave and created them. I would not for all the world forego my humble share of music . . . Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am strongly persuaded that after theology there is no art that can be placed on a level with music; for besides theology music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of the heart. – Martin Luther

I started last month's Pelican article with this quote from Martin Luther. I love it so much I decided to start with it again. During this pandemic I have heard people say over and over again that they are realizing what is really important in their lives. For my musical and music-loving friends, I have heard that they miss making and experiencing music together. If, as Luther surmised, music is capable of "affording peace and joy of heart" then the making of music is equally as therapeutic.

Our plans for the program year will not completely fulfil all our desires, but we hope that they will bear good fruit and allow for God's spirit to move through and among us. While most of what we will be doing will not be in-person, we have lofty goals and will enjoy some comradery along the way. Please feel welcome to jump in wherever you feel comfortable and reach out to choir members, Jason, or me for information (bloehr@mppc.net, jpedeaux@mppc.net). There is always room for you!

Barbara Loehr-Fox
Director of Music Ministries



OPPORTUNITIES IN MUSIC MINISTRIES

Adult Choirs: SAge, Kirk, Adult, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus

All choirs will combine for weekly Wednesday rehearsals on Zoom. We will prepare anthems for worship and music for the Advent/Christmas season.

Bell Choirs: Jubilant & Adult

Both choirs will combine for in-person rehearsals on Monday evenings. We will only have 4 – 6 ringers at a rehearsal. Everyone will wear masks and have individual music and stands.

Children's Choirs:

LOGOS Choir: Working with our Children's Ministry, we will add a musical component to their mid-week Zoom gatherings. We plan to have some videos of informal musical offerings for worship services.

Angel Notes: Also working with our Children's Ministry, we will offer a mid-week, 30-minute Zoom gathering which will incorporate music, a story and craft or coloring page.

The Net Band:

Our resident group of instrumentalists and singers who enjoy contemporary Christian music and hymns played in a modern style is continuing to provide music for worship services and other gatherings. For more information contact Martha Feil at 2ndchance2536@gmail.com or Robert Word at robertrussellword@gmail.com.

Youth Music

Both instrumentalists and singers are welcome to provide music in worship either in person or by video. Contact Jason Pedeaux for more information.

Instrumentalists

Instrumentalists of all ages are encouraged to share their gifts with our church family. For more information, contact Jason Pedeaux.

Something for Everyone: Musical Musings

Have you ever wanted to know more about music? Ever wanted to learn the musical alphabet or figure out what all the fuss is about with Do, Re, Mi? Jason Pedeaux will be leading a Zoom class on all of this. Plus, you will get a chance to explore our new hymnal and sing some of your favorites. Musical Musings classes start on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. Contact Jason for the Zoom meeting id or add sign up through Realm.



CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY

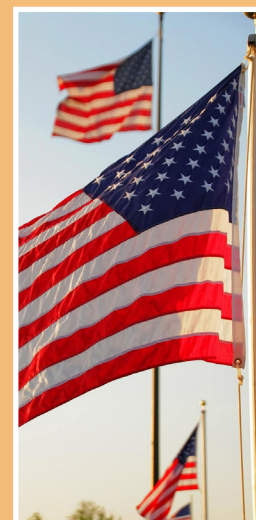


Seeking Common Ground: Part of the Bridge Builders Julius Scott Lecture Series

Thanks to all those who participated in "Seeking Common Ground: An Open Discussion about Race and Social Justice in America" on August 22nd. If you were unable to attend or would just like to watch it again, the event was recorded and you are able to view it at vimeo.com/450531418.

History Committee Requests Veteran Information

MPPC is proud to have many veterans among its membership. Although the History Committee has a partial list of those who have served in the armed forces during World War II and since, we would like to update our history to include all those who have served our country so that we may recognize them on and near Veterans' Day. We are, therefore, requesting the names of church members, both men and women, who served or are presently serving in the armed forces in any branch of service. We would also like the names of anyone who served (or is currently serving) in the Peace Corps since its inception in 1960. The History Committee is compiling this information for history purposes and it will only be used by MPPC to recognize and honor our veterans. If you have not already done so, please call, text or email your name and branch of service to Linda Schreck at 843-906-7325 or lschreck2@comcast.net by Sept. 21, 2020.

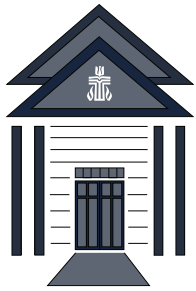


Mask Mission! Presented by: MPPC CYM

Church family, the youth of MPPC are excited to announce a church-wide event that is happening on Rally Day, Sunday September 13th, 2020. The youth will be giving out masks for pick up with the church logo on them during the Rally Day parade. These masks are for your safety and the safety of others, but there is also a mission component!

The youth are usually very involved with Hands of Christ each Fall and since that event has been canceled due to COVID-19, we would like to give them a monetary gift to start out the school year. The masks do not cost anything for you to pick up because we would like everyone to have one, but we are asking for donations to give to Hands of Christ if you feel led to give in this way. This is all part of a way we are giving back as a Youth Ministry at MPPC called the "Mask Mission" project. We hope to see you on Rally Day!





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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CONNECT WITH US

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Online Worship

Visit mppc.net to learn more about fall faith formation opportunities for all ages!

SERMONS

Live Streaming: mppc.net/watch-live-on-sunday

Sermons: mppc.net/sermons

Podcasts: tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events

FOLLOW US



@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests