

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

# THE PELICAN

October 2020





# FROM THE PASTOR

## World Communion Sunday

*For as in one body we have many members... so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5)*



On an otherwise unremarkable Sunday in 1933, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig made his way to the Lord's Table.

Standing before the faithful of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, he began the communion liturgy in a fairly ordinary way. It did not take long,

however, for the congregation to realize that this would be no ordinary service. On that day, an idea that germinated in the congregation's Stewardship Committee was, for the first time, given flesh and voice in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup. That committee had pondered how they might promote and celebrate the ties that bind all Christian churches of the world together in unity and common purpose. To that end, Dr. Craig referenced in his communion liturgy the thousands upon thousands of congregations all over the globe who would be remembering and observing the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on that Lord's Day. The recognition that so many people, in so many places, were united in common cause around common tables was deeply felt by all who were in worship that morning.

It took only three years for that power to spread throughout the Presbyterian Church in the United States. By 1940, the body that later became the National Council of Churches began promoting "World Communion Sunday" to houses of faith all over the world. And, even as the world descended into the terrible conflict of World War II, more and more churches began to see the value of taking a day – at least one

day per year – to stop what they were doing and remember that they have brothers and sisters all over the world who all have something amazing in common: the power and presence of the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

As we always do, we will share this worldwide observance on the first Sunday of October. That day, as I see it, cannot come quickly enough. Painful events at home and abroad suggest that the need for unity in Christ may be greater today than ever before. We desperately need to be reminded that we are one, even as differences in race, ethnicity, economics, and politics tear at the fabric of society. We need to embrace once again the truth spoken by Dr. King, who preached that we are all "*caught in an inescapable network of mutuality*" and are all tied together "*in a single garment of destiny*."

Fortunately, this strange year has already taught us that tables separated by physical distance can still be mystically connected through the power of the Holy Spirit. In many ways, this seems the perfect year to join our hearts together with people all across the globe and celebrate together a simple meal that changed the world.

Blessings and peace,

**Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum**  
Pastor & Head of Staff

# WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

## Outdoor Worship Services in October

We have some exciting news to share with you! On Sept. 22, the Session approved the recommendation made to begin outdoor worship services.

In addition to our live-streamed Sunday service, which will continue to be broadcast live at 10 a.m., we will also offer a **weekly in-person service at 8:15 a.m.** from the Fellowship Hall porch. These porch services, which begin on **Sunday, Oct. 4th**, will include an abbreviated liturgy of prayer, scripture, and the same sermon that will be given in the live-streamed service. An anthem or instrumental music will also be offered. Parking will be available on the streets and adjacent to the Seabrook Building, but we ask that the unpaved lot next to the Fellowship Hall and the spaces near the driveway circle be left empty because we hope you all will be sitting there!

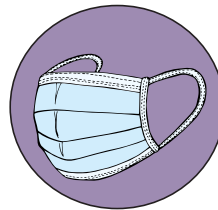
Because we remain committed to health and safety as the pandemic continues, the session has instituted special protocols for these outdoor worship services. **Social distancing guidelines include:**

- **Maintaining a minimum of 6 feet distance from people who are not part of your family or who have not quarantined with you;**
- **Bringing and wearing a face mask at all times (not provided by the church); and**
- **Bringing your own chairs to sit in (not provided by the church).**

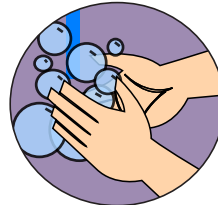
While we hope that use will be kept to a minimum, restrooms in the Fellowship Hall will be available on an emergency basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult; only one person or one parent/child combo will be allowed in at a time. We also ask that you sanitize the restroom on your way in and way out by using the wipes and hand sanitizer provided. Should the forecast indicate inclement weather, a cancellation email will be sent out ahead of time.

For safety reasons, we will not be celebrating sacraments in porch worship, but Elders will be present to welcome you all back, assist with questions, and ensure that social distancing guidelines are followed.

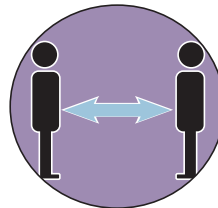
We are thrilled to be able to take this important step toward gathering together in person once more. We can't wait to greet you on October 4th!



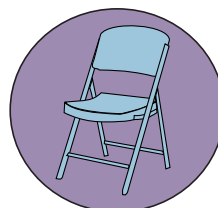
**Wear a mask to protect yourself and others.**



**Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.**



**Keep a 6 ft distance between you and others who you've not been quarantined with.**



**Bring your own chairs to sit in during the service.**



**Stay home if you are sick or think you could be and worship with us online.**

# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

## Faith Formation and Mission

"This isn't good," my friend told me as we walked back to our flat in Odessa, Ukraine. We had just taken an orphan to her grandmother's house and were dropped off by a cab blocks from where we needed to be. It was dark and we walked with some urgency to get back to our lodging before something unexpected happened, but it was too late. Two Ukrainian police started to follow us. In a matter of minutes, they shouted in Russian, "Stop!"

"Do you have identification?" they asked. I gave them my passport; my friend had no ID. And so, the interrogation began. My friend spoke broken Russian and could understand most of what they asked. "Where are you going?" "Why are you out walking?" "Why are you here?" "Do you have any drugs?" The police talked among themselves, handed me my passport, and said, "Have a good night!" as they turned and walked back from where they came.

As we cautiously continued our walk back to our flat, my friend told me, "We were lucky tonight! Usually they want a bribe before letting someone go."

A couple of days later as we were eating supper in a local bar, Vinny, the leader of our team, sat with two prostitutes. They ate, had conversation, and before the meal was over, he "hired" them, but not in the sense one might expect. He paid their rate for the night and told them to go home, keeping them off the street and safe for twenty-four hours.

While these encounters were not on my radar for our mission trip to Ukraine to help children in an orphanage, they did leave lasting impressions. Sometimes mission work can be dangerous. Other times, we might encounter a "God moment," where an action we do can impact someone's life beyond those lives we intentionally came to serve.

Mission work is not restricted to traveling to another country. It can and does happen in our backyard. From collecting food for ECCO to helping a family move to Florida to having guests stay in Hope House, mission opportunities are many. And while we do meet for Bible study and small groups, an integral part of these gatherings and groups is outreach and service. Faith Formation is practiced outside the walls of MPPC, and those relationships are powerful and engage entire classes.

As we gather this fall for Faith Formation, remember part of being Christian means to serve. Serving is part of our transformation, and it also connects us as Christians, members of MPPC, and the greater Church. If your small group or Faith Formation group is not engaged in mission, we can connect you to an opportunity in which your group can serve. Let me know if I can help your group connect through service and mission.

**Dr. Dan Wiard**  
Director of Christian Education



**Coming October 7...**

Watch it by yourself, with a friend, with your family,  
or invite some friends over and watch it together!

Sharing our faith means stepping out of our places of comfort.

# 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 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays of month, 7:00 p.m.	*PW Circle 6
1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.	*Circle 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 2:30 p.m.	*Circle 3
Wednesdays	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month, 9:30 a.m.	*Circle 4
10:00 a.m.	Branham/Feller Small Group (Philippians)
7:00 p.m. - <b><i>Get Fed has been postponed due to lack of interest.</i></b>	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 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m.	*Circle 5
Fridays	
7:00 a.m.	Men's Morning Study
4 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://mppc.net/christian-education). Join a group through Realm or email [Dan Wiard](mailto:Dan.Wiard@mppc.net).



# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION



Youth Deacons: Maehler Purcell and McRae Wallace, Youth Elders: Lily Westerhold and Carter Limbert

This month has been filled with uncertainty about school, church classes, sports, and extra curriculars, but one item that the youth at MPPC are certain of is mission! The CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC decided to give back in a way that is unlike any other during these crazy times. The youth understand the importance of wearing a mask and so we wanted to share that with the entire church family by providing a MPPC mask for everyone. This became known as "Mask Mission," and it came to fruition on Rally Day during the parade. The youth elders and deacons passed out MPPC masks to every church member that drove by on Sunday, September 13th to spread safety instead of COVID-19.

The second part of Mask Mission was created by our love of a local mission of MPPC, Hands of Christ. This organization provides school supplies and clothing for low income families

in the low country. Since this is a favorite mission of the youth, they decided that they would give the masks out for free and simply ask the congregation for donations as they felt led to give. The beauty of Mask Mission is that we have given something to protect one another but are also giving something in return that can help children and youth during these uncertain times. I am pleased to announce that we raised over \$2,000 for Hands of Christ and made a lot of church members happy when they received a mask. The youth did a great job and thank you for your support of Mask Mission at MPPC!

Didn't receive a mask? Come on by the church office and pick up one up.

#maskupMPPC

**Courtney Kraus**  
Director of Youth Ministries



# CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

## Three Opportunities Each Week For Children's Faith Formation

My prayers are with all of our kids as they adjust to this new school year! Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any needs. This fall, our children have three opportunities each week for faith formation:

### • Weekly Video Lessons

These lessons are set up to provide the learning, music, and activities of traditional Sunday School, accessible anytime by video. Kids should expect television show-length videos that they can watch while completing the activities included. Our incredible MPPC elementary teachers are hard at work creating their lessons each week. These are combined with the brand new Celebrate Wonder curriculum to make 20 minute "shows" for your children to watch. Activity sheets and video links are sent out each week, and you may also pick up activity books in the church office. [Our playlist on YouTube is accessible anytime!](#)

### • Breakfast & Bibles

This weekly Zoom gathering before worship has become so sweet and important to our kids. We spend 30 minutes checking in, praying, and learning the Bible lesson that immediately follows during the worship service. Our children are invited to bring their breakfast and even wear their pajamas if the mood strikes! The Zoom code is sent out each week in Children's Ministry update emails.

### • LOGOS & Angel Notes

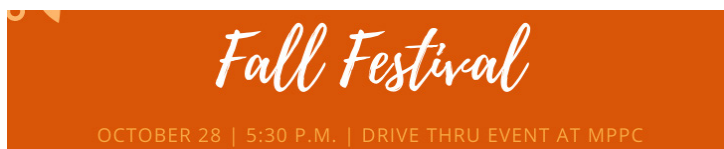
Our rehearsing children's choirs are now with Ms. Barbara each week! Angel Notes (Preschool) practices at 5 p.m., and LOGOS Choir (Elementary) practices at 5:30 p.m. LOGOS Bible study, recreation, and activities are sent out Wednesday mornings and both LOGOS and Angel Notes are invited to a Zoom that includes the lesson, recreation, and fellowship on Wednesday evenings. Registration is still available on Realm!

**Sarah Harbin-Coleman**  
Director of Children's Ministries



## Are You Feeling Connected?

I know your email looks a bit like high tide right now, because mine does, too! If you are feeling disconnected from our church, I want to make sure we correct that! Emails are sent to all Children's Ministry families on Realm twice during the week, usually midweek and Sunday mornings. We are also on Remind, and are sending highlights via text message each week. Not the electronics type? I am still available to visit your children safely through drive-by visits. Your family's connection to our church is of utmost importance!



## Fall Festival is Happening!

Our Fall Festival will take place October 28 at 5:30 p.m. in a safe, socially distanced way! We will drive through and include all the fun games, trunk or treat, community prayer, and photobooth you expect from this special event! Children are encouraged to wear their costumes. Volunteers are welcome to join the fun, which is the best way to ensure you see everyone. We can't wait to see you!



# CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

Choirs in the midst of a pandemic...

The medical experts explain clearly that singing produces aerosols which spread the virus. The act of singing spreads these aerosols even further than speaking. Unfortunately, masks are not fully effective in controlling these aerosols. So, we lovers of music and singing must be creative.

We launched our MPPC virtual choirs in mid-September. While not an ideal way to rehearse, it was a nice way to connect with each other, share our joys and concerns and pray together again. We got to knock the cobwebs off our vocal cords, smile, laugh and sing our way to some musical joy. Our hope is to create some virtual choir anthems

to enhance worship in the near future. We have children and adults joining us in this adventure.

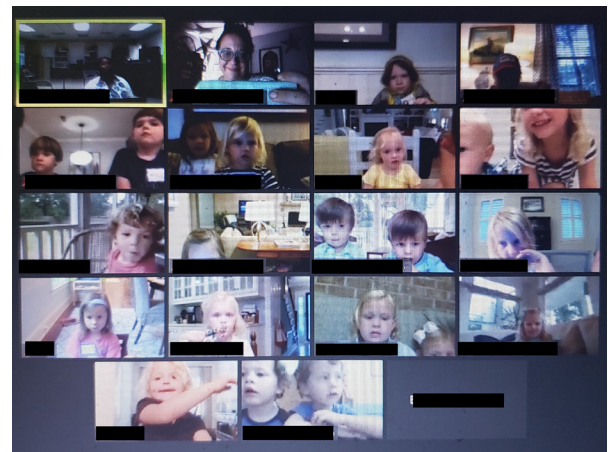
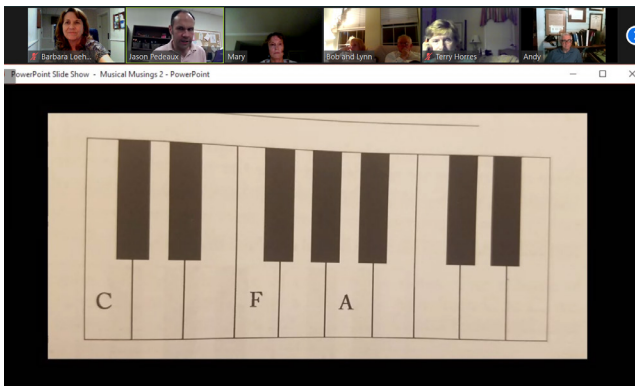
Also, in the area of Music Ministry, our bell choirs have combined and are rehearsing in small groups each week. They will enhance worship this month. And, Jason is leading a weekly session called Musical Musings in which everyone is brushing up on their basic music skills and will enjoy exploring the hymns in our hymnal. Please send us your prayers as we navigate these new challenges.

**Barbara Loehr-Fox**  
Director of Music Ministries



## 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 are on Thursdays at 7 p.m. through November 5. Contact Jason for the Zoom meeting id or sign up through Realm.





# CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

## A Bit of Good News

*"Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord." (Psalm 31:24)*

These days we can use some good news, including Hope House volunteers waiting for the go-ahead to reopen. The news came in a note Avis Griffith, one of our advisory team members and team leaders, recently received from a former Hope House guest.

Avis had checked the parents in on Thanksgiving Day last year, as their daughter Brittany was receiving a lung transplant. Fast forward to a few weeks ago. After Brittany met with the doctors on her MUSC transplant team, her father, Bob L., wrote:

*"Her body is functioning at all normal levels. They released her from monthly appointments. It has been a long road that included gallbladder removal and a liver transplant. After months of recovery, she has returned to normal weight and her team said she was able to start her family."*

That is what Brittany and her husband Jonathan were planning to do before all of this happened! Bob L. added that he and his wife Bunny think of Avis and Hope House often.

*"You administered to us in the greatest need of our lives. You are in our hearts and prayers. God Richly Bless you Avis!"*

We too thank Avis and everyone who has helped those in need during these long months of isolation. We pray the members of MPPC stay positive and healthy during this health crisis.



## Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

### **OCTOBER 1**

In Honor of Andi Awkerman for her long and dedicated service to MPPC; Given by Lib McGregor Simmons

### **OCTOBER 6**

In Honor of our children and grandchildren; Given by Judy and Greg McCoy

### **OCTOBER 13**

In Appreciation of our church staff during these difficult times; Given Anonymously

### **OCTOBER 15**

In Honor of Mitch Snead for his loyalty and love of Hope House; Given by the MPPC Hope House Ministry Team

### **OCTOBER 23**

In Memory of my parents, Jack and Vivian McCarter and in honor of my grandson on his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday; Given by Janice Young

Visit [mppc.net/hope-house](https://mppc.net/hope-house) to adopt a day!

# CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

## A Child Sponsorship Challenge for the month of October from Pastor Bart and the MPPC Missions Team:

Tis' the "Back to School" season for everyone in some shape or form with Kindergartens, schools, college, and even our own Rally Day kick off. The reality for many of our children and grandchildren is that families are adjusting to new schedules and routines. This is also true of our brothers and sisters around the globe. Our International Missions Team has received correspondence from our mission partners telling us how they are handling school and COVID protocols. Education is an integral part of life for everyone but for many it is a daily challenge. In the developing countries where we do most of our mission work, public education is not possible. The systems of government are often broken and underfunded. Many times, the only way for a child to go to school is through a private school and/or a sponsorship.

Sponsorship is something many of you are already familiar with as you



currently sponsor children in other countries. Our family sponsors a young boy in Haiti named Sendley.

Sendley goes to school through one of our mission partners, Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM). For \$35 a month Sendley receives school uniform, his school supplies, medical and dental checkups plus daily vitamins, receives one or two meals a day, and receives an excellent Christian based education. The public school system in Haiti is, for the most part, nonexistent and not

available to most children. If it wasn't for outside organizations such as HOM, there would not be an educational opportunity for Sendley. When I travel to Haiti with a mission team, I get to visit Sendley at his school and bring him gifts and additional supplies. We started sponsoring Sendley when he was in Pre-K, now he is in the 2nd grade! Seeing him smile as he recognizes us is a wonderful way to be greeted in Haiti. Our family looks forward to these visits and being a part of Sendley's life as he grows and matures. We hope and pray for him a bright future and an opportunity for him to help his community prosper one day. The cofounder of HOM Jacky Dorleans says, "there are three ways to solve the current crisis in Haiti: Education, Education and Education!"

**Most of our International Mission Partners offer some form of school sponsorship. I hope you and your family will consider sponsoring a child!** One of the great benefits of sponsoring a child through one of church supported mission partners is the opportunity to build a relationship with a child. Additionally, you might be able to meet your sponsored child on a mission trip or send special gifts to him or her through the mission teams that travel to visit our mission partners. If you have questions about any of our mission partnerships, please ask me or one of our mission team participants. All our mission partners are thoroughly vetted and reviewed yearly.

I hope that each of you will spend some time over the next couple of days and weeks to pray over how you might support one of God's children in need. The problems of the world seem overwhelming at times but for a small amount (\$35-\$50) a month, you can change a child's life, change a community, and change the world. My goal is for MPPC is to

sponsor 50 children this fall! Will you join me in supporting and sponsoring the many children around the world that need a sponsor? I hope and pray you will. If you will, please let me know when you sponsor a child or if you already are sponsoring a child. I would love to share in the coming months the many ways our MPPC family is sponsoring children. If you have any questions or need some additional information do not hesitate to give me a call.

Blessings,

**Rev. Bart Edwards**  
Associate Pastor



Here are our MPPC supported global missions partners, their corresponding liaison to the International Missions Team and how to sign up to sponsor a child's education:

### Haiti Outreach Ministries- Port au Prince, Haiti.

IMT Members- Bruce McAdams/ Bob Hervey. To sponsor a child, go to [haitiom.org](http://haitiom.org) click on the "What You Can Do" tab and select "Sponsor a Student."

### The Lamb Institute- Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

IMT Members- Caroline Feller/Cathy Reed. To sponsor a child, go to [lambinstitute.org](http://lambinstitute.org) click on the "Give" tab and select "Child Sponsorship."

### KDS-Kinyago-Dandora School- Nairobi, Kenya.

IMT Members- Russ Keller/Paula Custer/Elizabeth Amory. To sponsor a child, go to [kenyachildrensfund.org](http://kenyachildrensfund.org) click on the "Sponsor a Child" tab.

### AMOS Health & Hope- Nicaragua.

IMT Member- Will Whitsett. To sponsor a child, go to [amoshealth.org/seeds](http://amoshealth.org/seeds).

### Palmetto International- Trinidad de Copan, Honduras.

IMT Members- Jeff Taylor/Kimbo Richardson/Leigh Brandenburg. To make arrangements to sponsor a child in the Trinidad De Copan area contact Jeff directly through REALM.



# CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY



## Second Sunday Speaker Series Resumes October 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

You are invited to join the MPPC Bridge Builders team in an interactive discussion with Dr. Gloria Holmes based on her presentation, "White, Privileged and Fragile," which you can access at [facebook.com/watch/?v=2562182880715619](https://facebook.com/watch/?v=2562182880715619). This will be an opportunity for you to learn what these terms mean and how these terms relate to our lives as members of the Mt. Pleasant community. Whether you agree or disagree that these terms can be applied to you, now is the time to come

learn about the meaning of systemic racism. After months of unrest and Black Lives Matter protests, this is an opportunity to engage in discussion about the roots and effects of racism with Dr. Holmes, adjunct professor of culture and diversity at the Bluffton campus of USC. So, please watch the presentation above and register to participate in this zoom event: [us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO2srzkqEtPBkCtuN-NfU5FupoF0t\\_OB](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcO2srzkqEtPBkCtuN-NfU5FupoF0t_OB). We look forward to a healthy and enlightening discussion on October 11 at 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, email Coleman Legerton at [colelege@gmail.com](mailto:colelege@gmail.com).



## Thank you to those who have given Endowment Gifts!

The History Committee has donated to the Endowment Fund in Honor of Doris Benke's dedication to MPPC.

Dorothy Bowers has donated to the Endowment Fund in Honor of Andi Awkerman's retirement from MPPC.

Dorothy Bowers has donated to the Endowment Fund in Honor of Mitch Snead's retirement from MPPC.

## Welcome Joy Cobb! Administrative Assistant

"It is truly an honor to be here at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church to serve as an administrative and human resource support for the employees, pastors and the future Executive Pastor. I am certified in Human Resource Management from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In my previous position of six years, I served as an Office Manager and Human Resource Generalist for a gastrointestinal laboratory. As a lover of Christ and his people, serving in employee relations allows me to educate and advocate for employees as our needs constantly evolve.



Outside of work, I am also an artist at heart. So in almost every genre of art I have experience in exploring my creativity. Cooking, baking, interior design, make-up artistry and graphic design make up a few of my passions. Additionally, I am a huge advocate for women's empowerment and giving back. I have served on and off as a Girl Scout leader and Boys and Girls Club volunteer for over 10 years. On holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, I love to volunteer at organizations to feed or support families in need.

I pray I can use my talents to serve the church in a way that is best suited for his glory. Thank you again for the opportunity."



## Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## CONNECT WITH US

### **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

8:15 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10:00 a.m. Online Worship

Visit [mppc.net](http://mppc.net) to learn more about faith formation opportunities for all ages!

### **SERMONS**

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

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

Podcasts: [tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts](http://tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts)

### **EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS**

[mppc.net/events](http://mppc.net/events)

### **FOLLOW US**



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### **OTHER WAYS**

[mppc.net/contact](http://mppc.net/contact)

843-884-4612

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

[mppc.net/prayer-requests](http://mppc.net/prayer-requests)