

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

November 2020



FROM THE PASTOR

All Saints' Day

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
(Revelation 7:9-10)



Over the coming month, we will observe some significant moments together. In a few days, those of us who have not already voted will cast our ballots in a divisive and emotional election that has simmered for much of the past year. A few weeks later, Thanksgiving will bring its cherished, regular traditions to friends and family gathered around grateful and bounteous tables. Shortly thereafter, yet another season of light will begin on the first Sunday of Advent. While all of these moments will resonate in our spirits, I want us to focus on another moment – one that comes before all of these others.

The observance of All Saints' Day began in the early history of the church, when sainted martyrs of the church were given a special collective celebration each year. During the Protestant Reformation, our forebears in the faith reframed the day as a way to recognize the sanctification of all Christian people. Just as we believe in "the priesthood of all believers," we also profess that even the humblest and most obscure Christian can be a "saint" through the grace of Jesus Christ. Instead of putting just a few people on a pedestal, we give thanks for the door that is open to all people through faith.

In that spirit, All Saints' Day is the perfect time for us to remember all of the faithful Christians in our own lives who have "run the good race" and now rest in glory with God. The candles we will light and the bells we will ring will be given as an offering of gratitude for the gift we have been given in knowing and learning from those ordinary people who gave us extraordinary gifts of faith and love. As we enter a month that is laden with expectation in so many ways, I pray that the moment of thanksgiving we will share on November 1st will set a gracious and gentle tone that may bathe the rest of the month with light and hope.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

Hopeful this Holiday Season

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

If you have gone by the Church recently, you may have noticed Hope House remains unoccupied. This is out of an abundance of caution for both our volunteers and guests.

We realize the need for a safe place to stay is still great for families with relatives in the hospital, as we continue to receive calls from various social workers. Rest assured our team is looking forward to the day when we can open the doors and hang the Welcome sign again!

In the meantime work continues to update safety measures and to make a much-needed repair. After the damage done to Hope Cottage from the flooding this Spring, finding a way to install a drainage system for the backyard has become our first priority. Thanks to the assistance of a Hope House volunteer, Miff Cone and her husband Karl, an underground utility contractor is working with Karl on a proposal for the cure. We are hopeful to have this remedied soon and grateful for the Cone's continued support of Hope House.

We also give thanks...

- To our Hope House Advisory Team – Avis & Jeff Griffith, Peggy Leete, Becky Neuhaus and Elizabeth Grantham. They graciously help guide the Hope House Ministry Team through this health crisis;
- To our volunteers who are ready and willing to do what it takes to reopen the House;
- To the countless supporters of Hope House who continue to sponsor an "Adopt-A-Day," with each \$50.00 donation helping keep this Ministry going;
- And to Anna Laye and her family who will decorate the House once again for the Christmas season!

God's Blessings to all!

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

NOVEMBER 1-30

In Honor of all volunteers and supporters of the Hope House Ministry; Given by Beth Moore

NOVEMBER 4

In Honor of the anniversary of our daughter and son-in-law, Christy and Garrett Rowe; Given by Ken and Donna Widener

NOVEMBER 6

In Loving Memory of Virginia Gilliam; Given by Mike, Julie and Will Stephenson

NOVEMBER 15-30

In Honor of our family, friends and our MPPC family; Given by Jennifer and Mark Davidson

NOVEMBER 22

In Honor of my children and grandchildren; Given by Beth Moore

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



CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

Virtual Taizé Service



The holiday season is upon us. It will be different this year, for sure. However, as children of God, I know we will find moments of joy and holiness throughout. Our Music Ministry will present a Taizé Service on our website beginning November 12th. Situated in a small village in France, the Taizé community holds worship services three times a day. It was formed by the son of a Swiss Protestant minister, Brother Roger Schutz in the 1940's. Twenty years later young people and tourists from all over the world began to visit. Now, more than 100,000 people visit each year. The Taizé community emphasizes a strong devotion to peace and reconciliation. Their worship services are simple and beautiful. In our service, you will hear music written for Taizé, hear scripture and enjoy a time of silence for contemplation and prayer.

Virtual Village Concert Series

Our Fine Arts Ministry invites you to a virtual jazz concert! The Village Concert Series presents an evening of jazz featuring Canadian-born pianist Chantale Gagné. Gagné will be joined by bassist Jeremy Wolf, drummer Asa Holgate and singer Alva Anderson. Gagné, who has been called "one of the top emerging pianists in North America" by City Newspaper, will lead the quartet in a program including some of her original compositions as well as a selection of jazz standards. Free live streaming of the concert will take place on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. on the MPPC website: mppc.net, and on our Facebook and YouTube pages.



Thanksgiving Day Worship

Our traditional Thanksgiving Day worship service is being put together by our staff. It will be recorded and presented on Thursday, November 26.



Order Poinsettias Today

Don't miss an opportunity to decorate our worship spaces with poinsettias. Order yours today.



Looking To December

Looking into December...the choirs of the church are putting together a virtual Christmas Concert. From our youngest singers to members of the SAge Choir, you will find smiling faces and enthusiastic singing. Be on the lookout for this special offering.

Barbara Loehr-Fox
Director of Music Ministries



Faith Formation During a Pandemic

Through Union Presbyterian Seminary, I have been part of a cohort of educators for the past five months with one major focus: Christian Education. My cohort includes pastors and educators, both retired and active, representing small and large congregations. While our plan was for in-person monthly gatherings in Charlotte, COVID-19 limited our time together to virtual gatherings via Zoom. With two meetings left, here are some of my reflections:

- Some congregations were hit hard by COVID-19 and scrambled with ministry. With no on-line presence, congregations went silent for weeks until they figured out how to be present on-line.
- Systemic racism and how to be part of a solution is an issue most congregations are trying to address. It is an ongoing opportunity.
- Creativity and thinking out of the box are vital parts of faith formation for all ages.
- Worship is the number one priority for all congregations, both on-line and coming together for in-person gatherings. Education is more challenging when we think about in-person meetings.
- How we do faith formation has changed and is changing, and so is our faith formation language.

We need to remember to ask ourselves: What are we learning through this pandemic? What are the things we want to keep and what do we want to throw away? What have we missed?

I am thankful for the creative, proactive staff with whom I work! MPPC is actively on the front-line of faith formation in uncertain times. Our last two cohort meetings are focusing specifically on moving forward and addressing what we are learning through the pandemic. I will keep you posted!

Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education



Bytes of Faith

Children. We all know a child; we have all been a child. For my wife, Lynn, and I, children are a significant part of our life. From eight children to foster parenting and mission work, children are part of our life. November's *Bytes of Faith* topic: Children. Our Scripture: Mark 10:13-16. Some of the questions we explore include "What does it mean to love a child? To love any child?" "Describe the children Jesus welcomed and blessed. Who do you think they were?" "Looking at pictures depicting Jesus blessing the children, who are the artist's children that are with Jesus?" "In this Scripture passage, how are we like the disciples? How are we like people who brought children to Jesus? How are we like Jesus?"

Bytes of Faith comes out the 7th of each month. We hope you, your family, and your friends will gather to watch and discuss *Bytes of Faith*!

Coming This Advent: An Advent Devotional

Hearing about Zoom fatigue and the challenges to meet virtually, the Adult Faith Formation (AFF) Ministry team is creating an in-house Advent Devotion booklet for individuals and families to use during the Advent season. The booklet offers weekly reflections, scripture readings, and activities one can do at your pace and in your homes. Available in print and digital, watch for something special coming at the end of November!

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

At our most recent in-person youth gathering at Boone Hall Plantation, we lit a bonfire to roast marshmallows (with proper social distancing, of course). Even though our faces were covered with masks, the excitement of being together again could not be hidden. Church friendships reignited and our 6th graders beamed with energy about the new ministry in which they now belong. We played awkward name games and chatted about the time that had passed. We discussed how crazy the world is right now and how we had missed youth group very much.

I asked the high school seniors to pause and take a break from everything that they were going through: work, tests, applying to schools, writing resumes, and extra curriculums and help. Yes, I asked them to help the freshman and sophomores that were sitting on the other side of the dock. I asked them to share, "What would you tell your freshman year self if you could go back?" After some laughs and quick stories, they all got quiet

and shared from their heart. Some answers were, "Don't take it too seriously because in the midst of this you can lose yourself," "Study harder," "Never miss a chance to come to youth group because I have met some of my best friends through MPPC," and "Don't sweat the small stuff."

The youth have a powerful way of teaching us all something very important. I am not a senior or a freshman, but I left the Cotton Dock that night thinking about how I may be "sweating the small stuff" or "taking things too seriously that are out of my control." So, thank you, youth for being the future and helping us be reminded of what really matters and the love that God has for us all, even in the midst of a pandemic.



Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries



Summer Trip Save the Dates

Middle School CROSS Mission Trip
June 27-July 2

Middle School Montreat
July 14-18

High School Montreat
July 25-31



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION



MPPC Children's Ministry is continuing to find new and creative ways to help children develop strong and meaningful faith in this unusual year. We were so grateful to our children and their patient and creative parents for leading Children's Sunday on October 18! We enjoyed a small picnic after worship and participated in a walk around the sanctuary as part of the DSAL Buddy Walk. By the time this reaches you, we will have held our annual Fall Festival as a drive-through event! We also continue

to meet on Sundays for our Breakfast & Bibles pre-worship gathering and are watching our Sunday lessons through videos. LOGOS and Angel Notes are also meeting by Zoom on Wednesdays through November 18. Our Children's Ministry leadership team just welcomed some new members, and we've got even more in store! Advent, First Grade Worship, Third Grade Bibles, all new mission opportunities, and more are just around the corner! If we haven't seen you in a little while, check in and let us know how we can support your family.

Sarah Harbin-Coleman
Director of Children's Ministries



What is a Chrismon?

We're glad you asked! Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help us remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday. We use them on our tree at church and many families use them in their homes as well.

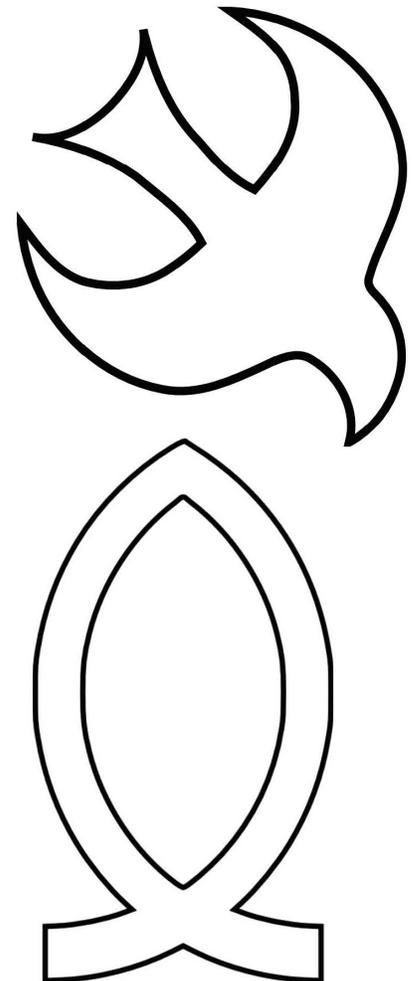
Chrismons are traditionally white and gold. White is the liturgical (or church) color for Christmas which symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold represents Christ's majesty and Glory. There are many Christian symbols used and this year there will be a fun activity for everyone to participate in by making Chrismon ornaments as well as special outdoor decorations for an outdoor Christmas tree for our church!

Look for details soon and be ready to make birdseed pinecones, stringed popcorn with cranberries, and our own Chrismons to decorate this year's MPPC Christmas tree!

There are many symbols, but here are a few and what they mean:

- A five pointed star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.
- The Cross shows that Christians believe Jesus died on the cross for everyone.
- The Dove is the symbol of peace and of the Holy Spirit.
- The Shell is a symbol of baptism and reminds us of the water we are baptized in.
- The heart is a symbol of love and reminds us that God is love.

We invite you to try making your own Chrismons! You can print these two and create your own, or download a PDF of traditional symbols from <https://d2lyc38txlwww.cloudfront.net/chrismon-patterns.pdf>.



REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

History Committee Honors Veterans

MPPC will honor its veterans, including deceased members, during worship on Nov. 8 for Veteran's Day on Nov. 11. Veteran's Day is a day on which we honor the men and women who have served or are serving in the military and who have fought to defend our freedom. We also honor the family members of these veterans.

For updates to the following veterans list, contact Linda Schreck of the History Committee at 843-884-7325 or lschreck2@comcast.net. **If you have previously submitted this information, there is no need to submit it again.** Thanks for your support of the MPPC History Committee.

Air Force

Reynolds Adams

Glenn Bradley*

Bobby Caldwell

Rick Alan Chadwick

Ron Cole

Robert Fancher, Sr.*

Robert Fancher, III.

Leonard C. Fulghum, Jr.

Joe Gaddy, Jr.

Alan Garner

Paul Grantham

James D. Harrington Sr.

Blake Benjamin Harwell*

Otis B. Hyler

Donald B. Johnson*

James S. Knight III

John McDermott

Keith Ramsdell

Bryan Rogers

Buddy Smith

Malcolm Swan*

Wade Thompson

Mike Walsh

Keeling A. Warburton

Air Force Reserve

Robert M. Witherspoon III

Air Force/ Air Force Reserve

Wayne Capps

Air National Guard

Roger O. Harley

Army

John All*

Bob Brennan

Chauncey R. Clark III

Fred Crawford

Booker Dalton*

James Gary Early

Gregory Ewell

Carlton Force*

Gerald "Jerry" George

Dan Grubb*

Pauline Grubb*

Scott Hanling

Jason Haney

Gerald "Gerry" Hall

John Hardwick*

Gary Hayden

Robert "Bob" Hervey

Jerry Hogan

Jim Hollingsworth*

Al Jenkins

David W. Kay

James "Jamie" R. Keeler

Russ Keller

Robert H. King

John Garland Lackey

William F. Landrus

Jonathan Lee (Active)

Joe Maupin*

Bruce McAdams

John Meissner

James R. Middleton

Joe Molinari, Jr.*

Rex Morgan

William Payne, III

William M. Pearson*

Warren T. Player

Dick Query

Bob Reed

Ikey Renneker, Jr.*

Jordan Rowe

Jervey DuPre Royall*

Lee Royall*

Oscar Eugene Savedge*

Dan Schram*

E. M. Seabrook, Jr.*

David Smith

George Smyth

Ronnie Strawn

Fred Stribling

Bill Talbot

Katie Thigpen (Active)

Stan Wengert

Rick Widman

Robert M. Witherspoon IV

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Army Air Corps

Dallas S. Deer, Jr.*

Harry E. Douty, Sr.*

Sam Witherspoon

Army National Guard

William Masche*

Douglas Mellichamp

Army/Air Force

Lewis Horton

Army/Air Force Reserve

Mark Kleber

Coast Guard

Bob Byrnes

Jim Ingham

Timothy A. Mellichamp

Marine Corps

Robert L. Alexander

Daniel Bluford

Michael A. Farmer

Ron Gavin

George Hancock*

Marshall Hay

Tim Hillman

Curt McCall, Sr.*

Steve Peper

David Reed Thompson*

Marine Corps Reserve

Ronald W. Eades

Navy

Al Aiken*

Susanne Bradford

Philip Castengera

Adrian Chappell*

Edward Cheeseman

Joe Coates

Frank Conway

Grover Croft

Richard "Dick" Fitzgerald

Robert L. Fitzgerald

Larry Fulton*

Coby Frampton

Roe Gabriel*

Marcus Googer

Charles C. Graham

Edith Hancock*

Marshall Hay

Earl Hewett

Carl P. Hewett*

Butch Hills

Fran Hollingsworth*

Ralph G. Jenkins

Russ Keller

Norman Ray Levins

Tim Limbert

John Marshall Sr.*

Michael J. Maughon Jr.

Anson M. McAdams*

Greg McCoy

Julie Whilden McIver*

Joe Molinari

John Nuernberger

Richard S. Pate*

Adam Price

Bob Roffey*

John E. Royall, Sr.*

John E. Royall, Jr.

Robert Lee Royall

Carl Schneeberger

E.M. Seabrook, Sr.*

Donna Smith

Mark A. Stewart

Ed Sumner*

Morris Sutton

Mac Thigpen

George Voelker

Herman L. Wacker (Bubba)*

Edward C. Wagner, Jr.

Henrietta Wildeboer

Navy Reserve

James Gilbert

Julian McGill

Kenneth W. Shortridge, Jr.

Royal Canadian Army

Bill Pearson*

Peace Corps

Bob Anderson*

Public Health Service

Charles H. Evans, Jr.

Russell Horres

* *Deceased*

CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

ECCO Volunteer Opportunity

One of the recipients of MPPC's **Challenge Grant Fund** was East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO), a local organization whose mission is to "provide safety net services to our low income neighbors while empowering them to create a better future for themselves, their families and our community". The funding that ECCO received from the challenge grant is enabling them to renovate and expand their food pantry and will greatly increase their efficiency in serving their many clients. Interestingly, ECCO developed the first "client choice" food pantry in South Carolina, allowing those served to choose foods that are best suited to their family's needs each month and, in the process, allowing them to maintain their dignity. The thoughtful design of this system is representative of the care and compassion that guides all of the services that ECCO provides.

Food pantry renovations will be completed by the end of November. Volunteers will be needed on November 7th to help set up and install shelves and on November 30th to restock the shelves and set up the new area for food distribution.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with an organization that has been helping the disadvantaged in our area for over 30 years - it's also a great chance to be in on the excitement of helping ECCO move into their new space!

Please consider signing up to help from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday November 7th or for an hour or two, or even all day, on Monday November 30th. If you would like to volunteer, or if you are interested but would like to know more, please contact Frances Huffstetler at fhuffstetler@ECCOcharleston.org or by calling her at 843-416-7111.



Florence Crittenton Volunteer Opportunity

For more than 120 years, Florence Crittenton Programs of SC has provided hope, safety, and opportunity to young women throughout the state by offering the education, skills and resources they need to have a healthy start to life. Florence Crittenton (located on Saint Margaret Street in Charleston) operates a licensed residential group home that provides comprehensive services to pregnant and parenting teens, as well as girls in foster care.

Thanks to our MPPC **Challenge Grant** funding MPPC is partnering with Florence Crittenton to create **Life Skills Workshops** for the young women who reside there. Florence Crittenton has developed the materials for the workshops and a curriculum to guide volunteers through these lessons. **MPPC volunteers** will be trained to lead group sessions and work one-on-one or in small groups with residents on activities related to the curriculum. This **Life Skills Workshop** program will help prepare the residents for life on their own. Our partnership will primarily focus on personal financial management, helping residents understand basic financial management principles, establish financial goals, and address any concerns they have about money and financial security. Florence Crittenton has developed a curriculum to guide volunteers through these lessons and will provide the training.

- A volunteer must be at least 21 years of age.
- No financial or teaching background is required.
- Volunteers should be available 1 to 2 hours on a set day every other week.
- A six-month volunteer commitment is preferred.

To volunteer, contact Nancy Hall, Pastor Bart, or the church.

Florence Crittenton is very aware of COVID. A new resident is quarantined for 2 weeks before integrating into their programs. They have a room set up for this away from everyone else. Social distance is also enforced.

CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY

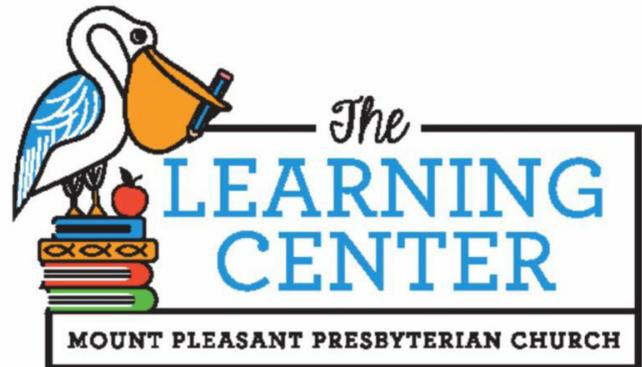


Second Sunday Speaker Series: November 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Do you have concerns about education, housing, policing and criminal justice, or job discrimination/economic opportunities for the lower income segment of Charleston society? If any of these issues are of concern to you, come learn what The Charleston Forum and the Charleston Area Justice Ministry are doing to understand and address these problems in our community and how you can get involved in finding solutions. Sign up for the event at mppc.net/events. If you have any questions, contact Coleman Legerton.

Help Our Learning Center by Shopping at Harris Teeter

Harris Teeter customers who have a VIC card (or can sign up for one) can go to Customer Service and link their card to the Learning Center using code 3808. Each card can link up to 5 different schools. This is a great and easy way for the Learning Center to receive fundraising money.



Wise Giving COVID Style

As we look towards the blessings of Christmas in this year of turmoil, MPPC Wise Giving is your opportunity to engage in sharing the true spirit of love in this season! Wise Giving is MPPC's annual, alternative gift giving campaign that supports our trusted mission partners both in our local community and around the world.

As our Wise Giving Team is putting together our booklet of ways to engage your families and your loving friends, we'd like your help!

Please share with us your stories of how Wise Giving has impacted your family. Send us stories about reaching and teaching your children about His love, reaching the people that you've gifted, and reaching your own heart.

Send your stories by email to Alexis Wright-Singleton (asingleton@mppc.net) as early in November as possible.

Adopt a Highway Pickup

The next AAH pickup event is Saturday, Nov. 21 at 8 a.m. Church volunteers and scouts from Boy Scout Troop 20 will meet in front of the Fellowship Hall to proceed on their route from Mill St. to the Ravenel Bridge. This is a great community service. All safety equipment is provided. Please bring a mask.

WISE GIVING

Give a Gift of Hope and Love. Give a Wise Gift.





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m. Outdoor Worship

10:00 a.m. Online Worship

Visit mppc.net to learn more about 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

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests