

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

February 2021



FROM THE PASTOR

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31-32)



As I listened to the speeches on Inauguration Day, I heard a similar refrain lifted again and again. While each speaker confessed that a great rift had opened within our union, each also tried to point us beyond the present unpleasantness to a better

life together. The language of the day was, as it should be, hopeful and aspirational. Words of encouragement and unity were just what we needed to hear. We know it will not be easy, but we also know that we don't really have a choice in where we go from here. Even if the climb ahead of us ahead is steep and covered with brambles, we have to find a way to get beyond our current disagreements so we can work together again.

It reminded me of a time when the same kind of challenge was facing the church. I had been invited to be a member of a presbytery task force that was asked to meet with and listen to churches that were angry about a recent denominational policy decision. The details of that decision are not important here; suffice it to say that the scriptural and theological disputes around our table were deep. Positions were entrenched, tensions were high, and we were having trouble seeing a way forward together. I will say that we all tried as best we could to listen to each other, but it was not going well.

As we sat there in struggling discomfort, the sound of a helicopter broke the icy silence. It was moving low and fast above us, so close that we could feel the pulse of the rotors pounding in our own bodies. Every last one of us knew immediately what it meant.

The church's fellowship hall sat adjacent to the local hospital, and a life flight was coming in for a landing. That helicopter was carrying someone who was clinging to life. With all other avenues closed, a person in crisis was being carried to the only place where hope might be found. And it was not lost on any of us that the same could be said for the group sitting around our table. So, we stopped right then and there, bowed our heads, and began to pray to the only hope we could think of, the only place where we thought new life might be found.

This month, we begin our annual journey through Lent. It is a perfect time for us, as people of faith, to not only name our failings and disagreements, but also bring them directly to God. Perhaps Lent can carry our weary spirits to the one place we need to go. Perhaps we will be led to doors we have not yet seen. Perhaps we will discover courage we did not know we had. And maybe, just maybe, God will shock our beloved community back to life, writing the law of love on our hearts in a new way. If we dare to try, we might find in our faith the vision painted by our youth poet laureate, Amanda Gorman. As she so beautifully said, "there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it... If only we're brave enough to be it."

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

Let Us Lead with Love and Kindness

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
(1Peter 4:8)*

Amid the continuing Covid-19 health crisis in a nation divided, we at Hope House are encouraged by acts of grace and generosity at our own doorstep.

From Chelsea Hess, whose parents and brother were the first guests at Hope House while she fought for her life following a horrific auto accident, came this message at Christmastime:

"I will forever be grateful for what that beautiful house and staff did for my family and I. It was a true blessing and it fills my heart with joy to know it is continuing to do so! With all my love, Chelsea"



This month we mark 11 years as a hospital hospitality house. And as we wait to welcome more families with loved ones in area hospitals, work continues to improve Hope House and Hope Cottage. And that includes resolving the drainage issue between the two.

For that we have the generosity of MPPC members Miff and Karl Cone to thank -- as well as the expertise of Civil Engineer Herb Gilliam, who is conferring with Karl on a plan to fix it. We also are blessed with the guidance of Stacy Hanling, MPPC's Director of Daily Operations.

Of course nothing would be possible without the countless Hope House volunteers, who are the pulse of this ministry.. the members of MPPC who support us through our Adopt-A-Day program.. and the Hope House Advisory Team, who are always there to offer sound advice when needed!

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

FEBRUARY 1

In Memory of Alma Savedge;
Given by Lynn and Stephanie McCants

FEBRUARY 11

In Memory of Alma Savedge and her warm hospitality; Given by Elizabeth Slate

FEBRUARY 22

In Memory of Marjean Brauch; Given by Judy and Greg McCoy

FEBRUARY 29

Happy Birthday to Beth Moore; Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

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

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

It's a new season in our church. Lent. We are waiting again, but this time we are waiting for Easter. We have to wait forty days! While we wait we remember the promises we made on Ash Wednesday and we try to change our ways...Everyone seems quieter during Lent. Everyone thinks and everyone prays.
- *Come Worship with Me: A Journey through the Church Year*, by Ruth Boling

While this year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, we begin our Lenten program on Sunday, February 14, with a special Zoom presentation with the Rev. Dr. Von Clemans. Our theme: **Living into Lent**. This presentation launches our church-wide small group ministry for the forty days of Lent.

Our small group study will use the book *Living into Lent*, by Donald K. McKim. McKim describes his book as being written for those "who want to focus on Christian living and reflection during the season of Lent." Through daily readings and weekly gatherings, participants will engage in devotions, a biblical text for devotion drawn from the Scripture passage, a theological quote, a devotional essay, an Action Step, and a prayer that connects life and Scripture to our call to discipleship as followers and ambassadors for Jesus Christ.

Registration for small groups is currently open to the MPPC community. Small groups are listed in the "Community" tab of Realm. Individuals can sign up for any open group through Realm or by contacting Trish Snead in the church office. If you are new to our Lenten Small Groups or unsure which small group you would like to attend, you can indicate your interest by signing up for either "OPEN In-Person" or "OPEN Virtual." We will form groups from these "OPEN" groups or connect you with an existing group. If you do not see a group for you, and you would like to start a new small group, please let Trish know. Finally, if you are curious about the study and want to participate in the February 14 presentation before committing to a small group, you can access the presentation at mppc.net/lent. We welcome your participation!



Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education

Current Lent Small Group facilitators and their meeting times are listed below. Small group leaders will have books for his or her small group beginning the week of February 1. Please contact your small group leader to coordinate pickup of your book(s). Suggested donation for books: \$7.00. Please check Realm to see when groups are full. You will have access to your group's ZOOM link once you are assigned a small group.

- Clarke Allen (YOUNG ADULTS WITHOUT CHILDREN) – Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.
- Andrea Ansley – To Be Determined
- Sharon/Charlie Barnett – Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
- Ellen Creed Branham/Caroline Feller – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
- Susan Dalton/Martha Feil/Cynthia Rivers – Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
- Maryanne Davis – Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
- Chesnut Denton – Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- Robert Ellis (MEN & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY) – Sundays, 4:00 p.m.
- Anne Farmer/Sue Verner – Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
- Brittany Greer (YOUNG WOMEN) – Sundays, 7:00 p.m.
- Joe Molinari (MEN'S GROUP) – Fridays, 7:00 a.m.
- Don Horres – Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
- Jo Lemmons (ANGEL WINGS) – Fridays, 8:30 a.m.
- Holly Limbert (THE MIDDLE) – Sundays, 9:00 a.m.
- Bill Marsh (SEEKERS & SOWERS) – Sundays, 10:15 a.m.
- Coby Mazingo – Mondays, 4:30 p.m.
- Mona Knight/Susan Mellichamp (OLD VILLAGE) – Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m.
- Jane Parker/Susanne & Dick Query – Sundays, 5:30 p.m.
- Joe Rainero – Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

You can access and signup for a group facilitator through Realm → Community → Groups → 2021 Lent Small Groups.

(Lent) is a time for reflecting on our Christian lives, listening to God's word and will for us, and engaging in practices that can deepen our Christian experience. — **Donald K. McKim**, *Living into Lent*. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

LIVING INTO LENT

*Sunday, February 14,
5-6 p.m.*

This presentation will frame our shared Lenten journey in terms of the last week of Lent (Holy Week). Looking closely at the biblical texts of Holy Week, we will explore how the seven movements of the *Living Into Lent* devotional book (following Jesus, meditating, praying, loving, thanking, enacting and gathering) provide ways of reflecting on the Christian faith as disciples of Jesus. The Presentation Zoom link will be emailed to all small group participants the week of Feb. 7.

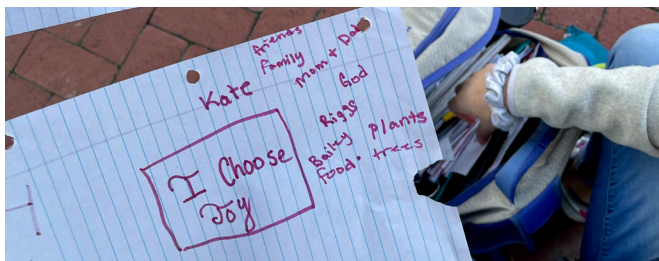


REV. DR. VON CLEMANS

is a PC(USA) pastor/educator who retired after over four decades in ministry, most recently serving for 18 years as associate pastor of adult faith formation ministries at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. His doctoral studies focused on educational ministry and technology. He is a past president of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). He currently serves as an online instructor for Vibrant Faith Ministries and as a congregational coach for Creating a Culture of Calling, an initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment. He is working on certification as a professional coach with the International Coach Federation. His passion is helping congregations, educators, and pastors strengthen adult education and faith formation.

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

It is finally the season of love! However, if you look around our world it seems as though “love” is not high on our priority list. Where love should be, we see anger, divisiveness, greed, and impatience in God’s people. It is much more enjoyable to see people love one another instead of breaking each other down. My prayer this month is that we begin to see “love” again.



We spent the entirety of our Confirmation Class last month discussing the question: “What Does it Mean to Show Christ’s Love?” I am so grateful for the conversations that grew out of this question and a lesson in the PCUSA curriculum, “Big God Big Questions.” Although the youth were a little hesitant at first to have long conversations about love, by the end of the session, I could tell that they had been energized and inspired by what they had heard and left wanting to share love with others. Within these God-filled hours on the lawn of Alhambra Hall, they were able to take time to process what love is, how love is shown in the Bible, and how to show love in the Church. It was so refreshing to see them begin to understand the difference between agape and phileo love. By the end of the month, they understood that each type of love is important, but different. Agape love is sacrificial love,

the way Jesus loves us, and phileo love is the friendly affection we feel among each other. Each of us can learn from the lessons of love that the Confirmands discussed last month. We can practice love with one another in school, work, and church. We need to fuel this love in order to work against the prevalence of hate that threatens to consume us, exhaust us, and drain the joy we have to share.

So, this month, I challenge you to do what the Confirmation Class of 2021 did: take an hour to think, pray, talk, or write about love and what you can do to show Christ’s love. This month and every month, it is important that we return to the greatest commandment and exercise love with one another as God does so graciously with us.

Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries



FEBRUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 MS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:00	3	4 HS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:15	5	6
7 CONFIRMATION 9:00 ALHAMBRA (beginning of Lent) CORE GROUP 4:30 @ MPPC	8	9 MS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:00	10	11	12	13 HS BRUNCH AT 10:00 GRACE & GRIT
14 CONFIRMATION 9:00 ALHAMBRA (beginning of Lent) BIG GROUP Living Into Lent Kick-off at MPPC at 5	15	16 MS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:00 2ND BIRD PAYMENT FOR SUMMER TRIPS DUE!!!!	17 HS GIRLS BIBLE STUDY 6:00 STARBUCKS ON CORNERSTONE	18	19	20 9-11 CORNERSTONE POP UP EVENT: WORK DAY AT GREEN HEART
21 CONFIRMATION 9:00 ALHAMBRA (beginning of Lent) CORE GROUP 4:30 @ MPPC	22	23 MS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:00	24	25 HS PRAYER BREAKFAST AT 7:15	26	27
28 CONFIRMATION 9:00 ALHAMBRA (beginning of Lent) BIG GROUP KOREAN AT KOREAN HALL (beginning of Lent)						

What's Coming Up...

- Living Into Lent Kickoff **Feb. 14th** during **BIG Group**
- Second payments for Summer trips due **Feb. 16th**
- High School Girls Bible Study Begins **Feb. 17th**
- Confirmation Class Meets with Session: **April 11th**
- YOUTH SUNDAY: **April 18th**
- Confirmation Sunday: **May 2nd**

New to CornerStone?
Email Courtney for details: ckraus@mppc.net

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION



I love when Ash Wednesday falls close to Valentine's Day, this year only 3 days apart. Ash Wednesday reminds us of things we might easily think of

in dark ways, like sin and repentance. But it is God's great love for us that reconciles us, brings us through Lent, and finds us in awe on Easter Morning. It's out of faith and love and commitment that we teach our children to observe Lent, remembering Jesus' withdrawal into the desert to pray and learning to point our lives to God's love.

This year, "Kids Can" collect loose change throughout Lent to donate to Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center. You can sign up to reserve a Lenten Change Box for your child through Realm, or check the weekly eNews for the link.

Save the Dates for these February Children's Ministry events!

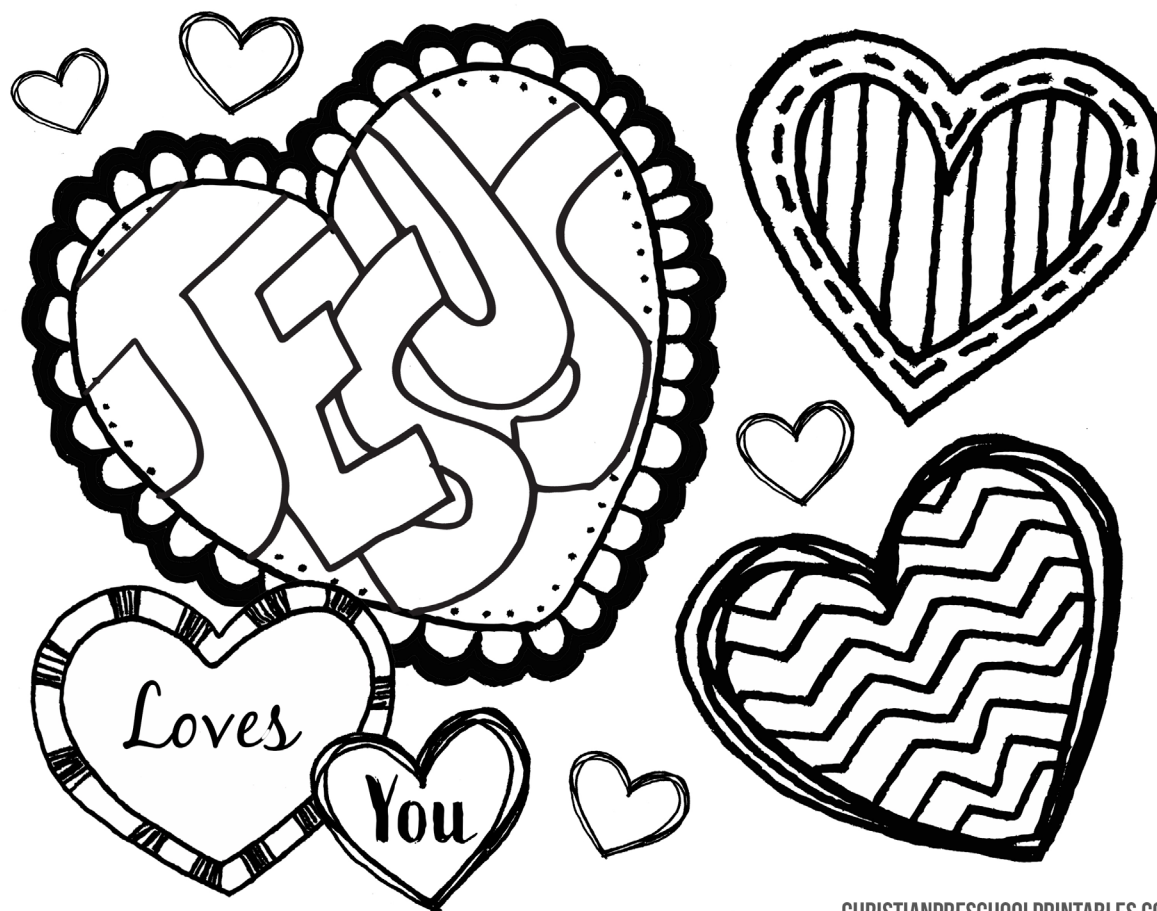
- LOGOS & Angel Notes – Ongoing on Wednesdays
- Weekly Lessons, Breakfast & Bibles Zoom – Ongoing on Sundays
- Feb. 13 – Family Mission Day
- Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday – Start collecting change in your Lenten Change Boxes
- Feb. 18 – Upper Elementary Gathering

Don't forget VBS 2021 is August 2-6!

As part of our Family Mission Day, print copies of the Valentine below and deliver to people in your neighborhood or life who might need a little extra love on Valentine's Day. Don't forget to sign up for Family Mission Day! (Registration available on Realm or in the weekly eNews).



Sarah Harbin-Coleman
Director of Children's Ministries



CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

MPPC is at Work in Our Community and in the World!



As we look backward on 2020 and realize the devastation to lives at home and around the world, one might ask, how did our church respond? Where do our pledges and gifts go? Did 2020 Wise Giving make a difference?

With the recent completion of Wise Giving, you have been a blessing to 25 different agencies and through them, many thousands of people both here and across oceans or in neighboring countries!

The total of your Wise Giving gifts surpassed \$30,000, even as COVID-19 kept you from our traditional way of giving at the Wise Giving table before or after worship services.

A list of the agencies your Wise Giving gifts are supporting is as follows:

Carolina Youth Development
Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center
ECCO (East Cooper Community Outreach)
ECFN (East Cooper Faith Network) / FixIt
ECFN / I-Beam
Florence Crittenton Programs of SC
Habitat for Humanity
Hands of Christ
Hope House
Keys of Hope
Meals on Wheels
Metanoia
One80 Place
Ronald MacDonald House

Thornwell Home for Children
Windwood Farm Home for Children
Daystar University Scholarship - Kenya
Haiti Outreach Ministries
Lamb Institute - Honduras
Daystar University/MPPC Community Development Project
Habitat for Humanity - Honduras
Kinyago-Dandora School (KDS) - Kenya
Medical Missions/Trinidad de Copan - Honduras
Nueva Vida Clinic - Nicaragua
Palmetto International - Honduras



CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION



Your Local and International Missions Teams are constantly working with our mission partners that are supported through your pledges. All of our supported agencies are thoroughly vetted by the teams, composed of your friends and neighbors in the MPPC congregation, who look closely at how our gifts are used and in what ways MPPC members can become involved, hands & feet, to serve others.

Both teams are responsible for Session-approved budgets that are designated for these agencies, including money for unforeseen emergencies such as hurricanes or other disasters.

Local Mission Partners and MPPC Team Member Liaisons

Bridge Builders: *Coleman Legerton*

Carolina Youth Development:
Andy White Bogan

Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center:
Rick Spivey

ECCO - East Cooper Community Outreach:
Anne Hyde

ECFN - East Cooper Faith Network:
Amy Murrell

Florence Crittenton Programs: *Nancy Hall*

Habitat for Humanity: *John Nuernberger*

Hands of Christ: *Stephanie McCants*

Meals on Wheels:
Jim Ingham and Teri Ingham

Metanoia: *David Wood*

One80 Place: *Coleman Legerton*

Ronald McDonald House: *Bruce McAdams*

Windwood Farms Home for Children:
Jim Westerhold

International Mission Partners and MPPC Team Member Liaisons

Daystar University:
Russ Keller

Daystar University - Kenya Community
Development:
Russ Keller

Kinyago-Dandora Schools (Kenya):
Russ Keller

Habitat for Humanity (Honduras):
Chip Bruorton

Haiti Outreach Ministries:
Bruce McAdams

LAMB Institute (Honduras):
Caroline Feller

Medical Missions, Trinidad de Copan
(Honduras):
Leigh Brandenburg

Nueva Vida Clinic (Honduras):
Will Whitsett

Jubilee House – CDCA (Nicaragua):
Will Whitsett

Palmetto International (Honduras):
Jeff Taylor

AMOS Health & Hope (Nicaragua):
Will Whitsett

CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

Greetings from your Music Ministry!

The beginning of 2021 finds your Music Ministry functioning much the same as we have been since the pandemic began. Our singing groups rehearse on Wednesdays via Zoom and record anthems for Sunday mornings and our bell groups have small in-person rehearsals on Mondays. Rehearsals are a time to gather together to share joys, concerns and laughter as well as have fun making music. If you have an instrumental talent, you are welcome to enhance worship by either playing on a video or in-person. It might seem a bit daunting to join into one of these ventures at this time, but know you are welcome to jump right in. Being a part of singing, playing, or ringing to the glory of God will bring joy, friendships, and a feeling of accomplishment to you. Come join us - we always have room for you!



Easter Lilies for Worship

Purchase Online by March 22

Each Easter, MPPC offers members and friends the opportunity to purchase lilies which will adorn the worship on Easter morning. They may be purchased (\$15 each) in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Donations received by March 22 will be published in the digital bulletin. For more info, contact Alexis Wright-Singleton through the church office.



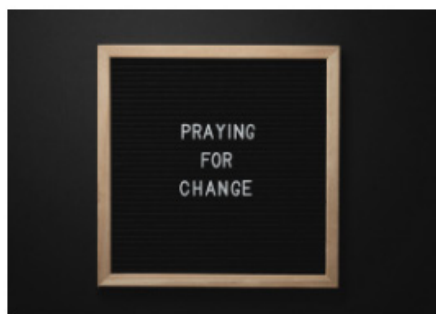
Fine Arts Ministry News!

The Village Concert Series will feature the Gravel Road Bluegrass Band, Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 pm. The group is comprised of local teachers and will sing hymns, gospel songs and other favorites. The band will perform from the Fellowship Hall Porch and concert goers will watch from the gravel parking lot. Please bring your own chairs or blankets and socially distance as you enjoy this wonderful concert. You won't want to miss this fun event.

Barbara Loehr-Fox
Director of Music Ministries



CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY | 6:30 P.M. | ZOOM
JANUARY 19 - MARCH 2

Due to the pandemic, this Bible study will be held virtually via Zoom. Members of ecumenical congregations across the Lowcountry will join together (virtually) on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for six weeks. The first session was Tuesday, January 19th. This year's topic is "Facing Racism: An Anti-Racism Bible Study" facilitated by Rev. Walter Strawther of Hibben United Methodist Church. Contact Coleman Legerton with any questions. RSVP at mppc.net/events to receive the Zoom link.

Sanctuary Flowers

The Sanctuary Flower Calendar is once again open for reservations to provide arrangements at Sunday worship services that glorify God and may also be placed in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of a special occasion. For available dates and information regarding ordering the flowers, please contact Martha Waters at 843-345-8167 or at mbwmpsc@gmail.com.



Endowment Gifts

Endowment gift in memory of the Rev. Pete Jorgensen:

Francis Heidt
John and Julia Royal
E.M. and Theresa Seabrook

Endowment gift in memory of Alma Savedge:

Circle 5

Endowment gift in honor of Annie Herring:

Sue and Kevin Verner

Endowment gift in honor of Ilse White:

Patrick O'Neil





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Online Worship
10:30 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship
11:30 a.m. Outdoor 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