



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

April 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

Parting Stone

Have you not read this scripture:

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" (Mark 12:10-11)



Passing across the hills and moors and cliffside roads of Great Britain, travelers often come across stone monuments bearing curious and beautiful messages. Some are placed to mark

the site of a loved one's passing, an old-world equivalent of the white wooden crosses and flowered wreaths we sometimes see on roadsides. A famous example can be found on the coast of England at the spot where William Wordsworth last saw his brother John. When he learned that John had been lost at sea, Wordsworth penned a heartfelt ode to his lost brother and had it engraved on a small stone monument. Other markers have a more mundane purpose, albeit a necessary one. These old stones were placed to mark a fork or turn in an ancient road. They offered guidance for any traveler who wanted to remain on the right path. In English tradition, all of these markers are known and remembered under the same name. They are all known as "parting stones."

As we near another Easter, we will soon return once more to the shocking discovery, in the early morning mist, that the massive stone sealing the tomb of Jesus had been miraculously rolled back. In that mysterious moment, a curious and beautiful message was written upon that stone. On the one hand, it marks a significant point of departure, the place where an old life ended and a new life began. The verses written about this miracle would fill stones more numerous than the stars in the sky.

At the same time, the tombstone serves as a road sign, a marker for a radical shift in our journey through this world. Somehow, every human journey that has been moving inexorably toward darkness and death finds its way to this newly-opened door. There, at the shifted stone, those journeys are all stopped, diverted, and rerouted in new directions that lead to light and life.

Of course, we are not only talking about the stone door of Jesus' tomb. What we are really talking about is the rock that didn't look like much when it came out of the quarry, a building block that architects overlooked and rejected at first. In the end, however, it was the stone that was chosen by God for the new creation God is building – the perfected stone that would support the entire structure. This Easter, I pray that we will all appreciate with new depth and fresh conviction the "parting stone" of Easter. As heirs of Christ, may we pause at the tomb to give thanks for his life, his witness, his sacrifice, and his resurrection. And may we follow the new path that he has opened to us. May we pause, pivot, and accept the grand detour of his invitation to life.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Dr. Peter Bynum
Pastor & Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

Greetings from your Worship and Music Ministry!

When I think back on last Easter, I am grateful to have some in-person options this year. However, I know many will worship from home and I am so thankful for the technology which enables us to connect in various ways.

Easter Worship Schedule:

- **7 a.m.** – In-person outside porch service (no reservations needed).
- **9 a.m.** – Pre-recorded full worship service with video presentations of the combined adult choirs' anthems and a children's sermon and choir offering on our website, Facebook and YouTube.
- **9 a.m.** – In-person service with overflow in the Fellowship Hall (reservations required).
- **10:30 a.m.** - In-person service with overflow in the Fellowship Hall (reservations required). Also, live-streaming available on our website, Facebook and YouTube.
- **11:30 a.m.** - In-person outside porch service (no reservations needed). The Net Band will provide musical leadership. The live-stream of this service will be available on mppc.net, Facebook, and YouTube.

As with every Lent and Eastertide, many people's talents go into making our worship experiences vibrant. The Worship Ministry Team wants to express a heartfelt thank you to them all. To highlight a few: All who helped with the Good Friday Prayer Vigil; Martha Waters, who made the beautiful Palm Sunday arrangements; Pam Owen-Early, who organized the Easter flowering crosses; Tim Limbert for building new bases for our crosses; Julia and John Royall for their help with the church Easter lilies. Our clergy and staff have also worked outside-the-box in creative ways again this year. We hope all of these gifts enhanced your season.



Village Concert Series

The Fine Arts Ministry's Village Concert Series had an abbreviated year but was still able to sponsor two wonderful concerts – An Evening of Jazz with Chantale Gagné and The Gravel Road Bluegrass Band. Both concerts were well attended, though both had their largest crowds in the virtual world. We are hoping to be able to gather again in the fall to kick off the 2021-2022 Village Concert Series.

Barbara Loehr-Fox
Director of Music Ministries



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

Adult Faith Formation Moving Forward

I am reminded during this season of Easter that, just as the resurrection we celebrate brings new life, the church will have new life in a post-pandemic culture. That new life, however, will be different. We learned things, and still are learning things, during the pandemic. We experience faith formation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While we celebrate worship on Sundays, some people worship throughout the week in viewing Sunday's recording. It is nice not having to rush to get to church – or anywhere – when many things can be done virtually. Sunday "school" may be a term for Sunday morning education that does not quite fit anymore. A virtual presence is real and appreciated; technology is here to stay. Ministry happens in communities, homes, restaurants, breweries, parks, and so many more places. We value relationships and seeing people. It can be hard to think from another's perspective on how the pandemic affects each person differently and his or her comfort being in community. Our church and community can include people in Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, or California as easily as people in Europe and our overseas missions. Church just got bigger and very diverse!

Discipleship is being called from our comforts and into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that takes us on unbelievably rich, fulfilling, winding roads. We do not have a map; we know that God is at the helm. As we move forward in adult faith formation this year, MPPC will look different.

Questions we need to ask as we move forward might include: How can I help shape the Church (and MPPC) for myself and future generations? What is the "why" of adult faith formation and what does that look and feel like? What have we learned? What do we miss and what do we now embrace? How can I actively engage in ministry in and through MPPC? How does my faith shape and inform me?

The Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team is planning ministry for the coming months that will impact how we do adult faith formation in the immediate and long-term future. The team welcomes more voices; we welcome your ideas. If you would like to be part of the planning process, please consider serving on the Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team. Beginning in April, this team will be working diligently to create a ministry to which God calls MPPC as we seek to be faithful to Christ in all we do. To be part of the planning process, to serve, or for more information or to share ideas, contact Dan Wiard (dwiard@mppc.net) or Jane Parker (janerparker@yahoo.com). Stay tuned!



Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education

Ongoing Adult Faith Formation

While Lenten Small Groups are spiritually with us, opportunities continue for adult faith formation. At a minimum, the following are available via Zoom:

- The Academy of St. John on Sundays at 8:45 a.m.
- The Middle, and Connect 3 on Sundays at 9 a.m.
- Seekers & Sowers, and The Harbor on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
- Men & Women's Bible Study on Sundays at 4 p.m.
- Soul Training on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Bible Study on Fridays at 7 a.m.
- Gathering Around Books on 4th Fridays at 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Circles meet at various times during the month.

Bytes of Faith is available at mppc.net/adults. For more information on any and all of these, visit mppc.net. New listings will appear in the eNews.

Learning Center Readathon

The Learning Center will participate in a Readathon April 19-23 as a fundraising event for the school. The children will pledge to read a certain number of books and ask for donations based on the number of books read. This will be an exciting way for the children to get involved in helping their school while also promoting reading.

To make this fun and successful, we will recognize top readers/earners for their efforts. Please let us know if you would be interested in sponsoring prizes for our top reading classes. A few examples would be: a popsicle party, an ice cream social, a bounce castle, or gifts cards for a pizza party.

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

Spring has been a busy, exciting time in MPPC Children's Ministry. By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Palm Sunday, walked for water with Water Mission, collected change throughout Lent for Dee Norton CAC, created countless cards for Meals on Wheels recipients, walked through Lenten study each week on video lessons, gathered elementary age groups for fellowship, completed the spring Angel Notes and LOGOS program, and opened registration for summer camps! In this time when we have broadened our ability to connect and also begin work to resume some of those connections that were paused, it is always my hope that we are offering meaningful faith formation to the children of MPPC. Mission and service, participation in worship, faith formation, and community through fellowship are important to children's

faith and feeling engaged with the church. Whether it is happening in your living room, on campus, or in the community, I hope that your children are seeing Jesus Christ at work in their church and learning to serve and worship.

Look at all that is happening in MPPC Children's Ministry! See mppc.net/children or your weekly Children's Ministry email for more information! We are developing new and innovative ways for your children to be engaged in 2021, so stay tuned!



Sarah Harbin-Coleman
Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAYS:

- 9:15 a.m.
 - Breakfast & Bibles Zoom during livestream service
- 10:30 Worship
 - Bookstand and Wiggle Bags available for all ages
 - Childcare by reservation
- 11:30 Worship
 - Wiggle Bags available
 - Childcare by reservation
 - Elementary lesson and activity during sermon
- Weekly Sunday study videos for all ages
- Lunch Bunch every other week after church; all families invited!

DURING THE WEEK:

- Wednesday Zoom drop-ins after school beginning April 18
- Upper Elementary monthly gatherings
- Lower Elementary monthly gatherings
- Look for summer opportunities coming soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Easter Egg Hunt April 3
- First Grade Worship lessons – Weekly videos from April 11-May 30
- Third Grade Bible Skills lessons – Weekly videos from April 11-May 30
- Bethelwoods Day Camp – June 21-25
- Bethelwoods Resident Camp – July 11-16
- Vacation Bible School – On Campus or At Home – August 2-6



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

During the season of Lent the youth have been discussing the theme of “carrying your cross.” When this topic was first introduced, I asked the Middle School Youth if this meant to physically carry a cross around school, home, and to their extra curriculums. They quickly responded, “No, Ms. Courtney, that would be a little crazy,” so of course my response was, “Well, then what does it mean?”

Some youth spoke up and said, “caring Jesus in your heart everywhere you go.” Out of the mouths of babes... yes, in fact the youth have it right again.

When we carry our cross it is a big responsibility because we are showing our love and devotion to Jesus Christ. Most importantly, the way we act towards one another should always show the face of Jesus Christ. We all have friends that do not have a relationship with Jesus, so their one connection with him could be their relationship with you. They could be looking at the way you live your life to see how Jesus lives in you. It is not all about the biblical knowledge you have, but rather about how you follow His Word.

The youth have been carrying their cross to school each day by sharing love and grace. How will you carry your cross this month? Will you share the love with friends and strangers? Will you pray continually for those we love and those we should love? These are tough questions, but questions that we are called to answer as followers of Jesus. Let's all take up our crosses and share the light of the Lord.

Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION



Sunday, April 18
All Worship Service Times

CORNERSTONE
youth ministry @ mppc

Join us as we explore how
we are reconnecting with
ourselves and God amidst a
challenging year.



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Confirmation Class of 2021

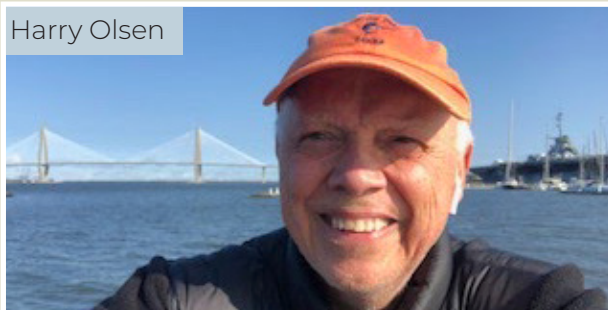
Confirmation Sunday is May 2nd
at the 11:30 a.m. Outdoor Service

CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

When the pandemic first began, we thought we would have to stop doing our ESOL classes since we could not meet in the building. However, we all came together, and with the church's help, obtained some Zoom accounts and the rest is history. We are able to touch students' lives in places such as Mexico, Honduras and Columbia, which wouldn't have been possible without giving our classes online. ESOL also touches our teachers' lives as well. Here are just two of our teachers' thoughts below:

Harry Olsen



How long have you volunteered for ESOL?

Started volunteering with ESOL around September 2018 being an assistant for Gary in the 4B class. Being retired, I am always looking for volunteer opportunities and this seemed interesting. I started once a week but quickly did every Tuesday and Thursday.

What is your background?

My background is mainly economics and finance. Spent most of my career in the banking industry, with Northern Trust in Chicago, and the two international banks, Credit Suisse and Deutsche Bank. Mostly in charge of lending to corporations, large and small. Also was involved in giving corporate credit ratings to bonds.

What would you say surprises you most about the program?

I was surprised by the diversity of the students. They are from all over the world. I thought we would have many native Spanish speakers. Also, surprised how far students traveled to get to our class. They really wanted to learn English.

How does ESOL further the church's mission or your life as a Christian?

ESOL involves giving of yourself to others, so it's right in sync with the Church mission. Like most volunteering, it's great for the volunteer. I've met so many nice people, both teachers and students. It hasn't been as good during COVID, being on Zoom and attendance isn't as good. But it's still fun.

How long have you volunteered for ESOL?

I started volunteering with ESOL the first year of the program. I started as an assistant the first spring semester. Since then I have served as both an assistant and as a lead teacher.

What is your background?

For the last 20 years I have served as an attorney in the Office of the Legal Adviser of the U.S. Department of State.

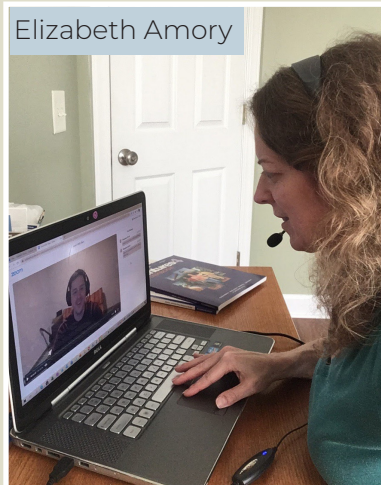
What would you say surprises you most about the program?

What has surprised me the most has been the diversity of our students in terms of the countries they come from, the native languages they speak, and what brings them to the Charleston area. I have met so many neighbors that I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet. It has also been great to see that expand further as our transition to online learning has enabled students who are now back in their home countries to participate.

How does ESOL further the church's mission or your life as a Christian?

I have been a member of MPPC since 2003. I am currently serving as an Elder leading our Local Missions Team. ESOL is a great example of local missions because it was started by members of the church who saw a need in the community, saw how MPPC could help meet that need, and then made it happen. It has been great to see the church embrace this ministry, welcoming our neighbors - students, their families and volunteers from the community - to our campus both in person and virtually, providing everyone an opportunity to learn from one another and build relationships.

Elizabeth Amory



CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

Signs of Spring, Signs of Hope

"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice." (Psalm 112:5)



Don't you just love April?!

The trees are budding, bushes and flowers are blooming, people are out and about (masked of course) enjoying the warmer weather, ice cream trucks are musically weaving through neighborhoods, and yes, the pollen is falling.

It's a time of Renewal.

As many adults are rolling up their sleeves to get the COVID vaccine, we at Hope House continue to pray that everyone will do their part to keep others safe. Only then can we put out the welcome mats again.

It has been a year since the Hope House Ministry has been able to host families from out of town who have loved ones in area hospitals, and every week we learn of more people in need of our hospitality.

Rest assured, our Caretakers and other volunteers are at the ready to do a super spring cleaning, inside and out, once we get the word!

Until then, we lean on our faith and thank you, the members of MPPC, for your continued support.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

APRIL 1

In Memory of Jane Bishop;
Given by Allyson and Harry Smith

APRIL 1-7

In Honor of Avis and Jeff Griffith;
Given by Anonymously

APRIL 2

In Memory of Jane Bishop;
Given by Jean Rickenbaker Ravenel

APRIL 6

In Memory of Betty Padgett Black, on her
birthday; Given by Ben, Trish, Caroline,
and Andrew Black

APRIL 6

In Memory of Betty Black;
Given by Elizabeth Tiller

APRIL 9

In Honor of continuing God's Blessings;
Given by Irma G. Santana

APRIL 11

In Memory of Rosalie Force;
Given by Howard and Kathleen Gotham

APRIL 11-17

In Memory of Gary Beeler;
Given by Larry Ullman

APRIL 16

In Memory of Rosalie Force;
Given by Gordon and Linda Schreck

APRIL 19

In Memory of Jane Bishop;
Given by Elizabeth Tiller

APRIL 20

In Honor of our Family and Friends;
Given by Jeff and Avis Griffith

APRIL 23-30

In Memory of Gary Beeler;
Given by Mary Ann and Gary Wilkinson

APRIL 27

In Memory of my dear departed
Husband, Don Johnson, who left us on
April 27, 2018; Given by Klara Johnson

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

CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY

Worship with us Easter Sunday in-person or online:

7 A.M.

Outdoor Service on the Fellowship Hall Porch

9 A.M.

Virtual Service and In-Person Sanctuary Service*

10:30 A.M.

Live Stream and In-Person Sanctuary Service*

11:30 A.M.

Outdoor Service on the Fellowship Hall Porch

*Reservations for in-person services
are available at mppc.net/events.



Maundy Thursday **Thursday, April 1 | 7 p.m**

The Maundy Thursday worship service will take place Thursday, April 1 from 7–8 p.m. It will be available via live stream as well as in-person. Please pre-register if you plan to attend to service in person. Registration is open now at mppc.net/events or on Realm.

Good Friday **Friday, April 2 | 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

The MPPC Sanctuary will be open on Good Friday, April 2, from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. There is no pre-registration required but regular safety protocols will be in place. Please wear your masks and observe social distancing guidelines while on the church campus.

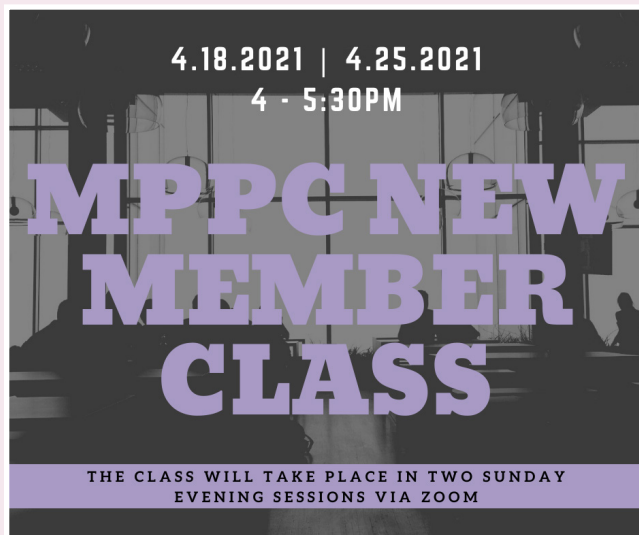
Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday, April 3**

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3! Our children will have the opportunity to enjoy a safe, socially distant Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 3 at MPPC, with options for individual and multiple families. The Easter Egg Hunt is full, but we are still looking for volunteers. Check your eNews for details!

Flowering of the Cross **Easter Sunday, April 4**

All ages are invited to bring flowers to decorate the crosses (Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary) on Easter Sunday. This 6th century tradition is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death on Good Friday. Flowers need a three inch stem to be placed on the cross.

CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY



New Member Class

Our next New Member Class will be held on April 18th and April 25th. Participants will meet via Zoom from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on both Sundays. These two evening classes will allow us to introduce each of you and us. Pastors, Elders and other church leaders will join us to talk about life at MPPC and answer any questions you may have. Please spread the word, and ask any friends and neighbors who may be considering membership in our church to contact Rev. Bart Edwards (bedwards@mppc.net) with any questions they may have.

About MPPC Endowment

Did you know MPPC has an Endowment Fund? The MPPC Endowment Fund has funds (stocks and bonds) set aside in case of a disaster (such as a hurricane destroying building) but more importantly, the interest earned in the Endowment fund goes to support a variety of areas within our church such as Christian education, missions programs, music, etc. For example, the interest the Endowment earned helped purchase the new hymnals, replace about 40 old bibles and fix up the narthex. Want to know more about the MPPC Endowment Fund and how a gift to the fund can make a difference now and in the future? Check out mppc.net/endowment or contact Harry Smith at 843-708-9555 or Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495.



Endowment Gifts

Given In Memory of Alma Savedge:

Doris Benke

Given In Memory of Jo Goss:

Doris Benke

Given In Memory of Ootsie Darby:

Doris Benke

Given In Memory of Nancy Cruden:

Doris Benke

Given In Memory of Jane Bishop:

Kathy and Carl Berry

Given In Memory of Russ Keller:

Sue and Kevin Verner

Given In Honor of Ginny Giffen's 90th Birthday:

Dal and Linda Schreck



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
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