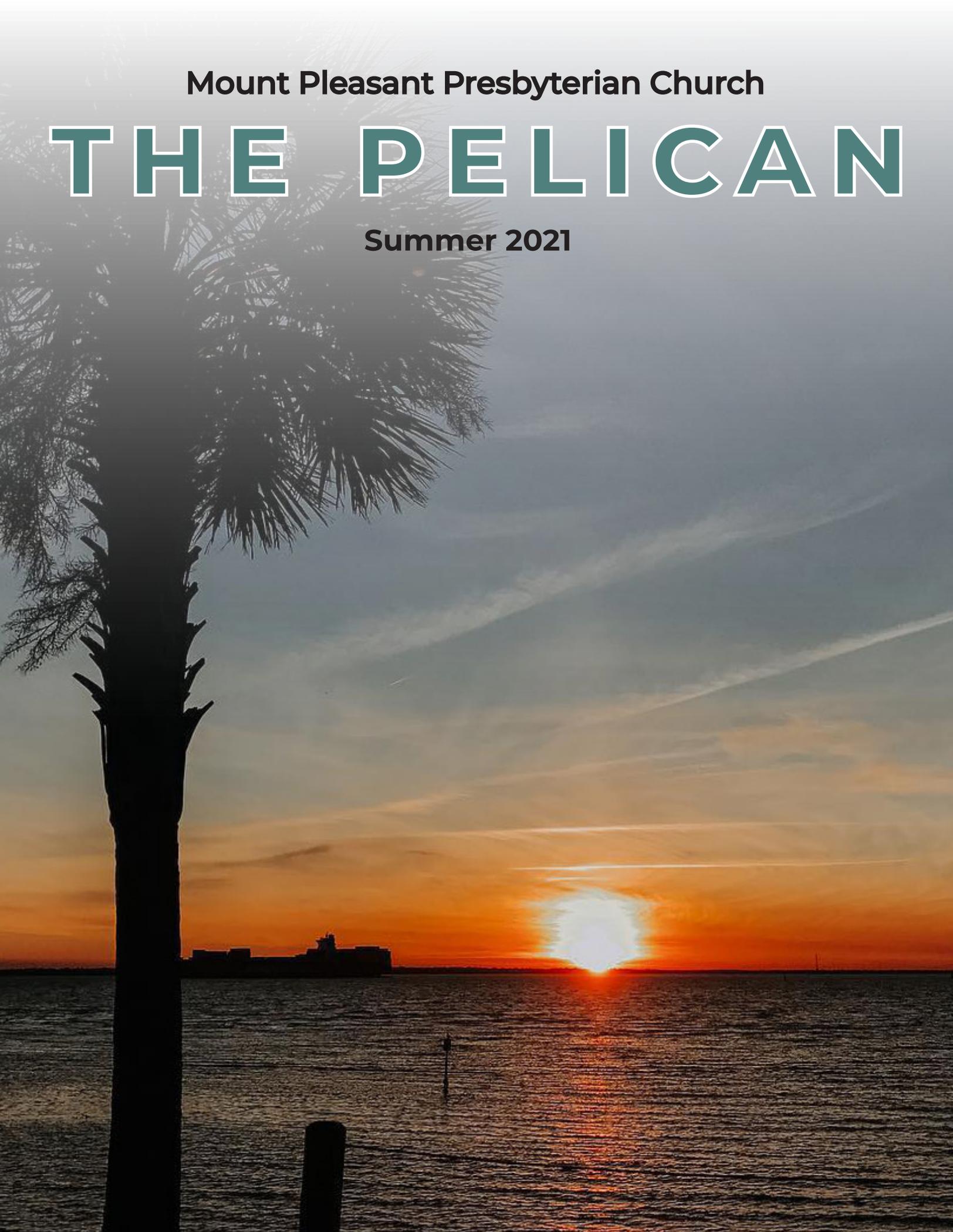


Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

Summer 2021



FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Church Family,

Summer is upon us! Schools will be letting out soon for summer, vacations are being planned and, looked

forward to. Our lives are beginning to turn

around after a monumental,

pandemic year. Praise God for new a new season of life in many ways. The summer season, with all our coming and going, visits and vacations, is a great time to renew and refresh our spiritual lives. A change of seasons gives us a chance to see, explore, and find renewal- not only in our lives but within our spiritual journeys, too. The summer months are a ripe time to try new avenues for spiritual growth. Read a particular part of the Bible (Psalms, Proverbs, Esther, Micah, John, Romans, 1 & 2 Timothy, just to name a few) or plunge into a spiritual book over the summer before you dive into that "Best Seller" you have on your reading list. Add a new prayer ritual or set a prayer time that differs from your current daily prayers, or if you don't have a prayer time schedule, now is a great time to start one.

If you are traveling over the summer months, in addition to your packing list of sunscreen, hotel reservations, car snacks, and trip plans... make sure you have plans to enrich and grow your spiritual life and within the spiritual life of your family. *Just because you are on vacation doesn't mean you should forget about your spiritual walk with God.* In fact, what a better time than now to recognize God's grace, love and abundance. God is the One who created your beautiful family, and the people with which you will meet and interact with, and those special destinations you will enjoy! So, plan for a daily devotion, special prayer time, and visit a church in the area where you are visiting or vacationing.

One thing I love about the Presbyterian Church is that we are a *connectional church*. There are some great churches and preachers out there- go and experience the wider body of Christ when you travel this summer. And, when you get home, share your experiences with us and with each other. Tell us where and how you have seen God at work! If you think of it, bring a bulletin- I always love to see what God is doing in other places.

During this season of "coming and going" seek where God is calling you to go and always remember where you come from and to whom you belong. Praise God for a new season for us to remember God's faithfulness and love. May this summer be a time of spiritual growth and renewal for you, your family, and our church.

Blessings,

Pastor Bart Edwards
Associate Pastor & Interim Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

The *WHY* of Adult Faith Formation

Do you know why we do adult faith formation at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church? During the pandemic, the adult faith formation ministry team spent time examining our current ministry. What is working? What do we miss from pre-COVID times? What do we want to take forward into the fall? *Why do we even do adult faith formation?* We decided we want to blend our present and past into an intentional adult faith formation ministry, where everything we do flows out of worship from a heart of gratitude.

We believe the deepest, most meaningfully rich life we can live begins with Jesus Christ. In a broken world, one can experience complete love that can fill our heart and spirit beyond measure through Christ. It begins by knowing Christ and having a personal relationship with him where we know him like we know our best friend or significant other.

We offer adult faith formation opportunities that connect faith and life, opportunities to deepen and experience God's amazing love. Through Small Group and Focus Group gatherings, people gather for Bible study, conversation, and fellowship. Central to all groups is a deep desire to be the hands and feet of Christ, welcoming the stranger, and to be in the community to which we serve. Our intent is to make, and to minister to, disciples for Christ in all walks of life.

It is out of gratitude that we worship God and want to be more like Christ. We hope you will plan to participate in adult faith formation this fall. It can happen 24/7, on campus and off campus, and it will be in person and via digital technology. Where would you like to get connected on your faith journey in adult faith formation?

Terms to Know this Fall

- **Small Group +1** – These groups are based on a small group concept; short studies and the group tends to offer support for group members. The +1 is the idea that no group should ever be closed; we should always be inviting others into our ministry and always make room for Christ. “Sunday School” will become a Small Group +1.
- **FOCUS** – These are intentional, focused events and programs that happen less frequently than small groups. Men’s Group, Older Adults Group, Gathering Around Books (GAB) are FOCUS groups.

A New Adult Bible Study Opportunity

Wondering...



Sunday, July 25
7-8 p.m.
Zoom

NEW Adult Study Opportunity!

Wondering...
Sunday, July 25, 7-8 p.m.
Zoom

Sometimes we have questions about Scripture. Do I really believe that? Is that what really happened in the biblical story? What if scholars are shedding new light on how to interpret a passage, but that's not what I was taught? We will “test the waters” this summer with an introduction to a possible new small group called “Wondering,” where we will explore biblical texts that might offer a different perspective than we were taught. Bring your Bibles and an open mind as we explore different biblical texts using PCUSA studies as our guide. Register at mppc.net/adults or contact Dan Wiard at dwiard@mppc.net.



Dr. Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education

CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Women: A Year in Review

Our church currently has four active Presbyterian Women Circles with 92 members who meet at least once a month for Bible study and fellowship. Since the fall, our PW Circles have been working through a Bible study focused on the theme of *lament*. The study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller, was very fitting for a year that was full of challenges and reason for lament, not only in our personal lives, but throughout our church and community as a whole.

Despite many of us not being able to meet in person for most of the year, we learned how to take advantage of Zoom and find connection in new ways. We were grateful for the rare opportunities to see our Circle members in person when we could, but just as grateful for the technology and support of our church leadership that allowed us to faithfully hold our monthly lessons. Some Circles even had guest leaders for their time together, including Dan Wiard, Lib McGregor Simmons and Pie Mikell teaching some of the lessons.

But PW is about more than just Bible study. Our Circle members are committed to supporting the mission of the church and we didn't let the pandemic slow us down. For example, some members visit Florence Crittenton every other week to help the girls getting ready to leave the program learn how to handle their finances and create a balanced life for themselves. We also work together to provide holiday treat baskets for the boys at Windwood Family Services (Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Easter). We send them gift cards for their birthdays and make Christmas special by choosing their names from

the Angel Tree, providing them items from their wish lists. With the help of our Circle members, we reached out more than 130 residents at The Villages at Summerville (a Presbyterian senior living community) with festive Easter cards, sending them our well-wishes.



Beyond the reach of our individual Circles, the PW Coordinating Team (PWCT) also has the ability to contribute financially in various ways with our discretionary funds. This year, we have given to the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery's new office by purchasing chairs in honor of four women at our church: Doris Benke, Susan Mellichamp, Helen Slack, and Lucille Schram; and gave funds to help them purchase a new sign in the front of their office. We also gave to Mission Haven, Haiti Education and Production Initiatives (H.E.P.I.), and Kairos Prison Ministry.

Looking back on this challenging year, we are humbled by the good works God has allowed us to accomplish, and grateful for the time studying His Word together, even though we couldn't be face-to-face. Our prayers and laments bring us hope and comfort as we look ahead to life slowly returning to the way it was before Covid.

Stay tuned for information on our 2021-2022 Bible study and Circle meetings to begin in the fall! For more information, contact PWCT Moderator Brittany Greer at brittgreer24@gmail.com.

Missions & Organizations PW Contributed to in 2020-2021:

- Comfort Ministries
- ECCO
- East Cooper Faith Network Fix-It
- Florence Crittenton Fund A Need
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Kenya Children's Fund
- Lowcountry Food Bank
- MPPC Endowment Fund (in memory of longtime church member Alma Savedge)
- The Villages at Summerville
- Windwood Family Services

What is Presbyterian Women?

Presbyterian Women, Inc., is the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are a community of more than 200,000 women who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose, the PW Purpose. Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

Summer is rocking and rolling in CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC. The youth are getting excited for Summer trips and events that are going to happen this year. They had to miss out on so much last Summer, but this year the events are back and better than ever! We also welcomed two Summer Youth Interns on May 16th, Mac Reaney and Amelia Cobb.

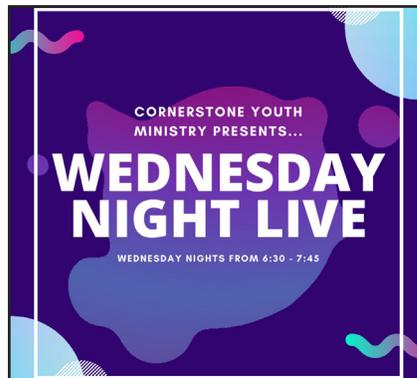
If you are new to MPPC or if you have been inactive, I encourage you to come to some of our CornerStone Events. Below you can find an explanation of a typical wee in CornerStone Youth Ministry this Summer and additional “pop up” events!



Tuesdays (through June 15)- Middle School Prayer Breakfast (MSPB) at MPPC.

Middle School Youth will gather at the loop of the fellowship hall and share chick fil a biscuits before school. We gather and talk about our week, eat and end with a devotion before school. Youth meet at 7 a.m. and we depart for school at 7:50. If your youth attends Moultrie we will walk, if they attend another school you will need to provide transportation. Please contact me if your youth can attend so we have enough food.

Thursdays (through June 10)- High School Prayer Breakfast (HSPB) at MPPC. High School Youth will gather at the loop of the fellowship hall and share chick fil a biscuits before school. We gather and talk about our week, eat and end with a devotion before school. Youth meet at 7:15 a.m. and we depart for school at 8. Youth and parents will be in charge of their own transportation. Please contact me if you plan to join so we have enough biscuits.



Wednesdays (through Aug. 4 - excluding weeks when we are on summer trips)- WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE (WNL) at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Middle and High School Youth will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 together and then break off into MS and HS groups at 7. We will do energizers, music and games together the first 30 minutes and then break off into groups for the last 30 minutes. Middle School Youth will stay in the Fellowship Hall and High School Youth will go in the basement for Faith Formation Bible Study. We will conclude each week at 7:45. WNL will have a Montreat and Church Conference type feel each week.



Sundays (through Aug. 8 excluding weeks when we are on summer trips)- Breakfast in the Basement (BIB).

On Sundays the youth will meet in the basement of Grace Hall with masks on before the 11:30 outdoor worship for BIB. We'll meet before the service starts and walk over to the together. There is a chance that the outdoor service time will change during the summer months, but right now it is staying at 11:30 so we will plan to meet in the basement at 10:45 to share food and fellowship. This will encourage youth to come and worship together EVERY Sunday they are in town. Free food and praising Jesus - what could be better?

Pop Up Events (dates will be listed in weekly emails)

- Workday at Green Heart Project
- Basement Renovation Night
- Charleston Fun Park Day
- High School Guys Bible Study
- Vacation Bible School Work Week

Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries



CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

MPPC Kids June 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Children's Ministry Team Meeting 7:30	2 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	7 Mission Project Drop-In 4-5 pm FH	8 VBS Leadership Mtg 7:30	9 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	14 Preschool Playground Hour - 9:30-10:30 am	15 Child Protection Training Forms Due	16 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	17	18 Last Day of School!	19
20 Father's Day Children's Education at In-Person Services	21 End of School Popsicle Drop-In Waterfront Park 3-4	22-23 Bethelwoods Day Camp at Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Office - Mon-Fri		24 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	25	26
27 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	28 Mission Project Drop-In 3-4 pm FH	29 Preschool Playground Hour - 9:30-10:30 am	30 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm			



MPPC Kids July-August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Beach Day on Sullivan's Island 10am-12pm	2	3
4 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	5 Mission Project Drop-In 3-4 pm FH	6 Children's Ministry Team - 7:30	7 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	8	9	10
11 Children's Education At In-Person Services	12	13-14 Bethelwoods Resident Camp, York, SC - Sunday-Friday		15 VBS Leadership - 7:30	16	17
18 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	19 Popsicle Drop-In Alhambra Hall 3-4 pm	20 Preschool Playground Hour - 9:30-10:30 am	21 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	22	23	24
25 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	26	27-28 Vacation Bible School Prep		29 Wacky Wednesday Zoom 3:30 pm	31	31
1 Breakfast & Bibles Zoom Children's Education at In-Person Services	2	3-4 Vacation Bible School - Monday-Friday		5	6	7

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION

From the Learning Center Director:

I am very thankful to the teachers, parents and MPPC for their support and prayers during this unprecedented school year. We were given many challenges and obstacles to maneuver around in order to open and stay open this school year and we did it! It brings the teachers and myself complete joy to watch the children grow educationally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually to meet the challenges that are ahead of them. We have enjoyed our time with all of the Learning Center families this year.

Have a wonderful, restful, and safe summer.

Lori Baney
MPPC Learning Center Director



Now Hiring!

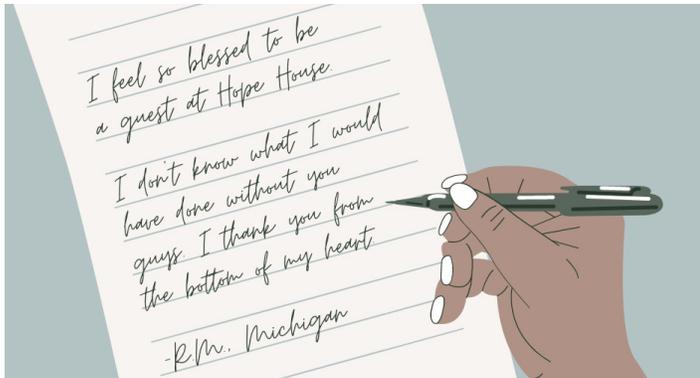
Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Learning Center is currently searching for PreK Lead Teachers and PreK Assistant Teachers. If you or someone you know is interested in any of these positions, please email your resume to Lori Baney at lbaney@mppc.net.



CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

Giving from the Heart

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (Peter 4:10)



"I feel so blessed to be a guest at Hope House. I don't know what I would have done without you guys. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

-R.M., Michigan-

This is the note left for us by a woman whose son was hospitalized after a serious auto accident in Charleston back in April. She was the first guest at Hope House since the COVID crisis forced us to shut down 12 months earlier.

In the weeks ahead, the Hope House ministry team is looking forward to more guests staying with us. As always, there will be volunteers offering hope, a helping hand, or a prayer to those who are tending to loved ones in a Charleston area hospital miles from their own homes. Over the past 11 years, hundreds of MPPC members have given of their time as a caretaker or a team leader at Hope House. They are mothers, fathers, professionals, retirees, your friends and neighbors. Each spends two or more hours during a particular morning or late afternoon checking in guests and making sure they have everything they need or getting a room ready for a new guest.

For many, volunteering at Hope House is a way of giving back for past kindnesses shown them, a relative or a friend. And they will be the first to tell you that time spent there, in any capacity, is a blessing and a gift. Our heartfelt thanks to the members of MPPC for entrusting us with this special ministry.

If you feel inspired to join this team and get to know our wonderful guests, please contact Beth Moore at bmoore@carolinaone.com.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

JUNE 1

Thank you for your hospitality while staying at Hope House; Given by Renee McCoy

JUNE 2

In Memory of Joan Jewell, her son and his family; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

JUNE 4

In Honor of Michael and Rohini Widener on their anniversary; Given by Ken and Donna Widener

JUNE 6

In gratitude of our neighbors, Brenda and Toby Craig; Given by Donna Horton

JUNE 8

In Honor of my loving wife, Judy McCoy; Given by Greg McCoy

JUNE 10

In Honor of The Mellichamp Lenten Small Group; Given by Mona Knight

JUNE 12

In Memory of Gary Beeler; Given by Leroy and Laura Griffin

JUNE 13

In Honor of friends and family; Given by Charlene Miller

JUNE 15

In excitement for the engagement of our son, Marcus Cone to Ashley Petrillo; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

JUNE 17

Love and Peace to Peter Bynum and his family; Given by Bob and Susan Fitzgerald

JUNE 19

In Honor of our 50th Wedding Anniversary; Given by Bob and Linda King

JUNE 20

In loving Memory of my husband, Bob; Given by Naomi McCormick

JUNE 22

In Honor of Andrea Ansley; Given by Ansley Lenten Small Group 2021

JUNE 24

With love for our Hope House Ministry; Given by Avis and Jeff Griffith

JUNE 26

In Honor of Circle #5; Given by Mona Knight

JUNE 27

In Memory of Carlton and Rosalie Force; Given by Don and Joan Brown

JUNE 29

In loving Memory of Gary Beeler; Given by Ed and Bev Rhoades

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

CONNECTED THROUGH MISSION

MPPC Challenge Grant Success Story - Florence Crittenton Programs of SC

In the summer of 2019, a very generous member, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered a challenge to the members and friends of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church: \$100,000 would be given to MPPC by the donor if our members and friends matched that gift by donating an additional \$100,000 or more.

The motivation of the anonymous donor was to encourage generosity within the church. The challenge gifts raised were to be over and above our MPPC regular giving; the gifts were not to balance a budget, to satisfy a budget shortfall, or to replace our regular financial stewardship commitments.

Gratefully, the challenge was met overwhelmingly by you, our congregation, providing the church with \$223,500 in available grant money. Challenge Grant projects were presented to the Session by the various ministries of MPPC for Sessional approval. Each ministry thoroughly vetted the proposed projects before presenting them to the Session, following strict guidelines reflecting the will of our anonymous donor.

For one recipient of grant funds, Florence Crittenton of SC, our church is helping to create life skills for the at-risk women that are their residents. Florence Crittenton has been in SC for more than 120 years. They operate a licensed residential group home that provides services to young women, pregnant and parenting teens, as well as girls in foster care.

The Challenge Grant provided money to orchestrate a program to help prepare these young women for life on their own.

According to Nancy Hall, the Local Mission Team's liaison to Florence Crittenton, "We have six wonderful volunteers who are helping the girls learn personal financial principles, establish financial goals, and address any concerns about money and financial security. We are currently teaching from the Dave Ramsey Youth Finance Curriculum.

"Due to COVID it has been a challenge to keep to our schedule. Several times we have had to postpone meeting with the girls because a resident tested positive. Florence Crittenton has a strict protocol and will shut down immediately when this happens. Our volunteers are doing a fantastic job of communicating with the residents and we hope that COVID alarms are fewer and soon disappearing as we move forward."

For more information or to volunteer, contact Nancy Hall, or visit florencecrittenton.org.



"I am so happy to be a volunteer. It is a wonderful program and exciting to help these girls be aware of the challenges of how to spend their money wisely."
-Stephanie Jones



FORMING A DEEPER CONNECTION



MPPC College Ministry:

Summer College Bible Study will begin on **June 20th** and we will be discussing "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers." Please contact Courtney Kraus at ckraus@mppc.net with any questions.

Endowment Gifts

In Memory of Douglas Mellichamp:

Kevin and Sue Verner
Dal and Linda Schreck
Elton and Kathy Carrier
Ron and Martha Cole
Lib Tiller
Jim and Susan Hufham
Mike and Julie Stephenson
Caroline and Doug Feller
Jim and Janet Deavor
Doug and Kathy Duncan
Tom Horton
George and Barbara Smyth
Andy White and Bill Boggan
John Myers
Nancy Springs
Keeling and Barbara
Warburton

In Memory of Mel Davis:

Andy White and Bill Boggan
Chip and Coleman Legerton
Jane McCullough

In Memory of Russ Keller:

Andy White and Bill Boggan

In Honor of Sue Googer:

Blair Googer

Upcoming Guest Preachers



The Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant Guest Preaching on June 27

Franklin Fant is CEO and President of the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. He previously served as Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations at PCSC and prior to that, as Pastor of Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church in Columbia. Prior to entering the ministry, Dr. Fant served as a senior manager and national securities litigation expert with KPMG in Washington, DC. He also served as assistant professor of finance at the University of New Hampshire and was a visiting scholar at the Securities and Exchange Commission. Dr. Fant holds a B.S. in Financial Management from Clemson University, a Ph.D. in Finance from Florida State University, and an M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary.



The Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr. Guest Preaching on July 18

Rodney Sadler is Associate Professor of Bible at Union Presbyterian Seminary where he also serves as Director of the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation on the Charlotte campus. He is the author of *The Genesis of Liberation: Biblical Interpretation in the Antebellum Narratives of the Enslaved* (co-authored with Emerson B. Powery). He holds a B.A. from Howard University, an M.Div. from Howard University School of Divinity, and a Ph.D. from Duke University.



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary and Live Stream 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

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact
843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests