

FROM THE PASTOR

Are You Willing to Go There?

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' - Matthew 22:36-39

Dear Church Family,

A minister I have
a lot of respect
for once told me,
"Look for God
at work and go
there!" I share that
in the form of a
challenge. Where do
you see God at work
and are you willing to

"go there"? Perhaps it is volunteering to help with children and youth, participating in our music ministry or being a part of another ministry or outreach right here at MPPC. The answer is found between you and God.

I see God mightily at work, in our own local and international missions. For me, engagement with our mission partners presents a special opportunity to see God at work and to join God in that work. I have found that it's not about what we can do for others, but what we can learn from them. It boils down to one thing- relationships. Ask anyone who has been involved with one of our local mission partners or gone on one of our international mission trips and I think they will tell you- it's about building relationships. We learn about LOVE. Love for God, love for what God is doing in the world and love for one another.

MPPC has a long history of partnering with both local and international agencies that serve those in need. Since I have been here, I have seen special relationships built between team members and the people they serve. I have seen our church family, serve meals, stock food pantry shelves, tutor, and sponsor students, provide medical care, build houses, and much more! In all of that, what stands out the most are the relationships we have formed while doing that work. Not only do our outreach teams form bonds together, but we also grow closer to the people we are serving and working with. These are the kinds of relationships that are transformational for all. These are the relationships that God's intends for God's people to share and enjoy.

Friends, God is at work in the life, ministry, and outreach of MPPC! Even during a pandemic and the limitations COVID has placed on us, there are still many ways to serve. Head over to mppc.net/volunteer to see the volunteer opportunities available at MPPC or mppc.net/missions to learn more about our mission partners! If you have a ministry idea or a question about one of our current mission partners, please let me know. I would *love* to work with you and help you discover where you see God at work today! Challenge on, *LET'S GO*!

Bart W. Cell

In Christ,

Pastor Bart Edwards

Associate Pastor & Interim Head of Staff

CONNECTED THROUGH WORSHIP

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

9 A.M.

Outdoor Service with the Net Band

10 A.M.

Education Hour

+ Fellowship Time

11 A.M.

Sanctuary Service

+ Livestream



Meet Timmi! Our "New" Interim Music Director

"Hello! I am a graduate from Charleston Southern University with a degree in Choral Music Education. I am currently the Choral Director at Philip Simmons High School. I came to Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in 2017 as a Scholarship Singer and have been an active member in the choir and in children's music ministries since then. In addition to working with the choir, I have gotten the opportunity to work with Angel Notes, LOGOS and VBS. I am thankful for this new opportunity and look forward to being able to serve a community that has helped me grow in my teaching and faith in such an important time in my journey and life."

Reformation Trip - Walking the Path to Geneva - May 25- June 6, 2022

We hope you will join us May 25-June 6, 2022 as we travel to four countries tracing the spiritual roots of the Reformed church. We will start in Prague and end in Geneva. Along the way we will visit key Reformation sites in the Czech Republic, Germany, France, and Switzerland. There will be an informational meeting in the fall. Rev. Bart Edwards will be leading the trip, so please direct any immediate questions to him at bedwards@mppc.net!



Proposed itinerary for the trip:

Day 1: Fly out of Charleston, SC

Day 2: Arrive in Prague

Day 4: Prague

Day 5: Dresden, Wittenberg

Day 6: Wittenberg

Day 7: Erfurt

Dav 8: Eisenach

Day 9: Heidelberg, Strasbourg

Day 10: Strasbourg, Constance, Zurich

Day 11: Zurich, Geneva

Day 12: Geneva

Day 13: Return to Charleston

Disciple Ship & the Mighty Dinghy!

10-10:50 a.m. on Sundays

Grades K-5

Welcome to Sunday's Disciple Ship, where children in grades K-5 discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in a new format with new curriculum! Children meet and gather in their graded classrooms for Bible stories and craft and mission activities that connect their Bible story to life. Children will be divided into disciple "families" where they will learn specifics about their disciple's family. The 'families' are based on grades: Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, 4th Grade, 5th Grade. (Grades will be combined based on size and need).

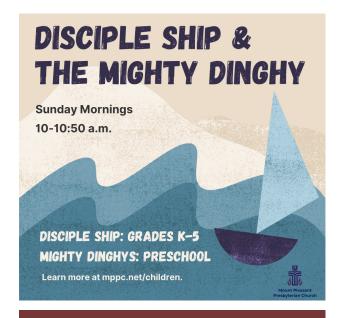
Curriculum for children's Sunday Morning ministry will be the PCUSA Follow Me curriculum. This brand-new material looks at biblical practices for faithful living. In simple words, children will learn about the practices of Jesus and hear how Jesus said we can be his faithful followers. Some of the practices include Following Jesus, Welcoming All, Confession, Hope, Baptize and more!

Preschool

The Mighty Dinghy's, our Sunday morning preschool program, will use the *Follow Me* preschool curriculum of the PCUSA and will stay in their classrooms throughout the hour as they hear God's Word and have some playtime getting to know their new friends. (Classes include 2's, 3's, and 4's).

Nursery and Childcare

Nursery and childcare is available for toddlers and infants during the 10 a.m. education hour.



Disciple Ship – This is a play on words, but we believe children's ministry is like a ship that children are on as they learn about Bible stories and what it means to be a disciple. Ships stop in ports and travel abroad; children will stop in cities and "see" where the God News of the Gospel stories happened.

Mighty Dinghy – Everyone needs a Dinghy if you are out on a boat. A dinghy gets you from one boat to another and can get you to land when your boat is too big. We believe our preschool children are moving from the familiarity of home into a new church "family." They are also just beginning to hear stories about God's amazing love! Our Mighty Dinghy will move preschool children into a wonderful, God-filled place called church.

Wednesdays at the Well Modified!

Because of our recent surge in COVID, the children's program on Wednesdays is modified for the time being. Dinner and Vespers will not be part of the fall startup but look for their return in the coming months. Here's a quick look at the MODIFIED children's fall schedule and group descriptions:

4:45-5:30 p.m. JAM (grades K-2)

Kids Alive (grades 3-5)

5-5:30 p.m. Angel Notes (Preschool Choir) 5:30-6 p.m. Kingdom Choir (Elementary), Bible Time & Crafts (Preschool)

ALL Wednesday's Children's activities will be OUTSIDE when possible. Children should bring a face mask in case we do need to go inside for some reason. **Registration is now open on Realm for children and adults.**

JAM (Jesus and Me) is our Wednesday night program for K-2nd grade children. They will enjoy a fresh look at Bible stories and craft activities that help children learn Bible truths in a powerful way.

Kids Alive (Grades 3-5) will bring a new "youth group" format to older elementary children that includes a range of activities including recreation, art, and study. The focus for Kids Alive will be a creative and engaging discovery of the 66 books of the Bible! Not only will children be able to know the Books of the Bible in order, but they will also be able to tell the broad storyline for each book!

gouth ministries

CONNECTED THROUGH EDUCATION











"Falling" Into Youth Ministry

It has been fun reflecting on the summer we have had together at MPPC CornerStone Youth Ministry. It felt great to go to all of our youth trips and gather for summer ministry. Even though we are unsure about the direction of COVID-19, let's take a moment to pause and be grateful for the summer we shared together, which after last summer was such a blessing.

This shows that we must enjoy every moment we have together because we never know what will happen tomorrow, this of course was true before the pandemic, but I believe that the pandemic has taught us that importance again.

My prayer for all of the youth this school year is to love others, love Jesus and enjoy life... after all that is what we are called to do as His disciples. I look forward to kicking off the fall program year with all youth and advisers!

How we are protecting ourselves and others from COVID:

- Masks will be worn correctly (with nose and mouth covered) anytime we are indoors or in vehicles together
- · Any snacks/meals we have will be outside
 - · ex. BIB will be held on the porch of GH
 - ex. Prayer Breakfast will be outside in the FH loop
- Trips/Retreats will be monitored and are subject to change at any point due to the rise in COVID cases
- Please note that even though the schedule is planned for the year it can be adjusted and changed depending on where we are in the pandemic
 - ex. rise in cases in schools, etc.
- You are responsible for notifying Courtney any time you have COVID symptoms or if you have been in direct contact with someone and you have been attending youth events.

Courtney Kraus
Director of Youth Ministries

Adult Faith Formation and Discipleship 2021-2022 - Updated Since August!

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 to deepen and experience God's amazing love. Through Small Groups and Focus Groups, 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, in person and online. The opportunities are rich. 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.

GH – Grace Hall building

SB - Sea Brook building

Small Group +1 Opportunities Sunday Mornings | 10-10:50 a.m.

We have a designated education hour on Sunday mornings this fall! Whether you come before or after you worship, we are sure you will want to be part of the fellowship and friendships at MPPC in the Small Group +1 classroom.

THE MIDDLE

We are all in the middle of something. Some of us are in the middle of raising kids, our lives, taking care of parents etc. All of us are somewhere in the middle of our faith journey. This group explores and studies God's message for them in these seasons of life. The class will participate in The Disciple Making Church small group study. SB 210.

THE HARBOR

The Harbor is an indepth Bible study that includes presentation and discussion. Past studies included a look at Moses and a study of the book of Exodus. No preparation necessary

unless participants want to read ahead. The Bible is your study guide and text! *GH* 222.

SEEKERS & SOWERS

This class explores the Bible verse by verse using curriculum and creative topics as its guide. This inductive Bible study follows three simple steps: observation, interpretation, and application. 1, 2, 3 John and a theme of "forgiveness" are on tap for this fall. <u>Starting via Zoom on 9/12.</u>

ACADEMY OF ST. JOHN

This lecture-style class approaches Scripture through the lens of academics whenever possible while using DVD resources to deepen the class presentation. Speakers from MPPC missions are scattered throughout the year. Studies include Seeing Grey in a Black and White World (Adam Hamilton), The New Testament You Never Knew (N. T. Wright) and He Chose Nails (Max Lucado). SB 206.

CONNECT 3

This diverse class moves to the Parlor this fall as they study Scripture through thematic and topical studies. Among Bible studies this Small Group +1 class will use is the PCUSA curriculum Follow Me that looks at Christian Practices. The Wired Word, a weekly email study on current news in and around the

world, is also available to all participants. This class also engages in service opportunities, with scattered fellowship parties throughout the year! <u>Starting via Zoomon 9/12.</u>

YOUNG ADULTS

NEW this fall is a class for young adults! While children and youth are connecting in their space, we hope parents and young adults of all walks of life will come together for fellowship, conversation, and study. We begin with one large group and learn about each other. In the following weeks, we will break into smaller groups as grow together in our discipleship and in the areas you request. GH 123.

Beyond Sunday Mornings Wednesdays at the Well - Modified!

Because of the recent surge of COVID, Wednesdays at the Well is modified. We will offer the small group study The Disciple Making Church via Zoom and in person for six weeks beginning September 22. The time and format will be based on interest for Wednesday evening, with options being 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The other components of Wednesdays at the Well will be paused until a later date.

5-6 p.m. Small Group option (In Person and

on Zoom)

7-8 p.m. Small Group option (In Person and

on Zoom)

About the book: The Disciple Making Church explores discipleship and what it means to be a disciple and a disciple making church through the refreshing and creative authorship of Glenn McDonald. McDonald weaves vivid Scriptural insights and the wisdom of scholars as he looks at what Jesus really meant when he said, "go forth and make disciples." Participants will want to evaluate the way we live and minister as disciples by the end of the study.

The Disciple Making Church (Part 1) – September 22-October 27. **Signup is now available through Realm for children and adults!**



Modified Children's Schedule

4:45-5:30 p.m. JAM (Jesus and Me, Grades K-2),

Kids Alive (Grades 3-5)

5-5:30 p.m. Angel Notes (Preschool)

5:30-6 p.m. Kingdom Choir (Elementary)

5:30-6 p.m. Bible Time & Crafts (Preschool)

Small Group +1 Other Days of the Week...

MEN & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Class selects material on a study-by-study basis. This group also typically participates in church-wide small group studies. Meets on the MPPC campus. <u>Sunday at 4 p.m.</u>

YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

This If you are a young woman and looking for a small group for women, consider joining our young women's small group. The group is an informal Bible study that gathers around Mount Pleasant. The group currently meets on Tuesdays. Email Dan Wiard for more information. *Tuesdays, Time TBD*.

SOUL TRAINING

This weekly Bible Study is open to men and women of all ages and focuses on spiritual development. Current study: *The Chosen* video study found on YouTube and its own App. *Monday at 6:30 p.m.*

MEN'S MORNING STUDY

This is an informal group of men, ranging in age from 20's to 70's dedicated to learning more about the Word. We study the Bible a book at a time, reading and discussing about a chapter of a given book a week. NO HOMEWORK. Only text used is the Bible itself, and we have them available if you forget yours. We will meet for breakfast and fellowship at Page's Okra Grill on the first Friday of the month. *Eriday at 7 a.m.*

FOCUS Groups...

GATHERING AROUND BOOKS (THE GAB GROUP)

Do you love to read and discuss what you have read with fellow bibliophiles? This group may be just what you are looking for! Each month we gather for a discussion of a fiction or non-fiction book which may not be overtly religious but contains content and themes that can be discussed from a faith perspective. Discussions are facilitated by Parish Associate Lib McGregor Simmons. Even if you have not finished the book (or haven't even cracked it open and gotten as far as the first page!), you are invited to grab your favorite happy hour beverage and drop in on the lively Zoom discussion! Register at *mppc.net/events*. 4th Friday of the month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Books chosen so far:

September 24 - *Abide with Me* by Elizabeth Strout October 22 - *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

PERAMBULATING WITH PAUL

This fall we will be Perambulating with Paul with readings from Acts and his writings in I Thessalonians, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, and Romans. All are welcome to join the lively discussion facilitated by Parish Associate Lib McGregor Simmons which will meet via Zoom from 12:10-1 p.m. on Tuesdays. The daily readings begin in September with the first meeting scheduled for September 7.

Email Lib at *Imcgregorsimmons@mppc.net* to indicate your interest in the class. A reminder will be sent each week to participants. *Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m.* via Zoom beginning Sept. 7.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) CIRCLES

The 2021-22 Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study is entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? By exploring these stories together, we will gain a richer understanding of God's good news in Jesus Christ. *Times vary, see below.*

PW CIRCLE 2 - 3rd Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

PW CIRCLE 3 - 2nd Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

PW CIRCLE 4 - 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

PW CIRCLE 5 - 2nd Thursday at Noon.

PW CIRCLE 6 - Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. Six week study beginning 9/12 using different women's studies.

WHAT MY GRANDMOTHER TAUGHT ME

Grandmothers can have an important place in our faith formation. Their presence and their wise words can impact our life choices and our personal relationship with God for a life-time. In the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew names specific women for a reason - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. As we discover these women's stories, we can ask ourselves: How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? I wonder if we have thought much about Jesus' grandmothers and what these grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories - What My Grandmothers Taught Me - will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ and we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Participants may wish to obtain a copy of the Horizons Bible Study What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus although this is not required. If you are a circle Bible leader or a circle member who will miss your monthly meeting, you especially will value the monthly study session. And take note: the class is NOT for women only. Register at mppc.net/events. Last Sunday of the month, August-April, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

September 26 - Tamar October 31 - Rahab November 28 - Ruth and Loyal Love December 26 - Ruth and Redemption January 30 - Bathsheba February 27 - Mary

March 27 - Mary and the Faith Tradition of the Church April 24 - What Are These Women Doing in a Place Like This?

WONDERING...

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? Or what if asking different questions shows a story in different light? Wondering is a Bible study where we encourage questions; it's a Bible study that might have more questions than answers. Bring your Bibles and an open mind as we explore the Bible! Register at *mppc.net/events*. *1st Monday of the month, October-May, 7 p.m. via Zoom.*

CONNECTED THROUGH HOPE

"God is So Good!"

This is how Rick Porter feels after spending nearly eight months away from home, following his wife from one city and hospital to another as she battles an extremely active MRSA infection. During her five months in Augusta, Georgia in ICU at the Burn Center at Doctors Hospital, he says he "almost lost her five times."

He found support at the Jeffrey Vaden Chavis House. It provides family members with a place to stay, much like Hope House. So when his wife was transported to this area, his new-found Augusta friends brought Mr. Rick to Hope House. We had just reopened. When we had to shut down again due to the new outbreak of COVID, the Ministry Team agreed that he should remain at Hope Cottage.

You may have seen him sitting on the front porch of Hope House, waiting for an Uber driver to take him to the hospital. Members of MPPC have enveloped him with kindness: taking him grocery shopping, bringing him clothes or frozen meals, or simply sitting and talking with him. In his words: "If it weren't for the kindness of folks, I don't know what I would have done."

This area holds many special memories for this couple. It is where they met in the mid-1980s. She

is a native Charlestonian who served 14 years with the Town of Mount Pleasant as a volunteer firefighter, an animal control officer and lastly as a police dispatcher.

In the past few weeks, they have marked their 35th wedding anniversary <u>and</u> her birthday. Mr. Rick says she is getting stronger every day. And he prays that one day, in the not-so-distant future, they will be able to go home again.





Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

SEPTEMBER 8

In Memory of our son, William Marsh; Given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

SEPTEMBER 9

In Memory of our daughter, Christine Marsh; Given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

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



CONNECTED THROUGH COMMUNITY



Rally Day is Approaching! Have you signed up yet?

Rally Day is like a big kickoff party for our new Christian education year at MPPC. Join us on Wednesday, September 15th at 5 p.m. on the MPPC campus for all sorts of fun activities. We will even have a bounce castle for kids, and games for those of all ages!

There will also be plenty of chances to meet new people and say hello to old friends. Bring your family, a friend, a neighbor, or a stranger - all are welcome at Rally Day! The schedule for the day is as follows:

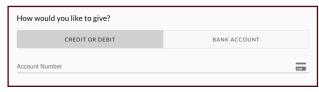
5:00 p.m. – Fellowship and Food 6:30 p.m. – Vespers 6:45 p.m. – Learning about the programs!

We will have free hotdogs, hamburgers and desserts for everyone. Please register on Realm by Sunday, Sept. 12 so that we can make sure we have enough food and dessert from the Cookie Dough Love food truck! After a short worship service, you will have the chance to learn about Wednesdays at the Well, Sunday's Small Groups +1, Children's Activities, Youth Group and Adult Small Groups. You can even pre-register for fall events during Rally Day. Make sure to bring a blanket or a chair.

From the Finance Committee

As we continue our efforts to be wise stewards of your giving and event registration dollars by decreasing costs and being as efficient as possible, please consider the following actions you can take to assist us:

When you give or register for an event online, you are offered 2 choices on how you want to fund your gift or registration fee: a) credit or debit card, b) bank account (see screenshot below). If you choose not to pay the 3% processing fee with your gift or fee, it costs MPPC an average of 3.069% to process your card compared to only .5% to process each dollar processed via your bank account (aka ACH, EFT, Bank Draft). If you currently give online, please consider choosing the bank account option.



- Please write legibly AND in blue or black ink only. Our check processing machine will not read illegible, lightly written, or checks written in colored ink (red, green, orange, etc.)
- If you would like to give to The Endowment Fund, please make your check out to MPPC with the name of the person you are memorializing on the memo line (if applicable). Raymond James maintains our Endowment Fund, and we try not to process any Endowment giving through the church's operating account. Therefore, we send your personal checks directly to Raymond James, and they process them directly to the Endowment Fund.
- Please do not combine checks written for your pledge with any other type of restricted or endowment giving.

Thank you so much for your generosity & your desire to be good stewards as it is written! Should you need assistance or have any questions about MPPC finances, please feel free to call, e-mail, or stop by. Joann & I are here to serve you!



Love is Greater than Hate by Chris Singleton



The Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Bridge Builders Ministry invites you to join us for an inspiring talk by the much sought after motivational speaker, Chris Singleton.

Chris' mother, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton tragically died in the Mother Emmanuel massacre in 2015. He has turned this traumatic experience into the basis and motivation of the message of love, peace and empowerment that he shares with audiences throughout the nation.

Please join us for his speech "Love is Greater than Hate: A Talk about Faith, Resilience and Unity" in the MPPC Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. After Chris' talk, there will be a period for round-table discussion of prepared questions, followed by pizza and fellowship.

This presentation is dedicated to Russ Keller.

THE GATHERING



A SERVICE OF HOPE, INSPIRATION AND GIVING

Sunday, October 24th at 11 a.m.

<u>In Memory of</u> <u>Douglas Mellichamp:</u>

Dick and Suzanne Query
Doris Benke
Bob and Anne Ostrom
Julian and Ann McGill
Randolph and Laurie Tiller
EM and Theresa Seabrook
Jo Ann Hiott
Jack and Evie Evans

Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Dr. Sam Witherspoon, II:

Lucille Schram
Dick and Suzanne Query
Doris Benke
Lib Tiller
Hugh and Jan Burgess
Millie Horton
Kathy and Carl Berry
Julian and Ann McGill
EM and Theresa Seabrook
Jack and Evie Evans

In Memory of Clay Hallmark:

Jack and Evie Evans

In Memory of Mel Davis:

Jack and Evie Evans

In Memory of Marcia Talbott:

Dick and Suzanne Query Bob and Anne Ostrom



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CONNECT WITH US

***SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9 a.m. Outdoor Worship 10 a.m. Education Hour + Fellowship Time 11 a.m. Sanctuary + 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

FOLLOW US







@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact 843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests

*Masks are required indoors on the MPPC campus.