

the pelican



from pastor bart

Love is More Precious

"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'" - Mark 12:41-44



Dear Church Family,

October will be an exciting and joyful month in the life of MPPC with two big events coming soon. On October 17th the church will celebrate its dedication to being a *Missional Church*

with a Mission Fair. Many of our local mission partners will be here along with International Mission Team members representing our International Partners. Our guest pastor that Sunday will be the Founding Director of Haiti Outreach Ministries, Rev. Leon Dorleans. It is our pleasure to host and welcome him again and have the opportunity to hear how God is at work in Haiti during these trying times. The following Sunday, October 24th, will be Consecration Sunday, **The Gathering: A Service of Hope, Inspiration and Giving**. That Sunday we will have an opportunity to worship together and celebrate what God has done and is doing in the life and ministry of MPPC.

I cannot think of a better way to frame our life together as a church, than through the lens of missions, and fearless giving. In these uncertain times, I feel God is calling us to live fearlessly and to give fearlessly. We need not look any farther than to Jesus' example of what a fearless giver looks like. A fearless giver does not calculate... they give lavishly. In Mark 12:41-44, the story of the widow's offering, Jesus drove this point home to his disciples while sitting in the temple and observing people present their offerings. Jesus praised a poor widow who gave the smallest of coins in contrast with the rich who gave greater sums. How can someone in poverty give more than someone who has ample means? Jesus' answer was simple: *love is more precious than gold or wealth!*

Jesus taught that true giving comes from the heart. A gift that is given with a grudge or for display loses its value. A gift given out of love, with a spirit of generosity and sacrifice, is precious. The amount or size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the cost to the giver. The poor widow could have kept one of her coins, but *instead she recklessly gave away all she had!* Jesus praised the widow who gave barely a penny—how insignificant a sum—because it was everything she had.

What you give is between you and God. God receives our offerings of varying sums and can do more than we can imagine with our gifts. When we give, we can and should do so with a heart full of gratitude for what God has already given to us. Giving is a sign of gratitude.

I hope you will consider these thoughts as you prayerfully consider your 2022 Estimate of Giving. We will dedicate them to God on October 24th in a very special worship service, that you will not want to miss. Below is a helpful prayer for you and your family as you consider how you might give fearlessly:

"Lord Jesus, your love knows no bounds and you give without measure. All that I/We have comes from you. May I/We give freely and generously in gratitude for all that you have given to me/us. Take my/our life/lives and all that I/We possess—my/our gifts, talents, time, and resources—and use them as you see fit for your glory." Amen

Fearlessly,

Pastor Bart Edwards

Associate Pastor & Interim Head of Staff

connected through worship

THE GATHERING



A SERVICE OF HOPE, INSPIRATION AND GIVING

Sunday, October 24th at 11 a.m.

Let us know you'll be there by RSVPing at mppc.net/events.

Our congregation's Finance and Stewardship Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year. *New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, which we have named **The Gathering: A Service of Hope, Inspiration, and Giving**, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card

does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on the day of **The Gathering**. We urge everyone to attend – even those who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if they choose not to fill out a card. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards.

The Gathering will take place on Sunday, October 24th! The 11 a.m. service will be the only service time that day, and celebration luncheon to follow will be on campus, outdoors (weather permitting), and will feature guest speaker, Jan Edmiston - General Presbyter of Charlotte, free boxed lunches, live music, festivities, and a basket full of fellowship. The 11 a.m. service will be in person and live streamed.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend by RSVPing on Realm, or visit mppc.net/events. We want to make sure we have a boxed lunch for you!

connected through education

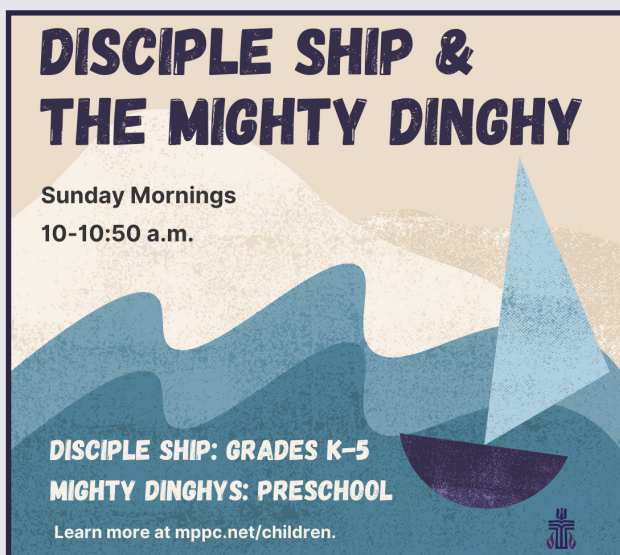
Wednesdays at the Well for Children

Here's a quick look at Wednesday night for children this fall. On Wednesday evenings, sign in at the Kiosks in the entrance to Grace Hall or the Fellowship Hall.

- 4:45-5:30 p.m. JAM (grades K-2) - SB 204
Kids Alive (grades 3-5) - GH Porch
- 5-5:30 p.m. Angel Notes (Preschool Choir) - FH Porch
- 5:30-6 p.m. Kingdom Choir (Elementary) - FH Porch
Bible Time & Crafts (Preschool) - FH Porch

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!



Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m.

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 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.

Other Opportunities for Children

Children's Sunday

On **Sunday, October 17**, children will help lead our Children's Sunday Services of Worship during both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. hour. If you would like your child(ren) to participate in leadership, please sign up at mppc.net/children. Dan Wiard will contact you about children's part(s). There will be TWO practice opportunities:

- Wednesday, October 13, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m.

Children should plan to attend at least one of the sessions. Children who sign up to read should be confident in speaking in front of people and it is helpful if they are good readers. Dan will work with all the children with their part(s). Thank you!



The 2021 Fall Festival

Join us for our Annual Fall Festival at MPPC on **Wednesday, November 3 from 5-7 p.m.** There will be games, face painting, trunk-or-treat, food, a cake walk, and MORE! Young children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes and to bring a friend!

connected through education

Constant Faith Among Constant Change

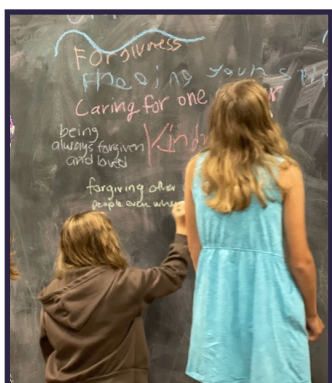
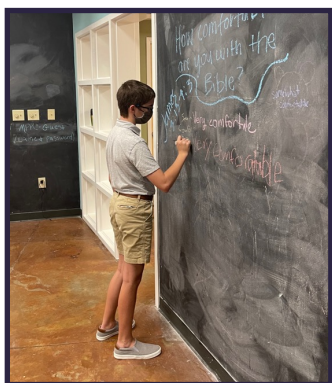
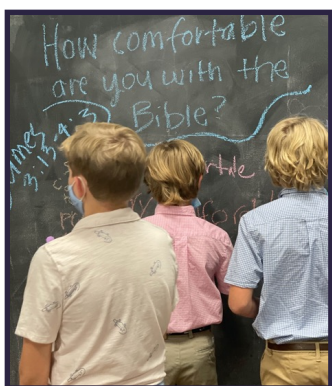
If I could describe the month of October in one word, it would be "flexibility." The ongoing battle with the pandemic has taught educators all around the world how to be flexible whether we like it or not. At MPPC, we have been flexible with the entire weekly schedule of CornerStone Youth Ministry events. For example, the weekly schedule has changed twice, and I am sure it will need to change again at some point. This usually drives "type A" people (like me) crazy but when it means that more youth can attend events, it is hard to complain. As a Youth Director my goal is to have youth at each event wanting to be there, having fun, and continuing to grow in their faith. So yes, changing a schedule can be frustrating, but the outcome is so worth it.

Seeing the Youth Basement burst at the seams with energy is something that I wish I could share with each of you. We are continuing to learn so much as this pandemic continues, but our faith in Jesus Christ remains constant.

If you are curious about CornerStone Youth Ministry, please reach out to me and ask questions because we would love to have you involved. You will find the NEW CornerStone Weekly Schedule below and I hope you will join us as we thrive with the new normal together.

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



REVISED YOUTH SCHEDULE

Tuesdays

Prayer Breakfast from 7:-7:55 a.m.
(Chick Fil A provided)

Wednesdays

Wednesday Night Live from 6:45-8 p.m.

6:45-7- Fellowship/Games

7-8- High School and Middle School Bible Study

Sundays

Breakfast in the Basement
(Food, Small Groups, and Worship) from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Youth will have the option if they would like to attend the early or late service together.

Confirmation from 6-7 p.m. beginning October 3rd

CYM (Youth Group) from 7-8:15p.m.

7:00-7:15- Snacks, youth led music and fellowship

7:15-7:45- Games together

7:45-8:10- break off into High School & Middle School

8:10-8:15- closing devotional together



connected through education

Ministry is About Disciples!

As our fall Christian education program begins, I am reminded that ministry is about volunteers, or as I like to say, disciples. Moses, Paul, and even Jesus worked with others who faithfully served God. One person alone could not do the ministry to which God calls; God does not want one person to do everything. We are the body of Christ.

Our education ministry requires countless disciples. In children's ministry alone, more than sixty adults committed to serve in Disciple Ship, The Mighty Dinghy, JAM, Kids Alive, Kingdom Choir, Angel Notes, and Bible Time & Crafts! Shared leadership in adult ministry between Small Groups +1, Focus Groups, and ministry teams adds another twenty or more people. If we combine these two ministries, ministry teams, and youth ministries, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church has at least 100

people sharing their faith through leadership in Christian education! We are blessed to have such a rich pool of disciples.

I am thankful for each person's leadership and involvement in Christian education. My prayer is that each of us lifts these leaders in our prayers. May we demonstrate our gratitude through faithful participation and offer words of encouragement and appreciation to each of these leaders. May their faith journey be strengthened. May they find joy, laughter, and overflowing love through those they lead and serve.

Peace,

Dr. Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE RALLY DAY A HUGE SUCCESS!!



Christian Education Points of Contacts

Director of Christian Education
& Interim Children's Ministry Director
Dan Wiard – dwiard@mppc.net

Director of Youth Ministry
Courtney Kraus – ckraus@mppc.net

Learning Center Director
Lori Baney – lbaney@mppc.net

Christian Education
Sessional Committee Chairperson
Ellen Creed Branham –
ellencreedbranham@gmail.com

Adult Faith Formation
Ministry Team Chairperson
Jane Parker – janerparker@yahoo.com

Chairperson of Children's Ministry Team
Paula Angelos – paulaangelos@me.com

Chairperson of the Learning Center
Board of Directors
Laura Dozier – lauradozier48@gmail.com

Chairperson of the Learning Center
Parent Advisory Committee
Kristen Dolberg – kmdolberg@gmail.com

connected through education

An Overview of the New PCUSA Curriculum

This year the PCUSA published a new curriculum for children, youth, and adults called *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*. Our children's Sunday morning Disciple Ship and The Mighty Dinghy classes use this material, as well as Connect 3 in our adult program. Here is an introduction to the new curriculum as published by our denomination:

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. It takes more than the head, checking off boxes of belief. It even takes more than the heart, feeling deeply about another person or a cause. Following Jesus is about these things and more. It is also about doing. And it takes practice. And practice. And more practice. We are not practicing for perfection, however, but practicing to put faith and love into action. As we explore faith practices, we are diving into the essence of what makes us Christian, those who follow the one who practiced what he preached!

Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living is a curriculum that spans thirty-six units over three years, helping people of all ages follow Jesus. This study is for lifelong Christians and those beginning to ask questions. Each unit centers around something Jesus told his followers to do. Take a look at the list of practices. You will notice many familiar words associated with the Christian faith and, to be honest, with just being a good person. Jesus, however, took these well-known behaviors, feelings, and attitudes and showed those around him—people throughout history and us today—how we can love God and love

others. In each unit, aspects of the practice are explored; biblical stories illustrate them and how the Christian community has understood them through more than two thousand years. More important, there are ample opportunities for you to practice these actions, both individually and in community.



Some other Bible studies may overwhelm us with complex matters of doctrine or a list of prescriptive behaviors: what we should believe and who can belong to our community. But followers of Jesus were attracted to him because of his actions: he welcomed everyone, he spoke truth to power, and he invited all to follow him to God. It was later, after following him, that some came to believe he was indeed the Messiah, God's messenger, the Christ. Faith develops as we practice following what Jesus did, embodied, and taught.

A foundational essay on this unit's practice is included in each age-level leader's guide, the Congregational Guide, and the Adult Reflection Guide. It is written by a biblical expert with both the learned and the new explorer in mind. It provokes deep thought, and yet is quite understandable. It is bonus reading that we think you will enjoy. Many of its ideas are reflected in the sessions of the unit. May this study and your practices of faith strengthen you and help you live a life of discipleship!

Small Group +1

Six small groups are studying Glen McDonald's *The Disciple Making Church* this fall. The newest group meets in person on **Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m.** as part of the *Wednesdays at the Well* gathering. Childcare is available if requested.

McDonald explores discipleship and what it means to be a disciple and disciple making church through a refreshing and creative lens. He 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 ways we live and minister as disciples by the end of the study. The small group **meets in the Parlor**. Contact Dan Wiard (dwiard@mppc.net) if you would like to participate in this small group. Pre-registration is not required.

NEW: Youngish Adults...

...is a new adult Sunday morning education opportunity for those adults who are 40ish. The class is informal and is designed for adults who are busy throughout the week and who are looking for encouragement and support

in the wildness of life – especially parenting! All "youngish" adults are welcome to attend! The group meets in Grace Hall 123/125 at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Towner Magill or Dan Wiard (dwiard@mppc.net).

Education Opportunities

A complete list of faith formation opportunities for all ages throughout the week can be found on our website. Visit mppc.net/christian-education to find information on all of our Christian education ministries!

connected through mission

Join us for the 2021 Missions Street Fair!

On **Sunday, October 17** from **10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, MPPC will host the Missions Street Fair in **between the Education Building and the Sanctuary**. We hope you will join us to learn about how your volunteer hours, prayers and donations impact our local community as well as around the world! Come see all the ways that you and your family can get involved with MPPC Missions. Additionally, Pastor Leon Dorleans from Haiti Outreach Ministries will be our special guest preacher for both services that morning.

Below are some of our local and international mission partners you may see that Sunday!

LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS

- Bridge Builders
- Carolina Youth Development
- Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center
- East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO)
- East Cooper Faith Network (ECFN), I-Beam, Fix It
- East Cooper Habitat for Humanity
- East Cooper Meals on Wheels, Rakes On Wheels
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Florence Crittenton Home
- Hands of Christ
- Hibben Hospitality/Hibben Cold Shelter
- Hope House
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Linus Quilt & Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Metanoia
- One80 Place
- Ronald McDonald House
- Thornwell Home
- Windwood Farm Home for Children



INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNERS

- AMOS Health and Hope, Nicaragua
- Daystar University, Kenya
- Empowered to Lead (E2L), Kenya
- Habitat for Humanity Honduras
- Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM)
- JHC-CDCA Nueva Vida Medical Clinic
- Kinyago Dandora School, Nairobi, Kenya
- LAMB Institute, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- Medical Mission, Trinidad, Honduras
- Palmetto International



Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM) with Pastor Leon

At **5 p.m. on Sunday, October 17** (the same day as the Missions Fair), Pastor Leon Dorleans with HOM will share an informative presentation in the **Fellowship Hall**. Since founding HOM in 1990, Pastor Leon has led efforts to build churches, schools and clinics in Haiti, developed the leaders needed to sustain the ministry, and shared HOM's mission in the United States and Canada. Now, he serves on the Board of Directors for HOM and mainly focuses on being a mentor and teacher to Bible College students and church leaders in Haiti.

Pastor Leon's presentation will cover all things HOM as well as other information about current issues in Haiti and what you can do to be part of this ministry. After the presentation, you're invited to join us for refreshments and pizza outside!



connected through hope

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

OCTOBER 1

In Honor of Captain Jonathan Lee, for his service to the USA, stationed at Camp Beuhing, Kuwait; Given by his family, Lewis, Cindy, Matthew, and Christina

OCTOBER 4

In Memory of Marcia Talbott; Given by Harry, Jr. and Ann Douty

OCTOBER 13

In Memory of Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons' Mother; Given by Lib B. Tiller

OCTOBER 15

In Memory of Gary L. Beeler; Given by Carl Bucher

OCTOBER 24-31

In Honor of our MPPC Family and Friends; Given by Al and Alice Jenkins

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



"A Gift from God!"

Many of you no doubt have heard of a God Wink. Some people view it as a coincidence so astonishing that what has occurred can only be a sign of divine intervention. A few weeks ago, we at Hope House experienced a couple of such answered prayers.

One involves Rick Porter, who was featured in the Pelican last month. With his wife still in a nearby hospital, he remains in Hope Cottage. A Bible Study group at MPPC, which includes two members of the Hope House Ministry Team, now has taken him under its wing. Also reaching out to him was the Reverend Lee Moseley, who has a small congregation in Union County, S.C. They met during his brief time at Hope House.

He came to Charleston, because his wife Nancy needed brain surgery. They needed a place to stay the night before and he needed somewhere to stay for at least another night while she recovered from her biopsy.

"I began making calls that soon led me to a place called 'Hope House.' This outreach has been in existence for eleven years and has helped over 1,700 people. What an amazing blessing it has been to so many!"

Upon arriving, they were introduced to Rick Porter.

"In the short time we were there, both Rick and I became friends and continue to stay in contact. Rick shared how God got him there also, and how they had taken care of him as he was disabled and really had no one."

Now back in Union, Rev. Moseley wrote that he has "found a group that might be able to help Rick fix up his home in Cottageville. I thought and prayed how we could be a blessing, here in Union, in some way like 'Hope House.' What a ministry to those in need. It touched Nancy and I, this gift from God."



connected through community



Introducing Alanna Barrett, Our New Administrative Assistant

"I am originally from a small town in Kansas, but went to college in South Florida. I graduated from Florida Atlantic University in April with a degree in Multimedia Studies, and I moved to Charleston a couple months ago. I am so excited to be a part of the team at MPPC!"



November New Member Classes

Our next New Member Class will be held on November 7th and 14th. 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 with any questions they may have.

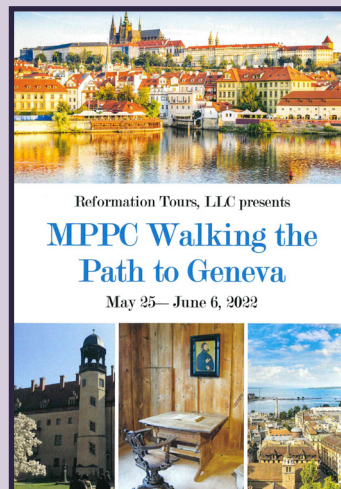
Register at mppc.net/events.



Family Movie Night

On Friday, October 8, 2021 MPPC will host another Family Movie Night! We will be showing a Disney classic that is perfect to get everyone ready for Halloween- *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*. Fellowship will begin at 6:15 with the movie starting at 6:45. Please join us for popcorn, a sweet treat, and family fun!

Remember to bring your own chair and blanket in case it gets cooler at night.



Learn about the Reformation Tour!

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. Rev. Bart Edwards will be leading the trip.

There will be an informational meeting about the trip on Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Get the Zoom link at mppc.net/events.

endowment corner

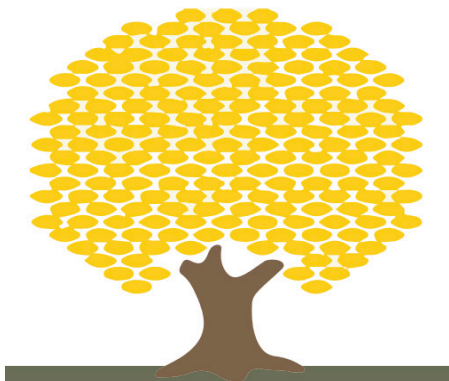
Mel Davis Generosity Story

We wanted to share the story of Mel Davis' recent gift to the MPPC Endowment from her Estate. Mel Davis truly let her light shine. Even when she was enduring cancer treatments she was volunteering and busy with the Lord's work – always with a smile on her face. She loved MPPC and her daughter Maryanne Davis is delighted to “sprinkle her love all over the church” by giving money from her estate to the Endowment fund. Mel and Maryanne chose to donate to the Endowment Fund because this allows her light to keep shining and her legacy to continue. Just like Mel cared for her garden, the Endowment grows and is able to sprinkle its love all over the church by giving funds to Christian Education, Worship, Music, and Missions.



We hope that you will also consider being a light like Mel and sprinkle your love all over the church via a gift to the Endowment.

Want to know more? Check out mppc.net/endowment or contact Chairman Harry Smith at 843-708-9556 or Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495.



Have you gotten your Leaf on the Endowment Tree? Are you *leafing* a legacy?

If you don't know about the Endowment Tree, the tree is a large display in the Fellowship Hall designed to recognize those that are leaving funds to the Endowment at their passing. To get a leaf, you need to set up your estate documents to leave money to the church at your death. This can be as simple as giving the church a set dollar amount from your IRA or a line item in your will but there are many options. Several are quite tax efficient!

Have you listed the church in your estate documents and need to get a leaf? Please contact Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495 or Chairman Harry Smith at 843-708-9556 for next steps. Also be sure to visit mppc.net/endowment-tree. Next round of leaves are being ordered **November 15**, please get your paperwork in before then. Call Katie or Harry with questions.

Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Zoe Davis:

Susan Mellichamp

In Memory of Mel Davis:

Maryanne Davis

In Memory of Douglas Mellichamp:

Harry and Ann Douty



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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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.*