

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

December 2021

the pelican



from pastor bart

The Greatest Story Ever Told



Dear Church Family,

We are now on the other side of Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday and Giving Tuesday! We recently worshipped on

Christ the King Sunday and

now we enter the time of Advent as we journey toward Christmas, to *the greatest story ever told!* You know the story, a man in a red suit climbs down your chimney and brings you gifts! No, not that story. Maybe the story of over doing, over spending and exhausting ourselves? No, it's not that story either (trust me, that is not the greatest story ever told!) **The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—that is the greatest story ever told!**

Several years ago, I heard about a group of pastors who came together to help their churches and their communities remember the story of Jesus' birth, "the reason for the season." They called their project the *Advent Conspiracy* (adventconspiracy.org). Their project stands as a reminder that Christmas can still change the world and invites us to be a part of it by celebrating Christmas differently.

Here are the four tenets of their conspiracy and ways in which we can join in.

Worship Fully- We strive to worship fully by keeping our focus on Jesus and participating with him in what he came to do, bring HOPE to a desperate world.

Attend worship services (in person or virtual) when and where you are able, if you are traveling, to worship with your friends and family wherever you are, making it part of your trip.

Spend Less- We spend less by resisting the cultural pressure to celebrate Advent and Christmas through overspending and over consumption.

Cut back on your spending, give meaningful gifts from the heart. You do not have to overdo.

Give More- We give relationally to offer one another presence, rather than merely presents.

Give to a charity of your choice. Use our Wise Giving program as a way to give. Visit someone who is alone, help someone in need or assist someone who may struggle to prepare or decorate for Christmas.

Love All- We take the money we save and LOVE ALL by giving to those in true need. Love the forgotten, the poor, marginalized, and the sick in the way Jesus asked us to.

We were designed to love, as Jesus loved us. Go, let your love and light shine!

The good news of Advent is not that we are faithful in our waiting (we often are not!) but that God is faithful in his coming. Let us begin the season of Advent a bit differently this year, conspire with me and others to remember what Christmas is truly about, and strive to tell the Good News of a Savior who comes to love us and be with us. Let's begin by loving one another and spending time together.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Bart Edwards

Associate Pastor & Interim Head of Staff

church updates

CELEBRATE ADVENT AT MPPC!

TRAVELER'S SERVICE

Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary with overflow in the Fellowship Hall

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Nov. 28 at 4 p.m.
Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.
Caroling around the Old Village meet in the Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Time	Location
4 p.m.	Outdoors - Please bring a chair
6 p.m.	Sanctuary with Fellowship Hall Overflow + Livestream Option
8 p.m.	Sanctuary with FH Overflow
11 p.m.	Sanctuary with FH Overflow

On Sundays, December 26th and January 2nd, there will only be ONE service at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary (with live stream).

Staff Christmas Love Offering

Our MPPC staff blesses us and the ministry God is doing through us every day. That said, it has been a hard year for our staff with the departure of so many, which has necessitated more work for everyone. Our wonderful staff has risen to the challenge.



To show our appreciation, we are collecting a love gift this holiday season. From November 21 through December 5, members can contribute online at onrealm.org/mppc/give/loveoffering, by check or by scanning the QR code. The money collected will then be divided and presented to the staff in advance of Christmas. Thank you for joining together as a church family to bless our wonderful staff. - The Personnel Committee

connected through education

Kids Praise!

Children in grades K-2 have the opportunity during Sunday's 11:00 a.m. service of worship to worship in their own way at Kids Praise! Kids Praise! gathers following the children's message during traditional worship and moves to GH 122 for a special children's story and responding activities. Parents pick up children in GH 122 immediately following worship. We hope your children will join us!

Kids Praise! is volunteer led, so please sign-up here: signupgenius.com/go/4090845afa82baa8-kids or contact Dan Wiard at dwiard@mppc.net.

Kids Praise! meets the first three Sundays of the month when volunteers are in place.



Christmas Eve Family Service

Friday, Dec. 24 | 4 p.m. | Outside

We invite children to participate in the no rehearsal retelling the Christmas story this year outside at 4:00 p.m. **Children should come dressed as the character they would like to be during the story: Shepherds, Angels, Wise People, and Animals.** It will be a fun service of worship for the whole family and will conclude with glow sticks as we sing *Silent Night!* Bring your chairs, blankets if it is cool, and warm your hearts to the story of Jesus's birth with lots of actors.

Children's Christmas Presentation

Sunday, Dec. 12 | 9 a.m. | Outdoor Service

The MPPC Angel Notes and Kingdom Choir will be singing during the Outdoor Worship Service at 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 12.

If your child(ren) is participating, please have them come early for a short rehearsal prior to the service at 8:40 a.m.

Disciple Ship & The Mighty Dinghy

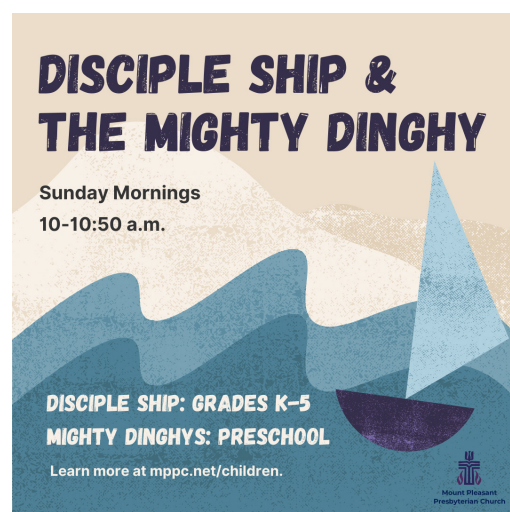
New Theme begins December 12

If you have children in Disciple Ship & the Mighty Dinghy, their curriculum theme changes Sunday, December 12, as they focus on the Christian practice HOPE! Here is what the curriculum says Hope means:

Hope is the name that we give to the spiritual practice of waiting in faith for the promises we know God will keep through Jesus Christ. Hope is not a fleeting feeling—a flimsy wish—instead, hope is grounded in God's faithfulness to God's people and Jesus Christ's life on earth. Hope is threefold: a personal spiritual practice, a practice we share in community, and an evangelistic effort that we proclaim into the world. As Christians, we live lives full of abundant hope, and through the Advent season, we are thrust into this practice of hope anew, as hope itself is born into the world anew.

Schedule Updates:

There will be NO classes Sunday, December 26.



Meeting locations:

The Mighty Dinghy (Preschool)

- 2/3s (SB 102)
- 4s (SB 103)

Disciple Ship (Elementary)

- K-1 grade (SB 203)
- 2-3 grade (SB 204)
- 4-5 grade (SB 205)

connected through education

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

It's the most wonderful time of the year and we are feeling the spirit and cheer in CornerStone Youth Ministry! December can be a crazy time for us all with the shopping, wrapping, and decorating, but yet in the midst of the craziness we must remember that Jesus is what is in the center of it all. Let us not forget that as we get caught up in the hustle and bustle. Personally, I use Advent for a time of reflection for the things that I have been blessed with in the past year. Mount Pleasant Presbyterian, you have been one of those blessings and in particular the youth and youth advisers that make it happen. You can't always wrap the best presents and here are few of the presents that I would like to share with you; a youth professing their faith at school and sharing about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, youth giving up their Wednesday afternoon to volunteer to run the MPPC Fall Festival for Children's Ministry, youth questioning their faith in all the right ways, youth asking me what they can do to make the world a better place, and youth coming together to support and love the church they call home.

So....my presents are never wrapped because they are right in front of my face every single day and they are given to me by the youth that have wonder, excitement, and faith in OUR Lord, Jesus Christ.

We finished up November with a Middle School Presbytery Retreat at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center and the theme was, "We're All in This Together." I cannot think of a more fitting theme for what we have been through recently and it was great to come back with our faith renewed and love for those around us strengthened. Love is what I think about during the season of Advent when I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit surround us. How might you love a little stronger this holiday season? How might you see the face of Jesus in someone who shares different views than you? How might you become a better disciple of Jesus Christ?

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



DECEMBER CORNERSTONE YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, December 1st at 6:30 in Basement:
CornerStone White Elephant Gift Exchange
Christmas Party. Chick- Fil- A provided

Sunday, December 5th

- 10:00- Breakfast In the Basement
- 5:00-7:30- Caroling In Old Village (takes place of CYM) pizza provided
- 6:00-7:00- Confirmation. Pizza provided

Monday, December 6th at 6:30:

High School Youth Christmas Bonfire at Jeff Taylor's. Hot Coco provided. Bring chair and blanket!

Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00: Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, December 8th: NO Programming

Sunday, December 12th

- 10:00- Breakfast In the Basement
- 4:30- Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade Tailgate. Hot coco and pizza will be provided
- NO Confirmation

Tuesday, December 14th: Prayer Breakfast



connected through education

Telling Our Stories

The writers in both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke begin with the genealogy of Jesus. If you do not know who some of the characters are, reading name after name is tedious. The ancestors, however, help give context to Jesus, *whose* he was, the *fulfillment* of prophecy, and *who* he was. The rest of these two Gospels, combined with Mark and John, give us a clear understanding of who Jesus was and what he came to do. Those are stories we do not forget!

Several years ago, a childhood friend did my family's genealogy on my dad's side. I was hoping to discover something exciting, like being related to a former president, a western trailblazer, a prominent immigrant, or someone noteworthy in history. Those pieces eluded my ancestors but just the same, my ancestors were important, and they left their mark for generations to come.

At the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network conference this past October, one of the presenters talked about leaving our legacy. With vast technology at our fingertips, our tools for leaving

our story to our children are tremendous. We can take pictures and videos, create a digital storybook, or author a novel (okay, a short story), yet I wonder how many of us take time to tell our story. (If you are interested in learning more about how you can create a memory book, contact me!)

Whether we are documenting our story or leaving our narrative to oral tradition, each day we are alive we draft our story. This Advent, consider the story you write. One of the most powerful, authentic acts you can do to add to your story is give someone else the gift of your love. Through words and action, tell someone you love them. Tell them they are important. Tell them that God loves them, too. Through acts of love, those are the greatest pieces of our story we write. And THAT can change the world!

Christmas Blessings,

Dr. Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



Sunday Morning Adult Small Group +1 Locations

- Connect 3 (GH 223/225, 10:00 a.m.)
- Seekers and Sowers (Zoom, 10 a.m.)
- The Harbor (GH 222, 10 a.m.)
- Youngish Adults (GH 123/125, 10 a.m.)
- The Middle (SB 210, 10 a.m.)
- Academy of St. John (SB 206 with Zoom option, 9:30 a.m.)



Advent Studies

Three of our Sunday morning adult small groups are using an Advent study this season. Here is a quick look at the studies if you would like to get involved and participate!

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas, by Adam Hamilton. His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. Best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. (Academy of Saint John, SB 206, 9:30 a.m. with Zoom option)

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem, by Adam Hamilton. In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with

Jesus' crucifixion in 24 Hours That Changed the World, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. (Connect 3, GH 223/225, 10:00 a.m.)

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, by Amy-Jill Levine. Advent is not only the perfect time to read the story of the birth of Jesus; it's also a great time to dive deeper into the biblical texts that surround the event. In the book, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine shows how the Gospel narratives connect to the Old Testament; highlights the role of women in first-century Jewish culture; and emphasizes the importance of Mary's visitation, the census, the stable, the star of Bethlehem, and the flight to Egypt. (The Middle, SB 210, 10:00 a.m.)

connected through hope



Counting Our Blessings

*"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
his love endures forever."
- 2 Hebrews 12:28-29*

'Tis the Season – of sharing, of coming together, of anticipating the birth of Christ and all the promise that holds.

While it has been another challenging year, we at Hope House are counting our blessings. The pandemic allowed us to make some much needed improvements.

William and Anna Laye and their sons have taken on the task of making the House look festive, both inside and out, as they have in years past.

The House and Hope Cottage is gradually reopening, once again providing guests, who are miles from home, with some peace and comfort as they tend to loved ones in hospitals here.

And this month marks four years since Gene Talbott received a new kidney. He and his wife Karen recently wrote:

"It is with gratitude that we look back at my kidney transplant and the months we were graciously ministered to through Hope House until my kidney was functioning well enough for us to return home. We thank the Lord for the kidney and for the blessing MPPC was to us in a difficult time."

Our gratitude to those of you who are choosing a Wise Gift from Hope House this season.

Wishing you a most blessed and Merry Christmas.

December Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

DECEMBER 8 - 18

In Memory of William E. Twilley, Sr.
and Mildred Twilley, parents of Edward
(Eddie) Twilley, Jr.; Given by Eddie
Twilley and Beth Fondren

DECEMBER 21

In Memory of Virginia Gilliam;
Given by Beth Moore

DECEMBER 25

In Honor of Sam and Betsy Clawson;
Given by Ann and Rob Crowder

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



Thank you to all the children,
youth, staff, parents and
volunteers who made the Fall
Festival on November 3rd a
success!



connected through mission

WISE GIVING

Nov. 21 - Dec. 23
mppc.net/wise-giving

Wise Giving is MPPC's annual, alternative gift giving campaign that supports local and international mission partners. A Wise Gift is a double gift. The person who is honored by a Wise Gift will be blessed by knowing that someone is being helped, and the partner who receives your donation helps someone in need. It is also a wonderful way to introduce your children to the true meaning of Christmas.

Give a Gift of Hope and Love. Give a Wise Gift.

MPPC Angel Tree

As members of MPPC we are all called to love and help our neighbors and the Angel Tree is an opportunity to share the joy of Christmas with children and families in our area. The Angel Tree serves five area elementary and middle schools, as well as Windwood Farms. In early November we reached out to the guidance counselors of each school asking for families who they believe would benefit from our program. Each family is asked for items that would be beneficial for their children and the family.

This year we will be using Sign Up Genius to pick an angel. Each child has two angels on the "tree," one for clothes and one for toys. The items listed for the angel are the wish list of the families, please feel free to get what you see fit.

You do not have to purchase it all. Once you have selected an angel from Sign Up genius please have your gift wrapped or in a gift bag to the church by December 12th. All wrapped gifts need to be placed on the Fellowship Hall table with a label attached including the Angel's name and number. (Ex: Angel #3, Sally). Visit mppc.net/pick-an-angel for the Sign Up Genius link.



connected through community

Wondering

1st Monday of the Month
via Zoom, 7 – 8 p.m.

On December 6, *Wondering* will explore the Christmas stories from Matthew and Luke. I wonder if it was anything like our manger scenes. *Wondering* is a Bible study where we encourage questions; it is a Bible study that might have more questions than answers. Bring your Bibles and an open mind as we explore the Bible! Sign up at mppc.net/events to receive the Zoom link or contact Dan Wiard at dwiard@mppc.net.

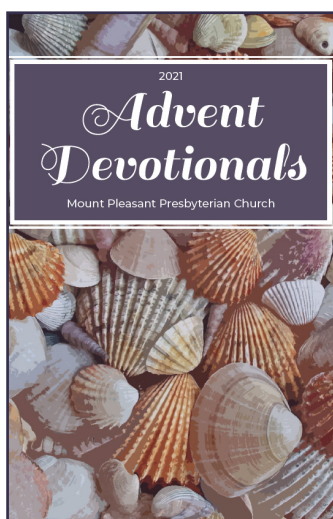


MPPC CHRISTMAS CAROLING

DECEMBER 5, 2021 FROM 5-7:30 P.M.
MEET IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are excited to gather the MPPC family together to spread Christmas cheer around the Old Village! We will also be asking our neighboring churches to join us for caroling, pizza and hot chocolate. Please join us at 5pm to review the songs, begin caroling at 5:15 and return to the church at 6:15 for pizza and hot chocolate.

No singing talent required, just a desire to spread cheer. Thankfully we will have several members of our choir to help those of us who struggle to carry a tune!



Advent Devotional Available Online and in the Church Office!

Written by MPPC members and staff, and created by the MPPC Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team, these booklets are a wonderful addition to your faith journey during the season of Advent. Booklets are available today on the MPPC website: mppc.net/christian-education/ for a digital use or download.

The In-Between Bible Study

Advent Schedule

FRI., DEC. 3
AT 6 P.M.

Holiday Social and Study

We will host a potluck at Courtney's house. Please read Weeks 1 (Mark's House) and 2 (Matthew's House), as well as the reflections and prayers from these weeks for us to discuss.

WED., DEC. 15
AT 6 P.M.

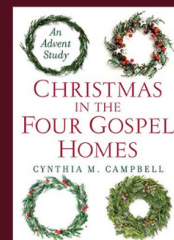
Study and Service

Please finish the book. We will meet at MPPC for another discussion and then head to the Traveler's Service together at 7 p.m.

Our Advent Study

Christmas in the Four
Gospel Homes: An Advent
Study by Cynthia M.
Campbell

Available via Amazon (\$12)



What is the In-Between?

This is a young adult group at MPPC for those of us at the "in between" stage of our lives. Some of us just graduated college or just reactivated our Bumble, others of us just had our first kid or celebrated our first wedding anniversary, but all of us have no clue what we're actually supposed to be doing. We are searching physically and spiritually for a great group of people to be around who we can connect with and is "The In-Between."

connected through community



**THE MPPC
STAFF &
PASTORS
WISH YOU
A VERY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

Reminder: The church
office will be closed
Dec. 27 – Dec. 31, 2021
and Monday, Jan. 3, 2022



Year End Giving Announcement

The ministries of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church are dependent upon your financial generosity. Thank you for your participation in the church's mission through your tithes and offerings. As we wind down 2021 and you prepare to give during November and December, here are a few items of note:

1. There are several ways to give, including cash, check, via a charitable trust, directly from your 401(K) account, online via ACH or credit card, or via stock transfer. If you're giving online, please note it is less expensive for the church if you use ACH (bank account and routing number).
2. If you wish for your gift to be included on your 2021 giving statement, please be sure to begin the process by mid-December, especially for gifts of stock and 401(K) distributions. It takes several days for your broker to complete a stock transfer to our Morgan Stanley account, and generally a few weeks to process a 401(K) or charitable trust distribution.
3. If you plan to mail a gift, it must be at MPPC or postmarked by December 31, 2021. You are encouraged to mail earlier rather than later due to possible USPS delays. If your gift is post-marked or dropped off after December 31, your gift will not post to your 2021 giving statement.

If you have questions about any of the above, feel free to contact Glenn Hair at (843)-884-4612 ext. 240 or ghair@mppc.net.

Endowment Gifts:

Given by:

Nancy Lewis
Don and Terri Horres

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.





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.*