



the pelican

Get Ready for Lent!

Join us on Sunday, February 27th for the Lenten Small Group Kickoff.

Volunteer Opportunities

Hope House; Hibben Emergency Cold Shelter; The Circle of Welcome & More.

Register for Activities & Events for All Ages

MPPC has it all! From faith formation opportunities throughout the week for children, youth and adults, to fellowship events like our annual Oyster Roast and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser- we hope you'll join us for something! And be sure to save the dates for the Men's & Women's Retreats too.

from rev. dr. debeer



My Friends,

Thank you all
for the friendly
welcome
Annette and I
have received.
It exceeds
everything we
have experienced

thus far in any

congregation! We are looking forward to getting to know y'all better and working to create space at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church for everyone who is looking for a spiritual home.

We are certainly living in interesting times to say the least. Our son recently had some symptoms of the Omicron variant and he said to me that he felt "dirty" and didn't want to talk to people at work. Our son is truly a "people-person" so it was very surprising that he no longer felt comfortable interacting with his coworkers. After this conversation with him, I began to really understand first-hand just how great the impact of the pandemic can be on our relationships.

We've essentially had to relearn how to be social with one another, and in the future, I believe that we'll have to be even more intentional in order to connect with those around us. We must allow ourselves the freedom to visit with others when we are healthy, and trust that people who have symptoms of whatever infectious disease, even as minor as a cold, will tell us.

Maybe this is a new calling, to work on trusting each other, and for us even more so as people who have been called to follow the Messiah, Jesus our Lord.

In 1527, Martin Luther understood our calling as believers when he wrote the following regarding the bubonic plague:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely."

My door is open, and I'd love to visit with anyone who feels up to it. Please reach out to me at [**ddebeer@mppc.net**](mailto:ddebeer@mppc.net) you'd like to meet and contribute to my knowledge and understanding of the history of MPPC.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Danie DeBeer

Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

get ready for lent



Intergenerational Kickoff Sunday, Feb. 27, 4-5:30 p.m.

Conditions allowing, we hope to begin Lent as a Church family, gathered around tables, sharing a light dinner, having conversations about Lent and Easter, and creating a Resurrection Garden that we can watch transform from something barren and parched to something rich and nourishing during the 40 days of Lent. Reservations are required at mppc.net/events or by contacting Dan Wiard at dwiard@mppc.net or Trish Snead at tsnead@mppc.net in the church office.

About Small Groups: Registration for Small Groups begins February 1, 2022. Participants can sign up for specific or "open" small groups via Realm or by contacting Trish Snead in the church office. You can access and sign up for a group facilitator through your Realm account by going to [community/groups/2022 Lent Small Groups](#). An "open" group means that you are interested in that small group format (in-person or virtual) and are open to who facilitates your group. "Open" group registrants will be paired with a group.

If you would like to facilitate a small group, please contact Dan Wiard or Trish Snead at the church.

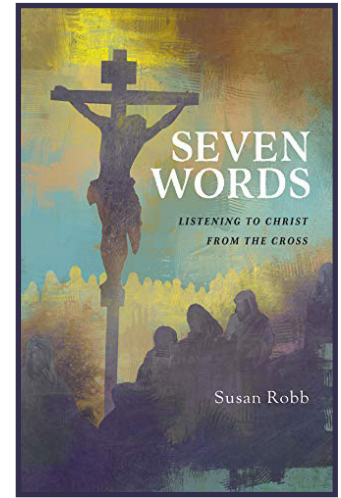
About the Book:

This year we use the book *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*, by Susan Robb, as our Lenten small group study. Robb says, "Jesus's last words, uttered as he was dying on Good Friday, offer us the opportunity to lean in and listen

closely for messages that are for us. These statements, collected from the various Gospel accounts, have traditionally been called the seven last words of Jesus. It is particularly important to listen to them during Lent because Jesus calls on us to go on the same journey that led him to Golgotha.

According to the Gospel writers, he made that call graphically, painfully explicit: 'If any want to become my followers, let them . . . take up their cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34). To hear Jesus's dying words as guideposts for our own journey is to reclaim the power of the words to two beautiful hymns: 'Must Jesus bear the cross alone, / and all the world go free? / No, there's a cross for everyone, / and there's a cross for me.' Christ's words become, for us, not merely dying words but words that show us how to live. They point the way as we seek to carry out the mission that we undertake when we commit to follow him and 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim / till all the world adore his sacred name.'" – (Robb, *Introduction Seven Words*, Page 10)

Suggested book donation: \$10.00



connected through education

Children's Wednesday at the Well

Children are back on Wednesday nights beginning February 2 as JAM, Kids Alive, Bible Time & Crafts, Angel Notes and Kingdom Choir return. Each of the groups will pick up where they left off and newcomers and friends are always invited! The last Wednesday of the program will be April 6. Here's a quick breakdown of their evening schedule:

4:45-5:30 p.m. – JAM (grades k-2), Kids Alive (grades 3-5)
5:00-5:30 p.m. – Angel Notes (preschool)*
5:30-6:00 p.m. – Kingdom Choir (grades k-5)*
5:30-6:00 p.m. – Bible Time & Crafts (preschool)

*Angel Notes and Kingdom Choir will sing during worship on Palm Sunday.



Sunday Morning's Disciple Ship & the Mighty Dinghy Sundays, 10:00-10:50 a.m. (Grace Hall and Sea Brook Buildings)



Children continue learning about different Christian practices through their Sunday morning education time using the PCUSA Follow Me curriculum. The theme for February is the practice of Living in Community.

"We all live in communities. Even those who intentionally live away by themselves may have online communities where they connect with others. It is the rare person who is not part of some community. The unit focuses on how to live in community intentionally, with great care and love for neighbor, as a spiritual practice. From a faith perspective, living in community as a spiritual practice is an opportunity to turn our everyday, ordinary interactions with others into something holy and full of God's love. It is especially important that young children start learning about this." - (Leader's Guide: Live in Community Overview. PCUSA Follow Me curriculum)

Bethelwoods Summer Camp Now Open!

Have you ever been to camp? If you have, you know the value of the experience and friendships you create in one short week. Often those experiences last a lifetime and are transformative for children. Bethelwoods is our 157 acre wooded Presbytery Camp. Located in York, SC, and just minutes southwest of Charlotte, summer camp programs are available for children who completed grades 1-8, with leadership camps available for high school young people. You can learn more about Bethelwoods at www.bethelwoods.org.

If you would like to have a "church week" when others from MPPC attend, email Dan Wiard with the grade your child will be completing and the week(s) you are considering, and we will see if we can coordinate an "MPPC week."



connected through education

Getting Involved is Just One Click Away!

One aspect of ministry I appreciate and am in awe of is that we are called by Christ to serve in the Church – to be his hands and feet in ministry! THAT is a privilege beyond measure. There are many opportunities for you to serve in the education ministry of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Here are some of the immediate opportunities and either a link or location of where to sign up!

- **Kids Praise!** - Children's Worship for ages K-2 the first three Sundays of the month during the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship
 - Volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-kids
- **JAM** - "Jesus and Me" for children grades K-2 during Wednesdays at the Well is a special Bible based weekday program with a slightly different flavor than Sunday mornings
 - Volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-wednesdays
- **Kids Alive** - A "youth group" style program for children grades 3-5
 - Volunteer at www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-wednesdays
- **Lent Adult Small Group Leader/participant** - 6-week church wide study using Susan Robb's book *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*.
 - Description and sign up available through Realm, or contact Dan Wiard or Trish Snead in the church office
- **Men's Retreat** - Sign up through Realm or Dan Wiard beginning February 16, 2022

Dr. Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



SAVE THE DATE

**Stepping Up:
Calling Men to
Courageous Manhood**

A MEN'S RETREAT AT MPPC

**Friday, April 22, 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, April 23, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Childcare Available Upon Request

MPPC Men's Retreat Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood April 22-23, 2022

This year's men's retreat is called "Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood" and will be led by The Rev. Dr. Ralph Herbert. Ralph is the former Senior Pastor of Great Bridge Presbyterian Church in Great Bridge, Virginia and currently serves on the staff of Summerville Presbyterian Church in Summerville, SC.



Through video, talks by Ralph, and breakout groups, men will have the opportunity to dialogue with other men about the challenges of living our faith in transitional times.

Topics include living courageously as a disciple of Christ, mentoring, and leadership, with notable speakers Tony Dungy, Bill Bennett, and Matt Chandler.

Save the date now; details coming! Registration begins February 16 through Realm.

connected through education

We're Back!

I know they say that when one makes plans for their life, God laughs and recently God must be laughing a lot with all of the plans that were made for 2022. It is hard having to switch up so many events due to COVID numbers rising, but sometimes you "got to do what you got to do." We were *supposed* to start January off with a lot of new youth events but they had to be put on hold or moved to Zoom until the Omicron numbers decreased.

This makes me wonder why? Why is all of this happening again when momentum for all things youth ministry was high in December? Youth need the connection and community that Cornerstone Youth Ministry brings to MPPC, but they also need to stay safe and keep others safe as well. Truth is...I do not know why, but I do know that we are ready to come back to youth events, ready to support one another, and ready to love one another. CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC is in a very bright spot and I am excited to see what 2022 holds. We are back in person for weekly youth events, and it is good to see after a very strange January.

We are so excited to invite ALL of you to the CornerStone Youth Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on February 16th at MPPC. This is open to everyone, and we will have dinner, music, silent auction, and great food! You can buy tickets now through Realm by visiting mppc.net/events.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Feb. 2: CYM Praise and Serve Night at 6:30

Feb. 3: High School Youth Thursdays Together at 7:00 a.m.

Feb. 4-6: High School Ski Trip

Feb. 11-13: High School Bethelwoods Presbytery Retreat

Feb. 13: Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Feb. 16: CornerStone Youth Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



KISS ME

LOVE YOU

BE MINE

CHARM ME

YOU & ME

TRUE LOVE

CORNERSTONE YOUTH MINISTRY

VALENTINE'S SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER

JOIN US FOR FUN, FOOD, MUSIC, AND A SILENT AUCTION ALL PUT ON BY THE MPPC YOUTH

02.16.22

PURCHASE TICKETS ON REALM OR CONTACT COURTNEY

6:00-8:00

ADULTS: \$13
KIDS: 12 AND UNDER \$7

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT



connected through hope

We'd Love Your Help at Hope House!

*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."
Proverbs 16:9*

Life is full of ups and downs...we have all had times that were easier than others. Sometimes it seems we are bombarded with struggles. Volunteers at Hope House often find themselves listening to stories from the hearts of guests who feel they don't have the strength to carry on. Many have loved ones who have had extended illnesses. They have been away from their homes for months, trying to juggle household bills, hospital bills and the constant concern for the health and well being of their loved ones.

God didn't promise life would be easy; he just promised he would walk us through it. When life is easy, sometimes our faith isn't challenged and tested because our faith isn't growing. When life gets more difficult, we lean more into God and our faith grows.

I must admit, twelve years ago, when I was called to be Director of Hope House, I was filled with doubt. I didn't know if I could listen to stories from our guests without getting emotional. I didn't know if I would respond as God wanted me to. What I knew was that I was being called! Being a part of this ministry has been such a positive experience and I am so glad that I accepted the calling! It has become a true passion.

Many times, the volunteers are the only people guests have to talk to. We try hard to be good listeners, to show compassion and understanding

for each person we meet. This is the link in the chain that connects volunteers to the ministry. It gives volunteers the desire to return for another shift. Hope House volunteer positions have been easily filled year after year. Many have been involved in the ministry since our doors opened.

Now, because of the ongoing pandemic, our list of volunteers is shorter. Many of us are seniors who have had to step away from volunteering due to health issues. Although our guests show proof of being fully vaccinated, the risk is still too great for some. This is certainly understandable!

We need help! We have multiple ways in which one can volunteer. Some require no contact with guests, such as the grounds keeper. Our loving and devoted Rhett Moore, who kept our planters full of flowers and prayer garden beautiful, has moved away to be closer to her Mother. Some help stock our freezer with meals for our guests, so they don't have to worry about the high cost of restaurants in our area. Some help with financial support. The Caretaker position has several openings.

We have very flexible shifts. Sign up calendars are sent out at the end of each month and you can choose morning or afternoon shifts, once a week or once a month. We also have openings for Team Leaders who coordinate guests registration through the hospital case managers. If you are looking for

a way to fill a void in your life and would like a tour of Hope House, please call me at (843) 532-4892. I would love to meet you at the house for a tour and see if any of our volunteer opportunities are of interest to you.

We would love to have you on our ministry team!

Blessings,
Beth Moore



February Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

FEBRUARY 1

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Susan Burke

FEBRUARY 6

In Memory of Margret Stiepel, Angi Case's Mother; Given by Paul and Elizabeth Grantham

FEBRUARY 10

In Honor of my my Granddaughter, Lilly Spring's 15th Birthday; Given by Nancy Springs

FEBRUARY 14

In Memory of Margret Stiepel, Angi Case's Mother; Given by HH Ministry Team

FEBRUARY 28

Happy Birthday to Beth Moore; Given by the HH Ministry Team

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



Looking for a faith formation opportunity?

The Youngish Adults Group meets on Sunday mornings during the education hour. They also have fun events like this beach bonfire!

Find out more at mppc.net/adults.



connected through mission

Donations Needed: Helping Afghan Refugees

Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, All Saints Lutheran Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints comprise a "Circle of Welcome", joining together with Lutheran Services Refugee and Immigrant Services to assist in the relocation of an Afghan family in Mt. Pleasant. There are several "Circle of Welcome" groups in Greater Charleston; our group is the only one in East of the Cooper.



Donations of the following are needed: beds and other furniture. Please contact Stacy Hanling at church prior to delivering any items, so the storage can be arranged; she can be contacted at 843-884-4612 and shanling@mppc.net. Also, temporary storage space such as part of a garage or other storage space, and moving teams with trucks, vans and manpower on moving day will be needed.

Monetary donations can be made directly to All Saints Lutheran Church, noting on the comment line "Refugee Outreach" and by marking on the envelope Attention: Lisa Rebula. The address is All Saints Lutheran Church, 2107 US Highway 17, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466



CAJM Winter Congregational Network Meeting Feb. 7, 6:30 via Zoom

Attention, MPPC CAJM Network Members – Remember to mark your calendars for our Winter Congregational Meeting on Monday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 via Zoom. This will be a great opportunity for us to reconnect with one another and other CAJM congregations and prepare for the Nehemiah Action Assembly.

If you are not already an MPPC Charleston Area Justice Ministry Network Member, but are interested in working with other communities of faith to help tackle important issues in our area like flooding, affordable housing, healthcare accessibility, racial equity and public education, please contact one of our current network team leaders for more information:

- Elizabeth Amory (elizabethamory@hotmail.com);
- Tom Ashbaugh (tom.ashbaugh@gmail.com);
- Coleman Legerton (colelege@gmail.com);
- Towner Magill (townermagill@gmail.com);
- Sue Verner (sverner@bellsouth.net);
- Andy White Boggan (whiteagwb@gmail.com)

Consider Donating Your Clothing and Time to the Hibben Emergency Cold Shelter

Did you know the Hibben United Methodist Church on Coleman Boulevard is the only emergency cold shelter in our town? On freezing nights, they open up their facility and provide a safe, warm overnight shelter for anyone who needs it which includes a hot supper, cots with blankets, fluffy towels for the shower, a hot breakfast in the morning, and a bag lunch to take with them.

This is an amazing ministry and they need help! Every freezing night they need many volunteers to make this happen. Needs include the food preparation team, set up team, hospitality team, two different overnight shifts from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and 2-6 a.m., and then the breakdown team. Volunteers are background checked prior to serving. In addition, there is a need for men's coats and warm hats. No other clothing is needed at this time. If you would like to donate men's coats and hats, there is a plastic bin located at the MPPC receptionist desk.

Please consider helping our guests see the love of Jesus Christ by our love to them. For more information, contact Theresa Reed at MPPC at theresareed2000@gmail.com or Polly Graham at Hibben at polly.graham11@gmail.com.

connected through community



Learning Center Registration Now Open for 22-23 School Year

The Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Learning Center has begun enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. All of the forms and more information can be found at mppc.net/the-learning-center. Contact Learning Center Director Lori Baney with any questions at lbaney@mppc.net.



Wondering...

First Monday of the Month, 7 p.m., Zoom

On February 7, Wondering will explore the story of the Syrophoenician Woman in Mark 7:24-30 (also Matthew 15:21-28). Bring your Bible and an open mind as we explore some difficult passages in the Bible! Register at mppc.net/events.

Deadline for Nominations is Feb. 14, 2022

The MPPC Nominating Committee requests your prayerful recommendations for church officers with spiritual gifts for service and leadership. Online forms are available at mppc.net/nominations. Forms may also be filled out and submitted in the church office.

Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Michael Helmly:

Kevin and Page Hauck



Oyster Roast and Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb. 13th from 5 to 7 p.m.

Outside on the MPPC Campus

Join us for our annual oyster roast! Register at mppc.net/events to get the early bird discount below:

- \$15/person Oysters, Chili, and Hotdogs
- FAMILY MAX FOR OYSTERS, CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$40.
- \$8/person Chili and Hotdogs
- FAMILY MAX FOR CHILI AND HOTDOGS IS \$25.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MPPC Parlor at 10 a.m.



connected through community

Meet Our Guest Preacher on Feb. 27th

We are privileged to welcome the Rev. Paul Timothy Roberts, President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, as our guest preacher on February 27. A native of Stamford, CT, Paul grew up in Bradenton, FL. He graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture and African American Studies and worked in the business sector in New York City for eight years. He earned his M.Div. from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. From 1997 through 2010, he served as pastor of Church of the Master (PCUSA), a church founded in 1965 in Atlanta, GA, as an intentionally interracial congregation.

Under Paul's leadership, JCSTS has redefined itself—and is helping redefine theological education and expanding social justice understanding in the process. An historically Black, Presbyterian-affiliated, theological seminary with a distinguished 154-year record of service to the church, JCSTS began to experience significant declines in enrollment in the early 2000s. With low enrollment during the fall of 2010, the seminary's closure seemed imminent.

Paul's first order of business upon being named President in 2010 was to build a new institutional culture—one that is welcoming to persons with no regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or class; seeks and engages in ecumenical partnerships; is not risk-averse; and adapts readily to the changing circumstances of church and society. Bolder moves followed as Paul reconstituted the seminary's board of trustees, declined previous affiliations with unimaginative agencies, discontinued the Master of Divinity degree, launched a new online platform, and centered the seminary's educational program around liberation theology and social justice. Today, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary advances communities of faith, justice, and compassion through innovation in theological education. Hundreds of people now engage annually in the seminary's affordable, justice-oriented programs.



Volunteers Needed: Vacation Bible School

June 20-24



Are you an empty nester, but miss spending time with children? Are you retired and looking for a meaningful way to engage with our youngest church members? We need your help to make VBS a success! Contact Rebecca Sailor rebeccw79@yahoo.com for more information.

Friday, March 4th - Sunday, March 6th

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022

Welcoming Sabbath: Time Worth Keeping

Join us in March for a hometown Women's Retreat here in Mount Pleasant!

Saturday, March 5 is the main event, with a social that Friday evening & women-led worship on the MPPC campus that Sunday.

Suzy Edwards & Griselda Larney will co-lead our program, with a message focused on making space for worship, rest and renewal in our lives. This uplifting weekend will give participants a chance to connect and recharge, with time for enrichment and fellowship.

Register at mppc.net/events
beginning January 10th - February 24th



MPPC Garden Club

If you are interested in helping out with the landscaping around the church and the Hope House, please contact Stacy Hanling at shanling@mppc.net. Green thumbs not required! We look forward to hearing from all who are interested.

- The Property & Grounds Committee





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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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.*