

# the pelican

## **Journey into Lent**

Check out page 2 for more information about worship opportunities!

## **Meet Our New Assistant Director of Christian Education!**

Jessica Kluesner joined us in February. There will be a meet and greet for Children's Ministry families on the playground after the 11 AM service on March 6.

## **Stay Informed on Upcoming Events:**

*March 2: Ash Wednesday*

*March 4-6: Women's Retreat*

*March 6: 3rd Grade Bible Presentation & 1st graders in worship celebrate communion*

*March 13: New Member Class*

*March 13: Second Sunday Speaker Series*



# from rev. dr. debeer



## **What happens during “interim time?”**

I prefer to call this the time of transition.

William Bridges pointed out that there is a difference between change and

transition (Bridges, William. *Managing Transitions. Making the Most of Change*. Nicholas Brealey Publishing, London/Boston).

Change happens in our environment, e.g. a new job, a move, a birth, a death, a pastor leaving. In other words, external events. Transition has to do with an inner, psychological re-orientation of self-redefinition.

Every transition has three phases:

### **Phase One: The Ending**

Unless people can make a real ending, they will be unable to make a successful beginning. You must let go of old things and attachments — not just outwardly, but inwardly too — before you can pick a new one. The first phase is the difficult process of letting go of old behaviors, realities, loyalties, attitudes. Letting go of the old situation allows one to enter a neutral zone.

### **Phase Two: The Neutral Zone**

The neutral zone is a dangerous time for organizations (and churches). In this zone we decide intentionally what we are leaving behind and determine our losses. Participants in this phase are often in denial, shock, confused, angry, frustrated, cynical, desperate, and all the emotions we experience during times of grief.

Gradually these emotions are worked through and understood, and give way to acceptance, hope and enthusiasm. It is also a time of creativity and new energy, a time when innovations and experiments have an especially good chance of succeeding.

### **Phase Three: A New Beginning**

After going through each of these first two phases of transition, people can deal successfully with the final phase — a new beginning. People engage with new energy, establish new roles, and have a sense of purpose. With a new outlook, we begin to understand the part we play, and how to contribute and participate most effectively.

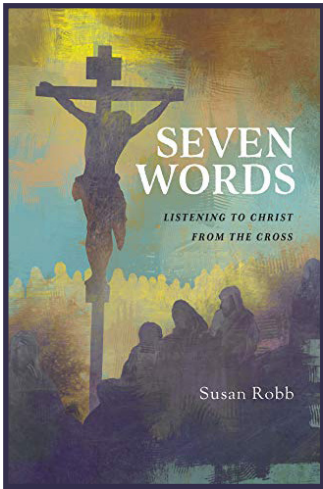
I've listened to many of you, and your experiences of what has happened since the beginning of this millennium. I've realized that we haven't entered a neutral zone just yet. We are still negotiating the ending. Thank you for everyone who made time to talk to me. Please continue to discuss your different experiences with me in person, or per email or a telephone call. Through these conversations, we will be able to move forward to start a new beginning together.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Dr. Danie DeBeer**  
Interim Pastor & Head of Staff



# seven words - a lenten journey



During Lent, small groups at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church will be gathering around the passages from the gospels that have traditionally been called the seven last words of Jesus. Worship services during this holy

season also will focus on these offerings from Scripture.

## ASH WEDNESDAY March 2

*"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." – Luke 23: 34*

The Lenten Journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. The ashes which are placed on our foreheads in the shape of the cross symbolize our mortality, the brokenness of our lives, and our need for forgiveness.

At MPPC, we will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with the first of the SEVEN WORDS, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (Luke 23:34)

The sanctuary will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You are invited to receive the imposition of ashes from a pastor at any time during those hours. At the beginning of each hour, the church bell will be rung followed by a five-minute liturgy of Scripture and prayer.

A worship service which will include music, a brief homily, and the imposition of ashes will begin in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

## 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT March 6

*"Welcoming Sabbath: Time Worth Keeping"* Worship led by Suzy Edwards, Griselda Lartey, and participants in the MPPC Women's Retreat.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT March 13

*"Today you will be with me in Paradise"*  
– Luke 23: 43

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT March 20

*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" – Mark 15: 34*

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT March 27

*"Woman, here is your son." – John 19: 26*

## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT April 3

*"I am thirsty." – John 19: 28*

## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY April 10

*Procession of the Palms*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY April 14

*"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." – Luke 23: 46*

## GOOD FRIDAY April 15

*"It is finished." – John 19:30*

# connected through education

## March is a Busy Month for MPPC Children!

If you are in either Sunday worship service on March 6, you will be blessed by our children's benchmark celebrations! At the **9 a.m. service**, we recognize our Third Graders in worship with the gift of NIV Adventure Bibles. March 6 marks the beginning of their four-week exploration discovering the story of God's love in the Bible. They will meet during the 10 a.m. Disciple Ship hour and will spend time learning how to use their Bible and some of its history in how it came to be.

During the **11 a.m. service** on March 6, our First Graders in Worship will celebrate communion with their families. These children spent six weeks learning why and how we worship at MPPC. These children had a tremendous challenge learning about worship when much of their previous two years have been spent worshipping online.

Congratulations to both groups of children! Continue to keep them in your prayers as they're early in their faith journeys and will look to you as mentors through which they will learn about God.

*Children who signed up for First Grade Worship include: Mac Ansley, Carter Cline, Caroline Corley, Katherine Corley, Haywood Cross Jr., Barre Deleot, Ada DeStefano, Charlotte Deupree, Chandler Edwards, Julia Edwards, Sam Harris, Burchell Heuring, Avery Jewell, William Keeney, Grace Koepcke, Fitz Lee, Elsie June Marshall, Betty Reece Pearson, Ella Rae Smith, Dixon Wendell, Duncan Williams, Henry Womble, and Russell Word.*

*Children who are signed up to participate in Third Grade Worship and will receive a Bible on March 6: Thomas Arthur, Lauren Billian, Vaughn Brown, George Bullwinkel IV, Matthew Cline, Ruthie Dodd, Arlie Duffey, J.R. Dunlap, Samuel Haney, Will Hines, Bo Jones, Weller Magill, Lawton Masters, Mills Montgomery, Finn Murphy, Hayes Pressley, Ramsey Sailor, Florence Sowards, Joseph Strickland, Kate Walton, and Mills Womble.*

## Vacation Bible School 2022 June 20-24, 9 AM-12:30 PM Food Truck Party

We hope children of all ages who completed preK 3's and 4's to grade 5 are excited about Vacation Bible



School at MPPC this summer. Our "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God!" VBS moves back into June this year as we invite children of all ages to get on a roll with God as a parade of Food Trucks rolls into our neighborhood for the summer's biggest party!

This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all our daily needs are met.

This year's co-directors are Rebecca Sailor and Katie Lucy. Registration is open for children of church members beginning March 1 and is open to the community on March 8!

Please register through your Realm account.

## Introducing Jessica!

Hello, Hello to everyone here at MPPC! My name is Jessica Kluesner, and I'm the new Assistant Director of Christian Education with a focus on Children's Ministry. I moved to the Charleston area in June from Indiana and have been loving it ever since! I am very close to my family (parents, and twin brothers), and they visit often so you'll be able to meet them as well. I have the cutest little puppy, a 5-year-old Morkie, named Indiana and believe me, she knows she's cute!

I am very excited and thankful for the opportunity to work here and look forward to getting to know you all better as time goes on. I grew up in the Methodist church and believe that when Christian Education starts with our children, that gives them a firm foundation to build their lifelong relationship with God. I vividly remember as a child attending Church, Sunday School, Church Camp, and VBS and I'm looking forward to giving your children all those same opportunities and memories.

If you have any questions or just want to chit-chat, shoot me an email [jkluesner@mppc.net](mailto:jkluesner@mppc.net) or stop by my office! Can't wait to meet you all!

God Bless,



**Jessica Kluesner**  
Assistant Director of  
Christian Education





**Does this look like fun? It is!**

**Children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to join us every Wednesday for Wednesdays at the Well from 4:45-6 p.m.!**

## **WEDNESDAYS AT THE WELL**

**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 3's and 4's)

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





# connected through education

## Back in the Swing of Spring!

Spring has finally sprung, and I am writing to you all this month with great excitement because I was accepted into Princeton Theological Seminary Youth Ministry Institute last month! I will be taking an eight-month program completely virtual so I can still serve the youth ministry needs at MPPC. I am excited for this opportunity to grow my faith, better my education, and serve the members of MPPC. I am excited to join my cohort of other individuals from all backgrounds and denominations. I will keep you posted on my journey, and I appreciate your love, support and prayers!

I wanted to thank everyone, but especially Jimmy Purcell (our chef) and the youth (our servers) for an AMAZING CornerStone Youth Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser. We have over 150 people attend this event and we raised over \$2,000. This money will be used to cut down on the price of youth trips this spring and summer. I left this event with the largest smile on my face because there were friends, church members, and family from all ages enjoying an evening from our youth. They worked very hard to pull this off and appreciate your support!

**Courtney Kraus**

*Director of Youth Ministries*



## LOOKING AHEAD:

**Mar. 19:** Confirmation DAY RETREAT at MPPC

**Apr. 22-24:** High School Youth Awanita Retreat

**May 1:** Confirmation Sunday at the 9 a.m. service

**May 15:** Youth Sunday at both worship services



# connected through education

## 2022 Lenten Small Group Study

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."

It's not too late to join a small group this Lent! Small Groups will meet for six-weeks during Lent. Each gathering lasts about 1 hour and includes fellowship and discussion using the *Seven Words* book. Some of the groups will meet via Zoom, others in-person, and groups are scattered throughout the week. Participants can sign up for specific or "open" small groups

via Realm or by contacting Trish Snead at the church. 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.

Suggested book donation: \$10  
Books are available to pick up in the church office.

## You're Starting to Connect in Volunteering And You Still Can!

We are so appreciative of you when you can respond to the call to serve Christ in the Church – to be his hands and feet in ministry! YOU are a gift, and you might be the only "Bible" someone will "read." Thank you! There continues to be many opportunities for you to serve in the education ministry of MPPC. 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 a.m. service. Volunteer at [www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-kids](http://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](http://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](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-wednesdays).
- **Lent Adult Small Group 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.

## 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.

**Registration is now OPEN.** Cost: \$70 (includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)

**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*

# connected through hope

## A Time of Sharing and Caring

*"...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" – Acts 20:35*

During this time of Lent we're reminded of the lessons Jesus taught us, many times leading by example.

One of those: extending a helping hand to those in need.

That has been the mission of Hope House since its opening in 2009.

Today, after two years of closures or limitations, we are once again seeing a revolving door at the House. Two of the three rooms are open to guests, each providing access to their own bathroom. These rooms are constantly filled, evidence that families tending to loved ones in an area hospital are seeking a peaceful place to destress at day's end.

On hand to help them get settled – our Caretakers. We are excited to welcome two new members who are giving us their time: Andrea Pasquarelli and Carol Givens.

Other Church members are providing hand-knitted prayer shawls or stocking the freezer with easy-to-fix meals.. sometimes while battling challenges of their own.

The love and support of those surrounding us is just one more blessing the Hope House Ministry has been given.



## March Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

### **MARCH 1**

In Honor of Marcus Dee Googer for his birthday on 2/6;  
Given by Marc, Angela, Austin, and Dylan Googer

### **MARCH 3**

In Memory of Julie Tuttle;  
Given by Karl and Miff Cone

### **MARCH 7**

In Honor of Annette and Danie DeBeer, our transitional pastor and his wife;  
Given by HH Ministry Team

### **MARCH 9**

In Honor of all the MPPC staff in appreciation of their dedication to our church;  
Given by HH Ministry Team

Hope House is funded by member donations, guest contributions, and community grants. It costs approximately \$50/day to operate Hope House. You can support our mission by "adopting" a day at Hope House. Visit [mppc.net/hope-house](http://mppc.net/hope-house) to make a donation.





# connected through mission

## Haiti Outreach Ministries 2021 Impact Report

God is at work through faithful friends like you.

### A HOLISTIC APPROACH

HOM's vision is to develop **self-sustaining communities** that help people become the individuals God intended them to be. We achieve this through programs that address the spiritual, mental, physical, and economic needs of our Haitian brothers & sisters.

#### PHYSICAL HEALTH

**10,800 PATIENTS** received medical and dental care. MASTAS community health project began working with mothers in Repatriote to reduce maternal/child mortality and malnutrition.



#### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**537 STUDENTS** enrolled in two vocational schools. Began new partnership with Extollo International, providing masonry training as a stepping stone to construction workforce employment.

#### CLEAN WATER

**620,000 GALLONS** of safe drinking water provided free to communities at four campus access points.



#### EDUCATION

**2,030 STUDENTS** enrolled in four schools and various universities. The Baryè Fè Secondary School added newly-built classrooms and now serves the final Haitian school year of 13th grade for the first time.



#### SPIRITUAL HEALTH

**3,100 WORSHIPERS WEEKLY** Funds successfully raised for Bible College to train new pastoral leaders (opening anticipated fall 2022).

### CREATING ECONOMIC IMPACT

In 2021, HOM conducted six major construction projects, including adding new classrooms to the Baryè Fè secondary school and completing essential sitework on the new Espwa Campus. **100% of purchasing was done in Haiti, contributing economic impact in the following ways:**



**278**

Skilled tradesmen and day laborers benefited from 13,139 days of employment during construction.



**22**

Local supply firms and subcontractors were engaged in the project.



**\$903,642**

Invested in Haiti through buying of construction supplies and materials and workers' wages.



Across ministry sectors, a total of 204 full and part time staff members were employed in 2021. This generated \$780,000 in wages, **creating a wave of economic benefit** as these earnings flowed down to employees' immediate families and networks.

# 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](http://mppc.net/the-learning-center). Contact Learning Center Director Lori Baney with any questions at [lbaney@mppc.net](mailto:lbaney@mppc.net). Be sure to follow the "Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Learning Center" page on Facebook to see to all the fun and learning we do daily!

## Anne Farmer Receives PW Honorary Life Membership Award

Every year, the MPPC Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team (PWCT) recognizes a member of our church who has gone above and beyond, faithfully serving our church home in various ways. This year, we were delighted to present the Honorary Life Membership Award to one of our own on the PWCT. Anne Farmer is our very deserving recipient.

Anne is a life-long member of the Presbyterian church. She has been actively involved at MPPC in various capacities ever since she and her husband Mike joined this church in 2009. She currently serves as an Elder, a PW Circle leader, a member of the Worship Ministry, and the Fine Arts Ministry teams. She is active in the adult and handbell choirs. She regularly volunteers for VBS and the summer art camp. Anne is always ready and willing to serve her church community. In addition to her faithful service, she's an all-around kind person whose daily life reflects the fruits of the spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Congratulations to Anne!



*Sue Verner presents award to  
Anne Farmer during worship on  
January 30th.*

For more information on the Honorary Life Membership Award, visit [PresbyterianWomen.org](http://PresbyterianWomen.org). To learn more about PW at MPPC, or to join a Circle, contact Brittany Greer at [BrittGreer24@gmail.com](mailto:BrittGreer24@gmail.com).



## 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](http://www.bethelwoods.org).

If you would like to have a "church week" when others from MPPC attend, email Jessica Kluesner 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."

## Sunday Morning Opportunities (10 a.m.)

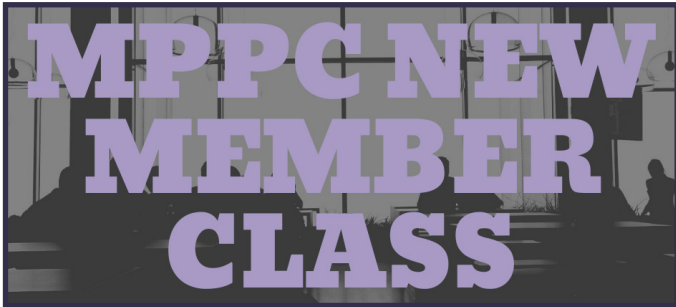
Disciple Ship (Elementary) & the  
Mighty Dinghy (Preschool)

Youth "Breakfast in the  
Basement"

Adult Small Groups +1 on  
campus, hybrid, and via Zoom



# connected through community



## New Member Class March 13, 4:30-7:30 PM

Our next New Member Class will be held on March 13th. Participants will meet in person from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Grace Hall 123-125. A light meal will be provided. The 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. Sign up at [mppc.net/events](http://mppc.net/events).



## Habitat for Humanity Work Day Morning of March 19

Join us for a construction work day at the East Cooper Habitat for Humanity work site located about 11 miles from MPPC. (3806 Garden Hill Road, Awendaw) Lunch and child care is provided. We ask that you try to sign up ahead of time at [mppc.net/events](http://mppc.net/events) so we can have enough lunches, but if you find yourself available at the last minute, come on out!

You will be able to meet the new homeowner and help a deserving family acquire a home in the crazy real estate market of Mount Pleasant. No skills needed, but you will learn something about what it takes to build a house. If you have safety glasses and gloves, bring them, other wise they will be provided.



## Second Sunday Speaker Series March 13, 5-6 PM

Please join us Sunday March 13th from 5-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom for an important discussion regarding the LGBTQ+ community and church experience. Bridge Builders strives to make us all aware of people who may not share our exact experience to help us better understand their concerns and struggles and how we can help. Sarah Harbin-Coleman, formerly MPPC's Director of Children Ministry, will be leading the discussion with Rev. Colin Kerr, Jennifer Gossett, and Chris Buie. This panel will touch on key issues that have caused pain in families, individuals, and churches and give us ideas on how we can come together in community. Please stay after the discussion for light refreshments and to speak directly to any of our panelists if you have questions.

If you would like to attend via Zoom, contact Logan Prochaska at [lprochaska@mppc.net](mailto:lprochaska@mppc.net).

## Rakes on Wheels Spring Cleanup

MPPC's Local Missions Team will be conducting the annual Spring Yard Cleanup beginning March 5th. Cleanup teams will be working on Saturday mornings for 2-3 hours on March 5, 12, 19, and 26. We are inviting all groups and individuals to participate. You choose the day and time you wish to work. Gloves, rakes, and bags are likely needed.



To volunteer, email Jim Ingham at [inghamsc@hotmail.com](mailto:inghamsc@hotmail.com) OR call Alexis Wright Singleton at the church, 843-884-4612. If you know anyone in our congregation that might need help with cleaning up their own yard, contact Jim or Alexis.



## Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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# CONNECT WITH US

## **\*SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9 a.m. The Net

10 a.m. Education Hour + Fellowship Time

11 a.m. Sanctuary + Live Stream Worship

Visit [mppc.net](http://mppc.net) to learn more about faith formation opportunities for all ages!

## **SERMONS**

Live Streaming: [mppc.net/watch-live](http://mppc.net/watch-live)

Sermons: [mppc.net/sermons](http://mppc.net/sermons)

Podcasts: [tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts](http://tiny.cc/mtpleasantpodcasts)

## **EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS**

[mppc.net/events](http://mppc.net/events)

## **FOLLOW US**



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## **OTHER WAYS**

[mppc.net/contact](http://mppc.net/contact)

843-884-4612

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

[mppc.net/prayer-requests](http://mppc.net/prayer-requests)