

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

May 2022

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. debeer

Who Are We? Where Are We Going? What Are We Doing?



Thank you for the many remarks regarding my previous two contributions on transitions. Please hold on to what you have gleaned regarding the importance of letting go before we can begin anything new.

The discussion continues...Tucker (*A church planning questionnaire*) tells the story of a wealthy American who once got lost in the woods. A ranger found him when he was almost on the brink of despair, and asked him: "Who are you, sir, and where are you going to?" The wealthy man was so relieved at having been found, that he offered the ranger employment at a salary which he could not resist. One of the ranger's new responsibilities under his new boss was to ask him every day: "Who are you, sir, and where are you going to?"

Who is Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church? Where are we going? What are we doing?

Many congregations struggle to know who they are—to know their identity—as a church. Some churches remain stuck in the past, in what we have always been, and what we always had, what we have known to be true. And so, it becomes a true sanctuary to hide in against all the changes of a world around us, and modernism and post-modernism. Other churches get caught up the wave of social justice, and forget or intentionally let go of the "Why" of our existence, becoming nothing more than a humanitarian organization who wants to do good to everyone.

So, who is MPPC?

Even before I arrived here, I heard that MPPC is a "missional church."

But what do we mean with this statement? Does it mean that our mission committee and finance committee are giving away a sizeable amount of what you pledge to someone, doing something, somewhere? Or that we strive to get back to being a "50% church?" Is "missional" the same as "giving money away?"

Being a missional church means that we see ourselves as part of a church renewal movement which became popular at the end of the 20th century.

It means that we understand that **God's mission** (and not some ancestors!) created Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Everything that we do begins with God who is coming to us in Christ by the Spirit to redeem and transform creation.

MPPC is not a building; or a country club; or an institution; it **is** mission.

Everyone who attends MPPC is involved in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Because of this we don't "send out," or support, a select group of "professional missionaries." And we don't pay other people to do the ministries to which we have been called, but we get our hands dirty in the "messiness" of ministry and witness. We are a "community of witnesses, called into being and equipped by God, and sent into the world to testify to and participate in Christ's work," without regard for our own agenda or survival.

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church can call itself a missional church, but what is more important is that we are a community of witnesses, where everyone testifies to and participates in God's work.

Sincerely,

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

connected through mission

One Great Hour of Sharing Challenge Results

"A scared world needs a fearless church." (Pastor Leo Regheta, River of Life Church, Plano, Texas, a congregation of Ukrainians, Russians, and persons from Uzbekistan) – quoted by Lib in her April 3 sermon

Thank you, MPPC, for fearlessly supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering which will boost the ministry of PCUSA partner churches as they support persons fleeing violence in Ukraine. **As of April 24th, MPPC members contributed \$36,459.82.** Special kudos to 8-year-old Mary Sims and 5-year-old David de Holl who offered yellow lemonade and blue Gatorade (the colors of the Ukrainian flag) to their neighbors and raised a whopping **\$230** and to Connor Branham who contributed two weeks of tips from his job at Baskin-Robbins! The Hogan and Sailor children also hosted a lemonade stand and raised **\$143!**



Youth Make Lightwork of MPPC's Annual Rakes on Wheels Cleanup

2022 was the biggest year ever for MPPC's annual Rakes on Wheels undertaking. 20 Meals on Wheels seniors received much needed help during the month-long project in March, more than double the number in 2021. The need was large and the 43 young people participating made this year's success possible.

Young women soccer players from Oceanside H.S. and young men from Academic Magnet H.S. added their energies to the 14 youth from MPPC. With only 12 MPPC adults volunteering, the Lighthouse Church added 6 adults to the work making the effort an ecumenical undertaking as well. But perhaps the biggest achievement this year was spreading love and joy to a very appreciative group of isolated seniors.

One recipient expressed her appreciation with tears; another donated money to East Cooper Meals on Wheels; and yet another expressed her joy at all the activity and bustle around her home as the youth from MPPC worked and chattered during their efforts. The sense of "community caring" for older folks is in many ways reassuring to that elder group that often feels bypassed by change and isolation. As Reverend Lib expressed in a recent sermon: "Loving your neighbor involves far more than walking your nextdoor neighbor's dog."



connected through education

Get Ready for a Fun Summer with Children's Ministry!

Happy Spring Everyone! I just want to say that I am so thankful for all the help and support that I received in planning and executing the Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, it was such a wonderful event because of the help of all those in the church! We've got so many exciting plans coming up this summer both for the children and their families, as well as a few church-wide events!

All these events are now open for registration on Realm, and I'm looking forward to a fun-filled summer with not only Vacation Bible School, but also these awesome events we have planned!

God Bless,

Jessica Kluesner

Asst. Director of Christian Education



Beach Clean-Up Day on May 14:

Since we live near the beach, and no doubt love it, we should help to keep it clean! This event will be an easy way for the children to learn about helping others and get a taste of Mission work. We will be gathering on Saturday, May 14 from 2:30-4:30pm at Sullivan's Island Beach to clean up the beach area, removing trash, etc. Meet at the Sullivan's Island Elementary School parking lot at 2:30pm and we'll all head over to the beach to start working!

We're excited to help clean up the beaches we all love, and to teach our children what it means to not only give back to others, but also care for the beautiful world that God gave us. If you will be attending, please download the "My Coast" app, as it will help us track our clean-up progress on the beach! If you would like more information, contact Jessica at jkluesner@mppc.net or you can check out the adopt a beach website.

Education Hour Update:

Beginning on May 29, the children will all gather in one room, and we'll be doing a summer video series with a short discussion after each video. We will be watching various Veggie Tales movies and talking about what we have learned from the lesson illustrated in the videos. There will be more information, including room number, to follow in the Children's weekly eNews!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jessica or sign-up on our signup genius page: signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CACA92AA1FDC16-veggie.

Other Upcoming CM Events:

- **June 10, 11 am-2 pm:** Morris Island/Coastal Expeditions Day Trip
 - *There is a 20 people minimum, or we can't book the tour, so please preregister*
- **July 16, 10 am-3 pm:** Churchwide Beach Day
- **July 24, 4:30-9 pm:** Churchwide Charleston Riverdogs Game
 - *We need a minimum of 20 people to get our seats together, so register & bring friends!*
- **August 27, 6-10 pm:** Churchwide Charleston Battery Game

Registration for all of these events is available on Realm or at mppc.net/events!

Vacation Bible School: June 20-24, 9 AM-12:30 PM

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!" 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.

Our registration waitlist is currently full, but we do still need volunteers to make this awesome week happen! There is a link on Realm for members to sign up to volunteer at VBS and we'd love to see as many of you there as possible! Any questions, contact Jessica at jkluesner@mppc.net.



He is Risen!

We had an amazing Easter Sunday with you all!



connected through education

Stop & Smell the Flowers, Literally

My prayer this month is that we bask in the beautiful springtime that we have here in Charleston. May is a crazy month for all of us because there are so many chapters that are closing: dance recitals are planned, championships are set, finals are coming, and college decisions are lingering. Let's be intentional about enjoying each moment that comes with the craziness of May because after all, it is a pretty spectacular month in the lowcountry. Let's pause and truly smell the flowers...well not too much because the pollen is still pretty bad, but let's enjoy the simple pleasures in life instead of jumping to the next event or performance.

May is the month when school year ministry comes to a close before summer ministry begins and we celebrate that with a wonderful Youth Sunday service and celebration. On that note, let's choose to celebrate more and enjoy the "happy" in all of our lives.

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



CornerStone Youth Events for the Month of May

- Lemonade on the Loop & Lawn will continue through May after each worship service.
- May 1st is Confirmation Sunday outside at 9 a.m., brunch for family and friends will follow.
- May 4th is CYM Praise and Service Night with special guest, Glenn Hair.
- On May 6th CYM will present another First Friday Film (pizza, candy and popcorn will be available). We will be watching, "The Greatest Showman" from 6:30-8 p.m. in the parking lot.
- May 15th is Youth Sunday! The theme is "I'll Be There for You." Youth will lead both services followed by the CYM End of the Year Party at 4:30 p.m.



Looking Ahead to Summer:

June 3:

Last First Friday Film-contact Courtney if you have any movie recommendations!

June 5:

Graduation Sunday for ALL graduates! Please contact Courtney if you would like to be recognized!

June 11-18: HS

Montreat Conference

June 20-24:

MPPC VBS

June 26-July 1:

MS CROSS Mission Trip

connected through education

Lenten Study Feedback

With Lenten Small Groups behind us, here is a quick sampling of the experiences embraced by many of the participants who completed the Small Group evaluation:

- 31% met in person in homes, 28% met on Zoom and 34% met in person on the MPPC campus
- People enjoyed fellowship together and the book *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*
- Zoom has its benefits, but people on Zoom miss the in-person interaction
- 36% attended the Lenten Kickoff
- Most popular choices for when people would participate in small groups: Lent (25%) and Advent (24%)
- Top three choices for future small group studies: Bible study, Christian Living, Spiritual Practices
- Type of small group that is most appealing: In-person (39%), In homes (30%), Virtual (14%), and in the community (7%)
- 85% are interested in engaging in future small groups
- 61% of participants were over 60 years old

In-Between and the In-Betweens

As adults, many of us are between something in our lives. We still relate to being in college, but we feel like we are between that lifestyle and that of a serious career and adulthood. We are between jobs, between living at home, between knowing what we really want to do with our lives, and between knowing who we are. We thought we knew who we are, but life has a way of throwing us curves and we start to wonder, “*Is this really me?*”

We are almost empty nesters or thought we were, but our children are moving back in with us and we are somewhere in between. We are older and our parents are even older, but we are between being the child and making “parenting decisions” that affect our parent’s life. We are between being independent and being a caregiver. Between doctor’s appointments we almost forgot that we needed to shop. We are between meetings when we answer our messages, and then somewhere between dinner and bed we need to get that exercise in. Being in-between can be an exhausting and tough place to be...unless we stop, pause, and listen for God’s voice.

So Stop. Pause. Listen for God’s voice.

I wonder if we could define our life by the between we encounter on life’s journey. Almost any age adult can relate to being in-between, but I suspect a group of young adults can clearly identify the challenges of being in-between. They are the self-named MPPC church group called the **In-Betweens**, a group for [mostly] post-college age young people.

On **Thursday, May 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, the **In-Betweens** are invited to a cookout at Dan and Lynn Wiard’s house (2408 Parsonage Woods Lane, Mount Pleasant) for food, fellowship, games, and conversation. The church does not want to be in-between in our ministry, so we hope young people who identify to this group will come for this time of dialogue and planning as we move forward in our ministry together. RSVP on Realm. Contact Dan (dwiard@mppc.net) for more information.



Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education

Wondering... Concludes this Month

On the first Monday in May, the Zoom gathering of “Wondering...” ends nine months of exploring and discovering Scripture through the multiple lenses of different authors. The group has used resources by Carolyn B. Helsel and Song-Mi Suzie Park (*The Flawed Family of God*), Amy Jill Levine (*The Difficult Words of Jesus*), David Buttrick (*Speaking Conflict: Stories of a Controversial Jesus*), Marcus Borg (*The Last Week*), Margaret Nutting Ralph (*Does the Bible Tell Me So?*), and Colby Martin (*UnClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*). We looked at texts in both the Old and New Testaments. And for those who participated, it has been an eye-opening journey in our understanding and interpretation of Scripture and how our view of life might be challenged by biblical text.

On May 2 at 7 p.m. via Zoom, we’ll conclude our study with *UnClobber & Does the Bible Tell Me So?* Register through Realm to receive a Zoom link.



Adult Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings

The Christian Education hour on Sunday mornings (10 a.m.) continues for all ages through May 22. Please use the eNews or contact Dan Wiard for current Sunday gatherings.

connected through hope

Spring Spruce Up

*"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."
– Philippians 2:4*

Everyone, and everything, can use a little TLC every now and then. Hope House has received a good dose over the past few weeks. Caretakers spent an afternoon reorganizing the inside... from the office to all the closets, as well as sorting through boxes of new linens.

Days earlier Ryan Laye, one of our church members, spent part of his Spring Break scrubbing clean the bricks in the Celebration Garden and the Prayer Garden. Walk by and take a look! Other MPPC youth spent several more hours during their CYM Praise & Serve Night cleaning the porch furniture and the area between Hope Cottage. They also cleaned the fence, and picked up yard debris - helping to make Hope House shine!

Guests are always telling us how Hope House feels just like home...only better, because they don't have to worry about doing anything except getting much needed rest - in peace and quiet.



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

MAY 1

In loving memory of
Bill & Danny Pearson;
Given by Maxine, Val,
& Jeff Pearson

MAY 8

In Loving Memory
of my Mother, Ellen
Barnes Rooney. Given
by Debbie Goulding

MAY 2

In Honor of Damyanti
on her birthday;
Given by her loving
husband Natu
Bhardvaj

MAY 12

In Honor of Courtney
Kraus & the Youth
Group for cleaning
Hope House furniture
and grounds; Given
by the Hope House
Ministry Team

MAY 2

In Honor of all Hope
House volunteers;
Given by Greg & Judy
McCoy

MAY 16

In Memory of Peggy
Leete's Brother,
William L Howard.
Given by the Hope
House Ministry

MAY 3

In Honor of Bob's
Birthday; Given by
Ann Ostrom

MAY 18

In Honor of Annie
Herring; Given by the
Presbyterian Women
of MPPC

MAY 6

In loving memory
of Frieda Goulding,
given by Fritz and
Debbie Goulding

MAY 22

In Honor of Ryan Laye
for brick cleaning the
Prayer & Celebration
garden at Hope
House; Given by the
Hope House Ministry
Team

MAY 8

In Honor of Kathy
Dodd on Mother's
Day; Given by her
daughter, Kathryn
Deleot, and her
granddaughter, Barre
Deleot

Visit mppc.net/hope-house to make a donation.

From Our Guests

"Hope House has been
a light in a storm.
A real Godsend."
– L.B. & S.H.

"I don't know what I
would have done if
not for you. God
Bless everyone
involved with this
place. I will try to
pay it forward."
– K.H.



Egg-stra Fun

Over 250 people joined us on Palm Sunday for the Easter Egg Hunt organized by Jessica Kluesner!



connected through community



Consider Sponsoring a Classroom for the Learning Center Read-A-Thon!

The Learning Center will participate in a Readathon April 25-29 as a fundraising event for the school. The children will pledge to read a certain number of books and ask for donations based on the number of books read. This will be an exciting way for the children to get involved in helping their school while also promoting reading.

To make this fun and successful, we will recognize top readers/earners for their efforts. Please let us know if you would be interested in sponsoring prizes for our top reading classes. A few examples would be: a popsicle party, an ice cream social, a bounce castle, or gifts cards for a pizza party.



The In-Between Cookout

A group for (mostly) post-college young people

Join us Thursday, May 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, games, and conversation about the In-Between. While the Thursday evening gathering will include plenty of fun and fellowship, we hope to end the evening with plans for the coming months. Friends are welcome! The dinner will be at the home of Dan & Lynn Wiard. Contact Dan for more information and RSVP at mppc.net/events.

**THURSDAY
MAY 12,
6:30-8:30**



Our Stephen Ministers are Ready to Care for You

Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a crisis, they also provide support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed, or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life! To learn how you or someone you know can connect with a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons (lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net) or visit mppc.net/stephen-ministry.

connected through community

Church-wide Brunch & Welcome Reception for Tony & Haley Sane



SUNDAY, JUNE 12 FROM 10-11 A.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Church-wide Brunch & Welcome Reception for the Sanes in June

Brunch will be catered by Charleston Bay Gourment and the menu is as follows: egg, sausage, cheese and mushroom breakfast casserole, chicken biscuits, cheese grits, yogurt and fresh fruit. There will be no education classes this Sunday so that we can all be together!

Generation to Generation Bible Study Begins May 10th

After taking a break for Lenten small groups, the Tuesday Bible Study will crank up again in May. Entitled "Generation to Generation," the study will focus on the New Testament books which were written as the early church established itself and became organized to pass on the faith to future generations: James; I, II, III John; Jude; I Peter, II Peter; Colossians; II Thessalonians; I Timothy, II Timothy; Titus; Ephesians; Hebrews.

The class will be facilitated by Lib McGregor Simmons and will meet from 12:10-1 p.m. each Tuesday beginning on May 10. Email lmcgregorsimmons@mppc.net to receive the calendar of readings and the Zoom link.



Join us for Trivia and Pizza Night on May 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

MPPC is hosting a Trivia and Pizza night for fellowship of all ages! Our fabulous ministers and staff are selecting their favorite categories to test our knowledge on a diverse range of topics. The pizza will be ready at 5:30 and trivia will start at 6 in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring your own team or chose teammates at the event. The cost is \$5 per person with a max of \$12 for families. Register at mppc.net/events.

We are looking forward to being with you and seeing which team wins; good luck!



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

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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 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

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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