

from rev. dr. de beer

A Faith Community... Discovering Our God-Given Identity



Congregations, as faith communities. are different than companies. There are similarities, but also many disparities.

To understand who we are as congregation we must ask where we we're going

with our existence as congregation. In this, the members of the congregation struggle to develop and formulate the reason of their existence, and the missional purpose of the congregation.

To have a clearer understanding of who we are we must also understand where we are by doing a thorough and repeated analysis of the environment and context in which the congregation finds itself.

A final facet of identity finding is to ask how it is going with the mission and ministry to which the congregation is called, and which happens through the efforts and investment of resources of the congregation.

Many congregations believe that this diagnosis can be done by an outside consultant or consulting group. I am convinced that a proper congregational diagnosis can only be done by a representative group of a congregation who is led by a consultant.

Because a congregation is a faith community, a congregational analysis is driven by theological (or if you rather would, Biblical) motives. The questions we ask have to do with how we share that which we have received with each other and with our community. These questions are by nature missional.

A diagnosis happens in four phases:

Phase One: A realistic estimation of the congregation's current position and size

Phase Two: Choose the primary direction for the future of the congregation

Phase Three: Determine the strong points of the congregation in light of the twelve central ministries (characteristics) of missional churches.

Phase Four: Discerning of the central ministries and characteristics that will promote the future of the congregation.

This is hard but rewarding work. I have set aside Friday October 28 from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday October 29 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. for a congregational diagnosis. To have a representative group, we need 20% of the average worship attendance who will participate in a group dynamic diagnosis of the ministries in and through the congregation. It is important that not only a few people can do this on behalf of the congregation!

Signup is open through Realm or at mppc.net/ events. If you are called to think about and to struggle with the tomorrows of MPPC, please sign up and invest in the future of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church.

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Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer

Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

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connected through community



The Gathering: A Service of Hope, Inspiration, and Giving Sunday, October 16th at 11 a.m.

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

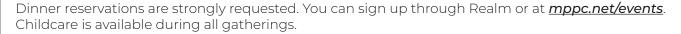
During morning worship at The Gathering, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on the day of The Gathering. We urge everyone to attend—even those who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if they choose not to fill out a card. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards.

The Gathering will take place on Sunday, October 16th! The 11 a.m. service will be the only service time that day, and celebration luncheon to follow will be outdoors and will feature guest speaker Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon--Dean of Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College, free boxed lunches, live music, a mission fair, festivities, and a basket full of fellowship. The 11 a.m. service will be in person and live streamed. Please let us know if you are planning to attend by RSVPing on Realm, or visit *mppc.net/events*. We want to make sure we have a boxed lunch for you!

Sunday Night Live! For Adults

Sunday Night Live program that includes a mixture of activities for adults, such as Beginner Handbells, Table Conversations, two studies, and a special multi-generational fourth Sunday mission project. We hope you will join us; friends are always welcome.

- 4:30 p.m. Adult Conversation Groups (FH), Beginner Handbells (Choir room)
- 5 p.m. Dinner (FH)
- 5:30 p.m. Adult Studies: Part of God's Story (GH 226); Called to Life: An Invitation to a Missional Way of Being (Parlor)
- 6:30 p.m. Home





Conversation Groups (4:30-5 p.m.)

Each week these change and are based around weekly topics and getting-to-know-you conversations. This is a great way to meet new people at MPPC.

Adult Studies (5:30-6:30 p.m.) Part of God's Story, FH

Facilitated by Dan Wiard - What will be our story when we are no longer here? It is a question many of us may wonder but what is amazing about our story is that it is part of God's story. Part of God's Story is a three-part program on Sunday evenings. Whether we are in our twenties, single and free, married with or without children, or whether we are in our eighties, we have a story to tell and we find stories fascinating. Part of God's Story is an opportunity to begin to preserve our story, leaving a legacy of who we are and whose we are for those we choose to tell. All are welcome!

- Fall Beginning our story through Bible study and guided guestions.
- Winter Genealogy and lineage, our bigger story.
- Spring Beliefs and value, what we believe.

Called to Life: An Invitation to a Missional Way of Being, Parlor

Written by Rev. John Hage and Ruling Elder Ellen Creed Branham. Facilitated by Rev. Bart W. Edwards - Almost a decade ago, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church began a missional study based on this work. Although much has changed at MPPC and in the world over the last decade, the mission of God and life as a missional church continues. This excellent study will lead participants to consider and better understand how we as individuals and a church can discern and follow God's call in 2022 and beyond. Prayerfully discern how you will grow in your faith this fall at MPPC, and as you do consider these words from Frederick Buechner: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Together, let's explore and listen for the ways God is calling us, find the deep hungers of the world and see what happens when they meet!









Sunday Night Live for Children:

Angel Notes is MPPC's youngest choir for children ages 3-5/PreK. Siblings who are younger than the recommended age are welcome with a parent present! During this time, children will learn about God through classic children's music. (SB 205) - 4:45 pm

The Kingdom Choir is MPPC's choir for children ages K-5th grade. Children will have the opportunity to sing fun music in harmony and learn about faith through song. (SB 206) **- 4:45 pm**

Dinner- 5 pm, FH for all ages!

Bible Time & Crafts is for our children ages 3-5, where they'll learn Bible stories, sing songs, & learn through play about God & Bible lessons. (GH 122) - **5:30 pm**

Jesus and Me (JAM) is our Sunday evening program for K-2nd grade children. They'll enjoy a journey through the Bible with stories & crafts that bring the lessons of the Bible to life. (SB 204) - **5:30 pm**

Kid's Alive is our Sunday evening program for 3rd-5th graders! We hope this will create a "youth group" feeling for the children where they can grow through Bible study, games, & crafts. We'll be using Bible Trivia curriculum to engage our young people in new & exciting ways! (SB 208) - **5:30 pm**

Sunday Mornings for Children!

Grades K-5

These children will meet first in their classrooms, then we will come together at 10:05 a.m. in SB 210 to watch a short video, then disperse to our individual classes for our lesson time. We are so excited for Sunday School this year where children in grades K-5 will be able to grow in their faith and understanding of God. Children will meet and gather in their classrooms for a short video and Bible stories that will connect each week's lesson to their lives. The classes will be divided in the following way, K-1st (SB 203), 2nd-3rd (SB 204), 4th-5th (SB 205). We will be using the Celebrate Wonder curriculum and children will be able to deepen their faith while we create a safe space for them to ask big questions and claim their spiritual identity as children of God.

Preschool

Our preschool program will be using The Beginner's Bible lesson series and will also begin their lessons with a short video. The children in this program include 2's, 3's, and 4's (SB 103). We are looking forward to this fun curriculum and seeing how our little ones grow this year!

Nursery & Childcare

Nursery and childcare is available for toddlers and infants during the 10 a.m. Education hour.

Kids Praise

Our "children's church" program will be changing our dates this year, we'll be worshipping together on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month so that our children can receive Communion together with the congregation each month. This worship experience for children ages K-2nd grade will include a story based on the weekly Bible reading and activities to help them better understand the message. This experience begins following the children's message during the 11am service, when children will head to Kid's Praise in Grace Hall 122. After the conclusion of the 11 a.m. service, parents may pickup their children immediately following in Grace Hall 122. If you would like to volunteer to lead, please contact Jessica at jkluesner@mppc.net.

Third Grade Worship

Beginning on Oct. 2 and open to all third graders, children will meet in GH 223-225 following the children's message in the 11 a.m. service. Attending worship is planned as part of this ministry and will culminate with communion on November 6! Register your 3rd grader on Realm.

"Fall"ing in Love with Youth Ministry

I am so very excited to have Emma on board with us at MPPC! Her connection with the youth is amazing and I cannot wait to see them continue to grow with her on staff. We are excited for a great October with the start of Confirmation, Prayer Breakfasts, Sunday Night Live, Mini Montreat Mondays, and Book Chat. There are so many opportunities for our youth and I hope you will choose to get involved!

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus
Director of
Youth Ministries



Meet Emma, Our New Youth Intern

My name is Emma Ghighi and I am so grateful to be the youth intern this fall! I was born and raised in Dallas, Texas where I spent most Sunday mornings at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. I was involved in the youth band, weekly bible studies, and all the summer trips we offered. Leaving my hometown church was far from easy, but I knew College of Charleston was the next right



step for me. I am now a junior, double majoring in Psychology and Art History and I am excited to see where my studies take me.

In my free time, I enjoy spending the majority of my time outside, either at the beach or walking around downtown. I also love to read, paint, and run whenever I am not with friends. Next semester, I will focus on my love for art as I study abroad in Paris, but, for now, I am so happy to have found a place at Mount Pleasant Pres. I look forward to widening my connections throughout the youth and congregation so please don't hesitate to introduce yourself at church! I would love to meet everyone and can't wait for all that is to come this fall.

Our Upcoming October:

- 2nd- BIB and CornerStone Youth
- 4th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- · 6th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 7th-9th- CONFIRMATION KICKOFF RETREAT AT CAMP ST. CHRISTOPHER
- 9th- BIB, <u>NO</u> Confirmation and Cornerstone Youth
- · 11th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- · 13th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 13th- HS Youth Monthly Book Chat- Virtual and In Person
- 16th- BIB, Confirmation and CornerStone Youth
- 17th- Mini Montreat Mid-Month Monday
- · 18th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- · 20th- NO HS Prayer Breakfast
- 23rd- BIB, Confirmation and CornerStone Youth
- · 25th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- · 27th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 30th- BIB, <u>NO</u> Confirmation and CornerStone Youth-FALL FEST







2023 Registrations & Trips:

<u>January 2nd-5th- Montreat College</u> Conference

- REGISTRATION OPENS: Oct. 10
- · Cost: \$100, Pay in FULL by Nov. 20

January 20th-22nd- High School Youth Ski Trip

- REGISTRATION OPENS: Oct. 3
- · Cost: \$225, Pay in FULL by Nov. 21
- NEED 1 MALE CHAPERONE

<u>February 24th-26th- High School</u> Bethelwoods Presbytery Retreat

- REGISTRATION OPENS: Dec. 5
- · Cost: \$100, Pay in FULL by Jan. 31
- NEED 1 MALE CHAPERONE.
 NEED 1 FEMALE CHAPERONE.

April 28th-30th-ALL Youth (MS and HS) Retreat to Awanita Valley

- REGISTRATION OPENS: Feb. 6
- Cost: \$140, Pay in FULL by Mar. 6
- NEED 4 MALE CHAPERONES.
 NEED 4 FEMALE CHAPERONES.

Conversations in a PSCE Cohort (Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education)

I facilitate a cohort of educators and pastors from Canada to Georgia via Zoom. We meet monthly and each month someone from our group selects a topic and provides suggested resources that might guide our conversation. So far, our topics included Covid & the Church, Fall Plans, Confirmation, book discussion on Professional Christian (by Sarah Bereza), and Welcoming the LGBTQIA+ Community. In October we will discuss Recruiting & Training Volunteer Teachers. What I appreciate most from these cohort gatherings is hearing different voices. We come from different backgrounds, are of varying ages and experience, but we all have a sense of God's Call to ministry. If you are curious about some of our resources, I share those here for your exploration. Each month I will offer a reflection or list of resources from this cohort as they pertain to the Church and our understanding of ministry.



Five Places To Go During Sunday School:

9:30 a.m.

- Connect 3 (Parlor) Called, by Susan Robb.
 Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life.
- Academy of St. John (SB 206) What Christian's Believe and Why, by Adam Hamilton. A look at The Apostles' Creed.
- The Harbor (GH 222) Paul's letter to the Romans.

10:00 a.m.

- The Middle (GH 226) Called, by Susan Robb. Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life.

Books:

 Professional Christian: Being Fully Yourself in the Spotlight of Public Ministry, by Sarah Bereza

Online Resources:

- Presbyterian Inclusive Guide Language Updated (presbyterianmission.org/story/ presbyterian-inclusive-language-guideupdated)
- Do the queer community and the church need each other? (presbyterianmission.org/story/dothe-queer-community-and-the-church-needeach-other)
- Does your church welcome LGBTQ people? (believeoutloud.com/voices/article/does-your-church-welcome-lgbtq-people/)

Peace.

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education

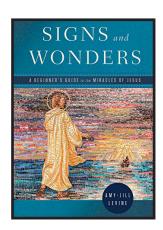


Signs and Wonders: A Reginners Cuide

Signs and Wonders: A Beginners Guide to the Miracles of Jesus

Weds., Oct. 12-Nov. 16, 7-8 p.m. Zoom

Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions. This is a video-based study as Levine helps us



understand the text. Register in Realm.

- October 12 "Take up your pallet and walk" (Mark 2:1-12)
- October 19 Stilling the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)
- October 26 The Feeding of the Five Thousand (or More) (Luke 9:10-17)
- November 2 A Bleeding Woman and a Dead Girl (Matthew 9:18-26)
- November 9 A Two-Stage Miracle (Mark 8:22-26)
- November 16 The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

connected through ministry





Update to Nadia Paikan's Story

Prayers of thanksgiving are being lifted up for all the many members volunteering to provide transportation for her daughters to daycare and then Nadia to work, Tuesday through Friday and for the needed trips to medical appointments and for the many donations and assistance being offered.

John Myers and I shared more of Nadia's story with our church-school class recently. We would be glad to share Nadia's story and answer questions for any church group upon request. Maryanne Davis has started meeting with Nadia at her home on Saturdays or Mondays to give her an English lesson. Recently, Coleman Legerton took Nadia and Asra, her youngest daughter, to a pediatrician because of her having persistent diarrhea, and Coleman was able to donate a dresser, much needed by Nadia and two chairs. Nadia's 29th birthday was this week.

Nadia returns to her podiatrist for a follow-up visit this Monday. Her children have been scheduled to have wellness checkups at MUSC in the next few weeks. Nadia has expressed many times how grateful she is for the ways we have been able to make positive changes in the lives of herself and her children. Her daughters are precious; the boys reserved and polite. Nadia, somehow, is always cheerful with a constant smile.

Challenges facing Nadia, include finding the means to pay for daycare as Lutheran Services SC will pay for daycare only through November. Another hurdle facing Nadia is finding the means to pay part of her rent beginning in January. LSSC will continue subsidizing her rent through December.

While Lutheran Services drives home that the refugees need to become independent and self-sufficient, Nadia needs more support, care and help than other Afghan refugees who have come to Charleston, such as single men and families with both parents present, in order to become self-sufficient.

Monetary donations can be made by writing a check to MPPC, directing it to the Afghan Refugees account, #8800-07. Please contact Bruce McAdams, mcadams. bruce@gmail.com or Pastor Bart for answers to questions.

Music Ministry In Full Swing

The music ministry is in overdrive as we've ramped up fall programming. There are close to 60 kids in children's choirs; the newly formed youth choir/band has about 15 participants too! We have several new choir members in the Adult Choir and Adult Bell choir as well as the beginner bell choir! Counting all ensembles, we have around 130 individuals involved in our music ministry! Please reach out to me if you'd like to participate in any ensembles at tsane@ mppc.net.

Children's Choirs will continue to meet for rehearsal on Sundays from 4:30-5 p.m. We'll sing during 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, Oct. 16!

October 2- Rehearsal October 9- Rehearsal October 16- Sing in worship at 11! October 16- Rehearsal October 23- Rehearsal October 30- No Rehearsal, Fall Festival!

Youth music has had a great start! We'll continue to meet each week in October, except Oct. 30. We hope to sing in worship in Nov./Dec.

October 2- Rehearsal October 9- Rehearsal October 16- Rehearsal October 16- Rehearsal October 23- Rehearsal October 30- No Rehearsal, Fall Festival

Tony Sane Director of Music Ministries

VILLAGE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

A SOUTH CAROLINA PIANO RECITAL WITH MUSIC BY CARLISLE FLOYD, LILY STICKLAND, & L. V. BEETHOVEN

Spend the evening enjoying the talented pianist, David Kiser. David began studying piano at 10. His performances have been broadcast on South Carolina Public Radio and he has performed and adjudicated throughout the state. He has taken lessons and worked with Marina Lomazov, Charles Fugo, Ilana Vered, Ann Schein, Yong Hi Moon, Robert Blocker, Natalya Antonova, Marvin Blickenstaff, Miles Hoffman and the Parker Quartet.



November 3, 2022 | 7 p.m. Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Who Is Involved in the Worship at MPPC?...YOU!

- Have you ever thought about joining a band? <u>Joining the Net</u>
 <u>Band</u> (9 AM) is a great opportunity to praise God with your
 music. We need <u>instrumentalists</u> too for our traditional service
 in the Sanctuary.
- Ring & Sing with us! We are always looking for new members for our <u>adult & youth choirs and handbell choir.</u>
- <u>Audio/Visual Team</u> does this "sound" interesting? Let us know if you can help on Sunday mornings!
- Communion Prep Team: Stop by after the 11 AM service to help us clean up.
- Do you like to greet and meet people? <u>Being an usher</u> is an ideal way to share hospitality with friends.
- Make our Sanctuary even more beautiful by <u>signing up to</u>
 <u>donate flowers</u> just call the church office!
- Read scripture in either Sunday service as a <u>lay reader</u> call the church office for details.
- <u>Sanctuary Pew Service</u>: Become a <u>pew ninja</u> and help clean the pews during the week!
- Help plan concerts by serving on the Fine Arts Team!
- Do you like to decorate your house for Christmas & Easter? We'd love to have you help <u>decorate the church</u> too!
- <u>Encore Ministry</u>: Visit retirement and nursing homes to share God's love through singing.

connected through hope

Friends Along Life's Road

""Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." – 1 Thessalonians 6:11

Sometimes it's the little things that bring joy.

That's what four recent Hope House guests discovered.

Their loved ones were all in Acute Intensive Care.. two recovering from brain trauma, another battling COVID, and the fourth fighting a post-transplant infection.

One Friday each one of our guests received an encouraging medical report about their relative. They decided to celebrate by going out to eat.

Three of them urged the woman from Massachusetts to try some Southern "delicacies." She called her daughter all excited because she had tasted fried okra and boiled peanuts! A lighthearted moment that they all agreed was just what they needed.

These women are now friends on Facebook; and two have discovered they live in neighboring counties in North Carolina. They plan to visit each other when they get home.

One guest spoke for all when she said: "the best part about staying at Hope House is that we found we are not alone.. a true blessing."



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

OCTOBER 1

In Memory of Robert Rigsby, affectionally know as "Buddy"; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

OCTOBER 2

In Memory of Margaret Griffith, Jeff Griffith's Mother; Given by Pat and Becky Neuhaus

OCTOBER 3

In Honor of all Hope House Volunteers; Given by Greg and Judy McCoy

OCTOBER 5

In Memory of Anne Azzarelli; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

OCTOBER 7

In Loving memory of my parents: Matthias and Katharina Gierens, and my in laws, Hardy and Dot Johnson; Given by Klara Johnson

OCTOBER 9

In Memory of Margaret Griffith; Given by Hope House Ministry

OCTOBER 11

In Honor of Ron Carpenter for his continued support of Hope House; Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

OCTOBER 15

In Honor of Linda Penn; Given by an Anonymous Donor

OCTOBER 23

In Memory of the Best Parents in this world; Millie and L.C. Sloan; Given by Cindy Hunt

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

connected through community

Endowment Gifts

In Honor of Betty & Ralph Jenkins' 70th Anniversary

Dorothy Anne Bowers

In Honor of Dr. Bill Marsh for his many years of leading the Seekers & Sowers Bible Study:

Seekers and Sowers Bible Study class

In Memory of Betty Douty:

Seekers and Sowers Bible Study class

Pacesetters: Robbie Royall & Friends

Please come and enjoy a fun evening of music, fellowship and good BBQ and all the fixins' on **Friday, Oct. 14th!** Robbie Royall and friends will be entertaining



the Pacesetters with county, bluegrass and gospel songs. The dinner menu includes tender pulled pork, juicy shredded chicken, choice of barbecue sauce, mac and cheese, creamy coleslaw and sandwich buns. **RSVP to Susan Mellichamp by Monday, Oct. 10** at 843-697-2111 or susanmell@mac.com. Cost is \$15/person paid at the door. Doors to the Fellowship Hall open: 5:45 pm; Dinner 6 pm; Program, 7 pm.

Presbyterian Women 2022 Thank Offering

During worship services on November 6th, we will be collecting the Presbyterian Women's annual Thank Offering. This offering began in 1888 with one woman's inspiring words to give "a thank offering to her Lord." Financial gifts provide much-needed assistance to domestic and international projects in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.

Use envelopes in the pews or give online through MyMPPC.

Learn more about current grant recipients at presbyterianwomen.org/thank.



Blessing of the Animals

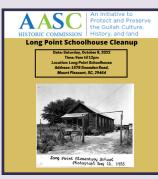
Join us for a Blessing of the Animals Worship Service as we express our thanks for God's creative power and sustaining care and acknowledge God's call to us to be stewards of creation and especially the animals that are placed in our care.

This service will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9th on the Fellowship Hall porch.

Please bring your animal companions - leashed or caged, real or stuffed or represented by a photograph - as well as a chair for sitting, if desired, and a voluntary offering of pet food for ECCO.

Long Point Schoolhouse Cleanup

Bridge Builders invites you to join us for a Beautification Day at the historical Long Point Schoolhouse. Long Point Elementary School opened in 1904 to educate Black children during the Jim Crow era. There



is a restoration project currently underway, and the schoolhouse will eventually be used as a cultural center highlighting Mount Pleasant's historic African-American settlement communities. We will be working on removing items from the schoolhouse and doing some landscaping. Bring tools and gloves, we will meet at 1578 Snowden Rd Mount Pleasant, SC from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on October 8th. Contact Towner Magill with questions.



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 PERMIT No. 28

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

mppc.net/events

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact 843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests