

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

November 2022

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

A Country Club Church in the Old Village



Did you know that there are actually churches referred to, and show up, as the “Country Club Church” in a Google search? The Country Club Road Church of Christ (located at 45 N. Country Club Road Tucson, AZ 85716), the

Country Club Church of Christ in Fayetteville, NC and the Country Club Christian Church (6101 Ward Pkwy, Kansas City, MO 64113) are three examples.

Amazing what kinds of images flash through my mind when I hear this name for a church (almost like “Burned Store Presbyterian Church, which is also an actual church!) I wonder how these church members function, minister and live together.

Just because it kind of irritates and annoys me when anyone (I, too!) mentions the concept “country club church” in reference to Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. It is not a phrase I coined, or even applied to MPPC. It was one of the first things that I heard from many members of MPPC about our congregation.

So, let us be fair, and stop for a while to ask what we mean when we refer to a congregation as a “Country Club Church.”

Maybe a country club church is a place where people pay their “membership fee,” and then decide:

- if they want to go there or not;
- if they want to take part in activities or not;
- if and how they want to use the available facilities or not;
- who may or may not use the available facilities;
- who may or may not join as member.

Is it a place where people go to “get connected” to important people, like lawyers, physicians, medical specialists, or professors? Or is the time spent “at church” experienced as a time for networking, the sermon mostly “good advice for self-improvement,” and the “other people” merely interesting?

Would pastors and leaders of a country club church be mostly concerned about their status, power, and position not only on the church, but also in the community? (Did Jesus say something about, “They want to be seen in public ...?”) Are they the leaders who clean up well, and “hang out” in circles which is beneficial to them?

Could members of country club churches be used to using facilities, which they find already prepared for their arrival—tables set, coffee, tea and lemonade all made—and everything cleaned up after them “by the staff” (who are paid too much, anyhow)?

Do Club Church members have a greater preference for themselves and for what they want and need than their passion for the gospel?

Is it one or the other, or a combination, or all of the above, that marks a country club church? Is it a congregation where people feel entitled to “something better?”

So, is Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church a country club church?

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer
Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

the gathering



connected through education

Sunday Night Live! For Adults

November 6, 13, 20 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Part of God's Story. 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!

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

November 27 - Save the Date: Family Advent Workshop

Adult Sunday School Studies in November:

9 AM

Connect 3 (Parlor) – Words of Life (The Ten Commandments) by Adam Hamilton

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Hamilton will consider the commandments in their historical context, and show how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day.

Academy of Saint John (SB 206) – The Wired Word and Light of the World (Advent Study)
ASJ begins November using *The Wired Word*, a digital resource that explores current news happenings with relevant lessons connecting Scripture with daily life. On November 20, one week before Advent, the class switches to Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World* as Levine helps participants trace the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

10 AM

Youngish Adults (SB 209) – Intentional Parenting by Doug Fields

To be an exceptional parent you need to be an intentional parent. Intentional parenting includes dreams, it's long-term, and it builds a healthy foundation. Fields argues quick-fix parenting, on the other hand, uses duct tape to hold things together, is short-term, and looks to solve the immediate problem. In this five-week study, Fields looks at these styles of parenting and reminds parents that parents are the greatest influence on the life of our children (no matter their age)!

The Middle (GH 226) – Difficult Words of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine

In this study, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the sometimes difficult teachings of Jesus would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

The Harbor (GH 222) – Romans

The book of Romans "clearly explains that everyone has sinned because everyone is a descendant of Adam. It also gives the Good News, or gospel, that Jesus Christ died and rose again to pay the penalty for our sin. The book of Romans also talks about Israel, the church, spiritual gifts, faith, and the Christian life." ~ The Baker Bible Handbook for Kids

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Volunteer with Children!

When we baptize children in worship, we make a promise that we will help nurture children in their relationship with God. What a wonderful opportunity and blessing it is to work with these children! At MPPC, there are ample opportunities for adults of all ages to work with our youngest disciples! Sunday School meets during the 10:00 a.m. hour on Sunday mornings, Kids Praise! gathers on the 2-4 Sundays of the month during the 11 a.m. service, and Sunday Night Live engages with children on Sunday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. You ARE needed and TWO adults are needed in with each group! Please take a minute and prayerfully consider volunteering to work with our children as soon as this Sunday, October 30. Use the following links to get connected! Contact Dan Wiard if you have questions.

Sunday School: signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-sunday

Kids Praise!: signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-kids1

Sunday Night Live: signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-sunday1

Sunday Mornings for Children:

Grades K-5

Children's Sunday School includes an opening Assembly and video along with classroom activities that connect Scripture and life in a child-friendly way. The classes are divided K-1st (SB 203), 2nd-3rd (SB 204), 4th-5th (SB 205). We use the Celebrate Wonder curriculum as children deepen their faith in a safe space allowing them to ask big questions and claim their spiritual identity as children of God.

Preschool

Our preschool program uses 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).

Nursery & Childcare

Nursery and childcare are available for toddlers and infants throughout Sunday mornings.

Kids Praise

Our "children's church" program meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month so that our children can receive Communion together with the congregation the first Sunday of each month. This worship experience for children in grades K-2nd includes a story based on weekly lectionary Bible readings 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 11am service, parents may pick up their children immediately following in Grace Hall 122.



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Feeling Extra Thankful This Season

It is crazy to think that we are nearing Advent and Christmas time, but we are excited about it in CornerStone Youth Ministry at MPPC! We have had an exciting Fall so far with weekly gatherings and monthly gatherings! We are also gearing up for our Middle School Presbytery Retreat at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. This is a fun weekend where we get to spend time together with other Charleston Atlantic Presbytery Churches! There is never a dull moment in Youth Ministry and I am grateful for the

youth and adults that make all of our events a success. Next time you are on campus be sure to speak to a youth and ask them about their experience, you may just want to get involved yourself! We are always looking for fun adults to help with our events!

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



Our Upcoming November:

- 1st- MS Prayer Breakfast
- 2nd- HS Youth Monthly Book Chat- Virtual and In Person
- 3rd- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 6th- BIB, Confirmation, and CornerStone Youth
- 8th- NO MS Prayer Breakfast
- 10th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- **11th-13th- MS PRESBYTERY RETREAT**
- 14th- Mini Montreat Mid-Month Monday
- 13th- BIB, NO Confirmation, and CornerStone Youth
- 15th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- 17th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- **20th-24th- NO YOUTH PROGRAMMING- Thanksgiving Break**
- 27th- BIB, Confirmation, and CornerStone Youth
- 29th- MS Prayer Breakfast

connected through education

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. In October we talked about Recruiting & Training Volunteers. Polls indicate that volunteering is still below pre-pandemic levels. In January 2022, researchers of an article reflected on volunteerism, "A recovery in volunteering may be more elusive as concerns about covid-19 exposure and public health safety measures limit Americans' willingness and ability to perform volunteer work." Conversations from our gathering indicate that, while we do some things well, there are opportunities to change. So how do we move forward? Churches need to look at how they promote and support volunteerism, offer clarity to the role(s) of volunteers, and remember that community trumps content.

Chuck Peters, director of the kid's ministry team at Lifeway Christian Resources, says, "Recruit with the why of ministry, not the need of ministry. In a season where the world is crazy, kids need Jesus more than ever to speak to their fears, and people are experiencing real losses. We have to be faithful to the mission."

There are many opportunities for you to volunteer in the education ministry at MPPC. I hope we can have some conversations in the coming months about how you might volunteer and serve Christ through the church

Peace,

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



Older Adult Ministry Events:

Covered Dish Luncheon

Monday, Nov. 14th at Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite food to share as we gather for lunch, fellowship, and surprise entertainment at noon on Monday, November 14 in the Fellowship Hall! The church will provide a meat for the lunch. RSVP via Realm or contact the church office. Bring a friend, bring a guest, all are welcome!

Mepkin Abbey Creche Festival

Thursday, Nov. 17th

You are invited to kick off the Advent season by joining MPPC'S Older Adult Ministry outing to the Mepkin Abbey Creche Festival on Thursday, November 17. Located near Moncks Corner, Mepkin Abbey is one of the most beautiful spots in the Lowcountry. Throughout the year, the monks there devote their lives to prayer, worship, spiritual study, hospitality, and the work of growing mushrooms. During late November and early December, they open their gates to visitors who have come to contemplate beautifully crafted and unique nativity scenes from all over the globe. The displays are completely handicapped-accessible.

The plan is to board the MPPC bus at 10:30, stop for lunch, and tour the creche display from 1-1:30. There is no entrance fee (although donations are welcome); lunch will be at each individual's expense. We have pre-registered for 20 persons, so make your first-come, first-served reservation by emailing or calling Alanna Barrett at abarrett@mppc.net.

connected through ministry



Intergenerational Mission Trip: LAMB

Do you feel called to serve God in the mission field or just “want to go on a mission trip?” Do you wonder what one person or one small team can accomplish? The answer is A LOT!

Help us make a difference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and join MPPC members and friends of all ages for our first official mission trip back since pre-COVID!

LAMB is a Christ-centered, multifaceted ministry based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras that seeks to reach out to the world with the love of Jesus Christ. We will be traveling to LAMB July 29-August 5, 2023 and mission trip applications are now open online. The cost is approximately \$850/per person plus the cost of your flight, scholarships are available!

Questions? Contact Caroline Feller (843-442-7891, carolinefeller@homesc.com) or Cathy Reed (843-696-1210, candmreed@yahoo.com).



ECCO Grocery Bag Sunday

Please plan to help our neighbors in need by picking up a grocery bag on your way out of church next Sunday, Nov. 6 and returning items for donation to the church by the following Sunday, Nov. 13. Your donations will be delivered to ECCO (East Cooper Community Outreach) where they will be distributed to those who need it most in our community. Thank you in advance - anything you can give will be most appreciated!

Pick up: Sunday, November 6
Drop off: Sunday, November 13

Music Schedule for November

Please reach out to Tony Sane 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.

Nov. 6 - Rehearsal	Nov. 20 - Rehearsal
Nov. 13 - Rehearsal	Nov. 27 - Rehearsal

Youth music will continue to meet each week in November from 5-5:30 p.m.

Nov. 6 - Rehearsal	Nov. 20 - Rehearsal
Nov. 13 - Rehearsal	Nov. 27 - Rehearsal

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

Village Concert Series: David Kiser

Join us for another Village Concert Series performance, this time we will be listening to the talented pianist, David Kiser. The program theme is: A South Carolina Piano Recital with music by Carlisle Floyd, Lily Stickland, and L. V. Beethoven. The concert will take place on Thursday, November 3rd in the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 7 p.m.

blessing of the animals



connected through hope

Lessons in Selflessness

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." - Philippians 2:4

When Hope House volunteers are asked what is so special about this Ministry, we answer: the guests.

They check-in often worried and weary. After a day or two of rest, they begin opening up...sharing stories about their loved ones in the hospital.

They form bonds with some of the volunteers, and often with the other guests. These guests check on each other, help each other with laundry or grocery shopping, pray together and share meals together. In a few instances, a couple of them have become such good friends they've offered to share a room with two beds, thereby freeing up another room for more potential guests.

Many leave us notes, like these:

"Hope House has given me more than hope. I've received kindness, friendship, nourishment, support, advice, peace, safety and love... This home will forever be in my heart." – M.T., Massachusetts

"This has been a Godsend for us to have a respite from what started as a horrible accident. You gave us shelter and calm in our time of despair. God has wrapped his arms around our family and has guided the skilled and caring doctors & nurses & burn team. Thank you and God bless." – P.&G. A., Virginia



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

NOVEMBER 1

In Honor of our sweet Hope House;
Given by former guest, Amory and
Emily Brown

NOVEMBER 4

In Memory of Anne-Marie Fields;
Given by William and Diana
O'Connell

NOVEMBER 5

In Honor Of James Magrath's
Birthday; Given by his parents,
Ashley and George Magrath

NOVEMBER 6

In Honor of our Granddaughter
Mary Sims de Holl; Given by Mark
and Jennifer Davidson

NOVEMBER 6

In Memory of Virginia Gilliam on
her birthday; Given by Mike, Julie
and Will Stephenson

NOVEMBER 10

In Gratitude of the Hope House;
Given by Al and Alice Jenkins

NOVEMBER 16

In Honor of Christopher Wyatt
Alley and for the Shelter provided
by HH to his Brother and Wife,
Debb and Reagan Alley; Given by
Betty Ellett

NOVEMBER 22

In Loving Memory of my beloved
husband, Stan; Given by Angela
Case

NOVEMBER 24

In Honor of Hope House where
strangers become family; Given by
a former guest, Natwarlal Bhardvaj

NOVEMBER 26

In Honor of Hope House; Given by
Lisa and Joe Rice

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

connected through community

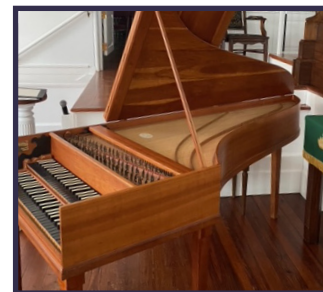
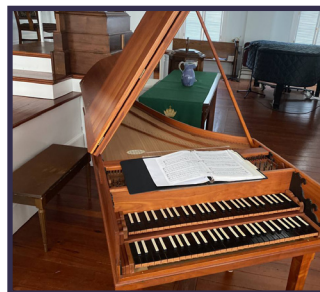
MPPC Harpsichord History:

MPPC's harpsichord was made in Paris in 1991 in the harpsichord shop of D. Jacques Way and Marc Ducornet. Way & Ducornet had a partnership in the late 80's-early 90's. They did not build many instruments, as DJW died in 1994, so MPPC's harpsichord is somewhat unique. Ducornet has continued his Paris shop to the present day.

This instrument is patterned after northern German instruments of the early 18th century, such as those by Mietke or Zell, and is very appropriate for the music of JS Bach. It has two keyboards, two unison sets of strings at piano pitch and one set an octave higher, which adds volume and brilliance. In addition it has a buff register which rests small leather pads against the strings and makes it sound like a lute. The case is cherry, which gives it the rich, reddish color. Most of the instrument is strung in yellow brass wire, of much thinner gauge than piano wire, ranging from .025" to .009" diameter.

A larger and later version of this style of German harpsichord is at First (Scots) Presbyterian in Charleston, but generally speaking, historical style German harpsichords are not so common. One is much more likely to encounter French, Flemish or Italian style instruments. However, the German style, with even dynamic range throughout bass to treble, makes it very successful in the highly contrapuntal style of 18th c. German composers. Research on extant German instruments from Bach's time was difficult in the decades between WWII and the fall of the Soviet Union, specifically the Berlin Wall, in 1989. The parts of Germany in which Bach lived (e.g. Weimar and Leipzig) were behind the Iron Curtain, in East Germany, and it was difficult for western researchers to gain access to instruments in this area. So when MPPC's instrument was commissioned, this represented a very new area of research in the history of harpsichord styles.

It was a given in memory of James Sidney Query.



Pacesetters: James Scott

James Scott, an award-winning WWII author, will give a talk and slide presentation about *Black Snow*, his latest book. Alex Kershaw, a best-selling NY author, best described it when he said, "The firebombing of Japan is one of



the most gut-wrenching and controversial chapters in modern history. Scott's *Black Snow* is a brilliant, fast moving, utterly absorbing, and devastating account of the full price of victory in the Pacific." Come and prepare to hear James Scott at his best on Friday, Nov. 11th in the Fellowship Hall!

RSVP to Susan Mellichamp at 843-697-2111 or e-mail, at susanmell@mac.com by Nov. 7th. \$15 per person, paid at the door. Doors Open: 5:45 pm, Dinner: 6 pm, Entertainment: 7 pm. Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Squash Casserole, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potatoes, Gravy, Pecan Pie & Pumpkin Pie

From the Finance Team:

In an effort to reduce our printing & mailing costs, I would like to make the following request: if you are giving online or for some other reason are not using the MPPC envelopes you receive in the mail, please contact Glenn Hair at ghair@MPPC.net or (843)884-4612 ext. 240 to be removed from the mailing list. Blessings!

Glenn Hair, Finance Director



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

mppc.net/events

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests