

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

December 2022

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

Traceable & Believable



Luke 2: *In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.*

With this familiar verse begins one of the most important chapters in the history of humankind. It is a

familiar story, because Luke 2 is always read in worship during the Christmas period. Because we are familiar with this story, we may get careless when we read it again. And so, we do not take the time to worship and wonder at this event which changed the history and time keeping of the world.

The first seven verses of Luke 2 tell in an almost simplistic way how God became a human being in the person of the Son. The birth of our Lord is placed within certain historical events—the emperor was Augustus, and Quirinius was governor of Syria when there was a world-wide census.

We know that Publius Sulpicius Quirinius (also translated as Cyrenius) was appointed legate governor of Syria, to which the province of Judaea had been added for the purpose of a census.

Luke wants to ground his story firmly in the history of humankind—traceable, believable. But he wanted this story to be more than a mere lesson in history. In his version of the Jesus story, God's mercy and love for all people is revealed, how God put the exclamation point at the end of the love story when the Son died on the cross. And our story, which begins in the fields of Bethlehem, with politicians scheming and organizing, ends with the report that "... they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God (Lk 24:52–53.)

Where will your Christmas story end this year? My prayer is that Advent and Christmas will be filled with many memories, and with an experience which will end in all of us worshipping the living Christ, who showed us how much God loves all people.

Blessings,

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

CELEBRATE ADVENT AT MPPC!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Dec. 11 at 9 & 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.
Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall

Dec. 18 at 5 p.m.
Caroling around the Old Village meet in the Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Time	Location
4 p.m.	Outdoors - Please bring a chair
6 p.m.	Sanctuary with Fellowship Hall Overflow + Livestream Option
8 p.m.	Sanctuary with FH Overflow
11 p.m.	Sanctuary with FH Overflow

Post Christmas Schedule

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE WEEK FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS TO GIVE OUR STAFF SOME TIME OFF.

WE WILL STILL HAVE WORSHIP SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY (SUNDAY, DEC. 25) AND NEW YEARS DAY (SUNDAY, JAN. 1). WE WILL HAVE ONE SERVICE ON THOSE DAYS AT 10 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY.

connected through music



DECEMBER 11, 9 & 11 AM, SANCTUARY

EVERY VOICE IN CONCERT SING

MPPC Christmas Cantata

This year's Christmas cantata is titled "Every Voice in Concert Sing" and is a collection of seasonal carols that acknowledges both the harmony and the diversity we celebrate by coming together. This service of carols features the music of "Messiah" by G.F. Handel, John Rutter, David Willcocks, Dan Forrest, Lauran Daigle and more!

This year will be a bit different as we combine our adult choir, children singers and Net Band as well as guest musicians to offer a place for every voice. Please join us on Sunday, December 11 at 9 and 11 a.m. in our sanctuary.



Pacesetters: Christmas with Tony Sane & Friends

Join Tony Sane & friends Friday, Dec. 9th in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate a night of holiday musical favorites! Including a Christmas Carols Sing!

RSVP to Susan Mellichamp at 843-697-2111 or susanmell@mac.com by Dec. 5th. \$15 per person, paid at the door. Doors Open: 5:45 pm, Dinner: 6 pm, Entertainment: 7 pm.

Menu will be sliced prime rib, creamy mashed potatoes, seasoned green beans, garden salad, assorted dessert bars and ice cream.



**PACE
SETTERS**

Christmas Carol Sing
in the Fellowship Hall

**TONY SANE
& FRIENDS**

Friday, Dec. 9

RSVP by Dec. 5
Doors Open: 5:45 pm,
Dinner: 6 pm,
Entertainment: 7 pm
\$15, paid at the door.

Children's Choir Christmas Schedule

- December 4- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm
- December 11- 3rd-5th graders in Kingdom choir sing for 9am and 11am worship
- December 11- NO REHEARSAL- Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade
- December 18- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm
- December 24- Christmas Eve Service- 4pm Singing in Worship
- January 8, 2023- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm

Tony Sane

Director of Music Ministries



connected through education

Family Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24, 4 p.m.

Children of all ages are invited to participate in this retelling of the Christmas Story. We invite children to come dressed for the character they might select in the story: animals, shepherds, wise people, angels. Children's choirs will be singing! This service will be outside, please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.



Children's ECCO Craft Project

In November children made 39 turkey wooden spoons for Thanksgiving bags given out by ECCO. Great job, children! And thank you for serving our community.



Children Pizza Luncheon and Gingerbread House Workshop

Enjoy the Christmas Spirit with a special Gingerbread House Workshop at MPPC on Sunday, December 11, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship. Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, children and parents are invited to come and decorate your unique house that will add color in your homes and memories in your heart. Cost: \$5 per child for pizza (sorry parents, only kids eat). Each family should bring frosting and candy to decorate your gingerbread house. Church will provide the basics to get children going constructing his or her house! Signup through Realm to secure your spot. We request parents stay and participate.

Christmas Caroling in the Old Village

In the words of Buddy the Elf, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Join us as we spread some Christmas cheer in the Old Village during our church caroling event on Sunday, Dec. 18th from 5-7 p.m. We will meet on the Fellowship Hall porch at 5 p.m. to begin our caroling. We will finish up around 6 p.m. and make our way back to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy some pizza and hot chocolate!



connected through education

Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:13-14, NIV)

I wonder how you and I welcome children as part of the Body of Christ through MPPC. Do we do enough? Are our hearts truly open to welcoming little children? What does it mean to welcome children? If we ever wondered about these questions or how Jesus might welcome a child, the answer is clear in the Gospels. Do not hinder – or stop – them!

One way we can welcome children into the faith community at MPPC is to volunteer to share our faith with them, to teach them the Good News of the Gospel, and for them to know us by name because we are present with them welcoming them as Jesus might. The opportunities to serve our youngest disciples are many, and there are many young disciples at MPPC. Please consider getting engaged with the children in one of the following areas in 2023.

- [Sunday School](#) – Children gather on Sunday mornings from 10:00-10:50 a.m. to engage and learn Bible stories that are so familiar to adults.
- [Sunday Night Live](#) – A more relaxed environment provides children new and different opportunities to build friendships and hear the Good News! Bible Times & Crafts (Preschool), Jesus and Me (JAM) (Grades K-2), and Kids Alive (Grades 3-5) are wonderful ways to connect on Sunday evenings, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- [Kids Praise](#) – Bring worship to children in a child-friendly way on select Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship immediately following the children's message.

We are children of God called to share the Gospel with all ages, including our youngest disciples. It is a wonderful blessing when a child knows our name because we have touched that child's life. I wonder how God might like us to serve our children.

Blessings,

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



Sunday Night Live Children's Schedule

- 4:30 p.m.
 - Children's Choirs - Angel Notes, Kingdom Choir
- 5:00 p.m.
 - Dinner
- 5:30 p.m.
 - Children's Programs – Bible Time & Crafts, JAM, Kids Alive
- 6:30 p.m.
 - Home



connected through education

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the CornerStone Youth

The youth have been busy this holiday season with trips, prayer breakfasts, mini Montreat, music, youth group gatherings and more. The energy is so positive right now in youth ministry and that is something that I would like to thank the youth and parents for. We have decorated the youth basement space, so I encourage you to come take a peek when you are on campus to get in the Christmas spirit!

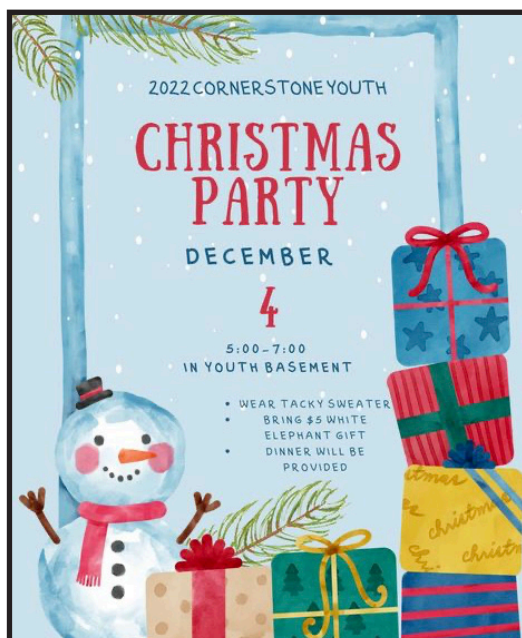
The youth have a lot of Christmas events during the month of December and one of those events includes the ENTIRE congregation and friends! I

hope YOU will join us for the MPPC Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade Tailgate on December 11th for pizza, cookies, hot chocolate, music and fun as we watch the parade together on Coleman Boulevard. YOU can RSVP through Realm! Come one, come all!

Blessings,

Courtney Kraus

Director of Youth Ministries



Our Upcoming December:

- 1st- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 4th- BIB, Confirmation, Music, and CORNERSTONE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 5th - HS Bethelwoods Registration Opens
- 6th- MS Prayer Breakfast
- 8th- HS Prayer Breakfast
- 11th-BIB, Confirmation, MPPC Mt. Pleasant Christmas Parade Tailgate
- 18th - BIB, NO Confirmation, Churchwide Caroling through the Old Village- END OF YOUTH EVENTS FOR 2022, Courtney's Last Day
- 24th- Christmas Eve Services
- 25th- Christmas Day! MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sign up for these events through the links in my weekly emails Sunday or through Realm.



connected through education

Advent

"Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ's return. (An excerpt from the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission website)

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and marks the beginning of the liturgical calendar. Happy New Year, Church!

Peace,

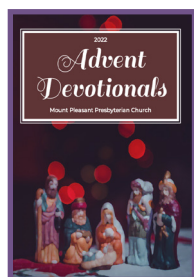
Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



MPPC Advent Devotional

The MPPC Advent Devotion book, available on the Church Web Site, includes MPPC staff reflections on each of the Advent candles, prayers, Scripture for each day of the week, and children's activity ideas. Limited print copies are available on the MPPC campus. The Adult Faith Formation ministry team hopes your season of Advent will be richly blessed using this resource throughout the season.



Adults, Did You Know??

Sunday Night Live is a MPPC-wide church event that includes studies and programs for all ages, including adults. While children's choir begins at 4:30 p.m., adult opportunities parallel children's programs beginning at 5:00 p.m. with dinner, followed by studies that meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Whether you are just beginning or have decades of experience adulting, we hope you will join us on Sunday Nights at SNL MPPC Edition! Read the weekly eNews for the latest offerings and meeting locations.

Do You Have Ideas for Adult Faith Formation?

The Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team meets on the first Thursday of each month and welcomes newcomers and ideas to the meetings. Contact Tracy Blanchard or Pam Spivey to learn more about the AFF Ministry Team.



Advent Studies:

Three different Advent studies are happening on and around the MPPC campus this Advent. Even though they have started, you are invited to join any of the studies.

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem, by Adam Hamilton. In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. **(9:30 a.m., Connect 3 Sunday School Class, Parlor)**

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent, by Susan Robb, is a four-week Advent study that explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, the reader explores the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel—and other angels—in the Old Testament. *The Angels of Christmas* uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. **(10 a.m., Youngish Adults in Seabrook 209, and The Middle in Grace Hall 226)**

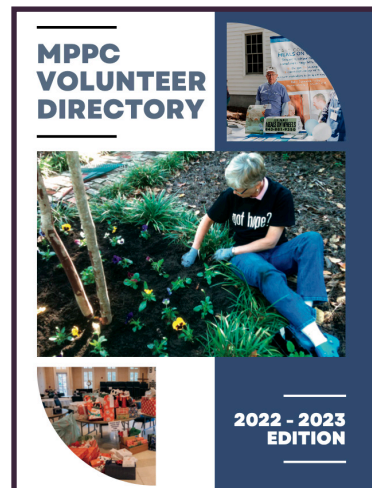
Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, by Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. **(9:30 a.m., Academy of St. John in Seabrook 206)**

connected through mission

Pastor Bart's Advent Challenge

From my sermon on Nov 27th the First Sunday of Advent, here are four ways to practice our faith, as we wait with awareness and anticipation for Christ's coming.

1. Select a drawer, closet, room, your garage, a space in your house or a rented storage unit, that needs cleaning out and organizing. This advent season clean it out- throw away what you don't need and donate what you can.
2. Find two things you own and love but never use. What friend or family member-or even a charitable organization-could use these special items?
3. Prepare an extra meal and give it to a neighbor or friend.
4. Place the MPPC Local Missions Volunteer Directory (mppc.net/volunteer) in a prominent place in your home. Review and discuss the catalog with your family and choose a volunteer opportunity you are passionate about. Then find ways you can give to that mission partner or serve them during advent and in 2023.



I would love to hear from you with a follow up email about your Advent Challenge experience. Please send an email to bedwards@mppc.net and let me know how you and your family experience a new practice for Advent.



Rev. Bart Edwards

Associate Pastor for Missions

ECCO Grocery Bag Sunday

You really crushed it this month with groceries for ECCO. In August we delivered just over 1,000 lbs. of groceries to ECCO. I asked the congregation to go over that amount in November and we did by adding 500 lbs. Our November total came out to 1,593 lbs!

Here is what ECCO had to say:

"Bart, Please thank the congregation for this wonderful showing of support to help feed local families. Especially, as many are struggling to feed their families due to rising food costs! We quickly scanned and shelved these items to make them ready to put in client food orders. We are very thankful for area churches like you who make ECCO's mission possible. We can only serve the community with community support. Happy Thanksgiving!" - Frances Huffstetler, Volunteer and Community Impact Manager

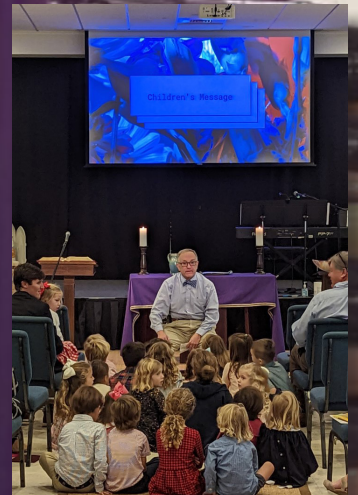


Friends, If you are ever wondering how you can help someone in need, drop off a bag of groceries at ECCO their address is: 1145 6 Mile Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29466. The good folks at ECCO will turn it around fast and get needed nutrition into the hands and homes of folks that are hungry.

Thanks again for answering the call to help our neighbors in need.

Blessings,
Pastor Bart

first sunday in advent



connected through hope

Blessings Abound for this House of Hope

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever." – 2 Hebrews 12:28-29

'Tis the Season to give of oneself, come together, and share your gifts with others.

With your support, Hope House continues to welcome those who are caring for loved ones in an area hospital. Many guests are far from home, struggling to cope with the unknown in strange surroundings. Their one constant: the peace and comfort they say they find at Hope House.

Recently the number of guests who have checked-in reached 1,800. The House officially opened in February 2010 as a hospital hospitality house.

To many who stay here though, it becomes their "home away from home." They form bonds with volunteers or other guests, rediscovering the spirit of the Season by helping one another.

And no matter what happens, they always remember this Ministry, supported by each of you at MPPC. Wishing you a most Blessed and Merry Christmas.

"We cannot express our gratitude enough about the love we felt while staying here. We are thankful for your Church and their generosity for keeping Hope House alive. The presence of God is truly felt here." – J&F V



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

DECEMBER 1

In Memory of Robert McCormick; Given by his wife, Naomi McCormick

DECEMBER 2

In Memory of Thomas E Lucy, Jr.; Given by Trey, Katie, Sarah, Kate, Hayes and Leighton Lucy

DECEMBER 6

In Memory of Jeff Bunton; Given by Debra Williams

DECEMBER 8

In Memory of Jeff Bunton; Given by Debra Williams

DECEMBER 8

In Honor of my Friend, Lorraine Perry; Given by Renee Odierna

DECEMBER 9

A Special Donation to our Wonderful Hope House; Given by Bevery Hogan

DECEMBER 10

In Memory of our daughter, Caroline Jenkinson; Given by her parents, Will and Meredith Jenkinson

DECEMBER 9-13

In Memory of William Edward (Eddie) Tuilley Sr. and Mildred Tuilley; Given by Eddie Tuilley, Jr. and Beth Fondren

DECEMBER 14

In Honor of Beth Moore for her Devotion and Dedication to our Hope House; Given by the Hope House Ministry Team

DECEMBER 16

In Honor of My Friend, Lorraine Perry; Given by Renee Odierna

DECEMBER 21

In Honor of my son and his wife, Andy and Courtney, and their new baby; Given by Andrew Arnold

DECEMBER 21

In honor of Kathy and Elton Carrier; Given by Karen and Ray Moss

DECEMBER 23

In Honor of our granddaughter, Adden Elizabeth Davidson; Given by Mark and Jennifer

DECEMBER 24

In Honor of our new Granddaughter, AnnaKate Grace Philhower on her 3 month birthday; Given by David and Margaret Agee

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

connected through community



Staff Christmas Love Offering

Our MPPC staff blesses us and the ministry God is doing through us every day. That said, it has been another hard year for our staff coming out of COVID concurrent with the departure of so many, which has necessitated more flexibility and work for everyone. Our wonderful staff has risen to the challenge.



To show our appreciation, we are collecting a love gift again this holiday season. From November 24 through December 11, members can contribute online at onrealm.org/mppc/give/loveoffering, by check, or by scanning the QR code. The money collected will then be divided and presented to the staff in advance of Christmas. Thank you for joining together as a church family to bless our wonderful staff.

– The Personnel Committee

About Year End Giving:

The ministries of MPPC are dependent upon your financial generosity. Thank you for your participation in God's mission through your tithes and offerings. As we wind down 2022 and you plan your year-end giving, here are a few items of note:

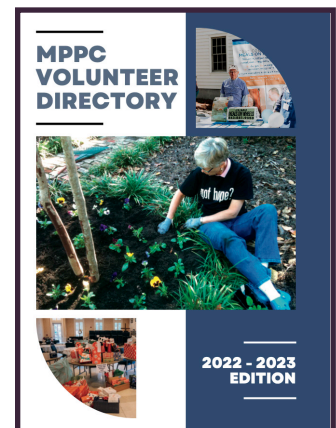
- There are several ways to give, including cash, check, via a charitable trust, directly from your 401(K) account, online via ACH or credit card, or via stock transfer. If you're giving online, please note it is less expensive for the church if you use ACH (bank account and routing number).
- If you wish for your gift to be included on your 2022 giving statement, please be sure to begin the process as early in December as possible, especially for gifts of stock and 401(K) distributions. It takes several days for your broker to complete a stock transfer to our Morgan Stanley account, and generally a few weeks to process a 401(K) or charitable trust distribution.
- If you plan to mail a gift, it must be physically at MPPC or postmarked by December 31, 2022. You are encouraged to mail earlier rather than later due to possible USPS delays. If your gift is post-marked or dropped off after December 31, your gift will not appear on your 2022 giving statement.

Your donation to MPPC may qualify for an income tax deduction in accordance with Federal and/or State income tax laws. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine whether your donation is tax deductible in whole or in part. Nothing in this communication is intended to constitute legal or tax advice. If you have questions about any of the above, feel free to contact Glenn Hair at (843)-884-4612 ext. 240 or ghair@mppc.net. Thank you!

Unveiling the Volunteer Opportunities Directory

MPPC is now providing information in one place to inform members about volunteer opportunities in our local community! You can learn what you need to know to make an informed choice regarding which ministry you would like to participate in or investigate further. As the directory opens, it reflects on the idea that members of our missional church endeavor to be the hands and feet of Christ in our local community.

The culmination of work by all members of our Local Missions Team, this directory describes organizations which are long time partners with MPPC and new ministries which members have recently discovered and are supporting. This directory is about sharing "time and talent" to help our neighbors in need. It is family friendly and opportunities exist on weekends. It is on our church website at mppc.net/volunteer and paper copies are available at church. Pick your ministry and get involved today!





Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

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

FOLLOW US



@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests