

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

January 2023

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

What Will 2023 Bring?



I do not know how ready you are for (another!) new year. Whether we are ready or not, 2023 is upon us!

And who knows what this new year will bring? How will we find our way through this year? What

lies in store for us—personally, as a community, for our country, and for Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church? We don't know. But we know we are not alone on this journey into a new year! We believe that Emmanuel is with us, and will lead us...

We get to know God as a God who leads people who believe in him in (sometimes) mysterious ways. God led the Israelites through the wilderness, when “The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night” (Exodus 13:21-22). We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus. The birth of our Savior is framed by stories of people who were led by God—the shepherds, the magi, and Joseph and Mary and Jesus to Egypt and back. And God remained present with the people in everything that happened to them during their journeys!

God is present in 2023, in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, in every home. We can't always physically see that God is leading us somewhere but we have a different kind of light and guidance—Scripture and God's Son, whose birth we celebrated a few days ago, show us a new way.

We can turn to Scripture, and we can hold on to our Savior, to find guidance for our lives. With these two present in our lives, we can step out in faith and trust. “Faith,” Martin Luther King Jr said, “is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

What will 2023 bring for us? I don't know. But I know Who is with us, Who will guide us through whatever life throws at us. Emmanuel. For Him we are grateful. And in His Light, we'll live well in 2023.

Prayer (from the Lutheran Book of Worship):
*Lord God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessings,

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

Sign Up for the Congregational Diagnosis & Discussion!

Congregational Diagnosis and Discussion Option 1

Sundays, Jan 15, 22 & 29 | 4-7 pm

*Must attend all 3, sign up at
mppc.net/events or on Realm.*

Congregational Diagnosis and Discussion Option 2

Fri., Feb. 3, 5-9 pm & Sat. Feb 4, 9 am-5 pm

*Must attend both days, sign up at
mppc.net/events or on Realm.*

connected through music



VILLAGE CONCERT SERIES BEN ROSENBLUM JAZZ TRIO



JANUARY 27, 7 PM FREE CONCERT

MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY
302 HIBBEN ST. MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464

Village Concert Series: Friday, January 27 at 7 pm

Join us in the Sanctuary on Friday, January 27th at 7 p.m. for a performance by the talented Ben Rosenblum Jazz Trio.

Ben Rosenblum is an award-winning New York City jazz pianist and accordionist. Rosenblum has toured extensively with his trio and sextet throughout the United States, including multiple trips to the Northeast, Midwest, South and West Coast, as well as internationally in Canada, Europe and Japan.

We hope you'll join us for this exciting performance!

Children's Choir January Schedule

- January 1- NO REHEARSAL
- January 8- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm
- January 15- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm
- January 22- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm
- January 29- Rehearsal 4:30-5pm

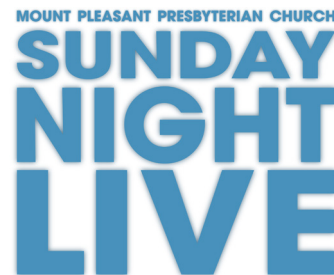


Tony Sane
Director of Music Ministries

connected through education

Sunday Night Live is Back!!

Beginning in January, Sunday Night Live registration is happening differently! Children, youth, and adults are asked to sign up for weekly dinners. This means that you cannot sign up for the program in its entirety but must sign up each week. This will be of tremendous help in helping prepare the correct amount of food. Sign up for programs will be a separate sign up. Please reach out to Alanna or Trish in the church office with questions.



Children's Schedule

4:30-5:00 p.m.	Children's choirs (Angel Notes, Kingdom Choir)
5:00-5:30 p.m.	Dinner for all ages (Sign up on Realm)
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Children's Programs (Bible Time & Crafts, JAM, Kids Alive)

Adult Schedule

Sunday Night Live is NOT just for children! Beginning with dinner at 5 p.m., everyone is invited and welcome. Immediately following dinner, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., there is adult programming. Here's a quick glance at what's coming. Please note that dinner and class/study sign-ups are separate from each other beginning in January. Studies below will indicate if registration is needed. Unless otherwise noted, adult offerings meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

January 8 – Part of God's Story: Let's Talk about Beliefs (GH 226) We all have beliefs, but what beliefs are most valuable to us that we feel are worth sharing and telling others? From our faith to how we treat others or how to save money, we'll talk about this and what beliefs we want to share. (This class is open to all adults and is a piece of Part of God's Story from the fall.)

January 15, 22, 29 – Congregational Diagnosis and Discussion (GH 221/225). This event will take place in three parts, over the course of three Sunday afternoons (3:30pm - 7:00pm). Attendees need to attend all three meetings. Childcare will be available. Please read the following description in its entirety:

MPPC must answer maybe the most important question, "What kind of leader(s) do we want to lead us into a new future, post-Covid?"

Before we can do that, we must know who we are. What is our "elevator-pitch" (30 seconds or less) if anyone asks us what MPPC is about?

The next phase of the interim pastor work will be to use our heritage as background, and to ask questions around the needs and ways we organize and develop effective leadership for MPPC. We also must talk about mission—defining and redefining our purpose and direction. In the end we must answer the questions, "Who are we?", "What is God calling us to do?" and "Who are our neighbors?"

Our workshop will be on the hand of the book written by Kennon L Callahan, Twelve Keys to an Effective Church: Strong, Healthy Congregations Living in the Grace of God [2010 Edition]. Although you don't have to read the book to be part of our "workshop," it will begin to guide our thinking if you read it beforehand. Register on Realm.

January 29 – Water Mission Presentation & Chili Cook-off

February 5 – NO SNL

February 12 – Part of God's Story: Let's Talk about Beliefs (GH 226) We continue our conversation about what we believe and what beliefs are most valuable to us that we feel are worth sharing and telling others. We will include what we believe as part of the PCUSA in this conversation.

February 19 – Churchwide Lent Kickoff - Register on Realm

February 26 – April 2 – Lent Small Group Study by Adam Hamilton, *Luke: Jesus and the Outsider, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. Register on Realm

April 9 – Easter – NO SNL

April 16 – May 7 – Part of God's Story: Us (Genealogy) Register on Realm. Watch for exciting details about how we will begin studying our genealogy.

connected through education

Children's Ministry Parent Meeting

There will be a children's ministry parent meeting on **Sunday, January 22, 2023, 10:05 a.m.** (children's Sunday School is happening during our meeting and childcare is available for the youngest children). We will meet in Grace Hall 221/225. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about the children's ministry at MPPC. Please make every effort to attend. You ARE needed.

2nd & 3rd Grade Bibles Class

The class will meet on **Wednesdays January 18 - March 8, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** and include a light dinner. The group will meet in Grace Hall 223/225. This year's eight-week "2nd & 3rd Grade Bibles" class will be fast moving and children who participate will know how to use their Bible and what the Bible is about by the end of our time together. They will also receive a NIV New Adventure Bible from the church.

Children who participate are asked to attend each week, come prepared, and be ready and willing to learn in a fun way. Participants will engage in active learning through hands-on games and activities that include using their Bible.

Please sign up no later than Wednesday, January 11.

Children's Volunteer Leadership Meeting

If you are volunteering in the MPPC children's ministry program, there is a children's Volunteer Leadership Meeting on **Sunday, January 22**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship. We will serve a light lunch and focus on the different programs/curriculum we offer in our ministry. Please sign up through Realm so we will have enough food for everyone. Childcare will be available by request.

Sunday School Children's Locations

For children and youth, Sunday School is from 10:00-10:50 a.m.

- Nursery and Childcare – SB 110
- PreK – SB 103
- K-1 Grade – SB 203
- 2-3 Grade – SB 204
- 4-5 Grade – SB 205



in memory & in honor of...

Every year, congregational members and visitors are invited to purchase a poinsettia during the Christmas season to remember or honor a loved one. The poinsettias this year were dedicated to...

In Loving Memory Of...

Jim Tolleson and Ann West;
Given by the Ackard family

Lee & Anita Pheonix and Bill & Helen Agee;
Given by Margaret & David Agee

Wesley C. Schneider; Given by Holly Blair

Our parents, Alfred & Corrine Moss and Louis & Mildred Carrier; Given by Elton & Kathy Carrier

My mother, Margaret Stiepel, and my father,
Erhard Stiepel; Given by Angi Case

Michael Van Clark; Given by Gwen Clark

My parents, Alma and Gene Savedge;
Given by Martha Cole

Our parents, Mr. & Mrs. William Mapp and Dr. & Mrs.
James Crowder; Given by Ann & Rob Crowder

My two brothers, Richard Crowder and James
Crowder; Given by Ann & Rob Crowder

Dad, Booker Dalton; Given by Susan Dalton

William & Allene DeWeese; Given by Duane &
Lauren DeWeese

Ward & Beulah Elliott and Namon and Bethel Kelly;
Given by Jim & Jayne Ellicott

Nancy Evans; Given by Charlie Evans

Frank Guest and Gwenda Karnazes;
Given by Mr. & Mrs. Guest

My parents, Dorothy and Sherrill Hiott;
Given by Kathy Haines

Jay Collins by the Tyler boys, Ty & Andy;
Given by Joanne Harwell

Our grandson, Addison Anders Johnson, Jr.;
Given by Marshall & Lisa Hay

Mary Ann Donaldson Hay;
Given by Marshall & Lisa Hay

Linda Dowling Henderson;
Given by Marshall & Lisa Hay

My late husband, Jim Kepner; Given by Star Kepner

Our parents; Given by Bob & Linda King

Billy & Patti Masche with love;
Given by Robert & Nancy Masche and family

Douglas Mellichamp; Given by Susan Mellichamp

Sid & Mabel Query Given by Dick & Susanne Query

Dr. Bill Thigpen, Mac's brother;
Given by Mac & Donna Thigpen

Andrew Blair Walton, Marshall James Walton,
William Andrew Walton, Norman James Walton, Jr.
and Merle Weldon; Given by Jason Walton

In Honor Of..

Helen C. Schneider; Given by Holly Blair

All service men and women who will not be home
for Christmas; Given by The Gary Bloder Family

Our grandsons, Charlie, Hays and Johnny Robinson
and all of children; Given by Ann & Rob Crowder

Lauren's parents, Elton & Kathy Carrier; Given by
Duane & Lauren DeWeese

Children and Grandchildren, Ty Tyler, Andy Tyler,
Miles Greene, Maddie Greene and AJ Tyler; Given
by Joanne Harwell

Bruce McAdams & Kathy Dearing;
Given by Bob Hervey

Jake, Savannah and Catherine Mellichamp;
Given by Susan Mellichamp

My family, Kendall Collin, David, Elizabeth and
David; Given by Beth Moore

The volunteers dedicated to the Hope House
Ministry; Given by Beth Moore

The Christmas Decorating Committee;
Given by Pam Owen-Early

The Glory of God; Given by Theresa & Bob Reed

connected through education

Leten Small Groups

Lenten small groups have been an annual event at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church for some time and this year is no exception! This year our intergenerational Lenten kickoff is **Sunday, February 19, 2023**, in the Fellowship Hall with dinner at 5 p.m., followed by a program that will help us get ready for Lent.

For our study this year we will be using Adam Hamilton's study ***Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws***.

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

In Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Small groups typically meet one hour for six consecutive weeks during the season of Lent, February 19 – April 2 and have met virtually and in-person. Curriculum is provided and sign-ups for a small group will begin in January. Groups are open to newcomers and meet throughout the week from early morning hours (men's group) to Sunday evenings, weekdays, and weeknights and meet in people's homes or on the MPPC campus. If you would like to facilitate a group or would like more information, please reach out to me!

Blessings,

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



FIVE WISHES®

An Older Adult Luncheon: Five Wishes

On Monday, January 9 at 12 pm, older adults will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a covered-dish lunch and special program led by Lissa Long on "Five Wishes." Though we don't like to think about it, a change in health or an accident can happen to any of us. That's why it's important for all of us - regardless of our age or health - to talk with our families and loved ones about what kind of care we would want if we ever become too sick to speak for ourselves. No one wants to be in the difficult position of having to guess what kind of treatment a loved one would want or not want, and everyone wants to feel like they honored their loved one's choices.

"Five Wishes" is a document that helps you and the people in your life talk together about decisions, medical treatment, comfort, how you want to be treated, and what you want loved ones to know. The Older Adult Ministry Team hopes you will join us. Sign up through Realm or by calling the church office.

Sunday School

There are classes for all ages on Sunday mornings and childcare during both Services of Worship and Sunday School. For children and youth, Sunday School is from 10-10:50 a.m. For adults, Connect 3, Academy of Saint John, and the Harbor meet at 9:30 a.m., and the Youngish Adults and The Middle meet at 10 a.m.

While children continue their age appropriate lessons walking their way through the Bible and hearing stories of God's amazing work, youth are discussing Sunday's sermon message with Breakfast in the Basement, adults have options from studying 1 Corinthians (Connect 3) and Romans (The Harbor), to exploring the Difficult Words of Jesus (The Middle), or being part of the congregational diagnosis and discussion (Youngish Adults) to talking about current events or a thematic Bible study (Academy of Saint John). There are topics for everyone. We invite you to participate and join in!

Adult Classroom Locations:

Connect 3 – Parlor

The Harbor – GH 222

Academy of Saint John – SB 206

Youngish Adults – SB 209 (Library)

The Middle – GH 226

connected through mission

Construction in Haiti brings hope during holidays

Following last year's earthquake in the southern part of Haiti, the MPPC international missions team joined other churches to help in the rebuilding process through our mission partner in Haiti, Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM). Here is a report on their progress:

Thanks to generous donations received for earthquake relief, HOM is building six homes in the town of Cavaillon. Cavaillon is 45 miles from the epicenter, and the community there suffered significant damage. Earlier this year, Pastor Leon made several trips to Cavaillon to meet with community leaders and affected families to determine how HOM could provide support.

In addition to the houses, HOM is also constructing 4 wells in the area to give people access to clean, safe drinking water. Additionally, we are partnering with FIDA-pch, a Canadian-based organization that has worked in rural Haiti for nearly 40 years, to provide mobile medical clinics so that families in the area will have access to needed health care. These photos show the swift progress being made on these houses. HOM is grateful to the generous donors who are making this effort possible and are literally putting a roof over these families' heads.

Bondye ap travay! (God is working)

HOM Frequently Asked Questions:

What is happening in the HOM supported schools?

The 3 primary schools and 1 secondary school remain unable to open due to on-going insecurity in Port-au-Prince. The main concern is the ability of students to safely get to and from school each day as gang violence remains prevalent.



Until students can safely return to the classroom, our administrators and teachers have been preparing lessons and coursework that can be done at home. The lessons are picked up on a bi-weekly basis by parents, and teachers also provide instructions to the families so they can support their students in completing the lessons. Emergency food is also sent home with the lessons. The vocational school has been able to reopen as of November and is currently serving 168 adult students. The vocational school can operate because the students are adults & young people who mostly live near the campus and are able to come by themselves (as opposed to the younger students who need to be brought by their parents).

What is happening at the HOM supported medical clinic?

The clinic has resumed its normal operations and is open daily from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. The staff has been especially focused on addressing the cholera outbreak, providing education and information on treating water so it is safe to drink, as well as dealing with cases of malnutrition due to rising hunger. On 12/19, the Haitian Ministry of Health is launching a vaccination campaign against cholera, and our clinic will serve as an immunization site. The clinic staff reports they are seeing more patients with high blood pressure and diabetes issues due to the stressful environment. The clinic has also sadly seen firsthand the effects of gang violence through young rape victims who have come to the clinic for care.

Are the financial systems working? How does HOM know money sent to Haiti is getting there?

Despite everything, banking systems are working. HOM wires funds to partner MICECC monthly. We receive confirmation when the funds are received, and we also receive detailed financial reports from MICECC tracking all income and expenses.

Does HOM still need student sponsorship funds while the schools are closed?

Yes, we ask that sponsors continue this vital support. These funds allow HOM to continue to pay the teachers their monthly salaries as they prepare take-home lessons for students and also ensure classes are ready when school does reopen. Funds also are being used to distribute food to students and their families to alleviate hunger until the school lunch meal resumes.

If you are interested in learning more about our International Missions partners like HOM, contact Pastor Bart Edwards at bedwards@mppc.net.

christmas eve @ mppc



We had over 1,500 people attend our Christmas Eve services, online and in person! 700 of those worshippers were at our 4 p.m. service in the Fellowship Hall, and 177 of y'all were online with us at 6 p.m.



connected through hope

Spreading Cheer to End the Year

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." – Peter 4:10

As we look forward to a New Year filled with Hope and Promise, we take one last look at the end of 2022.

For nine years now, right after Thanksgiving, one MPPC family has been brightening up Hope House from pillar to post.

This year Anna and Will Laye received help from their son Ryan and five Hope House volunteers in adorning the fences, the porches and walkway with yards of garland, strands upon strands of lights, and 34 bows.. each one tied by Anna. The inside was made just as festive. And it only took two hours!

Anna Laye has called decorating Hope House her family's "gift to the Church." We call the Layes our "Christmas angels."

Hope House also was blessed when asked again to take part in the Old Village Holiday Street Festival. Caretakers and members of the Ministry Team eagerly shared the story of how a deteriorating historic house was rescued by Mount Pleasant Presbyterian and transformed into this warm, inviting house of refuge for so many in need.

The middle of this month marks 12 years since Hope House was dedicated as a faith-based hospital hospitality house. And thanks to your continued support, we have welcomed more than 1,800 guests.. and counting.

Wishing all of you a Healthy and Happy New Year!



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

JANUARY 1

In Honor of Karl and Miff Cone; Given by Chase and Katie Cone

JANUARY 1

In Memory of our dear husband and father, Donald Johnson; Given by Klara Johnson and Family

JANUARY 3

In Support of HH for offering a shelter for those that need while supporting loved ones; Given by Pat Bainv

JANUARY 5

In Honor of HH; Given by James McLawhorn

JANUARY 6

In Honor of Becky and Pat Neuhaus for their Continuous support of HH; Given by the HH Ministry Team

JANUARY 7

In Honor of Kristi Simmons Bias and Daddy, Buddy Simmons; Given by Martha Hewett

JANUARY 8

In honor and support of HH; Given by Jim and Paula Custer

JANUARY 9

In Memory of Marisa Warren; Given by the Cone Family

JANUARY 10

In Honor of Buddy Simmons and daughter Kristi Simmons; Given by Charlie and Patty Miller

JANUARY 11

In Honor of Ashley Magrath on her birthday; Given by George, Rowe, James, Mary and Henry

JANUARY 13

In Honor of Avis and Jeff Griffith for their continued support of HH; Given by the HH Ministry team

JANUARY 14

In Honor of Buddy Simmons; Given by Pamela Bruton

JANUARY 15

In Support of HH; Given by Becky Reynolds

JANUARY 16

In Honor of ALL MPPC staff and servant leaders; Given by Ellen Creed Branham

JANUARY 18

In Honor of Henry Magrath on his birthday; Given by his Mom and Dad

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

connected through community

Pacesetters: Dr. David Preston

Dr. David Preston, Ph.D., a Citadel Professor of History, writer and an award-winning early American author, will present a slide/talk presentation on The American Revolutionary War--the 13 colonies' struggle and fight for independence. Join us **Friday, Jan. 13 at 5:45 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 5:45, dinner begins at 6 & the program will start at 7.

RSVP: Susan Mellichamp by January 9, 2023 at SusanMell@mac.com or cell: 843-697-2111. \$5/per person, paid at the door. Dinner will be a potluck, so please bring your favorite dish!

The Giving Book Gallery

Take it, Read it, Pass it on!

The next time you're in the Education wing on campus, be sure to check out the GIVING GALLERY created at the 2nd floor bridge between Seabrook and Grace Hall. The previously empty bookshelves now boast a treasure of free resources. The catch is —books can only be taken, not returned! The church is updating its library collection to be even more relevant for group Bible study and personal exploration. This means we are giving books away! Novels, devotionals, poetry, and biographies are just some of the books you'll find of interest.



Chili Cook-off & Water Mission Presentation

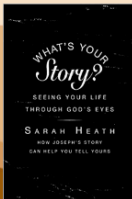
Start pulling out your recipes and mark your calendars — our annual chili cook-off is back! The cook-off starts at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 29**. The winner will be announced at 6 pm, followed by an opportunity to learn how Water Missions has served more than 7 million people in 57 countries and how we can help. Their presentation will familiarize our church with how this organization seeks to serve God by providing drinkable water thought out the world. They will also speak about the 2023 Walk for Water fundraiser.

Register on Realm or at mppc.net/events! It is \$8/adult, \$5/child & free to any cook-off participant & their family! If you are just wanting to attend the presentation and not eat dinner, you do not need to register.

Lowcountry Faith Community Leadership Council
Community Book Study

Join us as we study
***What's Your Story:
Seeing Your Life
Through God's Eyes***
by Sarah Heath

Tuesdays
Jan 17-Feb 14
6:30-8:30 PM
@ Mt. Pleasant
Presbyterian



Zoom option available.

Children's program (K-5th)
also available in person.

To register or more information:

bit.ly/lcflc



For questions, email Anne Nietert at NiertertAnnes@gmail.com
or call Providence Church at 843-971-5275.

Endowment Gifts

In Honor of Lib McGregor Simmons
Dorothy Anne Bowers

In Honor of Al Jenkins:
Julian and Ann McGill

Blood Drive on January 23rd!

Our next blood drive will be on Monday, January 23 from 2-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up, visit redcrossblood.org and in the top right corner enter zip code 29464 or sponsor code "MPPC". On the day of the blood drive, complete RapidPass found at redcrossblood.org/rapidpass.



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