

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

March 2023

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

Membership of MPPC



Do you consider yourself to be a baptized member, an active member, or affiliate member of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church? These are the only categories of membership in

the Presbyterian Church (USA) (Book of Order G-1.04), which means that we do not have any inactive members. We do take into consideration that we have people who are shut-in (or homebound), but who remain active members.

An “active member” is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church’s work and worship.

So, do you consider yourself to be an active member of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church? How do you participate in the congregation’s work and worship? When last did you attend worship in person?

When last did you access your profile on Realm (onrealm.org/mppc) to make sure your information is up to date? If you do not have a sign-in, email our Administrative Assistant, Alanna Barrett, in the office and ask for one. Do we have a recent picture of you? (COVID and the years changed all of us)!

You will soon receive a call from someone from MPPC asking if you want to be an active member of MPPC (*more about active members next time*). I know you understand that we must purge our rolls which currently contain more than 3,500 names, only 1,516 of whom who seemed to be active recently. We only have about 700 people attending worship, 311 pledging “units,” and far less involved in all the ministries of MPPC.

Thank you for helping us determine how many people are left as “active members” of MPPC.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Danie de Beer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danie" being more prominent.

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

Congregational Diagnosis—What Now?

Thank you to everyone who made it on three Sunday afternoons in succession, and a Friday evening and Saturday (most of the day) for attending and working together to discern some of the things that make MPPC what it is.

I have the results of most of the groups in hand, and am currently waiting for one or two groups to finish their discernment and discussions.

People who have attended the diagnosis and discussions will be invited to sign up on Realm for a workgroup (called the Missional Planning Team) to work through the raw data of our gatherings, and to make a report regarding our

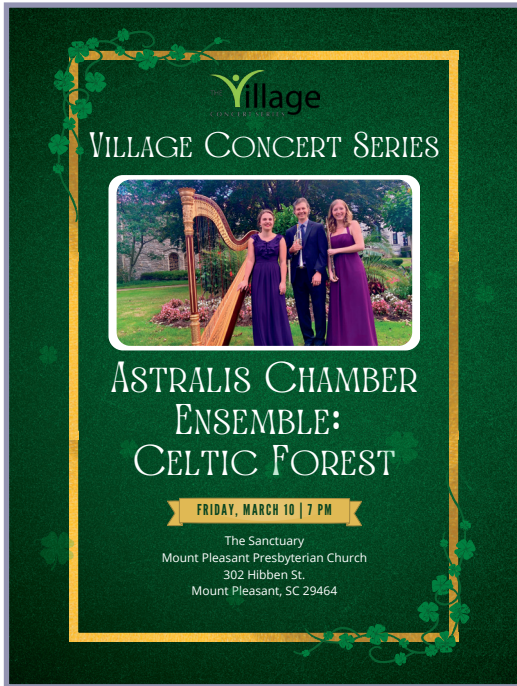
findings to the session and congregation. The first meeting of this group will be on Sunday March 19, 2023 at 5:00 pm, when we’ll have an overview of what needs to be done, and to set our own schedule for the next few meetings.

Thank you for praying for this process, and for clarity and wisdom for everyone who will be working on this amazing task to discern the future of MMPC.

Sincerely,

Danie

connected through music



Village Concert Series: Astralis Chamber Ensemble on Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

On Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m. the Astralis Chamber Ensemble will be performing the program "Celtic Forest" as part of the Village Concert Series. Celtic Forest is a flute, trumpet and harp Celtic-inspired program for St. Patrick's Day. Please join us in the Sanctuary at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church to enjoy their performance!

The Astralis Chamber Ensemble is an innovative and dynamic ensemble performing with much acclaim across the globe. Through creative programming and presentations on the works performed, ACE aims to make classical music more accessible and for audiences to make a lasting connection to the music. These musicians have performed together for many years and some for over a decade on major concert series and at notable venues. Another focus of the ensemble is to support the development of art through new compositions and bring recognition to the composers that surround us today.

LENT & EASTER AT MPPC

APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY

Worship Services
at 9 and 11 a.m.

APRIL 7: GOOD FRIDAY

"Stations of the Cross" around
MPPC's campus from 12-3 p.m.

APRIL 6: MAUNDY THURSDAY

Holy Communion Service at
7 p.m. followed by
"Requiem in D minor" by
Gabriel Fauré presented by
the MPPC Choir & Orchestra

APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY

Worship Services
at 9, 10:15 & 11:30 a.m.



Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church

MPPC Children's Choir March Schedule

- March 5- Rehearsal
4:30-5 p.m.
- March 12- Rehearsal
4:30-5 p.m.
- March 19- Rehearsal
4:30-5 p.m.
- March 26- Rehearsal
4:30-5 p.m.



Tony Sane

Director of Music Ministries

connected through education

ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASSES IN MARCH

In addition to Lenten Small Groups, there are Sunday School classes that are rich for our faith development. These classes are always open to visitors and new people each week.

Connect 3 (9:30 a.m., Parlor) *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*, by Tom Berlin.

As Christians, we do our best to live our lives as Jesus lived, following the examples of his many virtues—including honesty, faithfulness, and generosity. But one virtue that is often overlooked is courage. Throughout Jesus' life, he was called upon to be brave: in the face of his enemies, when being tempted, and certainly at the time of his death. By examining the life of Christ, we can begin to understand what true courage is and how God works in our lives when we exhibit a brave faith. In *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*, pastor and author Tom Berlin challenges us to unlock the courage that we already possess as Christ followers, and in doing so, we can begin to find the remarkable life Jesus offers us.

The Academy of Saint John (9:30 a.m., SB 206) *Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey*, by Barb Roose.

Barb Roose guides the reader through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

"The Psalms provide a perfect framework for experiencing Lent through the verses that were Jesus's own scriptures, offering both him and us strength and wisdom in a painful and redemptive season. The Book of Psalms hums with the heartbeat of our humanity with divinely inspired words that find purchase in the tenderest places in our hearts when our human words or wisdom fails us." - Barb Roose

The Harbor (9:30 a.m., GH 222), *Romans*

This class uses the Bible as its text and travels throughout Scripture based on the season and the conversations of the group. They currently are studying Paul's letter to the Romans. If you are looking for rich history lessons on the Bible, consider The Harbor.

The Middle & The Youngish Adults (10 a.m., GH 226 and SB 209 respectively) *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, by Adam Hamilton

Jesus came to lift 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.

connected through education

Marketplace 29 A.D. Registration for Children and Volunteers Coming!



Registration for both children and volunteers will be out on Realm or mppc.net/events the first week in March – make sure to sign up for a fun-filled week you will not soon forget! Come travel through Jesus' time with us. The children will love you for it!



Easter Candy Donations

Candy donations for ECCO and the MPPC Egg Hunt will begin on **Sunday, March 5**. Donations can be brought to the church office and placed in the bin next to the reception desk.

Our 2nd and 3rd graders who have been learning about the Bible will be doing a service project for ECCO on Wednesday, March 26 – they will participate in making Easter baskets for the children of ECCO clients. Twenty-five baskets are needed along with candy/coloring books/crayons/stickers to fill them.

Candy collection for our annual Easter Egg Hunt will also require donations – please make sure candy pieces are individually wrapped – no chocolate, please! If it is a warm afternoon the chocolate melts in the plastic eggs. Stickers and other small trinkets are also welcomed.

Fun and Faith on Friday

Plans are in the works for the very first Fun and Faith on Friday for 3rd through 5th graders on Friday evening, March 24. Come join us for dinner and games! Dinner will be served at 6:00PM and games from 6:30 – 7:30PM. Our plan is for some outdoor fun! Parental help is needed on a rotating schedule. Please contact Lynn at clwiard@mppc.net for more information or to say you want to help! The kids need YOU!

Colors In the Bible (K-5) Sunday Night Lenten Program

When God created the heavens and the earth, He was like a master painter bringing vivid colors to life in all His creation. And those colors are not just beautiful to look at. According to scripture colors also have rich symbolic meaning. For three Sundays during Lent we are going to explore what they mean – and create our own Lenten masterpiece!

- **Sunday, March 5** – Learn the colors, mixing and symbolic meaning.
- **Sunday, March 12** – We will look at different depictions of Lent and get a good visual to begin and plan out our very own canvas.* (canvas provided)
- **Sunday, March 19** – Using acrylic paints, participants will complete their paintings.

***Using the Frolic curriculum**, Pre K will study the life of Jesus ministry and final week.

Adam Hamilton's LUKE – Sunday Night Lenten Program

On Sunday, March 26, children will learn about Jesus' final week on earth through the eyes of Luke. This curriculum is for Pre-K through 5th grade.



Future Events – Stay Tuned!

Sunday, April 2 – Children's Palm Parade and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 30 – Fifth Sunday – Pancake Breakfast and Meals on Wheels Service Project

Friday, June 2 – Drive Inn Movie Night for Pre K through 2nd Grade

June 19-June 23 – Marketplace 29 A.D. Vacation Bible School

connected through education

CORNERSTONE
youth ministry @ mppc

RIISING 6TH THROUGH RIISING 9TH GRADERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

MPPC Middle Schoolers, join us in June as we travel to Asheville, NC where you will be given the opportunity to explore the hidden needs and struggles of those who are living on the margins of society. We will work with a variety of agencies working with those who are homeless, in poverty, or food insecure, both in urban and rural settings. Spots available for 24 youth and 6 adult chaperones. Registration begins March 6 on Realm.

JUNE 25-30, 2023 | ASHEVILLE, NC
HOSTED BY ASHEVILLE YOUTH MISSION

To find out more, visit: youthmissionco.org/mission-immersion
If you have questions or would like to chaperone, contact Sarah Phelps at sarasotasarah@hotmail.com



CornerStone Updates

Announcements

- Registration for the Middle School Mission Trip to Asheville opens March 6th on Realm. Contact Sarah Phelps at sarasotasarah@hotmail.com with questions or if you'd like to chaperone.
- Youth Group starts back at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays beginning on March 5. MS & HS meet separately.

Tuesdays

- Middle School Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Thursdays

- High School Prayer Breakfast at 7 a.m. at the Chick-Fil-A on Longpoint

Sunday, March 5

- Breakfast in the Basement at 10 a.m.
- Confirmation Class from 4-5 p.m.
- Youth Music and/or Dinner at 5 p.m.
- Youth Group from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

connected through education

During Lent

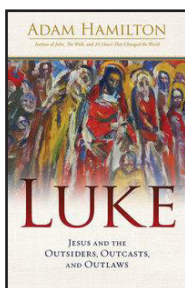
We will be deep into our Lenten study by the time March ends. I wonder how, or if, our image of Jesus will change. I believe those closest to Jesus never fully understood who Jesus was until after the resurrection. We have an advantage to the disciple's perspective, but I wonder if we truly see Jesus. I know the more I dive into Scripture, the richer is my understanding of who Jesus was, what Jesus did for me, and what I am called to be as his disciple.

In Adam Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, Jesus ministers to the lowly, people who are not always accepted in life. Hamilton's chapters focus on people who are poor and marginalized, women (it was a patriarchal world during Jesus' time on earth), and his parables speak of tax collectors, children who leave home after demanding their share of the inheritance, and a man named Lazarus. On Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, Luke writes of Jesus being with lepers, Samaritans, and children. And then in his final week, Jesus is with a tax collector and heals a blind beggar, drives merchants and moneychangers from the temple, and highlights a widow's mite. Then finally, on the cross, Jesus is crucified alongside two criminals. We can understand why Hamilton titles his book as he does.

During Lent we are invited and encouraged to read the Gospel of Luke in its entirety. As we read and dialogue and hear Luke's story through Hamilton's book, how is your life being shaped and informed by Scripture? In the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?"

Dan Wiard

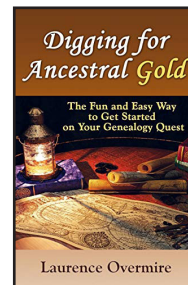
Director of Christian Education



Part of God's Story: Genealogy and Lineage, Our Bigger Story

So many characters of the Bible have a bigger story when you look at their lineage. We also have a story through our lineage. On April 16, we will begin to tell our story using our genealogy in a 4-week class during Sunday Night Live. The program begins with a genealogy workshop with Laurence Overmire, a professional genealogist, writer, poet, and actor, who will help guide us in doing our own genealogy. Using his book *Digging for Ancestral Gold*, Overmire will give us concrete ways to research our ancestry.

The workshop will be via Zoom April 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m., with the three following classes meeting in person from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Grace Hall, room 226. Registration for the workshop will be limited. Watch for coming details. Registration will open March 15. Contact Dan Wiard with questions.



We Need YOU to Register for SNL Dinner!



Our Fellowship and Congregational Life Committee works hard to make sure that there is enough food for everyone at Sunday Night Live.

While you can pay at the door, we ask that you please try your best to register in advance if you know you'll be coming for dinner on Sundays. The registration links are available every week in the eNews as well as at mppc.net/events. You need to sign up each week.

Let's help our food teams out by pre-registering for SNL dinners!



connected through mission

Annual Rakes on Wheels Mission Activity Kicks Off in March

The Rakes on Wheels annual yard cleanup serves a special elderly and disabled community in Mount Pleasant. Meals on Wheels provides food at no cost to 350 homebound clients in our community. The organization also serves its clients by meeting their “non-food” needs through Rakes on Wheels so that they might remain in their homes as long as possible.

For about 4% of these clients, they do not have either the financial or people resources (nearby family or friends) to do basic tasks like cleaning up their yards after the winter passes. Homebound individuals are often isolated and/or unable to do the things they formerly did themselves which is why this mission is so important. When MPPC volunteers come to their homes and clean up their yards, something magical happens...this connection with MPPC volunteers for just 2 hours means a great deal to these individuals. They are able to express their deep appreciation and often their emotions overwhelm them to see the caring and love expressed through the work of a family or team helping them.

What a wonderful learning experience for the family and children that see this reaction when one neighbor helps another. Please bring your family or team to help one of these special homebound elders/disabled persons this year. Rakes, bags, and guidance for what is expected will all be provided to volunteers. Get the ball rolling by contacting Jim Ingham (inghamsc@hotmail.com) or Alexis, our receptionist (843 884-8621) at church to volunteer. MPPC's Local Missions Team will be conducting this annual activity March 1st through 31. We need 50 adults/youth. We expect to do about 12 yards with around 4 volunteers per yard. You pick your date/time to work to do just 2 hours of raking and moving yard bags to the street.



connected through mission

Nadia's Story Part Two

Nadia and her four children (Sudais, Taib, Mobara and Asra) continue to get settled in Charleston while waiting to hear if they will gain asylum status and are evaluating every avenue to get her husband, Fraidoon, out of Afghanistan. In January, Bruce McAdams and Coleman Legerton took Nadia and the children to Atlanta for their interview at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Nadia and her immigration attorney felt the meeting went well and we are all eager to hear whether asylum status has been granted.

Dedicated volunteers from MPPC and Providence Church on Daniel Island continue to provide necessary transportation to work, daycare, medical appointments, etc. as well as offer English lessons to Nadia and Taib, her second grader who is struggling with reading. Both congregations have also been very generous with their donations to the Refugee fund which is helping Nadia pay her monthly expenses.

Nadia's road to self-sufficiency is a long one and thankfully we also have Lutheran Services of the Carolinas as our partner. Nadia's caseworker is incredibly dedicated to helping her in all aspects of resettlement. Bruce McAdams and Maryanne Davis have been meeting with Nadia and her team at Lutheran Services to identify her most pressing concerns as well as goals and steps to move forward. Right now Self Help/Mental Health, Housing and Financial Stability are her three main focus areas. We understand each of these are huge and will take many years to accomplish but also are helping Nadia see the thousands of baby steps that are necessary to help her down the path to self-sufficiency.

We continue to be amazed at Nadia's strength and courage to leave her husband, her support system and everyone/everything she knew and get on a plane with four children, the youngest was only 15 days old! She is an incredible example of self-sacrifice to provide a better life for your children.



We who are walking along side Nadia and her children as they cope with building a life here away from her husband and the rest of her family, feel a great joy in helping and providing support as we are able. Nadia constantly says how grateful she is for everything we are doing to help.

Transportation for her and the children to work and daycare and medical appointments is a great need. If you would like to take part in occasionally providing rides or want to learn more about how you might be able to help Nadia, please contact Bruce McAdams at mcadams.bruce@gmail.com or 843-364-7131.

Join us in praying for Nadia and her children as they make their way here, hoping for reunification with Fraidoon, husband and father.

connected through hope

Challenges & Changes

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

It's only March. Yet already Spring flowers are blooming, trees are budding, and it seems everywhere you look people are sprucing up their homes.

Hope House is no exception. Except here it is by necessity, not choice.

Over the past years, this old house has weathered many storms and taken quite a beating. The bridge to Hope House, which is often the first thing our guests see, needs to be replaced. Then there's the wood rot outside the House as well as Hope Cottage which remains a top priority.

Due to heavy rains and flooding issues, we have to replace all the siding on the Cottage, add gutters, install an air/water tight exterior door, repair or replace warped baseboards and crown molding.. then prime and paint it all.

The Ministry Team is working to secure the funds for these renovations. This way we can continue providing a safe and secure, temporary home-away-from-home for adults who are tending to loved ones in area hospitals miles from their own homes.



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

MARCH 1

In Honor of the Net Band;
Given by Jody and Tracy Bishop

MARCH 2

In Honor and support of Hope House;
Given by The Griffith Family

MARCH 5

Happy Belated birthday to Marcus Dee Googer;
Given by Marc, Angela, Austin and Dylan Googer

MARCH 9

In Honor of Hope House;
Given by Charlene Miller

MARCH 11

In Honor of Brooks and Beckett Buganski;
Given by Melissa Buganski

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



connected through community

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Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church

Pacesetters: Village Concert Series

Join the Pacesetters for their March gathering for a Paddy's Day meal, fellowship and entertainment provided by the Village Concert Series: Astralis Chamber Ensemble! More information available on page 2. We will meet on **Friday, March 10** in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy dinner at 5:45 p.m. (doors open at 5:30) and then we will walk over to the Sanctuary around 6:45 p.m. for the concert at 7.

RSVP: Susan Mellichamp by March 6 at SusanMell@mac.com or cell: 843-697-2111. \$15/per person, paid at the door.

Menu: Cottage Pie (Ground Beef in gravy with corn, peas and carrots topped with creamy mashed potatoes), Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls, Pie and Ice Cream

Stephen Ministers Are Here to Help!

Seven Stephen Ministry trainees are currently going through seventeen weeks of training. These individuals come every week from January to May for two hours every Thursday to learn about Stephens Ministry and how to become a good care provider.

Please pray for these seven men and women during their journey.....they are dedicating themselves to help someone in the future who will need a Stephen Minister to listen and pray for them. Thank you for your prayers for the Stephen Ministry trainees, and for the care receivers who they will help in the future.

If you are going through a hard time, please reach out to Margaret Agee or Donna Thigpen to get connected with a Stephen Minister today.



Please

SAVE THE DATE

for our

Pelican Party & Silent Auction



benefitting

**The
LEARNING
CENTER**

MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 AT 6 PM

DINNER, DRINKS, MUSIC & AUCTION

HIBERNIAN HALL

TICKETS \$ 75

CASH, CHECK OR VENMO TO

PURCHASE: @MPP_LC_PAC

Learning Center Fundraising Party

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) has been working hard on their next event benefiting The Learning Center: the Pelican Party on Saturday, March 25th. Each class will be creating a beautiful piece to be auctioned off, as well as many other items including art, golf packages, wine tastings, spa and retail services, and much more! The event will take place at Hibernian Hall.

The PAC's hope is to raise the funds needed to install a beautiful school garden for students and teachers to utilize together. Proceeds would also go towards repainting classrooms, replacing outdated equipment, and updating class materials. If you have any questions, or are interested in donating an auction item, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kelley Myrick, PAC Chair.

We are so delighted to be able to give back to our beloved teachers and school. We sincerely thank you for all your support!

Endowment Gifts

Donation to Endowment Fund:

Nancy Lewis



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

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests