

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

August 2023

the pelican



www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

Uncertainty



We all know feelings of being uncertain. Uncertainty is, after all, one of our greatest fears! Most of us experience uncertainty as unpleasant. You know that sinking sensation in the “pits” of your stomach when

you don’t know what’s waiting around the next corner, or when you have reached a fork in the road, or stumbled upon people who you know were discussing you.

All the questions at night...what will be next? What will we lose as things change (again!)? Should we stay here or just call an end to our involvement? The questions are endless. The only thing that can free us is when we accept that we have questions. And accept that there are many uncertain things in life that are unknown and for which we don’t have answers (yet)!

In Systems Theory, uncertainty is one of the things which contribute to the anxiety (the way that we behave and respond to challenges) in a system. Anxiety causes us to misbehave, because we want to get rid of anything that may change a set pattern.

I do currently perceive a boatload of anxiety. We all need to ask ourselves how we contribute to the anxiety in the system, and where we’ll offload it this time.

Will the Pastor Nominating Committee be the “Identified Patient”? We know we don’t all agree with the choices we made to elect our PNC, but I didn’t see any votes against any of the members of the PNC. Will the current staff—our DCE, Associate Pastor, Director of Daily Operations, or the Interim Pastor—be the next to go?

Or can we all embrace the diversity of opinion, people, and whatever upsets our set patterns of behavior, and begin to see anxiety as an opportunity to make the necessary changes to move into the future?

Let us all stop our negative thoughts, and see all the things around us that are good. Let us take hands and pray for each other. Let us look at each other as someone who brings value to our lives and Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, and then talk about what I want for myself personally.

Uncertainty will not kill anyone of us. But we need to take our time to step away and not make our decisions on the spur of the moment. Uncertain situations are opportunities. Things have changed and will change, and we all have unique strengths which we contribute to make MPPC the place where lives are changed as people learn to trust God.

Blessings,

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

connected through mission

LAMB Mission Trip Recap

Over the week of July 29-August 5, fourteen people (youth and adults) were able to spend a week with one of our mission partners in Honduras, the LAMB Institute. This was our first official church mission trip since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the week, the team was able to make so many meaningful connections with the children and adults involved with LAMB. The group spent time worshipping, learning about the Institute, painting and repairing buildings, planting trees, doing crafts and playing games with children, and fellowshiping with our Honduran brothers and sisters.

A lot of new friendships were made this week and it was a wonderful trip spreading the good news and serving our chosen family in Honduras.

(On the right, a cemented inscription of "MPPC 2014" was found by our team during the trip!)



ESOL Looking for Volunteers:

No experience necessary, just a heart to share your native language with others who have come here for a better life. We are blessed at MPPC with a well-established ESOL mission, and we are expanding our classes this fall to try to meet the demand. When we expand classes, it means that we need more volunteers as the students have already found us!

Starting **Sept. 5th thru Nov. 16th, every Tuesday and Thursday night 6:30-8:00 pm**, we will offer two Level 1, one Level 2 and one Level 3 in person classes and one Advanced class online. God has already provided wonderful teachers, but we need assistants. Each class should have at least one or two assistants with each teacher.

We will be offering a teacher/assistant workshop **Saturday, Aug. 26th 1-3 pm** and an orientation/set up meeting Tuesday, Aug. 29th 6:30 pm to make sure everyone will be ready for classes to begin Sept. 5th. Please reach out to Maryanne Davis to express your interest or if you have questions. Check out an information video at vimeo.com/823466894/94e5ab7ef8?share=copy.



connected through education

The Work is Ours

In our Lectionary text on Sunday, August 6, we heard a story that many of us are familiar with, the *Feeding of the 5,000*. It is easy for our minds to quickly discern this passage is about scarcity and abundance; when we had very little (five loaves and two fish), Jesus (God) provided more than enough food so that more than 5,000 people could eat – with leftovers! But did you notice the disciples in this story – “send them away,” let them fend for themselves they say, but Jesus [sharply] responds, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” It is the disciples who fed the crowd. They did the work. They were instruments of God’s work.

Church ministry is hard. It might be easy to say, “let them fend for themselves, let someone else take care of them, we’ve already done our time.” But Jesus is telling us to take care of the people around us. It is our responsibility. It is our responsibility to be engaged in the life and ministry of MPPC – to teach, to serve, to lead. Even when Jesus was tired and wanted time away, he had compassion and cared for the people. As disciples, we can’t turn our backs. We can’t walk away; we can’t let someone else do the work to which we are called and tasked. We are given everything we need to accomplish what God calls us to do. Tired or filled with energy, the work is ours!

Many of us are engaged in the life and ministry of MPPC. We sing, we teach, we lead, we clean, we help, we go where God calls. What we need now, especially in Christian Education as we gear up for the fall, is to ask, “What can I do?” without waiting for that invitation. Like the words of that inspirational hymn, “Here I am, Lord,”

*Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

Look around MPPC, ask yourself how God can use you in our life and ministry, and then volunteer. Get involved. Trust that God will provide the resources. As I mentioned earlier, there is a special need to get involved and engaged working with children, youth, or adults in Christian Education. The opportunities are plentiful, but the workers are [sometimes] few. MPPC is blessed with people. Gifted and talented people! I bet we have a place for you!

I look forward to seeing you in ministry!

Peace,

Dan Wiard

Director of Christian Education



Adult Summer Sunday School

How much do you know about *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*? They are short books, but they are packed with hope and practical counsel on how to endure. Author Carolyn Nystrom writes about *1 & 2 Peter and Jude*, “They tell us to balance holy living with correct doctrine, to nurture spiritual growth, to work within existing authority structures and to take care of each other. These letters do not tell us how to escape suffering [think about life in the Roman Empire in the late A.D. 60’s] but rather to expect it. They show us that in the midst of suffering we can enjoy our fellowship with other believers and look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, a “home of righteousness,” with an end to pain.”

Take time this summer and join other adults in fellowship and study as we learn more about God’s story in **1 & 2 Peter and Jude**. August Sundays include:

- August 6 – 2 Peter 1:12-21 If I Should Die...
- August 13 – 2 Peter 2 Follow Which Leader?
- August 20 – 2 Peter 3 The Fire Next Time
- August 27 – Jude The Twisted Fate of Twisted Faith

connected through education



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Confirmation Class of 2024

8th Grade Confirmation Now Enrolling

For many of us, one of the highlights of our faith journey is confirmation class. Not only do we remember what we learned about our faith and beliefs, but we developed relationships with other class participants and our church leadership. We learned about congregations in which we worshipped and, for many of us, we had intentional opportunities to participate in church life.

MPPC's 2023-2024 Confirmation Class registration is now open in Realm. Designed for any young person in eighth grade and older, confirmands will truly experience and explore their faith as they prepare to respond to God's call to become a member (disciple) at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church. Included in the class, young people will...

- receive Bibles and learn how to use his or her Bible.
- experience worship through leadership, participation, and exploration
- learn about the Session and our PCUSA form of government.
- experience opportunities to discern what he or she believes.
- participate in mission and service projects.
- talk about "what's next" after confirmation class.

This year's confirmation class meets on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. In addition to the Sunday School class, young people will have opportunities to visit other places of worship, participate in local service and mission opportunities, attend a Session meeting, and explore his or her faith through at least one retreat.

To learn more about this year's Confirmation Class, to access the class schedule, or to sign up, use your Realm account to access the Confirmation Class event.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, August 7, 6 p.m.

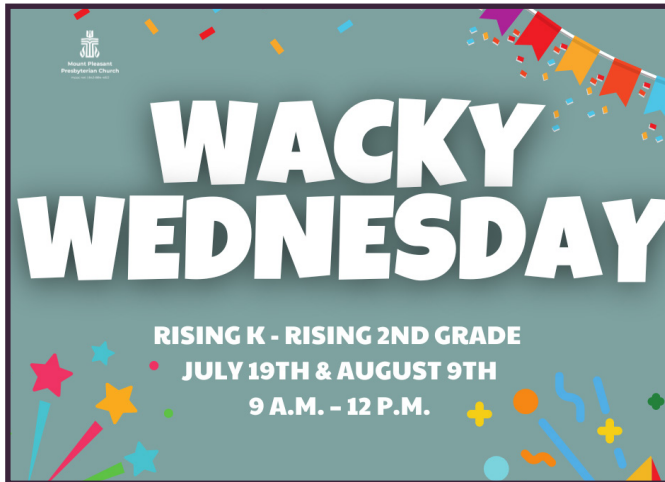
High School Mondays gather for fellowship in and around Mount Pleasant.

Monday, August 21, 6-7:30 p.m.

3rd Monday Bible Study at the home of Lyles Bruorton.



connected through education



Wacky Wednesday:

Wacky Wednesday is for rising K through rising 2nd grade from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (10 child minimum. We need adult volunteer helpers). Cinnamon rolls up arrival.

On **August 9th**, we will do a parable play about the Sower and the Seeds, make grassy heads, play some games, and pizza at 11:30 a.m.

Sign up on Sign-up Genius: www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-special#



Movie Night:

Rising 3rd-5th graders are invited to a Movie Night on **August 18** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We'll have pizza and popcorn – and some fun! Bring a friend!

Sign up on Sign-up Genius: www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-special#

Children's Summer Sunday School & Teaching Volunteers:

This summer children will be broadly graded and divided into two groups for Sunday School. Classes will be taught by volunteers throughout the summer; if you can help, please sign up for a Sunday HERE: www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ca8af2aa3fe3-childrens2#

Grades K-5

Elementary (K-5) children will be learning about the Armor of God and Gross! Bible Stories (there really are some “odd” things in the Bible).

Preschool

Preschool children will be learning about some amazing Bible stories using Frolic.

Nursery and Childcare

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



connected through community

Thank you for
another great
year of VBS!



Welcome, Alex Wilson!

Introducing the newest member of our MPPC team! Meet Alex, our new Associate Director of Music & Organist:

An SC native, Alex has been playing the organ for 10 years, and piano for 19, and has studied under some of the finest organists and musicians in the South. He has a strong passion for hymnody, performance, improvisation, choral work and composition. Some of his most notable achievements have been achieving the rank of the Eagle Scout, as well as the Robert-Ann Stigall Scholarship (Charlotte AGO), and the MLK Humanitarian Award. Alex feels that music has a most significant role in worship. "Music has a way of uplifting and enriching the lives of those of the faith that words simply cannot. Word and music go hand in hand, but music truly lifts the spirits of those who may be weary, or perhaps seeking comfort."

Aside from music, Alex enjoys walking on the beach, wine tasting, cooking, photography, and spending time with his pet cat, Shadow.



WELCOME, ALEX!

Associate Director of Music and Organist

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pastoral nominating process

Nominating Process

We have elected our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on June 25, 2023 to search for a new Pastor/ Head of Staff on behalf of all the members of the MPPC, and the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. It is important to remember that a pastoral call is a three-legged covenant with the whole congregation (not the session or PNC only!), the Presbytery, and the pastor as equal partners in this agreement.

It is also important to remember that the PNC represents the congregation, and that we should get to know them, listen to them, pray for them, and tell them about our hopes, dreams (and fears) for the future of MPPC. Communication from the PNC will always be available on a special page on our website mppc.net/searching-for-our-next-senior-pastor. You can also contact the PNC directly by emailing pastorsearch@mppc.net.

The search process in the PCUSA is different from the practices from other denominations, and it reflects two of the fundamental beliefs Presbyterians have, namely that we believe all things should be done decent and in good order, and that we believe that in God's providence. God already has chosen a pastor for MPPC, and we work with God, under guidance of the Spirit, to affirm this call.

In God's time and in God's way, the PNC will be led to the person of God's choosing, and they will be the instruments through whom God touches his or her heart to answer God's call to serve in this place. Thus the work of the PNC will be guided by prayer and driven by the Holy Spirit start to finish. The following are steps in the search process:

The first step is the congregation's election of a Pastor Nominating Committee to conduct the search. Once elected, the committee will meet to choose their leadership, and then will meet with representatives of Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery for orientation to their task and guidelines to be followed along the way.

The PNC will then compose the MINISTRY DISCERNMENT PROFILE (MDP). The MDP is a "verbal snapshot of the church," that will serve as an introduction to the church for prospective pastors. It will contain information like our statistical reports, a congregational survey to describe the church, its mission and ministry, and the vision for the future, its needs and expectations of its pastor,

and the resources the church has (people and material wealth) to carry out its mission. Once the MDP is completed and approved by the Session, it goes on-line through the Office of the General Assembly's Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and it becomes accessible to all pastors who are interested in seeing it.

All pastors open to a call will have an active PERSONAL DISCERNMENT PROFILE (PDP) in the system of the CLC. The PDP reflects the candidate's Ecclesiastical Status, Formal Education, Training/Certification, Work Experience, Service to the Greater Church, and Position Type in which the candidate is interested, among some other information. This information is used to "match" prospective pastors to MPPC.

A pool of prospects will be referred to the PNC, along with other names submitted by the congregation and ministers who may refer themselves for consideration. The PNC will evaluate all these names in light of the needs and mission of the church, and in response to where God is leading.

The PNC's work must be carried out in the strictest CONFIDENTIALITY. They will have people's lives and careers in their hands, as well as the on-going relationships of pastors in their current churches. They must be absolutely sure to safeguard all information that comes to them. They cannot talk to the Session, to their spouses, or to anyone else outside their Presbytery Commission on Ministry liaison in this process.

The evaluation process involves reviewing PERSONAL DISCERNMENT PROFILES written by prospective pastors, checking personal and professional references, getting assistance from the Presbytery with background checks (including standard criminal background checks, sex offender registry checks, and ascertaining that there are no ecclesiastical charges pending or sustained against the candidates).

The PNC will listen to sermons, some in person, some by video. They will conduct interviews, some in person, some by phone, Zoom or Skype. They will visit prospective pastors in their current places of service. And in time, they will invite a few – maybe three or four – to come to Mount Pleasant to see the church and community.

(Continued on next page)

pastor nominating process

The PNC will pray for God's guidance; and in God's time, they will identify the person to whom God has led them. They will negotiate the terms of call. And then they will ask Presbytery Commission on Ministry to examine the candidate with respect to Christian experience, theology, worship and sacraments, and church government; and to assure the person's suitability for ministry at MPPC. When that work is done, the PNC will ask the Session to call a congregational meeting at which they will present their report to the church, identify their candidate, and ask the congregation to vote to extend the call to the candidate. Every member of the congregation may vote when a pastoral candidate is presented for a call.

If the congregation votes to call the candidate and approves the terms of call, a starting date is established, and preparations are made to welcome the new pastor and family into the life of the church and community, and an exciting new era in the life of MPPC begins.

The process can take as little as six months or as long as two years. Therefore, it is important for the congregation to bathe the PNC in prayer, to encourage them and ask questions (they will give you periodic updates as appropriate), and to maintain a hopeful spirit, faithful and generous support, and active participation in the church's programs and ministries.

Remember: the church is not about who is or is not the pastor. Ministers come and go. All the members of MPPC together—young and old, new and longtime members—are the Church; and Jesus Christ is always the King and Head of the Church. He is the Lord of our lives. So, in this ongoing season of transition, may God give us grace to love him and serve him gratefully and obediently in the power of His Spirit.

Sincerely,
Rev. Danie, Interim Pastor

Covenant of the Pastor Nominating Committee

We who are serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee for the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, of Mt Pleasant SC, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide. We will endeavor:

- to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;
- to maintain consistent attendance at our Committee meetings;
- to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;
- to listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;
- to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—
- protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;
- to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;
- to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

Pledge of the Congregation

We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task.

We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort.

We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time.

These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

*Elizabeth Amory**
*Bruce McAdams**
*Andrew DeHoll***
*McRae Hogan***
Chip Bruorton
Susan Dalton
Towner Magill
Ellie McDermott
Susan Mellichamp

**Moderators*
***Clerk of PNC*

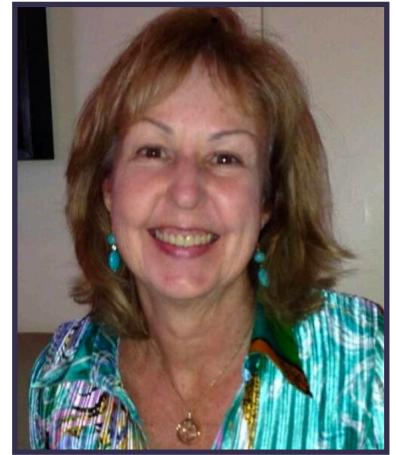


connected through hope

Hope House Celebrates the Life of a Cherished Volunteer

If you have been a Hope House guest or volunteer, you have probably had the blessed pleasure of meeting Angi Case. Over the years Angi played so many key roles in this ministry, from Caretaking, to Team Leader, to Managing Communications, Policies and Procedures for guests, the church and the community. She was a key member of the Hope House Ministry Team. She participated in nearly all Hope House functions. And she was always the first one to offer her time and service.

Yet God had even bigger plans for Angi when He called her home on June 25th after a brief illness. Though so many of us are grieving for the loss of a dear friend and colleague, we have faith that God and Angi are now working on great things together.



Her funeral was held on June 29th at MPPC. Though many of us entered with tears, we left with joy, because that is what Angi wanted. She had instructed that anyone who spoke must keep it short, sweet and FUNNY! With that, every memory shared brought smiles and laughter.

Angi's personal mantra said it best:

Love always wins.

Kindness always prevails.

And smiles always disarm.

Thank you, dear Angi, for being a part of our lives and a key part of the Hope House ministry. You have truly been a blessing to all. May you rest in peace with the Lord.

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

AUGUST 1

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Mark and Jennifer Davidson

AUGUST 2

In Memory of Angi Case; Given by Gary and Elizabeth Simmons

AUGUST 3

In Honor of Hope House; Given by George and Ashley Magrath

AUGUST 4

In Memory of Donna Simpson; Given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

AUGUST 4

In Honor of Ellen Gower on her birthday; Given by Laurel Wolf

AUGUST 5

In Memory of John Pierpoint; Given by Suzanne and Stan Jackson

AUGUST 8

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Tina F Vandergrift

AUGUST 10

In Memory of Angi Case, a great Hope House Volunteer and Supporter; Given by Paul and Elizabeth Grantham

AUGUST 12

In Memory of our neighbor, Bob Roth; Given by Paul and Elizabeth Grantham

AUGUST 14

In Honor of Hope House; Given by the Lewis Family

AUGUST 15

In Memory of Donna Simpson; Given by Marcus and Sue Googer

AUGUST 17

In Memory of Martha Gribble, sister of Margaret Burwell; Given by Rhett Moore

AUGUST 20

In Memory of Charles R Smith, father of Kyle Smith; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

AUGUST 21

In Honor of Hope House; Given by the Griffith Family

AUGUST 22

In Memory of Angi Case, a devoted volunteer of Hope House; Given by Rhett Moore

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

connected through community

Endowment Gifts for August

In Memory of Bob King:

Lewis and Frances Horton
Elton and Kathy Carrier
Susan Mellichamp
Mac and Donna Thigpen
Dal and Linda Scheck
Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons
Joe and Peg Gaddy
Otis and Sue Hyler
Mark and Cathy Kleber

In Memory of Mike Truluck:

Susan Mellichamp

In Memory of Edith Bonds:

Susan Mellichamp
Mac and Donna Thigpen
Ron and Martha Cole

In Memory of Donna Simpson:

Susan Mellichamp
Ron and Martha Cole
Mark and Cathy Kleber

In Memory of Charles Graham, Sr.:

Lewis and Frances Horton



Bites Between Bibles Volunteers Needed!

We have had a lot of wonderful volunteers sign up to help with Bites Between Bibles on Sundays! However, we are still looking for about 20 or so more. When we hit 50 volunteers, we will be able to assemble twelve, four-person teams. This way, you will only need to volunteer once per quarter! (You can sign up for more if you'd like though). The volunteer work is simple as we are just serving coffee, donuts and everyone's favorite lemonade in the Fellowship Hall from 8-9 a.m. and 10-11 a.m. each Sunday morning this summer. No experience or skills required!

Mitch Witherspoon (843-412-3401) and Greg McCoy (864-915-7065) would love to talk to you if you wish to volunteer or to learn more!

Pacesetters: The Charlestons

The Pacesetters are back September 8th with the Charlestons performing for the Village Concert series. This will be a catered meal and \$15/person will be collected at the door. Doors to the Fellowship Hall open at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fellowship, and good meal. We will move to the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. to enjoy performance by the Charlestons. RSVP susanmell@mac.com or text 843-697-2111 by September 5th.



2023 S.T.E.P.S.

S.T.E.P.S. will be taking place on August 26, 2023 at MPPC and registration is now open!

You do not want to miss this year's event! Fabulous fellowship and educational opportunities will enrich, train and rejuvenate attendees!

Please visit capresbytery.org/steps-2023 for registration details and additional information.



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