Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

September 2023

the pelican



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843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer

A new season is upon us...I know, it still feels pretty much like summer. Yet, it will officially be fall soon, with the days already getting shorter. Our children are back in school, and students went off to colleges and techincal

programs to prepare them for a future career. Life is back to a semblance of normal!

At Mount Pleasant we are all primed and ready for Rally Day, which will be on September 10 with one outside worship service at 10 a.m. followed by a churchwide cookout. Many activities are already happening on campus and even more are planned for the fall! This Pelican is full of news about changes in our ministries, and new offerings and opportunities for service and growth.

My days at university are almost forgotten. But I do remember that there is truth in my dad's words that I should become part of student life or miss out on much of the experience. It is the same with congregational life.

If you truly want to be part of our ministries and grow in your faith, volunteer in this new season for one thing only. Stop being a mere consumer, even if you have never before volunteered at MPPC! If every active member volunteered to be part of one activity, we'd have 1,600 volunteers!

I know we all have only 24 hours in our day. Yet, when we all take our share of the responsibility to make MPPC a success - to call this the place where we live, love and worship together our church home...you'd be amazed what we can achieve!

Your spiritual investment will grow and produce fruit beyond what anyone can imagine! Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered in the many places where so much is happening in MPPC. On an additional note, as many of you know, on August 23 a water pipe burst in the Sanctuary and there was extensive damage. For those of you who would like to give toward the Sanctuary repairs, please visit <u>https://onrealm.</u> <u>org/mppc/-/form/give/now</u> and select the "Capital Campaign" option. If you are giving by check, please just write "Sanctuary Repair" in the memo line.

We are so thankful to all of you who have prayed, called, emailed and stopped by offering to help! Church is not a building, it is all of you who have formed this wonderful family at MPPC. We will all get through this together!

Blessings,

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



connected through mission

Rise Against Hunger Mission Event on September 24!



Rise Against Hunger meals represent the hopes and dreams of people worldwide. Rise Against Hunger volunteers are the heart of their mission to end hunger and they could not send millions of meals around the globe each year without volunteers like you!

Let's come together on Sunday, Sept 24 at a Rise Against Hunger Mission Event in the Fellowship Hall. We will be packing meals to help hungry children around the world! We will meet for a meal at 5 p.m. and then at 5:30, children, youth and adults will remain in the Fellowship Hall for the meal packing event. So come one and all, young and old. This is a hands-on mission project for all ages!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bart, bedwards@mppc.net. Registration at <u>mppc.net/events</u> coming soon.

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 **One80 Place Clothing Drive**



The mission of One80 Place to "end and prevent homelessness" is one that has long been supported by MPPC.

Besides providing emergency shelter downtown and permanent housing off-site, One80 Place offers medical and legal services, food rescue, and job training. Currently, there is an urgent need for new underwear (size S and M), gym shorts and sweat pants (all sizes) for the male clients.

The MPPC Local Missions Team will be a hosting a Clothing Drive from September 1 until October 1. Clothing must be new!

Please bring your donations to the church by Oct. 1. There will be collection bins outside of the Fellowship Hall and in the entrance of Grace Hall.



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.

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



Rally Day is September 10!

It's that time of year when churches kick-off the fall program and return to ninemonth programs with their RALLY DAY! Connect with friends, hear about programs, enjoy some great fellowship around food, and celebrate and praise God at one service!

Keep reading for some of the things MPPC will do on **Sunday, September 10**, as we begin another education year. The festivities begin at **10 a.m.** with an outdoor service. Bring your friends and bring a lawn chair to sit in!

Immediately following worship, we will move into a time of mixing and getting to know new friends, hearing about fall programs, and then a cookout with more time with our church family. The entire congregation is invited to this celebration; we hope you will join us. **To help us with food planning, please RSVP at mppc.net/events by Tuesday, Sept. 5.**

Sunday School for Adults (9:45-10:45 a.m.)

<u>The Academy of St. John (SB 206) – Searching for</u> <u>the Historical Jesus</u>

Located on the Wondrium website, the Academy of St. John Sunday School class begins this fall watching and studying a fascinating documentary. *Searching for the Historical Jesus* takes you back two millennia to explore the history, context, and character of a humble carpenter who changed the world. Filmed in the Holy Land, each thoughtprovoking episode (15 total episodes) will bring Jesus and his world to life with vivid detail, offering an excellent companion piece for anyone wrestling with history or with walking in faith. Future studies include an Advent Study *The Journey* (Adam Hamilton), *Listen: Praying in a Noisy World* (Reuben P. Job), and *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith*.

Connect 3 (Parlor)

The fall Connect 3 begins looking at what we believe as they study the Apostles' Creed using Adam Hamilton's study Creed. We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. Other studies coming this year in Connect 3 include quest speakers, select Bible Project studies, Heaven & Earth (Advent Study by Will Willimon), When Christians Get It Wrong (Adam Hamilton), Finding Jesus in the Psalms (Barbara Roose), and Living Fully Dying Well (Rueben Job).

The Middle (GH 226)

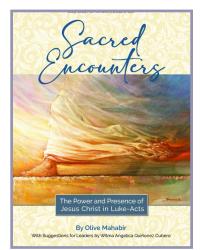
Joy Even on Your Worst Days-Wisdom from *Philippians* by Tom Are, Jr. begins the fall study for The Middle. The world the apostle Paul inhabited was dramatically different from our time. He knew nothing of capitalism, or physics, or Zoom, and more significantly, Paul was a regular in Caesar's prison. For us, "Caesar" is a salad. But a constant in the human story is that every life faces suffering. Paul's life was no different. And yet, on Paul's worst days, he still exhibited a spirit of joy. In this spirit of joy, Paul offers us some inspiration. Joy is not a common reality in modern life. We are more acquainted with anxiety and fear, and on good days we can settle for happiness; but joy is less common. The worst days come to all of us. At some point the dreams die, the body fails, the spirit is crushed. Those days leave their mark on us. But an imprisoned apostle passed down 104 verses to an ancient congregation in Philippi, and they have passed it down to us. It is their testimony that when the worst days comeand they will-they do not have to be the end of joy. Indeed, they might be the beginning.

Youngish Adults (SB 209, aka the Library)

The youngish Adult class looks at *Bible Stories* for *Grown-Ups* this fall as they consider stories many read as children including Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Author Josh Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. *Altar Ego*, by Craig Groeschel, will take the group from late October into November, and an Advent study will round out the 2023 calendar year.

connected through education

Presbyterian Women (PW) Circles:



The 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study, Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir, invites readers to consider Jesus, "the good shepherd" (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through

sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope filled. MPPC has PW Circles that meet monthly from September to May (or June), find one of them works with your schedule!

PW CIRCLE 3 – "Naomi" – 2nd Tuesday at 2:30 p.m., Parlor

PW CIRCLE 4 – "Circle of Sisters" – 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Parlor

PW CIRCLE 5 – "Sisters in Christ" – 2nd Thursday at noon, Parlor

And introducing a NEW Circle...**"Keeping the Faith" - 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:30-6:30 p.m, Basement.**

Women in this Circle identify themselves as "A community of determined women invested in Christ and growing in love through the thick and thin of everyday life."

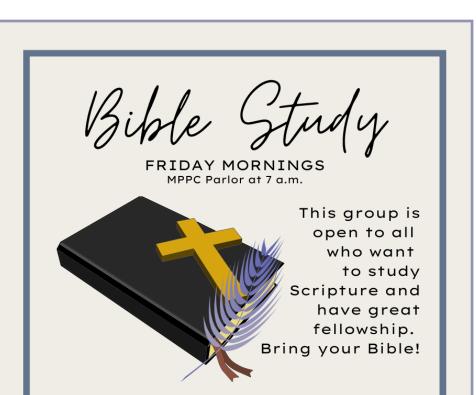
If you would like to learn more or connect with this Circle, contact its leaders: McRae Hogan, Amy Murrell, and Lindsay Bruorton. Childcare is available.

Friday Morning Bible Study

The Friday Morning Bible Study is open to all who want to study Scripture and have great fellowship.

The group meets in-person in the Parlor at 7 a.m. on Fridays except first Fridays when the group meets for breakfast at Page's Okra Grill.

Bring your Bible!



connected through education

Sundays for Children

Childcare is available for toddlers and infants on Sunday mornings during both services and Sunday School. Worship services include 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

PreK (SB 102) – Our youngest children in a Sunday School class get a true overview of great stories in the Bible as they use the child-friendly *Beginners Bible* to see and hear stories that will begin to build a foundation for their faith. Stories include the Creation, Noah's Ark, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Daniel, Deborah, Ruth, Jonah, Elijah, Jesus, Paul, Lazarus, and so many more. And each week, to reinforce the lesson, children will do take-home craft projects and activities that will help him or her engage in the story.

Elementary, Grade K-1 (SB 203), Grade 2-3 (SB

204), Grade 4-5 (SB 205) - Divided into three distinct classes, elementary children learn stories of the Bible through engagement and discussion in the classrooms and in an "opening assembly" where all children hear and see (video) the lesson for the day. The curriculum, Celebrate Wonder, is a Sunday school curriculum that engages children's natural sense of curiosity to help them understand God's love. It creates a safe environment for kids to ask big questions — helping them explore the Bible in ways that feed their imagination and encourage creativity. Through carefully selected Bible stories, songs, videos, and hands-on activities, Celebrate Wonder gives children the tools to explore their faith while incorporating it into their daily lives. This fall they will explore stories in Genesis.

Kids Praise!

Our "children's church" program meets the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month. This worship experience for children, PreK through second grade, will include a story that is based on the weekly Bible reading and activities to help them better understand the message. This volunteer-led experience begins following the children's message during the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship, when children will head to Kids Praise in GH 122 (Grade 1-2) and GH 121 (PreK 4's-K). At the conclusion of the Service of Worship, parents should pick up their children from the appropriate classroom.

Third Grade Worship

Third Grade Worship is a six-week program designed for our third graders to learn the different components of worship and the basic elements of the sacraments. Our prayer is that they will continue to worship with their families and attend Sunday School weekly. Register on-line through Realm! (Begins Sunday morning, September 17.)



Wednesday Nights for Children: Fruit of the Spirit

Returning to Wednesday evenings this fall is the children's Wednesday program from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Stay tuned for adult study opportunities while the children meet.

Bible Time and Crafts – 4:30-5:30 pm – THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT FOR LITTLE ONES– With fun, colorful illustrations The Fruit of the Spirit for Little Ones engages little ones' minds and hearts to help them remember and use the fruit of the Spirit given to us by God. Galatians 5:22-23 reminds children to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol. (SB 102) Jesus and Me (JAM) – 4:30-5:30 PM – THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT-JESUS GROWING IN YOU AND

THROUGH YOU - Using handson Bible lessons, skits, crafts and Bible games, kids in kindergarten through second grade will have fun learning what it means to have Jesus growing in them and through them! Each week, kids will have an interactive Bible story, crafts (and yummy devotions!) bible games, a tee shirt design, name tag, and Fruit of the Spirit Bingo! **(SB 211)** Kid's Alive – 4:30-5:30 pm – TRAVEL GUIDE THROUGH THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – will take third through fifth graders on life-impacting explorations that engage them with activities, stories, prayer, and much more. Children will learn about expressing God's love to others through caring actions and healthy attitude, with the help of God's Spirit. Incorporated into lessons are games, fun trivia and even souvenirs! (SB 208)

connected through community

Sundays for Youth

<u>Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.:</u> Middle School (Basement) High School (Basement)

While both middle and high school youth meet in the basement, they will meet separately as they study the lectionary passage for each Sunday using the PCUSA curriculum *Feasting on the Word*. This engaging curriculum parallels Sunday's sermons as MPPC tends to follow the common lectionary which Feasting also follows.

Confirmation Class (GH 221/223/225):

This year's class is a 9-month program with most classes **meeting during Sunday School (9:45-10:45 a.m)**. Additional outings and/or meetings beyond Sunday mornings will include one evening meeting with Session, a couple of church visits, and a retreat. Confirmation is open to any youth who are serious about exploring their faith and who want to become members (disciples) at MPPC. Confirmands should be in the eighth grade or older. Contact Dan Wiard at the church for more information or register on Realm.

<u>Sunday Nights, 6-7:15 p.m.</u> MPPC Youth Group, 6-7:15 p.m.

Meeting on Sunday nights from 6-7:15 p.m. young people, gather for Youth Group and an opportunity to explore their faith through conversation and discussion. Youth will have input into the topics that matter to them. These topics might include relationships, school, home-life, technology, daily living our faith, siblings, beliefs, church, and more. In addition to the conversation and discussion on Sunday nights, youth will enjoy fellowship, recreation, and food that are bookends to the topic.

Middle School meets in GH 221/223/225. High School meets in the Basement.



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class of 2024





Prayer Breakfasts

Middle School – Tuesdays, 7 a.m., Basement High School – Thursdays, 7 a.m., Chick-Fil-A on Long Point Rd.

Join us as we gather before school for Chick-Fil-A breakfast and a time for prayer together. Meets during the school year Aug-Nov/Dec. & Jan-Apr/May.

MUSIC MINISTRY AT MPPC 2023

Contact Tony Sane or Alex Wilson to get involved.

Sunday Evenings Starting Sept. 17:

Instrumental Ensemble- 4-4:30 p.m. (Sanctuary) Open to all ages youth through adult! Brass/Woodwind/Strings/Percussion/Other

> **Beginner Bells- 4-4:30 p.m. (Choir Room)** Any beginners who would love to ring! We will teach you!

Youth Choir- 4:45-5:20 p.m. (SB 207) Middle and High School Students, share your creative talents in choir and in worship.

Mondays Starting Sept. 11:

Adult Bells- 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Choir Room) Must be able to read music!

Tuesdays, Sept. 12-Oct. 31:

History and Heritage of Hymns in the Presbyterian Church- 9-10 a.m. (Choir Room) Join Tony Sane and Jodi Dyer for this hymn class where we explore our "Glory to God" hymnal, and learn more about the composers and lyricists that brought these great hymns to life.

Wednesdays Starting Sept. 13:

Children's Choir- 5:30-6:00 p.m. (SB 206) Formerly Kingdom Choir, 1st – 5th grade

Kinder Choir - 5:30-6:00 p.m. (SB 207)

Formerly Angel Notes, Preschool- Kindergarten

Adult Choirs- 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Choir Room)

Leads worship during our later service. Women's and men's ensembles, and chamber choir options.

Praise Band

Leads worship during our early service. Open to all ages youth- adult, singers, and instrumentalist.

Kirk Choir (Show up and sing!)

Sings the first Sunday of each month starting Oct. 1 for the early service. Meets at 8 a.m. in the choir room to learn the music, open to all ability levels.



connected through community



The Learning Center is very excited for our new school year to start on Tuesday, September 5th. The hallways have been quiet over these past several weeks. We are looking forward to seeing and hearing children back in the building. The teachers have been working on their classrooms and are now ready for an awesome school year!

May the Lord place a hedge of protection around our sweet school to keep our children and teachers safe this school year.

<u>In Memory of Donna</u> <u>Simpson:</u> Dorothy Anne Bowers Michael & Anne Farmer In Memory of Bob King: Lib Tiller Jerry George

for September:

connected through hope

Feeling the Loss at Hope House

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." - Matthew 5:4

Several weeks have passed since we lost one of our dedicated volunteers at Hope House and things just haven't been the same. We miss her and find ourselves often talking about..."the way Angi would have done it!" We've taped photos of her on the file cabinet in the Hope House office because we like looking at her sweet smile. It makes us feel like she is still here. Angi Case was a volunteer who would tackle anything asked of her. Having been a talented writer for CNN for many years, she was the perfect fit for writing all our Hope House articles for The Pelican. She obviously, was quite over-qualified for the task. Filling her shoes isn't possible... but we will do our best.

Angi's family donated some of her furniture to Hope House. This serves as another reminder of the loving, giving person she was.

Hope House is in dire need of volunteers. Our numbers have diminished since the pandemic.

There are multiple ways in which you can volunteer, and the volunteer times can fit your schedules! If you would like to visit and discuss the various ways in which you can help, please contact me at <u>bmoore@mppc.net</u>. I would love to meet you, give you a tour, and tell you more about our



sweet ministry and family of volunteers.

The message below from a recent guest explains why we love Hope House:

"I am so appreciative that I was allowed to stay in this wonderful place while my husband was in intensive care at MUSC! Your ministry provided a comfortable, loving environment for me to rest, which helped me, so I could help him "

Beth Moore Director of Hope House

<u>SEPTEMBER 1</u>

In honor of Hope House; Given by Kristopher Cecil

SEPTEMBER 3

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Tony R King

SEPTEMBER 4

In honor of Hope House for providing comfort for the Family of Gary Swancey; Given by Tim and Liz Lambert

SEPTEMBER 5

In memory of Harriet McCullum; Given by Greg and Allie McCullum

SEPTEMBER 6

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Catherine Woods

SEPTEMBER 7

In Honor of Gary Swancey; Given by Pamela Mahoney

SEPTEMBER 8

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

In Memory of our children, William and Christina on their birthday; Given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

SEPTEMBER 10 In Memory of Angi Case;

Given by Sara Stewart

SEPTEMBER 12

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Ashley Magrath

SEPTEMBER 13

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Debbie Goulding

SEPTEMBER 14 Honor of Hope Hous

Given by Suzanne Googer

SEPTEMBER 15

In Honor of Rowe Magrath's 12th birthday; Given by Ashley Magrath

SEPTEMBER 16

In Memory of Angi Case; Given by Nancy Springs

SEPTEMBER 17

In Honor of our grandson Andrew "Gil" Arnold; Given by his Grandparents Andy and Libba

SEPTEMBER 19

In Honor of Hope House; Given by The Griffith Family

SEPTEMBER 21

In Memory of Martha Gribble, sister of Margaret Burwell; Given by Wando Book Group

SEPTEMBER 24

In Honor of our grandson, Andrew "Gil" Arnold; Given by his grandparents Andy and Libba

SEPTEMBER 26 In Honor of Hope House;

Given by Bob Hervey

SEPTEMBER 27

n Honor of Hope House; Given by The Pasterik Family

SEPTEMBER 28

In Honor of our grandson, Andrew "Gil" Arnold; Given by his grandparents Andy and Libba

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

connected through community

From the Prayer Team for the Pastoral Nominating Committee:

Dear Members and Friends of MPPC,

At the request of our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), a Prayer Team for the PNC has been formed. The following people have graciously volunteered to be a part of this Prayer Team, called to intentionally support, encourage, and pray for the PNC throughout their process of finding and calling the person God is anointing to serve as our Senior Pastor at MPPC: Barry Blackburn, Ellen Gower, Holly Limbert, Pam Spivey, Dick Query, Susanne Query, Jon Wallace, and Jim Westerhold. (Susanne, Dick, and Pam will serve as coordinators of this team.)

Our congregation is entering an exciting and hopeful period in the life and ministry of our church. In this season of anticipation and waiting patiently for our new pastor, we pray it will be a season of renewal for all members as we deepen our dependence on God's Presence and guidance and open our hearts to the leading of His Holy Spirit through prayer. The "voice" of MPPC is not distinct from your voice—it includes YOUR voice. Thus, we invite each one of you to fervently pray with us for the PNC, for candidates they will interview, and for the pastor being prepared to come to us. God is shepherding His people, even in times of pastoral transition, and He yearns to impart His love and plans for MPPC to grow and thrive in serving Him.

The Prayer Team welcomes and encourages all of you to join with us in prayer support for those on the PNC who have committed their time and energy to the challenging task ahead for them. We hope to offer some united prayer services in our sanctuary; we grow in our faith and unity when we pray together. We plan to stay in touch with you through our news publications and welcome you to share your thoughts and prayers with any of the prayer team. CAJM 🖾

Charleston Area Justice Ministry

An Invitation to Participate in MPPC CAJM Listening Session (AKA House Meeting):

Micah 6:8 tells us "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."

Have you wondered how you can DO JUSTICE? Please come participate in one of our three MPPC CAJM House Meetings (Listening Sessions) in September to learn how you can do justice. The MPPC Network Leaders invite you to come learn about the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), build relationships with other church members, and share your ideas about which community problems CAJM should focus on this year.

Three Meetings are Scheduled:

- Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Coleman Legerton's House (545 Marshgrass Blvd. MP)
- Thursday, Sept. 14, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. MPPC's Parlor
- Tuesday, Sept. 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Tom Ashbaugh's House (286 River Oak Drive, MP)

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact MPPC's CAJM Team Leaders:

- Andy White Boggan (843-270-7874; whiteagwb@ gmail.com)
- Coleman Legerton (843-209-8376; colelege@gmail. com)
- Tom Ashbaugh (843-991-9964; tom.ashbaugh@ gmail.com)

Come see how you can make a difference in our community!

New worship times begin September 17!

8:30 A.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL Relaxed style worship service

9:45 A.M. Sunday School + Fellowship Time 11 A.M. SANCTUARY + LIVE STREAM Traditional style worship service



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINNING SEPT. 17

8:30 a.m. Alternative Service in Fellowship Hall 9:45 a.m. Education Hour + Fellowship Time 11 a.m. Sanctuary Service + Live Stream

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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@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact 843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests