



MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 18, 2024 • 11:00 AM

First Sunday in Lent

**Please stand as you are able.*

Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love

Arr. Vicki Collinsworth

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

LAMB • Caroline Feller

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, we have begun our Lenten journey toward Holy Week. In Lent, we face hard truths about ourselves and begin anew. As we set out, let us remember God's mercy:

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's love towards those who worship him.

Leader: As far as east is from west, so far will God remove our transgressions from us.

People: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion upon us.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*HYMN #166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*SILENT CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, we confess that we are often neither merciful nor gracious toward neighbors or strangers. We claim Jesus as Lord, but do not do as he did. Instead, we are quick to judge others and slow to listen. We allow fear and resentment to distance us from people whose culture or beliefs differ from ours. Show us, merciful God, how to be like Jesus, seeking the welfare of persons unfairly seen as unworthy and unwanted. Deliver us, O God, from self-interest that hardens our hearts and closes our minds. As we make our Lenten journey, change us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: John's gospel reminds us that God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Let us proclaim the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lynn Wiard

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 34:4b-8 • Julie Stephenson

NEW TESTAMENT READING AND SERMON
"Wild Beasts, Angels, and the Steadfast Love of God"

Mark 1:9-13
Rev. Dr. Sally A. Brown

HYMN #167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts that support the mission and ministry of the Body of Christ. Please visit onrealm.org/mppc/give/now to give online.

OFFERTORY

Keep Your Lamps

Arr. Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

***DOXOLOGY #606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN #425**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Schubert

POSTLUDE

Jesus Is My Rock In A Weary Land

Arr. Wilson

MPPC welcomes guest preacher Rev. Dr. Sally A. Brown, who spent 18 years in pastoral ministry before beginning her "second" career as a seminary professor. From 1980-85, Sally served on the pastoral staff of the Presbytery of Elizabeth, NJ, where Rev Dick Giffen, a familiar face at MPPC, was Executive Presbyter. Dick became a treasured mentor. After 13 additional years in pastoral ministry in Bethlehem, PA, Sally earned her PhD. She began her academic career teaching at Lancaster Seminary in Lancaster, PA, before being called to the faculty of her alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary. She served there as Professor of Preaching and Worship until her retirement in Dec, 2021. Her publications include: Cross Talk: Preaching Redemption Here and Now (2008); Ways of the Word: Learning to Preaching for Your Time and Place (2016, with co-author Luke A. Powery, Dean of the Duke U Chapel); and Sunday's Sermon for Monday's World: Preaching to Shape Daring Witness (2020), as well as book chapters and journal articles. Dr Brown resides in West Chester, PA. She continues to preach and teach in area churches in south-eastern PA, and is invited, on occasion, to lecture via Zoom in the US and abroad.

OUR PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Danie DeBeer
Interim Pastor

Rev. Bart Edwards
Associate Pastor for Missions

OUR STAFF

Lori Baney
MPPC Learning Center Director

Alanna Barrett
Administrative Assistant

Glenna Durbin
Director of Youth Ministry

Logan Garabato
Director of Communications

Glenn Hair
Director of Finance

Stacy Hanling
Director of Daily Operations

Beth Moore
Director of Hope House

Tony Sane
Director of Music Ministries

Trish Snead
Administrative Assistant

Wayne Stewart
Sexton

Joann Westberry
Finance Assistant

Dan Wiard
Director of Christian Education

Lynn Wiard
Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Alex Wilson
*Associate Director of Music/
Organist*

Alexis Wright-Singleton
Receptionist

SESSION & DIACONATE

A list of our session members and deacons can be found at mppc.net/about. Find session documents and more information at mppc.net/our-session.

CHILDCARE

Childcare for children (infant through Pre-K) is available for all worship and education times in SB Nursery Classroom. Wiggle Bags are available for children who remain in worship in the Narthex during the 11 a.m. service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:45AM)

We offer four adult Sunday School classes throughout the school year. Three of the adult Sunday School classes are beginning their Lenten study that will carry them through Palm Sunday. The Middle (GH 226) and the Youngish Adult Classes will be using the Church-wide Lenten study: "Meeting Jesus at the Table." Connect 3 (Parlor, 9:30am) will be looking at the Lenten study "Finding Jesus in the Psalms." Our fourth class, the Academy of St. John (SB 206, 9:15am), welcomes Dr. Manfred Brauch again as they look at "Christian Ethics."

FIRST AID

In case of an emergency, please call 911. AEDs (defibrillators) are located around MPPC in the narthex, in the front office, outside Fellowship Hall 2, and in the lobby of Grace Hall.

PASTOR ON CALL

After hours: 843-901-9977.

WIFI PASSWORD

The password is the same as the network name:
MPPC-Guest.

HEARING DEVICES

Available in the narthex.

HYMNALS

Available in the lobby.

ADOPT A DAY AT HOPE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 10

In Memory of Brenda Craig; Given by Barre & Kathy Deleot

FEBRUARY 10

In Honor of my granddaughter, Lily Springs Moore, on her 17th birthday; Given by Nancy Springs

FEBRUARY 11

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Lawrence & Phyllis Simeon

FEBRUARY 12

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

FEBRUARY 13

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Nancy Martenson

FEBRUARY 14

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Chip and Lindsay Bruorton

FEBRUARY 15

In Honor of Hope House; Given by Beth Fondren

FEBRUARY 15

In Memory of Lily Brint; Given by

Hope House is funded by member donations, guest contributions, and community grants. It costs approximately \$50/day to operate Hope House. You can support our mission by "adopting" a day at Hope House; visit mppc.net/hope-house to make a donation.

Rachel Isaac

FEBRUARY 16

In Memory of Brenda Craig; Given by Carrie Thompson

FEBRUARY 17

In Memory of Laura Caroon Jones; Given by Carrie Thompsons

FEBRUARY 18

In Honor of Tyler Davidson; Given by the Davidson Family

FEBRUARY 19

In Honor of Hope House; Given by the Griffith Family

FEBRUARY 19

In Honor of Eagle Scout Connor Neal, on his 18th birthday; Given by Troop 20

FEBRUARY 20

In Memory of Brenda Craig; Given by Marcus and Sue Googer

FEBRUARY 21

In Memory of Laura Caroon Jones, Mother of Becky Neuhaus; Given by Sara Stewart

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27, 9:50AM
**Third Act: Int'l African
 American Museum**
 (Meet at MPPC)

March 1, 7:00PM
Village Concert Series
 (Fellowship Hall)

March 2 - 23
Rakes on Wheels
 (Contact Jim at inghamsc@
 hotmail.com to volunteer)

March 8, 5:30PM
Pacesetters
 (Fellowship Hall)

See more online at
mppc.net/events/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• As nominating begins the process of selecting 2024-2027 **elders and deacons** for MPPC, please prayerfully consider persons who could contribute to our church. Nominate them at mppc.net/nominations or call Ellen Gower at (864)430-2626.

• If you would like to share a prayer request, consider writing it on our new **prayer board!** You can find it in the Fellowship Hall on an easel near the water fountain. Prayer requests can also be submitted online at mppc.net/prayer-requests

• Our monthly **Third Act gathering** will be switching up slightly for February, and we will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month instead of the 4th Monday. We will be taking a short bus trip to downtown Charleston to the International African American Museum on Tuesday, February 27th. We will meet at church at 9:50 am, the bus will leave at 10 am, and the tickets

are reserved for 10:30 am. The cost is \$14 each for Seniors, please pay online when registering on Realm. Tickets are limited, reserve your seat now. If unable to access Realm, call Alexis at the church office.

• **"Rakes on Wheels"** from our congregation will roll once again during March to help homebound seniors needing assistance with their spring yard cleanup. All able MPPC members, families (incl. young children), and groups are asked to pick a day between March 2-23 to volunteer for two hours to assist our neighbors who are unable and lacking resources to do this task themselves. Coordinators will provide everything: rakes, bags, and on-scene guidance. Contact Jim Ingham at inghamsc@hotmail.com or Alexis in the church office (843-884-4612) with the date that you wish to volunteer.

GIVING & FINANCIALS

Visit onrealm.org/mppc/give/now to give online or scan the QR code below. Please reach out to Finance Director Glenn Hair with any questions.



	YTD	WE 2/11/24
Total Giving & Other Revenue	\$ 319,545	\$ 79,193
Total Expenses	\$ 251,002	\$ 59,536
Operating Cash Balance at 2/11/24	\$206,008	

Thank you for your generous support of God's Kingdom work & the mission of MPPC.

I'M NEW!

Thank you for your presence today, worship is such a special time and we are glad you chose to spend that time with us! If you would like to learn more about MPPC, join our community or get involved outside of worship, here are a few suggested next steps:

- Visit mppc.net/new to find the answers to your most frequently asked questions. (You can find information about our new member classes there as well).
- Read our monthly newsletter, *The Pelican*, at mppc.net/newsletter or subscribe to our weekly newsletter at mppc.net/sign-up-for-updates.
- Follow our Facebook and Instagram (@mtpleasantpres).
- Check out some of our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at mppc.net/events or mppc.net/volunteer.
- Stop by and say hi! Whether its during the week or after worship, our pastors, staff and members would love to meet you and show you around MPPC. Our office is open Monday-Thursday from 9-5 and on Fridays from 9-1.
- Call us at 843-884-4612.