

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

April 2024

the pelican



*"a community of faith where all are welcomed and encouraged
to actively live out God's love with energy, compassion and joy"*

www.mppc.net

843-884-4612

from rev. dr. de beer



Peace! Be Still! Have Faith!

The narrator of the Good News of Jesus, Mark, certainly knew how not to mess around with words! He tells the story of Jesus in such a concise way that much of the meaning passes us by if we are not present and paying attention to the story.

Take Mark 4:35-41 for instance. Jesus announced to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." All we know from the beginning of chapter 4 is that Jesus and his disciples were "beside the sea." So, where is "the other side?" Is "the other side" only geographical, or did Jesus have in mind that something will change for them? I suspect Mark had both in mind when he told this story.

I wonder if the disciples voluntarily followed Jesus into the boat, or was there some grumbling going on? Mark didn't tell us, just that later, with the storm raging, they kind of objected, accusing Jesus of not caring about what happened to them.

So, when Jesus told the sea, "Peace! Be still!" can it also be that it was directed at the disciples?

It is interesting that people interpreted the boat on the sea as an image of the church in the storms of this world. In the boat is safety (well, sometimes discontent, but mostly...) Once the disciples were alone in the boat, and Jesus came walking on the water, telling Peter to get out of the boat onto the waters to walk to him and Peter sank when he looked at the waves instead of at Jesus. (Matthew 14:22-33).

Stormy seas are busy surrounding the boat, which is MPPC. Anxiety and fear about the future of all our ministries are developing, as some staff members retire, new staff members are hired; as the Pastor Nominating Committee is narrowing their search for the next "fulltime pastor," or senior pastor; and there's the lingering issues of our budget and money.

How do we respond? Do we leave the boat, to go meet with whom we initially thought is a ghost (Mark 14:26)? Or do we turn onto one another because we feel like we are losing control of whatever? Do we have faith enough to call on Jesus (who, all along, is in the boat with us) because we think we need to wake him up?

Thinking of the next few months, do you hear a voice saying, "Peace! Be still!" "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Do we find the Lord of the church, whom even the winds and the sea obey?

Peace! Be Still! Have Faith!

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer

Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

Prayer for the PNC search by the Connect 3 Sunday School Class:

Sovereign God, thank you for your love and care for MPPC.

As we wait with anticipation for the calling of our next senior pastor, quell our anxiousness and fill us with the sure knowledge that you have already ordained and prepared him or her specifically for our congregation and expressly for the purpose of enabling MPPC to carry Your love to the world around us. We pray for one who will lead with energy, personality, and love, engaging our congregation through our mission statement. We pray for one who will lead in a way that fosters unity, respect, and passion among our staff and congregation so that we can serve you better. Send Your Holy Spirit to each and every heart, preparing us to receive the one you are calling.

With grateful hearts, we pray for each and every member of our Pastor Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Amory, Chip Bourton, Andrew DeHoll, Susan Dalton, McRae Hogan, Towner Magill, Bruce McAdams, Ellie McDermott, and Susan Mellichamp. We ask that You fill them with strength, unity, wisdom, and discernment as they interview candidates.

We pray lastly for your hand to be with the one you have chosen for MPPC throughout this time of transition giving peace of mind, strength, wisdom, and joy. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

connected through music



Kirkin' O' the Tartan Service on April 28th

Please join in the procession of bagpipes, Beadle, Crucifer, and Tartan Flags as we celebrate The Kirkin' O' the Tartan service on April 28th at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

After the Battle of Culloden, 1746, the British forbade traditional Scottish heritage for nearly 50 years. During that time, the Scots would wear a piece of tartan cloth to be blessed by the clergy, in secret. In 1942, Rev. Peter Marshall began the Scottish American tradition to further bond the US and UK during WWII. The Kirkin' O' the Tartan service represents "a blessing of the family."

It is a worship service that allows us to reflect on the gift of our Presbyterian heritage and the gifts God has given us through our past, present and future kith and kin. You are encouraged to wear your own tartan apparel - or kilt if you have one! Please join us at either 8:30 or 11 a.m. on April 28th for this special service!

Music Ministry Sunday Service on April 14th

This service is meant to showcase appreciation to all that serve in the music ministry.

Each service will feature different ensembles including children's choirs, Youth choir, handbell choir, adult choir, praise band and instrumental ensemble. The Adult choir will be presenting "Gospel Mass" by Robert Ray during both services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. We hope that you will join us for this special Sunday!

Get Involved in Our Music Ministry

The Music Ministry of MPPC would like to invite any and all musicians who play instruments to join our MPPC Instrumental Ensemble. Music Sunday is quickly approaching (April 14th), and we would love any and all to be a part of this wonderful service of worship. Instrumental Ensemble meets on Sundays from 4-5 pm each week in the Choir Room. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Tony Sane, or Alex Wilson. They will be happy to provide you the information that you will need!

The MPPC Youth Choir is growing, and continues to grow! We meet each Wednesday from 5-6 pm in Grace Hall! If you are a 4th - 12th grader, then your voice is needed! We are also preparing for Music Sunday. In Youth Choir, it is not only a place to express yourself through music, but to be in fellowship with those who share a passion for music. If you have any questions, again please reach out to Tony Sane, or Alex Wilson and they will be happy to help you!



Village Concert Series: Gravel Road Bluegrass Band on Friday, April 26 at 7 pm

Join us at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church on **Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m.** for a lively performance by the Gravel Road Bluegrass Band! We plan to host this concert outside so please bring a chair or a blanket. If the weather is bad, we will move inside to the Fellowship Hall. This concert is free and open to the public!

Gravel Road Acoustic Trio, based out of Charleston, South Carolina, is made up of three multi-talented musicians whose different backgrounds bring together a unique and exciting mix of music that includes bluegrass, country, and popular favorites. Gravel Road performs across the southeast and has appeared on "Lowcountry Live" as well as "Song of the Mountains," filmed in Marion, Virginia. The group's unique arrangements of tunes along with their vocal harmony precision make them stand out from the average bluegrass band.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Faith Formation opportunities during Sunday School in April offer four new curriculum options in which adults can engage. Below are curriculum descriptions for each class, each beginning in their respective classes on April 7.

Connect 3 (9:30-10:30 a.m., Parlor) *Living Fully, Dying Well* by Rueben Job

Our best decisions about life's most important events are seldom made in a time of crisis. *Living Fully, Dying Well* is a book designed to assist us in making careful, wise, and prayerful preparation for meeting life's most important moments.

The Middle (9:45-10:45 a.m., GH 226) *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in your Passion*, by Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, Susan Robb

In *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*, authors help us see God's purpose for our lives, how to open ourselves to God's voice, and how to take the first or next step to follow God's call. Reading this book and exploring life choices alongside others, individuals will learn how to channel their passions, hear God's voice, and live the life they were meant to live.

Academy of Saint John (9:15-10:30 a.m., SB 206) *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith*, featuring various speakers

Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality. Featuring over a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers, participants will have access to a seven-episode program participant reader. Discussion will focus on material shared in class, readings, and weekly video segments.

Youngish Adults (9:45-10:45 a.m., Library) Parenting Study

This class will focus on a parenting study in April. Watch for details soon!

JOIN US IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR

The Widards'
RETIREMENT
PARTY & POTLUCK

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

**FOLLOWING THE 11 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Bring your food by on your way to church and then stay afterwards for lunch and fellowship.

Please prepare according to your last name: A - J: main course (meats or casseroles with meats; K - S: Sides (vegetables, salads - green or congealed); T - Z: desserts.

Please label your food in some way and be sure it is cooked. We will keep warm in ovens but not able to cook all items brought. Drinks will be provided. There will also be an opportunity for contributions to a going-away gift.

**Hosted by the Fellowship and
Congregational Life Committee**

connected through education

New Traditions for Our Newest Members on May 5:

The Confirmation Class continues to entertain, inspire, and excite me. Teaching these young people has been one of the greatest joys of my new position. As they move through this month, they will keep writing, rewriting, editing, and developing their Faith Statements. They will be putting into words who they know Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit to be; they will describe what the church means to them and how their faith encompasses all of that. On April 23rd they will sit before the Session and profess these Faith Statements for examination. We then will be so lucky as to welcome them as members of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian during the **11 am service on May 5th.**

To celebrate the Confirmands, I'd like to begin a new tradition - the whole congregation is welcome to a potluck lunch after service. **Everyone bring your favorite dish, and have fellowship and food with your church family, old and new.** I think that as new members of the congregation, it's important for the confirmands to see and be in community with the church they are now a part of. It will be a wonderful intergenerational opportunity where the newly welcomed members can look to the high schoolers, young adults, and full-grown people they will become in this church. I invite you all to be a part of this as you continue to nurture the spiritual growth of our youth.

Glenna Durbin
Director of Youth Ministries



Upcoming Events:

Middle School Prayer Breakfast: Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30; 7 am (SB Basement)

High School Prayer Breakfast: Thursdays, April 11, 18, 25; 7 am (Chick-fil-a on Long Point)

Youth Group: Sundays, April 14, 21, 28; 5-6:30 pm (MS), 6-7:30 pm (HS)

Vacation Bible School: June 17-21

Upcoming Trips:

HS Montreat: June 9-15, 2024

MS Montreat: July 17-21, 2024

MS Mission: August 4-9, 2024



connected through education

Children's Ministry This April:

Children's Ministry is alive and well at MPPC! Hats off to Lynn Wiard for her wonderful work as Interim Director! It is hard to believe that I have been here part-time for over a month! And what an exciting first month...Lent had already begun, VBS was days away from launching registration, Palm Sunday palms had been ordered and the Easter Egg Hunt was on the horizon. In between all of that I was able to jump in feet (felt like head some days) first to see the excitement, commitment and exceptional parental involvement in Wednesday afternoon KidsRock, VBS leadership, Sunday school and Kid's Praise. WOW! I am thankful and thrilled to be here as your new Director of Children's Ministry. God is mightily at work at MPPC and it is a joy to be partners in ministry with you. I will continue part-time until mid-May when I will then become full-time.

My door is open- please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or thoughts.

I look forward to getting to know you all better!

Joyfully,

Suzy Edwards

Director of Children's Ministries



Important Children's Ministry dates to put on your calendars for April:

April 10th - Last KidzRock of the spring (No meeting April 3- Spring Break)

April 14th - Children's Choirs will sing at 11 a.m. worship service

April 21st - Wiard's Retirement Potluck- see pg. 4

April 28th - Kirkin' O' the Tartan (special Scottish heritage resources will be available for children)

Kid's Praise will be offered April 14, 21, and 28th (Volunteers needed!)

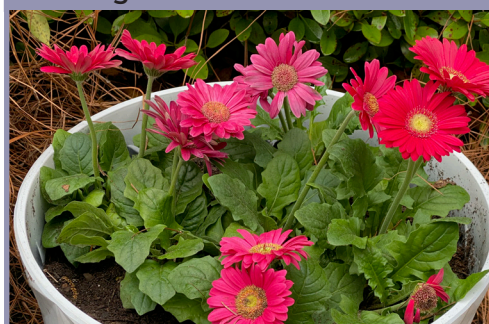
Sunday school will be offered every Sunday in April

Sign up for VBS... children, youth and adult volunteers: mppc.net/events

Sign up to teach Sunday school, lead Kid's Praise or have your children participate as an Acolyte or Water Bearer for the Baptismal Font: mppc.net/volunteer-with-children



Planting Flowers to share on Easter



2nd & 3rd Grade Bible Class Graduation



Hearts for Haiti Mission Project

connected through mission

Rakes on Wheels Finishes with a Flourish!

MPPC's congregation turned out and did great work during this year's Spring Yard Cleanup. Despite repeated weekend rainfalls requiring rescheduling changes, 45 adults and 34 youngsters showed up to assist disabled and elderly homeowners at 10 yards where our assistance was requested.

The average yard produced 24 full bags of leaves with larger debris usually stacked on top. For the first time every age group at MPPC up through their 70's was represented. All yards were cleaned within two hours with bags neatly lined up at the street.

Thanks go to all volunteers as well as our great MPPC staff that coordinated communications and Wednesday news about all the activity!



Support Needed for the Paikans!



As many of you know, our church along with Providence and Westminster have been providing everyday support to Nadia Paikan, Afghan refugee, and her four children, Sodise 6th grade, Taib 3rd grade, Mobara 4k, and Asra 2 years old. We are thrilled that Sodise has joined a soccer team! His coach has been an answer to many prayers and a wonderful addition to Sodise's life as well as the support team's. Sodise and Taib are pictured with the coach's son after a soccer game. We have also learned



that Sodise was approved to receive a mentor from the Be A Mentor organization where our own Towner Magill serves on their Board. Growing up is never easy and especially when you are in a new country and your father, Fraidoon, is still in Afghanistan. We are doing our best to wrap support around the family and specifically Sodise wherever possible.

The boys have received scholarships to both spring and summer camps which is a huge blessing. We are still exploring some summer soccer weeks for Sodise but they will mainly be going to St Andrews Parks and Playground in West Ashley.

The family is patiently waiting to hear next steps from US Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding Fraidoon's reunification with his family. Sadly there seems to be no sense of urgency from the government's perspective nor a timeline the family can track. This situation is truly in God's hands and we have done all we can do except wait patiently. How you can help:

- 1. Transportation**– We will need volunteers this summer to either take the boys to camp in the morning or bring them home in the afternoon. Camp will run from June 10- August 9. Please reach out to Maryanne Davis maryanne.biddix@gmail.com/678-620-6029 with any questions or to express interest. We will gladly get you signed up for a ride!
- 2. Financial support**– We have a refugee fund at the church that we use to pay for a variety of expenses that are beyond the reach of this struggling family. Checks can be written to MPPC with "refugee fund" in the memo line.
- 3. Prayers**– This family is in constant need of your prayers. A single mother with 4 children between the ages of 12 and 2 would keep any prayer group busy. Throw in family reunification delays and cultural assimilation issues, the need for prayers is never ending.

Thank you for keeping the Paikans in your hearts!

connected through hope

Continuous Floods

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4: 6-7

Have you ever had a time in your life when you felt overwhelmed? As soon as you got through one flood, another would come. Have you ever thought...WHY is this happening again?

Well, the ministry team and volunteers at Hope House are sharing these emotions.

Since Hope Cottage opened, it has served many guests with mobility issues. It has been just perfect for that purpose! Built on a slab, there are no steps to climb...and this has kept us from having to turn guests away who were unable to maneuver the steps in Hope House.

Located at the lowest point on the church campus, the Cottage has flooded before, but the two floods in March were the worst. The first brought 5" of flood water inside the Cottage and the second brought 12". Everything inside was ruined. Note the water line in the photos...

We have had two teams of professionals working on a solution to the flooding and there have been varying suggestions. If you are reading this article, please pray for God to guide those making the final decision about the Cottage's future. It has been heart-wrenching to think of losing an asset that has been so valuable to the guests who have rested there.

Blessings,

Beth Moore

Director of Hope House



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

All Hope House Volunteers and Supporters are invited to join us for refreshments and fellowship on **Sunday, April 28**, after each church service. We appreciate YOU!!

Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

April 2

In Memory of Julian McGill;
Given by Marshall and Lisa Hay

April 3

In Honor of Hope House;
Given by Becky Neuhaus

April 4

In Honor of Hope House;
Given by An Anonymous Donor

April 5

In Honor of Ali and Poppy Muller;
Given by Paul and Camille Fisher

April 6

In Honor of Hope House; Given by
Brian and Margaret French

April 7

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

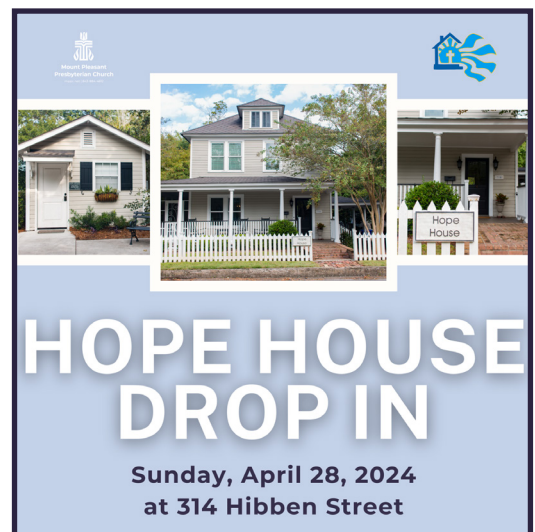
April 15

In Honor of Gary Rogalski, on a
very big birthday; Given by Karl
and Miff Cone

April 17

In Memory of Angi Case;
Given by an Anonymous Donor

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



HOPE HOUSE
DROP IN
Sunday, April 28, 2024
at 314 Hibben Street

Small text in top left: Ministry of Hope
Providence Church

Small text in top right: Hope House

Small text in bottom right: Hope House

connected through community

MPPC Endowment Corner: Gloria Wicker Generosity



We wanted to share the inspiring story of Gloria Wicker's very generous gift to the MPPC Endowment from her Estate.

Gloria, along with other MPPC members, served on the Founding

Committee of the MPPC Endowment Fund in 2002. They took the idea of an Endowment and brought it to life. Today the Endowment supports all areas of the church - Christian Education, Worship, Music, and Missions - with additional funds that come from outside of the budget.

The accomplishments of the Endowment, and her church family, meant volumes to Gloria. Without her generosity of time, we would not be here today. And because of her generosity even in her death, she is continuing the mission of the Endowment.

Gloria believes in the mission of this Church and with this estate gift, she has ensured her legacy of faith. Thank you for sharing your beautiful faith with us Gloria! Check out Gloria's leaf on the Endowment Tree in the Fellowship Hall!

Want to know more about the Endowment? You can also check out mppc.net/endowment or contact Chairman Harry Smith at 843.708.9556 or Katie Edwards at 843.364.8495. We are also working on an informational program so stay tuned!

Recent Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Ginny Giffen, Given by:

Dorothy Anne Bowers

In Memory of Dr. Julian McGill, Given by:

Susan Mellichamp
E.M. & Theresa Seabrook

In Memory of Brenda Craig, Given by:

E.M. & Theresa Seabrook

Donated to the Endowment:

Don and Terry Horres

Stephen Ministry is a Reminder of God's Presence

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used in over 12,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and 29 other countries, including MPPC.

With Stephen Ministry, congregations can equip a team of lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, and other life difficulties.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry or to get a Stephen Minister referral, call Alanna Barrett at the Church office at (843) 884-4612 or visit mppc.net/stephen-ministry.



Charleston Area Justice Ministry: Nehemiah Action Assembly

Are You a Person Who Cares about Justice in Our Community? Many people care and want to do something, but they are not sure what they can do. Come join fellow MPPC members and community justice-seekers for a one evening (two-hour) event.

The Nehemiah Action Assembly is the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM)'s big event for the year. Your presence with us on this one night can make a HUGE DIFFERENCE! CAJM's Nehemiah Action Assembly will be held on **Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church** (7396 Rivers Ave., North Charleston).

On this night we will show our public officials that our community cares about these issues: affordable housing, access to primary healthcare, bias-free police practices, environmental justice, and quality education for all our children. Help us address these issues with our public officials on behalf of low-income people and for all of us.

For free tickets and more information, contact: Andy White Boggan (whiteagwb@gmail.com), Coleman Legerton (colelege@gmail.com), or Tom Ashbaugh (tom.ashbaugh@gmail.com).

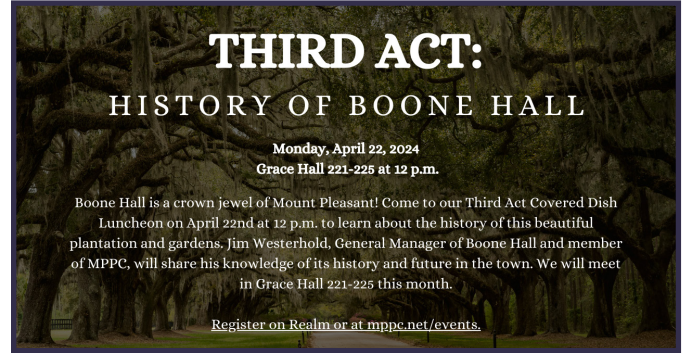
connected through community

Pacesetters: Jackie Mickel on Gullah Culture

On **Friday, April 12**, the Pacesetters will host Jackie Mickel as she presents on Gullah Culture. Jackie, a retired school teacher, is a true Gullah descendant. She is currently the lead Gullah presenter at “da Gullah Theater” at Boone Hall Plantation in Mount Pleasant, SC. Jackie explores the Gullah culture through stories, song, and the presentation of many interesting facts concerning the Gullah people. She has shared her presentation with many diverse groups, including Boeing, The Red Hat Society, and many family reunions.



Please join us in the **Fellowship Hall** for this presentation! **Dinner will be a potluck, the cost is \$5 at the door.** Fellowship and appetizers will take place at 5:30, dinner will be at 6 and then the presentation will begin at 7 p.m. **RSVP: Susan Mellichamp by April 8, 2024 at SusanMell@mac.com or cell: 843-697-2111.**



Third Act: History of Boone Hall

Boone Hall is a crown jewel of Mount Pleasant. Come to our Third Act Covered Dish Luncheon on **April 22nd at 12 p.m.** to learn about the history of this beautiful plantation and gardens.

Jim Westerhold, General Manager of Boone Hall and member of MPPC, will share his knowledge of its history and future in the town.

Register at mppc.net/events, we will meet in Grace Hall 221-225 this month.

Learn & Play

Spring

PLAY, MAKE, MOVE, LEARN, EXPLORE, READ, SING

JOIN US FOR AN ENGAGING, INTERACTIVE **CAREGIVER & ME** CLASS USING SENSORY PLAY, MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES, COOPERATIVE PLAY ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, ART, AND MORE

Our activities are thoughtfully chosen to promote engagement and learning in a hands-on way.

Join us for our 7 week Spring Session!

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church
Old Village, Mount Pleasant

Mondays at 1:30-2:15 (Ages 3-4) or
Mondays at 2:30-3:15 (Ages 1-3)

April 15 - June 3
(No class May 27, Mem Day)
Cost: \$250

EMAIL US TO REGISTER!

Susie Erde, MS, OTR/L serde.learnandplay@gmail.com
Margaret Bloder, MS, OTR/L mklubderegmail.com

Give hope this spring.

Give blood.

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Monday April 22, 2024
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall
302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Come donate and receive a \$10 gift card by email and a chance at a \$7K prize! rcblood.org/spring

Schedule your appointment today!
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org
Scan QR Code | Sponsor Code: **MPPC**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

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PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests