

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

May 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



Living Christlike

You could feel it in the air...like something you can touch. No, not the pollen, or the fresh smell of spring-summer. I'm talking about the excitement as we returned for worship to the sanctuary. Eight months

is a long period, and we almost became used to worship in the Fellowship Hall. And yet, through Christmas and Easter we longingly looked forward to being back in the sanctuary. Worship on the first two Sundays was marked by joy in being together, and the music that resounded in the sanctuary. What a special place, with so many stories to tell!

Stories of people who entered through big doors, older people who are glad to see each other because they have known each other for many years; younger people, still somewhat hesitant about how far their children can go in their business before someone (one of the older people) will get angered...yet, in the end, in worship we experience something of the New Jerusalem, where God will live among the people, and the Light will be testimony to the presence of the living God. And as the choir sings, and we follow joyfully, almost with abandon, we get a pre-feeling of what existence will be in eternity.

The reputation of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church is widely known. It is this congregation that makes a change in the existence of many people; a congregation where young families and their children are welcomed, where strangers discover that they belong.

And I continually see the vision of a big river, flowing with *"the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city"* like John saw in the Book of Revelation, chapter 22.

And my prayer is that MPPC will continue to bring life to our surrounding areas, that people will continue to live together as God's new family, to intentionally seek each other's company, because we experience that *"the throne of God and of the Lamb"* is here, *"and his servants...worship him"* because we *"see his face, and his name is"* on our foreheads (Revelation 22:3-4).

May God's future be experienced by every one of us. As we live as a community of faith, where we welcome all and encourage everyone to live out God's love with energy, compassion and joy!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danie de Beer".

Rev. Dr. Danie de Beer

Interim Pastor & Head of Staff

ddebeer@mppc.net

Pastor Nominating Committee April Update



In case you missed it: Towner Magill presented to the congregation on behalf of the Pastor Nominating Committee during 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 21!

You can watch this update and see other PNC news at mppc.net/searching-for-our-next-senior-pastor.

connected through worship

THE CHARLESTON FLUTE CHOIR
PRESENTS

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

An hour-long concert of favorite movie themes!

THURSDAY, MAY 2

7:00 PM

Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church
302 Hibben St, Mt. Pleasant, SC

FREE

Directed by
Tacy Edwards



Youngish Adults Sunday School Class

There were over 100 church members, friends & family who attended the Youngish Adult Potluck on Sunday, April 28th! We had a great time "Meeting Jesus at the Table" and fellowshiping together.

Gravel Road Bluegrass Band

Our Village Concert Series for the spring ended with a fun night with the Gravel Road Bluegrass Band!



Organ Committee Presentation on Sunday, May 5

The Organ Committee will present a presentation to all who are interested on May 5 following the 11am service in Grace Hall, 123/125 to update the congregation the committee's progress.

Do You Have a Knack for Hosting?

The Fine Arts Committee is looking for people who live in the Old Village who would be willing to host a reception following one of our 2024-2025 Village Concerts. If this sounds like you or you know of someone who might be interested, please reach out to Tony Sane at tsane@mppc.net!





Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 5
11 am, Fellowship Hall

There will be a potluck immediately following the 11 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our confirmands! Everyone is invited and should bring a dish to share according to their last names.

Last names A-J; main dish (meats, casseroles, etc.), K-S: side dishes (salads of all kinds, fruits, macaroni, etc), T-Z desserts.

connected through education

Summer Youth Trips & Retreats:

Summer is quickly approaching! The weather is warmer and many of us are looking at just one more month of school. This means it's about time for one of the best parts of youth ministry – summer trips and retreats!

This summer, High School youth will attend Montreat Youth Conference at Montreat Conference Center. Middle School will attend the Middle School Conference run by Montreat at Maryville College. Both are incredible weeks of fellowship, worship, keynotes, recreation, and group bonding – with your own church and with new friends. These conferences are packed with scripture made accessible for disciples of all ages, but especially geared toward youth. These retreats are a week to refresh, step away from the stress of everyday life, and remind ourselves of all that we are empowered to do through Christ. We walk away from these trips with new motivation to live out Christ-like lives and with beautiful, meaningful connections that allow us to build on our relationships with each other for the whole rest of the year. I grew up attending Montreat Youth Conference and I still credit my greatest friendships and drive for ministry to my time there. Montreat is a truly thin place and the youth and I alike couldn't be more excited to get there!

Middle School is also participating in Charleston Youth Mission, right here in our own city. We will spend a week doing local mission and learning about the disparity that exists right around us, yet we are so separate from. Local mission trips are a unique chance to see that we don't have to travel outside of the US, or even our own county to be God's hands and feet for people.

We ask that you pray for safe travels and a wonderful experience for all as we prepare for what the summer brings.

Glenna Durbin

Director of Youth Ministries
gdurbin@mppc.net



Upcoming Events:

Middle School Prayer Breakfast: Tuesday May 7, 14, 21, 28; 7:15 a.m. (SB Basement)

High School Prayer Breakfast: Thursday May 16, 23, 30; 7 a.m. (Chick-fil-a on Long Point Rd)

Youth Group: Sunday May 12, 19, 26;
Middle School - 5:30-7 p.m.
High School - immediately following 11 a.m. worship

Confirmation Sunday: May 5 at the 11 a.m. service, potluck to follow

Senior Sunday: June 2 at the 11 a.m. service

Vacation Bible School: June 17-21

Upcoming Trips:

HS Montreat: June 9-15, 2024

MS Montreat: July 17-21, 2024

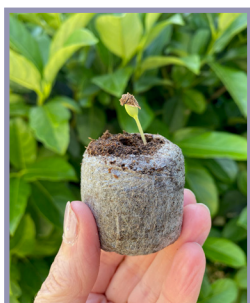
MS Mission Trip: August 4-9, 2024

connected through education

Children's Ministry is Springing into Action:

Greetings! What an exciting time it was on April 21st to worship together again in the beauty of our sanctuary. We will continue to find the best ways to include the children in worship as Acolytes and Water Bearers (Baptismal Font) in the sanctuary. The first Sunday went beautifully- —thank you, Poppy, Ada and Eleanor! Please reach out to me if your child (K-5th grade - younger children can participate with an older sibling) would like to sign up. I would love to work with any children who have not participated yet in this special way.

Several weeks ago, the children planted seeds in honor of the Wiards' retirement. A gift bag full of cards, pictures and a picture frame displaying a seeding of one of the flowers a child planted. Our activity of planting seeds was to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Wiards' and symbolized the many ways they planted seeds of faith with the children, youth and adults of MPPC. Planting flowers was the children's special way of thanking them for their nurture and guidance. In a few weeks, we'll send a picture to Lynn and Dan to them know that the flowers and the children at MPPC are still growing, flourishing and beautiful thanks to all they did!



VBS is less than two months away... and full! We are thrilled to offer Bible stories, art, science, recreation, food, fellowship and fun all week long! Thank you to our directors- Kelley and Angela, families, volunteers, staff and whole church family! It takes all of us and wouldn't be the same without you. Please reach out to help us make this a wonderful VBS for all. We can't wait!

We need a few more volunteers for other children's ministry opportunities, please **sign up** to teach Sunday school, lead Kid's Praise and sign your children participate as an Acolyte or Water Bearer for the Baptismal Font at mppc.net/volunteer-with-children.

Later this month I will be starting full-time in my role as Director of Children's Ministry. It is with gladness that I will be able to spend more time working with and serving the children and families at MPPC! I hope that if your child or your family has an event, celebration, or are ever facing a difficult time, that you will let me know.

I'd love to be a part of your child's and family's life... watching a dance or musical recital, attending a sporting event, or stopping by for a visit if you need a little extra encouragement or support!

Thankful to be in ministry together!

Joyfully,

Suzu Edwards

Director of Children's Ministries
sedwards@mppc.net



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

May 5 - Sunday School- all ages
Communion (No Kids Praise)

May 12 - Sunday School- all ages
Kids Praise -11am worship

May 19 - Sunday School- all ages
Kids Praise -11am worship
Last Kids Praise until fall

May 26 - Memorial Day Weekend
No Sunday school
No Kids Praise



Last KidzRock For the Spring - Pizza & Ice Cream!

connected through mission

Haiti Outreach Ministry

Many of you were touched by Pastor Leon's visit a few weeks ago. Pastor Leon challenged us to pray for Haiti and then to do what the Spirit might lead us to do. Many of you have responded to his call already to pray for Haiti and to go above and beyond with financial donations. Pastor Leon was blessed by his time with us.

Several of us from MPPC will be in Raleigh, NC, at White Memorial Presbyterian Church on May 4th, 2024, to celebrate the **35th Anniversary of Haiti Outreach Ministry's** work in Haiti. I am very excited to celebrate this faithful ministry that continues to educate children, feed the hungry, and provide medical care and clean, safe drinking water amid violence and unrest. Now is not the time to turn our back on innocent children. Now is our time to double our efforts to protect them. We can do this.

So, I also offer you the same challenge that Pastor Leon did!

One, pray for Haiti and HOM's work there. If you do not have one of the HOM prayer cards that were handed out, ask me; I have plenty, or see the prayer on the right.

And if the Spirit moves you to do more, sponsor a child in the HOM school system. Despite all the unrest and violence, HOM schools are running about 80% in attendance. A sponsored child receives a uniform to wear, two meals a day, and free dental and medical care. For \$40 a month, or

\$480 a year, you and your family can give the gift of education to a child. Visit here to find out more: haitiom.denarionline.com/SponsoraChild.

Lastly, you can make a charitable donation to HOM. Here is the link to HOM's website for making an online gift: www.haitiom.org/donate.

I have worked with this organization for over 15 years and currently sit on its Board of Directors. I know the organization from the ground up, so if you have any questions, please talk to me. Let's pray for Haiti and search our hearts to give and support a ministry that brings hope and help to a troubled part of the world.

Blessings,

Rev. Bart Edwards

Associate Pastor for Missions
bedwards@mppc.net



Loving God,
Accustomed to so many storms, Haiti is in the eye of the hurricane of violence. They wait with caution, too afraid to leave their homes, even to find their daily bread.
They are hungry for so much more than bread. We ask you, O Lord, to bring long awaited peace to your people there.
Be with each and every one, whispering encouragement to draw on their deep faith in you. They walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and though they fear, they know you are with them.
Your rod and your staff comfort them. Give wisdom to leaders to care for the weak and ill, to lift up the poor and powerless, to seek justice for all.
Make room in the hearts of those with power to seek your wisdom in all their actions. And above all, hold each of your children in the palm of your hand.
We pray all of this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

God's Goods is Looking for You!

God's Goods is located at 607 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. It is a 503c non-profit thrift store that accepts gently used furniture and clothing. Everyone who works at God's Goods is a volunteer, and all proceeds go to local and international missions. Earlier this year, the governing board at God's Goods gave \$5,000 to Haiti Outreach ministries to support 10 school-age children for one year.

Please consider volunteering at God's Goods. They are looking for people who would like to work a 3-5 hour shift at the store, which is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10-3. Additionally, we would like some people to volunteer to be placed on a rotation for furniture pickup.



For information or to volunteer, please get in touch with Ralph Wetherell (a former member of MPPC and currently serving at Palmetto Presbyterian as a CLP) at 843 708-7711. For additional information, contact Bruce McAdams, a weekly volunteer at God's Goods.

connected through hope

Feeling Thankful

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10

The Hope House Volunteer Appreciation Drop-In was hosted by the Ministry Team on April 28th! What a wonderful turnout we had!

It was great to have so many volunteers and supporters present to enjoy food and fellowship with each other. Many comments were made by the volunteers about their experiences while visiting with guests and listening to their stories.

Even though our volunteer numbers have not reached the peak of where they were prior to the pandemic, the volunteers we have work diligently to keep Hope House the welcoming place it is. The photos reflect the joy of the day!

If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact Beth Moore, (843) 532-4892. We would love to have you experience the blessing of being a volunteer!

Blessings,

Beth Moore

Director of Hope House



Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

May 1

In Honor of Hope House; Given by The Magrath Family

May 7

In Honor of Hope House; Given by The Griffith Family

May 11

In Honor of all Hope House Volunteers and Supporters;
Given by Beth Moore

May 12

In Honor of Hope House;
Given by Kathryn and Barre Deleot

May 12

In Honor of Katie Cone on her first Mother's Day;
Given by Karl and Miff Cone

May 14

In Honor of Trey Lucy on his birthday;
Given by Sarah Kate, Hayes and Leighton

May 15

In Honor of our Son and Daughter in law, Chase and Katie Cone on the birth of their first child, Charles Harrison Cone 4/12/24; Given by Karl and Miff Cone

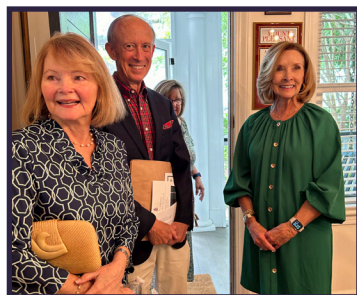
May 19

In Loving Memory of Tim Limbert;
Given by Holly, Carter and Whitney Limbert

May 30

In Honor of Milly Buganski on her 6th birthday;
Given by David and Melissa Buganski

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



connected through community

Welcome Ellen: Commissioned Pastor for Adult Education

We are very pleased to announce that long-time church member **Ellen Creed Branham** has accepted the **part-time position of Commissioned Pastor for Adult Education effective June 1, 2024**. Ellen will assume the adult portion of the faith formation and Christian education responsibilities of recently retired Director of Christian Education Dan Wiard.



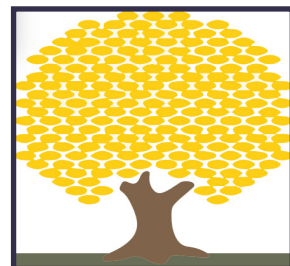
Ellen has been engaged in and served MPPC in many ways over the years, including as an Elder, Stephen Minister, PW Circle leader and Moderator, VBS volunteer, Children's Sunday school teacher, service on the Worship, Christian Education, and Nominating Committees, Faith Formation ministry team, Resource Architect, and small group leader. She's written small group curriculum, taught Missional Life classes, and co-wrote Called to Life: a Missional Way of Being with former MPPC pastor Rev. John Hage. Most recently, she's worked remotely with ordained pastors as a research and planning assistant. Ellen received a Certificate in Theology and Ministry from Princeton Seminary in 2020, completed the Congregational Leadership program at Dubuque Theological Seminary in 2022, and completed course requirements to be a commissioned pastor in the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery at the SC 5 School of Theology in March of 2023.

Ellen is also in the process of entering into a covenant relationship with MPPC and the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery to serve as a Commissioned Pastor which, when approved, will allow her to preach occasionally and provide other pastoral services and support for the congregation. A commissioned pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is granted by the presbytery a local commission for limited pastoral service, to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and provide for their nurture and service. Commissioned pastors may also administer the Lord's supper, perform baptisms, perform marriages, and moderate session and congregational meetings.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Ellen as she begins her new adult education and pastoral responsibilities in June.

MPPC Endowment Corner: Are you "leafing" a legacy?

If you don't know about the Endowment Tree, the tree is a large display in the Fellowship Hall designed to recognize those that are leaving funds to the Endowment at their passing. What is the Endowment?



- The Endowment Fund gives a small percentage of earnings back to the church annually and the principal is only touched in case of a catastrophic disaster.
- The larger the Endowment grows, the larger the annual gift back to the church is.
- The mission is to further the spiritual and charitable purposes of our church.
- Gifts made to the Endowment Program will be fruit for generations to come.
- It is a gift that keeps on giving.

To receive a leaf on the tree, you need to set up your estate documents to leave money to the church at your death. This can be as simple as giving the church a set dollar amount from your IRA or a line item in your will. There are many options and several are quite tax efficient!

Have you already listed the church in your estate documents and need to get a leaf? Please contact Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495 for next steps. Want to know more? Visit mppc.net/endowment-tree or contact Harry Smith at 843-708-9556.

Third Act: Mount Pleasant Waterworks

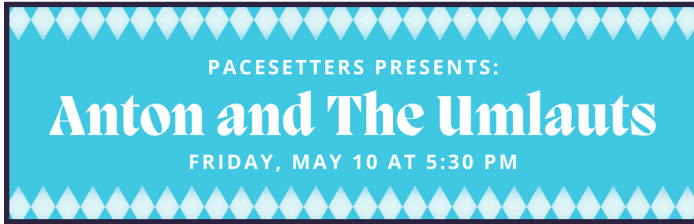


What do you know about the water you drink? Where does it come from? How is it treated?

How is it tested? What guidelines does it meet? Where does water go when we flush it down the drain? What are Mount Pleasant Waterworks ongoing projects? Just a few questions you might want to ask.

Come meet the General Manager, Allan Clum, who can answer all your questions. Mr. Clum will be our guest speaker at our Third Act luncheon on **Monday, May 20th at 12 p.m in the Fellowship Hall**. Bring a covered dish of your choice. Meat will be provided. Register on Realm.

connected through community



Pacesetters: Anton and The Umlauts

The May Pacesetters event is Friday, **May 10** in the Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy German food and music provided by Anton and the Umlauts!

Anton and The Umlauts are a German style polka band in Charleston, South Carolina. The Umlauts hail from various musical backgrounds with many years of experience in numerous polka bands around the southeast. You'll catch the Umlauts performing for parties, celebrations, Oktoberfest and anywhere there is a good time to be had!

Please join us! The cost is \$15 at the door. Fellowship and appetizers will take place at 5:30, dinner will be at 6 and then the performance will begin at 7 p.m. **RSVP: Susan Mellichamp by May 6, 2024 at SusanMell@mac.com or cell: 843-697-2111.**

Recent Endowment Gifts:

In Memory of Ralph Jenkins, Given by:

Susan Mellichamp
Elton and Kathy Carrier
Dal and Linda Schreck
Klara Johnson
Jack and Evie Evans
Dinky Stroman
EM and Theresa Seabrook
Mark and Cathy Kleber
Forrest and Ellen Creed Branham and family
Ron and Martha Cole

In Memory of Dr. Julian McGill, Given by:

Gary and Lois Canady
Mike and Julie Stephenson
Jack and Evie Evans

In Memory of Brenda Craig, Given by:

Gary and Lois Canady
Jack and Evie Evans

In Memory of Jenny Frampton Mendola, Given by:

Susan Mellichamp

In Memory of Kenneth Jackson, Given by:

Susan Mellichamp

Paikan Family Update: Approaching Summer



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. Nadia and the children completed their medical screening for their green card application and that seems to be moving forward. 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 and pray.. We are thrilled that Sodise and Taib received several summer camp scholarships which is helping keep the cost of summer camp to a minimum.

Sodise is a bit soccer crazy and thankfully he will have many opportunities to play soccer all over Charleston! Taib will be at St Andrews Park and Playground for the summer. We need drivers to take the boys each day. 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!



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

FOLLOW US



@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact

843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests