

FROM PASTOR NICOLE

Come to the Table: A Season of Gratitude and Generosity

As we continue our Come to the Table annual pledge campaign season, we pause to offer heartfelt gratitude to all who have already submitted their annual pledge for 2026. Your faithful

commitment enables Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church to sustain and grow the ministries that embody Christ's welcome, compassion, and love in our community and beyond.

Each pledge represents more than a financial gift—it is an expression of thanksgiving and trust. Because of your generosity, we can nurture faith across all generations, extend hospitality to neighbors in need, and continue offering meaningful worship, mission, and fellowship opportunities. You make it possible for MPPC to remain a place where all are invited to share in God's abundance.

Our theme this year, Come to the Table, is a reminder that God's invitation is wide and gracious. As you will see within the pages of this newsletter, there is always room for another seat, another story, another heart ready to share and provide testimony to the abundant feast of God's love and grace. When we make our pledges, we are engaging in a spiritual discipline helping to **set the table** for ministry in the year ahead—ensuring that others will continue to find a place of belonging, purpose, and hope.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge for 2026, we warmly invite you to do so. Every commitment—large or small—helps us plan faithfully and confidently for the work that lies before us. Pledge cards are available in the pews and church office, and pledges may also be made online.

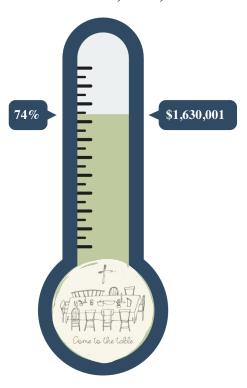
With deep gratitude for your generosity and partnership in ministry, we look forward to the year ahead—trusting that God will continue to bless and multiply all that we bring to the table together.

Come to the table—there is a place for you.

Micde Partin Ordnour

Rev. Dr. Nicole Partin AbdnourSenior Pastor & Head of Staff, nicole@mppc.net

GOAL: \$2,200,000



Our 2026 Annual Pledge Campaign Goal is \$2.2 million!

As of November 11, 2025, we have received \$1,630,001 in pledges - almost 75% of the way to our pledge campaign goal of \$2.2 million!
Our budget goal for generosity of \$2.6 million is comprised of \$2.2 million in pledges, \$375,000 in unpledged giving and \$25,000 of loose donations.

- If you've pledged before, thank you! Please consider increasing your pledge by 10%.
- If you've never pledged, we invite you to begin this meaningful spiritual practice.

Submit your pledge by visiting <u>onrealm.org/</u> <u>mppc/AddPledge/2026</u>, scanning the QR code below or filling out a

physical pledge card.

You can also: mail the card to Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Attn: Finance Dept., 302 Hibben St Mount Pleasant, SC 29464, drop it off at the church during office hours or place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



Pledge Form QR Code

Join us as MPPC continues to make room for all at God's bountiful table of grace.



Advent & Christmas Schedule at MIPPC

NOVEMBER 30

- Advent: Gather 'Round at 4:30 p.m.
- Advent Small Groups begin

DECEMBER

- Gingerbread Houses for Hope House at 11 a.m.
- Village Concert: Organ & Piano at 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

 Carols on Tap at 4:30 p.m., Location TBD

DECEMBER

- A Service of Lessons & Carols at 8:30 & 11 a.m.
- Old Village Caroling at 4:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 74 **CHRISTMAS**

- 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.: Children & Family 6 & 8 p.m.: Candlelight & Communion with Brass & Full Choir (6 p.m. livestream) 11 p.m.: Contemplative Candlelight &
- Communion

DECEMBER 79

 One Worship Service / College Sunday at 10 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Greetings!

As we near the end of 2025. I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the creative and faithful educational ministries unfolding within our congregation. Two new ministries are taking shape—each designed to deepen our life together in Christ through imagination, faith formation and shared faith.

The Atelier at MPPC is actively taking shape to become the welcoming art studio space for creative engagement across all ages and ministries. The Atelier (French for Art Studio pronounced uh-tel-leeay) will offer a space to come and be creative during open studio time in addition to scheduled workshops and classes led by artists within our congregation and from the wider community. Through art, scripture and spiritual reflection, The Atelier will invite us





to explore our faith and God's presence in fresh and meaningful ways.

We look forward to welcoming individuals and groups of all kinds- Presbyterian Women, Sunday School classes, friends, Youth and Children's Ministries, Men's Ministry, Stephen Ministers, Deacons, and others to gather and grow together in faith and creativity. We are prayerfully working toward opening The Atelier by the end of the year.

Watch for updates!

Alongside plans for the Atelier coming to fruition, we celebrate the launch of our Milestone Ministry, a new initiative to nurture the faith of our children with intention and joy from birth through fifth grade. We had our first Milestone Ministry event last week for kindergarten children

and their families.



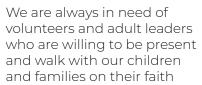


Pastor Nicole and I taught these wondering and

curious children about the two sacraments we celebrate: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We look forward to adding an event for children at each age throughout the coming year. Each milestone in a child's faith journey will be celebrated with a painted stone and a milestone card that can be kept in a keepsake box we will give to each child. The collection of milestones throughout a child's life at MPPC will tell the story of God's presence and love in their journey of faith. Through shared worship, learning and intergenerational connection, our Milestone Ministry reminds us that every moment in a child's faith is sacred and that we, as a congregation, are called to walk beside them with welcome, love and grace. If you would like to learn more about our Milestone Ministry or want to be part of our children's faith journeys through this ministry, please reach out to me. I would love to have a conversation!

Together, these ministries reflect our church's commitment to growing in faith, creativity and community. They are tangible expressions of God's Spirit at work among usshaping hearts, inspiring service, and drawing us ever closer to one another and to Christ

Children's ministry continues to thrive as we wrap up a wonderful semester of W@W with almost 70 children registered for our Wonderful Wednesdays, enjoy full Sunday school classes and worship participation. Now, with joywe look forward to Advent!



journeys. Please reach out to Suzy (sedwards@ mppc.net) or Jill Adams (childrensministry@mppc. <u>net</u>) for more information about ways you can help!

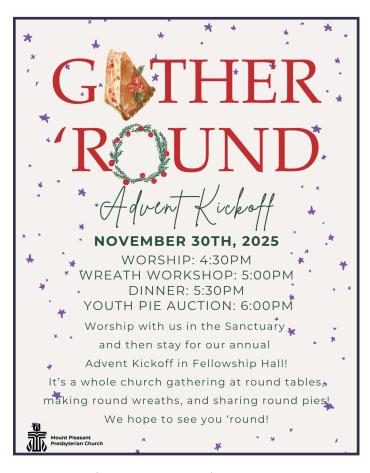
With gratitude and hope,

Suzy Edwards Director of Christian Education sedwards@mppc.net





YOUTH MINISTRY





Created in Community at Bethelwoods

Middle School had a refreshing weekend at Bethelwoods, just this past weekend. We learned all about who we are, and more importantly, who's we are. We grew in knowing ourselves, and our church and community. And now we are energized to take that love beyond our community. So next time you see a middle school youth around MPPC, ask them about Bethelwoods and how you can also create community!







Gather 'Round... Our Youth!

It's that time of year – the youth are busy baking again! We invite EVERYONE to join us on November 30th at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the second annual Youth Fundraising Pie Auction! Each youth will bake two of the same pie, one for you to taste, and one for you to



bid on. After dinner and pie tasting, everyone will have the chance to bid on their favorite pie, and the highest bidder gets to take it home! Pies this year will be sweet and savory and everything in between so there's something for every palate! All proceeds will help cover the costs of summer retreats and mission trips. We encourage you to bring cash, to make payments easy! Youth ministry here at MPPC is exciting and active, and that means we love a little extra help to fund that – so even if you don't have youth in the program, we hope you (and your wallets) will join us for this fun and festive event! See you 'round!

Glenna Durbin

Director of Youth Ministry gdurbin@mppc.net

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

A Prayer for Thanksgiving:

God, there are days we do not feel grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world, or with our neighbors, we struggle to feel grateful. But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude.

We choose to accept life as a gift from you, from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe. We choose to see those who came before us and their stories, as a continuing gift of wisdom for us today. We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating them for who they are, and to be thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

We will be grateful for our neighbors, no matter how they vote, whatever our differences. We will gratefully see the whole planet as our shared commons, the stage of the future of humankind and creation. God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it. We will make thanks with strong hands and courageous hearts.

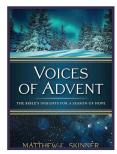
God, when we see your sacred generosity, we become aware that we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received. We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose to see grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere. In this choosing, and in the making, we will pass gratitude onto the world.

Thus, with you, and with all those gathered at our table, we pledge to make thanks. We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve. Here, now, and into the future. Around this table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth. Amen.

— from *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass.

Experience Advent with the Scriptures that inspire Christmas

Launching Nov. 30, Adult Faith Formation invites small groups to explore *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights to a Season of Hope* by Matthew L. Skinner, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul and the Scholar for Adult Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.



Voices of Advent leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns – and hear the hope in all of them. Experience Advent not only as the start of the Christian year, but also as the powerful overture that sets the tone for the unfolding story of Jesus.

Make your plans now, while there's still blank space on your calendar! Couldn't we all — and God's world — use meaningful hope? To lead, join, or form a small group, please reach out!

Advent begins with a summons— to wake up, to notice the beauty, the ache, the holy presence woven into our days.

Pick up your printed copy of the Advent daily devotional, *Draw Near:* Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love, at the church beginning Nov. 30 at Advent Gather 'Round or mppc.net/adults. Each day of Advent, this devotional offers a gentle invitation to draw



near — to scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you'll light the way week by week with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us. Alongside daily reflections, this journey is enriched by gorgeous art and tender drawings from children — honest interpretations of sacred texts that remind us what it means to receive the kingdom like a child.

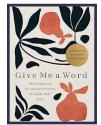
Adult Speaker Series

Our Wonderful Wednesdays featured a variety of activities for all ages - including our weekly Adult Speaker Series. There will be one more gathering on November 12 to wrap up for the year. The topic will be Child Abuse is a Grown-Up Problem — and what you need to know just in time for holiday gatherings. This will be led by Beverly Hutchinson and the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

For yourself, your family, to keep or to share: experience a meaningful Advent and Christmas season... and prepare for 2026!



Give Me a Word: The Promise of an Ancient Practice to Guide Your Year | Christine Valters Paintner

30 short reflections paired with creative practices invite us to listen for what is calling us in this particular season of life.



Making Room in Advent: 25 Devotions for a Season of Wonder | Bette Dickinson

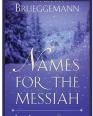
Each visio divina devotion moves through the stories of Jesus' birth and the people who were part of the journey, offering original paintings, spiritual practices, breath prayers,

and reflection questions to help make room for God's work in our lives, community, and the world.



The Art of Advent: A Painting a Day and The Art of Christmas | Jane Williams

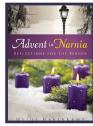
Pocket-sized devotionals for those who appreciate how artwork and a few simple questions alongside Bible background can draw deeper reflection each day.



Names for the Messiah | Walter Brueggemann

Explore each royal designation – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) – and how the people understood it then, how

Jesus did or did not live up to the name, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.



Advent in Narnia | Heidi Vanderkamp

28 creative devotionals, good for families to read together. Advent as a Narnia-like place where Jesus' light shines in the darkness.

— These and more are available in your Church



The Big Dill: Youngish Adults Pickleball Night

On Thursday, Jan. 15 from 5:30-8:30 p.m., we will be serving up more than just pickleball—here's your chance to unwind, connect, and compete.

All skill levels welcome, and if you've never played, we'll have a one hour beginners clinic with a Crush Yard pro! If there's enough interest, we'll have a doubles tournament bracket and crown the "Biggest Dill" of the night. We'll also have plenty of friendly matches, food, and a whole lot of laughter.

The \$30/person registration includes pickleball, food and non-alcoholic drinks. Please sign up on Realm or at *mppc.net/events*.

Reach out to Towner Magill at <u>towner.magill@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> with any questions.



WORSHIP & MUSIC



Shenwei Geng is a performer, educator, and collaborator. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she also served as a Craduate Teaching Assistant at the Conservatory, teaching both group and applied piano lessons.

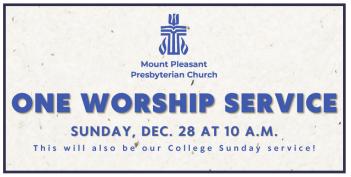
See full bios at mppc.net/events



Children's Choirs will sing on Sunday December 7 at 9 a.m. for Breakfast Church!







Ask & You Shall Receive

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.." - Philippians 4:6-7

The Hope House Ministry Team has been faced with many decisions in the 15 years since opening the doors and offering respite to those with loved ones in area hospitals. We have been blessed with God's guidance and answered prayers. For the last few years, we have been faced with extensive repair needs on the sweet 112-year-old home and God is sending angels and blessings that have our ministry team in awe! HE is answering our prayers!

A few weeks ago, phone calls started pouring in with offers of help from the following groups. The calls came from members of our church who are working on the drainage, ductwork and plumbing issues, members



of the Fix-It Team repairing interior sheetrock, members of St Andrews Episcopal helping spruce up the Prayer Garden, members of Palmetto Presbyterian joining our volunteer team, All Pro Crawlspace Solutions encapsulating our crawlspace and Wando High School students painting porch furniture. If ever we have felt God's presence in this old home, it is now!

One of our guest families recently shared with us the cost of staying in a hotel for two weeks prior to coming to Hope House. Their father had been in the hospital for weeks with brain surgery. The cost was \$2,500 and they stayed for two weeks at Hope House at no cost. They were very gracious and appreciative and kindly made a donation to the ministry.

And, to end with a couple of Hope House Statistics:

- In 12 years, Hope House has comforted 3,142 quests.
- Because of the Adopt-A-Day program and guest donations, \$239,473.00 has been spent on repairs and maintenance on Hope House and the Cottage.

God has continued to provide and for that we are grateful!

Beth Moore

Director of Hope House bmoore@mppc.net

November Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

November 1

In Memory of Doug Duncan; given by Jayne and Jim Ellicott

November 3

In honor of my wonderful wife, Linda Schreck, on her 80th birthday; given by her lucky husband, Dal Schreck

November 3

In Honor of Chandler's 11th birthday,10/24/25, given by Katie Edwards

November 4

In Gratitude to Hope House for our stay; given by Peter and Francisca Clements

November 5

In Gratitude to the kind and generous volunteers and supporters of Hope House; given by Beth Moore

November 6

In Loving Memory of Virginia Gilliam on her 30th birthday; given by Mike and Julie Stephenson

November 9

In Honor of all Military Veterans; given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

November 10

In Honor of Hope House; given by Becky Reynolds

November 12

In Honor of Hope House; given by Circle of Sisters #4

November 21

In Memory of Claudia Royall, 1st Kindergarten Teacher, Given by John and Julia Royall

November 24-30

In Loving Memory of B. Owen Ravenel, III; given by Shannon Ravenel

November 27

In Honor of Rev. Dr. Nicole Partin Abdnour, given by Carrie Mattox and Weldon Porcher

November 30

In loving support of Hope House's physical needs, given by Al and Alice Jenkins

Visit <u>mppc.net/hope-house</u> to Adopt a Day or to learn more about our mission.

MPPC MISSIONS



God's Goods Thrift Store

God's Goods Thrift Store began operation three years ago in an effort to give back to our community. Everybody working at God's Goods is a volunteer and everything sold has been donated. Since December 2022, God's Goods has donated \$575,000 to Christ based nonprofits in our community!

Some of the charitable organizations receiving donations from God's Goods are East Cooper Faith Network of MPPC, Hope House, Operation Home, 180 Place, ECCO, Windwood Farm in Mt. Pleasant, Meals on Wheels, Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, Seafarers, Water Missions International, Toys for Tots, Low Country Orphan Relief, Haiti Outreach Ministries and The Lamb Institute in Honduras. God's Goods is open from 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday; there are two shifts every day which are 9 to 1 and 1 to 5. God's Goods is supported by volunteers (hopefully, like you!) who work these 4-hour shifts OR and by donations of furniture, gently used adult and children's clothing, and housewares. God's Goods is located at the Sweetgrass Mercantile Mall in North Mount Pleasant, 3008 N. Hwy 17. Donations are accepted from 10-4, Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact God's Goods, 843-654-9821; Sarah Nielsen, nielsensarahh@gmail.com; Bruce McAdams, mcadams.bruce@gmail.com, 843-364-7131.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

1157 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard,
Charleston, SC 29407

Donations deadline is December 15

Women's Underwear Drive for Leeds Avenue Detention Center

White, regular, cotton briefs in any size (suggested that you buy your size to get variety of sizes). Bins are located in the MPPC Fellowship Hall and Office area. Please donate by December 14 so they can be delivered to Westminster Presbyterian Church by December 15.



Gingerbread Houses for Hope House

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is approaching so quickly! Come gather for some festive fun and support our Hope House at the Gingerbread Houses for Hope House event. This is a fun activity for young and old! For children and families going to Breakfast Church and Sunday School, decorating begins at 11 a.m. For 11 a.m. worshippers, come join the fun after worship. Light lunch provided. Registration is open at mppc.net/ events and is important as the gingerbread pieces are made by hand.

MPPC UPDATES

Important Year-End Pledge & Giving Information

1. Complete Your 2025 Pledge

• MPPC's annual budget depends on your pledge commitment. Please be sure to complete your 2025 pledge by year's end so we can continue fulfilling our mission.

Last year, \$44,200 in pledges went unpaid—your contribution truly matters!

Updating Your 2026 Pledge Payments — Important

- If your pledge changes for 2026, your scheduled payment through Realm or Bill Pay does not change automatically.
 - Bill Pay (Bank Check): Log into your bank account or contact your banker to update the amount.
 - Realm (e-check/ACH or Credit Card):
 Log into your Realm account, click the
 drop-down menu beside your name,
 and select "Scheduled Gifts." From
 there, you can update your payment
 amount or method.

3. Year-End Giving for 2025 Tax Statements

- To be included on your 2025 tax statement, gifts must:
 - Be received at the church by midnight, 12/31/25, or
 - Be postmarked by 12/31/25 (IRS regulations require strict compliance.)

4. Thank You!

- We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and support of MPPC's ministry.
 Your giving helps us share Christ's love in our community and beyond.
- Questions? Contact Glenn Hair at (843) 884-4612 ext. 240.



MPPC Endowment Corner

We are thrilled to share that two new families have recently made the decision to include MPPC in their estate plans. At their passing, MPPC will receive a portion of funds to help continue the good works happening at MPPC. Their leaves have been installed on the tree and we hope you'll check it out in the Fellowship Hall!

Jim and Janet Deavor both already give back to the church in many ways and this is just one more step supporting their generosity. Jim notes, "This future endowment gift reflects our ongoing commitment, both in this life and in the life to come, to God's work at MPPC."



And he added how simple it was to make the beneficiary change.

Similarly, **JD** and Reade Sikes goals include leaving a legacy for their family and church in a way that would honor God and return a portion of the gifts and blessings that have been given to us. JD chose to do this by working with his

financial advisor to name MPPC Endowment as partial beneficiary of his IRA. The partial beneficiary structure allows your family to receive a portion of the funds as well as the church. JD continues, "It's important to have a plan to give back to the church that gives so much to each of us."

Thank you to all of those that have supported the Endowment since 2002. In the past five years alone the Endowment has poured over \$165k back into the church - and these funds are above and beyond regular budgeted funds. Those funds go to Christian Education, Worship, Music, Local and International Missions. Some examples include:

- new handbell tables
- · roof repairs
- · security camera repairs
- · narthex painting, breakfast funds
- Rise Against Hunger Events (it costs over \$5k to host those!)
- new hymnals
- · LAMB, Hands of Christ, Haiti Outreach Ministries
- · Bible study programs and so much more

Most recently funds went to help pay for the insurance deductible when there was a leak in the Sanctuary, and upcoming is Hope House support!

Want to know more about the MPPC Endowment? You can check out *mppc*. *net/endowment* or Contact Chairman Harry Smith at 843-708-9556 or Katie Edwards at 843-364-8495.





CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service + Live Stream 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Church, Fellowship Hall 11:00 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/past-services

EVENTS, REGISTRATIONS & NEWS

mppc.net/events

FOLLOW US





@mtpleasantpres

OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact 843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests