

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

Fall 2026



Mount Pleasant
Presbyterian Church

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

MPPC.NET | 843-884-4612

302 HIBBEN ST MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464

FROM PASTOR NICOLE

Summer's Gifts, Fall's Invitation



There is a particular grace to summer. Even when the days are full, summer often gives us small invitations to breathe differently: longer evenings, time with family and friends, a porch conversation, a walk after dinner, a trip to the water, or a slower morning with coffee and prayer. These gifts may not arrive all at once, and they may not look the same for each of us, but they remind us that God meets us not only in the urgent and scheduled, but also in rest, beauty, delight, and renewal.

As August turns our attention toward fall, we have the chance to receive summer's gifts with gratitude rather than hurry past them. What has God shown us in this season? Where have we found joy? What relationships have been strengthened? What burdens have been lightened, even briefly, by a change of pace? Gratitude is one way we carry summer's blessings forward, allowing them to shape the rhythm of the months ahead.

Fall brings its own sacred energy. Classrooms fill, calendars shift, ministries restart, and familiar routines return. It can be tempting to treat this season only as a busy re-entry, but the life of faith invites us to see more: new opportunities to worship together, welcome neighbors, serve with compassion, grow in discipleship, and deepen our connection as a congregation. The changing season is not simply a demand on our time; it is an invitation to offer our time to God with renewed purpose.

In the weeks ahead, may we bring the spaciousness of summer into the commitments of fall. May our ministries be shaped not by busyness alone, but by prayerful attention. May we notice those who are returning, those who are new, those who are carrying heavy loads, and those who are looking for a place to belong. May we step into opportunities to teach, learn, sing, serve, give, listen, and encourage one another with open hearts.

Let us move toward this new season with gratitude for what has been, hope for what is ahead, and confidence that the God who meets us in rest will also meet us in renewal, community, and faithful work.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Partin Abdnour".

Rev. Dr. Nicole Partin Abdnour

Senior Pastor & Head of Staff, nicole@mppc.net

**MOUNT PLEASANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS AUGUST 16

**Beginning Sunday, August 16, we'll return to
our regular Sunday morning schedule!**

Whether you prefer a traditional worship service, Breakfast Church, or are looking to reconnect through Faith Formation, there's a place for you each Sunday morning.

Sunday Schedule

8:30 am – Worship in the Sanctuary

9:00 am – Breakfast Church

9:45 am – Education Hour

**11:00 am – Worship in the Sanctuary
& Livestream**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A New Year of Christian Education at MPPC is about to launch!

As the summer days begin to give way to the rhythms of fall, we look forward with joyful anticipation to another year of growing together in faith at MPPC. We have many opportunities for faith formation through our Christian education offerings.

This year, our Christian Education theme is **"Engaging Mind, Body, Spirit to Love the Lord"** inspired by Jesus' words in Mark 12:30-31: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

These familiar words remind us that faith is never confined to one part of our lives. God calls us to love wholeheartedly. We can live into that call by responding with minds that seek understanding, bodies that serve and care for others and spirits that long for and find God's presence. Faith formation is a lifelong journey that embraces every season of life and every member of Christ's family. How beautiful and wonderful to journey together as a church family at MPPC.

Throughout this year, we'll explore together what it means to become disciples who are deeply rooted in God's love and continually growing in faith... Mind, Body and Spirit!

Growing in Mind means nurturing curiosity, wisdom and a lifelong love of learning. Through Scripture, thoughtful conversation, worship and faithful questions, we discover that God welcomes both our certainty and our wondering.

Growing in Body reminds us that faith is lived out through the bodies God has given to us- eyes, ears, hearts, hands and feet. Wholeheartedly, we worship together, care for ourselves and one another, serve our neighbors, and use the unique gifts God has entrusted to each of us. We are the Body of Christ, each person contributing to the joy, health and ministry of our MPPC family.

Growing in Spirit invites us to deepen our relationship with God through our spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, silence, gratitude, gathering and studying as we continue to look for and trust the work of the Holy Spirit within and throughout our lives.

Come find out more at our **Open House on August 16th from 9:45-10:45 a.m.** Drop in after 8:30 a.m. worship or Breakfast Church or stop by before worship at 11 a.m. Tables will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. Come and see what is happening for children, youth and adults on Sunday mornings for Christian education, worship and music ministry. All are invited and encouraged to come and explore the opportunities we have for Faith Formation at MPPC this year. Come with open hearts, eager minds, and expectant spirits as we celebrate the ways God is already at work among us and look forward with hope to all that God will do in the year ahead.

We can't wait to grow with you!

Suzy Edwards

Director of Christian Education
sedwards@mppc.net




**FALL KICKOFF
OPEN HOUSE**

As we switch back to three services, we invite you to join us at 9:45 a.m. during the Sunday School hour on August 16 to discover all the ways you can grow, serve, and connect at MPPC this fall.

Engaging Mind, Body, & Spirit to Love the Lord

**SUNDAYS, AUGUST 16 - NOVEMBER 22
9:45-10:45 AM, GRACE HALL 123**

From engaging the mind in a study of the Ten Commandments to exploring ways faith is embodied in pilgrimage and wellness to engaging God's Spirit through contemplative and compassionate practices, this weekly Sunday morning faith formation offering for all adults invites you to get engaged with your faith anew!

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Learning Center Spotlight: A Shared Ministry, Growing Together

There is much to celebrate at The Learning Center!

Over the past year, we have been incredibly blessed to make significant improvements throughout our school. What was once a list of hopes and needs has become a reality, and we couldn't be more grateful.

Today, our school has beautiful new flooring throughout the building, fresh paint from floor to ceiling, and new restroom spaces in classrooms where they were needed most for our youngest learners. The transformation has been remarkable. Friends who have visited recently often say it feels like walking into a completely new school, and we have to agree!

We are also grateful for the success of our annual Pelican Party fundraiser. Through the generosity of our families and supporters, we were able to purchase laptops for all of our lead teachers and establish a dedicated Learning Center email domain for our staff. These investments have strengthened communication, provided valuable tools for our teachers, and continue to support the excellent work happening in our classrooms daily.

While we are certainly proud of the physical improvements, what makes us most proud is the vibrant community that fills these hallways every day. The Learning Center continues to be a place where children are loved, families are supported, and the love of Christ is woven into all we do.

If you have not visited the school recently, we would love for you to stop by. Take a walk through the building, peek into a classroom, and see the incredible changes for yourself. As a ministry of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, we treasure the connection between our church and school communities and always enjoy welcoming church members into our space.

We would also like to extend an invitation to join us for chapel, which takes place most Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Chapel is one of the sweetest parts of our week as our students gather together in prayer, worship, and Bible learning.

There is nothing quite like hearing young voices sing praises to God. We warmly invite church members, families, grandparents, and friends to join us whenever you can.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to growing this shared ministry alongside our church family. We are incredibly proud of how far we have come, but even more excited about where God is leading us next. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. Together, we are building something truly special for the children and families we serve.

With gratitude,

Lindsey Skinner

Director of The Learning Center

lskinner@mppc.net

and Lauren Green, Assistant Director



Upcoming Pacesetters Events:

Our first gathering of the new season will take place on **Friday, Sept. 11**. Doors will open to the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. and then we will enjoy a catered pasta night at 6 p.m. After dinner, we will head over to the Sanctuary for a Village Concert performed by The Avanti Guitar Trio. See more about the concert here. Dinner is \$20/ person, collected at the door. Please RSVP to at susanmell@att.net or text 843-697-2111 by the end of the day on Monday, Sept. 7.

Save the date for the November gathering on **Friday, Nov. 13**! Brett Bennett, President of SC250CHARLESTON, and Treasurer of SC250, will give a presentation of the high points of the American Revolution in our area.

Third Act with Mayor Will Haynie:

Don't miss this opportunity, Mayor Haynie will provide us with a State of the Town presentation and answer our questions on **Monday, Sept. 28**. We look forward to an inspiring and meaningful time together as we hear from a dedicated public servant who cares deeply about our community.



Join us for our Third Act covered dish luncheon at noon! Bring a covered dish of your choice, chicken tenders will be provided. Please let us know you're coming by making a reservation on Realm or mppc.net/events. You can also contact Susan Mellichamp, susanmell@att.net, (843) 697-2111 to RSVP.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Summer Memories at MPPC

In June, **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** welcomed close to 150 children and over 100 youth and adult volunteers for a full week of faith-filled mornings. This summer's theme, Snowball Mountain Challenge, created opportunities for our children to explore their gifts of bravery, strength, prayer and hope. Each day began and ended with an enthusiastic assembly in Fellowship Hall led by VBS' mascot, Ollie, a fun-loving otter and A.D. "Flakey." Each morning was thoughtful and intentional as the children rotated through bible time, music, art, science and recreation.

The week would not be the success it was without the many youth and parent volunteers. Hall decorations, mid-morning snacks, and classroom shepherds packed MPPC, creating a fun and memorable week ending with a picnic on the lawn. Many thanks to all the volunteers!

A Glance at What's Ahead:

As we transition back to three worship services beginning Aug. 16, Children's Ministry encourages all school age children to participate in **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP** by being an **ACOLYTE**, **WATER BEARER** or help in other ways. Check out the sign-up information at mppc.net/volunteer.

Come to our **OPEN HOUSE on the Aug. 16 from 9:45-10:45 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL begins **Aug. 23** and we couldn't be more excited to introduce our new multiage Bible curriculum, Growing in God's Love. GIGL will challenge our children to practice leadership, cooperation, patience, tolerance and most importantly, compassion.

KIDS PRAISE returns **Aug. 23**. This faith-filled opportunity for 3K-Kindergarten introduces a Bible story and activities are shared to help our youngest worshippers understand God's message. Join us in Seabrook #111.

On **Sept. 9** we will gather in Fellowship Hall for our **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY** kick-off with Rise Against Hunger. W@W programming for PK3 – 5th Grades will officially start **Sept. 16. REGISTRATION** will open **Aug. 16**. Watch for more details about this wonderful time where children are encouraged and nurtured to explore faith through engaging activities of faith formation, art, music, recreation and mission.

Lastly, sharing your time as a role model is a wonderful way to get involved and Children's Ministry welcomes **volunteers**. If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to Jill or Suzy – we will gladly get you set up!

Fall is coming quickly! Ecclesiastes 3:1: *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."* We hope you are as excited as we are for this new season!

With gratitude,
The Children's Ministry Team



YOUTH MINISTRY

The Best Summer Memories

One of, if not the greatest part of my job, is getting to attend summer youth conferences. I grew up going to Montreat and serving on mission trips, so yes, it's fun and a bit of a trip down memory lane to my own youth years. But getting to watch our youth experience the fellowship, epiphanies, and growth that are so inherent to these places is something you don't expect to move you so profoundly. And yet, when it does, you can't be grateful enough that it has. The trips this summer, I can confidently say, were three of the best I've ever done, leader and youth attendee alike.



At Montreat Youth Conference with our high schoolers, I watched a group of nearly 20 go from knowing some of the other youth on the trip and reaching unprecedented levels of volume, to becoming a household where it seemed like they'd grown up together and to being incredibly reflective and thoughtful in faith discussions. Do not fret, the volume never got quiet, but the joy that echoed through the halls of South Carolina



Inn was a constant, emphatic reminder of the goodness that comes from faith in community. You have to fight tears when you hear a youth exclaim multiple times that this was the "best trip ever" while watching them make genuine friends and you want to shout praises when another youth tells you that the sermons over the week made them "change the way they think about their faith." And nothing will ever compare to hearing, "I wish we didn't have to leave - guys, what if we all just LIVED at Montreat?!" as you pull back into the church parking lot. Because no matter how many times you come and go, you will always agree with that sentiment.

Our Middle School Mission trip was with Charleston Youth Mission again this year and we served with Davidson College Presbyterian Church. This was a special treat because the youth director there is a good friend of mine - in our high school days we

worked at the same summer camp, so we were overdue for another summer together. Perhaps our excitedness to be back together rubbed off on them,



but I have a sneaky feeling it was something a little more like the Holy Spirit at work. I have never seen a group of middle schoolers mesh so quickly. Our boys and her girls looked like they'd been in the same Sunday School classes their whole lives. The laughter that rang through the presbytery office after dinner, the teamwork we saw at each work site, were shining examples of what happens when young people are given the chance to live like Christ. At one of our lunch breaks, my friend shared with me that one of her girls told her, "We should do this trip every year but only if we get to go with this church." We found out that they all called each other over FaceTime the day after the trip ended. What a wonderful way to see God at work.

Our final trip of the summer was the Montreat Middle School Conference at Maryville College. The youth that went were mostly rising 6th graders, which meant the trip was powered by lost rooms keys, dining hall pizza at least one meal a day, and excited, eager attitudes. In my experience, the perfect back home devotion at the end of a long conference day is one that is equal parts uncontrollable giggles and deep, thought-provoking questions - the kind young minds are best at. Our middle schoolers made sure this kind of devotion happened every night. Even when thunderstorms messed up afternoon recreation plans, the youth rallied around spirited games of Uno and Ping-Pong. The overwhelming excitement to be present and together was inspiring.

Matthew 19:4 says, 14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I cannot think of a clearer example of this than this summer. Getting to stand witness to youth being anything but hindered means watching them be unafraid to ask hard questions, willing to accept new ideas, and new friends, and growing into the strong God-bearers they are called to be. As I reflect on this summer, I can't help but be reminded how child-like faith is always the most powerful kind.

Glenna Durbin

Director of Youth Ministry
gdurbin@mppc.net



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Summer Music & Arts Camp:

What a sweet week of singing, learning, creating, and growing together at our Summer Music & Arts Camp! From July 27–31, rising 1st through 8th graders brought Mark Burrows' *In the Image* to life, exploring what it means to be created in the image of God, not simply in how we look, but in the ways God's love and character are reflected through our lives. The week culminated in a joyful performance during worship on Aug. 2, as our campers shared their hard work, creativity, and many gifts with the MPPC community. We are so grateful for a wonderful week together!



Dedication of the New Organ on October 4:

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. as we celebrate the installation of our new sanctuary organ and dedicate it to the Glory of God for years to come. We will welcome Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, world renowned concert organist and Director of Music at the famous Riverside Church in New York City. We hope you will join us for this most special day!



Village Concert Series Presents:

The Avanti Guitar Trio

The Avanti Guitar Trio (Julie Goldberg, Amy Brucksch, and Christopher Teves) is a captivating and engaging chamber music ensemble that blends pristine technique and nuanced musical interpretations, earning critical acclaim and standing ovations for their captivating concerts and varied programming.

Avanti's repertoire ranges from Baroque to Contemporary, featuring newly composed music, creative transcriptions of classical masterpieces, and forays into rock, pop, and folk music.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11 | 7 PM

MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VILLAGE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

JARED YOAKEM, PIANIST

October 29, 2026 | 7 p.m.

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church
302 Hibben St. Mt Pleasant, SC 29464

American pianist Jared Alan Yoakem represents "a musician whose strengths are careful attention to the score, a refined sense of balance, clarity of texture, and dedicated involvement in the underlying emotional message of the music." (Stewart Gordon, pianist – IYAPC 2025)

As a recitalist, Yoakem has performed as a soloist and chamber musician most notably at Castleton and the Washington International Piano Festival.

As a collaborative artist, he has performed with artists such as cellist Sujari Britt, entities such as Classical Singers Music Magazine and the Vocal Arts Society of DC, and numerous choral projects that include two national PBS broadcasts at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, TN. He is a prizewinner of the 40th International Young Artist Piano Competition and a recipient of the Dean's Advisory Council award for outstanding achievement in music from Belmont University.



This concert is free and open to the public.

HOPE HOUSE

What is the Hope House Ministry?

At Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, one of the many meaningful ways we extend Christ's love into our community is through the Hope House ministry. Located just next door to the church, you may pass by the 113 year old home and wonder about its purpose, yet its impact is felt every day by families facing some of life's most difficult moments.

Hope House exists to serve individuals and families who have loved ones receiving care at area hospitals. During times of uncertainty, lengthy hospital stays, and emotional stress, families often need more than just a place to sleep—they need a place where they can find rest, encouragement, and compassionate care.

Our ministry provides comfortable lodging, nourishing meals, and a welcoming environment where guests can experience genuine hospitality. Beyond meeting physical needs, Hope House offers comfort, prayer, and caring relationships through the faithful service of dedicated volunteers who generously share their time and talents. Every volunteer helps create a peaceful, supportive atmosphere where guests know they are not alone. Hope House is a nonprofit ministry that operates entirely through the generosity of others. Funding comes from donations made by members of MPPC, community organizations, and grateful guests. Although some guests choose to contribute if they are able, there is never a charge for those in need. Families may stay at Hope House free of charge for up to two weeks, allowing them to remain close to their hospitalized loved ones without the added burden of lodging expenses.

The ministry's greatest testimony comes from the people it serves. Guests frequently express deep gratitude for the kindness they experience during an especially challenging season. They often share comments such as:

"Hope House became our home when we needed one most."

"The volunteers treated us like family and gave us comfort when we felt overwhelmed."

"We will never forget the compassion, prayers, and generosity shown to us during one of the hardest times in our lives."

Hope House is more than a place to stay—it is a ministry of compassion, hospitality, and hope. Through the faithful support of our congregation, community partners, volunteers, and donors, lives are touched every day. Together, we continue to share God's love by providing a home away from home for those who need it most.

If you would like to join our volunteer team, please call me at (843) 532-4892.

Blessings,

Beth Moore

Director of Hope House
bmoore@mppc.net



August Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

August 1-31

In Loving Memory of my husband, John Pierpoint and in appreciation of the Hope House Ministry; given by Diane Pierpoint.

August 2

In Memory of Owen Ravenel III; given by Shannon Ravenel.

August 4

In Honor of Hope House; given by Kimberlie Kossler.

August 16

In Recognition of MPPC Music Ministry; given by Tony Sane and Shenwei Geng.

August 18

In honor of Ali Muller on her birthday; given by her parents Camille and Paul Fisher.

August 18

In loving memory of Joe Coates, on his August 18th birthday; given by Sue and Joe Coates.

August 18

In Honor of Glenn Hair, for his support, hard work and continuous dedication to Hope House; given by the Hope House Ministry Team.

August 20

In Honor of Alexis Wright-Singleton for her service to MPPC on her birthday, given by Sisters in Christ (Circle 5).

August 27

In Loving Memory of Joe Coates given by Joe and Sue Coates.

August 28

In honor of my wife, Allyson, for our 50th Wedding Anniversary; given by Harry Smith.

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

MPPC MISSIONS

Nadia & Family Move to California!

As many of you know our church has been walking along side a young mother, Nadia, who fled Afghanistan with four young children in 2021 right after the Americans left. Her husband Fraidoon could not make that initial journey and thankfully he was finally able to join his family in November of 2024. Fraidoon's arrival was the answer to our prayers because we understood Nadia's ability to financially support herself as a single mother with four young children was practically impossible. Fraidoon has been working for Floors and Décor for over a year now and has accepted a transfer to California. They have a close family friend from Afghanistan in El Cajon, CA who invited them to stay in their home while they got acclimated to their new state. Nadia, Fraidoon and the children packed up a U-Haul and drove across the country in early July. They quickly found their new apartment near their friend and moved in!

Please enjoy these photos of the family over the years and continue to keep them in your prayers. Because our current immigration laws keep changing, they have to wait to receive their green cards which places them at risk. We believe God has called them to California for their protection and to place them with a larger Afghan community. We cannot express what your prayers, financial support, and direct support as a driver or tutor have meant to this family and the Refugee Mission Team. Providence Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church were right there with us every step of the way as no one church was prepared for the Nadia mission alone!

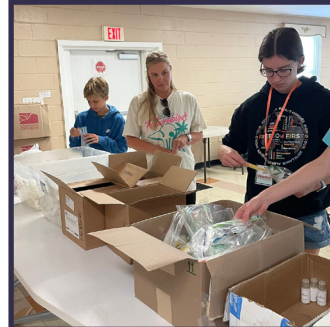
Our work continues for other refugee needs as we work closely with Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, the refugee resettlement organization in Charleston.

Peace and Grace from the Refugee Mission Team, Bruce McAdams, Coleman Legerton and Maryanne Davis



High School Youth Mission Days:

Our first high schoolers participated in Mission Days throughout the summer! For their first one in June, they spent the morning with Neighbors Together making hygiene bags and prepping and serving meals to some of our unhoused friends in the area. The best way to start your day is with the work God calls us to do!



MPPC UPDATES

Rise Against Hunger Mission Night Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5 PM Fellowship Hall

A Rise Against Hunger meal packing event is a hands-on volunteer experience where participants work together to package nutritious, shelf-stable meals for people facing hunger around the world. Volunteers measure ingredients, seal meal bags, and pack boxes in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. The event promotes teamwork, community engagement, and global impact, with every meal packed helping support food assistance and resilience programs in vulnerable communities.

**Dinner will be provided to all volunteers at 5 p.m.,
the meal packing will begin at 5:30!**

Questions? Contact Tracy Bishop at tracydbishop@att.net

Please register at mppc.net/events.



Pottery is Coming to The Atelier!

We are expanding our ministry this fall to include pottery. We will be offering opportunities for people of all ages to gather in small groups and enjoy exploring the world of pottery and the ministry it holds. Watch for details in the coming weeks! Questions? Want to learn more? Ask Suzy Edwards at sedwards@mppc.net.



Weekly Youth Events this Fall:

Prayer Breakfast: Middle School - Tues. morning at 7:15 a.m. in the Basement (starting 8/18),

High School - Thurs. morning at 7 a.m. at the Long Point Rd Chick-fil-a (starting 8/20)

Youth Group on Wednesdays: Middle School will meet at 6:30 p.m. and **High School** will meet at 7:30 p.m. every week in the Basement starting on 8/26.

Sunday School: Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 a.m.; **Middle School** in the Basement, **High School** in the Basement Corner Classroom



Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

302 Hibben Street
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

CONNECT WITH US

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Breakfast Church
9:45 a.m. Education Hour
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

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OTHER WAYS

mppc.net/contact
843-884-4612

PRAYER REQUESTS

mppc.net/prayer-requests