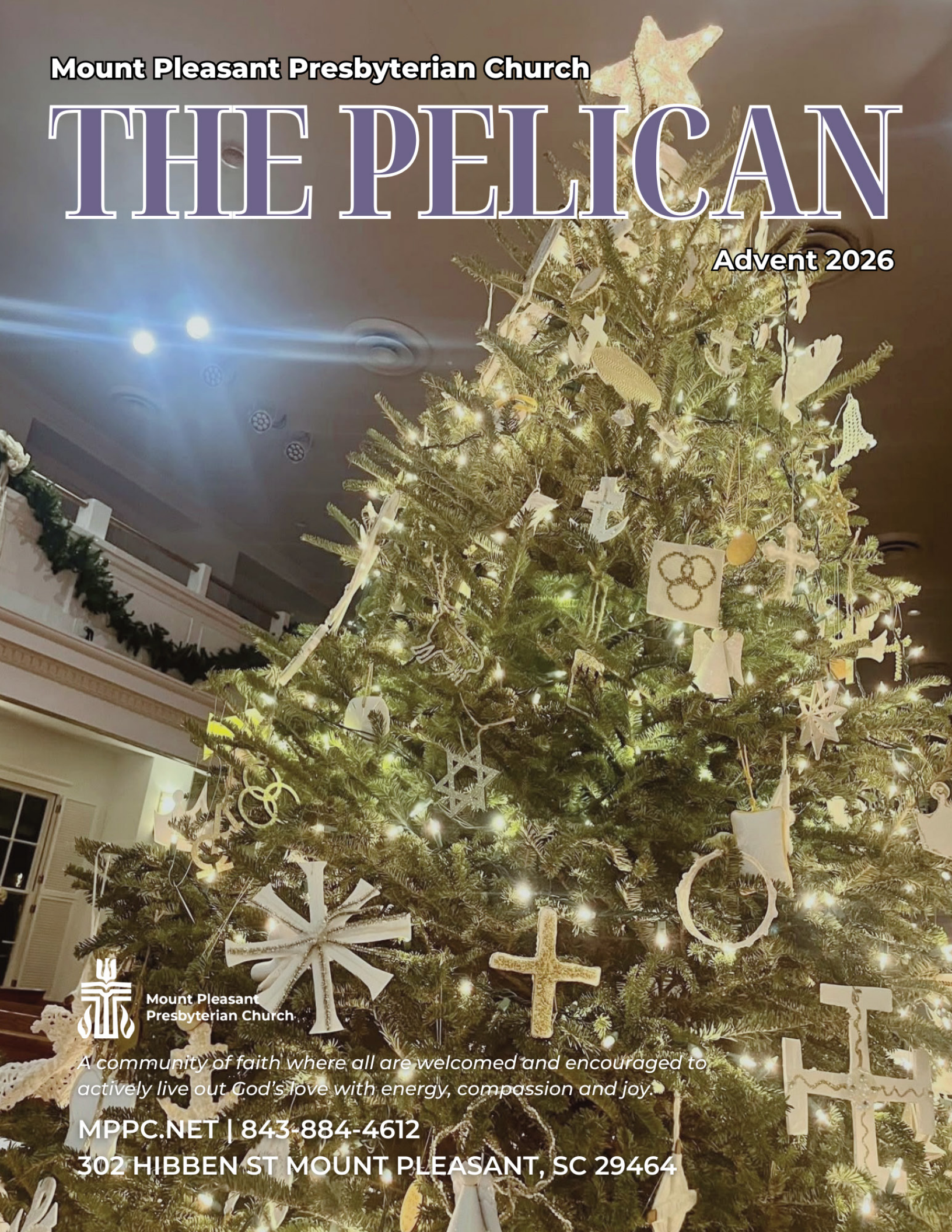
Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

THE PELICAN

Advent 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

What Are You Waiting For?



As we enter Advent, a season built around waiting, I find myself wondering: what are you waiting for?

Perhaps you are waiting with joy for the birth of a child or grandchild. Perhaps you are waiting with a heavy heart for grief or a burden you carry to ease, even a little.

Sometimes we wait with eager anticipation; other times we wait with worry. Either way, waiting is never idle. It may invite us to pause, but it is a pause with purpose. Waiting is a season of preparation.

As I've been reflecting on Advent and what we might be called to in this season of waiting, I keep returning to Wendell Berry's poem "The Peace of Wild Things."

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Berry's poem doesn't end with an answer. It ends with stars that hold their light through the day, waiting to shine in the depths of night. They have been there all along, though we cannot see them until darkness falls. Peace, it seems, isn't found by escaping the darkness but by lying down in it, looking up, and listening for what is spoken there.

Advent arrives in the darkest weeks of the year, and it does not pretend the darkness away. Instead, it invites us to prepare, trusting that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

This Advent, our worship will gather around the theme "The Voice Before the Morning," exploring the season through the witness of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah reminds us that in seasons of darkness, before the light comes, there is always a voice: crying out, comforting, and calling." Our Advent invitation is to prepare by learning to listen for the voice of God.

Friends, whatever you are waiting for this season, whether with joy or with a heavy heart, you do not wait alone.

Grace and Peace,



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

Advent & Christmas

AT MPPC

1st Sunday of Advent • November 29

The voice crying out to God in the dark

Isaiah 64:1-9

Advent: Gather 'Round

Worship: 4:30 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.
Wreath Workshop: 5 p.m.
Youth Pie Auction: 6 p.m.

2nd Sunday of Advent • December 6

The voice in the wilderness announcing the way

Isaiah 40:1-11

Gingerbread Houses for Hope House from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Village Concert: Astralis Chamber Ensemble at 4:30 p.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent • December 13

The anointed voice sent with good news

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Carols on Tap at 4:30 p.m., Crafty Draught

4th Sunday of Advent • December 20

The voice becomes the Word made flesh

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38

A Service of **Lessons & Carols** during all worship services
Old Village Caroling at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve • December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

11 a.m. & 4 p.m.: **Children & Family Service**
6:30 & 9 p.m.: **Candlelight & Communion** with Brass & Full Choir
(6:30 p.m. livestream)

1st Sunday of Christmas • December 27

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

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

MPPC UPDATES

Come to the Table Pull Up a Chair!

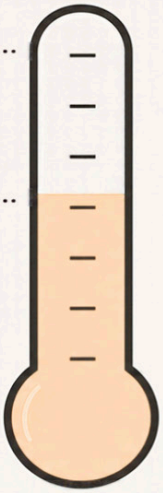


GOAL: $2.4M IN PLEDGES

TOWARD OUR 2027 VISIONARY BUDGET OF $2.86M

$2.4M PLEDGE GOAL .....

$1,585,251 AS OF NOVEMBER 16 .....



$1,585,251

TOWARD OUR $2.4M PLEDGE GOAL!

23

NEW PLEDGERS TOWARD OUR GOAL OF 100

You can still pull up a chair at onrealm.org/mppc/AddPledge/2027



Share the Joy of Christmas Through the Angel Tree!

The Angel Tree serves local elementary schools as well as Windwood Farms. Please visit the tree displayed in the MPPC Fellowship Hall to select an angel. Each child has one angel on the tree, complete with a wish list for clothes and toys. You're welcome to purchase any or all of the suggested items. **Please bring your gifts wrapped or in gift bags to the church by Dec. 13 and place them in the Fellowship Hall.**

Women's Underwear Drive

Presbyterian Women Circles are collecting women's underwear for Leeds Avenue Detention Center. We need white cotton briefs in any size.

There are bins in the office and the Fellowship Hall.

Please leave donations by December 10.



Poinsettias

HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE WITH A POINSETTIA ($15 EACH) DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! DEDICATIONS WILL BE PRINTED IN THE WORSHIP BULLETINS ON DECEMBER 20TH AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE. DEADLINE TO MAKE THE PRINTED BULLETIN IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.

SIGN UP TODAY!

MPPC WOMEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 4-7, 2027

KIAWAH ISLAND RESORT

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Engaging Mind, Body, and Spirit This Advent

As the days grow shorter and the anticipation of Christmas begins to fill our hearts, Advent invites us into something much deeper than simply counting down the days until December 25. Advent is a season of waiting with hope, watching with expectation, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. We do these things with hope, peace, joy and love!

This year, our Christian Education theme, "**Engaging Mind, Body, and Spirit as We Love the Lord**," beautifully complements the journey of Advent. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, Jesus continually calls people into a faith that is active, transformative and lived out with their whole selves. In Mark 12:30, Jesus reminds us: *"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."*

Advent gives us the opportunity to do just that. We engage our **minds** as we explore the stories of God's promises fulfilled through Scripture. We engage our **bodies** as we gather in worship, create meaningful traditions, serve others and participate in hands-on experiences with one another that remind us of God's presence. We engage our **spirits** through prayer, reflection, music and the joyful anticipation of Emmanuel ~God with us!



One beautiful expression of this whole-person faith is found this season in our **Atelier Ministry**. Check out more about the Atelier in this Pelican edition and register for a time to come create with us. There is always room at the table so we hope you will come and pull up a chair ~we are waiting to welcome you!

There is great value and joy when we come together for intergenerational events! We hope you will begin the Advent season with your church family at our **Advent: Gather 'Round** on **Sunday, November 29, from 4:30–6:00 p.m.** Our evening will include:

- **4:30 p.m**. – Worship and music in the Sanctuary
- **5:00 p.m.** – Creating an Advent wreath in the Fellowship Hall
- **5:30 p.m.** – Dinner together
- **6:00 p.m.** – Youth Pie Auction

Advent resources and activities for **all ages** will be available throughout the evening, providing opportunities to continue the season's journey at home and in our church community.

Adult Faith Formation has chosen our Advent Small Group Study ~ Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield Small Group or Sunday school leaders please contact Trish Snead (tsnead@mppc.net) to let her know if your group is purchasing books on your own or need the office to order for your group. Books are $10.

Whether you are new to our congregation or have celebrated Advent here for many years, we invite you to come and **explore, wonder, study, create, and engage** alongside your church family. Together, let us prepare room in our hearts for Christ's coming and discover anew what it means to love God with all our mind, body, and spirit.

Advent peace,

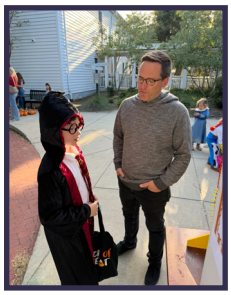


Suzy Edwards
Director of Christian Education
sedwards@mppc.net



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY







The Joy of Children's Ministry

It has been an exciting fall in SUNDAY SCHOOL! Our children are enjoying *Growing in God's Love*, a NEW Bible story curriculum that helps them listen for the ways God continues to speak through scripture. Recently, as they explored the creation story, the children discovered how God made everything and celebrated the beauty all around them. Each class planted an herb garden, and children love tending to their plants and watching them grow each week! Stop by the Sunday School classrooms in Seabrook for a peek.

W@W attendance continues to grow giving church family members, old and new, a mid-week opportunity to nurture their children's faith in PK3 – 5th grades. With a focus on MIND, BODY and SPIRIT; mission projects, music, and mindfulness invite children to serve others, praise God, and make space for God's presence. Our new TODDLER program welcomes some of our youngest members to explore Bible stories and creativity.

What a wonderful FALL FESTIVAL! Beautiful weather, crafts, delicious treats, and golf-cart trunk-or-treat made for a joyful celebration—with plenty of purple, snow-cone-stained smiles!

Exciting things are happening in MILESTONE MINISTRY! Through *Hearts for the World*, our 5th Graders discovered their call to serve through a hands-on, two-part pottery project. NOVEMBER brings even more opportunities to grow: *God Loves You and We Do Too*! for Preschoolers with two opportunities on the 1st and 15th, and *Sacrament Education* for Kindergarteners on November 8, led by Pastor Nicole, Pastor Jon, and Suzy.

LOOKING AHEAD – Come celebrate with us at our annual GATHER ROUND on November 29! Worship in the Sanctuary begins at 4:30, followed by Advent wreath making at 5:00 and dinner and fellowship at 5:30 pm. Be sure to stay for the ever-popular Youth PIE AUCTION!

The joy of ADVENT continues

DECEMBER 6 –

- The CHILDREN'S CHOIR will sing during 9:00 am Breakfast Church.
- GINGERBREAD HOUSE making from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm—a sweet opportunity to create, connect, and put God's love into action by supporting HOPE HOUSE. To help us plan supplies, register on Realm.

DECEMBER 13 –

- CAROLS ON TAP, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

DECEMBER 20 –

- CHRISTMAS CAROLING, 4:30 pm

DECEMBER 24 – Gather with our church family for CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP –

- 11 a.m. & 4 p.m. – Children & Family
- 6:30 & 9 p.m. – Communion & Candlelight with Choir Service

We look forward to our many ways to gather and are excited to grow in faith together!

With gratitude,
The Children's Ministry Team - Suzy & Jill

YOUTH MINISTRY

A weekend at CAMP-firmation







This year has been full of new and wonderful things, the most recent of those being CAMP-firmation, a weekend retreat with this year's confirmation class. We spent Friday through Sunday at Camp Gravatt outside of Aiken, SC and truly had the best time. It was such a joy to watch the confirmands laugh and play and grow closer through teamwork. Through obstacle courses, high ropes, ziplines, and good old-fashioned Manhunt, sounds of joy were never in short supply across the campgrounds. The weekend was also filled with deep faith formation as they drafted, workshopped, and edited their faith statements over the course of the day on Saturday. While not every single statement is complete just yet, it's safe to say that we have a bright, faithful, and spiritually energetic groups of young people ready to join Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian. My hope is that you will join me, their families, and their mentors in supporting them by praying for them over the next couple of weeks as they prepare for their Session Examination on November 17th. They have worked hard this year, and I know without a doubt they will bring meaningful and insightful perspectives to the exam, so they deserve the love and excitement that our congregation has to offer as they make this next big step in their faith journey.

Youth Trips – Registration is live!

Registration for ALL youth trips – through the end of the summer - is now open on Realm! Take a look at our upcoming trips and dates, and scan the QR code for registration links with even more info!

- College Conference: Jan 2-5, 2027
- HS Ski Trip: Jan 8-10, 2027
- HS Bethelwoods: Feb 19-21, 2027
- HS Montreat: June 13-19, 2027
- MS Mission: June 27-July 1, 2027
- MS Montreat: July 21-25, 2027
- LAMB HS Mission: July 23-30, 2027

Advent – Gather 'Round (for the Pie Auction!)

Advent is right around the corner and youth ministry wants to invite YOU to our very special advent kickoff event! For the third year in a row, MPPC will be holding Gather 'Round on the first night of Advent, November 29th. The whole night runs from 4:30 to 6:30 - join us for worship, stay for dinner, and then bid on your favorite pie, made by our very own youth! All the proceeds with go towards covering summer trip transportation costs, so we need YOUR help! We have been so lucky to see so many children and youth families present at Gather 'Round in the past, but we want to be sure that everyone knows, this is an event for everyone! So grab that cash in the bottom of your purse or in your other pants and join us for a festive and delicious start to our Advent Season.

Glenna Durbin
Director of Youth Ministry
gdurbin@mppc.net





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Learning Center: Missions in Action



One of the many blessings of The Learning Center being a ministry of MPPC is that our children are able to see faith lived out right here on our shared campus. During Missions Week, our students had the opportunity to learn about serving others through hands-on experiences that connected what they hear about God's love with tangible acts of kindness.

Throughout the week, our preschoolers poured their hearts into several service projects supporting the ministry of Hope House. Children created handwritten notes and artwork to encourage guests, painted rocks for the prayer garden, toured Hope House to learn more about caring for families in need, helped assemble welcome bags for guests, and heard from Beth Moore during Chapel about the impact of hospitality and compassion. The week concluded with a special Gardening Day, where students, families, and staff worked side-by-side beautifying the prayer garden and grounds.

What made the week especially meaningful was watching our youngest learners realize that they can make a difference. Whether coloring a note, packing a welcome bag, or helping in the garden, they experienced the joy that comes from serving others. These moments remind us that discipleship begins early and that even small hands can do God's work. As a ministry of MPPC, we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the church in nurturing children's hearts for Christ and helping them grow into compassionate servants. Missions Week was a beautiful example of our church and school working together to share God's love in our community.

We would also love to welcome our church family to join us for Chapel each Wednesday at 12:20 p.m. There is something special about hearing preschool voices sing, pray, and learn about Jesus, and we are always encouraged when members of our congregation worship alongside us. Chapel is one of the many ways our children experience being part of the larger church family, and we'd love to see you there.

With Gratitude,

Lindsey Skinner
Director of The Learning Center
lskinner@mppc.net



The Atelier



Come create with us. Come serve with us. Come be part of something beautiful!

Our Children's Ministry Team was the first group to kick off our upcoming Empty Bowl Mission Project, followed by our fifth graders as part of their Milestone Ministry Mission Project. We can't wait to see who will be next!



MPPC's Atelier is more than a place to get creative! It's a place where art meets compassion and creativity becomes a way to serve our neighbors. Through our Empty Bowl Project, we hope to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people in our community who face food insecurity every day. The Mission and Christian Education Committees are partnering to bring MPPC's first Empty Bowls event to life in late February and we couldn't be any more excited. Congregational Life is collaborating with us to help us create this church-wide in collaboration with our annual Chili Cook-Off! Consider this your invitation to come and make a bowl for the mission project. It is a wonderful way for you to meet new people, gather with old friends and make a difference in our own community (not to mention, have fun!).

Want to get involved? Sign up on Realm today to receive email updates about upcoming classes, open pottery studio times, and opportunities to join in the fun!



Whether you're an experienced artist or have never touched a lump of clay, there's a place for you at the Atelier. Come get your hands messy, discover your creativity, build community, and be part of a ministry that makes a difference—one bowl at a time!

In addition to pottery, we have two open studio times for a Block Printing class. Clay not your thing? Come learn the art of lino cuts and make a block print with us. These classes are also on Realm. Reach out to Trish if you have trouble registering at trish@mppc.net. For more information, please contact Suzy Edwards.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Worship at MPPC

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES
11:00 AM & 4:00 PM

Christmas Eve worship for all ages, with beloved carols and the story of Jesus' birth told in a way that draws in worshipers of every age. Especially welcoming to families with children and to those who prefer to worship before dark, all in a slightly shorter service.

CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE
6:30 PM & 9:00 PM

Our traditional Christmas Eve worship, rich with scripture, beloved carols, and the sound of brass and the full Chancel Choir. We'll gather at the Lord's Table to share communion, then close the service by passing the light from candle to candle as we sing "Silent Night" together. The 6:30 p.m. service will be livestreamed.

All services take place in the Sanctuary. If the Sanctuary fills, we'll welcome you in Fellowship Hall, where overflow seating will be ready so everyone has a place.

VILLAGE CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

ASTRALIS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE



The Village Concert Series · Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 4:30 PM

CAROLS ON TAP

Sunday, December 13
4:30 p.m.

Crafty Draught

1965 Riviera Dr, Mt Pleasant

The Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Music Ministry invites you to join us at 4:30 p.m. for a special Christmas edition of "Hymns on Tap." Come and sing your favorite Christmas Carols with your church family while you enjoy a beverage. Please make sure you wear your ugliest holiday sweater (The winner might get a special prize).

**Food & drink not provided by the church.*

Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church

EVERY VOICE IN CONCERT SING!

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
DURING ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Join musicians and readers of every age as we come together in song and word, around the familiar and the new as we share in the story of Christ's birth.
Let every voice in concert sing!

Old Village Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 20 at 4:30 p.m.

Help us make joyful noise and join us for Christmas Caroling this holiday season!

We will meet on the Fellowship Hall Porch at 4:30 p.m. and sing carols around the Old Village. This is open to all ages!

MPPC MISSIONS

From Pastor Jon:

Friends, as I write this it is just shy of three weeks since the Frosts landed at our new Mount Pleasant home in the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, October 11th. The moving trucks arrived several hours later after a very short night of sleep.

Our oldest two, Henri and Lena, started school two days later and our youngest, Micah, began at the MPPC Learning Center the day after that. We began to unpack boxes...so many boxes. Somewhere in there I visited a local urgent care with what turned out to be a sinus infection. It would be a vast understatement to say those first days were a blur!

Moving can be so disorienting. It can be hard to find your bearings when all the places that helped ground you and provide a sense of belonging shift. However, what has made this transition immensely more manageable is the hospitality with which we have been received.

It has been so evident to Rachel and I that this congregation has been prayerfully and thoughtfully awaiting our arrival. We have been so moved by the offers to help, sometimes at a moment's notice. The steady flow of delicious meals has been an enormous gift to us, particularly when we were still having trouble locating some of our kitchen supplies! We were also so touched to learn at the Fall Festival that the gardenia bush by the church office entrance was planted by the children's ministry team and families in our honor, with the rocks painted prayerfully by the children.



In addition, it was so refreshing being in worship this past Sunday. There is something about the familiar rhythms of worship - gathering, singing, confessing, proclaiming and hearing the word - that recalibrates the spiritual system and reminds you once again to be still and know that God is God in this place as in every place.

I am so excited to now be among you and to continue to get to know the life, ministry, and people of this congregation. Thank you for the ways you have surrounded us with warmth and love!

Sincerely,



Rev. Jon Frost
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
jfrost@mppc.net

Your Gifts at Work: Palmetto International Missions

Thanks to your generosity, MPPC is helping make new opportunities possible for children in Quebrabritis, in the Trinidad de Copán region of Honduras. Through a $15,000 donation to Palmetto International Missions, Inc., MPPC is helping fund the construction of a new middle school classroom on the campus of the community's existing K–6 school.

For years, MPPC has partnered with communities throughout the Copán region, supporting families through projects like the 25-house community development project in the area. Now, we are helping take the next step in expanding educational opportunities for local children.

Until now, only 14 students in the community have continued their education beyond sixth grade. To attend middle school, students must travel five miles to another school, a journey that is often out of reach for families who cannot afford transportation. In fact, only one family in the community can currently afford this expense.

The new classroom is already making a difference. Next year, 37 students are registered to attend middle school which is more than double the number currently continuing their education! This new school will give children access to educational opportunities that were previously difficult or impossible to reach.

Your donations are helping build more than a classroom. They are helping build a future filled with greater opportunity, hope, and possibility for children and families in Honduras.

Thank you for making this mission possible through your faithful generosity!





HOPE HOUSE

Growing Hope, One Loving Heart at a Time

One of the greatest joys of serving in the Hope House ministry at MPPC, is welcoming young people into our home and helping them discover the heart of our mission: caring for others through love, compassion and generosity.

The children of the MPPC Learning Center have formed a special bond with Hope House, and their enthusiasm and kindness have blessed our ministry in so many ways.

During missions week the children participated in daily activities designed to help them understand the purpose of Hope House and the families we serve.

When they toured our 110-year-old home, the children saw the table where our guests share meals, the beds where they rest after long and difficult days at the hospital, and the prayer garden where they can enjoy the fresh air, reflect and pray for their loved ones who are ill. As they learned about the challenges our guests face, they also discovered how even the smallest acts of kindness can bring comfort and hope.

The children put their loving hearts into action in wonderful ways. They painted prayer rocks for guests to choose from our prayer garden and share with their loved ones in the hospital. They assembled welcome gift bags, colored thoughtful note cards and chose Hope House as their partner ministry for the Learning Center's Fall Festival. Watching these young hearts embrace our mission is a beautiful reminder that generosity, compassion and service can begin at any age. These connections reach far beyond a single activity or week of missions. They plant seeds of kindness that we hope will continue to grow throughout these children's lives.

The next generation, learning the meaning of this ministry, fills our hearts with joy and gives us hope for its future.

We give thanks to MPPC and the Learning Center for their love of these precious children and their quest to teach the importance of helping others in need.

Blessings,

Beth Moore
Director of Hope House
bmoore@mppc.net











August Adopt-a-Day at Hope House

November 6
In Loving Memory of Virginia Gilliam on her 31st Birthday; given by Mike and Julie Stephenson

November 11
In Honor of our US Military Veterans; given by Bill and Pamela Marsh

November 16
In honor of Hope House; given by Sara Seigler

November 16
In Honor of Morgan Pearman and Brian Gwiazdowski's 7th Wedding Anniversary; given by Steve and Susan Pearman

November 16
In Honor of Terry Horres on her 80th birthday; given by Carolyn and Dick Trammell

November 17
In Honor of Hope House; given by Kariann Clark

November 21
In Memory of our nephew, Corey Keeling; given by Steve and Susan Pearman

November 25
In Honor of Suzy Edwards and all the leaders and participants of the Children's Service on October 18th; given by Fritz and Debbie Goulding

November 27
In Memory of my Father in Law, Bobby Donaldson, a Gentleman and Scholar; given by Austin Eargle

November 28
In Honor of Maggie Billingsley; given by Lauren Billingsley

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

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