



Tidings from Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church

4136 Mt. Pleasant Road, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

www.mtpmethodist.org

February 2025

Our Christian Symbolism

Every church sanctuary has its own unique features. Our sanctuary has some beautiful stain glass work that just pops with color as the sunlight shines through. There is a lot of Christian imagery in those windows. If you have never noticed stain glass work in our sanctuary and narthex, next time you are in our sanctuary, take some time to look up and see its beauty.

Years ago I used to serve as one of the pastors at Central Methodist Church in Asheboro, North Carolina. The sanctuary there at Central is beautifully decorated with Greek columns down each side and a 75-foot marble slab on the back chancel wall that contains an engraved gold cross surrounded by Greek symbols and letters.

One day, one of our newest members came up to me and we were talking about the symbolism within our sanctuary. As we talked he told me how he was interested in Christian symbolism and then he asked me this question. ***"Why are there two candles on the altar?"*** Now, I don't know if you have ever asked that same question or not, but in case you have, let me share with you what I told my friend.

The word symbolism, from the Greek *symbollein*, means "to make a comparison." A symbol is a tangible object pointing to a spiritual and emotional truth.

In the deepest of human relationships, the wedding ring symbolizes the love and commitment of a man and a woman in holy matrimony. There are symbols in the general culture as well. The barber's striped pole is an example.

The Christian church's earliest symbols represented our Lord, most often as the Good Shepherd or the Lamb of God. Symbols may also be used to conceal truth. The sign of the fish quietly identified believers to each other in the presence of hostile elements.

The two altar candles symbolize the two natures of Jesus Christ: fully God yet fully man in one Person. When we gather for worship, the acolyte will light the altar candles to symbolize that Christ is the light of the world. (John 8:12)

After worship the acolyte will carry out the light, symbolizing that we are Christ's light and called to carry his message to the world. (Matthew 5:14-16) Having gathered for worship on the Lord's Day, we scatter to serve through the week. That's why starting in February, I am going to add the phrase at the bottom of our Sunday bulletins: ***"Worship has ended, let the service begin!"***, that's because after each week of having scattered; we gather again on the following Sunday. Such are the rhythms of the Christian walk. And wherever we are, we are the Church—the Body of Christ.

Christ above all,
Pastor Byron

I am
the Light
of the World
John 8:12



From the Admin Board

Season's Greetings everyone! I hope this correspondence finds you all well. On January 16th we held our first administrative board meeting of this new year. During this meeting we discussed our new budget for this year. We have allocated some funds into various accounts which will earn interest with various maturity, all of which will be FDIC insured.

Our Trustees reported that we have received a quote for \$37,000.00 to repair the awning at the side of the church that covers the office entry to the CLC entry. We are currently waiting for our insurance adjustment quotes before proceeding. The Trustees are also taking quotes for a new fence to go up around our playground. Our first quote for this project was \$17,000.00. We have also completed the first phase of renovations in the youth center and we approved to move forward with the next phase which will be adding a classroom in the front corner of the building. These renovations will be made by members of our church volunteering so please be sure to thank them for helping with this. In the near future we hope to update the bathrooms in the youth center as well. A motion was also made for us to install some type of security cameras throughout the church parking lot which was voted on and approved.

Last year we started the process of raising money to purchase a church van. In the long run having our own van would save our church time and money. Currently we are having to go through the process of renting a van every time we go on a trip with our youth group and our Keenagers. A van would also be useful for us when going on mission trips. These van rental prices do add up over time so it would be beneficial for us to have our own. If you would like to help with this endeavor please mark your gift with "van fund".

In closing, I hope that we all continue to keep our neighbors in western North Carolina who have been affected by Hurricane Helene in our thoughts and prayers. There are still ways to help out. If you would like to help please reach out to our church office. I hope that everyone's New Year is off to a great start!

Yours in Christ,
Brandon Cline

Pastor Kaleb's Klippings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you and your family are doing well. I pray that you are experiencing the fresh love of God in your daily journey with Him as we seek to take up our cross and follow the King of Kings. If you have ever watched Duck Dynasty, you may know that the Robertson family openly shared their faith. They always prayed on the show and were very vocal about their beliefs. Recently, I heard Jase Robertson on a podcast say, "You may believe Jesus is the King of Kings, but is He the King of your heart?" What a beautiful reminder for us as Christians. This question got me reflecting on my daily walk with Jesus, and I hope it encourages you to think as well. Ask yourself this week and in the coming weeks, "Is Jesus the King of my heart?"

If you allow Jesus to be the King of your heart, serving others will naturally follow. Maybe you have been searching for ways to serve others and live out the command to love thy neighbor. Well, you're in luck because I am looking for people who are interested in providing a meal for our youth group on Sunday evenings. Our youth gatherings currently average about eight to nine students, so you would be providing a meal to feed around fourteen, including leaders. When you join the church, you commit to strengthening its ministries through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This is an opportunity to live into that commitment by offering your presence, service, and witness to the next generation. Please pray about this opportunity to serve and mentor our youth. More information will come soon, and I will provide a way to sign up for a meal. In the meantime, please pray about whether God may be calling you to this service opportunity.

One challenge we currently face within our church is the growing need for Sunday School volunteers. We have seen an increase in children attending Sunday School, which is amazing! We should first celebrate the fact that kids are learning about Jesus and hearing the gospel. Secondly, this means we will need to expand our Sunday School options so that kids in similar age ranges can be together. This means we need more volunteers and substitutes if a volunteer cannot make it. If you are interested in helping mentor and teach our children during the Sunday School hour, please contact me ASAP.

In our commitment to serve Christ and His Church, let us remember the beautiful words of Wesley: *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."*

Peace in Christ,
Kaleb



The Keenagers are going to First Thursday at Denver Methodist for lunch on February 6th at 11:30. You don't have to sign up. We will have tables reserved for our group.

We're planning a day trip to the Biltmore House on Saturday, May 10th. **Any church member** is invited join us. We are booking through Christian Tours. To submit your reservation, call Christian Tours (828) 465-3900. State that you are part of Mount Pleasant Methodist Church and you are joining the Biltmore Estate trip that departs on May 10th. The staff will sign you up and then you can mail in or drop off payment. For additional information, contact Steve Hodge at hodgecloud@aol.com.



Nurture and Congregational Care

As we begin our new year, I would like to invite all of you to be a part of our Nurture and Congregational Care Program. Presently, we have four active components: food support (bereavement), card ministry, prayer group, and visitation ministry. The purpose of the Nurture and Congregational Care Program is to build a ministry to address the concerns and needs of our congregation. If you would like to participate in any of these ministries, or would like to know more about them, please call Frances Sigmon, 704 472-2333.

Our visitation team will be meeting on February 11, at 6 pm in the parlor. The members of this ministry make an intentional effort to keep in touch with shut-ins or others in need. Please join us if you would like to learn more about this component. It only takes an hour a month to make a visit to one of our members. All you need to do is sit down and listen to their stories, and in return, you have made a new friend and made their day brighter. We are always in the need for people to make visits, so I hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry.

Frances Sigmon
Nurture and Congregational Care, Chairperson



SPPRC ANNOUNCEMENT: DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

The SPPRC committee is pleased and excited to announce that Dawn Broom is officially our new choir, handbell director and our musician. As you have noticed she has been doing it all the last several months. There is a lot more to this than anyone can realize. Dawn and her husband mark are a blessing to our church, and we are looking forward to what the future holds. We plan to learn, sing, and play great music and grow to become better disciples of God.

Blessings to all. Share a smile every chance you get!

Alice Lineberger, SPPRC Chair



Military Care Packages

Thanks to your generosity, we sent about a dozen large packages to overseas servicemembers in the last quarter of 2024. We'd like to continue sending them as often as we can, bringing a little joy in the name of Jesus to those who protect our freedoms, far away from home and family for extended periods. There's a list of suggested donation items by the collection box in the Narthex or contact Linda Thompson, lthompson1020@gmail.com or (704)995-4230 for more info. I know there are so many pressing needs in our community and world today, but I know God will multiply whatever we are able to give just as He did the loaves and fishes. Thanks in advance for your continued support of this ministry!



We hope to see everyone at our February Family Night Supper on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00pm. This month is **soup and sandwiches**. So break out your favorite soup or sandwich creation and bring some to share. If you don't "do" soup or sandwiches, remember, desserts are always a big part of our meal.

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Women Circle News

Circle Meetings are as follows:

Jewell Dierwechter—1st Monday at 11:00am, Parlor

Dana Little—1st Tuesday at 7:00pm, Parlor

Janie Killian—2nd Tuesday at 1:00pm, Parlor

All ladies are invited to come join any of these groups.

Mt. Pleasant Men's Group

Due to the Sanctuary renovation project, the Men's Group will not meet in February. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, March 3rd** at 7:30am.



Youth Group Schedule for February:

Feb. 2nd - Youth (4-5:30)

Feb. 9th - Youth (4-5:30)

Feb. 16th - Youth (4-5:30)

Feb. 23rd - Youth (4-5:30)



Mt. Pleasant Preschool News

Can you believe it is time for registration already? Beginning Monday, February 3rd, we will start accepting applications for current preschoolers and church members. An application and registration fee are required to reserve your child's spot for next year. Current preschoolers will have the same days reserved for them for 2 weeks. During that time, I will be accepting applications and registration fees. After February 17th, I will start filling the empty spots with any church members that have children wanting to attend preschool and anyone wanting to change days. We have limited space available in all the classes, so please plan to register within those two weeks. Registration will open to the public on Monday, March 3rd.

Registration for the Summer Program will also begin this month. You may find the application online under the summer tab. Registration is required to reserve your child a spot in the Summer Program.

The children will have a Valentine's Day Exchange with their friends on Tuesday, February 11th and Wednesday, February 12th. The teachers will be sending home names of the children for their Valentines.

Our Safety Class this month is Gun Safety. Medic Melanie will be talking to the children about these safety concerns.

Lake Norman Pediatric Dentistry will be visiting us this month to discuss the importance of brushing our teeth and good dental hygiene. They are scheduled for Thursday, February 27th and Friday, March 7th.

As a reminder, Lauren Kale is our parent representative on the Preschool Board. She attends the Preschool Board meetings each month and shares any concerns from parents at that time. They may email her at laurenekale@me.com, if they feel there is an issue that is not being addressed.

The Preschool will be closed on Thursday, February 13th, Friday, February 14th and Monday, February 17th.

Amy Howard
Preschool Director



Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, text and flowers after the passing of my dad. I want to also thank Pastor Byron for his visits and him being there for my family the day he passed.

I am so grateful for my church family and friends. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

The family of Gene "Bearman" Morrison



Memorials have been received for:

Joyce Pruitt by: Glenn Pruitt
Beatrice McKoy

Gene "Bearmann" Morrison by: Donna Bone

James Canipe by: Kevin and Lisa Brady
Danny and Frances Sigmon
Susan Ensign

Dear Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church,

Our sincere thanks to you for the generous check, the clothes and food items, and the delicious BBQ. Our visitors were beside themselves with the special gift of BBQ.

Your support is amazing and greatly appreciated.

With gratitude from all of us on the Board and our guests too!

Meg Thompson, Chair
The Christian Food Pantry of Sherrills Ford

Dear Mt. Pleasant Church,

Thank you for the prayers and the beautiful prayer quilt you gave me.

My daughter, Angela Beard, and my mom, Anne Moose, enjoyed working with the ladies to make quilts at one time. It has special memories for me to see this continuing today.

Sincerely,
Glenda Hammett



Sonja McCarn
Brookdale Charlotte East
6053 Wilora Lake Rd., #1104
Charlotte, NC 28212
(704) 658-5005



M P KIDS

Winter/Spring 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Snack Sign-Up</u>
Sun. 1/26	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	Alexis
Sun. 2/2	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	Maria
Sun. 2/9	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 2/16	<i>Holiday weekend. --No practice--</i>	N/A
Sun. 2/23	8:30 AM Service - Sing with Ensemble Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 3/2	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 3/9	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 3/16	<i>Long weekend for school. --No practice--</i>	N/A
Sun. 3/23	8:30 AM Service - Sing with Ensemble Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 3/30	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 4/6	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 4/13	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 4/20	<i>Easter Sunday --No practice--</i>	N/A
Sun. 4/27	Choir practice at 4PM in CLC.	
Sun. 5/4	Rehearsal at 9:45 AM Performance during 11 AM Service	N/A

**Note - We will begin break for Summer at this time.
Plan to resume Choir Practice for Fall Semester on 9/7/25.**

**COME JOIN OUR NEW
LOW-IMPACT/STRENGTH/AGILITY
EXERCISE CLASS**



TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

9:00AM-10:00AM

IN THE CLC

BEGINS FEBRUARY 4TH

NO COST—DONATIONS ONLY

LED BY KARI REESE

***PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN HAND WEIGHTS (1 LB) OR WATER/SODA
BOTTLES FOR STRENGTH TRAINING**

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church

Valentine's Day

Parents' Night Out

February 14th

5-8 pm

Pizza, Crafts & a Movie

Drop off Your Child(ren) ages 2-12
and Enjoy a Nice Date Night.

Register your Child(ren) Here:



4136 Mt. Pleasant Rd,
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Wednesday, Feb. 26

5:30 Meal

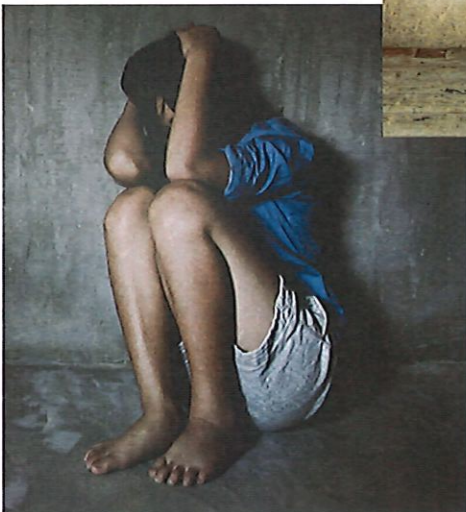
6:15 Program

Friendship Methodist Church

2900 Hwy 16 Newton

Human Trafficking is here. We can help.

LEARN HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND REPORT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR
COMMUNITY.



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THE WORLD FAMOUS OLD FASHION SINGING
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OVER
40
MILLION
RECORDS**

— In Concert —
WEBB'S CHAPEL METHODIST CHURCH
Family Life Center
4640 Webbs Chapel Road, Denver, NC
Sat., March 8, 2025 6:00 PM
Pre-concert Entertainment Begins at 5:30 PM



Biltmore Estate

1 Day – May 10th

Meals Included: 1 Lunch

Join Christian Tours this morning as we travel to the beautiful Biltmore Estate located just outside of Asheville. Experience America's largest home, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago while exploring three floors and the basement of the luxurious family home of George and Edith Vanderbilt. We'll visit Antler Hill Village, tour the Biltmore Winery, and have an included lunch at The Stable Café.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Price Per Person: \$235

A deposit of \$100 per person is due with each individual's reservation. Final payment will be due 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation penalties will begin 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended. Insurance Payment is due with deposit at time of booking. Insurance price is \$24 per person.

Mail your reservation form/deposit/payments to Christian Tours at P.O. Box 890, Newton, NC 28658. You may also call in credit card payments to 800-476-3900 or 828-465-3900. Contact your group leader if you have questions: Steve Hodge, 910-574-8722 or email at hodgecloud@aol.com.

Birthdays

February

- 1 Jewel Rathbone
- 2 Hattie Sigmon
- 3 Melissa Mauney
- 4 Kolton Buff
Steve Hodge
- 5 Lucy Martin
- 9 Pam Dry
Brenda Kisner
- 11 Jonathan Campbell
- 14 Jeff Howard
- 17 Kendall Lawing
- 19 Carolyn Stutts
- 20 Lexie Lineberger
Keith Lutz
- 22 Martha Hepler
Heather Roseman
- 24 Frances Sigmon
- 25 Maxine Campbell
Darin Eades
- 26 Kylie Butler
- 28 Susan Ensign



Anniversaries

February

- 3 Cecil & Debbie
Reinhardt
- 11 Cedric & Morgan Moore
- 14 Joel & Kathleen Morris
Elliott & Lounette
Forbes- Robinson
- 28 Bennett & Donna
Mauney



Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

Guy and Christol Cine and Family at the passing of Guy's sister, **Frances Patterson**, on December 11th.

Amy and Rusty Howard and Family at the passing of her father, **Gene "Bear Man" Morrison**, on December 12th.

Brett and Terra Canipe and Family at the passing of his father, **James Canipe** on January 5th

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



.Congratulations to **Ben and Jordan Edwards** and big sister **Charley** on the arrival of **Riley Louise**, who was born on December 27th. Proud grandparents are **Randy and Lura Stokes**.



Remember those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Brookdale Charlotte East: Sonja McCarn
Kingston Residence of Hickory: Pete Crump
Hickory Village Memory Care: Marilyn Beardslee
Abernathy Laurels: Joy Howard
Lincoln Rehabilitation: Jimmy Little



If you would be willing to serve in any of these capacities, please contact the church office (704-483-3087). Most require very little time or commitment and are very important contributions in

Ushers

February 2	8:30am	Jeff Little & Roger Britt
	11:00am	Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Kenny Chester, Guy Cline
9	8:30am	Jeff Little, & Kevin Brady
	11:00am	Jeff Little, Guy Cline, Wayne Merchant & David Carpenter
16	8:30am	Jeff Little, Elwanda Wilson, & Roger Britt
	11:00am	Jeff Little, Pete Lail, Guy Cline & David Carpenter
23	8:30am	Jeff Little & Kevin Brady
	11:00am	Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Guy Cline & Brandon Cline

Greeters

February 2	830am	Jeff & Wanda Myers
	11:00am	Jack & Pat Baumann
9	8:30am	Darrell Farren
	11:00am	Scouts BSA
16	8:30am	Johnny & Karen Karriker
	11:00am	Jan Brown
23	8:30am	Glenn Pruitt
	11:00am	Brett & Terra Canipe

Sound and AV Techs

February 2	8:30am	Drew Dotson
	11:00am	Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
9	8:30am	Drew Dotson
	11:00am	Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
16	8:30am	Drew Dotson
	11:00am	Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
23	8:30am	Drew Dotson
	11:00am	Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

Communion Stewards



February 4		
	8:30am	Melissa White & Glenn Pruitt
	11:00am	Kenny Chester & Jack Baumann

Nursery Care Givers

February *Amanda Kochosky will contact Nursery Care Givers



Wednesday Music Schedule

6:00pm Bells of Praise

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Sunday Schedule

8:30am Early Worship Service

9:45am Sunday School

10:00am Organist Practice

11:00am Worship Service

4:00pm MtP Youth Group



FEBRUARY

Weekday Schedule

(Unless otherwise noted)

Preschool M-W-F 9am-1pm

T-T 9am-1pm

Study Buddies M-F 3:30pm-6pm

Girl Scouts Mon. 6:30pm

Boy Scouts Tues 7:00pm

Cub Scouts Wed 7:00pm

Ensemble Practice Thurs 7:00pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00am Private Event CLC
2 See Sunday Schedule 7:30am Methodist Men 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	3 9:30am Preschool Safety 11:00am JD Circle 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	4 9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Safety 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts Dana Little Circle	5 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Family Night 7:00pm Cub Scouts	6 9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	7 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	8 12:00pm Private Event CLC
9 See Sunday Schedule 12:00pm Private Event—CLC 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	10 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	11 9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Board 1:00pm Janie Killian Circle 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Nurture & Care Committee 7:00pm Boy Scouts Trustees	12 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:00am Prayer Team 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Cub Scouts	13 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	14 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	15 9:00am One Mission Workshop 1:30pm Private Event—CLC
					Preschool/SB Closed	
16 See Sunday Schedule 4:00pm MtP Youth Children's Choir	17 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts Preschool/SB Closed	18 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 See Wednesday Music Schedule 8:00am Veterans' Coffee Call 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Cub Scouts	20 9:00am Exercise Class 11:00am Preschool Stretch & Grow 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	21 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	22
23 See Sunday Schedule 4:00pm MtP Youth Children's Choir	24 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	25 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:00am Prayer Team 9:30am Preschool Stretch & Grow 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Cub Scouts	27 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	28 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	