

# Tidings from Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church  
4136 Mt. Pleasant Road, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673  
[www.mtpmethodist.org](http://www.mtpmethodist.org)

April 2026

## The Value of the Class Meeting for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Methodism



I give the Lord thanks for what He has been doing and will continue to do here at Mt. Pleasant. In the March newsletter, I discussed the power of the class meeting, which propelled Methodism into one of the fastest-growing religious movements in the early period of our nation's history. Wesley noticed that some of these new Christians were not being disciplined in the faith. Therefore, he implemented the class meeting that helped many new Christians become more like Jesus. Eight to twelve people of mixed gender and ages gathered weekly to watch over one another in love.

If we call ourselves disciples, we should know what a life of discipleship entails. Here's my definition: discipleship is a deep relationship with God, a lifelong journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of God to all people, and helping others reflect the character of Christ. Discipleship is also devotional, transformational, and missional. Disciples devote their hearts, minds, souls, and bodies to God daily through prayer and the reading of God's word. Disciples will encounter the Holy Spirit and be changed by Him. This is not metaphorical; as Christians, we will become like Christ. Disciples will also be missional by going where Jesus goes and doing what He does.

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) Paul describes the Christian life as running a race. It's a marathon, not a sprint, and for anyone who has run a marathon before, you know it takes a lot of training. Why should we treat our discipleship journey any differently? As Christians, we are called to live out the faith & examine how we are living faithfully. Dr. Kevin Watson describes discipleship this way: "Imagine a person who sets a goal to run a marathon. They might spend time researching the best running shoes to wear, the best shorts, the best approach to training, and the healthiest food to eat. No matter what they do, there is one thing that is absolutely essential to being able to run a marathon- running." If the person doesn't start running, they are not making progress toward running a marathon. It is essential to know the Bible and what beliefs make us Christian, yes, but discipleship is a way of life. Disciples follow Jesus. They heal the sick, pray for others, and testify to what Jesus has done.

The class meeting helps every follower of Jesus start running the race. It's a weekly transformational gathering with other believers who desire to encounter Jesus. Class Meetings help us move forward in the faith by bringing people together in small groups, so they are not lost in church, and by helping us see every week that the Christian life is not static. I hope that we will be a church of transformational small groups. As Easter approaches, I urge you to begin praying if the Holy Spirit is calling you to join a class meeting. Don't worry, there's more information coming soon.

*Pastor Kaleb*



From the Administrative Board

Spring Greetings everyone! I hope this correspondence finds you all doing well. On Thursday, March 19th, our administrative board held our 2nd meeting of the year. Our Finance team reported that for the first two months of the year we are running slightly below our projected budget. We believe this is due to the two weeks in which our Sunday services were cancelled due to the snow and ice. Our Finance team stated that they are thankful for all of our giving efforts and hope that we continue to share our financial resources, time, talents, and spiritual gifts for God's work.

Our Trustees reported that they have ordered a new HVAC unit and that it will be installed in the near future. They also reported that they are looking into updating our AV and sound system in the CLC. They have also found a company that will handle our cemetery maintenance for the foreseeable future.

The Staff Parish Committee reported that they are beginning to search for a new Youth Pastor. We will keep everyone informed as this process progresses. Our current budget does have this position already included in it so it will not increase our budget if or when we hire someone for this position.

During this meeting, Pastor Kaleb shared with us a new opportunity that has recently been offered to our Church. As many of you might know, a faithful member of our Church, Frank Carver, recently passed away. Frank's home and property runs along a section of Mount Pleasant Rd. and borders our Church property back behind the softball field and pavilion. In his passing, he left his property to his step son but requested that our Church have the right of first refusal which grants us the first opportunity to purchase this property. In total, this is a 5.8 acre lot. The house sits on a lot listed at 1.17 acres and the remaining wooded property is listed at 4.63 acres. His step son is looking to sell the property to us at \$450,000. This property could be used to help expand our ministry here at Mount Pleasant.

A few possible ideas that it could be used for include:

- Future campus expansion
- Community outreach space (food bank, counseling center, or second parsonage)

As our community here in Sherrills Ford and the surrounding area continues to grow, land is becoming more scarce and is considered as a valuable asset. During our last meeting we were blessed to have had several members of our church come and express their opinions regarding this matter. Our administrative board values all of our congregation's concerns and suggestions when it comes to making important decisions for our Church. A motion was made and passed by our administrative board to let Mr. Carver's step son know that we are expressing interest in the property and that we need an additional 30 days to do our due diligence regarding the financial impact this would have for us moving forward. Please feel free to reach out to any of our board members, or to Pastor Kaleb, if you have any questions or concerns.

In closing, I want to thank everyone that came and helped spread mulch and clean up our campus the other week! It was a great day of service and fellowship! I also want to wish everyone a blessed Easter filled with God's love and may the miracle of this day bring you all renewed faith, hope, and joy. He is risen!

Yours in Christ,

Brandon Cline



March 29th at 10:00am  
Palm Sunday Service



April 1st at 6:00pm  
Sponsored by MtP Youth



May 2nd at 7:00 PM  
Maundy Thursday Last Supper Drama & Communion

MAUNDY  
Thursday



April 5th at 7:00am  
Sunrise Service at the Pavilion



April 5th at 8:00am  
Easter Breakfast in the CLC  
Sponsored by the Methodist Men,  
Jewell Dierwecter Circle and Janie Killian Circle.



April 5th at:  
8:45pm Sunday School  
10:00pm Easter Worship Service

\*Please note, the Church office will be closed on Friday, April 3rd and Monday, April 6th.

# Soli Deo Gloria

**MPMC Music Ministry Happenings**  
**Dawn Broom**

Thank you, Church Family for your continuous support and encouragement of Mount Pleasant Methodist's music ministry. Again, this month, I continue with another installment of the article, "Why singing is surprisingly good for your health."

## Come together

*"But not all types of singing are equally beneficial. Singing as part of a group or a choir, for example, has been found to promote a greater level of psychological well-being than in solo singers. For this reason, educational researchers have used singing as a tool for promoting cooperation, language development, and emotional regulation in children.*

*Medical specialists are also turning to singing as a way of improving the quality of life of those living with different health conditions. Around the world, researchers have studied the effects of joining dedicated community choirs established for cancer and stroke survivors, people living with Parkinson's disease and dementia, and their caregivers. For example, singing improves the ability of Parkinson's patients to articulate, something which they are known to struggle with as the disease progresses.*

*Singing also represents a way of boosting general health as it has been shown to be an underrated workout comparable to a brisk walk. "Singing is a physical activity and may have some parallel benefits to exercise," says Adam Lewis, an associate professor of respiratory physiotherapy at the University of Southampton. One study even suggested that singing, along with various vocal exercises used by trained singers to hone pitch and rhythm, is a comparable workout for the heart and lungs to walking at a moderate pace on a treadmill.*

*But researchers are also keen to highlight the often under-recognized benefits of participating in group singing for the psyche of people living with long-term chronic illnesses. Singing enables these people to focus on what they can do, rather than what they cannot. It suddenly brings an equality into the room where the caregivers are no longer caregivers, and the healthcare practitioners are also singing the same song in the same way. And there isn't really much else that does that."*

As always I encourage you to sing along on the hymns in worship. Singing not only focuses your mind

on the God Who created us, it readies your heart to hear Him speak to you. He made us to sing. Why not experience more fulfilling and rewarding worship by thoughtfully singing in worship?

## Soli Deo Gloria

"To God alone be the glory."

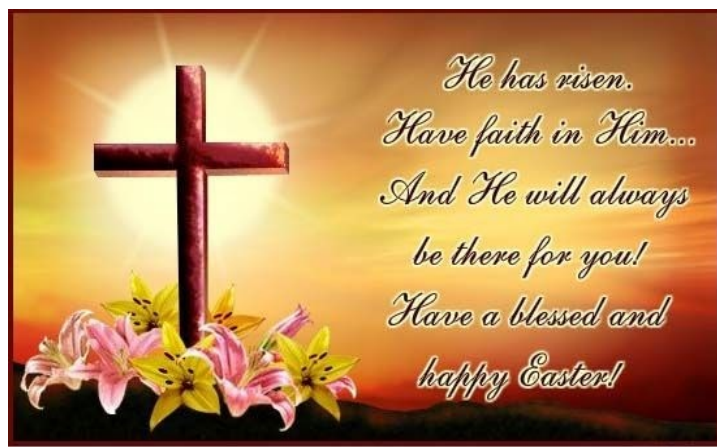
"Teach me Your way, Lord,  
so that I can walk in Your Truth.  
Make my heart focused  
only on honoring Your name."  
Psalm 86:11 (CEB)

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## Family Night Supper

We hope you will join us on **Wednesday, April 1st at 6:00pm** in the CLC for a special meal sponsored by the MtP Youth. Donations for this meal will be used by the Youth on their various mission projects. Please bring a dessert to share.

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## MtP Methodist Men

Next meeting: May 3rd, 7:30am in the CLC

All men of the church are invited & encouraged to attend a great breakfast, special program & time of fellowship

Coffee is ready @ 7:00am  
Breakfast @ 7:30am

Cook team for May will be Darrell Farren, Andy Reese, Chris Sherrill, Nathan Sherrill, and Johnny Karriker

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## MtP Methodist Women

### Circle Meetings for April

Jewel Dierwechter— April 13 at 11:00am in the Parlor

Janie Killian—April 14 at 1:00pm in the Parlor

All ladies of the church are invited to come join one of our circles.



**Thursday, April 2, 11:30am: Meet at Denver United Methodist Church** for their "First Thursday Lunch". You do not need to let us know if you can attend. We will have tables for us to sit together. Come and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship!

We are going to the **Talley House** for lunch on **April 24**. We meet at the church at 11:00 AM. We are taking the van which will hold 13 people besides Tanya and me. I need to know by Tuesday, April 21 how many will be going total so I can make a reservation.

Thanks,  
Steve Hodge  
(910) 574-8722



## ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you are graduating (or are the family of a graduate) from high school or college this year, please send your information (name, school, degree) to Ann in the church office by April 24th. We want to recognize ALL graduates (even those who were in the fall/winter graduating class) in our May newsletter. Thanks so much and congratulations!!



I appreciate all the prayers, visits, text messages, and phone calls during my absence. All those things helped me recuperate so much faster I think. I missed being at church so much but I am ready to see all of you soon!

Love you all,  
Glenn Pruitt

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Dear Friends at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church, Words cannot express the depth of my gratitude to you, Tracy Dick, and the Lake Norman Piecemakers for the beautiful nature-themed prayer quilt given prior to my surgery in December. It was a great comfort to me knowing that so many prayers had been offered toward my healing.

My heart overflows with JOY as I look at this most treasured quilt, still resting on our sofa since that December day when Tracy brought it home. I was in awe as she unfolded it revealing the thoughtfully chosen squares featuring preschool children, flowers, ocean creatures, and butterflies with other insects—all representing my passion for exploring God's wondrous creation with the children during my years at Mt. Pleasant Preschool.

This quilt is rich with meaning, reaching deep within my core. It represents not only the power of prayer, but the great love. It helps me feel God's love, your love, and I remember the many joys that have been shared with me and my family here at Mt. Pleasant since our arrival in the mid 1980s!

Volumes could be written about the fun memories with you (and the preschool families). You have helped us grow in many ways, richly blessing our lives. Thanks for being a beautiful light, sharing God's love with us and all in the community who come your way!

Love,  
Carol Hicks



## April Preschool News

We will be doing our **End of the Year Assessments** with the children to see what they have accomplished over the past seven months. A copy will be sent home once it is completed.

**The four's class will be visiting Sherrills Ford and Balls Creek Elementary** to tour the school and eat lunch in the lunchroom. I will be providing a time and date once I hear back from them.

The children will be **hunting Easter eggs on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Below are the times when each class will be hunting for eggs. **Parents are welcome to attend this with their child.** I will need help hiding eggs for each class if parents want to come a little early.

- Three's class – 10:15 am**
- Four's class – 11:15 am**
- Two's class – 12:00 pm**

Medic Melanie will be discussing **Bike Safety** this month. Last month the children learned about Poison Prevention. Hopefully, they are being good Safety Patrollers and looking out for anything that isn't safe around the house.

Our **Summer Program** is almost full in some of the classes. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please do so as soon as possible!

**Classes are full for the 2026/27 preschool year!** A letter will be mailed to parents the last week of July with dates and information about Open House and the upcoming year.

The four's class will be having their **annual Preschool Prom on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** from 7:00-9:00 pm in the CLC. Mrs. Brenda and Mrs. Christi will be hosting this event. An invitation will be sent home with the four's class. The girls will be bringing their dads, and the boys will be bringing their moms. This is such a magical night for the children to share with their parents!

**Graduation Day is approaching!** I will be sending a form home with the children in the four's class to purchase either a cap or a cap and gown for their **Graduation on May 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you have a child that has already graduated from preschool

and still has their cap and gown, they may wear it and only need to purchase a new tassel.

We will be closed Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break. Hope everyone has a Happy Easter!

Amy Howard  
Preschool Director



Hello Youth and Families! Our Youth program is having a busy Spring! In March, we bought food for the local Blessing Boxes with money donated from the Valentine's Bulletin. We also helped with the church-wide clean-up and the Easter Egg Hunt! For April, we will be sponsoring Family Night! It's a taco bar! Come and enjoy! No youth on Easter Sunday! Enjoy time with your families and rest! On 4/12, we will be delivering the food to local Blessing Boxes. Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, our youth will be headed to Camp Tekoa for a spring retreat! We will meet for a regular meeting on 4/26.

Please join us on Sundays from 4:00pm-6:00pm! If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to Randy Stokes or Melanie Panaccione!

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND FAMILIES

It's that time of year when we are preparing to celebrate you and your time in high school. This year our Graduation Sunday and Brunch will be on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will be able to join us for this time of worship service and fellowship at 10:00. Please contact either Melanie Panaccione at (704) 664-0461 with questions or to RSVP.



# MP KIDS - APRIL 2026

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL



Join us monthly after Family Night Suppers for a time of prayer, fellowship, and playground time!  
April 1st at 6:30pm

### MP Kids FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm  
Mt Pleasant CLC

Bring your family for a night of kid friendly worship and fellowship.

### CHILDREN'S TIME

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Megan Logan  
April 12<sup>th</sup> - Jeanna Goodson  
April 19<sup>th</sup> - Alexis Thompson  
April 26<sup>th</sup> - Melanie Panaccione



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade!  
Meet in the CLC at 4pm!

April 5<sup>th</sup> - No Practice  
April 12<sup>th</sup> - Practice at 4pm  
April 19<sup>th</sup> - Practice at 4pm  
April 26<sup>th</sup> - Practice at 4pm

## MP KIDS EVENTS

## SPRING 2026

15

APRIL 2026

### FAMILY NIGHT WORSHIP

KID-FRIENDLY WORSHIP SERVICE  
6PM

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

16

MAY 2026

### FAMILY GAME DAY

BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION BRICK BY BRICK  
10AM

PAVILLION

19-22

JULY 2026

### VBS!

SAVE THE DATES!  
WEEK OF JULY 19TH-22ND



FOR MORE INFO :



## KIDS SMALL GROUPS

Sunday Mornings at 8:45am

**NURSERY**  
Infants - Toddlers

**LOWER ELEMENTARY**  
Kids ages 4 - 1<sup>st</sup> grade

**UPPER ELEMENTARY**  
Kids 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

# Birthdays

## April

- 2 Debbie Reinhardt
- 4 Bobby Lutz
- 7 Chase Helderman
- 8 Rebecca Little  
Wayne Merchant
- 9 Georgie Sigmon
- 10 Liam Dotson
- 11 Megan Logan
- 15 Jeff Eudy
- 18 Jamie Cawley  
Addison Bell
- 20 Cindy Little
- 22 Elizabeth Carpenter
- 24 Sandy Martin
- 26 Marilyn Beardslee  
Beth Bell  
Drew Dotson  
Jack Baumann
- 28 Wade Lail  
Taylor Alexander  
Karen Thomson
- 30 Johnny Karriker



# Anniversaries

## April

- 1 Jack & Pat Baumann
- 4 Jeff & Cathy Eudy
- 15 Mark & Brenda Sigmon
- 16 Roger & Becky Britt  
Byron & Jana Alexander
- 18 Garrett & Megan Logan
- 19 Jim & Brenda Kisner
- 30 Brett & Alexis Thompson



## Remember those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

- The Shaire Center of Lenoir: Pete Crump
- Hickory Village Memory Care: Marilyn Beardslee
- Abernathy Laurels: Joy Howard
- Wexford House: Deneil Caldwell



Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

...**Dawn Broom and Mark Morris** at the passing of her aunt, **Alyce Griffin**, on March 12th.

...The family of **Jackie Watts**, who passed away on March 16th in Arizona.

...**Wayne and Janie Merchant** at the passing of his brother-in-law, **Tom Coleman**, on March 17th.





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 making Sunday mornings run smoothly. We appreciate those who faithfully serve week after week.

### Ushers

**April**

- 5 10:00am Jeff Little, Kenny Chester, Kevin Brady, & David Carpenter
- 12 10:00am Jeff Little, Wayne Merchant, David Carpenter & Kevin Brady
- 19 10:00am Jeff Little, Pete Lail, David Carpenter & Kevin Brady
- 26 10:00am Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Brandon Cline & Kevin Brady



### Greeters



**April**

- 5 10:00am Daisy Vaughan & Jan Brown
- 12 10:00am Glenn Pruitt & Kenny Chester
- 19 10:00am Pete & Rita Lail
- 26 10:00am Wayne & Janie Merchant

### Sound and AV Techs



**April**

- 5 10:00am Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
- 12 10:00am Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
- 19 10:00am Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
- 26 10:00am Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

### Children's Time



**April**

- 5 Megan Logan
- 12 Jeanna Goodson
- 19 Alexis Thompson
- 26 Melanie Panaccione

### Nursery Care Givers



**April**

\* Amanda Kochosky to contact nursery workers  
Regarding the schedule

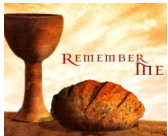
### Acolytes

**April** \*Melanie Panaccione to contact  
Acolytes

- 5
- 12
- 19
- 26



### Communion Stewards



**April 5**  
Steward: Ann Herron  
Serving: Ashton Setzer, Ben Edwards,  
Jordan Edwards



**Wednesday Music Schedule**

6:15pm Handbells  
 7:00pm Chancel Choir  
 8:15pm Living Stones

**Sunday Schedule**

8:45am Sunday School  
 10:00am Worship Service  
 4:00pm MtP Youth Group  
 Children's Choir



**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 Tues 6:00pm**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00pm Family Night Travel Ball Practice	2 8:00am Veterans' Coffee Call 11:00am Keenagers 1st Thursday Lunch 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice  Preschool & Study Buddies Closed	4  10:00am CLC Reserved, Private Event
5 Easter Sunday *See Holy Week Service Page  	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Small Group	7 9:30am Preschool Board 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00 pm Travel Ball Practice	9 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	10 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	11 10:00am CLC Reserved, Private Event
Preschool & Study Buddies Closed						
12 See Sun. Schedule 2:30pm Confirmation 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	13 11:00am JD Circle 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Small Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	14 1:00pm Janie Killian Circle 6:00pm Church League Softball Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00pm Travel Softball Practice Family Worship Night	16 3:00pm CLC Reserved— Boy Scout Event 6:00pm Church League Softball 6:30pm Finance Team	17 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	18 9:00am Women's Bible Study
					Spring Youth Retreat	
19 See Sun. Schedule 2:30pm Confirmation 4:00pm Children's Choir	20 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Small Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	21 6:00pm Church League Softball 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	23 4:00pm Pastor's Pickin's 6:00pm Church League Softball	24 11:00am Keenagers Lunch @ Talley House 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	25
Spring Youth Retreat						
26 See Sun. Schedule 2:30pm Confirmation 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	27 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice Small Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts	28 6:00pm Church League Softball 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 See Wednesday Music Schedule 11:00am Preschool Stretch & Grow 6:00pm Travel League Softball	30 6:00pm Church League Softball		

