



Tidings from Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
4136 Mt. Pleasant Road, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673
www.mtpmethodist.org

February 2026

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As I step toward retirement, I find myself lingering over memories — the kind that rise up unexpectedly and fill the heart before the mind can catch up. I think of baptisms and weddings, hospital rooms and fellowship halls, quiet prayers whispered in my office, and the sound of your voices lifted together in worship. These moments have shaped me more than I can ever express. Serving as your pastor has not simply been a calling; it has been a gift, one that has changed my life in ways I will carry forever.

The words of Philippians 1:3 have been echoing in my heart:

“I thank my God every time I remember you.”

I truly do. Each memory is a reminder of God’s grace at work among us — in your kindness, your courage, your faithfulness, and your willingness to show up for one another again and again.

Another passage that has guided me through seasons of transition is Isaiah 46:4:

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you.”

As I enter this new chapter, these words remind me that God’s faithfulness does not retire. The same God who has sustained me — and us — through every joy and every challenge will continue to lead this congregation into its future.

I leave with deep peace, knowing that God is already preparing the way for new leadership, new vision, and new opportunities to serve. My prayer is that you continue to love one another fiercely, to welcome the stranger generously, and to trust the Spirit’s quiet nudges toward hope.

Though my role will change, my affection for this church will not. I will carry you in my prayers and in my heart, grateful for every moment we have shared. Thank you for allowing me to walk beside you — for your trust, your laughter, your tears, and your unwavering support. You have been Christ’s grace to me.

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit remain with you always.

Christ Above All,

Pastor Byron

Sisters & Brothers,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to share something that the Lord has placed on my heart. First off, I want to say how excited I am to be your next pastor. I use the word “next” for two reasons. One: I am not new; I have been serving at Mt. Pleasant for almost two amazing years. Second- I follow a long list of faithful men who have faithfully served Mt Pleasant Methodist Church. I pray that God would use me in the same way He used John the Baptist to point toward Jesus. Church family, I cannot wait for what God has in store for us for years to come.

When Ashton and I were planning our wedding, we chose John 15:1-15 as our scripture. It’s always been one of my favorite passages because of how Jesus speaks about true Christian love and commands disciples to remain rooted in him. We chose this passage for our wedding because Jesus emphasizes the importance of remaining connected to the vine (Him). Those who are connected to the vine bear much fruit, and if you remain connected to the vine, you remain connected to His love. Finally, those who keep the Savior's command will remain connected to His love. Jesus then instructs his disciples to love one another as he has loved them. That was a summary, but I encourage you to read the entire chapter. It’s one of the most foundational texts of our faith, in my opinion. In it, you find a theme woven throughout. Here’s the theme: *Those who remain in his love can love others.* The first half of the theme precedes the second half because you can’t love others well without being rooted in the love of Jesus.

The word 'remain' suggests that something is already connected. For example, when you see a healthy grapevine, you notice that the branches are already connected to the vine. Jesus’s words in John

15 are directed at his disciples, who are connected to him in many ways. Some of us are connected to the vine, while some of our family, friends, & even neighbors are not. Maybe you were previously connected but have not remained in Him. There are people in our lives who need His love more than ever.

Sisters & brothers, I believe Jesus is commanding his church to be the place that connects people to Him & to one another. The Lord has been putting the word “connect” on my heart for some time now. I want people to know Mt Pleasant Methodist Church as a church that connects people to Jesus & to one another. My hope is that we are a church that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, people encounter the resurrected Savior and desire to love others. Friends, I pray this is your hope too. I can’t wait to see what God will do with a willing church.

Peace in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Kaleb

PASTORS' PICKIN'S

Come join us as we take a trip with Pastor Kaleb to find some “good eats” and just have fun together! The van will be leaving at 4:00pm on Thursday, February 26, with the “destination to be determined”. Call the church office to sign up to join in the fun. We will also be carpooling for anyone who prefers to do that.



Soli Deo Gloria

MPMC Music Ministry Happenings Dawn Broom

As usual, thank you, Church Family, for your support and encouragement of Mount Pleasant Methodist's Music Ministry. I believe the Lord has exciting things ahead for our joint ministry in 2026; let's continue to thank Him for all His blessings and praise Him for Who He is.

Last fall Janet Lutz shared an article with me that I found very enlightening. It was written just prior to the Advent season. Herein I will share a little of it with you and plan to share the rest of it with you in the coming months.

Why singing is surprisingly good for your health

David Cox

From boosting the brain to reducing pain, joining others in song can bring some wide-ranging benefits.

It's that time of year when the air starts to tinkle with angelic voices – or ring with the occasional lusty hymn – as carol singers spread their own indomitable brand of festive joy. All that harking and heralding is joyful and triumphant, but these bands of tinsel-draped singers may be on to something.

Whether they realize it or not, as they fill shopping centers, train stations, nursing homes, and the street outside your front door with jubilant song, they are also giving their own health a boost. From the brain to the heart, singing has been found to bring a wide range of benefits to those who do it, particularly if they do it in groups. It can draw people closer together, prime our bodies to fight off disease, and even suppress pain; so, might it be worth raising your own voice in good cheer?

"Singing is a cognitive, physical, emotional and social act," says Alex Street, a researcher at the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research, who studies how music can be used to help children and adults recover from brain injuries. Psychologists have long marveled at how people who sing together can develop a powerful sense of social cohesion, with even among the most reluctant of vocalists becoming united in song. Research has shown that complete strangers can forge unusually close bonds after singing together for an hour.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there are clear physical benefits for the lungs and respiratory system from singing. Some researchers have been using singing to help people with lung diseases, for example.

As you prepare for Sunday worship each week, remember that singing along on the hymns not only focuses your mind on God and readies your heart to hear Him speak to you, it benefits your body. God's design is truly amazing. He made us to sing; He made us to want Him. Why is that we get in the way of that grand and glorious design? Free yourself up and enjoy singing in worship. You may just feel better walking out of church on Sundays, ready to tackle your week.

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)



SPPRC
Staff Pastor Parish
Relations Committee

As everyone knows Pastor Byron is retiring. His last day in the pulpit will be February 8th. We are excited to announce that Pastor Kaleb will be our next Senior Pastor. We are a blessed church to have him, let's show our love and support. Great things are going to happen in the future!

In God's Grace

SPPRC Committee



FEBRUARY 8TH LUNCH: As everyone knows Pastor Byron is retiring. February 8th will be his last day in the pulpit. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us after the worship service that day for a “Happy Retirement” luncheon. The meal will be provided but we are asking for everyone to bring their “Favorite” dessert. Let's show Pastor Byron and Jana our love and appreciation for all they have done for our church Family!

Thank you!

SPPRC Committee.



Come celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season with us on Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00pm as we have our Service of the Ashes ..

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Women Circle News

Circle Meetings are as follows:

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

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

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

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Men

The Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, February 15th in the Christian Life Center. All men of the church are invited & encouraged to attend a great breakfast, special program, & time of fellowship. *Mark your calendar's for your annual group picture on Sunday, March 1st!!

Coffee is ready @ 7:00am

Breakfast @ 7:30 am

Cooks for February 1: Kevin Brady, David Carpenter, Brandon Cline, Coleman Gilleland, Brian Martin, Fred Roseman.



Our February Family Night meal will be on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:00pm in the CLC. This will be a covered dish meal, so bring your favorite dish to share as well as desserts! Hope to see you then!



Have you been attending Mt. Pleasant for some time now? Are you interested in becoming a member here? Please contact Pastor Kaleb or the church office. We will be hosting a new members' class starting on **February 15th** for three weeks. You will learn all about our Methodist roots, the Global Methodist Church, who we are here at Mt Pleasant, and ways to get involved! We pray that you will consider making Mt Pleasant your church home & join us for this special class together!"



INTERESTED IN SERVING IN WORSHIP? Sunday mornings don't just magically happen! We always need people to serve in multiple ways! If you are interested in serving in any of the following ways, please reach out to Pastor Kaleb or the church office! We need greeters, ushers, liturgists (reading scripture), and communion stewards! These are all fantastic ways to serve and play a vital role in worshipping our risen Savior.



CONFIRMATION 2026: Starting in March, we will be offering our next Confirmation class for anyone who is in the 6th grade and up who has not been through confirmation before. Confirmation is a process of discovering the basics of the Christian faith. This will be a 10-week journey with other students to learn, grow, and take ownership of your faith. We also need confirmation mentors to walk alongside our confirmands during this time. This is a great way to pour into the life of a young person and mentor them in the faith! Please contact Pastor Kaleb if you would like to attend the classes as a confirmand or if you are willing to be a mentor to these students.



Can you believe it is time for registration already? Beginning Monday, February 2nd, 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 13th, 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 2nd.

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 be sending in Valentines to their friends for our Valentine's Exchange on Wednesday, February 11th and Thursday, February 12th. The teachers will be sending home names of the children for their Valentines.

Our Safety Class this month is Fall Prevention/Playground Safety. Medic Melanie will be talking to the children about these safety concerns.

Sherrills Ford Pediatric Dentistry will be visiting us this month to discuss the importance of brushing our teeth and good dental hygiene. They are scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd and Friday, February 6th.

As a reminder, Amanda Watts 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. Parents may email her at a.mathiason@yahoo.com, if they feel there is an issue that is not being addressed.

The Preschool will be closed on Friday, February 13th and Monday, February 16th.

Amy Howard
Preschool Director

From the Admin Board

Season's Greetings everyone! I hope this correspondence finds you well. On Thursday, January 15th, our administrative board held our first meeting of 2026. Our Finance team reported that they are still in the process of adjusting our budget for 2026 regarding several items related to salary changes that will be happening this year.

Our Trustees reported that we will soon be removing some shrubs from around the property, especially ones that are close to the building. This will help protect our foundation from potential damage that the roots could cause. They also reported that one of our HVAC units needs to be replaced. The estimated cost for a new unit is \$18,500. We plan on having this taken care of in the coming months.

The Staff Parish Committee spoke about our Pastoral change that will be coming in a few weeks. Pastor Byron's last Sunday will be February 8th and we will have a luncheon following the service. Everyone is invited as we celebrate his retirement.

Some new business was discussed as well. Pastor Kaleb shared with us that we will have a "Spring Cleanup Day" on Saturday, March 21st from 9:00 - 12:00. Everyone is invited to come help with this day of service as we will be working on sprucing up our campus outside. We will have loads of mulch brought in and we'll need our members here to help spread the mulch around the sanctuary, narthex, and CLC. Lunch will be provided after the work is complete. We are also looking to replace the long and heavy rectangular tables in the CLC with some new lighter plastic ones that will match with all the new round tables we have. If anyone would like to donate to this cause please reach out to our church office so we can direct those funds to this endeavor. These tables are priced at \$99.99 for each one and we are planning on getting 11 of them.

In closing, I hope that this New Year is off to a great start for everyone and that you are all keeping warm on these cold winter days. Again, please come and join us on February 8th as we honor and celebrate Pastor Byron's retirement & his career in ministry and his years of service to God and others. Although he will be missed, it also is an exciting time as we look forward to having Pastor Kaleb take over as our Lead Pastor. He has a great vision for our future here at Mt. Pleasant, so I pray that we continue to support him in the year to come!

Yours in Christ,
Brandon Cline

Birthdays

February

- 1 Jewel Rathbone
- 2 Rick Hubbard
Hattie Sigmon
- 4 Kolton Buff
Steve Hodge
- 5 Katelyn Bell
- 7 Keith Gabriel
- 9 Pam Dry
Brenda Kisner
- 10 Ashton Setzer
- 11 Jonathan Campbell
- 14 Jeff Howard
- 17 Kendall Lawing
- 19 Carolyn Stutts
Mark Morris
- 20 Lexie Lineberger
Keith Lutz
- 21 Byron Alexander
- 22 Martha Hepler
Heather Roseman
- 23 Mike Graham
- 24 Frances Sigmon
- 25 Maxine Campbell
- 28 Susan Ensign



Anniversaries

February

- 14 Joel & Kathleen Morris
Elliott & Lounette
Forbes- Robinson
- 28 Bennett & Donna
Mauney



Our sincere sympathy is extended to:

Kenneth Ledford and Donna Bone at the passing of his wife, **Angie Bone Ledford**, on January 10th.

Brooke Dotson and Ben Edwards and their Family at the passing of their grandfather, Kenneth "Bud" Edwards, on January 16th.

The Family of Frank Carver, who passed away on January 20th.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.



A memorial gift was received in memory of **Bill Losh** by **Barbara Losh**.



Remember those in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Kingston Residence of Hickory: Pete Crump
 Hickory Village Memory Care: Marilyn Beardslee
 Abernathy Laurels: Joy Howard





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

1	10:00am	Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Kenny Chester, Kevin Brady
8	10:00am	Jeff Little, Kevin Brady, Wayne Merchant & David Carpenter
15	10:00am	Jeff Little, Pete Lail, Kevin Brady & David Carpenter
22	10:00am	Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Kevin Brady & Brandon Cline



GREETERS

Greeters

February

1	10:00am	Jack & Pat Baumann
8	10:00am	Jeff & Wanda Myers
15	10:00am	Jan Brown
22	10:00am	Brett & Terra Canipe

Sound and AV Techs



February

1	10:00am	Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
8	10:00am	Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
15	10:00am	Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff
22	10:00am	Drew Dotson, Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff



Children's Message

Children's Time

February

1	Chet Sigmon
8	Megan Logan
15	Jeanna Goodson
22	Pastor Kaleb

Nursery Care Givers



February *Amanda Kochosky will contact Nursery Care Givers

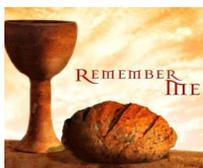
Acolytes



February

1	10:00am	Lily & Elliott
8	10:00am	Luke & Wren
15	10:00am	Katelyn
22	10:00am	Luke

Communion Stewards



February 8

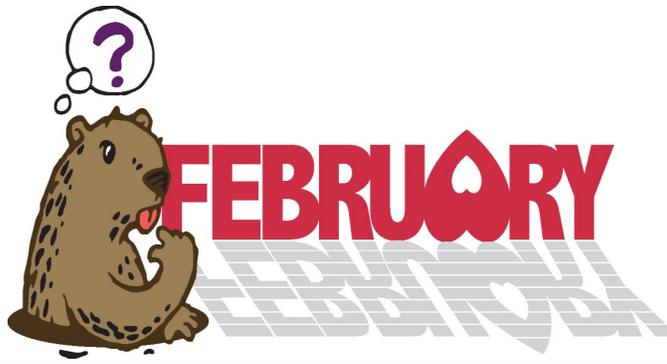
Pastor Byron and Jana Alexander
 Pastor Kaleb
 Steward: Ann Herron

Wednesday Music Schedule

6:15pm Bells of Praise
 7:00pm Chancel Choir
 8:15pm Living Stones Practice

Sunday Schedule

8:45am Discipleship Groups
 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
Cub Scouts Tues 6:00pm
Boy Scouts Tues 7:00pm

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 See Sunday Schedule 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	2 11:00am JD Circle 6:00pm Small Group Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	3 9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Board 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	4 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00pm Family Night Travel Ball Practice	5 8:00am Vets' Coffee Call 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm SPRC Travel Ball Practice 6:30 Exercise Class	6 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	7 9:00am CLC Reserved— Private Event 5:00pm CLC Reserved—SPRC
8 See Sunday Schedule 11:30am Retirement Lunch for Pastor Byron 4:00pm MtP Youth Children's Choir	9 6:00pm Small Group Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	10 9:00am Exercise Class 100pm Janie Killian Circle 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	11 See Wednesday Music Schedule 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	12 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Exercise Class	13 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	14 9:00am CLC Reserved - Private Event <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>
15 See Sunday Schedule 7:30am Methodist Men 4:00pm MtP Youth	16 6:00pm Small Group Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	17 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	18 See Wednesday Music Schedule 10:00am Keenagers' Planning Team 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Exercise Class	20 5:30pm Parents' Night Out 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	21 9:00am Women's Bible Study
22 See Sunday Schedule 4:00pm MtP Youth Children's Choir	23 6:00pm Small Group Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	24 9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	25 See Wednesday Music Schedule 10:00am Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	26 9:00am Exercise Class 10:00am Preschool Chapel 4:00pm Pastor's Pickin's 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice 6:30pm Exercise Class	27 6:00pm Travel Ball Practice	28