

Service Opportunities

Teacher Blessing Day for J. B. Watkins Elementary School will be Monday, August 28 at 8:30 am. It will soon be Back to School time and Mt. Pisgah is again celebrating teachers and staff at J. B. Watkins Elementary School. We will need volunteers to prepare breakfast food. A second opportunity to bless the teachers is to help set up their classrooms on Tuesday, August 29 from 10 to noon. Visit our website to sign up. Question, contact Helen Davison at 305-6903 or helen.davison@comcast.net.

UMCOR School Kits - Would you believe the school supplies are in the stores? YES! Now is the best time to get them while the prices are lower. This is the list of items that go into one school kit: pair of scissors (blunt tip only), 3 units of paper (70 sheets in a spiral notebook) or loose leaf paper, hand-held pencil sharpener (at least 1 1/2 inches), 30-centimeter ruler, 6 unsharpened pencils, 2 1/2 inch eraser, and box of 24-count crayons. Please bring your donations to the Gathering Room and place them in the wooden bins labeled UMCOR School Kits.

Small Groups and Meetings

Safety Presentation - The Mt. Pisgah Safety Presentation is open to any interested member of the congregation and all ushers. The presentation will be held Wednesday, August 23, 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Sanctuary. Topics will be evacuating our buildings, active shooters, simple first aid rules and a demonstration of our AED equipment. There will be an opportunity to practice using the AED. For more information, please contact Charlie Simmons at 794-2899 or Gwen Turbeville at 379-3671.

Upcoming Bible Study: *The Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament* - On Wednesday, September 6, we will begin a new study on the Old Testament. Come join us each Wednesday at 11 am or 6:30 pm in room 107/109. Visit our webpage to sign up or contact the church office.

Richmond District Mini Mission Encounter: A Call to Community, A Call to Missions will be Saturday, September 9 from 1 to 5 pm at River Road UMC (8800 River Road - Richmond, VA 23229). Mission Studies Offered include Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the United States (Red Bird Mission, Oklahoma, Alaska), Living as a Covenant Community, and Climate Justice. Contact Kay Smith at 370-1591 for further details.

New Small Groups Beginning in September - September 10 from 6:30 - 8 pm a new Grief Support Group; September 11 from 10:30 am - 12 pm Prayer and Bible study of the Gospel of Luke; September 15 from 10:30 am - 12 pm using The Workbook of Living Prayer. Contact Clair Cosby at 501-6961 for more information.

MOPS Kick Off: September 26 - Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) groups are gatherings of moms coming together for community, conversation, and friendship. They meet to support each other, share experiences, and learn from presenters in the field of early childhood. We believe a MOPS program at Mt. Pisgah will be a great way to invite and support young families in our community. MOPS at Mt. Pisgah is going to meet on second and fourth Tuesdays from 10 am to noon starting on September 26. To register, please visit www.mops.org/join. Use code OX59 (that's the letter O, not the number zero) for direct access to our MOPS group.

Around Mt. Pisgah

Parents of College Students - The UMW would like to communicate with your students throughout the year to help them feel that Mt. Pisgah is supporting them with their prayers and gifts. Fill out the paper that is on the credenza in the Gathering Room in a graduation hat box! Questions, contact Linda Uphold at 794-4209.

Pictorial Directory - So far 63 photography sessions have been scheduled for our new pictorial directory. Have you signed up yet? We still have many dates and times available. The first session will be Sept. 15, 16, 17 (Fri. Sat. Sun.) and the second session will be Oct. 7, 8, 9, 10 (Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue.). Portraits taken during these sessions will arrive in time for Christmas gifts. Visit our website to sign up.

Columbarium Niches and Cemetery Plots - Effective January 1, 2018 the prices will be changing. The price of a cemetery plot will change from \$250 to \$500. The price of a columbarium niche will change from \$2,200 to \$2,500. Questions, contact Dave Irby at dirby1206@comcast.net.

Prayer Concerns: Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks and Gathering Room. All information is confidential. Please keep these church members in your prayers.

Dave Barnes
Kaila Blackburn
Dick Bolon
Nelson Bowen
Dave Browning
Betty Dye
Virginia Ewing
Trudy Farmer
Bill Fortner
Janet Friedline
Elizabeth Gundlach
Lorraine Hesbach

Robin Hoerber
Warren Hoerber
Red Howson
Mac Jackson
Bob Lucas
Don Kennedy
Mary Helen Kennedy
Sarah Reed
Marie Strack
Diane Treadway
Millie Webb

Military Members

Spec Austin K. Brown, Army, Overseas
Col. Stephanie K. Gerber, Army
Sgt. Benjamin Gregg, Army, Schofield Barracks
Spec Jeremy Gregg, Army, Fort Riley
Sgt. Trevor Jerome, Marines, RS Albany
Pvt. Nathaniel Johnson, Army, Fort Jackson
Chp. Donald Smith, Army, Germany
Sgt. James D. Webb, Army, Fort Lee
Spec Jason Zinn, Army, Fort Bragg



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Milton Cheatham, who served in the Navy during WWII, by Marjorie Cheatham.

Praise for CARTIAS - Thank you for hosting CARITAS families last week. Your commitment made a difference to our most vulnerable neighbors. 138 volunteers spent 402 hours unloading and packing up cots, preparing and serving meals, entertaining the children, and spending time with our guests. Donations of money and supplies helped us care for their immediate needs. We were able to give them a safe and comfortable place to stay while waiting for permanent housing. Mark your calendars for August 11-18, 2018 when we will again answer God's call and open our doors to families in need.

We are glad to have you worship with us today. We invite you to make Mt. Pisgah UMC your church home. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Nursery Care is available for children age 5 and younger from 9:15 am until 12:15 pm. The church nursery is located in Rooms 101 & 103 in the Education building.

Blessing Bags are available in the Narthex for young children to use during worship. When the worship service has concluded, please leave the bag and its contents in the bin in the Narthex.

Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher if you would like to use one of these devices.

Large Print Hymnals are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one of these. *Enjoy our furnishings and help us keep them clean. Please do not bring food or drinks into the Sanctuary or Chapel; and please, turn off or silence your cell phones.*

Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Purpose Statement: To celebrate LIFE.

Love God
Invite others
Fellowship together
Engage the community



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Telephone: (804) 794-5856 - Facsimile: (804) 379-3970
Email: office@mtpisgahva.org - Website: www.mtpisgahva.org
Preschool: (804) 794-1720, preschool@mtpisgahva.org
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Cooper, *Lead Pastor*
Elvin Nicely, *Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts*

Welcome To
Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church
August 20, 2017
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Leader: God has given us this day for praise!

People: Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

Leader: God has given his Son to us that we might learn ways of peace and mercy.

People: Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Leader: Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

People: Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love. AMEN.

* Hymn No. 61

Come, Thou Almighty King

* We Affirm Our Faith

An Affirmation from Romans 8

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

People: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! AMEN.

* The Christian Greeting

We Hear God's Word Proclaimed

A Time of Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

Anthem *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?* Burleigh

Scripture 106** *John 12:1-8*

Children's Moment 11:00

* Hymn No. 365 *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

Message *Judas* Bob Cooper

We Make Our Confession

Come to us, Spirit of God. Breathe in us now. We sing together. Spirit of hope and of light, fill our lives. Come to us, Spirit of God. Fill us with the fire of love. Burn in us now. Bring us together. Come to us; dwell in us. Change our lives, oh Lord. Come to us, Spirit of God. Send us the wings of new birth. Fill all the earth with the love you have taught us. Let all creation now be shaken with love. Come to us, Spirit of God. Come Lord Jesus. Send us your Spirit. Renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

* Offering Response No. 94 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go Forth

* Hymn No. 389 *Freely, Freely*

* Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude

**Please Stand as You Are Able*

*** New Testament Page Number in the Pew Bibles*

No. 1-904 are found in the red United Methodist Hymnal

No. 2001 and above are found in the black The Faith We Sing Hymnal

† † †

Hearing Assistance Devices, Large Print Bulletins and Large Print Hymnals are available. Please ask an Usher.

Judas-Unbeliever

There are several theories to explain Judas' betrayal of Jesus, but scripture doesn't tell us conclusively. Scripture does let us know that Judas had a reputation for being greedy--for loving money, and we're told that he was a thief, sometimes stealing funds donated to Jesus for his ministry. Some believe that Judas joined Jesus' band of disciples because he thought Jesus was destined to become a great and powerful king, and he could see himself in a prestigious and monetarily rewarding position in his government. When he realized that wasn't Jesus' destiny, his dreams evaporated. Searching for a new way to earn money, he bargained with the high priests for Jesus' capture. But an even more significant reason leading to Judas' betrayal was that he remained an unbeliever-unconvinced that Jesus was the Messiah, despite hearing Jesus' teachings and witnessing his miracles, as one of Jesus' confidants. The other disciples called Jesus "Lord", but Judas called him "Rabbi", meaning teacher, and the others periodically made proclamations of faith in Jesus and loyalty to him, but Judas never did. There are strong indications that Judas didn't have a close personal relationship with Jesus. In the synoptic gospels, any time a list of the 12 disciples is given, they're always in almost the same order, and Judas is always listed last. It is thought that the order, first to last, signifies the relative closeness of their relationship with Jesus. The only dialogues between Jesus and Judas occur when Jesus rebukes Judas for his criticism of Mary for pouring expensive perfume on Jesus (a sign of his greed), when denying his betrayal of Jesus at the Last Supper and at the time of the betrayal itself. John 6:64 says, "Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him." But Judas allowed sin to enter in; it wasn't forced on him. He kissed Jesus in the garden--the pre-arranged sign to identify him to his captors. This was the ultimate hypocrisy, because a kiss on the cheek in first-century culture was a sign of respect, honor and brotherly love. He was later remorseful for his deed, but never repented, so his sins were not forgiven. Jesus said, "...woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born" (Mt 26:24). Sin is stealthy, and we run the risk of being judged as Judas was if we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior while our actions say otherwise.

- Marty Hines

Worship at MPUMC Today - Judas followed Jesus for more than three years. He saw lives changed in dramatic ways. But something happened along the way. How could someone be around Jesus that much and still not get it?

Next Sunday - He was a man after God's own heart. But he was man who grieved the heart of God as well. So willing to serve, but so self-centered, a man of faith and a sinful man-- David is a contradiction in so many ways. Does this sound familiar?

The scripture for next Sunday is shown here with its QR Code.



Scripture for August 27, 2017
2 Samuel 12:1-7a

This Week At Mt. Pisgah

Who are you going to Invite, Pickup and Bring to church?

Sunday, August 20

8:15 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
9:15 am Fellowship Time - CFLC
9:30 am Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am Fellowship Time - CFLC
10:45 am ARISE Worship - CFLC
11:00 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, August 21

12:30 pm Den 8 Bears & Den 4 Tigers Pack 876 - CFLC
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - Chapel
7:00 pm Staff Parish Meeting - 303

Tuesday, August 22

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
1:30 pm Staff Meeting - 303
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall
7:00 pm BSA District Wide Training - CFLC

Wednesday, August 23

6:30 pm Safety Presentation - Sanctuary
7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC

Thursday, August 24

6:30 pm Midlothian Ruritan Club - CFLC
7:00 pm Thursday Night Small Group - Kirns' Home
8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

Friday, August 25

9:00 am Christmas in August - CFLC & 107/109
10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall
12:30 pm CJW Bridge - CFLC

Saturday, August 26

9:30 am Richmond Scrappy Quilters - 107/109

The Mission Box Offering for August will go to CCHASM (Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry). CCHASM is a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, organization working cooperatively with government and community agencies to care for the emergency needs of the citizens of Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Prince George. CCHASM provides food, financial assistance, and career clothing to area residents who are experiencing an emergency situation which threatens their survival needs. Mt. Pisgah annually contributes 35-40 Thanksgiving Food Basket Gifts to the CCHASM program, and we also give financial assistance to this important effort through the Mission Branch and Mission Box Offerings. This organization is often the first and only defense for those in need in the community. Please give generously to this local mission.

Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—August 13, 2017

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
Attendance	64	50	180	294

We have received pledges of \$561,888 for the Ministry Fund (72% of our target) and \$212,776 for the Mortgage and Maintenance Fund (96% of our target). Thanks to those who have pledged for 2017. If you haven't done so, we encourage you to do so and become a part of God's work in 2017.



QR code for online giving