

Service Opportunities

Youth Car Wash and Bake Sale - The youth are planning a car wash and bake sale for Saturday, September 16 (with a rain date of September 23) from 9 to 11:30 am at Mt. Pisgah UMC to fundraise for our Summer 2018 mission trip. If you are interested in helping to bake items for the sale, please contact Kim Bedell at kim.bedell@gmail.com. Otherwise, please plan to bring your car on September 16 for a wash and pick up a tasty treat while you're at it!

UMCOR School Kits - Thank you to all of you who are contributing the supplies for the UMCOR school kits. At this time the MOST NEEDED supplies are: crayons, blunt scissors, sharpeners and paper (spirals and notepaper). Please bring your donations to the Gathering Room and place them in the wooden bins labeled UMCOR School Kits.

Small Groups and Meetings

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.

Prayer Ministry Meeting - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, at 5:30 pm in room 214. All are welcomed to attend.

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.

ECHO - Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:45 to 7:30 pm in room 301-302 as we experience and respond to God in a new way through storytelling and creativity. This small group is geared toward youth and young adults, but all are welcome to attend. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Rev. Amy Crisp at youth@mtpisgahva.org.

Confirmation Class 2018 - Confirmation is an wonderful program for youth, grades 6 through 12 (who have not previously been confirmed) to learn about our Christian faith, our tradition as United Methodists, and to explore their own beliefs further. This year, our Confirmation Class will kick off on Sunday, October 1, with an introductory meeting for parents and confirmands. The deadline to register is September 15. If you are interested in being part of the Confirmation Class of 2018 or would like more information, please contact Rev. Amy Crisp at youth@mtpisgahva.org.

Around Mt. Pisgah

Altar Flowers - The 2017 flower sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. We currently have an opening for September 24. Contact Marie Strack at 379-1281 for more information.

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.

Gathering our members/families for their pictures in Mt. Pisgah's 2017 Pictorial Directory is one way to preserve our heritage and history, and will reflect the love we have for the Lord and for Mt. Pisgah. Please sign-up today so that we are complete! To date, we have 102 members/families to be photographed. But we need ALL to be included to be accurate in our gift to Mt. Pisgah. If you are unable to sign-up on the internet, call our office Monday - Friday from 9 am to 1 pm, and William will assist you in getting your sitting reserved.

Calling all Mt. Pisgah photographers, parents, grandparents, and friends - We need those special pictures you have taken of children's choirs, handbells, puppetry, service projects, camps--whatever you have that you would like to see in our 2017 Pictorial Directory. Please send your pictures by e-mail to office@mtpisgahva.org, with the tagline of the activity.

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
Bill Fortner
Janet Friedline
Elizabeth Gundlach
Lorraine Hesbach

Robin Hoerber
Warren Hoerber
Red Howson
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 celebration of our 50th anniversary on September 1, by Bob and Sue Moore.

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



1100 Mt. Pisgah Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113
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 September 3, 2017 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: We are standing on holy ground.

People: **All those who have gone before us have witnessed to the love of God.**

Leader: We are challenged to be people of loving service

People: **Lord, open our hearts and spirits to accept the call to serve you with all our gifts and talents.**

All: **AMEN.**

* Hymn No. 2172

We Are Called

* We Affirm Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Proclamation and Response

Anthem *Talking with God Medley* Traditional
 Scripture OT 50** *Exodus 3:1-15*
 Children's Moment 11:00
 * Hymn No. 593 *Here I Am, Lord*
 Message *Bushes and Bare Feet* Amy Crisp
 We Make our Confession

God of love and mercy, be with us this day. We have faltered in our service to you. We create divisions between various people; we judge before we listen; we condemn before we make any attempt to understand. Our lives are in turmoil and we confess that we have turned away from you. It is fear and anger that too often surrounds us and our actions become based on those fears and anger. Slow us down, Lord. Give us hearts overflowing with grace and compassion. Help us to mirror Jesus who loved and healed others who were rejected by "polite" society. Remind us that we are called to be strong voices of hope for those who feel alienated and lost; we are called to be a home to strangers; to quench thirst and to give nourishment; to welcome and bring words of hope. Forgive us when we have forgotten these things. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN

* The Peace
 Receiving our Tithes and Gifts
 Offertory
 * Offering Response No. 94 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
 * Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving No. 2257 B, C, D
 Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
 Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord
 Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 The Lord's Prayer
 Breaking the Bread
 Giving the Bread and the Cup
The serving team at the far left has gluten-free elements
 Prayer following Holy Communion

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. AMEN.

Sending Forth

* Hymn No. 2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom*
 * Dismissal and Benediction
 Postlude Improvisation
**Please Stand as You Are Able*
***Old Testament Page 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.

Gathering at Table

The cloth of family is woven of shared experiences and time spent together. Whether we gather at table to partake of The Lord's Supper or for meals with family or friends in homes or in fellowship halls, there is an underlying power in those events. In the ancient world, fellowship at a table was an acknowledgment of acceptance, and was often the setting for introductions of two groups with differences-- to disarm them, so to speak. It served to soften both sides up in preparation for negotiation, because communication is the key to understanding. Sharing a meal is a way to touch each other's lives, since shared meals put the concerns of everyday life in the background and allow participants to relax and connect. There is something visceral about combining the smell and taste of food with the sharing of stories and laughter over meals; we lower our defenses and open ourselves up to new relationships. Food offers us comfort, and joining in a meal adds community and also an opportunity to be thankful for what we have. In this age of modern technology, electronic devices may bring us closer to the rest of the world, but they can make us forget the importance of shared time and space to connect with others in lives pulling us apart with competing distractions, so family meals should be considered a blessing, not a burden. The Bible tells us that it's important for us to gather together to encourage and instruct each other, as Jesus did with his disciples. Jesus' practice of "open" table fellowship was at odds with the social norms of his time--meals restricted to people of the same social status--because he came to minister to and serve the needy and marginalized, eating with Jews and Gentiles and social outcasts together as he sought to remove social boundaries--an attitude needed in today's divisive society, as recent events verify. To feed is to bless, so the act of gathering at table joins people with God and with each other. The sacrament of Holy Communion is a symbolic acceptance of the Lord's food and invites participants into inclusion in a larger fellowship of Christ's church. The Lord meets us at the table, where God's grace and mercy spill over like wine pouring from a fountain. The table is set for you, so take and eat and drink, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Mt 18:20)

- Marty Hines

Worship at MPUMC Today - God calls real, ordinary people into ministry each day. God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, but how is God speaking to us today?

Next Sunday - Faith is more than a belief system, it's a relationship. Jesus' prayer reveals that God desires to know us and to be known by us.

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



Scripture for September 10, 2017
 Matthew 11:25-30

This Week At Mt. Pisgah

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

Sunday, September 3

8:15 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
 9:15 am Fellowship Time - CFLC
 10:30 am Fellowship Time - CFLC
 10:45 am ARISE Worship - CFLC
 11:00 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, September 4

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer
 Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
 10:30 am Traditional Design Team - 217
 7:00 pm ARISE Design Team - 303
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall

Wednesday, September 6

11:00 am Pastors' Bible Study - 107/109
 5:30 pm Prayer Ministry Meeting - 214
 6:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study - 107/109
 7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC

Thursday, September 7

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry - 217
 1:00 pm Martha Circle - 107/109
 7:00 pm Preschool Parent Orientation - CFLC
 7:00 pm Thursday Night Small Group - Kirns' Home
 8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

Friday, September 8

10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall
 12:30 pm CJW Bridge - CFLC

Saturday, September 9

9:30 am Scrapbook Day - CFLC

The Mission Box Offering for September will be given to UMCOR Advance 901670.

We have witnessed so much destruction in and around Houston caused by Hurricane Harvey. Mt. Pisgah will be receiving a special offering during the month of September. If you would like to support this offering, please make your gift to "Mt. Pisgah" and place Texas Flooding/ Advance # 901670 in the memo. The Advance is a designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry. There are no administrative costs taken from your donation.

Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—August 27, 2017

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
Attendance	82	37	153	272
	Ministry Fund		Mortgage/Maint. Fund	
Funds Needed YTD	\$524,819		\$149,253	
Funds Received YTD	\$501,994		\$139,471	
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$22,820)		(\$9,782)	

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