

## 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!

**Buckets of Love** - In response to the devastation left by Hurricane Harvey, our congregation will be assembling flood buckets to be delivered to Texas and Louisiana. The 5 gallon buckets will be full of supplies to help residents clean up after the water recedes. A bucket, lid, and list of needed items is located in the Gathering room. Please take, fill, and return to church by Sunday, September 17 so we can transport them to the Conference Center. Most supplies can be purchased at the Dollar Tree. If you cannot find the recommended size then purchase a SMALLER size so it can be easily packed. Questions, contact Sharon Macauley at slmacauley@comcast.net.

**Calling All Truckers!** We need 1 or 2 persons with pickups to help deliver the Flood Buckets on Monday, September 18. If you are available that morning and can help, please contact Sharon Macauley at slmacauley@comcast.net.

## Small Groups and Meetings

**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](http://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 a 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.

**We are approaching our initial photography sessions for Mt. Pisgah's 2017 Pictorial Directory! Are you ready?** If you have already made your appointment for your family....great! If you still need a time for your family's sitting, it is not too late to get on board. Visit the church webpage to sign up. Or if you need assistance, call our office Monday - Friday from 9 am to 1 pm, and William will assist you. We need EVERYONE to complete this Directory as our gift to Mt. Pisgah and to ourselves! There are 116 members/families signed-up at this time; are you included in that number?

**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. 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 loving memory of Bob Duff by Delphine Duff.

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.

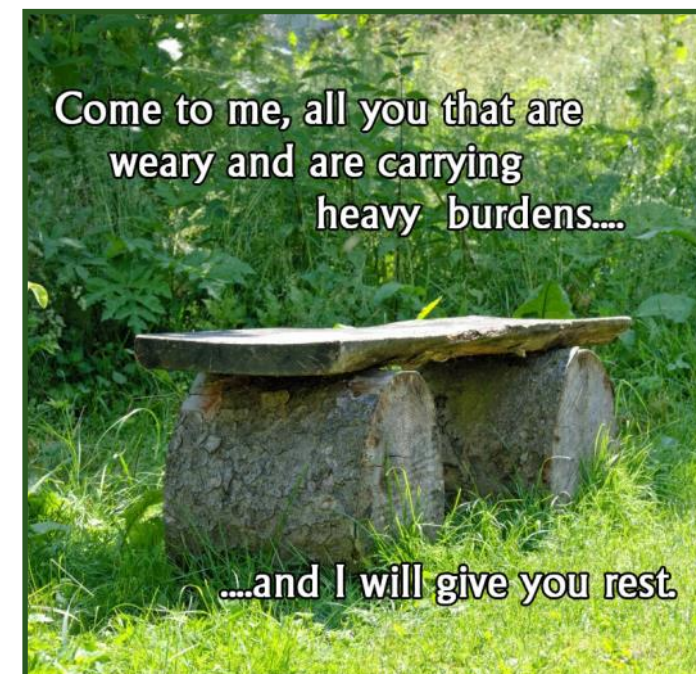
**Purpose Statement:** To celebrate LIFE.

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 September 10, 2017 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



## Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Manz

\* Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome this day to a time of rest.

**People: We come, bearing burdens and cares.**

Leader: Place your lives in the loving hands of God.

**People: May God heal our spirits and strengthen us.**

Leader: Trust in God who is always with you.

**People: Lord, this day we come to you in faith and trust for your healing mercies. AMEN.**

\* Hymn No. 569

*We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

\* 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.**

\* 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 8:15 *Lord, Listen to Your Children* Schrader  
11:00 *Prayer for Partnership* Mitchell

Scripture 12\*\* *Matthew 11:25-30*

Children's Moment *Blessing of the Backpacks*

\* Hymn No. 133 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Message *A Prayer for Relationship* Bob Cooper

We Make Our Confession *Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola*

**Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to ask for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do your will. 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. 2160 *Into My Heart*

\* Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude

*\* Please Stand as You Are Able*

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

*Numbers 1-904 are found in the red United Methodist Hymnal*

*Numbers 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.**

**The Yoke of Christ**

The oxen yoke on the altar this week is an ancient symbol. For the Jews, it was a symbol of submission to God. However, the yoke imagery in Matthew 11:28-30 is also a farming image—plowing the fields, preparing the earth for the sowing of seeds: “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” It’s clear in verse 27 that Christ is the only portal for our salvation—the only one entrusted by God with our redemption—and our acceptance of him as our Savior requires work. The disciples were all humble, uneducated men who abandoned everything to follow Jesus, and Jesus praises the Father for revealing himself to the humble (“little children”), rather than to the arrogant, pretentious Jewish religious leaders who rejected Jesus as God’s son. Ancient Christian writers often used oxen—humble, obedient service animals who toiled in the fields to fulfil their master’s needs—to represent all who labored patiently, figuratively wearing their yoke, submitting to God’s will for their lives. The oxen yoke is fitted for each of two animals in a team so that it’s comfortable, just as our yoke (of obedience to Christ) is made to fit our needs and abilities. This yoke joins us to Christ and doesn’t remove our need to labor spiritually to follow the requirements set down for us by Christ, bending our will to Christ’s will, but does give us a partner who travels beside us all the way, always there to ease our burden—an intimate relationship. The stoles worn around the necks of ordained elders of our church are also symbolic of the yoke of Christ and of their work in the service of Christ. Our yokes, as Christ’s servants, enable us to sow seeds for the Kingdom, and we are assured that, regardless of our current circumstances in this life, we have promise of ultimate release from our labor, in salvation through Christ. Only through embracing the words and actions of Jesus Christ can we truly know the extent of God’s love for sinners like us, as seen in His plan to redeem us—to be our place of rest, to carry our burdens and to secure our place in eternity with Christ.

- Marty Hines

**Worship at MPUMC Today** - 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.

**Next Sunday** - It is easy to lose our way. The path can become distorted. Jesus' prayer reveals that God desires to guide us on life's journey.

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



Scripture for September 17, 2017  
John 14:1-19

**This Week At Mt. Pisgah**

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

**Sunday, September 10**

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  
3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 344 - 107/109  
3:00 pm Messy Olympics - CFLC & Field  
7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack Leaders - 107/109

**Monday, September 11**

9:00 am Guitars for Vets - JB Hall  
9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 217  
11:00 am Staff Meeting - 303  
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall  
6:30 pm Girl Scout Leaders - 214  
6:30 pm Trustees Branch - 217

**Tuesday, September 12**

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen  
6:30 pm Stewardship Branch - 303  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall  
7:00 pm MOPS Planning Meeting - 214  
7:15 pm Nominations & Leadership Branch - 107/109

**Wednesday, September 13**

11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study - 107/109  
6:00 pm Carol Bells - 206

**Wednesday, September 13 (Continued)**

6:00 pm Cherub Choir - 209  
6:00 pm Youth Bells - Music Room  
6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study - 107/109  
6:45 pm Carol Choir - 211  
6:45 pm ECHO (Small Group) - 301-302  
7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC  
7:30 pm Mission Branch - 214

**Thursday, September 14**

7:00 pm Rebekah Circle - 302  
8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

**Friday, September 15**

10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall  
12:30 pm CJW Bridge - CFLC  
2:00 pm Pictorial Directory - JB Hall  
5:30 pm Modern Quilt Guild - CFLC

**Saturday, September 16**

9:00 am Youth Car Wash  
10:00 am Pictorial Directory - JB Hall  
10:00 am Girl Scout CPR & First Aid Training - 301/302

**Looking Ahead:**

**Sunday, September 17**

Flood Buckets Due - return to the Gathering Room  
3:00 pm Youth Band - CFLC  
4:00 pm Youth Group - CFLC  
5:00 pm Youth Choir - Music Room

**Wednesday, September 20**

5:30 pm When Two or More are Gathered: Prayer Gathering - Sanctuary

**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—September 3, 2017**

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
<b>Attendance</b>	72	36	138	246

	<b>Ministry Fund</b>	<b>Mortgage/Maint. Fund</b>
Funds Needed YTD	\$539,808	\$153,517
Funds Received YTD	\$521,323	\$143,474
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$18,485)	(\$10,043)

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