

Service Opportunities

Acolyte Coordinators - In January, Sarah Johnson and Jinger Williams will be stepping down as Acolyte Coordinators and we are looking for someone interested in teaching and assisting our children and youth to be part of Sunday Worship. If you are interested in working with young people and being part of this service that fosters their journey with Christ please contact Brenda Sizer at 938-8875 or brendasizer@yahoo.com.

Upward Basketball - The 2018 season of Upward Basketball will begin Saturday, January 13. There are many opportunities to support this ministry. Please consider including this outreach ministry in your thoughts and prayers. Visit our website for the 100 days of prayer. For more information, contact Charlie Simmons at csimmons1000@comcast.net.

Missions 'til Midnight is coming January 14 and 15! All elementary school kids are invited to join us for a night full of missions! We will gather in the CFLC at 5 pm on January 14 and end our time together at 9 am on January 15. In between we'll do LOTS of missions, eat together, watch a movie, have a sleepover at church, and much more! Cost for this wonderful time of fun and fellowship is \$5/child plus a donation of a pair of new socks (adult sizes). Friends are welcome – the more kids, the more missions we can do!! For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Sarah Gardner at rendragg@verizon.net.

Small Groups and Meetings

Wednesday Bible Study - The next Bible study will be begin January 3 at 11 am or 6:30 pm in room 107/109. The title of our study will be *Epic of Eden: Isaiah* by Sandra Richter. The Book of Isaiah is often called "the fifth gospel" because it has more to teach us about Israel's coming Messiah than any other source. Isaiah was courageous, uncompromising, and brilliant in declaring that "the year of the LORD" had come and God's people needed to either step up, or stand down. Dr. Sandra Richter will guide us through this amazing study and proclamation of Jesus Christ, which Isaiah issued nearly 700 years before Christ's birth. We will seek how to apply the message of this great champion of our faith to our lives today. Visit the church's website to sign up.

Thursday Night Small Group: *The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis - Join Deanna and John Kirm beginning Thursday, January 18, to discuss C.S. Lewis' powerful *The Problem of Pain*. Lewis asks the universal question, "Why would an all-loving, all-knowing God allow people to experience pain and suffering." We will meet Thursday nights at 7 pm in our home for this relaxed and informal 10 session study. Please contact us at kirmva@gmail.com or 378-5772 for more information. We'd love to have you!

Around Mt. Pisgah

The pictorial directories have arrived and are available for pick-up by those who had photography sessions in September and October. Directories are labeled with your names and will be available in the Gathering Room until the end of January. Our church office will have some extra directories available to those who were not photographed by Lifetouch, and they are available for \$10 per directory. Should you like a copy, please see William Marriott in the church office Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm.

CFLC Lighting Change - With the recent change to LED lights in the CFLC, we ask you to use the LED bulbs to save energy. Please use the lights with the pushbutton (smaller lights) if they are bright enough. The ones using the special key (big lights) use ten times the energy. If you need the extra light then the special keyed lights can be used. Please don't use both sets at the same time for very long. Thanks for your cooperation, the Trustees.

Altar Flowers - The 2018 flower sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. Contact Marie Strack at 379-1281 for more information.

The January-February newsletter can be found on the website. Printed copies are located in the Narthex, CFLC Kiosk, and Gathering Room.

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.

Joni Baker
Dave Barnes
Kaila Blackburn
Nelson Bowen
Dave Browning
Betty Dye
Virginia Ewing
Bill Fortner
Janet Friedline
Elizabeth Gundlach
Robin Hoerber

Warren Hoerber
Cade Holliday
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
Christopher Durand, Army, Fort Campbell
Erin McNeill Durand, Army, Fort Campbell
Col. Stephanie K. Gerber, Army
Sgt. Benjamin Gregg, Army, Schofield Barracks
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 praise and thanksgiving for all our blessings in 2017 by Les and Gwen Turbeville.

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.

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; and please, turn off or silence your cell phones.

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

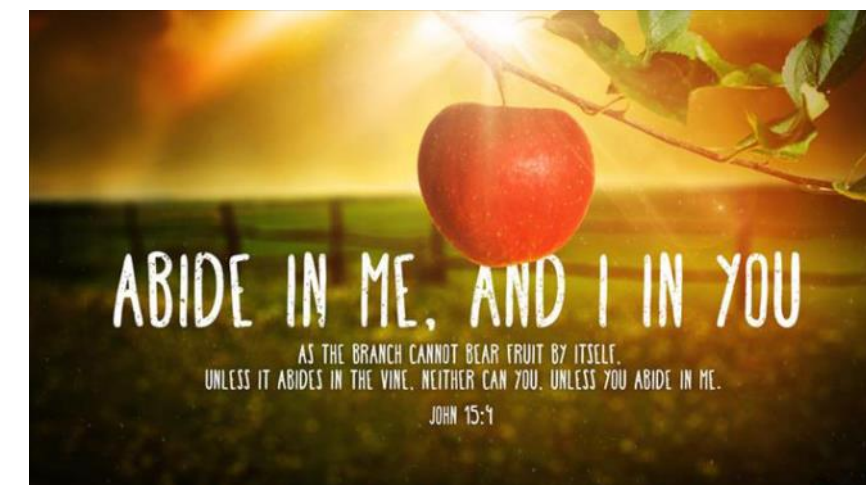
Purpose Statement: To celebrate LIFE.

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*
Zeb Roberts, *Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts*

Welcome To
Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church
December 31, 2017
1st Sunday after Christmas



Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Leader: Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies. O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace,

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

* Hymn No. 238

Angels We Have Heard on High

* 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 *Call the Baby Jesus* Michael Barrett
 Scripture p. 109** *John 15:1-11*

Children's Moment
 * Hymn No. 219 *What Child is This*
 Message *Abide* Bob Cooper
 Invitation *Wesley's Covenant Service*

Response 1: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Response 2: Lord, make me what you will. I put myself full into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Prayer of Confession *A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition*
 I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. 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. 246 *Joy to the World*
 * 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

Abide in My Love

Tomorrow, as we turn the calendar page to a new year, we have a chance to turn the page to a new life-looking to the Lord as our "place of residence". In John 1:38-39, two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus and asked him, "Where are you staying?"-- wanting to know where Jesus made his residence. That word "staying" (the Greek word "meno") is the same word translated "abide" in John, Chapter 15, meaning to remain, stay or continue. In this chapter, Jesus speaks metaphorically to his disciples about his coming death and departure, explaining to them their mission and emphasizing their total dependence on him personally and in their ministry-to bear fruit glorifying God. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) The vine is Jesus, while we (believers, disciples) are the branches. The Father, Jesus says, is the vinegrower--the gardener who tends the branches. He prunes the fruitful branches so they will bear more fruit, and takes away the unfruitful branches, throwing them into the fire. The unfruitful branches are people who outwardly appear to be followers of Jesus, but, lacking commitment, fail to bear fruit. Our fruitfulness will be seen in our transformed character and lives and in the fruitfulness of our witnessing for Christ and His work. Jesus talks about this in John 8:31-32, when he says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." "Fruitful branches" continue trusting (in Jesus and The Word), keep on depending and never stop believing-persevering in Jesus and his teachings, knowing Christ is our sole connection to the good life and His love. In the words of an unknown author:

Abide in me, as I abide in you;
 Just as the branch alone cannot bear fruit,
 Neither can you when you're cut off from me;
 Be fruitful branches, then, abide in me.

I am the vine, from whom all blessings flow;
 Source of all life in whom all good things grow;
 Life that dries up when you're apart from me;
 So, fruitful branches, now, abide in me.

Dry, withered branches, thrown onto the fire;
 Cut off from my life, they will soon expire;
 Green, lively branches bear fruit as you see;
 All will be fruitful who abide in me.

Marty Hines

Worship at MPUMC Today - We believe we are not alone. In fact, we believe the presence of Jesus Christ is among us. As we enter a new year, we can move forward in hope. We are connected to the Source.

Next Sunday - Relationships can be very difficult, especially when it comes to family. Time goes on, resentment builds, and confrontation becomes inevitable. How do we heal from these wounds?

The scripture for next Sunday is shown here with its QR Code. Scripture for January 7, 2018 Genesis 37:18-28



This Week At Mt. Pisgah

Who are you going to Invite, Pick up and Bring to church?

Sunday, December 31
 10:00 am Combined Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, January 1 - Happy New Year
 Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2
 6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
 10:30 am Kindermusik - 209
 10:30 am Traditional Worship Design Meeting - 217
 6:30 pm MOPS Planning Meeting - 107/109
 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall

Wednesday, January 3
 11:00 am Wednesday Bible Study - 107/109
 12:00 pm UMW Board Meeting - 214
 6:00 pm Carol Bells - 206
 6:00 pm Cherub Choir - 209
 6:00 pm Youth Bells - Music Room
 6:30 pm Wednesday Bible Study - 107/109
 6:45 pm kidzJaM - 211
 6:45 pm ECHO Small Group - 301-302
 7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

Thursday, January 4
 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry - 217
 1:00 pm Martha Circle - 107/109
 7:00 pm District Roundtable - CFLC, 301-303
 8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

Friday, January 5
 10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall
 10:30 am Prayer Group - Clair Cosby's Home
 12:30 pm CJW Bridge - CFLC
 4:30 pm Upward Basketball Setup - CFLC
 5:30 pm Drama Kids - 107/109

Saturday, January 6
 8:00 am Upward Basketball Practice - CFLC

Upcoming Events
 1/13 Upward Basketball Games Begin
 1/14 Missions 'til Midnight
 1/18 Thursday Night Small Group Begins
 1/28 Souper Bowl of Caring

The Mission Box Offering for December will be given to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) in Richmond. UMFS offers help and hope to children and families in many ways. Through the treatment foster care program, foster parents and children find one another and often go on to become adoptive families. Through the residential treatment programs at the Child & Family Healing Center and Leland House, girls and boys overcome trauma and heal. Through Charterhouse School, students with special needs and autism find help and success and through Project LIFE, teens aging out of foster care find new skills and a voice. Please give generously to UMFS during this season of family, love, and giving. This year's offering will be used to supplement the food backpack program for day students at the Charterhouse School.

Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence

December 24 Attendance: 10:00 am (193)

Contemporary Christmas Celebration (95)
Christmas Eve 5:00 pm (325) 8:00 pm (252) 11:00 pm (101)
TOTAL: 678

Defying Gravity Update - As of December 17, we have received \$546,394 from 153 families for the Ministry Fund and \$193,174 from 122 families for the Mortgage & Maintenance Fund. Thank you to those who have pledged; we appreciate your generosity. If you have not pledged yet, you still can. Pledge cards are located in the pew racks and in the Gathering Room (on the window ledge). We hope that all families will pledge so we can partner with God to accomplish great things for his glory. We have been blessed by a generous God so we can be a blessing to others.



QR code for online giving