

**Welcome To**  
**Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church**  
 May 13, 2018  
**Ascension Sunday**



**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.

**Service Opportunities**

**Scripture Readers Needed** - The reading of God's Word is a vital part of our worship experience! We are actively seeking people who are interested in reading scripture at the 8:15 am and 11 am worship services. If you would like to be placed on a schedule to read scripture in worship, please contact Doug Wagner at doug.wagner66@gmail.com by Sunday, May 20.

**CARITAS Prep** - We will be hosting CARITAS August 11-18. To welcome our guests, we will be assembling 40 hygiene kits. Toiletry donations are needed including "travel size" shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and razors. Please deposit items in the labeled collection bin located in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Macauley at 739-1616.

**Red Bird Mission Opportunity** - Douglas Macauley is coordinating a mission trip to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY from June 17 to June 23. If interested in signing up or for more information please contact him at ddmacauley@comcast.net or 380-8082.

**Around Mt. Pisgah**

**Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 20.** This year we will welcome 15 youth into membership. We will gather as a unified body of Christ at 10:30 am in the CFLC in order to truly welcome these youth and to show them the beauty of the whole Body of Christ here at Mt. Pisgah. Sunday School will take place from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. We are also reminding everyone to wear red.

**Graduate Recognition** - Are you or a loved one graduating this year? Whether from high school, college, or beyond we would love to recognize your graduate in worship on June 3. Please submit the person's name and the name of the school from which they are graduating to office@mtpisgahva.org by Sunday, May 27 to be included in the bulletin.

**Rolling River Rampage Vacation Bible School registration is now open!** This "preschool edition" of VBS, for children ages 3-5, will take place May 29-31, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Children must have turned 3 by 10/1/17 and be toilet-trained. Cost is \$10/child. Online registration can be found on the church website. This session fills quickly so don't miss your opportunity to join us for VBS!

**Opportunities galore at Rolling River Rampage VBS!** We need your help with our preschool-age VBS! This is such a fun time with our little friends and there are so many ways that you can be a part of this experience – for 1 day, 2 days, or all 3 days! Please contact Sarah Johnson at fsj\_va@yahoo.com for more information.

**What can you do to enhance worship at Mt. Pisgah? Join the Tech Team!** We need additional volunteers to run the sound board and Pro-Presenter software for each of our services. No knowledge or experience is necessary to provide this vital service—we'll teach you everything you need to know. Please contact John Kim at kirmva@gmail.com or 378-5772 for further information.

**Memorial Day Flags** - We will be placing American Flags on the graves or niches of US military veterans for Memorial Day this year in the Mt Pisgah Cemetery. If you have a loved one interred in our cemetery or columbarium who served in the armed forces, please contact Dave Irby at 306-9621 or dirby1206@comcast.net so we may honor your family member as well. We don't want to overlook any of our veterans! Thank you!

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

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

<i>Joni Baker</i>	<i>Warren Hoerber</i>
<i>Dave Barnes</i>	<i>Cade Holliday</i>
<i>Kaila Blackburn</i>	<i>Red Howson</i>
<i>Dick Bolon</i>	<i>Bob Lucas</i>
<i>Dave Browning</i>	<i>Don Kennedy</i>
<i>Betty Dye</i>	<i>Mary Helen Kennedy</i>
<i>Virginia Ewing</i>	<i>Sarah Reed</i>
<i>Bill Fortner</i>	<i>Bill Smith</i>
<i>Janet Friedline</i>	<i>Marie Strack</i>
<i>Elizabeth Gundlach</i>	<i>Diane Treadway</i>
<i>Robin Hoerber</i>	<i>Millie Webb</i>

**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, Germany  
 Spec Jason Zinn, Army, Fort Bragg



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our beloved mothers: Flo Moore and Mable Naylor by Bob and Sue Moore.

*Welcome!*

This morning at the 8:15 am service we are welcoming Kaitlyn Brooks into membership.



This morning at the 8:15 am service, Delia Duxiu Chartier will receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

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; 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*

**Gathering for Worship**

- Welcome
- Prelude 11:00 *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Angerman
- \* Call to Worship
  - Leader: Christ is alive. He is risen from the dead.
  - People: The Holy One calls us to worship and praise.**
  - Leader: Baptized with the power of the Holy Spirit,
  - People: we live with Christ in our hearts.**
  - Leader: Clap your hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy.
  - People: Sing praises to God, who fills the world with forgiveness and grace.**
- \* Hymn No. 133 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*
- \* We Affirm Our Faith
  - Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39 (No. 887)*
  - 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 *Down to the River to Pray* McDonald

Scripture p. 131\*\* *Acts 12:1-5*

Children's Moment 11:00

\* Hymn No. 2172 *We Are Called*

Sermon Series - *The Early Church: Presence, Power, Purpose*

Message *Praying Fervently* Bob Cooper

Prayer of Confession

**We confess, O God, that we are attracted to false gods and easy answers in life. We are vulnerable to temptations that could damage us in ways that are not obvious. Forgive us for that sin that draws us like moths to a flame. Restore us and fill us with godly resolve. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Sacrament of Baptism 8:15

Reception of New Members 8:15

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory 11:00 *Sweet Hour of Prayer* Eithun

\* Offering Response No. 95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We Go Forth**

\* Hymn No. 2223 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

\* Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude

*\*Please Stand as You Are Able*

*\*\*New 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.**

**The Power of Prayer**

In Acts, Chapter 12, God is instructing us through an event that occurs in Peter's life. It is 66 AD, and Herod Agrippa begins to arrest the apostles, fearful of the unrest they are arousing among the people. He knows that the Jewish leaders—the high priest and the Sadducees—had previously arrested all of the apostles and thrown them in jail, but God had intervened and freed them all. Herod wasn't going to let that happen to him, causing embarrassment, plus he wanted to keep the Jewish community happy, so he had 16 Roman soldiers guarding Peter, including 2 who were chained to his arms, even while he slept, and was sure even God could not orchestrate an escape. It appeared he was right, because on the last evening of Passover—the night before Peter was to be executed—Peter was still imprisoned. However, on that night, as Peter lay sleeping peacefully, an angel of the Lord appeared, and his chains fell away while the guards were kept asleep, and the angel told him to get fully dressed—no rush—and follow him, leading him past all the remaining guards, out of the prison and back to the city, before departing. On the surface, this seems like just another story of God's deliverance of a believer, but there is much deeper meaning; God is teaching us the importance of prayer, done correctly. God waited until the last moment to rescue Peter because He was testing the faith of Peter and the Christian community. It was important that they continue in fervent prayer—earnest and intense—remaining confident that God would deliver Peter from Herod's hands. Their "only" weapon in this battle was prayer. They weren't underdogs; they had God on their side, and God delivered. Suddenly, in the midst of their prayer, Peter appeared at the door of the house where they were gathered, and even these staunch believers were astonished to see him. They experienced a type of theophany—a sign by which God's presence is revealed to his people. Faith and prayer resulted in deliverance. Prayer as the "only" weapon overcame all of the preparations and precautions of the earthly ruler—who soon experienced a very painful death along with his army. Forcing Peter and those who prayed to wait faithfully, ultimately deepened their faith and commitment to their mission; it taught them patience, trust and perseverance, and strengthened their resolve for the future. Prayer done right is enough.

Marty Hines

Today is Ascension Sunday, and it signifies the transition between the season of Easter and Pentecost, which we will celebrate next Sunday. It celebrates the ascension of Jesus into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, having prepared and blessed his disciples for their mission of growing his church, leaving them with the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the future. Two men in white (angels) appear among the disciples as they watch him disappear into a cloud, and the angels tell them that Jesus will return "in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

**Worship at MPUMC Today** - "Prayer is not enough" we are told in the aftermath of tragedies. This may be true if our prayers are casual and passive. But when our prayers are passionate and fervent, prayer is the most significant thing we can do.

**Next Sunday** - Most parents can remember their child's first words. We can recall how our children began to speak and put together sentences. What were the first words of the church in its infancy stages? What do those first words tell us about who we are?



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

Scripture for May 20, 2018  
Acts 2:1-13

**This Week At Mt. Pisgah**

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

**Sunday, May 13**

- 8:15 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Fellowship Time - CFLC
- 9:30 am Confirmation - JB Hall
- 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 Troop 876 - 214
- 3:00 pm Youth Choir - Music Room
- 5:00 pm Youth Band - CFLC

**Monday, May 14**

- 10:30 am Caring and Sharing - Clair Cosby's Home
- 11:00 am Staff Meeting - 303
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Den 3 - 301/302
- 7:00 pm Nominations & Leadership Branch - 303

**Tuesday, May 15**

- 6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
- 9:30 am Kindermusik - 209
- 10:00 am MOPS - 107/109
- 6:15 pm Bear Den 8 - 301/302
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall
- 7:00 pm Finance Branch - 107/109

**Wednesday, May 16**

- 11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study - 107/109
- 12:00 pm Watlington-Bowen Circle - 214
- 6:00 pm Carol Bells - 206
- 6:00 pm Cherub Choir - 209
- 6:00 pm Youth Bells - Music Room
- 6:45 pm Carol Choir - 211
- 6:45 pm ECHO - 301/302
- 7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

**Thursday, May 17**

- 6:45 pm Cub Scout Pack 876 Meeting - CFLC
- 7:00 pm Chancel Bells - Music Room
- 8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

**Friday, May 18**

- 10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall
- 10:30 am Prayer Group - Clair Cosby's Home
- 5:30 pm Drama Kids - 107/109

**The Mission Box Offering for May** will go to the Annual Conference mission donation which hopes to raise \$200,000 from the Virginia Conference churches. Bishop Sharma Lewis is requesting contributions to support the following eight ministries: Cambodia: \$50,000 - Church Growth and Development and Community Health & Agriculture Development; Brazil: \$25,000 - Shade and Fresh Water Ministry with Children; Mozambique: \$25,000 - Lay Leadership Development; Native Americans: \$10,000 - Support for Volunteers in Mission teams working with Native American Ministry and Tribal Youth; Cuba Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery for Churches in Cuba; Haiti: \$25,000 - Funds to support Volunteers in Mission teams to Haiti; Puerto Rico Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery support for Puerto Rican churches; Moscow Seminary: \$15,000 - Support for student scholarships. You can write a check to Mt. Pisgah UMC and write May Mission Box in the memo. If you'd like to text your donation, please text to 804-294-3493. In the message portion of the text message, include the amount, space one time, then type annconf.

**Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—May 6, 2018**

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
<b>Attendance</b>	91	46	127	264

As of April 30, we have received \$281,224 for the 2018 Ministry Fund budget. Expenses through April total \$209,851 giving us a surplus of \$71,373. Recall we received \$40,000 in 2017 for 2018 which would normally be given throughout the entire year.

The 2018 Mortgage & Maintenance Fund budget has received \$84,816. This has covered our mortgage payments with the extra principal payments and \$22,034 has been added to the maintenance fund this year.



QR code for online giving