

Service Opportunities

Be a Backpack Buddy! Mt. Pisgah is partnering with the Midlothian YMCA to fill a dozen backpacks for elementary schoolchildren in need in our community. You can help by picking up a Bright Beginnings backpack tag from the Gathering Room, purchasing a backpack and filling it with the supplies listed on the tag. Please return your filled backpack to the Gathering Room on Sunday, August 5. You can also deliver your filled backpack directly to the Midlothian YMCA (737 Coalfield Road) by Friday, August 3.

CARITAS - Our church will be hosting homeless families in the CFLC August 11-18. We need groups and individuals to prepare meals and donate supplies or money. If you can volunteer a few hours that week to pack lunches, do crafts with the children, or spend the night, please visit the church webpage to signup. Let's open our doors and extend a warm welcome to these families in need. Questions, contact Sharon Macauley at slmacauley@comcast.net.

Music @ The Mines - On Sunday, August 19, we'll be engaging our community in a big way – with a community concert and family fun event featuring our own Arise band. The event, Music at Mid-Lo Mines, will be held from 3 to 5 pm at Mid-Lothian Mines Park on Woolridge Road. In addition to the band, we will have a variety of family-friendly activities, including face-painting and crafts for the kids, corn-hole, a raffle with prizes, and refreshments. Can you help us with this event? We need people to work at the event, donate snacks and bottled water, and just join in the fun and invite some friends, pick them up, and bring them along with you to the event. To help, please visit the Signup Genius on the church website. See you at the park on August 19!

UMCOR School Kits - It's back-to-school time already, and that means Mt. Pisgah will be collecting donations for the UMCOR School Kits from now until September 9. The list of supplies is available in the CFLC, Sanctuary, and on the labeled UMCOR School Kit collection bin in the Gathering Room. You do not need to buy all the items on the list. This is a great way to engage your children in sharing with others. Thank you for helping school children all over the world. If you have any questions, contact June Adams at 379-0096.

Our little ones need some loving! We are seeking 1 person to serve on our Sunday School nursery care team alongside Miss Tami, our nursery supervisor. You will serve on a rotating schedule, approximately once every 6-7 weeks, 9:20 am - 10:35 am. Job responsibilities include rocking babies and playing with toddlers. All nursery care team members must complete a background check. Please contact Kay Adams to express your interest. Our little ones thank you!!

Small Groups and Meetings

Healing Touch Ministry will meet Monday, July 23 in room 301/302. For an appointment call Ginger Ripley at 378-8175.

The Rebekah Circle will have a social gathering on Thursday, July 26. Any woman, of any age, is welcome to attend and find out more about our circle. We are having a pool party potluck at Lisa Shipley's house, beginning at 4 pm, with supper served at 6:30 pm. The address is 13107 Lady Ashley Rd., Midlothian. If you have any questions contact Lisa Shipley at 794-2892.

Everyone's Invited to Family Sunday School! On July 29, we will gather as a church family for Sunday School in the CFLC (B) at 9:30 am. ALL adults, youth, and children are encouraged to join us as we study God's Word together! EVERYONE is welcome!!

Continue Your Generosity

We're so grateful for the generosity of so many people who financially support the mission and vision of Mt. Pisgah. Your support allows us to partner with God and help feed the hungry, provide help to those dealing with natural disasters, spread the gospel in Cambodia through our sponsorship of our missionary, teach our children about Jesus, and so much more. As we head into the summer months, please remember that you have many ways to give, even if you are not in a worship service. We would like to encourage you to consider automating your giving. Our church website allows you to create an account and set up regular, recurring contributions. Online giving is safe and secure. It's a great way to be intentional about honoring God and being generous. **We now have a new way to give. You can text your donation to either the Ministry Fund and/or the Mortgage and Maintenance Fund** (text to 804-294-3493; in the message, type amount you want to give, space, and then type ministry or mortgage). For more detailed information about ways to give, please visit the church website - click on "About Us/Stewardship/Continue Your Generosity." Your giving matters. Your giving makes an eternal difference.

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
Dick Bolon
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
Bill Smith
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, Germany
Spec Jason Zinn, Army, Fort Bragg

Welcome To Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church July 22, 2018 9th Sunday of Pentecost



Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude *This is My Father's World* arr. by Smith/Hustad

* Call to Worship

Leader: We come to worship.

People: We come, seeking, and needing healing.

Leader: God's will is with us.

People: We come, praying and praising!

Leader: Blessed are you whose faith is in the Lord!

People: For in God's love and healing power we are strengthened to be of service to others. Amen.

* Hymn No. 89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

* We Affirm Our Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* The Christian Greeting

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



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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*

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 *God of Grace* arr. by Manz

Scripture p. 447** *Esther 4:9-17*

Children's Moment 11:00

* Hymn No. 140 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Sermon Series - *Top 10 Women of the Bible*

Message *Esther (#6)* Bob Cooper

Prayer of Confession

O Holy One, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailyness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade our own wisdom.

Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from our wisdom. Amen.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *Meditation* Massenet

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

* Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go Forth

* Hymn No. 467 *Trust and Obey*

* Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude *Morceau Brillante* Cross

**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.

Esther-Unintentional Heroine

King Xerxes, 4th century BC ruler of the Persian Empire during the Jewish exile, banished his queen for refusing to obey him and ordered the leaders of his provinces to send him their most beautiful young women, so he could choose his new queen from among them. Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman, was brought before him by her cousin, Mordecai, who had raised her. Xerxes was smitten with her, and, unaware of her ethnicity, chose her to be queen. Mordecai discovered a plot to assassinate Xerxes and reported it to Esther, who told Xerxes, crediting Mordecai, and the plot was foiled. Mordecai became the enemy of Haman, a high government official, by refusing to bow to him, and Haman decided to kill not just this one Jew, but all Jews. Haman determined the date for this extermination by "lot"-a drawing, "pur" in Hebrew, and asked Xerxes for permission to carry out this "pogrom"- an organized massacre of an ethnic group-promising to fund it himself. Xerxes agreed to let him destroy a group of "odd people" who didn't obey the laws, and all provinces were notified. Esther, stunned by this, approached the king without being summoned-usually punishable by death-in an attempt to save her people. Xerxes, pleased to see her, told her he would give her anything she wanted. Esther slyly devised a plan to outsmart Haman and Xerxes, while Haman made plans to hang Mordecai. Xerxes suddenly remembered (God's intervention?) that Mordecai had never been honored for saving his life and ordered Haman to personally see to that, right away, with specific instructions-humiliating Haman. Esther invited Xerxes and Haman to a dinner, at which the king again asked Esther what she wanted as a gift, and she replied, "...if it please the king, give me my life, and give my people their lives.", and revealed the plan for her people's destruction. Xerxes was furious and demanded to know who was responsible. When told it was Haman, the king ordered him hanged, and he was-on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Xerxes gave permission for Esther and Mordecai--now given Haman's position-to revoke the order of extermination and, instead, authorized the Jews to take up arms and defend themselves against their enemies-beginning on the day selected by Haman. The Jews in two days killed over 75,000 enemies, reversing the intention of the "pur"--days to be celebrated by Jews forever as the festival of "Purim". God used this unassuming woman and her talents and loyalties to save the exiled Jewish nation from impending genocide.

Marty Hines

Communion Servers are needed for the 8:15 am service on August 5. Please contact Carol Harris at carol23113@verizon.net or text/call 804-405-3754.

Worship at MPUMC Today - There are moments in life that are significant, but we rarely recognize them. These opportunities present themselves but the cost is high. The risk seems so great.

Next Sunday - Unbroken fellowship with God and all of creation. This is the opening scene of the creation narrative. But it would not last. Why not? Other influences led Eve (and Adam) astray.



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

Scripture for July 29, 2018
Genesis 3:1-7

This Week At Mt. Pisgah

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

Wednesday, July 25

7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC

Sunday, July 22

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

Thursday, July 26

4:00 pm Rebekah Circle - Lisa Shipley's Home
6:30 pm Midlothian Ruritan Club - CFLC
7:00 pm District Commissioner Meeting - 214
8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

Monday, July 23

10:30 am Caring and Sharing - Clair Cosby's Home
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall
6:30 pm Healing Touch Ministry - 301/302
7:00pm Church Council - 107/109

Friday, July 27

10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall

Saturday, July 28

10:00 am Richmond Scrappy Quilters - 107/109

Tuesday, July 24

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall
7:00 pm Connecting with the Community - 107/109

The Mission Box Offering for July is for CARITAS. Its mission is to provide immediate assistance to those in need through the help of over 185 congregations in the Richmond area. Through its three programs - Shelter, Furniture Bank, and Works - CARITAS provides material needs, shelter, food, job training, and school enrollment for children of CARITAS recipients. The final goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and restore stable, productive lives. Mt. Pisgah will host CARITAS August 11-17. Please give to this important local mission and participate in hosting and welcoming our families in August. 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 CARITAS.

Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—July 15, 2018

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
Attendance	100	39	162	301

As of June 30, we have received \$373,814 for the 2018 Ministry Fund budget. Expenses through June total \$354,022 giving us a surplus of \$19,792.

The 2018 Mortgage & Maintenance Fund budget has received \$107,468. This has covered our mortgage payments with the extra principal payments and \$22,649 has been added to the maintenance fund this year.



QR code for online giving