

## Service Opportunities

**Connecting with the Community** - We have volunteer opportunities here in our community with J. B. Watkins Elementary School. The school is in need of a few volunteers to help as lunch buddies for kindergarten children in the lunchroom from 10:55 am to 11:55 am through the school year. Volunteers will help with opening yogurt containers, etc. Visit the church webpage to sign up. Contact Helen Davison at helen.davison@comcast.net.

**Souper Bowl of Caring 2018** - This morning, our youth will be collecting funds to support CCHASM (Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry). CCHASM helps to care for the emergency needs of the citizens of Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Hopewell, and Prince George. We will be collecting spare change at all three of our morning worship services, so bring your spare change to spark change in our community!

**UMCOR Baby Layette Kits** - Mt. Pisgah UMC will be collecting for the UMCOR Baby Layette Kits until February 18. A detailed list of requested items is available in the Gathering Room. Place your donations by February 18 in the labeled bin in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions, contact June Adams at jpasea4ever@gmail.com or 379-0096. Thank you for your donations!

**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.

## Small Groups and Meetings

**Women's Anxiety Class** - St. Mark's UMC (11551 Lucks Lane) is offering a 10 week Women's Anxiety Class, beginning Tuesday, January 30 through April 3 from 7 to 8:30 pm. The fee is \$100 for the 10 classes. Please contact Marion Bartels at 314-4326 to register for the class.

**Watlington Bowen Circle** will meet Wednesday, January 31 at 12 pm in room 214. Bring a sandwich.

**Youth Super Bowl Party** - Join the youth for a Super Bowl Party at the Gundlachs' house on February 4. The party will start at 6 pm. Parents, please make sure to pick up your youth at halftime. Boys, bring a snack to share. Girls, bring a drink to share. If you plan to attend, please email Amy Crisp at youth@mtpisgahva.org to let her know. Amy will email all who are coming with the address information.

**Please join the United Methodist Women** on Saturday, February 10, for their General Meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 107/109 beginning at 10 am. Facilitator Kristin Blankenship will lead us in an activity to nurture your spirit and creativity. Come, fellowship with us and enjoy and hear an inspirational message. All are welcome! For more details, please see one of the UMW Circle Leaders - Shirley Williams (shirleyW8@verizon.net), Kay Smith (ksbridge@comcast.net), or Sherry Pitt (earlsherry@aol.com).

**New Grief Sharing Group Forming** - Our grief is personal—our feelings of loss. Our mourning is personal—what we do to express those feelings. This 8-session group will meet starting February 11 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Contact Clair Cosby for further information at dr.clair@comcast.net, or 501-6961. Please call Clair to let her know if a different weekday or time would be more convenient.

**Hearts of Justice Tea on February 17 at Ramsey Memorial UMC** - The speaker this year is Rev. Ben Campbell. Rev. Campbell is an Episcopal priest who for decades has been a champion of racial reconciliation, social justice, and ecumenical activities in Richmond. Registration will be at 9:30 am with the program from 10 am until 12 pm. More information is located on the UMW Bulletin Board in the Gathering Room.

**There is a Soul Art workshop** on Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in room 301/302. Take time to nurture your spirit and creativity as we gather, for our next Soul Art workshop! We will spend the day reflecting and connecting with each other as we use our hearts and hands to make our very own SoulBooks. This workshop is open to all adult women at Mt. Pisgah. Absolutely no art experience is necessary. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. A \$5 fee will be collected to cover the cost of supplies. Space is limited. Please register before March 3. For additional information or to register, contact Kristin Blankenship at twofromjmu@verizon.net or 378-0767.

## Around Mt. Pisgah

**Altar Flowers** - The 2018 flower signup sheet is located in the Narthex. Current available dates are February 4, and March 4. Contact Marie Strack at 379-1281 for more information.

**The next JB Hall future town hall meeting** will be Sunday, February 18 at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary.

**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  
Fran 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. We appreciate and thank the church staff for their commitment and dedication.

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*

Welcome To  
**Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church**  
January 28, 2018  
3rd Sunday after Epiphany



## Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

Leader: From the pillar of fire and cloud of smoke, God led the people.

**People: Praise be to God!**

Leader: Through the voices of the prophet, God proclaimed the way to live.

**People: Praise be to God!**

Leader: Through the power and witness of Jesus Christ, God offered us new life.

**People: Thanks be to God who has showered us with blessing upon blessing! Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 57

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

\* 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 *In The Valley Flows A River* Douglas Nolan  
Scripture p. 42\*\* *Genesis 45:1-3*

Children's Moment 11:00

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

*Sermon Series: The Burdens We Carry*

Message *Now What?* Bob Cooper

Prayer of Confession

**We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim our word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today's world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live.**

**Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. 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. 340 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

\* Dismissal and Benediction

Postlude

*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.**

**Jesus-Miracles and Message**

As Jesus began his ministry, he began to perform miracles. He calmed the sea, multiplied loaves and fishes and changed water to wine-even raised people from the dead, but most of his miracles involved healing. He didn't want to be known as a miracle worker, because his mission was to share the good news of God's plan to redeem mankind. His healings brought forth ever-increasing crowds and, out of compassion, he wanted to relieve the suffering of those who came, but his ultimate goal was to engender belief in his message. Isaiah prophesied that "your God will come...Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy." (35:4-5)-prophecies fulfilled with Christ's healings. Matthew 11:3-5 tells us that when followers of John the Baptist asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, he assured them, repeating Isaiah's words. Jesus, knowing human nature, realized he needed to perform miracles before people would believe. In his first healing miracle, a royal official from Capernaum whose son was deathly ill, hurried to Cana to ask Jesus to save his son. Jesus responded, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe." (Jn 4:48). Then Jesus told him, "Go, your son will live." Scripture tells us that the official returned home and-finding his son healed--he and his whole household then believed. Jesus healed suffering so that others would believe-would be brought to him and faith in his message, as John 10:37-38 tells us: "Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." It's not a miracle or Jesus' ability to perform miracles that's going to save us as individuals. It's our faith in Jesus and our obedience to him and the message that he delivered that will save us. Jesus, following many of his healings, didn't say, "I have healed you". Instead, he said, "It is your faith that has healed/saved you". Often, God knows that the healing we pray for isn't the form of healing we need, and healing may come in a different and unexpected form. The day will come, at Christ's return, when the faithful will all be healed and made whole.

Marty Hines

**Ash Wednesday Service & Soup Dinner**

There will be two opportunities for worship on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

1:00 pm in the Chapel  
7:30 pm in the Sanctuary



The youth will be hosting a soup dinner from 5:30 to 7 pm in the CFLC. We will take up a love offering, and proceeds will benefit our 2018 summer mission trip to Pittsburgh. Join us for some delicious homemade soups!

**Worship at MPUMC Today** - We long for wholeness, to be right with others. Is it possible to let go of the grief, the pain, the resentment we feel? How do we start over?

**Next Sunday** - Many of us carry burdens. We have wounds that are not seen. How do we forgive those who have injured us? Are we suppose to simply forget about it? Forgiving others can take time.



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

Scripture for February 4, 2018  
Genesis 50:15-21

**This Week At Mt Pisgah**

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

**Sunday, January 28**

8:15 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary  
9:15 am Fellowship Time - CFLC  
9:30 am Confirmation - JB Hall  
9:30 am JB Hall Future Town Hall Meeting - Sanctuary  
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  
1:30 pm Elbe Band Practice - JB Hall  
3:00 pm Youth Choir - Music Room  
4:00 pm Youth Group - CFLC & Rooms 301-303  
5:00 pm Youth Band - CFLC  
7:00 pm Pack 876 Pinewood Derby Planning - 107/109

**Monday, January 29**

9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304  
10:30 am Caring and Sharing - Clair Cosby's Home  
11:00 am Staff Meeting - 303  
4:30 pm Upward Basketball Practice - CFLC  
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall  
6:30 pm Troop 897 Court of Honor - Chapel  
7:00 pm Troop 876 Committee Meeting - 107/109

**Tuesday, January 30**

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen  
10:30 am Kindermusik - 209  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall  
7:00 pm JB Hall Future Committee - 214

**Wednesday, January 31**

9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304  
11:00 am Wednesday 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  
6:30 pm Wednesday Bible Study - 107/109  
6:45 pm Carol Choir - 211  
6:45 pm ECHO - 301/302  
7:00 pm District Commissioner Meeting - 214  
7:30 pm ARISE Rehearsal - CFLC  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir - Music Room

**Thursday, February 1**

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry - 217  
1:00 pm Martha Circle - 107/109  
7:00 pm Thursday Night Small Group - Kirns' Home  
7:00 pm District Roundtable - CFLC & 301-304  
7:00 pm Chancel Bells - Music Room  
8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

**Friday, February 2**

10:00 am Guitars 4 Vets - JB Hall  
10:30 am Prayer Group - Clair Cosby's Home  
4:30 pm Upward Basketball Setup - CFLC, 301-304  
5:30 pm Drama Kids - 107/109  
5:30 pm Upward Basketball Open Gym - CFLC  
6:00 pm Epiphany Team - JB Hall & Chapel

**Saturday, February 3**

8:00 am Upward Basketball Games - CFLC 301-304  
10:00am VA WCA Council - 107/109

**The Mission Box Offering for January will be given to the Pastors' Discretionary Fund.** It is used discretely by the pastors to assist church members who are in need of help financially, as well as members of the community with occasional emergency needs. Please help the pastors with this important local ministry.

**Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—January 21, 2018**

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
Attendance	68	80	188	336

**Defying Gravity Update** - As of December 31, we have received \$558,044 from 157 families for the Ministry Fund and \$193,724 from 124 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