

## Service Opportunities

**UMCOR Health Kits** - Mt. Pisgah will be collecting UMCOR Health Kits in March and April. A detailed list is available in the Gathering Room. Purchase whatever you feel called to donate and place the items in the labeled bin in the Gathering Room. Contact June Adams at jpasea4ever@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**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.

**Fund Raising Opportunity** - The Midlothian Ruritan Club is in need of church groups to prepare meals for the following meeting dates: April 26, CFLC; May 23, JB Hall; September 27, CFLC; October 25, CFLC; and November 15, CFLC. The Club will pay \$260 for 28 plates, set up and clean up. Contact Mike Colley at 467-1498 if interested or if you have questions.

## Small Groups and Meetings

**On Saturday, April 7, the UMW of Mt. Pisgah UMC will be hosting the "Richmond Prayer Breakfast".** The guest speaker will be Reggie Stewart, Chickahominy Indian Tribe - 2nd Assistant Chief - Tribal Land in Charles City County. Special music by Jack Ryan, Mt. Pisgah's Director of Music for Children & Youth. Registration begins at 8:30 am in the CFLC followed by breakfast and then worship (9 to 11 am). Cost is \$8.00 per person. Registration ends Monday, March 26. If you are interested in attending, please contact one of the circle leaders or pick up a form from the credenza in the Gathering Room.

**Richmond Bottle Club** - On Wednesday, April 11, at 7 pm, the Richmond Bottle Club will be hosting its monthly meeting in JB Hall. The Richmond Bottle Club is a non-profit organization supporting collectors of historical bottles, jars, and related items. Their goal is to promote the collection, study, and preservation of historical bottles and related artifacts and to share this information with other collectors and individuals. All Mt. Pisgah church members are invited to attend. Guest speaker, Phillip Townsend will be presenting a talk on the history of JB Hall. Feel free to bring any old store item to display and discuss. Hope you can attend.

**Time of Prayer** - During Lent, the chapel will be open each Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for prayer. There is no set program and you can stay as long as you'd like. A handout of prayers and scriptures will be available for your use. As you focus on spiritual disciplines during Lent, we encourage you to come and pray.

## Around Mt. Pisgah

**Holy Week Journey with Jesus** - The Children's Ministry team has prepared a special tool for all families with children for use this Holy Week. It is our hope that these "Holy Week Journey with Jesus" kits will help children grow in their understanding and appreciation of all the events of this meaningful week. Each kit contains a devotion and brief family activity for each day during Holy Week. **Kits are available for families to pick up TODAY and on March 25 during all worship services.** Please be sure to pick up your kit (one per family, please)! If you received a kit in a previous year, please be sure to pick up a "refill bag" with the needed replacement items.

**Will you help?** Mt. Pisgah is our church home and, like other homes, has to be updated and refreshed. The Trustees need volunteers to help identify and prioritize areas in the buildings and on the grounds that require attention. If you are willing to share your time and talents, please contact Jayne Shultz at j\_shultz@verizon.net or 794-0658 by Friday, March 23. Thank you for your support.

**Flowering the Cross** - On Easter Sunday the congregation traditionally brings flowers for the cross that is on the grounds. Sandy and Bruce Howells and George and Marie Strack will be adding greens to the cross the day before Easter.

**Easter Breakfast** - Our church family will gather for food and fellowship in the CFLC at 9:30 am on April 1, Easter Sunday. The Open Door Sunday School Class will provide egg casseroles and drinks. Please bring fruit or baked goods to share.

**Friday Fun Fest will be held Friday, May 4.** Mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of this wonderful outreach to our Midlothian community!

**The JB Future task force** has worked to inform the congregation of the issues concerning both the sale and retention of the building. Three town hall meetings have been held to encourage dialogue among all our members. Please be praying for Mt. Pisgah and plan to vote at the anticipated church conference.

**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  
Ed 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



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of our only beloved son, Jack P. Dove Jr., with love from the Shrewsbury family.



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Sherry Pitt and daughter Wendy Myrsten's birthdays today March 18.

*Welcome!*

This morning at the 11:00 am service we are welcoming Rusty, Tracy, and Rachael Spencer into membership.

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*

Welcome To  
**Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church**  
March 18, 2018  
5th Sunday in Lent



## Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude 8:15

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Eithun

11:00

*Exuberance*

Tucker

\* Call to Worship

Leader: The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

**People: We are called upon to give our lives to God**

Leader: We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

**People: Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.**

Leader: Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

\* Hymn No. 451

*Be Thou My Vision*

\* 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 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Kauffmann  
11:00 *Soliloquy* Helman  
\* Scripture p. 18\*\* *Matthew 16:24-26*

Children's Moment 11:00  
\* Hymn No. 297 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Message Sermon Series - *Giving It Up* Bob Cooper  
*Giving Up Our Lives*

Prayer of Confession  
**Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten journey; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task, we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

Reception of New Members 11:00  
Offering Our Tithes and Gifts  
Offertory 11:00 *Hear My Prayer* Hogan  
\* Offering Response No. 95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving  
**We Go Forth**  
\* Hymn No. 293 *Behold the Savior of Mankind*

\* 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 Already-But-Not-Yet Kingdom**

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand", John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed (Mt 3:2, 4:17). The meaning of the Kingdom of God is sometimes vague and confusing to us, as it was to the first disciples. Jesus used a parable to explain to the crowd following him that the Kingdom of God (Heaven) is "like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32) The seed is very tiny and easy to overlook, as is the early sprouting plant, but eventually grows into something that is very visible, impressive and welcoming, as the future kingdom will be. The Kingdom of God began with Jesus' incarnation, when God moved into our world in an unprecedented way, and, by the time of Christ's crucifixion, death and resurrection had grown into a plant, but the kingdom will not reach full growth until the second coming of Christ. The Kingdom was the reason for Christ entering our world--the focus of his ministry; his ultimate sacrifice is what opened the Kingdom to us. When we repent of our sins and are baptized and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, we are signifying our desire to begin our journey toward citizenship in the future Kingdom of God. This is exemplified in the way we live our lives in the kingdom here and now, laboring as members of Christ's body to bring justice, mercy and love to all. The Spirit gives us the ability and guidance to live by God's laws--even though we still suffer from human weaknesses--and allows the church to fulfill its commission to reach all of the world's people with the Gospel. Sin continues to cause pain in our lives in the present kingdom, but Christ expects us to respond to his sacrifice for our salvation with faith and repentance and by living out Christ-like love in today's kingdom. With God's grace, we will someday enter into the future pain-and-suffering-free Kingdom of Heaven. It has been said that we are on the right flight, but not yet at our final destination. We don't live in one kingdom and await another, future kingdom, but, rather, we live in a continuum, moving forward, however imperceptibly, as we partner with God to usher in the perfect kingdom.

Marty Hines

Only two of the six altar candles on either side of the Celtic cross are lit today, signifying that only two of the six weeks of Lent remain before we celebrate Easter. On Palm/Passion Sunday, preceding the beginning of Holy Week, only one lighted candle will remain, which will be extinguished on Good Friday, when darkness overcomes light, but only for a short time.

**Worship at MPUMC Today** - God creates life from death, nothingness, and hopelessness. We are used to thinking of life in terms of fixed beginnings and endings, but the story of Jesus challenges us to reconsider these categories and embrace the larger vision that eternal life begins here and now.

**Next Sunday** - The crowds loved Jesus on Palm Sunday, hailing him as an honored king. But just a few days later they would be calling for his death. Popularity and acclaim are fleeting. God calls us to put our faith in love and grace that will sustain us through the times when others have abandoned us.



The scripture for next Sunday is shown here with its QR Code. Scripture for March 25, 2018 Matthew 21:1-11

**This Week At Mt. Pisgah**

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

**Sunday, March 18**

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 80th Birthday Party for Sherry Pitt - JB Hall

**Monday, March 19**

9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304  
10:30 am Caring and Sharing - Clair Cosby's Home  
6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall  
7:00 pm Church Council - 107/109

**Tuesday, March 20**

6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen  
9:30 am Kindermusik - 209  
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, March 21**

9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304  
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  
6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study - 107/109  
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, March 22**

11:00 am UMW Executive Board Meeting - 214  
6:00 pm Den 2 Pack 876 - 214  
6:15 pm Tiger Den 4 - 107/109  
6:30 pm Midlothian Ruritan Club - CFLC  
7:00 pm Thursday Night Small Group - Kirns' Home  
7:00 pm Chancel Bells - Music Room  
8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

**Friday, March 23**

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

**Saturday, March 24**

9:30 am Richmond Scrappy Quilters - 107/109  
3:00 pm Hoover/Overby Wedding - Sanctuary

**The Mission Box Offering for March is for One Great Hour of Sharing.** Your gifts lay the foundation for all of the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) work by covering their administrative costs. This means that every cent of all other gifts received by UMCOR goes directly toward covering the costs of their projects because their basic expenses have been covered. This offering helps deliver hope to those that need it the most. UMCOR is not subsidized by the United Methodist World Service Fund or apportionment funds, so without your gifts, UMCOR could not guarantee that 100% of all other funds raised will be used for a specific cause. Let's work together and **raise \$1,000 for UMCOR** by the end of March. If you'd like to donate, please make your check payable to Mt. Pisgah UMC and in the memo write "March Mission Box." 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 greathour.

**Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—March 11, 2018**

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
Attendance	72	55	148	275

As of February 28, we have received \$141,583 for the 2018 Ministry Fund budget. Expenses through February total \$102,531 giving us a surplus of \$39,052. Recall we received \$40,123 in 2017 for 2018 which would normally be given throughout the entire year.

The 2018 Mortgage & Maintenance Fund budget has received \$41,287. This has covered our mortgage payments with the extra principal payments and \$7,130 has been added to the maintenance fund this year.



QR code for online giving