

## Service Opportunities

**UMCOR Health Kits** - Mt. Pisgah will be collecting UMCOR Health Kits in March and April. Please help with this important global mission. Thank you for your donations! You do not need to get all of the items below. A detailed list is available in the Gathering Room. Purchase whatever you feel called to donate. Put the items in the labeled bin in the Gathering Room across from the church office. Contact June Adams at [jpasea4ever@gmail.com](mailto:jpasea4ever@gmail.com) if you have any questions

**The Worship Branch** is looking for assistance with several areas of Worship. If you are looking for a way to become involved at our church, get to know more of the people and more importantly assist in making worship at Mt Pisgah meaningful. We are currently looking for Acolyte Coordinator, Scripture Reader Coordinator, and Arise Service Altar Coordinator. Contact Brenda Sizer at [brendasizer@yahoo.com](mailto:brendasizer@yahoo.com) or 938-8875 if you are interested in becoming involved in one of these areas.

**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 main lunchroom from 10:55 am to 11:55 am through the school year. Visit the church webpage to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Davison at [helen.davison@comcast.net](mailto:helen.davison@comcast.net).

**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](mailto: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

**The Spring Tea** will be held Saturday, March 10, beginning at 3 pm. Ladies and girls of all ages are invited to join us for this wonderful afternoon of fellowship. Please see the insert for more information.

**There is a Soul Art workshop** on Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm in room 301/302. 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](mailto:twofromjmu@verizon.net) or 378-0767.

**Get some exercise and help Mt. Pisgah!** If spring is approaching, then it's time for the Westchester Shamrock 5K & Kids' 1K Fun Run, on Saturday, March 17! Mt. Pisgah has fielded a team of runners, walkers and volunteers for the last two years and has won a \$500 prize each of those years for having one of the largest teams. Cost is \$25 to run or walk, \$15 for the kids' fun run, and free to volunteer. You can register at [www.westchestershamrock.com](http://www.westchestershamrock.com) (click Register Now or Volunteer) as part of Team Mt. Pisgah UMC (password: pisgah). Prices go up a bit after February 28, so register soon! For more information, contact Dan Farrell (runners) at [dfarrell999@verizon.net](mailto:dfarrell999@verizon.net) or Mary Ellin Scarberry (volunteers) at [mary.ellin@gmail.com](mailto:mary.ellin@gmail.com).

**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

**The Richmond Concert Band** will kick off their spring concert series this afternoon at 4 pm in the CFLC.

**Altar Flowers** - The 2018 flower signup sheet is located in the Narthex. Current available dates are March 4 and March 25. Contact Marie Strack at 379-1281 for more information.

**Easter Flowers** - You have the choice of a lily or a colorful mum and can dedicate it in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$12 and orders need to be placed no later than Sunday, March 4. Order forms are available in the Narthex, Gathering Room, or Christian Family Life Center.

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



The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of his wife, Linda, by Dan Stembridge.

*Welcome!*

This morning at the 11:00 am service we are welcoming Rose Marie Tronge and Isaac and Andrea Wright into membership.

### Description of Lenten Visuals

The six candles beside the altar cross symbolize the six weeks of Lent. Each week one candle will be extinguished, decreasing the light in our room as we near the darkness of Good Friday. Since this is the second Sunday of Lent, there are only 5 candles lit. The paraments and banners are purple, the liturgical color for Lent, and the banners depict the significant events of Holy Week, beginning with Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, proceeding to the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper, followed by the crown of thorns and scarlet robe of his trial and, finally, the cross and nails of his crucifixion.

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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Preschool: (804) 794-1720, [preschool@mtpisgahva.org](mailto: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**  
February 25, 2018  
2nd Sunday in Lent



## Gathering for Worship

Welcome

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

Leader: Today we step up a little higher on our Lenten journey.

**People: We are moving from contemplation to action.**

Leader: Are we ready to take the next step?

**People: The cross is before us.**

Leader: Come, walk together on this journey to the cross.

**People: Lord, prepare our hearts and our spirits for this next step. Amen.**

\* Hymn No. 504

*The Old Rugged Cross*

\* 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 *Witness* Arr. Jack Halloran  
 \* Scripture p. 93\*\* *John 3:1-17*

Children's Moment 11:00

\* Hymn No. 206 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Message Sermon Series - *Giving It Up* Bob Cooper  
*Giving Up Expectations*

Prayer of Confession

**You stop us in our tracks, O Lord, with your reminder that discipleship is not a "sometime" thing. We are called to place our whole lives in your care; to follow you; to serve you by caring for others. We confess that we are not always ready to do this. The demand is great; the need is great; our energies are limited.**

**Help us to place our trust and our lives in your care. Give us the strength and courage that we will need for this journey. Be with us. Help us to remember that your love is poured out for all your people; you are never far away. It is in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Reception of New Members 11:00

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

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

\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We Go Forth**

\* Hymn No. 585 *This Little Light of Mine*

\* 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.

**Nicodemus' Journey Out of Darkness**

Nicodemus thought he was doing everything right in the eyes of God; he was a leader of the Jews—a Pharisee, teacher of the faith and respected member of the ruling Jewish council—the Sanhedrin. Then Jesus came along, and His teaching and miracles caused something to stir in Nicodemus. John uses the recurrent theme of light and darkness to describe Nicodemus' situation. He first sought Jesus in the dark of night to question Him, because he had much to lose if the Pharisees discovered he was talking with the "enemy", but Nicodemus was also in the dark in another way, uncertain of the authority of Jesus or His message—not comprehending or ready to believe that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but accepting he was sent and enabled by God. He knew about God, but he didn't really know God, much like many struggling seekers in our world today. After that nocturnal encounter with Jesus in John 3:1-17, from which Nicodemus emerged even more confused, we hear nothing about him until John 7:50-52, when Nicodemus publicly defends Jesus during the Sanhedrin's meeting to devise a plan to eliminate Jesus, who was becoming an ever-increasing threat to their control over the Jews and their relatively peaceful coexistence with the Romans—risking condemnation this time. Nicodemus is headed toward the light, but not really ready to rid himself of what he thought he knew about God and receive Jesus as "God among us", while realizing that he wanted and needed to know more. By John 19:38-42, Nicodemus emerges in public view, following Christ's crucifixion, to give Jesus a king's burial, wrapping Him in a linen shroud permeated with myrrh. He is openly inviting ostracism by the ruling Jews and imprisonment by the Roman authorities, demonstrating by his actions that he is now "walking in the light", finally understanding the meaning of Christ's imperative that he must be born again. His journey was long, but we can learn from his journey that, as John Wesley understood it, conversion is ongoing and continual, meaning that rebirth can occur many times, not just once or "again", if we open ourselves up to receiving a growing, changing relationship with our Savior. God's grace allows us to "wander" on our faith journey, always sustaining us and welcoming us back on the path if we stray. Perhaps a questioning, uncertain faith at the beginning of our journey enriches the depth of our experiences as we walk the path.

Marty Hines

**The Mission Box Offering for February** is for Heart Havens. This non-profit organization was created in 1996 by the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Heart Havens supports men and women with intellectual disabilities by building and operating 12 group homes throughout Virginia. Please help support this mission in your own backyard by donating, volunteering, or advocating for Heart Havens. Please make out checks to Mt. Pisgah UMC and put Heart Havens in the memo. For more information: [www.hearthavens.org](http://www.hearthavens.org) | 804-237-6097 | [info@hearthavens.org](mailto:info@hearthavens.org)

**Worship at MPUMC Today** - Sometimes we just can't know what's coming next. As Abraham and Nicodemus discovered, God doesn't guarantee an easy journey. However, we can trust that God is with us, even in the most hopeless of places.

**Next Sunday** - Jesus broke all kinds of social conventions by speaking to a Samaritan woman. But Jesus brings a message of hope and freedom. By letting go of the artificial lines we draw to make ourselves feel superior to others, we can hear Jesus' call more clearly and respond faithfully.



The scripture for next Sunday is shown here with its QR Code. Scripture for March 4, 2018 John 4: 7-15, 39-42

**This Week At Mt. Pisgah**

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

**Sunday, February 25**

- 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
- 12:15 pm Veterans Luncheon - CFLC
- 1:30 pm Elbe Band Practice - JB Hall
- 3:00 pm Youth Choir - Music Room
- 4:00 pm Richmond Concert Band - CFLC
- 5:00 pm Youth Band - Sanctuary

**Monday, February 26**

- 9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304
- 9:30 am CM Advisors & Friends - 107/109
- 10:30 am Caring and Sharing - Clair Cosby's Home
- 4:30 pm Upward Basketball Practice - CFLC
- 6:30 pm Healing Touch Ministry - 301/302
- 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 897 - JB Hall
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Den 3 - 303
- 7:00 pm Vision Council - 107/109

**Tuesday, February 27**

- 6:30 am Ecumenical Men's Prayer Breakfast - CFLC B, Kitchen
- 9:30 am Kindermusik - 209
- 10:00 am MOPS - 107/109
- 6:30 pm Troop 876 Court of Honor - CFLC
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 876 - JB Hall
- 7:00 pm JB Hall Future Committee - 214

**Wednesday, February 28**

- 9:00 am UMW Puppet Team Practice - 304
- 11:00 am Pastor's Bible Study - 107/109
- 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 1**

- 10:00am 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 & 301-303
- 7:00 pm Chancel Bells - Music Room
- 8:00 pm NA Meeting - JB Hall

**Friday, March 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

**Saturday, March 3**

- 8:00 am Upward Basketball Games - CFLC 301-304
- 4:00 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor - CFLC

**Our Stewardship of Gifts and Presence—February 18, 2018**

	8:15	10:45	11:00	Total
<b>Attendance</b>	53	55	167	275

As of January 31, 2018, we have received \$82,272 for the 2018 Ministry Fund budget which includes \$40,123 we received in December 2017 for 2018 and \$42,149 we received in January. Expenses in January totaled \$47,652 giving us a surplus of \$34,620.

The 2018 Mortgage & Maintenance Fund budget received \$19,036 in January. This covered the mortgage payment for January with the extra principal payment and \$4,724 was added to the maintenance fund.



QR code for online giving