



This Fall @ Mt. Pisgah

Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church

September 2020

Pastor's Corner - Bob Cooper



We long for connection, especially during these difficult times. Despite the ongoing messages our culture puts out about self-reliance and being an individual, one thing we have learned in this season of uncertainty is there is a need we all share to belong.

Perhaps this is why Paul went to such lengths to remind us of our connectivity as the Body of Christ. We have a tendency to wander away. While we may think we are fine on our own, the truth is we need each other.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27)

The Christian life is not merely an individual journey. We are not built that way. Our faith isn't merely expressed solely in individual terms. We are a body, a tribe, a people. We are a community of faith, a fellowship of believers. This is the truth: when we are connected, we are stronger.

I am excited about the various ways Mt. Pisgah offers for us to strengthen our bonds of fellowship. This is an opportunity to remain connected to others. As the fall begins, take a moment to consider how your faith can be nurtured in spending time with others. While we continue to follow the requirements of the Virginia Conference for in-person worship services and building usage, we are pleased to announce that staff-led events will be resuming in the fall.

Let's stay connected.

Worship Schedule

Our next in-person worship service is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, at 10:30 am in the Christian Family Life Center. Details on how to sign up will be coming soon.



Our plan is to offer in-person worship services at least once a month. Details on how to sign up will come out closer to each date. We look forward to seeing you at our in-person worship services.

Online worship will continue to be available each week.

Children's Sunday School

Any Time is Sunday School Time!
Check out our virtual
Sunday School classroom
when it fits your schedule!
Click [here](#) to explore.



Trunk or Treat CAR-nival Saturday, October 31 2:00-4:00 pm



Come join us for an afternoon of fun as we welcome the community for Trunk or Treat! This will be a safe, no-contact event in our parking lot. Members of our MP church family are asked to decorate their trunks and greet our friends and neighbors as they drive through the parking lot. No candy will be distributed from the individual trunks. Children will receive a pre-assembled bag of goodies as their vehicle exits the parking lot.

Donations of candy will be collected during October; more information will be available soon, along with a sign-up for decorated trunks. We anticipate a strong turnout from the community for this event, so we need your support to make this a wonderful day for everyone!



THIS IS MOTHERHOOD

MOPS is meeting on Zoom!
Every other Tuesday evening at 8 pm,
starting September 15.

ALL moms are welcome - you don't have to be a member of
MOPS to participate this Fall!

For more information, please contact Erika MacCormac at
mops@mtpisgahva.org



Looking for Community: Small Groups



Are you longing for a deeper connection to your church in this time of quarantine and isolation? One of the ways that we can foster pockets of community during these times is through small group ministry.

Small groups are ways for us to come together and get to know each other on a deeper level. They can be purely fellowship-oriented--focused on sharing a meal together or a common interest--or they can be a chance to dive deeper into our faith--doing a Bible or topical study together. They can meet in homes, in backyards, in cul-de-sacs, at the local park, or online. The possibilities are endless.

As we kick off our small group ministry, we are looking for people who would like to serve as leaders. As a leader, you determine the location, date, and time that work best for you. We will then use that information to invite others to join your group. If you are interested in leading a small group, please email Amy Crisp at youth@mtpisgahva.org.



Virtual Youth Kick Off

Sunday, September 13 at 4 pm via Zoom

Ready to kick off another amazing youth ministry year?! On Sunday, September 13 at 4 pm, we will come together virtually to participate in a cooking competition like no other...

CHOPPED: Quarantine Edition!

You will need to have each of the following ingredients on hand for the competition:

- Pizza dough (premade or make your own)
- Potato chips (any kind)
- Apples (any kind)
- Pretzels
- Chocolate Chips
- Pre-cooked chicken (canned, shredded, leftover, etc.)

You will also need a family member or a friend who can be present to be your resident judge.

The Zoom link will be sent out a week before the event. Contact Amy Crisp at youth@mtpisgahva.org if you have any questions.



Music Ministry Updates

Carol Bells

Carol bells is led by Kay Adams and will consist of 3rd-5th graders. Because of COVID restrictions it is not possible to work with new ringers (2nd graders). We will be meeting in room 211 beginning Sunday, September 13, at 2 pm.

Youth Bells

Youth bells is led by Kirby Gundlach and consists of 6th-12th graders. We will be meeting in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, September 13, at 2 pm.

Carol Choir and Cherub Choir

In place of physically meeting we will be continuing our musical scripture series on Zoom. Carol choir and cherub choir will be a part of the same zoom session. We will be meeting via Zoom beginning Wednesday, September 16, at 7 pm.

Youth Choir and Youth Band

As of right now, youth choir and band will not be meeting because of COVID regulations. This may change.

Contacts:

Kirby Gundlach - childyouthmusic@mtpisgahva.org

Kay Adams - children@mtpisgahva.org



Launching: Online Youth Ministry Community

In my years of doing youth ministry, I've seen people come and go, and I've come to discover that the answer to one question determines whether someone will stay connected to church. The question is this: Are you connected to our church community?

During quarantine and COVID, we are all struggling to feel connected to our church community, and our youth are no exception. God created us to do life together, in community, but that is hard to accomplish when we cannot be together physically.

If you miss Sunday morning worship, Youth Sunday school, or Youth Group, you begin to feel disconnected from church and from our youth ministries. Most people equate being a member of a church or youth ministry with attending events and programs at a church building. But our ministry is not a building. Quarantine and COVID have taught us that. The building is simply where we gather; our ministry is the community of people who are connected to our purpose... and to each other. It is our goal to build a youth ministry where our youth can access the support they need to grow spiritually and face life's challenges with the support of their peers and trusted adults by their side.

So I'm excited to announce that we are launching a new Facebook Group where our youth can stay connected to one another and to our leaders. For those who may be unfamiliar with Facebook Groups, ours will be visible to the public but remain private. This means that everyone can search for and find our group, but only members of the group will be able to see and comment on the content posted.

An added bonus: with our new group, youth will be able to invite their friends to connect with our ministry in a way that meets them where they are as well. It's going to be an important companion to our virtual gatherings because even if you can't attend our Zoom calls, you can still be present with us and feel a part of our youth ministry family.

Each week, we will post a link to Sunday's worship services, youth group recaps, discussion starters, discipleship challenges, and more. We may even host some Facebook Live events. It is a space to encourage, pray, and grow as disciples alongside each other. The goal is to create a youth ministry community that can engage beyond our regularly scheduled programs and events, beyond our "walls."

We will officially launch our new Youth Facebook Group on Sunday, September 6. The link to request to join is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mpumcyouthministryonline>

Please consider creating a Facebook account for your youth, if they don't already have one. We would prefer they use their own account so that they feel this is a safe space. Besides Amy Crisp, there will be other youth ministry (adult) leaders present to participate and support our youth. We are excited to explore this new online youth ministry community and its possibilities together!