



# Mt. Pleasant UMC

## Message from the Pastor

Life along with faith is a journey, except for the fact that everyone is on the journey of life, and only a few are on the journey of faith. Christ reminds us in Matthew 7 "For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

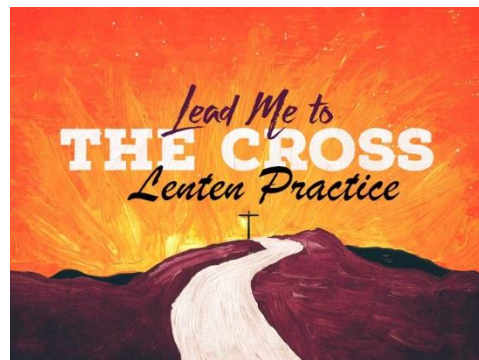
As we travel through this year, moving on from Advent and Christmas traveling now through the season after Epiphany, we are traveling on the narrow road, walking with Jesus. As we journey with Christ on the road to the cross, we are preparing to enter the season of Lent and then Easter. This time in our life and also our calendar, provides us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the road that is still ahead of us.

On Ash Wednesday, we will be reminded of our mortality, reminded of God's immense love for us. We will reflect on the custom of the Early Church to use Lent as a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. It was and still should be, a time when a person's attention should be on reconciliation by penitence and forgiveness, self-examination and self-denial, meditating on God's word and prayer. But we are not alone on this trip or journey, Jesus took the same hard steps in life that we are going through, He walked the hard path of temptation and doubt, uncertainty and faith.

In just a couple of weeks, we will be adding "Lead Me To The Cross Lenten Practice" to our worship service. We will reflect on the major acts that are essential in the Christian life, especially during the Season of Lent; Repentance, Self-Denial, Penance, Almsgiving, and Prayer. We are encouraged to find meaningful ways to confront our own sinfulness, and to give thanks for the gift of salvation that has been made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection.

This is also a great season of transition for all of us, with the rapid succession from Lent to Easter, it is also the appointment season in the United Methodist Church. The recent announcement of my new appointment in Jersey Shore as of the first of July will also trigger several actions of preparation and transition actions to help prepare the church, leadership, and laity of the church to be able to welcome and assist the new incoming pastor when one is appointed. So I ask all of you to continue to be in prayer for both of our churches, for the SPRC committee who will be working with the District Superintendent, along with the Bishop and cabinet. We pray that the Holy Spirit is heavily involved with the discernment process of selecting and appointing a new pastor. We pray that during this season of lent, that we might experience personal growth and healing both emotionally and spiritually.

Over the past four years, we have experienced many adventures and journeys. We have laughed, cried, and supported each through a lot over the past couple of years. I am very thankful for all the time that we have had; I have enjoyed and learned a tremendous amount while serving at the Susquehanna Valley Parish. My prayer for all of you is that growth, desire and compassion for Christ continue to be with you on your own journey in faith and life as you also are lead closer to the redemptive cross of Jesus Christ. The Christmas star of Bethlehem and the cross in the front of our sanctuary reminds us that the two greatest moments in human history are tied and connected to each other, just like we are tied and connected not only with each other, but with God also.



***"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."  
2 Corinthians 2:14***

## **Special Services**

February 14 7pm Ash Wednesday Service at MP  
March 25 9am Palm Sunday Service  
March 29 7pm Maundy Thursday Service at KG  
March 30 7pm Good Friday Service at MP  
April 1 7am Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast at MP  
April 1 9am Easter Services



### **February**

Sun Feb 11 7am-8am Men's Breakfast @ Jay's  
Tue Feb 13 7pm-8pm Ad Council  
Wed Feb 14 Valentine's Day  
Wed Feb 14 7pm-8pm Ash Wednesday Services @ MP  
Mon Feb 19 Presidents' Day  
Sat Feb 24 6pm-9pm Family Movie Night – “The Star”  
Mon Feb 26 7pm-8pm Parsonage Trustee Meeting

### **March**

Mon Mar 5 7pm-8pm SPRC Meeting @ MP  
Sun Mar 11 Daylight Saving Time ends  
Sun Mar 11 7am-8am Men's Breakfast @ Jay's  
Tue Mar 13 7pm-8pm Ad Council  
Fri Mar 16 & 17 Egg Making  
Tue Mar 20 possible Movie Night at the theater "I Can Only Imagine"  
Fri Mar 23 & 24 Egg Making  
Thu Mar 29 7pm-8pm Maundy Thursday services @ KG  
Fri Mar 30 7pm-8pm Good Friday service @ MP

### **April**

Sun Apr 1 possible Escape room – date to be determined  
7am Easter Sunrise Service  
Easter Service  
Children's Easter Egg Hunt  
Sun Apr 8 7am-8am Men's Breakfast @ Jay's  
Tue Apr 10 7pm-8pm Ad Council  
Sat Apr 28 9am-5pm – Navigate at Lewisburg High School

### **May**

possible paint night in Sunbury – date TBA  
Tue May 8 7pm-8pm Ad Council  
Sun May 13 Mother's Day  
Sun May 13 7am-8am Men's Breakfast @ Jay's  
Mon May 14 7pm-8pm SPRC Meeting @ KG  
Sun May 20 possible choir concert in the evening  
Mon May 28 Memorial Day  
May 31-Jun 3 Annual Conference



### **June**

Sun Jun 3 Graduate recognition during worship  
Jun 4 – 8 VBS  
Sat Jun 9 6pm - Dinner night out at Hoss's (date may change)  
Sun Jun 10 7am-8am Men's Breakfast @ Jay's  
VBS closing program  
Tue Jun 12 7pm-8pm Ad Council  
Sun Jun 17 Father's Day

## Up and Coming Sermon Topics (subject to change)

Date		Scripture & Sermon Topic	Memory Verse
2/14	Ash Wednesday 7pm @ MP	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 <b>Reconciled in Every Way</b>	Matthew 5:23-24
2/18	Presidents Day (Monday) - Lent - REPENTANCE	1 Peter 3:18-22 <b>Of Good Conscience</b>	Ezekiel 14:6
2/25	Lent - SELF-DENIAL	Mark 8:31-38 <b>Lose Yourself</b>	John 3:30-31
3/4	Lent - PENANCE <b>Communion</b>	John 2:13-22 <b>You Can't Buy It!</b>	Proverbs 16:6
3/11	UMCOR Sunday Lent - ALMSGIVING Daylight Saving Ends	John 3:14-21 <b>God Gave</b>	Luke 10:34-35
3/18	Lent - PRAYER	Hebrews 5:5-10 <b>Through Tears He Learned Obedience</b>	Philippians 4:6
3/25	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a <b>God Gave, I Gave</b>	Romans 8:32
3/29	Maundy Thursday 7pm @ KG	John 13:31b-35 <b>This Is How Everyone Will Know!</b>	John 14:21
3/30	Good Friday 7pm @ MP	Isaiah 52:13-53:12 <b>His Life Offered Restoration</b>	John 15:13
4/1	Easter Sunrise Service 7am @ MP	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 <b>Hold onto the Message</b>	1 Corinthians 1:18
4/1	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 <b>The Message of Peace</b>	Psalm 29:11
4/8	<b>Communion</b>	1 John 1:1-2:2 <b>Sins of the World</b>	1 John 4:10
4/15	Native American Ministry	Luke 24:36b-48 <b>Peace in the Face of Fear</b>	2 Corinthians 13:11
4/22		Acts 4:5-12 <b>What Power, What Name?</b>	Romans 1:16
4/29		Acts 8:26-40 <b>Do You Really Understand?</b>	Psalm 119:169
5/6	<b>Communion</b>	1 John 5:1-6 <b>For the Love of Family!</b>	Romans 8:15
5/13	Ascension of The Lord – Mother's Day	Ephesians 1:15–23 <b>My Prayer for You</b>	James 5:16
5/20	Day of Pentecost Heritage Sunday	Acts 2:1-21 <b>Pour on Me</b>	Isaiah 44:3
5/27	Trinity Sunday - Peace with Justice - Memorial Day	Isaiah 6:1-8 <b>Count on Me</b>	Jeremiah 24:7
6/3	<b>Communion</b>	1 Samuel 3:1-20 <b>Call on Me</b>	Isaiah 61:1-2
6/10	VBS Closing Program MP & KG	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Isaiah 40:31
6/17	Father's Day	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 <b>Don't Grieve Over Saul</b>	Nehemiah 8:10
6/24		2 Corinthians 6:1-13 <b>Look, Now Is the Right Time</b>	Esther 4:14

## February

1 Lauryn Ross  
2 Tedi Jansky  
3 Joanie Meckley  
3 Roman Gay  
7 Allen Light  
8 Lenda Hauck  
10 Paul Kieffer  
11 Carol Hauck  
12 Brian Moyer  
12 Donna Gemberling  
12 Matthew Splitt  
13 Robbi Nace  
15 Clinton Klingman  
20 Catelyn Zoch  
20 Joshua Kovaschetz  
20 Hayden Pope  
21 Ryker Doering  
24 Nathan Meckley  
24 David Pope  
26 Beverly Reich  
28 Carrie Gessner

## March

6 Joe Ranck  
8 Emery Doering  
9 Ellyn Ross  
11 Rich Wilson  
12 Jordan Zoch  
13 Cindy Wolfe  
14 Todd Wetzel  
14 Lilly Light  
15 Nicholas Splitt  
15 Justin Kauffman  
15 Betty Coffey  
18 Barbara Bidelspach  
19 Angela Meckley  
20 Patricia Pope  
21 Caleb Herb  
22 Robert Bidelspach, Jr.  
23 Julie Miller  
24 Karen Yordy-Splitt  
24 Donna Spangler-Boop  
26 Shirley Wetzel  
27 Sandra Snyder  
28 Deleen Wetzel  
28 Colleen Pegg  
28 Carly Ross

# BIRTHDAYS

## April

3 Jeremy Finan  
4 Carson Strawser  
7 Jeremy Cooper  
7 Alexander Wetzel  
8 Jamie Doering  
8 Hannah Moyer  
8 Gregory Wetzel  
9 Quintyn Bucher  
10 Susan Newman  
11 Ray Kern  
15 Harry Herbster  
15 Jayce Kimball  
16 Brigid Boop  
18 Rosalie Karpinski  
21 Erin Karpinski  
23 Joseph Finan  
24 William Stewart  
25 Jenelle Frye  
25 Wayne Hauck  
25 Mark Lunger  
27 Melissa Wetzel  
30 Florence Strawser



## May

1 Eric Aucker  
2 Harold Reich  
2 Kim Zoch  
3 Reenie Miller  
3 Dianne Pope  
5 Denise Finan  
7 Daniel Wetzel  
10 Samuel Main  
10 Julie Moon  
15 Austin Haupt  
16 Phyllis Wetzel  
20 Jonathan Lunger  
21 Jerry Splitt  
21 Zeb Switzer  
21 Malcolm Boop  
22 Rachael Meckley  
23 Gordon Aikey  
23 Ryleigh Rider  
26 Faye Switzer  
26 Matt Rice  
28 Dave Lazicki  
28 Heather Switzer  
29 Karen Stewart  
30 Shanna Kimball  
31 Karlen Light  
31 Christian Cole

# Anniversaries

## February

14 John & Ellen Lazur  
15 Jim & Dianne Pope

## March

21 Christopher & Amy Herbster  
25 Thomas & Donna Spangler-Boop

## April

6 Scott & Janice Hixson  
20 Wayne & Carol Hauck  
21 Daniel & Jennifer Frye  
21 Carl & Hilda Kashner

## May

17 Ron & Elizabeth Gay  
19 Eric & Karlen Light  
31 James & Lois Kovaschetz

# Easter Flowers

Flowers may be purchased for Easter beginning Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. All flowers ordered will be used to decorate our sanctuary on Easter morning, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and may be taken home immediately following the service. Flowers may be placed in honor of someone special, in memory of a loved one or friend, or simply to the glory of God! The deadline to place orders is Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. To place orders, you may sign up in the back of the church or complete the form below and mail the form (with payment) to:

**Mt. Pleasant UMC**  
**2869 Mile Hill Road**  
**Sunbury, PA 17801**

*Thank-you for beautifying our church  
in celebration of Jesus' resurrection!*

(all pots are 6")

		Number	Amount
Mini Daffodils	\$8.25		
Easter Lily	\$9.95	white	
Hyacinth	\$8.25	blue	
		pink	
		white	
Tulip	\$8.25	lavender	
		orange	
		pink	
		red	
		yellow	
Totals			

*Flowers Placed by:*

*Phone #:*

*In honor of:*

*In Memory of:*

*Worship.* We meet every Sunday morning at 9 to worship. But what does that really mean? According to Google it is “the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.” Or “show reverence and adoration for (a deity); honor with religious rites”.

But do we worship? Have you ever heard or found yourself saying, "I didn't get anything out of that today", "I didn't get anything out of the sermon", "I didn't get anything out of that service." "I guess her song was all right, but I didn't get anything out of it."

This is like dry rot in a congregation. Like a termite infestation in the building. Like an epidemic afflicting the people of the Lord, one which we seem helpless to stop. But let's try. Let's see if we can make a little difference where you and I live, in the churches where we serve and worship. We might not be able to help all of them, but if we bless one or two, it will have been time well spent.

### **1. You are Not Supposed to 'Get Anything Out of the Service'**

Worship is not about you and me. Not about "getting our needs met." Not about a performance from the pastor and singer and choir and musicians. Not in the least.

### **2. Worship is About the Lord**

"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name." That Psalms 29:2 verse is found also in 1 Chronicles 16:29 and Psalms 96:8. It deserves being looked at closely. We are in church to give. Not to get. Now, if I am going somewhere to "get," but find out on arriving, I am expected to "give," I am one frustrated fellow. And that is what is happening in the typical church service. People walk out the door frustrated because they didn't "get." The reason they didn't is that they were not there to "get," but to "give."

### **3. Self-centeredness Destroys All Worship**

If my focus is on myself when I enter the church--getting my needs met, learning something, hearing a lesson that blesses me, being lifted by the singing--then Christ has no part in it. He becomes my servant, and the pastor (and all the other so-called performers) are there only for me. It's all about me. We have strayed so far from the biblical concept of worship--giving God His due in all the ways He has commanded--it's a wonder we keep going to church. And it's an even greater wonder that our leaders keep trying to get us to worship. The typical congregation in the average church today really does think the service is all about them--getting people saved, learning the Word, receiving inspiration to last another week, having their sins forgiven, taking an offering to provision the Lord's work throughout the world.

### **4. We are to Give Him Worship and Glory in the Ways Scripture Commands**

"Give to the Lord the glory due His name and bring an offering." So commands I Chronicles 16:29 and Psalm 96:8."The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart--these, O God, you will not despise." (Psalm 51:17) Singing, praise, rejoicing, praying, offering, humbling, loving. All these are commanded in worship at various places in scripture.

### **5. We Are the Ones Who Decide Whether We Worship upon Entering the House of the Lord**

Don't blame the preacher if you don't worship. He can't do it for you. No one else can eat my food for me, love my cherished ones in my place, or do my worshipping for me. No pastor can decide or dictate whether we will worship by the quality of his leadership or the power of his sermon. Whether I worship in today's service has absolutely nothing to do with how well he does his job. I am in charge of this decision. I decide whether I will worship.

### **6. Remember: Worship is a Verb**

And it's an active verb at that. Worship is something we do, not something done to us.

*Excerpts from an article by Dr. Joe McKeever*

There may be snow on the ground, but it's never too early to start thinking vacations! Well, Vacation Bible School, that is. This year, Bible School will be held the **week of June 3rd** with our closing program during the worship service on **Sunday, June 10th**. Come join us at HERO CENTRAL as we discover our strength in God.



HERO CENTRAL prepares kids with special abilities to 'Do good! Seek peace and go after it!' (Psalms 31:14B). Kids will learn that God's heroes have Heart (Samuel Anoints David), Courage (Abigail), Wisdom (Jesus Goes to the Temple), Hope (Beatitudes), and Power (Pentecost). Grab your cape and get ready to fly with epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories!

Keep your eyes open for registration dates in the springtime. As always, adult volunteers are much needed and appreciated - we can always find something for you to do! For further information, call Becky at 570-809-4212.



### **EASTER IS COMING!**

Mt. Pleasant will, once again, be making Easter eggs this year in the peanut butter and coconut varieties. We will be taking order until March 18<sup>th</sup>. If you want to place an order, help make the eggs, or donate items (ingredients), please contact Lois Kovaschetz at 570-286-8042

### **2018 Summer Camp at United Methodist Camps & Retreats**

It's February, it's cold outside, but it is time to think about summer camp. There are many kinds of opportunities for traditional summer camp, adventure camps such as canoe & kayak camp, horse camp, music & drama camp, soccer camp, photography camp, survivor camp, arts camp, fishing camp and family camps. The different camps are for grades 1 through 12 & with a few shortened camps for ages 4-8. You can see Camps-at-a-Glance 2018 at [susumccamps.org](http://susumccamps.org) & lots more information on our Susquehanna Conference web site at [susumc.org](http://susumc.org) under Camp & Retreat Ministry.



There are 4 United Methodist camps in PA: Camp Penn in the southern part of PA near Waynesboro, Greene Hills in Huntingdon County near the little village of Barree, Mount Asbury southwest of Harrisburg near Newville, & Wesley Forest in western Union County.

Our church has been supporting summer camping for a long time and will assist with church members' registration costs. We ask a family to pay the first \$25 of each registration and any amount over \$200. There is online registration which is open now, is easy and the best way to guarantee the camper gets into the camp session that fits his/her family. Early Bird Discount: register by May 1, 2018 & get \$25 Early Bird discount. Early registration is encouraged as many camps are in high demand. See [susumccamps.org](http://susumccamps.org) or email [camps@cpcumc.org](mailto:camps@cpcumc.org) with questions or see Carol Hauck (286-9255 or [cahauck@ptd.net](mailto:cahauck@ptd.net)) for more information. Hopefully, we can get a paper brochure in the hands of each of our families.

### **“The Paradoxical Commandments”**

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

***Love them anyway.***

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

***Do good anyway.***

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

***Succeed anyway.***

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

***Do good anyway.***

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

***Be honest and frank anyway.***

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

***Think big anyway.***

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

***Fight for a few underdogs anyway.***

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

***Build anyway.***

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

***Help people anyway.***

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

***Give the world the best you have anyway.***

— Kent M. Keith, *The Silent Revolution: Dynamic Leadership in the Student Council*

*Greeters are needed for a few months of the 2018 year. Please check the greeter schedule posted in the upstairs foyer and sign up for one of the open months. Being a greeter is a great way to welcome the congregation/visitors to our church service on Sunday mornings.*



### **Altar Flowers**

Each week, members and friends of Mt. Pleasant have the opportunity to sponsor the flowers that are placed on the altar and/or piano each Sunday. Sponsors have the opportunity to place the flowers in honor of or in memory of anyone, the tribute is also posted in the bulletin.

Altar flowers (2 vases) can be sponsored for \$40.00 and a single piano arrangement for \$30.00. After the service, the flowers can be given to the honoree or donated to a nursing home or other location. As members and friends of the church, we would like to offer this opportunity to all of you also. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please contact the church secretary: (570) 286-7036 or at mpkgsec2@gmail.com.





Coming in May! The annual choir concert is tentatively set for May 20th. This has become an annual event that helps support the music ministry. A free will offering will be taken and used to purchase music to continue this ministry. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall. Watch the bulletin for more details.



### Who do you follow?

*Unity in the Church - 1 Corinthians 1:11-13*

“...11My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12What I mean is this: Individuals among you are saying, “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” 13Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?”

It seems that the whole Church at Corinth was in a state of dissension; they were all divided, are we?



Discover the untold story behind the beloved song. Find strength, find love, find hope. Family ministries is planning a night at the movies on **March 20th**. Watch the bulletin for more details.

**Sunday Morning Worship - 9am - 10am**

**Sunday School - 10:15am - 11:15am**

**Women's Bible Study - every Monday 10am - 11am**

**Choir Practice - every Wednesday 7pm – 8:30pm**

**Mt. Pleasant UMC  
2869 Mile Hill Road  
Sunbury, PA 17801**

**Church Office Phone# 570-286-7036**

**Secretary: Becky Pastuszek**

**Email: mpkgsec2@gmail.com**

**Church Website: [www.susquehannavalleyparish.org](http://www.susquehannavalleyparish.org)**

**Prayer Request Email: [SVPprayer@googlegroups.com](mailto:SVPprayer@googlegroups.com)**

**Facebook: [facebook.com/MtPleasantUMC17801](https://www.facebook.com/MtPleasantUMC17801)**

**Twitter: @UMC Mt.Pleasant**