

Messenger



SUMMER 2024

“Revealing God’s Glory!”

VOL. 38, NO. 2

Theme: “The New— The Next”

“The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.””

(Psalm 32:8) (NLT)

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK . . .



(Psalm 32:8) (NLT)

Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,

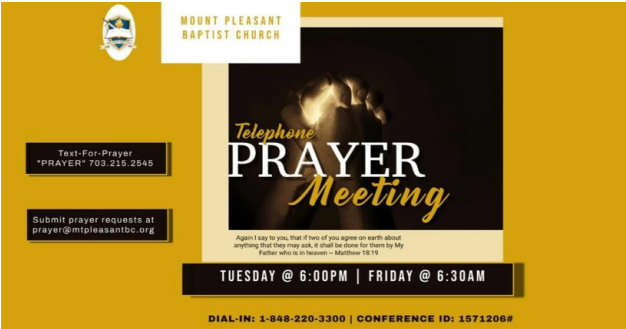
In life there are so many news and nexts. After their graduation ceremony, graduates will embark on a new beginning. Their new beginning usually leads to new opportunities. Those who have changed jobs as a new start, perhaps have sought the change for new opportunities as well.

Taking steps towards something new can sometimes cause apprehension, fear or anxiety about the next and the uncertainty it brings. How will this next chapter impact my life? Will it have a positive or negative impact? Whatever the new and next phase of your life brings, you can face it! You can do it! Psalm 32:8 says, *“The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.””* (NLT) and assures you that as you navigate through your new and next the Lord is with you every step of the way.

Be encouraged and have a happy summer!

MPBC Connect

Visit our website at www.mtpleasantbc.org to stay connected.



Give Online



Bulletin



Live Stream



The Hearts Cry Podcast

Inspirations

August Is Good by Sister Nia Dobbs (MPBC)

Living as well as always as should
People should know that August is good

Time where you live and play for the day
Time for a preparation in play

Time to say hi and time to day fly
Time to do I understand why

It is so sweet and it is so neat
August day makes you feel so complete

Living as well as always as should
People should know that August is good

Time where you live and play for the day
Time for a preparation in play

Time to say hi and time to day fly
Time to do I understand why

It is so sweet and it is so neat
August day makes you feel so complete



Theme: "Ministry on the Move" (Philippians 3:14) →

Dear Ministry Member and Fellow Christian,

Greetings to all!

We pray that all is well. Please know we are here for you. We ask for your continued prayers and thank you for your continued support. We need you! If your address and/or other pertinent information has changed, please send Sister Anita Johnson, MPBC Church Clerk, an email to clerk@mtpleasantbc.org. The following are planned events for 2024. As always, if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

- Movie Night
- Zoom Game Night
- Prayer and Praise Walk – September 14, 8:00 AM-10:00 AM (Neabsco Regional Park, Woodbridge, VA) – All invited.
- Community Outreach Projects

We want to extend a welcome to our new ministry members and greetings to ministry members who have celebrated and/or are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, retirement or any other celebratory event in June, July and August.

God bless you, continue to keep safe.

Deacon Karl Henderson, Deaconess Karin Henderson and Deacon James Cook
Ministerial Team: Minister Myra Cook. Minister Angela Sheppard and Minister Kimberly Veney
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

—Thought for the summer—

“God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.” (Max Lucado)



Word Search

- AUGUST
- BARBECUE
- BASEBALL
- BEACH
- BIKE
- BOAT
- CAMP
- FAMILY
- FISHING
- FLIGHT
- FLIP FLOPS
- FLOWERS
- FRIENDS
- GARDEN
- HEAT
- HOLIDAYS
- HOT
- HUMID
- ICED TEA
- INSIDE
- JULY
- JUNE
- LEMONADE
- OUTSIDE
- PARK
- PICNIC
- PLAY
- POOL
- RELAX
- SANDALS
- SHORTS
- SKATEBOARD
- SOCCER
- SUNSCREEN
- SUNSET
- SWIMMING
- TAN
- TANK TOPS
- TENT
- THEMEPARK
- TOUR
- TRAVEL
- TRIP
- VACATION
- WATERPARK

HUGE SUMMER

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



F	R	I	E	N	D	S	O	C	C	E	R	U	I	F	F	L	S	L	T
C	H	O	T	D	K	F	A	M	I	L	Y	X	V	S	O	K	E	E	S
R	B	W	L	V	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	N	W	O	A	M	N	I	G
T	A	U	G	U	S	T	A	D	P	Y	P	I	P	T	O	T	P	A	K
A	S	V	S	E	O	D	Q	P	L	C	M	L	E	N	E	M	R	R	C
N	E	U	I	K	Y	G	I	U	E	M	Y	B	A	J	F	D	A	Z	B
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O	L	S	D	N	S	H	G	P	R	H	I	H	E	E	J	R	D	B	M
P	L	S	T	O	I	S	G	D	P	T	K	H	T	L	R	W	S	I	H
S	R	A	E	I	D	I	W	S	I	H	F	A	S	U	A	P	S	Q	O
T	E	T	A	T	E	F	Q	Y	C	P	W	U	B	A	O	X	T	T	L
H	A	E	O	A	R	T	Y	A	N	Y	N	A	E	L	F	F	R	A	I
K	B	S	T	C	A	J	E	Q	I	S	R	U	F	D	L	P	O	O	D
R	G	N	R	A	M	B	P	X	C	B	E	P	A	I	I	K	H	B	A
A	T	U	A	V	W	M	J	R	E	G	I	N	G	R	X	S	S	I	Y
P	A	S	V	H	A	X	E	C	X	L	D	H	U	Z	U	H	T	D	S
R	N	T	E	C	K	E	U	D	F	X	T	G	Q	J	I	O	K	U	Z
I	V	C	L	E	N	E	J	V	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	A	T	P	O

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.



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MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

BACK TO SCHOOL

Loan Special

Available August 1st - September 7th

Rates start as low as 5.00%*

For more information, contact the Credit Union:



mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org



(703) 256-4802



Visit the Credit Union on Sunday mornings from 8:45 am - 10 am

**Rates, terms, and conditions may vary based on credit score.*



Several weeks ago, I received this inspirational e-mail/article written by Katie Harding, Director of NorthStar Women's Network. Sharing words of encouragement.

Six Practices for Spiritual Rehydration

I, too, have felt that **distance. God was waiting, but I wasn't showing up.** I desperately desired time with Him, **but somehow, life...**

Where are you? It's a question I often ask my daughters, family members or friends on trying to contact them on several occasions. Although the answers vary, they indicate our physical location at that moment.

But when God asks that question, He is not trying to determine where we are physically. He's interested in our spiritual location. How far is our heart from His?

Where are you? That was the same question God asked Adam and Eve when He was looking for them in the garden. He was there to meet with them at their regular place, in their regular way, at their regular time, but they weren't there. They had distanced themselves from God, hiding in their shame.

I, too, have felt that distance. God was waiting, but I wasn't showing up. I desperately desired time with Him, but somehow, life was so distracting and something always seemed more important. There were always things to do, people to see, and places to go. All I had left was the energy to find my way to bed only to get up the next morning and start the routine all over again. As time went on, I became more and more spiritually dehydrated as my spiritual life began to resemble that of my physical life. In fact, I can remember the day God asked, *How can you understand the power of living water when you can't understand the power of basic water?* He was right. I was both physically and spiritually parched from not getting enough water.

In talking with other women, I've discovered I wasn't alone in my spiritual dehydration. Many others have experienced dry patches in their journey with Jesus. So, how can we break up the dry ground and rehydrate?

Here are six practices I have found helpful:

1. Make it a priority to meet with Jesus every day by reading your Bible, even if it is 5-10 minutes in the beginning.
2. Confess your spiritual dryness to one or two friends who will commit to praying for you.
3. Sing a song that "fills your tank," and sing it again and again.
4. Use a devotional to help apply God's Word to your day. Use your *Daily Bread* or other scripture book for daily living. His words will continually challenge our faithfulness as a disciple of Christ.
5. Allow yourself time to just sit and meditate. Meditation is a time to detach from the world and attach to Jesus, as I learned from Richard Foster in his book, *The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*.
6. Set aside a dedicated time each day for praying on God's armor as stated in Ephesians 6:10-18. It's amazing how it helps. I pray it on myself and others every day.

What did I find as I began to incorporate these practices into my day and center my life around God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit once again? The cracks in my spiritual life, like the cracks in my hands began to disappear. I was becoming more hydrated as I soaked more and more in God's living water. But even more importantly, like Adam and Eve, I discovered God was not only there waiting for my return, but He was also pursuing me and encouraging my return, as well. He was calling to me, letting me know He was there to commune with me, and urging me to step out of my place of hiding and back into the light by asking this one question, *Where are you?*



Submitted by: Sister Debbie Coles (MPBC)

WAIT!

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried,
Quietly, patiently, lovingly God replied.
I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate,
And the Master so gently said, "Child, you must
wait."
"Wait? You say, wait!" my indignant reply.
"Lord, I need answers, I need to know why!
Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard?
By faith, I have asked, and am claiming your
Word.
My future and all to which I can relate,
Hangs in the balance, and YOU tell me to WAIT!
I'm needing a 'yes,' a go-ahead sign,
Or even a 'no' to which I can resign.
And Lord, You promised that if we believe,
We need but to ask, and we shall receive.
And Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry,
I'm weary of asking! I need a reply!
Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate,
As my Master replied once again, "You must
wait."
So, I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut
And grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting . . . for
what?"
He seemed, then, to kneel, and His eyes wept with
mine,
And he tenderly said, "I could give you a sign.
I could shake the heavens, and darken the sun.
I could raise the dead, and cause mountains to run.
All you seek, I could give, and pleased you would
be.
You would have what you want—but, you
wouldn't know Me.
You'd not know the depth of My love for each
saint,
You'd not know the power that I give to the faint.
You'd not learn to see through the clouds of
despair,
You'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there.
You'd not know the joy of resting in Me,
When darkness and silence were all you could see.
You'd never experience that fullness of love,
As the peace of My Spirit descends like a dove.
You'd know that I give and I save . . . (for a start),
But you'd not know the depth of the best of My
heart.

The glow of My comfort late into the night,
The faith that I give when you walk without sight.
The depth that's beyond getting just what you
asked,
Of an infinite God, who makes what you have
last.
You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
What it means that "My grace is sufficient for
thee."
Yes, your dreams for your loved one overnight
would come true,
But, Oh, the loss! If I lost what I'm doing in you!
So, be silent, My child, and in time you will see,
That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me.
And though often may My answers seem terribly
late,
My most precious answer of all is still, "WAIT."

Author Unknown

A Time of Ups and Downs . . .

Life is a time of ups and downs,
And moments of despair.
But when the hours begin to pass,
We find joy waiting there . . .

Life is a time of ups and downs,
And happiness and pain.
The days are often full of sun,
But are sometimes wet with rain . . .

Life is a time of ups and downs,
And worlds of hope and care.
It is a time of solitude,
And quiet thoughts and prayers . . .

Life is a time of ups and downs,
But love is all around.
So let us live each day in peace,
That beauty may be found!

Hope C. Oberhelman

MINISTER'S



"What's Next"

I was having a conversation with a good friend who plans to retire from the military within the next year. I asked her if she was excited. Her response was "Not really. If I don't pass these certification exams, I will need to start over and figure out what to do next."

Much like my friend, many of us are confused, depressed, anxious and thrown out of balance whenever we do not accomplish the things we have planned for our lives. We set dreams and goals that we believe are good and godly desires. We follow all the rules to the best of our abilities. We have family and church members praying for us to accomplish this good and godly plan we have created. AND IT FAILS.

It's devastating. And yes, it causes us to question God. All because we made plans. Yet, Proverbs 19:21 (NLV) states, "There are many plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's plan that will stand." So why do we get so upset when our plans are altered? I have a thought on this. Planning is the world's requirement and expectation. It is not God's. Jesus even stated in Matthew 6:25 (NLV), "Do not worry about your life. Do not worry about what you are going to eat and drink. Do not worry about what you are going to wear." But we turn around and do exactly that! It's as if we purposely ignore, forget, and strive for everything God came to deliver us from!

So, what do we do? How do we bounce back? Psalms 32:8 (NLV) says, "I will show you and teach you in the way you should go. I will tell you what to do with My eye upon you." It gives us a glimpse of what to do when you don't know what to do. **First**, we "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" [Matthew 6:33a (KJV)]. God has a purpose and plan for our lives, and we must believe that, especially if we confess with our mouths and believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord and Savior. This is the only way He can show us and teach us. **Second**, we ¹⁹ "Go and make followers of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to do all the things I have told you. And I am with you always, even to the end of the world" [Matthew 28: 19-20 (NLV)]. This is Jesus' instruction for us as we await HIS return. We must do this work in the meantime. And **third**, "Let the Holy Spirit lead you (us) in each step" [Galatians 5:16a (NLV)]. To be led by the Spirit, you need to know and trust the Triune God.

No need to worry when your plans fail or die in the abyss of regret. God has His eye on you, so there's no need to fret over what's next!

MPBC Events

HOMECOMING SERVICE
AUG 4-10AM

HOMECOMING
Revival
SERVICES

Meeting ID: 898 4644 2578 | Passcode: 111277
WWW.MPLEASANTBC.ORG

REV. DR. PAUL SHEPPARD
First Baptist Church of Merrifield Falls Church, VA

REVIVAL SERVICES @ 7PM

REV. DR. VERNON WALTON
First Baptist Church Vienna, VA

REV. DR. ALBERT JACKSON
Ebenezer Baptist Church Alexandria, VA

REV. DR. C. DIANE MOSSY
Anointed New Life Baptist Church Henrico, VA

REV. JONATHAN WILKINS
Mount Olive Baptist Church Centerville, VA

Pastor Carl M. Johnson
First Lady Robin Johnson

6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 (703) 256-1268

2024 Summer SCHEDULE
AUGUST 1-29

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
COLLECTING AUGUST 8-15
DISTRIBUTING AUGUST 16

Attention!

PASTOR'S 100th ANNIVERSARY APPRECIATION BANQUET
Saturday, September 7-8pm
Lafayette Hotel, 8111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA
Guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Avery Miller of Newport News, VA

TICKETS AVAILABLE—LIMITED SEATING! Adults \$120—Children (ages 3-12) \$40

To purchase tickets contact:
Doree Blankenship Shirley Baltimore-Haynes
Min. Stephanie Gillus Gerry Kuster
Nicole Olds Takina Scott
Mara Summers Traciya Debraa Brindley

Rev. Dwight Calley
Joanna Hanjosa
Peggy Sheppard
Rebecca Teravina Thomas

SUMMER Break
August 1—September 9, 2024

In observance of our summer break, there will be no virtual bible study, prayer services, or telephone prayer meetings. All activities will resume on Tuesday, September 10.

An Invitation to Young Adults
EXPERIENCING GOD

EXPERIENCING GOD
AN INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

JOIN US SUNDAYS @ 8:55AM

This interactive Bible study invites young adults to join God in His work. It focuses on the application of the Kingdom Principles, as set forth in Experiencing God, and how these principles apply to collegiate and young adult life issues. BRING YOUR BIBLES!

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
(703) 256-1268 | WWW.MPLEASANTBC.ORG

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE
Unless noted classes are in-person & virtual via zoom. Visit www.mpleasantbc.org for meeting ID & passcodes.

- 8:55AM - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Class
- 8:55AM - Adult Class
- 8:55AM - High School Class
- 8:55AM - Preteen Class
- 8:55AM - Middlers Class
- 8:55AM - Early Elementary Class
- 8:55AM - PreK-Kindergarten Class (Nursery)
- 8:55AM - Young Adult Class (Virtual)

Join MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH & FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD
In partnership with Know The Truth International Ministries, Inc.

South Africa
February 27 — March 8, 2025
MISSION & CULTURAL TOUR

\$4,195*
*Cost per person (double room occupancy). Single room supplement - \$900.

COST Includes:

- Flights to Johannesburg and Cape Town (from Washington, DC area)
- Hotel accommodations
- All meals and drinking water
- In-country ground transportation
- Basic travel insurance

MISSION Activities:

- Visit local orphanage to share the love of Christ and distribute school supplies
- Street witnessing
- Visit local schools and universities
- Safari Drive
- Cultural and Historic Tour of Soweto Township
- Visit Robben Island, Apartheid Museum, Table Mountain and other points of interest

Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson
Rev. Dr. Paul Sheppard

IN-PERSON *Time* 8:55AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR: YVONNE BUSH**

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Adult Classes held in the Pinkett/Sheppard Chapel
Classes for Grades 1-12 are held in the Fellowship Hall

Virtual Classes via Zoom for:

- Young Adults
- Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Visit www.mpleasantbc.org for Zoom links.

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
PHONE: 703.256.1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor

Beginning 7/14/2024
In-Person Classes for ages 2-5 are held in the Nursery (Lower Level).

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW CHURCH APP

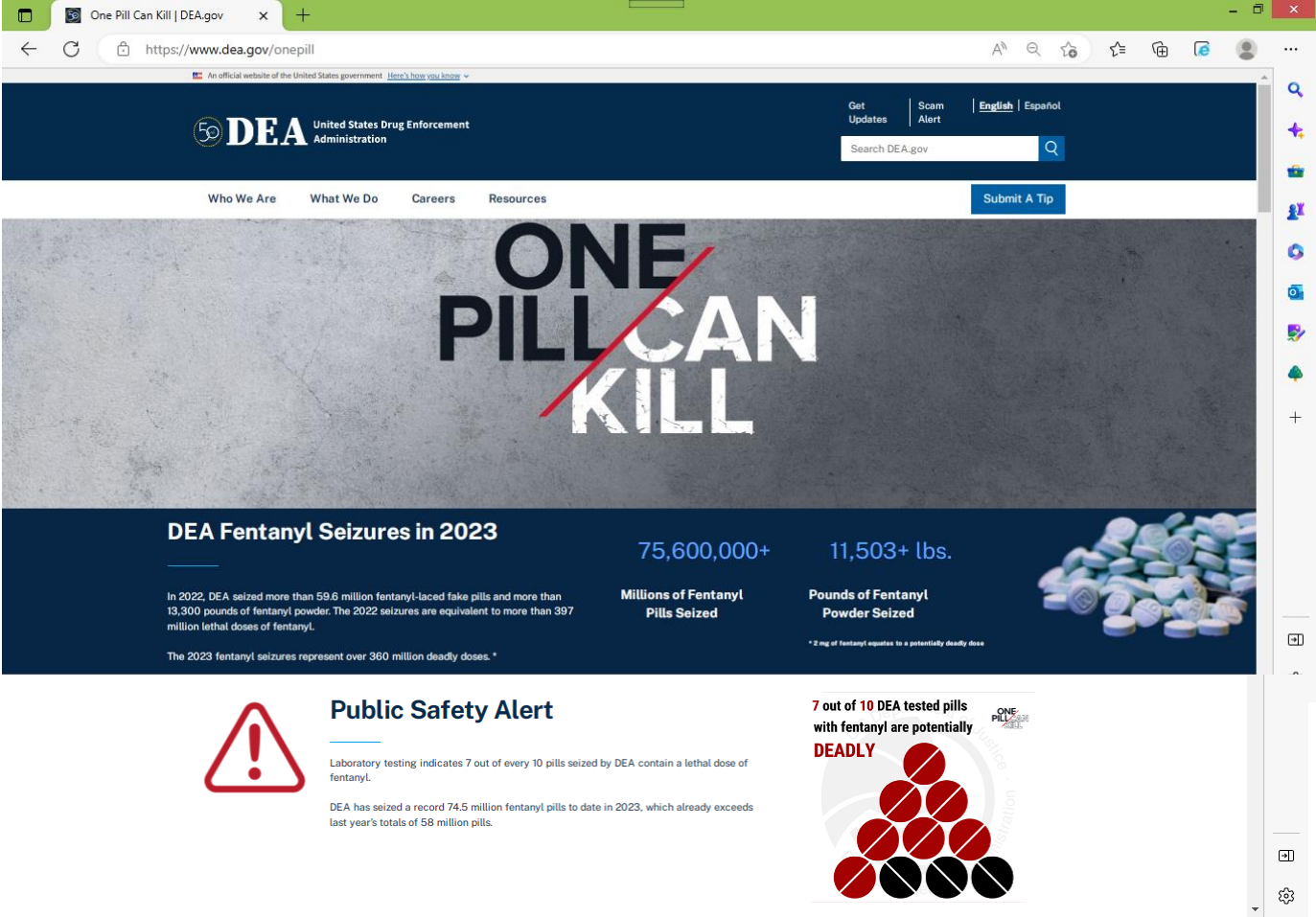
Now faster, with an easier to use interface. Enjoy your experience!

For more info; (703) 256-1268
www.mpleasantbc.org

Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Public Safety Alert

For more information on Fentanyl, go to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website.



Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans.

Ministry Opportunities

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand ...”*

Ephesians 2:10

Audio/Visual — Assistants — contact Church Office

Church School — Teachers — contact Sister Yvonne Bush

Grief Share Ministry — Members — contact Sister Denise Mackie-Smith

Health and Wellness Ministry — Nurses — contact Sister Phyllis Jordan

Nursery Ministry — Helpers — contact Sister Allie Hollister

Youth Ministry — Teachers — Youth Bible Study — contact Reverend E. Chris White, III

★★ ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 5TH ★★

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

VOTER INFORMATION

READY SET

VOTE EARLY

- IN PERSON BEFORE ELECTION DAY
- BY MAIL BEFORE ELECTION DAY

★ EVERY ★
★ VOTE ★
★ COUNTS! ★

To Vote on Election Day, Please Register In Your Assigned Jurisdiction:

For more detailed information, visit
<https://elections.maryland.gov>
<https://elections.virginia.gov>
<https://dcboe.org>

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY
BECAUSE YOUR VOTE MATTERS

YOUR VOTE
YOUR VOICE!

You Can't Vote If You Don't Register

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web site: www.mtpleasantbc.org*

MPBC Messenger Staff

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Anita Johnson	Editor
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Linda Hayes	Staff Writer/Contributor



VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE WAS HELD ON JULY 27, 2024

Vision Statement

A Church "Growing by Grace." (2 Peter 3:18)

Mission Statement

"To grow a congregation of believers committed to the ministry of Worship, Evangelism, Missions, Discipleship, Service, and Fellowship with a heart for Prayer, Bible Study, and the Great Commission." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Theme

"Revealing God's Glory!" (Isaiah 40:3-5)

Submission of articles to the **Messenger** — Please send articles via email attachment to:
mpbcnewsletter@mtpleasantbc.org.