

Messenger



FALL 2026

“Stepping Forward in Faith”

VOL. 40 NO. 3

Theme: “The Perfect Example— Jesus”

*“Follow my example, as I
follow the example of Christ.”*

(1 Corinthians 11:1) (NIV)

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK . . .



Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,

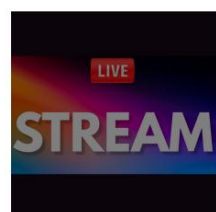
During Apostle Paul’s second missionary journey, he founded the Church at Corinth, a Jewish and Gentile congregation. As he continued traveling and preaching in other cities spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ during his third missionary journey, news reached him about various issues that had developed in the Church at Corinth. The issues concerned divisions within the church, immorality, lawsuits between believers, idolatry, social and doctrinal issues, and spiritual struggles. These issues prompted Paul to write a letter to the Corinthians to provide words of encouragement, correction, and theological clarity.

With all the issues that crept up in the Church at Corinth, the Corinthians were apparently allowing others to negatively influence their Christian walk. Paul reminded them and us now to follow the example of Christ as he himself was doing (1 Corinthians 11:1). By following the example of Christ, they and we will model His character and His love by living in such a positive and spiritual way that others can see and learn from and follow Him.

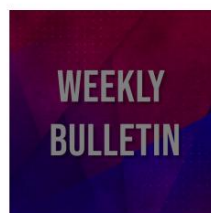
Mount Pleasant, we live in a world today where too many look to professional athletes, celebrities, parents, guardians, mentors, peers as role models who sometimes fall short of providing positive influence and exhibiting Christ-like virtues. Thank God for sending His son, Jesus to be that role model, our perfect example to imitate and follow as we walk this Christian journey.

MPBC Connect

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



Live Stream



Bulletin



The Heart's Cry Podcast

Inspirations



When There Is Prayer

By Deaconess Marcia Gilbert-Gregory
(MPBC)

When you are alone and think no one cares,
Always remember that God is always there.

When you wake up in the mornings and don't
know what to do,
You can always thank God for creating you.

When the workday is long and seems like it
will never end,
Know that as long as your day includes God
your relief is with him.

Sometimes it seems as though you don't know
all the answers,
But, God wants you to know he is the key to
All our chances.

So, stand strong in the Word and let his spirit
guide your path,
Because when there is prayer you will always
find your answer.

Jesus, Our Role Model

Author Unknown

Your life is proof that love can change the
world,

That mercy is the key to open the door.
You faced the cross with courage and faith,
And showed us how to live in God's embrace.
So we will follow, walk the path you set,
With hope and love, and never forget.

For in your example, we find our guide,
The perfect model for our life inside.



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.

A virtual meeting will be scheduled to discuss the calendar of events for our CCM for 2027. Suggestions for activities are welcomed.

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 September, October, and November.

The 2026 Mid-term election will be November 3, 2026. If you have not registered, please do so. We all need to vote in this pivotal election! Let us continue to pray for this election and trust God during this election process.

God bless you, continue to keep safe.

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

—Thought for the fall—

“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.” — Jackie Robinson



Fall Activities Word Search



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



READING NOOK
KNITTING PROJECT
BAKING SPICES
PUZZLE SOLVING
COCOA SIPPING
MOVIE MARATHON
GAME NIGHT

FIREPLACE LOUNGING
FORT BUILDING
MEMORY SCRAPBOOKING
JOURNAL WRITING
CANDLE MAKING
AUTUMN PAINTING
CRAFT CREATING

STORY SHARING
QUIET MEDITATING
TEA BREWING
SOUP COOKING
LEAF PRESSING
STAR GAZING

OurHappyCorner.Com

MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Notes & News

FALL 2026 EDITION

YOUR FALL FINANCIAL CHECK-IN



As the leaves begin to change, it's a great time to take a fresh look at your finances. Review your budget, check in on your savings goals, and make sure you're prepared for upcoming holiday expenses. A little planning now can help you enjoy the season with less financial stress.

PROTECTING YOU BEHIND THE SCENES

Did you know that each year, the Credit Union's Board of Directors and volunteers complete Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) training? While this training may not be something that's widely known of, it plays an important role in protecting the Credit Union and most importantly, our members.



What is the Bank Secrecy Act?

The Bank Secrecy Act is a federal law designed to help financial institutions detect and prevent financial crimes such as money laundering and other forms of financial fraud.

What does this mean for you?

BSA training helps our Board and volunteers recognize situations that may require additional attention and understand the importance of following established policies and procedures. These safeguards help protect the integrity of the Credit Union and contribute to a safer financial environment for our members.

Our Board and volunteers remain committed on ensuring they have the proper knowledge to apply the necessary measures that help protect your accounts and keep the Credit Union strong, secure, and compliant.



We are YOUR Credit Union.

WE HAVE MONEY TO LEND!

Consider the Credit Union first to take care of your borrowing needs by applying for an MPBC FCU signature loan.

You can apply for **up to \$10,000** and are guaranteed to get some of the lowest rates in this region.

Contact the Credit Union for more details!

OPERATION STATUS

The Credit Union is open for business on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM. Appointments during the week can be made by request, if needed.

CONTACT US:

MPBC Federal Credit Union

P.O. Box 11146
Alexandria, VA 22312



mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org



(703) 256-4802



www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union



Thanks for your business.



“The Perfect Example—Jesus”

by Min. Carl Hollister (MPBC)

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 11:1) (NIV)

When you spend time around Baptist believers, you will quickly notice a deep, defining conviction: when it comes to faith, conscience, and how we live, there is only one true Head of the Church, and His name is Jesus. We love our deacons, and we honor faithful pastors, but none of us are infallible because we all still sin. We are all under construction by grace. Even after grace reaches down and justifies us through the shed blood of Christ, we still wake up every day and wrestle with our sin nature as we continue the lifelong journey of sanctification. The progressive work of sanctification leads us to stumble, repent, and grow because the Holy Spirit is transforming us to become more like Jesus daily. Only Christ walked without sin, offering the perfect model for us to follow. Paul wisely tucked 1 Corinthians 11:1 into his first letter to the Corinthians, to cut straight to the heart of what genuine Christian discipleship looks like.

Whenever I picture ancient Corinth, I see a cutthroat, diverse Roman port city, fractured by its cultural, religious, socioeconomic, and partisan divisions. Paul founded a community of believers in Corinth, but their diversity and discord also fueled their initial dysfunction. Paul wrote to shatter the church’s self-serving definitions of freedom by introducing a counter-cultural paradigm shift, strongly urging the church to use their hard-won liberation not for self-elevation, but to *willingly enslave themselves to one another through love. Spiritual freedom completely dismantles human hierarchies and legalistic systems, because we gain freedom from the law and freedom from sin, while being led by the Holy Spirit to humbly serve one another in love by our liberation through Jesus Christ.* Genuine servant leadership and Christian discipleship prioritize selflessness, humility, and sacrificial service over self-interest; and this new paradigm turned the modern world’s definition of success, power, and status upside down.

Paul comments further on Christian liberty in Corinthians by highlighting elements of this counter-cultural paradigm that can be used to remedy the church’s misguided devotion: 1) *One Body*: the church is one body in Christ; 2) *Purposeful Diversity*: framed around God’s sovereign design, where diversity is a necessity for the body to survive; 3) *Honor for the Overlooked*: grounded directly in the priesthood of all believers; and 4) *Mutual Care*: emphasized covenant fellowship and self-emptying love over rivalry.

Paul’s life of self-denial, love, and seeking the good of others (1 Corinthians 10) mirrored Jesus’ own servant-hearted sacrifice and is a good example of servanthood and discipleship. However, Paul never viewed himself as the destination of anyone’s faith. He saw himself only as a wooden signpost pointing down the road toward Jesus. Even when Paul tells the Corinthians to follow him, he maintains the focus on Jesus: “...as I follow Christ.” We walk together as equal brothers and sisters under the lordship of Christ—learning from one another, bearing with one another, and following earthly examples only insofar as they point us toward the cross to the Author and Finisher of our faith who never fails, Jesus Christ.

Youth Ministry



Hey Mt. Pleasant! We are so excited about the relaunch of the Youth Ministry here at the church. We believe that our youth are the future, and that future starts right now. We have so many awesome things planned for our kids that everyone will love and look forward to, but before we get into that, let us tell you a little bit about who we are.

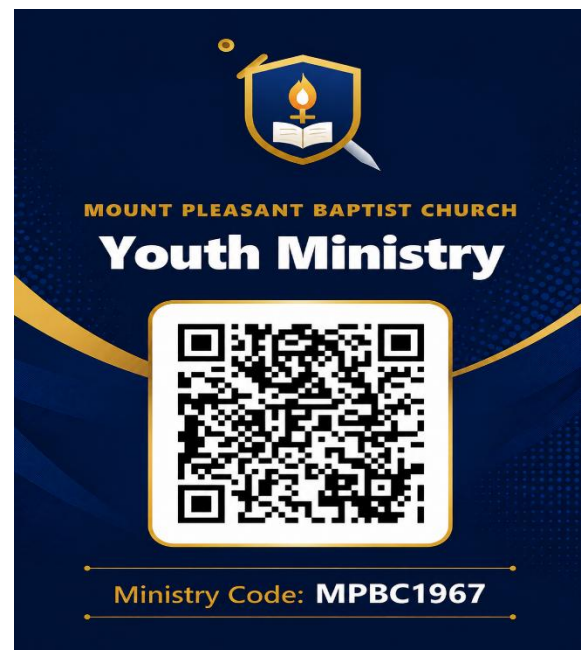
We are Brother Timothy Jones and Sister Shiquana Jones. We are no strangers to Mt. Pleasant; we would visit every now and then since we have family members who are members. We officially joined Mt. Pleasant earlier this year in February, so we've been members for a little over six months now. When we joined, we wanted to connect with the church in a way that would minister to us and our son as a family and where we could grow and serve together. Shortly after that, Pastor Johnson asked us if we would be willing to serve as the new Youth Ministry leaders. We gladly said yes, and here we are!

We officially kicked off the relaunch of the Youth Ministry on August 30th, introducing its new structure under the **ENCORE** model. **ENCORE** stands for six pillars: (**E** - Education, **N** - New Vision, **C** - Connection, **O** - Openness, **R** - Responsibility, and **E** - Empowerment) that come together to engage our youth in a real way to nurture their spiritual growth, develop their spiritual gifts, and equip them for ministry both inside and outside the church.

The first big upcoming event for the Youth Ministry is the Trunk or Treat/Youth Lock-In on October 30th, and it will take place right here at the church. It will be a night of fun, games, and laughter for all of our youth, so we ask that you spread the word to everyone you know. We want to have a packed house!

You can also scan the QR code for the Youth Ministry App, which you can download to your mobile device. This will be the primary means of communication and information for the Youth Ministry.

Again, we are super excited about the Youth Ministry! We look forward to serving our youth, our families, and the church as a whole as we all grow and serve God together!



MPBC News and Events

YOUTH FALL FUN EVENT!
TRUNK OR TREAT

October 30
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for an evening filled with:

- Pizza
- Crafts
- Games
- Treats ...and FUN for all ages!

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
Phone: 703.256.1268

October 30
6:00 - 8:00 PM
TRUNK OR TREAT
CRAFTS

YOUTH LOCK-IN

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • GAMES • GROWTH

PRAY • CONNECT • HAVE FUN

AGES 10-17

DATE: October 30, 2026
TIME: 8:00 PM - 6:00 AM
LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

DON'T WAIT! Scan the QR Code and register TODAY

REAL FRIENDS • REAL FAITH • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

a video presentation

GRIEF SHARE

This event is meeting online. Register at:
<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/255057>

For more information contact:
Denise Meckie-Smith, Director
757-553-2963

Discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief.

Learn helpful ways of coping with grief in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Mondays, August 10-November 2, 2026
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH | 6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 | 703.256.1268 | REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON, PASTOR

Breast Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

Understanding breast cancer helps you make informed decisions about your health. Take charge of your well-being. Speak with a healthcare professional and keep up with your regular check-ups.

Every Story is Unique Journey Matters

"PINK UP!"

Wear your "pink" during the month of October.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312
Phone: 703.256.1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

Attention Mount Pleasant Members!!!
Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions

Phase 2 Make-Up Date:
Friday, 6 November 2026
1:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Registrations are first-come, first-served.

Be photographed for the new directory and receive your copy of the directory and an 8x10 portrait at **no charge**.

For assistance in registering, please contact
Deacon John White at jmanofdallas@gmail.com
or Sister Katie Smith at smithkef49@verizon.net.

Volunteers are needed
to assist with the pictorial directory layout.
Contact the Pictorial Directory Coordinators listed above to join.

Business advertisements
can reach over 400 active member families.
Camera-ready ads must be submitted to smithkef49@verizon.net
by **October 30th**. Cost for business card \$25, for 1/2 page \$50,
and \$100 for a full page. Checks should be made payable to
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Stepping Forward In Faith

ATTENTION

IS YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE?
IS YOUR ADDRESS UP TO DATE?

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR CURRENT
PREFERRED EMAIL AND MAILING ADDRESS
TO THE CHURCH CLERK AT
CLERK@MTPLEASANTBC.ORG (preferred)
OR
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
703.256.1268 ext. 16.

703.256.1268 ext 16
clerk@mtplesantbc.org
www.mtplesantbc.org

WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH!

Public Safety Alert

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

The screenshot shows the DEA website with a prominent banner that reads "ONE PILL CAN KILL" in large, bold, white letters against a dark background. Below the banner, there is a section titled "DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023" which includes statistics: "75,600,000+ Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized" and "11,503+ lbs. Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized". A warning icon (a red triangle with an exclamation mark) is visible on the left side of the page. To the right of the warning icon, the text reads: "Public Safety Alert. Laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. DEA has seized a record 74.5 million fentanyl pills to date in 2023, which already exceeds last year's totals of 58 million pills." Below this text is a graphic showing 10 red pills, with 7 of them marked with a white 'X' to indicate they are potentially deadly.

One Pill Can Kill | DEA.gov

https://www.dea.gov/onepill

DEA United States Drug Enforcement Administration

Get Updates | Scam Alert | English | Español

Search DEA.gov

Who We Are | What We Do | Careers | Resources | Submit A Tip

ONE PILL CAN KILL

DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023

In 2022, DEA seized more than 59.6 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and more than 13,300 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2022 seizures are equivalent to more than 397 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

The 2023 fentanyl seizures represent over 360 million deadly doses.*

75,600,000+ Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized

11,503+ lbs. Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized

* 2 mg of fentanyl equates to a potentially deadly dose

Public Safety Alert

Laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl.

DEA has seized a record 74.5 million fentanyl pills to date in 2023, which already exceeds last year's totals of 58 million pills.

7 out of 10 DEA tested pills with fentanyl are potentially DEADLY



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

Mount Pleasant Church Ministry Leaders Email Info | 2026

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

(vacant)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev. Margaret Barr

CHURCH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Yvonne Bush

DEACON MINISTRY*

Deacon David Evans

DEACONESS MINISTRY*

Deaconess Sherri Morgan

DEAF SHALL HEAR THE WORD MINISTRY

Minister Jennifer Madison

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRY

Min. Myra Cook

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Deacon James Watson

EZEKIEL MISSIONARY MINISTRY

Yvette Collier

FLORAL MINISTRY

Trustee Constance Robinson

GIFTED TO SERVE MINISTRY

Tefera Baker-Warrick

Anita Johnson

Min. Stephanie Gillus

GRIEF MINISTRY

Denise Mackie-Smith

HEALTH/WELLNESS UNIT

Phyllis Jordan

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Brenda Stroble

LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY

Leslie Green

INTERPRETER MINISTRY

Trustee Renee Sheppard

MEN'S MINISTRY (MMOV)

Michael Tyree

MPBC MESSENGER

Deaconess Karin Henderson

MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Trevon Cook

NEW MEMBERS MINISTRY

Min. Derrik Allen

NURSERY MINISTRY

Deaconess Allie Hollister

PINKETT/SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CLUB

Julie Washington

PRAYER MINISTRY

Deaconess Marilyn McPherson

PRISON MINISTRY

Min. Percell Spinner

RISE MINISTRY

Min. Stephanie Gillus

SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Deaconess Tawanna Tillman

Mount Pleasant Church Ministry Leaders Email Info **2026**

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Merle Summers

TRUSTEE MINISTRY*

Trustee Tyrone Bradley

USHERS MINISTRY

Sandra C. Johnson

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Middie Brooks

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Co-Coordinator: Breanna Jones

Co-Coordinator: Min. Khadeejah Honesty

YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTRY

Timothy Jones

Shiquana Jones

***Members cannot join voluntarily.**

NOTE: To contact the ministry leader, call the Church Office at 703-256-1268.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY (CCM) by DEACON, DEACONESS, MINISTERIAL STAFF and ZIP CODE				
Pastor Carl Johnson: Deacons, Deaconesses and Family, Out of Town Members				
John White Kenneth and Rita Jackson Jerry and Rosie Brown* Annette Colclough Marcia Gilbert-Gregory Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts Rev. Dwight Cokely	Karl and Karin Henderson James Cook Marlene Fields Min. Myra Cook Min. Angela Sheppard Min. Jennifer Madison	Jerald and Faye Stark Maurice Evans Gloria Giron Min. Stephanie Gillus Min. Leticia Watson Min. Eldred Williams Rev. Joyce Howard	Carlton Brown Amanda Brown Allie Hollister Dalton Martin* Min. Bonita Easter Min. Linda Hayes Min. Percell Spinner	David Evans Michael and Sylvia Hardy Mattie Charles* Tawanna Tillman Rev. Penni Ford Min. Henrietta Nelson Min. Antonio Rafael
DC and Maryland All Zip Codes	Prince Williams County (excluding Manassas and its independent cities) Lorton: 22079, 22199 Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Caroline Counties	Centreville, Chantilly Manassas, Sterling Nokesville, Herndon Reston, Fauquier, Warren and Loudoun Counties Fairfax: 22030, 22031, 22032, 22033, 22037 Vienna: 22180	Alexandria: 22312	Ft. Belvoir: 22060 Alexandria: 22301, 22302, 22303, 22305, 22306, 22307, 22308, 22309, 22310, 22313, 22314, 22315
Barry Newsome Glenn Blackwell Tasha Brown La' Tonia White Rev. Margaret Barr Rev. Chris White	Edward Robinson Bryant and Jacqueline Black Barbara White Rev. Cornella Carter-Taylor Min. Khadeejah Honesty	Robert Brooks Sherri Morgan Averil Tomlinson Rev. Brian Morgan Min. Mark Miller Min. Jackie Wrice Rev. Dr. Gerald Robinson	James and Jean Watson Michael Wilson Sherry Allen Rev. Jessie Reynolds Min. Derrik Allen	Ronald Hampton Robert Smith Josephine Byrd* Marilyn McPherson Karen White Min. Carl Hollister Min. Aleia Taylor Ellington
Alexandria: 22304, 22311	Arlington: All Zip Codes 22201, 22202, 22203 22204, 22205, 22206 22207, 22209, 22211, 22212	Burke: 22015 Fairfax: 22039 Springfield: 22150, 22151, 22152 22153	Annandale: 22003 McLean Merrifield	Falls Church and Bailey's Crossroads: 22041, 22042, 22043 22044, 22046

*Emeritus

Revised: July 2026

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22312
(703) 256-1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor



*email: secretary@mtpleasantbc.org
website: www.mtpleasantbc.org*

MPBC Messenger Staff

Karin Henderson

Editor-in-Chief/
Designer

Eloise Clarke

Editor (Emeritus)

Anita Johnson

Editor

Debbie Coles

Church News Reporter

Linda Hayes

Staff Writer/Contributor



VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 24, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Vision Statement

“Building a vibrant, engaged faith community serving, growing, and transforming Lives.”
(1 Peter 4:10–11)

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

“Stepping Forward in Faith” (Joshua 1:9)

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