

## Theme: "The Day After"

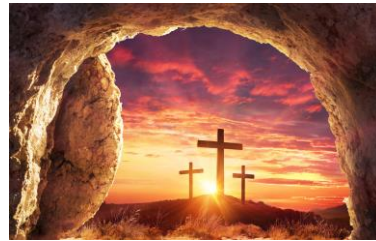
*"<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."*

(John 24:6-7) (ESV)

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### *FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .*



(John 24:6-7)

*Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,*

During "Passion Week", the week prior to the resurrection of Jesus, a series of events happened. On Sunday (Palm Sunday), Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem as palms were laid before Him (Matthew 21:1-9). The day after that, He curses the barren fig tree (Matthew 21:18-19) and cleanses the temple (Mark 11:15-19). The day after that, Jesus' authority is questioned by leaders (Matthew 21:23-27). The day after that, Judas agrees to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16). The day after that, He prepares to celebrate Passover (Matthew 26:17-19) and the Lord's Supper is instituted (Matthew 26:26-29). The day after that, Friday (Good Friday) Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas (Matthew 26:48); falsely accused (Matthew 26:60-61; Matthew 27:12); beaten beyond human likeness (Isaiah 52:14); forced to wear a crown of thorns pressed down onto His head (Matthew 27:29); and forced to carry His own cross to Golgotha's hill until He became too weak and could not carry it any longer (Mark 15:21).

Jesus was ultimately crucified on a cross, bore our sins and paid our sin debt. He was put in a borrowed tomb and stayed there all day Friday, all day Saturday, but early the day after, on Sunday Jesus got up from the grave with all power in His hands. A day to rejoice!

Mount Pleasant, many members have experienced "the day after" consumed with grief and sorrow due to the loss of a family member. Prayerfully, they found solace in the fact that since Jesus was resurrected from the dead, their family members who were saved by grace through faith in Jesus will rise first to meet Him.

Let's continue to share the good news about Jesus with non-believers so that one day they too will come to know Him as their risen Lord and Savior, the One who gives eternal life.

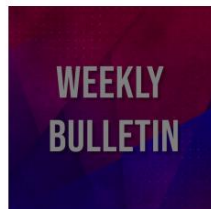
*Be encouraged, be blessed and continue to keep safe.*

## MPBC Connect

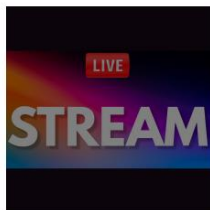
Visit our website at [www.mtpleasantbc.org](http://www.mtpleasantbc.org) to stay connected.



Give Online



Bulletin



Live Stream



The Hearts Cry Podcast

## Inspirations



### My Easter Prayer

May you walk a little surer  
On the path that lies before,  
May you see a little clearer  
May you trust a little more.  
May you come a little closer  
To the Lord of Love Divine,  
That your heart may sing for gladness,  
Is this Easter prayer of mine.

Author Unknown

Submitted by: Sister Anita Johnson (MPBC)

### An Easter Song

A song of sunshine through the rain,  
Of Spring across the snow;  
A balm to heal the hurts of pain,  
A peace surpassing woe.  
Lift up your heads, ye sorrowing ones,  
And be ye glad at heart,  
For Calvary and Easter Day,  
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day,  
Were just three days apart!

Susan Coolidge

Submitted by: Sister Anita Johnson (MPBC)



**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](mailto:clerk@mtpleasantbc.org).

Thanks to all who supported our Community Outreach on April 12 with the donation of items to the Hilda M. Barg Homeless Prevention Center in Woodbridge. They were very appreciative. If you were unable to bring items on April 12, this will be an ongoing event to donate items throughout the year.

The following are planned events for 2025. A calendar of events will be prepared and shared. As always, if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

- Zoom or In-Person Game Night
- Community Outreach Projects
- Bible Study and Fellowship

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 March, April and May.

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,  
Minister Kimberly Veney and Minister Jennifer Madison  
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

**—Thought for the spring—**

“Bloom where you are planted.”



## Word Search

### Spring Word Search

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

BIRD  
BLOOM  
BUNNY  
BUTTERFLY  
BUZZING

CHIRPING  
FLOWERS  
GARDEN  
GRASS  
LADYBUGS

POLLEN  
RAIN  
RAINBOW  
SPRINGTIME  
SUNSHINE



# MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Notes & News

SPRING 2025 EDITION



### ANNUAL MEETING - THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all who attended and supported MPBC FCU's 24th Annual Meeting held virtually on February 24th to share 2024 accomplishments. Congratulations to all winners of the various prize drawings!

### RECAP: BREAKING THE CHAINS OF FINANCIAL ILLITERACY REFRESHER SEMINAR

On March 24th, MPBC Federal Credit Union sponsored a financial literacy refresher seminar presented by our very own Board Director Chair, Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts, CPA, CFE, CFF, CICA, CGMA.

In this virtual seminar Rev. Dr. Batts reviewed financial concepts and practical, biblical-based financial principles. Check out how the following financial concepts that were discussed align with the word of God:

Financial Concept	Biblical-Based Principle
Budgeting	Luke 14:28-30
Credit	Psalm 37:21
Debt	Proverbs 22:7
Saving/Investing	Proverbs 6: 6-8 Proverbs 21:20
Giving	Acts 20:35 2 Corinthians 9:7

We truly appreciate the over 40 participants who attended this event. A huge thank you goes to Rev. Dr. Batts for her excellent facilitation and invaluable insight!

We are YOUR Credit Union. Thanks for your business.

### WE'VE GOT MONEY TO LEND!

Look to the Credit Union first for your small loan needs. *(We've got some pretty unbeatable rates!)* Apply today for an MPBC FCU Signature loan up to \$10,000.

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Credit Union is open for business on Sunday mornings! Operating hours are from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM. Weekday appointments can be made available by request.

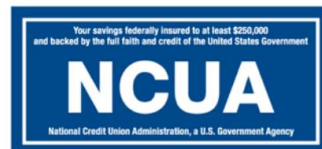
### CONTACT US:

**MPBC Federal Credit Union**  
P.O. Box 11146  
Alexandria, VA 22312

(703) 256-4802

[mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org](mailto:mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org)

[www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union](http://www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union)



## Guarding the Doors of the Sanctuary

Submitted by the Usher's Ministry (MPBC)

"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalm 84:10 NKJV)

The history of ushering can be traced back to the very beginning of man's existence. God ushered in Light and called it *Day*. God also ushered Adam and Eve into the Garden of Eden with specific instructions. Other examples of the great beginning of Church ushers: Abraham ushered Faithfulness into the world, and he is called the Father of the Faithful (Hebrews 11:8-19); Moses ushered the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:31-37); and God Himself directed Moses in the wilderness of Sinai to organize the first great Usher organization (Exodus 19-20). The first great Usher organization was under the leadership of the Tribe of Levi as they were given direct instructions for the upkeep of the Temple (Numbers 3:5-10). They were to have the place of worship ready for the Priest to enter. They were to oversee all the vessels and any other things that belong to it. The Tribe of Levi also served as guards and protection for the Temple so that no one who was not allowed to enter could enter.



Likewise, the doors of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church sanctuary are to be guarded at all times during Church worship services. There are seven specific occasions during worship service when no one is permitted to enter the sanctuary from either the vestibule or side doors. They are during:

1. Prayer
2. Scripture Reading
3. Solos
4. Anthems – songs which have special importance for a particular group of people; an organization or a country, often sung on a special occasion, e.g., *The Negro National Anthem* during Black History Month celebrations.
5. Church Announcements
6. Invitation to join the Church – This is the time to bring those to Christ who are out of fellowship. Entering or exiting at this time is a distraction and may interfere with an individual's decision-making.
7. Special Numbers – Baptism, Ritualistic ceremonies, Liturgical dance or other performances.

During these occasions, one should cease all walking and talking. If assistance is needed at any time during the worship service, please signal an Usher. Be mindful of the volume of your voice; speak in a moderate tone while in any area of the sanctuary. During all worship services, follow the instructions of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Ushers.

Submitted by the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Senior Ushers Ministry

Source: Extract from National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc., School of Ushering Manual, The Official Modern Day Manual on the Art of Church Ushering, July 2010)



## **"The Day After: Hope Rises with the Son"**

by Minister Penni Ford (MPBC)

*"<sup>6</sup> He is not here but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee,  
<sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on  
the third day rise." (Luke 24:6-7) (ESV)*

Yesterday was a day of sorrow. The disciples, the women, and all who loved Jesus had spent the day before mourning His death. The cross was real. The pain was real. The burial was real. But today—the day after—is when hope begins to rise!

What do you do the day after tragedy? How do you move forward when the grave seems like the final chapter? This is where the resurrection power of Jesus turns the story around!

The angel's words, "He is not here, but has risen," shattered the despair of death. The enemy thought he had won. Sin believed it had conquered. Death assumed it had silenced the Savior. But on this day after, the truth emerged. Jesus had risen just as He said!

For us today, the "day after" represents the moment when we choose faith over fear. It is the moment when we remember that no trial, no suffering, no cross in our lives is the end of the story. Jesus walked out of the tomb, proving that every setback is a setup for a comeback.

Beloved, whatever you are facing today, know this: the tomb is empty, and hope is alive! You may have had your Good Friday of suffering, your silent Saturday of waiting, but today—your day after—is the day of victory. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working in you (Romans 8:11).

The resurrection reminds us that God always keeps His promises. Jesus told His disciples in advance that He would rise, but in their grief, they forgot. Isn't that just like us? When we are overwhelmed, we forget what God has spoken over our lives. But just because we forget doesn't mean God fails. The promises He made still stand. When you feel like you are in a place of uncertainty, remember that the same God who raised Jesus is the same God who is working in your life. His plans for you are not finished.

So, lift your head. Dry your tears. Walk in the joy of resurrection power. Your Savior lives, and because He lives, you can face tomorrow with confidence. The day after is the day of new beginnings. Death has lost its sting, the grave has lost its victory, and Jesus reigns forever! Walk boldly into your future, because the risen King is with you! Amen!



## MPBC News and Events

**A DAY OF REFLECTION**

**7 LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**  
PRESENTED BY MPBC DIACONATE MINISTRY

- JAMES WATSON
- ROBERT BROOKS
- ROBERT SMITH
- BRYANT BLACK
- BARRY NEWSOME
- GLENN BLACKWELL
- EDWARD ROBINSON

Good Friday is a significant day for Christians that commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.

People gather together on Good Friday to remember and pray, reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice.

**OBSERVING THE SACRED GOOD FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18 @ 7PM**

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH  
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312  
703.256.1268 | WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG

*You are invited to join us on this solemn day.*

MPBC Fellowship Hall | 6477 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria, VA 22312  
(703) 256-1268

**LEADERSHIP PLANNING SESSION**

**VIRTUAL SESSION**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**  
**9:30AM-12:30PM**  
Zoom meeting information to be provided.

Attendance required:  
Deacons, Deaconess,  
Trustees, Ministers,  
Ministry Leaders.

**MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Invites you to*

**MIGHTY MEN of VALOR**

**SATURDAY**  
**APR 19, 2025**  
**8:30AM**

Meeting ID: 885 7099 3812  
Passcode: 992939

**INVITING ALL MEN TO BE IN ATTENDANCE**

WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH | 6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 | 703.256.1268  
WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG

**The Women's Ministry**  
*presents...*

**Spiritual Experience/Conversion and Transformation**  
*Ladies sharing their Spiritual Experience/Conversion/Transformation*

**WED MAY 7 @ 7PM**

Meeting ID: 838 7915 1450  
Passcode: 360179

Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson  
First Lady Robin Johnson

*Join Us!*

**A RESURRECTION CELEBRATION**

**FRIDAY GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 18** WORSHIP SERVICE | 7PM  
Seven Last Words by the MPBC Deacons

**SUNDAY EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 20** WORSHIP SERVICE | 10AM  
Preached Word by: Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson

**HOPE ISN'T DEAD!**

PRaise BE TO THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! IN HIS GREAT MERCY HE HAS GIVEN US NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD.  
1 PETER 1:3 (NIV)

PASTOR  
REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON  
FIRST LADY ROBIN JOHNSON

6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312  
703.256.1268

*A special Invitation to New Members!*

**"Gifted to Serve"**  
*Online Classes*

Saturday, May 17 (part 1)  
Saturday, May 24 (part 2)  
9:30AM-11:30AM

Meeting ID: 836 4700 9888  
Passcode: 325339

To register visit [www.mtleasantbc.org](http://www.mtleasantbc.org)

**Spiritual Gifts**  
abilities from God to grow the Church in Spirit and numbers

- We will use scripture to identify and define the spiritual gifts
- Administer a spiritual gifts assessment as a tool to help you determine your spiritual gift(s).

Contacts: Tefera Baker-Warrick  
Anita Johnson  
Minister Stephanie Gillus

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



## MPBC News and Events (Continued)

### A MPBC Production The Play "The Glory Train"



Saturday, May 31, 2025

Look for upcoming announcement  
for details.

**Sunday, May 4—10:00 a.m. "Golden Gems" Senior Day Celebration.** Theme: "Ever Loving, Ever Trusting" Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV). Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Gerald Robinson, Founder and Executive Director of Know The Truth International Ministries, Inc.

## BOOK DISCUSSION!!!



### Divine Disruption: Holding on to the Faith When Life Breaks Your Heart

By: Dr. Tony Evans, Chrystal Evans Hurst, Priscilla Shirer, Anthony Evans & Jonathan Evans

Join us for a thought-provoking discussion on *Divine Disruption: Holding on to the Faith When Life Breaks Your Heart* by Dr. Tony Evans. This powerful book, co-authored with Chrystal Evans Hurst, Priscilla Shirer, Anthony Evans, and Jonathan Evans, offers biblical wisdom and practical encouragement for navigating life's unexpected challenges. This book will discuss the meaning of holding on to faith in the face of heartbreaking circumstances and will seek to open avenues to moments of reflection, leading to a rejuvenation of the spirit and recommitment to a spiritual foundation.

The book addresses questions like:

Why bad things happen despite having a good and powerful God?

How to persevere in difficult times?

How to keep your faith from being damaged during tough times?

It offers biblical wisdom and practical encouragement, helping readers find peace and grow closer to God even when life seems to fall apart. "Divine Disruption" is a powerful testament to the strength of faith in the face of adversity and a source of comfort and guidance for those experiencing heartache. Don't miss this opportunity to explore how to deepen your faith and find peace during difficult times.

Date: August 19, 2025, and August 26, 2025. Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Location: Via Zoom

For more information about registration and getting your book, please contact: Deacon Bryant Black: [awonder53@outlook.com](mailto:awonder53@outlook.com), Deaconess Jackie Black: [jblack1219@outlook.com](mailto:jblack1219@outlook.com), or Min. Jackie Wrice: [jckwrice@yahoo.com](mailto:jckwrice@yahoo.com).

**2025 Faith Giving** "Partners In Kingdom Building"

**Revitalization Campaign**

The Faith Giving 2025 initiative calls for the involvement of each member, inspiring everyone to pledge their support beyond just tithes and offerings. Together, we can make a significant impact!

Information regarding the revitalization initiative will be shared. Kindly refer to the banners at the main sanctuary entrance and foyer that outline key renovations.

"Changing Lives One Soul At A Time."  
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

**NURSERY Ministry**

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH  
6477 Lincoln Road, Alexandria, VA 22312  
Phone: (703) 256-1268  
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor  
Deaconess Allie Hollister  
Servant Leader  
[WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG](http://WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG)

INTERESTED?  
Contact the Church Office  
Phone: (703) 256-1268 ext. 10  
Email:  
[secretary@mtpleasantbc.org](mailto:secretary@mtpleasantbc.org)

**Ministry Spotlight**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**NEED**  
• The church nursery is in need of volunteers!

**BENEFITS**  
• Volunteering in the nursery is a wonderful way to make a positive impact on the lives of our youngest members and their families.  
• Your support will be invaluable in creating a nurturing and safe environment for our little ones.

**TRAINING**  
• Every volunteer must complete background checks and mandatory training to maintain optimal safety and care standards. The church will assist you throughout this process.  
• Empower you with the expertise and insights necessary to deliver the finest experiences for our children.

## Public Safety Alert

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

The screenshot shows the DEA website with the 'One Pill Can Kill' campaign banner. The banner features the text 'ONE PILL CAN KILL' in large, bold, white letters on a dark background, with a red diagonal line striking through the word 'PILL'. Below the banner, there are statistics on fentanyl seizures in 2023:

DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023	75,600,000+	11,503+ lbs.
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.	Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized	Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized

Below the statistics, there is a 'Public Safety Alert' section with a red warning triangle icon. The text reads: '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.' To the right of the alert is a graphic showing 10 pills, with 7 marked as 'DEADLY' and 3 marked as 'SAFE'.



**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

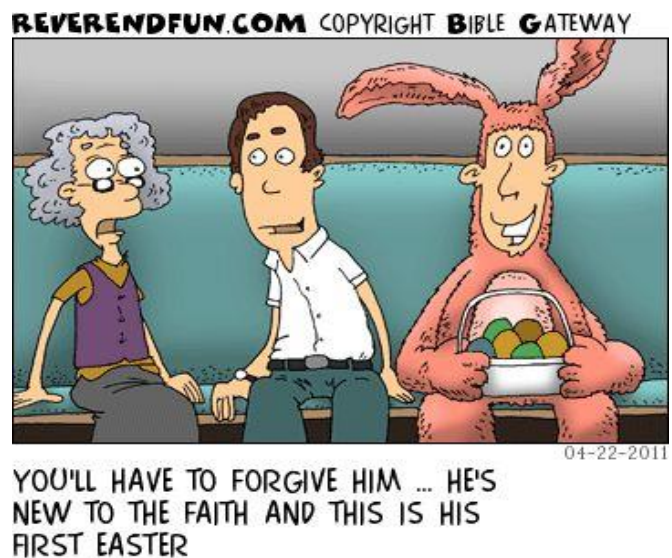
**Health and Wellness Ministry** — Nurses — contact Sister Phyllis Jordan

**Nursery Ministry** — Helpers — contact Deaconess Allie Hollister

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

To inquire about other opportunities to serve, contact the Church Office.

## From the Lighter Side





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



*email: [secretary@mtpleasantbc.org](mailto:secretary@mtpleasantbc.org)  
web site: [www.mtpleasantbc.org](http://www.mtpleasantbc.org)*

### **MPBC Messenger Staff**

Karin Henderson	Editor-in-Chief/ Designer
Eloise Clarke	Editor
Anita Johnson	Editor
Debbie Coles	Church News Reporter
Linda Hayes	Staff Writer/Contributor



### **VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — APRIL 26, 2025 @ 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**

“Changing Lives One Soul at a Time” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Submission of articles to the **Messenger** — Please send articles via email attachment to:  
[mpbcnewsletter@mtpleasantbc.org](mailto:mpbcnewsletter@mtpleasantbc.org).