

MT. PLEASANT MENNONITE CHURCH**Our Vision:****“Making Disciples that *Make a Difference!*”**

Pastor: Nevin Mast
 Associate Pastor: Johnnie Gnanamanickam
 Phone: 757/482-2215 FAX: 757/546-9158
 Email mpmcoffice@gmail.com

Secretary: Christina Mast
 Treasurer : Nina Troyer
 Website: www.mpmc.net

If you are visiting with us today, please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering. It is great to have you here. Please join us again next Sunday.

9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Class Bob Walker
 Sanctuary

Youth “Bible Truths” James Bergey III
 Upstairs in Back of Sanctuary

Children & Young Youth “The Gospel Project” Teresa Bradshaw
 (starting at 4yrs. of age) and the Children’s Sunday School Team
 Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship Leader Chester Mast

Advent Candle Willie and Carolyn Yoder

Praise and Worship Gospel Group

Communion Elders

Children’s Church - Dismissed to Fellowship Hall Phil and Jenn Bergey
 (All children ages 4-9)

Message “Spiritual Gifts: Greater Gift #1” Pastor Johnnie
...eagerly desire the greater gifts. - 1 Corinthians 12:31

Friday Morning Men’s Prayer All men are invited every **Friday morning** from **6:30 - 7:15 a.m.**, to pray together at the church.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24; however, the Worship Service will begin at 10:30 a.m., as usual. Then, invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us for our **Christmas Eve service in the evening with the prelude starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the candlelight service at 6:30 p.m.**

The MPCs Christmas Project is raising funds for Academia Menonita Betania, a Christian school in Puerto Rico, which was severely damaged this fall by Hurricane Irma. This project is one that was important to Rose Bergey and her family, as they took a family mission trip there. Academia Mennonite Betania is very similar to our own school. MPCs will be accepting donations to this project through **Dec. 19**, if you would like to contribute.

THE LIFESTYLE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Joan Wilson, dancer and choreographer for THE PLAY, The Story of the Man Called Jesus since 1988 will be teaching THE LIFESTYLE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP, an 8 week course on the Biblical Foundation for Praise and Worship expression and the Feasts of the Lord at Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church.

Class topics will include Kingdom Artisans, The Blessing of Unity, The Garment of Praise, Principles and Weapons of Spiritual Warfare as well as the Feasts found in Leviticus 23.

When: January 8, 15, 22
 February 5, 12, 19
 March 5, 12

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Cost: Love Offering to benefit EXALT (Children’s Arts Camp) 2018

***Registration is requested by emailing: joan-wilson@cox.net**

Joan has been overseer and mentor for EXALT for many years and along with her husband, Wes, has served as co-leader for numerous trips to Israel under the leadership of Dr. Joseph and Marie Umidi of The Man Called Jesus International.

Ministry Team Sunday Schedule

This Sunday, December 3, 2017

Adult Sunday School Teaching Team
Bob Walker

Nursery Team
Debbie Keffer

Ushers Team
Dennis Yoder and Jonathan Keffer

Media Team
Audio: Kurt Jarchow & Video: Kurt Edmonds

Next Sunday, December 10, 2017

Adult Sunday School Teaching Team
Nina Troyer

Nursery Team
Christina Mast

Ushers Team
Ricky Keffer and Thomas Castellow

Media Team
Audio: Kurt Jarchow & Video: Justin Miller

Worship Service Attendance Last Sunday: 89

Offering First Sunday in November: \$7,324.00
Second Sunday: \$3,061.00 Third Sunday: \$5,197.00
Fourth Sunday: \$4,878.00

YTD Budgeted Giving as of Oct. 31, 2017: \$50,682.90
YTD Budgeted Giving Shortfall as of Oct. 31, 2017: \$4,833.60

Leadership Council

Nevin Mast - Lead Pastor

Johnnie Gnanamanickam - Associate Pastor, Congregational Care

Lynn Keffer - Administrative Elder Jamie Bradshaw - Community Life Elder

Inga Mast - Missions & Evangelism Elder Tina Harrell - Worship Elder

*Leadership Council meets the second Thursday of each month. Please contact
Pastor Nevin if you have any agenda items you wish to have heard.*

ADVENT



Each Sunday we will be celebrating the season of Advent by lighting the Advent candle(s). The word Advent means, “coming” or “arrival.” It is, in a sense, a countdown of anticipation in which we celebrate Christ’s first Advent, or coming, in which He was born into this world as a small child in a manger just over 2000 years ago.

The wreath and its candles are the visual focus of Advent. One of the candles is lit each week as Christmas approaches. The circle of the Advent wreath has no beginning and no end. It portrays for us God’s timelessness and His eternal plan of salvation. The evergreen color denotes eternal life that we are granted when we come to know Christ as our Lord and Savior. The shape of the wreath is round, reminding us of the fellowship of believers around the world who share with us the celebration of His coming.

The four outer candles represent the gifts of His spirit in us, which are: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. If you will notice, on the outside there are three lavender or purple candles. This color reminds us of sorrow and repentance. The fourth outer candle is pink, which reminds us of joy. The center candle is called the Christ candle. This was a symbol used in the early church to represent Jesus Christ. The Christ candle will be lit during our Christmas Eve service.

He (Herod) called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. “Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?” he asked them. “In Bethlehem,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ‘O Bethlehem of Judah, you are not just a lowly village in Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Matthew 2: 4-6 (NLT)

Prayer and Praise

Mike Morris’s father is suffering from fluid in his chest and legs. Let’s cover him in prayer, may he experience both physical and spiritual healing.

Connie Johnson was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Mt. Pleasant Road a few weeks ago. Let’s continue to remember her in prayer as she recovers from her physical injuries.

Steve Bridgeman brother in law of Ken and Ruth Kurtz lost his life this past week in an auto accident. Let’s lift up his wife Ruby and the family in prayer during this difficult time. There will be a memorial service here at Mt. Pleasant for Steve on **Thursday, December 7, at 11:00 a.m.**

Dani Culpepper’s uncle, Alan Rosten passed away from cancer. Let’s remember the Rosten family and Dani and Ryan in prayer as they grieve.

We join with the Gnanamanickam family in praising the Lord for Priscilla’s parents safe return to India. May the Lord bless them and keep them until they are able to visit with us again.

Let’s pray for the teachers! As a church body we’ll be focusing on one teacher/staff member at MPCS or one of our public school teachers each week. However, the Lord leads you in prayer and /or a card to offer encouragement. This week we are focusing on second grade teacher, Laurie Oehler.

Sandy Lehman wrote, “I would like to thank everyone for the visits, food, cards, phone calls, and wonderful words of encouragement. You are all very special to me! I also want to thank the Good Cheer Committee for the wonderful edible arrangement. It was great!”

Greg and Lora Smith were blessed with the arrival of a baby boy, Parker Elliot on November 18, 2017. Congratulations to Greg, Lora, Emma, Caroline, and Cameron!

Sandra Donahue, Jerry Wood Sr.’s sister in WV has pneumonia and is not expected to recover. During this sad time, let’s remember the Wood and Donahue families in prayer may they draw comfort from the Savior, and may Sandra feel ever close to the one she claims as Lord of her life.

Loel Wenger’s daughter, Angela and her husband have been serving as missionary co-pastors at a church in Japan for 20 years. In addition to raising their four children, they are caring for 3 older family members and two church members who were injured in a motor vehicle accident and remain hospitalized. Let’s lift up this family in prayer asking for the Lord’s provision for their needs, His guidance as to ways in which to meet the needs of those He has placed in their care and protection for their family as they serve.

