

NEWSLETTER

What's Your Hurry

Is there any busier time than the Christmas season? Shopping, travel, overtime, parties, tournaments, ohhh and even church.

This December we are going to focus on one of the best gifts we can give ourselves this season. We are starting a new series called "Be Still".

James 4:8,14 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone.

Ok take a deep breath in...now let it out. One more time....



This is how we should be when we spend time with God, relaxed. We get to enjoy God's presence when we eliminate our constant hurrying and make time for Him throughout our day. Making the most of this brief life we have on earth.

Our conversations with friends and family are rushed. We have surface level discussion but you don't have time to go into detail because your schedule is loaded and you don't want to be late. It's funny how our time with God can look just like this; hurried, rushed and hectic.

But when we create space in our day to hang out with God, you can actually talk. You can pour out your hearts to Him, but if we don't create time for Him to talk back, we can sometimes leave our quiet times wondering why did He not show up and speak? The problem is not that He didn't show up, because He definitely did. We just couldn't be still long enough to listen, because we had to go.

This Christmas season I pray we can all be still and get to know Emanuel, God with us, who we say the season is all about.

Ask God to slow you down next time you rush by a meeting with Him. Just slow down and make room for Jesus.

-Pastor Chris



Shepherds Staff

Greetings Mt. Pleasant Church from your elder team. As our hearts are still filled with thanksgiving, we make the transition to the Christmas season; a season of joy and a season of hope. With great anticipation, we patiently await the coming birth of our Savior, Immanuel!

In Luke chapter 1, the foretelling of Jesus' birth was revealed to Mary through a visit from the angel, Gabriel. The Bible says that Mary was confused and disturbed, but even still she was obedient to the message that was shared. She trusted in God's plan knowing she would be looked down upon given her circumstances. How refreshing it is to know that this lesson still applies to Christians today. No matter what worries or anxieties we face, if we trust in the gospel message, we too can boldly walk with Jesus daily glorifying Him all the way.

There are several opportunities this month to come together as a congregation to celebrate and glorify the coming Messiah. From the choir's Christmas cantata to the multiple events aimed at getting our children involved, you're sure to find a way to celebrate this Christmas season with your Mt. Pleasant family.

As we look to the new year, we would like to take the opportunity to thank Jon Sloan, Jay Payne and Kevin Logan for their service and dedication as elders for the past 3 years. Also, we would like to welcome Hunter Brooks, Stephen Garlick and Stan Bowen as they join the elders to faithfully serve Mt. Pleasant for the next 3 years.

"All right then, the Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')." Isaiah 7:14 NLT

Please reach out to us in person, via email or phone.

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Can you believe Christmas is only a few weeks away? We hope you and your family are loving this holiday season.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Here's what's coming up in our ministry . . .

YOUTH GROUP | SUNDAYS 1 & 8, 5 - 7:30P

'YOUTH GROUP' is our Sunday evening programming. Our students come together for a night filled with team-building games, a delicious meal, high-energy music, a powerful message, and a small group discussion they won't want to miss! These nights are designed for everyone to invite someone!

YOUTH BREAKFAST | WEDNESDAYS, 7:00A

Wednesday mornings, when Davidson County Schools have classes. Students 5th-12th grade enjoy breakfast & devotion.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAY 4, 5:30 - 7:30P

Family Night is a time to enjoy a meal and fellowship as a family before breaking off into bible study classes for every age.

YOUTH X-MAS PARTY | 15, 5:00 - 7:30P

All Youth & 5th Graders, wear your favorite Christmas PJs and bring a \$5 gift for our dirty Santa gift exchange.

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



Morning Time

As your teen starts their day, tell them something unique and wonderful about who they are.



Bed Time

Pray that you and your teen will fight comparison with truth.



Meal Time

At a meal this week, have everyone answer this question: "Is comparison a struggle for you? How might knowing you bring something unique to the world help?"



Their Time

Ask your teen if there's anything you can take off their plate right now to help with what may feel overwhelming to them.



GRATEFUL: A 4-Week Series from the Gospels on **Christmas**.

SERIES OVERVIEW:

This Christmas, what are you grateful for? Your favorite Christmas memories might involve snowball fights, presents, or time with the people you love most . . . but feeling grateful and expressing gratitude are two pretty different things. When we really think about it, there's so much we can be thankful for — even when things don't work exactly how we planned. God has given us so much, and the birth of Jesus is a great way to focus on all of the gifts we've received this year, and to say thank you too! In this series, we'll look at classic Christmas stories to see what they can teach us about gratitude as we celebrate Jesus' birth. As we do, we'll be reminded to be thankful for each other, what God has done, and God's promises, and to be thankful even when it's not easy.

YOUTH MEAL SERVERS

DECEMBER: Jill Hege, Shirley Johnson, Teresa Harden, Cindy Buckner, Wendy Harper

JANUARY: Debbie Hoffman, Bonnie Darr, Sue Fitzgerald, Jane Mendenhall, Kathy Sloan

The Savior Is Born

JESUS IS THE
BEST GIFT OF
ALL



COME, LET US
ADORE HIM!



Make sure celebrating Jesus
fills your family
calendar



free printable

"Gifts for Jesus" advent calendar



KIDS' SPECIAL EVENTS

Wed, Dec. 11 Dinner with Santa
RSVP



5:30-8p.m.

Sat, Dec. 14 Happy Birthday Jesus Party
RSVP

11a.m.-1p.m.



MTP Kids Present

Sun, Dec. 15 "Straight Outta Bethlehem"
9:45-10:45a.m.

Tues, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship Times
FLC at 4p.m., 6p.m., 8p.m.

Wed, Dec. 25 Christmas Morning Worship
FLC 9:30 a.m.

Join the Fun!



Sundays

downstairs in the kids' wing

8:30a & 11a Children's Church

9:45a Kids' Klub Classes



News and Notes

Fall session ended with 44 families and 89 students. Each Tuesday and Thursday, we are blessed to share God's unfailing love with the absolutely adorable pre-kindergarten aged to the "more seasoned" high school level.

Thank you to the parents and volunteers that worked tirelessly to get their young ones up and to class, helped keep things moving, and helped tidy up paint, glitter, paper, and potty. To the teachers - y'all are the absolute BEST! We are also grateful for the continued support and prayer of our Church's leadership as well as members.

Spring registration is going strong with 40 families registered so far. New and prospective family registration opens on **Monday, November 25th at 9 am**. All registrations close on **Monday, December 9th at 5 pm**.

On Tuesday, November 26th, we will hold our end of session party with a Baby Shower for Baby Jesus. We are thrilled to help support Salem Pregnancy Care Center with their most needed items for their mothers and babies.

Spring Orientation will be on Tuesday, January 7th with Spring Session classes beginning on Tuesday, January 14th.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 25th Spring 2025 Registration for New and Prospective Families opens

Tuesday, November 26th Last Day of Classes
"Baby Shower for Baby Jesus" End of Session Party

Monday, December 9th Spring 2025 Registration closes

Monday, December 16th Spring Teacher Orientation

Tuesday, January 7th Spring Family Meal and Orientation

Tuesday, January 14th Spring classes begin



MTP Women's Group

The October meeting was October 28 at 6:30. The pecan order has been submitted and they should arrive soon.

The November meeting will be November 25. At this meeting we will do a blessing box. We will also bring a money donation that will be used for the Christmas child we will be supporting. For Thanksgiving this year, we are providing items for three food boxes that will be given to The Father's Storehouse. Father's Storehouse provides food boxes with staple food and the items needed to prepare a Thanksgiving meal to people in need of help.

For Christmas this year the MTP Women will be choosing a child or children from the angel tree as the child / children we will support at Christmas.

The December meeting schedule will be different. We will meet on December 16 at 6:00 pm instead of December 23. Wishing you a grateful, peaceful Thanksgiving with those you love.

You are always invited to come join us for a meeting. For more information contact Tammy Dyles, or the church office and Felecia will get information to Tammy.

MTP Men's Group

The Men's Group will not have a meeting in December. We wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas!

Evangelism Committee

CHRISTMAS *blessing tree*

Our Blessing Tree is in the church lobby for you to pick your Angel.

We are asking for all gifts to be back to the church by **December 8**, unwrapped.

Each child will have more than 1 Angel (Ex. 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D) are all the same child.

We also have Gold Angels on the tree if you would like to donate wrapping paper so that parents can wrap the gifts once they get them home.

Help us be a blessing to local children this Christmas!

Mission Committee

The Missions Committee has had quite a year, and we want to thank you, church family, for helping make it a success! Here's a recap of what we were able to do in local and foreign missions with your support:

In February, we collected clothes for fresh start bags for the Human Trafficking Resource Center (formally called Triad Ladder of Hope). In March, you helped purchase shoes for school-aged children in need through our partnership with Hillside Baptist Church.

April was an exciting month with a pickleball tournament for the Human Trafficking Resource Center and Abraham Thomas' visit from India. We were able to meet him, and pray for him and hear him speak about his wonderful ministry. In May, you bought supplies for Mallorie Ramos' mission trip for the volunteers going to Nicaragua to support her youth ministry there.

This fall was an exciting time for outreach with our annual Each One, Feed One food Packing event. We packed a record 15,000 meals this year! We had our first Missions Sunday, hearing from three of our foreign missionaries in Nicaragua, Ryan and Lena Mabe and Mallorie Ramos. We were able to hear about the highlights and struggles of being a missionary and collected donations for them during all three services.

We didn't reach our goal for Operation Christmas Child, but thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox for a child in need! My last count was 150 shoeboxes, and we will deliver the boxes Nov. 25 after the final collection.

A big thank you to all the small groups who participated in the monthly meals for the homeless with Cooperative Community Ministries! We will continue gathering volunteers again in January.

We have been able to support five groups of missionaries, all around the world. Please continue to be in prayer for Ryan and Lena Mabe, Mallorie Ramos, Abraham Thomas, Rachel and Luke Duggins and Neil Broere and his family.

Agape Royal Ministries - Abraham Thomas - www.AgapeRoyalMinistries.org

Anhelo Missions - Mallorie Ramos - www.CMNetwork.org

Iron Kite International - Neil Broere - www.TheTableCalifornia.com

Mabe Family Missions - Ryan & Lena Mabe - www.MabeFamilyMissions.com

Pioneers Organization - Rachel & Luke - www.Pioneers.Org



Check out each of our Missionaries websites or reach out to a member of the Mission Committee for a little more info!

Thanks again for all of your support this year!

The Missions Committee

Eileen Sloan, Greg Swaney, Karen Taylor, Christy Hayes, Dianne Reid, Brenda Flack, Lori Wilkerson, Michel Jarrell

Missions Sunday Pictures



Christmas

at

MTP



Celebrate with Us!



- December 8 *Christmas Cantata* 8:30 & 10:00 AM
- December 8 *Connection Group - A Very Embers Christmas* 2:00 PM
- December 11 *Dinner with Santa* 5:30 - 8:00 PM - floating
- December 14 *Happy Birthday Jesus Party* 11:00 AM
- December 15 *Kids Christmas Musical* 9:45 AM
- December 15 *Christmas Caroling* 3:00 PM
- December 24 *Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion* 4 PM | 6 PM | 8 PM
- December 25 *Christmas Morning Worship* 9:30 AM

December Birthdays

- 
- 1 - Jeff Smith
 - 2 - Linda Hilton
 - 4 - Robin Murphy, Zoe Starbuck
 - 6 - Steve McDaniel, Gayle Mabe
 - 8 - Buddy Boatright, Lauren Cockrum, Jared Hall
 - 9 - Ryder Cecil, Hollis Fitzgerald, Jane Mendenhall
 - 10 - Becky Bruner
 - 11 - Ann Leonard
 - 12 - Mandy Creel
 - 13 - Laurie Parks, Kaden Swaim
 - 14 - Faye Baity, Marie Idol
 - 15 - Drew Craver, Ronnie Russell, Brian Evans
 - 16 - Mary Green
 - 17 - Connor Sexton, Adam Prior
 - 19 - Connor Peacock
 - 20 - Glenn Payne, Jordan Sweeney
 - 21 - Emma H. Hilton, Jeremy Ray
 - 22 - Garrison Lassiter
 - 23 - Adam Hilton
 - 24 - Karen Swaim
 - 26 - Liss Jarosz
 - 27 - Catherine White
 - 29 - Adrienne Graeub, Sara Graeub, Leanne Penry,
Charlotte Jarosz
 - 30 - Sue Fitzgerald
 - 31 - Carrie Jarosz, Katie Koontz

ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP

October 27, 2024

8:30 Worship: 200
9:45 Worship: 337
11:00: 67
Total Weekend Worship: 604
General Offering: \$21,711.50
FLC Offering: \$2,805.00

November 3, 2024

8:30 Worship: 203
9:45 Worship: 412
11:00 Contemporary: 47
11:00 Worship: 15
Total Weekend Worship: 677
General Offering: \$19,351.00
FLC Offering: \$2,505.00

November 10, 2024

8:30 Worship: 167
9:45 Worship: 372
11:00 Contemporary: 47
11:00 Worship: 30
Total Weekend Worship: 616
Small Groups: 320
General Offering: \$20,086.00
FLC Offering: \$2,025.00

November 17, 2024

8:30 Worship: 263
9:45 Worship: 378
11:00 Contemporary: 37
11:00 Worship: 22
Total Weekend Worship: 700
Small Groups: 307
General Offering: \$16,235.00
FLC Offering: \$1,435.00



Thursday, December 5 will be traveling to Southern Supreme Fruit Cake in Bear Creek and dining at Bestfood Cafeteria in Siler City. RSVP on the church app or website.

Sunday, December 8 will be going to see "A Very Embers Christmas" This outing is open to all - the first 25 to purchase tickets will be able to ride the bus. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased on the church app or website.

SERVING THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER 2024



Ushers:

- December 1: Adam Buckner & Joe Hayworth
- December 8: Greg Moore & Bryan Bray
- December 15: Ronnie Russell & Gary Hilton
- December 22: Gary Craven & Tim Starbuck
- December 29: Joe Hayworth

Greeters: 8:30 AM

- December 1: Doug & Gail Aderhold
- December 8: Wendy Harper
- December 15: Stan & Karen Bowen
- December 22: Len & Terrie Blevins
- December 29: _____

9:45 AM

- John & Kathy Butt
- Danny & Denise Roberts
- The Shufelt Family
- Chet & Lorrie Varner
- _____

11:00 AM

- Joanne Baughn & Ester Skiff
- Greg Moore
- Ronnie & Dot Russell
- Doris & Patsy
- _____

Info Center: 8:15 - 9:45 AM

- December 1: Jay & Stephanie Payne
- December 8: Sharon Payne
- December 15: _____
- December 22: Jane Mendenhall
- December 29: Len & Terrie Blevins

9:30 - 11:00 AM

- Adam & Sammie Jo Prior
- Keith & Paula Knolmayer
- Bo & Jescena Sink
- Dianne Reid
- _____

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- Volunteers needed
- _____
- _____
- _____

FLC/Sanctuary Greeter: 8:15 - 9:45 AM

- December 1: Gayle Mabe
- December 8: Jeff & Shelby Smith
- December 15: Gail Aderhold
- December 22: Sandy Ellis
- December 29: _____

9:30 - 11:00 AM

- Danny & Denise Roberts
- Lee Koontz
- Andy & Tamara Plummer
- John & Kathy Butt
- _____

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- Felecia & Vicki Motsinger
- Glenda Bodenheimer
- Stan & Karen Bowen
- Len & Terrie Blevins
- _____

Coffee Bar: 8:15 - 9:45 AM

- December 1: Deb Casselbury
- December 8: Ryan & Allison Martin
- December 15: Doug Edgerton
- December 22: Emily Campbell
- December 29: _____

9:30 - 11:00 AM

- Pam D. Hall
- Casey Miller & Beth Meyer
- David & Laura Rathbone
- Ashley Craven
- _____

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- Volunteers needed
- _____
- _____
- _____

Parking Lot: 8:15 - 9:45 AM

- December 1: _____
- December 8: Randy Wilhoit
- December 15: _____
- December 22: _____
- December 29: _____

9:30 - 11:00 AM

- Jeff & Rebecca Tussey
- _____
- _____
- _____

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- Volunteers needed
- _____
- _____
- _____

Youth Greeters: 9:30 - 9:45 AM

- December 1: Katelyn Brann & Brayden Varner
- December 8: Peyton McDevitt & Cooper Clontz
- December 15: Brady Coons & Allison Sink
- December 22: Reagan Clontz & Ellie Kiger
- December 29: Holly Edwards & Emeline Rich

10:45 - 11 AM

- Volunteers needed
- _____
- _____
- _____



KIDS KLUB SERVERS - DECEMBER 2024

Nursery:

8:30 AM

December 1: Beth Craver & Janie Penry
 December 8: Jescena Sink & Katrina Darr
 December 15: Julie Motsinger & Jane Payne
 December 22: Wendy Harper & Teresa Harden
 December 29: Samantha Bruno

9:45 AM

The Garlick's & Charla Williams
 Laura, Caitlin & Carrie
 Emily, Rachel & Jamie
 Allison, Mitzi & Casey
 Kristi Burnette & Meggan Nobles

11:00 AM

Tricia Anderson
 Jennifer Driggers
 Courtney Lake
 Jennifer Driggers
 Jennifer Driggers

9:45 Sunday School:

1 Year Old:

December 1: Ashley J., Kimberly H. & Maddie W.
 December 8: Amelia S., Erin T., Kim W. & Brittany S.
 December 15: Macie, Bryce, Jaclyn A. & Samantha P.
 December 22: Amy N., Megan W. & Abigail M.
 December 29: -----

2 Year Old:

Cameron & Katie K. & Jenna Wheeler
 Cenda W., Kaylee B. & Bella D.
 Micah, Jessica, Leah, Reagan & Allison
 Beth C., Janie P. & Holly E.

3 Year Old:

Melissa Swaney & Alura T.
 Mae H., Taylor H. & Valerie N.
 Tiffany W. & Tammy V.
 Michael & Amber Bridges

4 Year Old:

December 1: Brittany James & Caroline James
 December 8: Donna W., Holly E. & Allyson L.
 December 15: Janet & Spence Wood & Zhoe D.
 December 22: Chad & Courtney Fritts
 December 29: -----

Kindergarten:

Phil & Kathy Sloan & Melony Tice
 Jill Murphy & Lucas & Mary Kate Brewer
 Misty Carr & Victoria McCrary & Zhoe
 Keith & Paula Knolmayer

1st Grade:

Tiffany Brister
 Leandra Glance
 Tess Robertson & Alex Phillips
 Josh & Heather Beasley

2nd Grade:

December 1: Eileen Sloan & Gabrielle Trull
 December 8: Courtney Breeden
 December 15: Jane Mendenhall
 December 22: Christina Turner
 December 29: -----

3rd Grade:

Sidnee Bruner
 Bob & Jeanette Beck

 Amy Phaup & Carrie Sharpe

4th Grade:

Jenny Hagee
 Amy McDevitt
 Jenny Hagee
 Amy McDevitt

Childrens Church:

8:30 AM

December 1: Diana Payne & Adriana & Bobby Cassell
 December 8: Eric & Emily Campbell
 December 15: Wes & Megan Payne
 December 22: Lisa Lane
 December 29: Lisa Lane

11:00 AM

Leandra Glance, Jeff & Shelby Smith
 Cindy Buckner & The Rathbone's
 Julie Butt
 Mike & Kristin Hague
 Melissa Moser



DECEMBER EVENTS



Tuesday's	Prayer Group Meeting	10 AM
Wednesday's	Youth Breakfast & Devotion	7 AM
Thursday's	Pickleball	6 - 8 PM
Sunday, December 1	Administrative Council Meeting	3 PM
Tuesday, December 3	Cantata Practice	6:45 - 9 PM
Thursday, December 5	Connection Group - Southern Supreme	10:30 AM
Friday, December 6	Men's Bible Study	5:30 AM
Saturday, December 7	Cantata Practice	8:30 - 11 AM
Sunday, December 8	Christmas Cantata	8:30 and 10 AM
Sunday, December 8	Connection Group - "A Very Embers Christmas"	2 PM
Sunday, December 8	Kids Christmas program practice	3 PM
Wednesday, December 11	Dinner with Santa	5:30 - 8 PM - floating
Saturday, December 14	Kids Christmas Program practice	10 AM
Saturday, December 14	Happy Birthday Jesus Party	11 AM
Sunday, December 15	Kids Christmas Program "Straight Outta Bethlehem"	9:45 AM
Sunday, December 15	Christmas Caroling	3 PM
Sunday, December 15	Youth Christmas Party	5 - 7:30 PM
Monday, December 16	Food to Families	
Monday, December 16	The Point Co-op Teacher Orientation	
Monday, December 16	MTP Women's Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday, December 19	The Point Co-op - The Nutcracker	
Friday, December 20	Men's Bible Study	5:30 AM
Saturday, December 21	Women Offering Worship	9:30 - 11 AM
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	4 PM 6 PM 8 PM
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Morning Worship	9:30 AM
Tuesday, December 31	24 Hours of Prayer	

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OUR MISSION

To Boldly Share The Unfailing Love of Jesus

OUR VISION

To Turn Our Community Upside Down for Jesus Christ

OUR VALUES

*Authority of Scripture
Authentic Relationships
Obedient Surrender
Expectant Hearts*

NEXT STEPS

Worship - Grow - Serve - Connect

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS | MONDAY - THURSDAY | 8AM - 2PM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: 8:30AM | 9:45AM | 11:00AM