

# NEWSLETTER

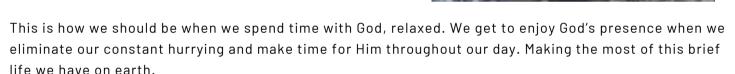
# What's Your Hurry

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....



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.

Elder:	Email:	<b>Cell Phone:</b>
Kelley Cameron	light11622@gmail.com	910-224-3877
Timmy Hege	hege@becoinc.com	336-442-1902
Kevin Logan	kllogan61@hotmail.com	336-399-8482
Mark Long	mark.o.long@outlook.com	336-918-0804
Tommy McDevitt	donaldmcdevitt@gmail.com	336-442-3512
Jay Payne	jpayne@jcgreenandsons.com	336-847-5889
Alex Sprinkle	alex.sprinkle@highpointnc.gov	336-847-7728
Jon Sloan	jonathans@cityofwsfire.org	336-848-2907
Greg York	yorkg1@gmail.com	336-848-8651



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 teambuilding 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.



#### **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?"



#### **Bed Time**

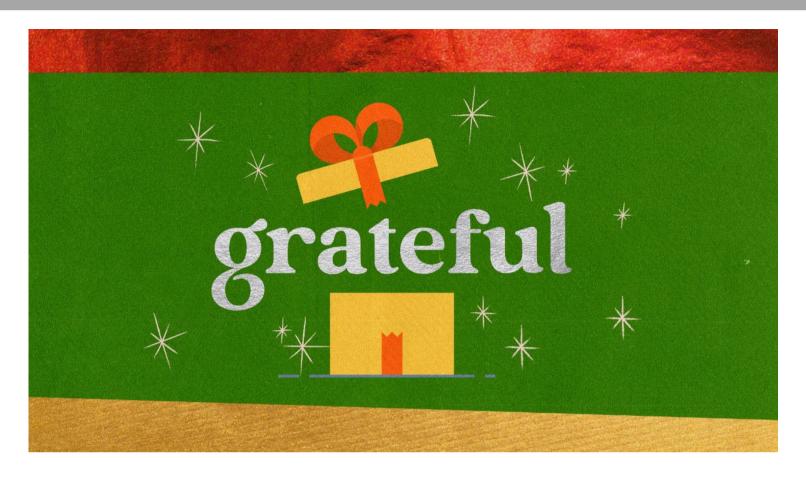
Pray that you and your teen will fight comparison with truth.



#### **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.

# WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



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

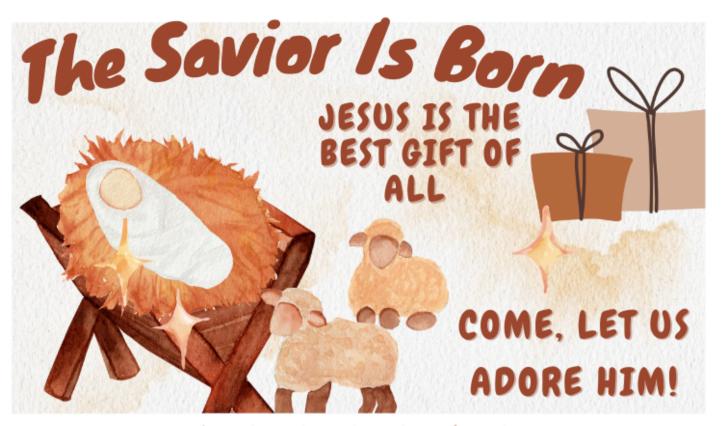
### **SERIES OVERVIEW:**

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





Make sure celebrating Jesus

fills your family

calendar



free printable

"Gifts for Jesus" advent calendar

# SPECIAL EVEN

RSVP

wed, Dec. 11 Dinner with Santa



5:30-8p.m.



Sat, Dec. 14 Happy Birthday Jesus Party





MTP Kids Present

"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.







# 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 Familes 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

# fellowship

# **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**



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

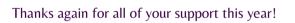
Anhelo Missions - Mallorie Ramos - www.CMNetwork.org

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!



The Missions Committee

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





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# Celebrate with Us!

star of wonder

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2024

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 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: Holly Edwards & Emeline Rich

December 29: Joe Hayworth



MtPleasant.Church/Volunteer

Greeters:	8:30 AM	9:45 AM	11:00 AM
December 1:	Doug & Gail Aderhold	John & Kathy Butt	Joanne Baughn & Ester Skif
December 8:	Wendy Harper	Danny & Denise Roberts	Greg Moore
December 15:	Stan & Karen Bowen	The Shufelt Family	Ronnie & Dot Russell
December 22:	Len & Terrie Blevins	Chet & Lorrie Varner	Doris & Patsy
December 29:			
Info Center:	8:15 - 9:45 AM	9:30 - 11:00 AM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
December 1:	Jay & Stephanie Payne	Adam & Sammie Jo Prior	Volunteers needed
December 8:	Sharon Payne	Keith & Paula Knolmayer	
December 15:		Bo & Jescena Sink	
December 22:	Jane Mendenhall	Dianne Reid	
December 29:	Len & Terrie Blevins		
FLC/Sanctuar	ry <u>Greeter: 8:15 - 9:45 AM</u>	9:30 - 11:00 AM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
December 1:	Gayle Mabe	Danny & Denise Roberts	Felecia & Vicki Motsinger
December 8:	Jeff & Shelby Smith	Lee Koontz	Glenda Bodenheimer
December 15:	Gail Aderhold	Andy & Tamara Plummer	Stan & Karen Bowen
December 22:	Sandy Ellis	John & Kathy Butt	Len & Terrie Blevins
December 29:			
Coffee Bar:	8:15 - 9:45 AM	9:30 - 11:00 AM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
December 1:	Deb Casselbury	Pam D. Hall	Volunteers needed
December 8:	Ryan & Allison Martin	Casey Miller & Beth Meyer	
December 15:	Doug Edgerton	David & Laura Rathbone	
December 22:	Emily Campbell	Ashley Craven	
December 29:			
Parking Lot:	8:15 - 9:45 AM	9:30 - 11:00 AM	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
December 1:		Jeff & Rebecca Tussey	Volunteers needed
December 8:	Randy Wilhoit		
December 15:			
December 22:			
December 29:			
Youth Greete	ers: 9:30 - 9:45 AM	10:45 - 11 AM	
December 1:	Katelyn Brann & Brayden Varner	Volunteers needed	HE
December 8:	Peyton McDevitt & Cooper Clontz		
December 15:	Brady Coons & Allison Sink		
December 22:			
D			

# KIDS KLUB SERVERS - DECEMBER 2024

N	u	<u>rs</u>	<u>e</u>	r\	<u>/:</u>

8:30 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM December 1: Beth Craver & Janie Penry Tricia Anderson The Garlick's & Charla Williams December 8: Jescena Sink & Katrina Darr Jennifer Driggers Laura, Caitlin & Carrie December 15: Julie Motsinger & Jane Payne Courtney Lake Emily, Rachel & Jamie December 22: Wendy Harper & Teresa Harden Jennifer Driggers Allison, Mitzi & Casey December 29: Samantha Bruno Jennifer Driggers Kristi Burnette & Meggan Nobles

# 9:45 Sunday School:

1 Year Old: 2 Year Old: 3 Year Old: December 1: Ashley J., Kimberly H. & Maddie W. Cameron & Katie K. & Jenna Wheeler Melissa Swaney & Alura T. December 8: Amelia S., Erin T., Kim W. & Brittany S. Cenda W., Kaylee B. & Bella D. Mae H., Taylor H. & Valerie N. December 15: Macie, Bryce, Jaclyn A. & Samantha P. Tiffany W. & Tammy V. Micah, Jessica, Leah, Reagan & Allison December 22: Amy N., Megan W. & Abigail M. Beth C., Janie P. & Holly E. Michael & Amber Bridges December 29: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Year Old: Kindergarten: 1st Grade: Phil & Kathy Sloan & Melony Tice Brittany James & Caroline James Tiffany Brister December 1: Donna W., Holly E. & Allyson L. Jill Murphy & Lucas & Mary Kate Brewer Leandra Glance December 8: Janet & Spence Wood & Zhoe D. Misty Carr & Victoria McCrary & Zhoe Tess Robertson & Alex Phillips December 15: Chad & Courtney Fritts Keith & Paula Knolmaver Josh & Heather Beasley December 22: December 29:

2nd Grade: 3rd Grade: 4th Grade: December 1: Jenny Hagee Eileen Sloan & Gabrielle Trull Sidnee Bruner December 8: Courtney Breeden **Amy McDevitt** Bob & Jeanette Beck December 15: Jenny Hagee Jane Mendenhall December 22: Christina Turner Amy Phaup & Carrie Sharpe Amy McDevitt December 29:

# **Childrens Church:**

#### 8:30 AM 11:00 AM

December 1: Diana Payne & Adriana & Bobby Cassell Leandra Glance, Jeff & Shelby Smith December 8: Eric & Emily Campbell Cindy Buckner & The Rathbone's December 15: Wes & Megan Payne Julie Butt December 22: Lisa Lane Mike & Kristin Hague

December 29: Lisa Lane Melissa Moser



DECEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday's Prayer Group Meeting
Wednesday's Youth Breakfast & Devotion
Thursday's Pickleball

h Breakfast & Devotion

10 AM

**7 ΔM** 

6 - 8 PM

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

# **STAFF**

Tuesday, December 31

Rev. Chris Clontz Senior Pastor

Chris@MtPleasant.Church

Cell: 336-880-8847

Rev. Tim Starbuck

Pastoral Care Associate Pastor Tim@MtPleasant.Church

Cell: 336-929-7163

Donny Baldridge Youth Pastor

Youth@MtPleasant.Church

BethAnn Starbuck

24 Hours of Prayer

Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Kids@MtPleasant.Church

Lauren Rathbone

HomeSchool Co-Op Director Homeschool@MtPleasant.Church

Greg Moore

Facilities Manager

Facilities@MtPleasant.church

Felecia Motsinger Administrative Assistant Office@MtPleasant.Church

336-475-6757

#### 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