



MT. PLEASANT
CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

UNEXPECTED

Christmas



Every good story has a plot twist—an unexpected moment that changes everything. One of the biggest plot twists in the Bible is the Christmas story. In our new series starting December 10th we'll explore how this one event changed the world and how it can change your life as well in unexpected ways.

This Advent we will revisit the most familiar stories of the birth of Jesus... Emmanuel "God with us".

It is easy for us to read these texts and not be surprised by what happens and how people respond because it is so familiar to us. However, these events were very unexpected and left people to make difficult decisions that would impact their lives and generations to come.

Even though we are over 2000 years removed it kind of sounds like our life at times. We also face challenges and unexpected events that leave us thinking, "I never thought this would happen ... I have no idea what to do next".

Have you ever had a moment like that?

You're face to face with a choice that feels bigger than you, and how you respond might change your life.

How do you know what to do? Where do you go for advice? How do you find the strength to move on? These are some of the questions answered in our upcoming series "Unexpected Christmas".

Expecting A Great Christmas Season!

Pastor Chris



COFFEE WITH STARBUCK

4th Thursday of each month. Our grief group is a gathering of a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. **Wednesday, 12/13 - Wallburg Grill**

SINGLES MINISTRY

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. We encourage all singles in the church and our community to join us!

- December 3 | 6pm
- December 17 | 6pm



Calling all Retirees!



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Connection Group will be heading to the Billy Graham library, will leave the church at 2:30pm. RSVP online

Connection Group LUNCHEON

We will have our Christmas lunch on Wednesday, December 13 at Wallburg Grill at 11:30am.

Shepherds Staff

Blessings to all our Mt. Pleasant brothers and sisters in Christ from your elder team. I hope that everyone has a great Thanksgiving Week! There are many ups and downs, hills and valleys in life, but the Bible reminds us to be thankful through it all. This attitude of gratitude, and our hope for things to come is what makes us stand out as different in our world today. We should have qualities and fruits of the spirit that others want to emulate, and those are the qualities of Christ! When people see and hear us, they should see and hear Jesus. So, thank God for all He has given you this week, and share those qualities, and that love, with someone new!

We would also like to welcome our new at-large Administrative Council members (Laura Cameron, Lee Koontz, and Julie Logan), as well as our new elders (Tim Hege, Tommy McDevitt, and Alex Sprinkle). These folks will be starting in January, please be in prayer for the Lord to use their gifts at Mt. Pleasant. The 2024 church budget was also approved on Sunday, November 19 we are so thankful for our finance team, and all they do to keep our church in good health financially.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18- "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

2 Corinthians 9:11 "You will be enriched in every way, so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

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

<u>Elder:</u>	<u>Email:</u>	<u>Cell Phone:</u>
Kelley Cameron	light11622@gmail.com	910-224-3877
Joe Hayworth	hayworthjc@gmail.com	336-687-4514
Eric Hilton	ehilton@northstate.net	336-880-4926
Kevin Logan	kllogan61@hotmail.com	336-399-8482
Mark Long	mark.o.long@outlook.com	336-918-0804
Jay Payne	jpayne@jcgreenandsons.com	336-847-5889
Bo Sink	bosink22@gmail.com	404-218-7092
Jon Sloan	jonathans@cityofwsfire.org	336-848-2907
Greg York	yorkg1@gmail.com	336-848-8651

Can you believe that Christmas is only a few weeks away? We hope you and your family are looking forward to a wonderful season!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

YOUTH GROUP | 3 & 10 | 5 - 7:30P

Our Sunday evening programming with games, a shared meal, music, message and small group time.

YOUTH BREAKFAST | 6, 13 & 20 | 7A

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

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY | DEC. 6 | 6 - 7:30P

YOUTH X-MAS PARTY | DEC. 17 | 5 - 7:30P

Wear your favorite Christmas PJs and bring a \$5 gift for our Dirty Santa gift exchange. Enjoy breakfast for dinner, games & gifts!

WHAT WE'RE TEACHING



HALO: A STUDY FROM THE GOSPELS ON **CHRISTMAS**

SERIES OVERVIEW:

There are certain things that make Christmas really feel like Christmas, right? Christmas trees, holly, candy canes, nativity sets, that one Christmas album your family can't get enough of . . . oh! And angels. If you pay attention, you'll find them everywhere this Christmas season. They're on Christmas trees, ornaments, and greeting cards. They're in Christmas carols, movies, and nativity sets. And they're all over the pages of Scripture, too. That's because angels played an important role in the very first Christmas. In this four-week series from the Gospels, we'll pay close attention to the announcements the angels made surrounding Jesus' birth. Together, we'll see why the messages the angels shared back then still matter today — like the message that **God's timing is always right**, that **Jesus is always good news**, that **we can always share God's story**, and that **God is always ready to rescue**.



What an **AMAZING** first month!

Our Information Session on November 16th had about 35 in attendance, and included those from MTP and the area homeschool community. We were also blessed by the presence of Jennifer Kearns from Gullion's in King sharing encouragement as well as available curriculum and service options.

Tuesday Bible study during PE continues to be a blessing for our moms, youth, and children. Thank you to Megan, Donny, Jennifer, Beth Ann, and the volunteers for their continued gifts of time, love, and grace.

Upcoming Events

November 27-December 18	Registration for Spring 2024 semester
December 12th	Last PE and Bible study for year Cookie Exchange
December 14th	High Point Ballet's <i>Nutcracker</i>
January 4th	Teacher and Parent/Student Orientations
January 9th	First Day of Spring 2024 Classes



DECEMBER



**Sharing God's love,
one child at a time!!!**

What's Happening

12/3-Play Practice 3:00

12/8-Dinner with Santa

12/9-Play practice

10:00-11:30

12/9-Happy Birthday

Jesus party 11:30-12:30

12/10-Kids Klub

Christmas program-9:45

12/25-Merry Christmas-

Happy Birthday Jesus

**Dinner with Santa and the Christmas
Express**

Join us for dinner,
crafts, train rides,
pictures with Santa
and more...

Friday, December 8
5:30-8:00pm



**Happy
Birthday
Jesus Party**

**Saturday, December 9
11:30-12:30**

Join us for lunch, story time,
crafts and birthday cake



Register @ <https://www.mtleasant.church/kids/>

Christmas

Kindness Countdown

25 Random Acts of Kindness

1. Make cards for neighbors
2. Help someone clean up
3. Pick out food to donate
4. Donate 2 shirts from your closet
5. Leave a note for the garbage collector
6. Take cookies to a fire station
7. Play with someone new at school
8. Give someone a compliment
9. Tell someone they're doing a good job
10. Pick up trash outside
11. Make a gift for a friend
12. Call a friend to say Hi
13. Bring flowers to a teacher
14. Wrap up new toys to donate
15. Be last all day
16. Pick up pine cones in a neighbor's yard
17. Clean up a mess you didn't make
18. Send a card to Grandma
19. Take cookies to the neighbors
20. Tell someone you love them
21. Find (at least) one toy to donate
22. Make thank you notes for police officers
23. Donate two books
24. Leave a kindness rock outside
25. Offer someone a hug





MTP Women's Group

The November meeting will be November 27 at 6:30 pm. The mission project – snacks for the hospital waiting room. We did a Blessing Box.

The December meeting will be December 18 at 6:00 (note the change in time). The meal will be covered dish. Our mission project will be Christmas gifts and groceries for a family. We will do a blessing box. During our fellowship time we will play Dirty Santa.

Praying for God's Grace, Peace, Love and Strength as we enjoy the very busy Holiday Season. Wishing you a Christmas where we celebrate the Christ Child with our family and our extended family in Christ. Please remember those who are facing medical and financial challenges, or are lonely and in need of a phone call or visit.

MTP Men's Group

Hard to believe that another year is about to hit the history books. The men will close out the year with the traditional Christmas Dinner with wives on December 10. Come on out and bring your lovely bride for a time of fellowship.

Angel Tree Info

Each child has more than 1 angel

EX. 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d are all the same child with their Christmas list broken up between angels.

All gifts MUST be labeled with the # and letter of the angel you have

Gifts need to be back on or before December 17

Turn gifts in at the back of the Sanctuary

Pray for your Angel & their family

Sign out your Angel on the paper in the lobby



Mission Committee

Persecution of Christians in India has been on the rise throughout the 2023 and is expected to increase in the coming days as five states in India complete regional elections. Candidates are united in their condemnation of Christians.

Among those facing police crackdowns is the Rev. Abraham Thomas, director of Agape Royal Ministries, and whom Mt. Pleasant Church has supported for more 15 years. He emailed Tina Grubbs, chairwoman of the Mission Committee, in November that prayers are urgently needed.

"The police gave an ultimatum to our church planters in Arorah area of the state of Uttar Pradesh, not to open the church buildings or worship beginning next Sunday [Nov. 19]," he said.

He asked the Mt. Pleasant Church family to specifically pray for those churches being threatened by the police.

"This is the most difficult time in ministry," Rev. Thomas said. "Yet God continues to save souls and bless our endeavors."

Despite the threats against the ministry's church planters, Rev. Thomas continues to be committed to fulfill Jesus' command to take the Gospel to the world. The Agape newsletter he sent the Mission Committee focuses more on those who have accepted Christ as their Savior than the persecution the church and Christian converts face.

In addition to praying for those churches facing shutdown, he sent the following requests:

- Please Pray: Bible study for Nepal children.
- Please pray for the ministry in India, Nepal, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Please continue to pray for the peace of Manipur and Myanmar.
- Pray for Logos College extension classes in Andhra Pradesh from Nov. 17 for two weeks.
- Pray for Logos College of Theology's upcoming programs – the Logos picnic scheduled for Nov. 24 and Sports Meet in December.

The Indian state Uttar Pradesh reported the most attacks against Christians this year. That information, according to the website of the Union of Catholic Asian News, comes from the United Christian Forum, based in New Delhi and which tracks persecution of Christians across the country.

The forum said more than 25 Christians had been arrested in the week prior to Sept. 15.

You can learn more about Agape Royal Ministries at agaperoyalministries.org.

Operation Christmas Child

Mt. Pleasant's participation in 2023 Operation Christmas Child culminated with **349 shoeboxes** delivered to Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone Nov. 20.

The Mission Committee set its goal of 500 shoeboxes in September and thanks everyone who participated.

Operation Christmas Child is a worldwide effort by Samaritan's Purse to share God's love with children in need. It began in 1993 when 28,000 boxes were delivered to children in the Balkans. Since then, more than 209 million children have received a shoebox, packed with love and prayers and filled with gifts. They have been distributed in more than 170 countries and territories.

In 2022 10.6 million were handed out with 9.3 coming from the United States.



More important than the physical gifts is the sharing of the Gospel message. Again, thank you all for participating in this effort to bless children.

December Birthdays

- 1 - Jeff Smith
- 2 - Linda Hilton
- 4 - Robin Murphy, Zoe Starbuck
- 6 - Steve McDaniel, Gayle Mabe
- 8 - John (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, Gary Hilton, 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 29, 2023

8:30 Worship: 181
9:45 Worship: 263
11:00 Worship: 27
Sunday Small Groups: 471
Total Weekend Worship: 278
General Offering: \$13,859.55
FLC Offering: \$1,980.00
Youth Breakfast (10.25): 84
Family Night (10.25): 250

November 5, 2023

8:30 Worship: 201
9:45 Worship: 268
11:00 Worship: 27
Total Weekend Worship: 496
Sunday Small Groups: 356
General Offering: \$21,437.00
FLC Offering: \$2,690.00
Youth Breakfast (11.8): 108
Family Night (11.8): 295

November 12, 2023

8:30 Worship: 191
9:45 Worship: 291
11:00 Worship: 26
Total Weekend Worship: 508
Sunday Small Groups: 297
General Offering: \$11,134.48
FLC Offering: \$950.00
Youth Breakfast (11.15): 106
Family Night (11.15): 270

November 19, 2023

8:30 Worship: 175
9:45 Worship: 263
11:00 Worship: 29
Youth Winter Retreat: 82
Total Weekend Worship: 549
Sunday Small Groups: 342
General Offering: \$14,117.00
FLC Offering: \$1,150.00

Memorials & Donations

- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church in Memory of Helen Hilton by John & Sharon Payne
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by Glenn & Sarah Finch
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by Peyton Balsley
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by Brenda Glisson
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by David & Wanda Hunt
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by Myra Dowdy
- Given to Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery Fund in Memory of Rev. Bill Dingus by Charlotte Dingus

SERVING THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER 2023

Ushers:

December 3: Adam Buckner & Joe Hayworth
December 10: Greg Moore & Bryan Bray
December 17: Ronnie Russell & Gary Hilton
December 24: Gary Craven & Tim Starbuck
December 31: _____

Greeters: 8:30AM

December 3: Doug & Gail Aderhold
December 10: Wendy Harper
December 17: Karen & Stan Bowen
December 24: Len & Terrie Blevins
December 31: Stephanie Payne

9:45AM

John & Kathy Butt
Danny & Denise Roberts
The Shufelt Family
Chet & Lorrie Varner
Jeff Huntsman & Bo Sink

11:00AM

Joanne Baughn & Ester Skiff
Greg Moore
Ronnie & Dot Russell
Doris & Patsy
Joe Hayworth

Info Center: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 3: Jay & Stephanie Payne
December 10: Sharon Payne
December 17: _____
December 24: Bill Baughn & Jane Mendenhall
December 31: Len & Terrie Blevins

9:30 - 11:00AM

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

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

December 3: Gayle Mabe
December 10: Jeff & Shelby Smith
December 17: Gail Aderhold
December 24: Sandy Ellis
December 31: _____

9:30 - 11:00AM

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

Coffee Bar: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 3: Debra Casselbury
December 10: Ryan & Allison Martin
December 17: _____
December 24: Emily Campbell
December 31: _____

9:30 - 11:00AM

Pam D. Hall
Casey Miller & Beth Meyer
David & Lauren Rathbone
Ashley Craven

Parking Lot: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 3: _____
December 10: Randy Wilhoit
December 17: _____
December 24: _____
December 31: _____

9:30 - 11:00AM

Jeff & Rebecca Tussey

Youth Greeters: 9:30 - 9:45AM

December 3: Katelyn Brann & Brayden Varner
December 10: Peyton McDevitt & Cooper Clontz
December 17: Brady Coons & Allison Sink
December 24: Reagan Clontz & Ellie Kiger
December 31: Holly Edwards & Emeline Rich



KIDS KLUB SERVERS - DECEMBER 2023

Nursery: 8:30AM

December 3: Macie & Bryce
December 10: Jescena & Allison Sink
December 17: Julie M. & Jane P.
December 24: Wendy H. & Teresa H.
December 31:

9:45AM

Garlicks, Charla W., Macie & Bryce
Kim, Laura, Caitlin & Maddie
Emily, Beth, Rachel & Tonda
Allison, Mitzi & The Wright's

11:00AM

Tricia Anderson
Jennifer Driggers
Courtney Lake
Jennifer Driggers

2 Year Old:

December 3: Cameron & Katie Koontz
December 10: Amy Johnson & Katie M.
December 17: Micah & Jessica Moore
December 24: Amy & Samuel Nifong
December 31:

3 Year Old:

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

4 Year Old:

The Hedrick's & Alex Phillips
Megan W., Morgan M. & Allison H.
Janet & Spence Wood
Chad & Courtney Fritts

Kindergarten:

December 3: Laura C. & Courtney
December 10: Jill M., Lucas & Mary Kate
December 17: Misty Carr & Victoria M.
December 24: Keith & Paula Knolmayer
December 31:

1st Grade:

Tiffany Brister
Brandi S. & The Hiatt's
Tess R. & Whitney W.
Josh & Heather Beasley

2nd Grade:

Eileen Sloan
Dianne Reid
Jane Mendenhall
Emily S. & Brandi S.

3rd Grade:

December 3: Sidnee Bruner
December 10: Bob & Jeanette Beck
December 17: Misty Petree
December 24: Erica Martin
December 31:

4th Grade:

Jenny Hagee
Amy McDevitt
Jenny Hagee
Amy McDevitt

Children's Church:

8:30AM:

December 3: Diana Payne
December 10: Christina Turner
December 17: Chad & Caite McGuire
December 24: Lisa Lane
December 31:

11:00AM:

Jeff & Shelby Smith & Leandra Glance
Cindy Buckner & The Rathbone's
Amy Johnson & Julie Butt
Mike & Kristin Hagee





Light UP THE Night

Special Needs Prom

Throughout the Bible the idea of light is seen over and over. It represents life, joy and most importantly the presence of Jesus.

In fact, He is the light of the world! This year at Mt. Pleasant we will continue to experience life, joy and the presence of Jesus as we share the unfailing love of Jesus with our friends with special needs.

FRIDAY
MARCH

8th

AT MT. PLEASANT CHURCH

Doors open at: 6:00pm

SCAN ME



Deadline to Register | Monday, February 19
Guests & Volunteers

Master
PIECE

EPHESIANS 2:10

To Register & for more information:

www.mtpleasant.church

6516 OLD GREENSBORO RD. | THOMASVILLE, NC 27360

DECEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday's	Prayer Group Meeting	10 AM
Tuesday's	Choir Practice	6:45 PM
Wednesday's	Youth Breakfast & Devotion	7 AM
Wednesday's	MTP Connect	8 AM
Thursday's	Pickleball	6 PM

Saturday, December 2	Cantata Practice	8:30 - 11 AM
Sunday, December 3	Christmas Cantata	8:30 & 10 AM
Sunday, December 3	Administrative Council Meeting	3 PM
Sunday, December 3	Kids Christmas Play Practice	3 PM
Sunday, December 3	Dancing Angels Practice	4 PM
Sunday, December 3	Singles Ministry CAST	6 PM
Thursday, December 7	Connection Group going to Billy Graham Library	2:30 PM
Friday, December 8	Dinner with Santa	5:30 - 8 PM
Saturday, December 9	Happy Birthday Jesus party	11:30 AM
Sunday, December 10	MTP Men's Group Christmas Meeting	
Sunday, December 10	Kids Christmas Program	9:45 AM
Sunday, December 10	Christmas Caroling	
Sunday, December 10	Dancing Angels Practice	4 PM
Wednesday, December 13	Connection Group - Wallburg Grille	11:30 AM
Saturday, December 16	Women Offering Worship	9:30 - 11 AM
Sunday, December 17	Dancing Angels	9 AM
Monday, December 18	MTP Women's Meeting	6 PM
Sunday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service	4 & 6 PM
Monday, December 25	Christmas Morning Worship	9:30 AM

STAFF

Rev. Chris Clontz
Senior Pastor
Chris@MtPleasant.Church
Cell: 336-880-8847

Donny Baldridge
Youth Pastor
Youth@MtPleasant.Church

Jennifer Driggers
Director of Children's Ministry
Kids@MtPleasant.Church
Cell: 336-847-4618

Rev. Tim Starbuck
Pastoral Care Associate Pastor
Tim@MtPleasant.Church
Cell: 336-929-7163

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

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