



Montpelier Messenger

No. 8 Vol. 56

August 2026

Mission Statement: Montpelier Presbyterian Church is a loving family of God who welcomes everyone to join us as we worship our Lord Jesus Christ and celebrate his grace given to us all. We are learning together how to live out our faith by working to meet the needs of our community and our world.

From the Pastor's Pen,

In the Presbyterian Church we do not believe that the church is the physical building, but it is the people. You are the church. Still, we hold the building in trust. It holds many of our most sacred memories. In its walls we are baptized, confirmed as followers of Christ, married, and even buried. It holds our prayers, our tears, our laughter, our love. It is precious to us.

And like any building, it needs to be maintained, repaired, and at times improved. That has been most evident this year. We have replaced kitchen cabinet doors that were literally coming apart. We have replaced flooring that was musty and moldy from the years when we had water in the basement. We have rearranged the sanctuary to make it user friendly to those in wheelchairs and walkers. We have replaced carpeting and pew cushions that were at least 50 years old. We have refurnished the library. We are enclosing the stairway to the second floor and putting doors at the top of the stairs to save on gas and electricity.

The outside has been touched too. We've replaced railings that had rusted out and put additional railings at the front porch of the sanctuary. We've trimmed the magnolia tree whose branches had become a hazard and we planted sod under the tree and around the landscaping of the building.

And that's just a few of the projects we've accomplished, all while continuing to share God's love with our community and within these walls.

How have we managed? Everything we've done has been paid for through your generous donations of money, time, and donations in kind. We've received donations from various businesses, grants from the presbytery and synod, made money from special fundraising projects, and used some of the interest earned from our investment accounts. We've also used memorial funds and funds from our regular annual budget that is still running in the black for the year.

If you would like to contribute to any of these projects or future special projects to maintain and improve the accessibility of our building, please just write a check to MPC and put building projects in the memo line - and thank you for your generosity both past and present.

As always if you have questions or comments about this, please feel free to talk with me or any member of session. I'll see you in church!

Pastor Pat

Events

Aug. 1 9:00

Community
Breakfast

Aug. 1 - 16

School Supply
collection

Aug. 2 11:00

Bucky Holmes
preaching

Aug. 6 1:30

Sweet Talk

Aug. 9 2:00

God's Play

Aug. 12 2:00

Circle of Friends

Aug. 16 11:00

Blessing of
Book Bags

Aug. 17

2:00-6:00

Blood Drive

Aug. 20 9:30

Session

Aug. 26 6:00

Family Night
Supper



SAVE A LIFE! SIGN UP FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!

Our **blood drive** with the Red Cross will be **Aug. 17 from 2:00 - 6:00** in fellowship hall. You can sign up on the clip board at the entrance to the sanctuary or see Betsy Brown or Dennis Peden. You can also get more information and register at redcrossblood.org Please remember to bring a photo id with you to the drive!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

The first day of school for Scotland County is August 24 and we will have our **blessing of the backpacks and school supplies on Aug. 15.**

Did you know 93% of the students at Wagram Elementary School are at or below the poverty level? The average cost per student for beginning school supplies averages between \$75 & \$100. We can help make sure these students start the year off right with the supplies they need.

Bring your supplies to the church and put them in the big yellow school box at the front of the sanctuary. We need:

Bookbags: **Must be clear and transparent**

Pencils: Standard #2 wooden pencils

Crayons: Standard 24-pack boxes.

Glue Sticks: Large or multi-pack washable glue sticks.

Notebooks: Wide-ruled composition books and spiral notebooks.

Folders: Two-pocket folders

Pencil Pouch/Box

Scissors

Tissues, baby wipes, and hand sanitizer



**JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
SAT. AUGUST 1 AT ITS NEW TIME 9:00
EVERYONE'S INVITED!
BRING A FRIEND TO THE
BEST BREAKFAST IN WAGRAM !!**



The golf meet up is on a summer heat break and will resume Monday Sept. 14. See you then! And stay cool!!

SWEET TALK AUGUST 6 1:30

This month's Sweet Talk at Kountry Cream ice cream store will be centered around Judaism with a special Jewish guest to lead our discussion and answer questions. These informal conversations are open to everyone so please come or invite someone you think would be interested.



THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This group is made up of all women, not just members of our church and we will meet this month August 12 at 2:00 in the church library to talk about Rachel Held Evan's book **Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding The Church**. See Pastor Pat if you need a copy!

GOD'S PLAY FOR KIDS 5-12

Bring your kids! Invite your grandchildren! Come join us for a special edition of God's Play as we take the children shopping for school supplies and talk about what it means to love our neighbors. We'll shop, then take the supplies to the church for the collection box and have ice cream together! Meant for children ages, 5-12. We meet at Betsy Brown's house at 30021 Deercroft Drive. This month we will meet Sunday August 9 at 2:00.



COME TO THE FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER AUGUST 26 AT 6:00

We'll have our traditional end of summer Family Night Supper of hot dogs and ice cream! Please bring your favorite side dish!

*Want to join the church? Just talk with Pastor Pat
We'd love to have you as a part of our church family.*

MISSION TRIP TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

We will be going back to the Ashville area this fall (Oct. 18 - 23) to help with the long term recovery of the people there. Many families are still waiting for their homes to be repaired. But good news! We are staying at a church with real beds and their own laundry faculties! More details to come!! Please reserve the dates!!



ADA Bathroom Addition

Currently our church has no handicap accessible bathroom. We have made them easier to use for people with back and knee problems with our toilet modifications; however, you cannot get a walker or a wheelchair in any of the bathrooms as they are laid out.

The session has approved a plan to put in an ADA accessible bathroom pending funding. It would be located by splitting the secretary's large office in half and using half for the ADA bathroom. This reduces the cost because it involves no outside walls and allows us to use the plumbing available in the bathroom outside of the secretary's office.

Barbara Holloway, our current secretary, has been informed of the plan and has given her input into it, agreeing that the space would work for her needs. The bathroom currently located outside of the secretary's office would remain as it is.

We have received estimates for the work by licensed plumbers who have experience with installing ADA bathrooms. Their estimates came to \$24,000 to \$26,000 for all the work including the plumbing, electrical, the building of walls, installation of equipment, tile work, doors, etc. Of course those estimates will probably increase over time as we apply for grants, etc, to help with the costs. We have no set date for beginning the project as we are waiting to be certain we can afford to proceed with the needed funds.

As our congregation ages and as we continue to reach out into the community, we believe this is an investment in the future. If you would like to donate to the project simply write a check to MPC and put projects in the memo line.

SESSION NEWS

Building & Grounds: The **pew cushions are here!** Thanks to everyone who helped put them in place.

The **library floor has been refinished back to its original hardwood and the carpeting in the choir hallway has been replaced.** At one point, the basement was seriously wet with standing water. During that time the carpeting in the area where we store the choir robes also became wet and musty. Thanks to everyone who helped move furniture out of and back into the library. It was a group effort! The new furniture and rugs in the library are the result of special donations in kind.

The cost of the pew cushions and new flooring will come from our special building projects funds.

We are making **improvements to the top of the two staircases** to the second floor to lower our heating and cooling costs by enclosing the top of the staircases and adding doors at the top to still allow access to that area.

We have **cleaned up the leaves from under the magnolia tree** that had accumulated. The lower limbs of the magnolia were obstructing our pathway and have been trimmed back. Sod has been planted under the tree. The sod under the tree and on our landscaping was given as a special donation in kind.

We also obtained three estimates for the addition of an ADA compliant bathroom and worked on specifications for it. Read about that in this newsletter.

Outreach & Mission You can read about our outreach and mission efforts in other places in this newsletter. Our big efforts for August are our collection of school supplies and our blood drive. These involve each one of us as we reach out to our community in love.

Our July 3 Independence Celebration was a big success and involved everyone from the mayor and city commission to other local churches. We had a prayer and blessing area where people placed prayers for our nation. One of the many prayers was this: "Dear God, Bless this nation so that we will love one another and live as one. Thank you for our freedom that our forefathers died for." Other prayers echoed this one as people asked for God's blessings on our nation.

Please remember to pray about our church's outreach and growth. We want others to share in God's love here at Montpelier and the best way for that to happen is for us to invite them to come with us to a special event or to worship.



Welcome

Christian Education: The children's and adult classes are on summer vacation until after Labor Day. Our Circle of Friends and God's Play continue to meet.



Hospitality Thanks to everyone who helped with our July celebrations! From the July 3 & 5 celebrations to Mrs. Johnston's 95th birthday celebration, we shared God's many blessings and our love for each other. .

Strength and honor are her clothing;
She shall rejoice in time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.
She watches over the ways of her household,
And does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed Proverb 31: 25-28a



Worship We are looking forward to the **baptism of Bennett Cooley on August 9.** Bennett is the son of Lauren and Waylon Cooley.

We have placed a **prayer box in the narthex area** for special prayer requests and to place names on the church's prayer list if that is desired. Our thanks to Harold Harrington for building the beautiful box you see to contain our prayers. We have also added a prayer box to our food Blessing Box.



Fundraising

We are applying for **grants from the Presbytery and local businesses for our ADA bathroom renovation. We have already received a special donation of \$10,000 from Estes for the project.** Please let them know how much you appreciate their support! If you would like to make a special donation to this project please write a check to MPC and put special project on the memo line.



It's not too early to start making crafts for our fall harvest bazaar and soup sale. We are also looking for special donations for our raffle. All donations for our bazaar will be going to our special building projects. We will also be able to take credit and debit cards at this and all our future events.

SESSION'S NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 20 AT 9:30.

A POEM HONORING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE AS WE BUILD ON THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF THE ROCK OF FAITH (MT 7: 24-27)

The frame rises high like a promise in wood,
A shelter of hope where our ancestors stood.
Each beam is a brother, each rafter a friend,
Reaching toward heaven where horizons extend.
The foundation is deep, running steady and true,
As the old timber binds with the strength of the new.
The labor is long, as we maintain the old,
But the maintenance shapes us as stories unfold.
To patch up the roof is to heal what is torn,
Ensuing we grow as new dreams are born.
We sweep out the dust and we polish the stone,
And find in the sharing we are never alone.
For every repair is a prayer made by hand,
A joyful devotion to help the walls stand.
The work never ceases, yet brings us no dread,
As we build up the living and honor the dead.
The cathedral is rising, resilient and bright,
A labor of love turning dark into light.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE AT MONTPELIERPRES.ORG

It features Pastor Pat's Sunday sermon, our newsletter, upcoming events,
and a daily prayer by Pastor Pat.