Montpelier Messenger

No. 11 Vol. 56 November 2026

Events

Nov. 1
Turn back your clocks!
Nov.3
Election Day
12 noon
Sweet Talk
Nov. 7 8:30
Vets/ Community Breakfast
Nov. 8 2:00
God's Play
Nov. 10 2:00-6:00
Blood Drive
Nov. 11 noon
Circle of Friends
Nov. 15
Congregation Meeting
Nov. 23 9:00
Decorate for Christmas
Nov. 26
Thanksgiving
Nov. 29
1st Sunday Advent

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.

The Pastor's Pen November is a time when our minds begin to turn to the holidays. But to be honest holiday commercials can make me cry with their unrealistic expectations. Soldiers always make it home for the holidays. A cup of Folger's always makes everything right. Our tv shows assume everyone's Thanksgiving and Christmas will always be merry and bright without a moment's sorrow.

And yet, most of us only dream of those picture-perfect holidays. Reality falls far short of that image. For some, this holiday season will be marred by an empty chair, a lost job, a serious illness, unpaid bills, visits to our blessing box instead of visits with Santa..

The holidays can be filled with pain because grief knows no holiday. While the rest of the world is busy gobble gobble gobbling and ho-ho-hoing, you may struggle with moving through the fog that shrouds your day. Indeed our grief and our sense of loss can be even more intense when the whole world seems to be celebrating.

Yet God stands with us, even in our pain, walking our lonely journey with us, taking our hand and whispering comforting words into our hearts, reminding us that we are neither forgotten nor forsaken.

Whether your holidays will be filled with grief or joy, tears or shouts of laughter, know that God is with you — that God loves you — that God will take care of you. That is the promise of the first Thanksgiving when the Israelites were told to take the first fruits of the harvest to give to God and to remember how in their deepest despair, God rescued them from slavery and brought them to a promised land.

So we too are to remember that God rescues us, even in our despair as well as being with us in our joy, and we are to offer him our thanks for the gift of his strength, his grace, his steadfast love. See you in church! Pastor Pat



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHOM WE HAVE LOVED

During the worship service on Nov. 1, we will be lighting candles in memory of those we love who have passed from this life to the next over this past year. Please give Pastor Pat your names in writing prior to the service. You may email them to p.ramsden269@gmail.com.

An Election Prayer: Lord, in this election season, whatever the outcome, let us stand together as one nation. Let us not retreat into our opposite corners pointing fingers at each other in anger and even hate. Let us not see one another as simply a label: a democrat, a republican, a liberal or conservative, those on the left, those on the right, red or blue. Let us remember that labels do not define us. Whoever wins, whoever loses, let us remember we are one. We are each created in your image and saved by your blood. Let us remember we are all brothers and sisters in you. Preserve us and preserve our nation.



JOIN US NOV. 7 AT 8:30 FOR A SPECIAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS.

Please make a special effort to invite veterans and their families that you might know. to this breakfast. Our special speaker will be Greg Machmiller. Greg retired as sergeant first class, special forces. Our music this year will be provided by the section leaders of the Scotland High School band. Our veterans gave so much for our country and for us. It is our privilege to give them a small token of our appreciation.

A Prayer For Our Veterans God of justice and truth, Rock of our lives, Bless our veterans, these men and women of courage and valor, with a deep and abiding understanding of our profound gratitude. They served us and our nation and the nations of the world when they knew us not. Heal their physical and emotional wounds.

Bless their families as well, as they filled and still fill the home front with their prayers and their love. May their dedication — both the vets and their families — be remembered as a blessing from generation to generation.

Be with us all that one day our swords will be beaten into plowshares and your peace will reign among all nations.

Sweet Talk's New Time. We have changed our day and time to the **first Tuesday of the month at noon.** On **Nov. 3** we will be talking about families and friends and how to share the holidays with them in love during a time of our country's political division





God's Play will meet at 2:00 at Betsy Brown's. We want to invite all families to join us for a fun afternoon of making Thanksgiving placemats and Christmas gifts We'll hear the story of the first Thanksgiving from the Bible.



DONATE BLOOD AND SAVE A LIFE
OUR BLOOD DRIVE IS
TUESDAY NOV. 10 FROM 1:00 - 6:00
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please sign up to donate today and invite your friends! You can also just show up the day of the drive. If you'd like to help us provide food and drinks for the donors or to set up and take back down after the drive, see Betsy Brown.



WOMEN'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We will meet Wednesday Nov. 11 at noon at Captain Larry's and will finish our book for the year In Search Of Sunday.. Please let Beth Ammons know if you can come . We will also plan a Christmas get together for Dec. Unfortunately, our fall retreat to Montreat has been postponed until next year.

SUNDAY NOV. 15 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The meeting of the congregation and corporation will immediately follow worship. We will be presenting the annual report for 2026 and the budget for 2027. We will also be electing two elders to serve on session for the class of 2010 and members of the congregation to serve on next year's nominating committee. Roger Ammons and Harold Harrington will be nominated as elders and Ben Ammons, John Lewis, Celeste Lewis, Beth Ammons, and Dennis Peden wil be nominated for the 2027 nominating committee





COME HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!
MONDAY NOV. 23 9:00

Our church always just “feels” like Christmas and you can hear the sounds of angels singing “Silent Night”. Come be a part of the love, laughter, and work that makes that possible. Many hands make light work! Sunday’s service **Nov. 29 will be the first Sunday of Advent and we will begin the season with our traditional “Chrismon” service** explaining each symbol of the sanctuary tree telling the story of Jesus from the manger he was laid in to the cross to the star to the crown that proclaims him to be our king of kings. Be sure to come and be a part of decorating the tree.



Come learn with us!

We have groups for all ages. The children are taught Bible stories and do crafts that make the stories that come alive by Betty Ammons in the room across from the kitchen

The youth learn and discuss in the meeting room with Beth Ammons. This isn’t your typical Sunday SChool lessons! You discuss the Bible, faith, and how it applies to your life as you grow.

The adults are led by Pastor Pat in the library and are studying the parables of Jesus with the book Parables From The Backside that gives us an unexpected glimpse into the stpries we know so well.

OUR ADA BATHROOM IS COMING ALONG

As with any project there have been hiccups alog the way but the plumbing has been inspected and passed, the wall is going up between the bathroom and the new storage area and new concrete has been poured for the flooring. Progress is being made.

Barbara is in her new office which at one time was her original office next to Pastor Pat’s office. File cabinets are in the hallway and we getting organized!

If you’d like to contribute to this project please make your check out to MPC and put ADA on the memo line.





A special thank you to Scotland Memorial Foundation for a $5,000 grant toward our ADA bathroom! We have also received a $10,000 grant from the Estes Corporation and a $3,000 grant from the Presbytery to help us complete this project in addition to your generous donations

COATS FOR KIDS!

Winter is coming and about 93% of the students at Wagram Elementary School are at or below the poverty level and their parents struggle to meet basic needs.

Remember how cold it was last winter? Let's help keep them warm this year as they wait at the school bus stop! Just bring your kids coats to the sanctuary and we'll be sure they get to the school before Thanksgiving.

There is a special need for: 10 coats size 5/6 or 6x; 20 sizes 7/8; 25 sizes 14/16; and 5 size medium adult; and 5 size large adults. The adult sizes are for the older children.



BLESSING BOX



A few stories: While Roger and Dennis were filling the box they met Mr. Smith. He uses the box every few days. He is in his 70's and is currently homeless. He is sleeping on concrete and is trying to get into housing but for now, he says our box is a blessing to him and he doesn't know what he would do without it.

Earlier this year we got a note from a 5th grader wanting to thank us for keeping his family from being hungry.

One day, LeighAnn saw a woman walking up to the box who looked tired to death and like life had just beaten her down.

We don't know their stories. We have never met or seen most of the people we serve, but this is why we do what we do - because in some way we remind these men, women and children that we care - and that more importantly God cares - in a very real, practical way we are feeding them not just food but hope and love.

Each day an elder goes out and fills our Blessing Box of food, and because of your generosity we have done that for over a year now. As always, we need your help to keep the box full. We can use

peanut butter, crackers, soup with pop top lids,
tuna, spam, vienna sausages,
soap toilet paper. green beans/ corn

Please remember that many of those who use our pantry do not have access to microwaves and that poptops are preferable. **If you'd like us to do the shopping to get what is needed at the time, please write a check to MPC and put blessing box on the memo line** - and thanks!

WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR?



IIt's in your annual report available in the entrance to the sanctuary or you can request us to mail or email you a copy. Just email pastormp269@gmail.com or call the church office at 910-369-2259.

THERE ARE NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY! CHECK THEM OUT!

Brent Plyler has donated a copy of Reminiscences Of Riverton by "Sunburnt Boy" H. H. McMillan who - besides growing up in Riverton - was also a missionary in China. He wrote the book there in 1942 during WW II. It is a great read on growing up in Riverton and about the faith that formed him

We also have Searching For Sunday by Rachel Held Evans which is a different story of faith as well as many other books and commentaries on the Bible. Check them out!



Because of you and your hard work and talent our Fall Festival was a huge success! All of the money earned went toward the ADA bathroom which will be completed before the holidays!

Our Blessing of the Animals was not just meaningful to us and our pets but we took a trunk full of pet food and supplies to the Scotland County Animal Shelter along witha check for $170! I heard lots of barks and meows of thanks to you all.

We also want to give a special shout out to our Building & Grounds Committee for all their hard work throughout this year! They are Roger Ammons, Ben Ammons, Dennis Peden and LeighAnn McKay. Harold Harrington and Beth Ammons were also big helps on the kitchen and pantry projects. Many others helped us in big and small ways with all the projects we have done. From the inside to the outside there's not been an area that has not been touched!

Pastor Pat will be on vacation Nov. 16 - 22. Bucky Holmes will be filling the pulpit.

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 26 -27



DID YOU KNOW?

The church has a wheelchair, several walkers, a four footed cane as well as other canes and crutches we can loan out to help people get around.

THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY IS COMING!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
OUR CELEBRATION APRIL 25, 2027!

We still need your memories! We want to put together a booklet of people's personal memories about their time at Montpelier. It can be funny, meaningful, or just a thanks for the memories. Send them to p.ramsden269@gmail.com. And thanks!

The 175th history of the church has been written and we are working on getting the pictures organized for it and sending it to the printers. We want to be able to give the histories away to people who'd like one. We are also selling the crosses Harold Harrington has made from wood from the old church piano to help cover the costs for the anniversary. We also will have a table of memorabilia available for free-will donations; for instance, we have a few Montpelier cups from the 150th anniversary and copies of the centennial history book some people might be interested in.

Historical documents and photos have been framed with archival mats and glass and should be hung in Nov. in the "choir" hall that will soon become the history hall. The framing was done to the glory of God in memory of Harlee Johnston.

We also decided not to do an event on the Saturday before the anniversary. However, we decided to have a special coffee hour beginning at 9:00 in the library for people who want to have extra time to look at our history exhibits in the hall, the library, and the meeting room.

We are looking for a display case to put the Bible that we think was used in the original church as well as some very early Presbyterian hymnals and documents i

We are also looking for someone to donate the use of tents for outside seating and we are looking for a photographer for the entire event. Usually Pastor Pat takes pictures but she's obviously going to be too busy. We need someone who can take the obligatory picture of everyone at the front of the church. They do NOT need to be a professional. We are hoping someome in the church ora friend will donate their talent for this special event.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love,and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 1: 2-3