

MT. PLEASANT
CHURCH
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LOBELIA
ROAD,
VASS, NC 28394
910-245-7405

MT. PLEASANT MESSENGER

December, 2025

Hello Church,

During this Christmas time, let us remember No matter what challenges you face today, remember that God's promises are steady and His love never waivers. He walks with you through every valley and celebrates with you on every mountaintop. When you feel uncertain, lean into His strength—He is your anchor, your comfort, and your guide. Trust that He is shaping your steps with purpose.

“God is our refuge and strength, an every-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Chandler Wilkes, Pastor

Mt. Pleasant Christian Church

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DEACONS SERVING BEGINNING IN 2025

**HAL ABSHIRE-
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**EARL WILLIAMS -
THRU 2026
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**KIM YOUNG -
THRU 2025
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**DARRELL KELLY -
THRU 2025
919-258-6211**

**KENNY MACKEY -
THRU 2027
910-690-0386**

**ALLEN THOMPSON -
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**BOARD OF DIRECTOR
BETH EVANS
LARRY CAMERON
TOMMY McKENZIE**

**MEMBER AT LARGE
DENISE MORRIS GODFREY
RICK HARRISON
SHERRY CHATFIELD**



**Thank each of you
who agreed to
serve.
Let God guide you
as you serve!**

So Blessed

Submitted by: Annette Floyd

Mama and I were so blessed to be invited to my older son, Ryan's, mother-in-law and father-in-law's beautiful home for Thanksgiving dinner. I was assigned to bring Ryan's favorite, Frog Eye Salad (similar to Ambrosia Salad), and desserts. His father-in-law, Chris, is a chef and culinary teacher at Sandhills Community College. Debby is a great cook, too! Chris said the blessing. He thanked God and blessed the food with gratitude, unity and thanksgiving, being careful to give God all the honor and praise. The Thanksgiving buffet was amazing! I thought of Pastor Chandler Wilkes saying after each message, "Let's go home & get something good to eat"! Among the guest for the Thanksgiving meal was a young military family. The officer & family are now at Ft. Bragg, after spending 3 years stationed in Italy. He has not been back home to see his mother in quite some years. He came up to me after our meal and said, "Thank you so much for the Frog Eye Salad! It was so delicious. My mother used to make it every holiday for me growing up at home. It means so much to me"! He ate two heaping bowls full! It really warmed my heart to think I helped him remember his mom and his home. Thank a soldier when you can, it means a lot to them.

Frog Eye Salad (An acini di pepe pasta salad)

Ingredients

1 cup white sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups unsweetened pineapple juice
2 eggs, beaten
1 tablespoon lemon juice
3 quarts water (You can add 1 tablespoon salt and 1 tablespoon vegetable oil to boiling water)
1 (16 ounce) package acini di pepe pasta
3 (11 ounce) cans mandarin oranges, drained
2 (20 ounce) cans pineapple tidbits, drained
1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 cup miniature marshmallows
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Shredded Sweetened Coconut (OPTIONAL)

Directions

Step 1

In a sauce pan, combine sugar, flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, pineapple juice and eggs. Stir and cook over medium heat until thickened. Remove from heat; add lemon juice and cool to room temperature.

Step 2

Bring water to boil, add oil, salt and cook pasta until al dente. Rinse under cold water and drain.

Step 3

In a large bowl, combine the pasta, egg mixture, mandarin oranges, pineapple and whipped topping. Fold together and serve. Enjoy!

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR DAY: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON SACRIFICE. PEACE AND HOPE: BY: DENNIS WRIGHT, DECEMBER, 2025

December 7, 1941, is a date our nation remembers with solemn respect. On that quiet Sunday morning, the attack on Pearl Harbor claimed more than 2,400 American lives and forever changed the course of history. For many, the day represents shock, loss, bravery, and the beginning of America's entry into World War II. As believers, this anniversary also invites us to reflect through a distinctly Christian lens—a lens shaped by Scripture, grounded in hope, and focused on God's sovereignty even in the darkest moments.

REMEMBERING SACRIFICE

Jesus taught, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends*". (John 15:13)

On Pearl Harbor Day, we honor the men and women who demonstrated such love—those who ran toward danger, served courageously, and gave their lives for the protection of others and the preservation of freedom.

Their sacrifice reminds us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross—freely given so that we might live in spiritual freedom and eternal hope. While no earthly sacrifice compares to His, remembering acts of bravery helps us appreciate the value of standing for what is good, right, and true.

FINDING PEACE IN TURBULENT TIMES

The attack on Pearl Harbor launched our nation into years of conflict and turmoil. And yet, even in war, followers of Christ are called to pursue peace. Psalm 34:14 instructs us to "*seek peace and pursue it*". This does not mean ignoring evil or avoiding conflict when justice is at stake. Instead, it means inviting God's peace to rule our hearts, our homes, and our relationships—trusting that He is still at work even when the world feels unstable.

Pearl Harbor Day reminds us that fear does not have the final say. Jesus promises, "*My peace I give you...Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*". (John 14:27)

TRUSTING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN HISTORY

World events—whether past or present—can leave us wondering what tomorrow may bring. But Scripture assures us that God is never surprised, never caught off guard, and always sovereign over the rise and fall of nations. Daniel 2:21 tells us, "*He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others*".

Pearl Harbor stands as a reminder that in moments of national crises, God is still working. Throughout World War II, many testimonies emerged of spiritual revival, renewed faith, and lives turned to Christ. Even in chaos, God brings redemption.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

As we remember December 7, 1941, we also look ahead with hope—not because the world is perfect but because our Savior reigns. Revelation 21:4 promises a day when Christ will wipe every tear from our eyes and eliminate war, sorrow, and death forever.

Until that day, we live as people of hope, shining Christ's light in a broken world. Pearl Harbor Day is not only a time to reflect on history but also a moment to recommit ourselves to being peacemakers, encouragers, and witnesses of God's love.

THE DESIRE FOR PEACE AMONG NATIONS **BY: DENNIS WRIGHT DECEMBER, 2025**

Scripture consistently teaches that peace should be sought whenever possible.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” (Romans 12:18) The Monroe Doctrine aimed to preserve peace by preventing foreign conflicts from spilling into the Americas.

RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY OF OTHERS

God values the freedom and dignity of people and nations.

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” - 2 Corinthians 3:17

By rejecting European domination in the Western Hemisphere, the doctrine defended the sovereignty of emerging nations.

GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL NATIONS

Even as leaders make declarations and nations shape policies, Scripture reminds us that God alone directs the course of history.

“The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth”. (Daniel 4:17)

The Monroe Doctrine reflects human attempts to bring order to world affairs, but true security comes from the Lord.

A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON RESPONSIBILITY AND RESTRAINT

The Monroe Doctrine demonstrates that leadership requires both strength and restraint. The United States claimed responsibility for protecting the hemisphere, but also pledged not to interfere in European affairs.

This balance mirrors the biblical call for believers-and nations-to use influence wisely:

- **Strength without aggression**
- **Responsibility without domination**
- **Boundaries without hostility**

These values remain vital today in our families, churches, communities and nation.

The Monroe Doctrine may be over 100 years old, but its themes—protection, boundaries, And stewardship, and peace—point us toward timeless biblical truths that guide God’s people in every generation.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE: HISTORY, PURPOSE, AND BIBLICAL REFLECTION
BY: DENNIS WRIGHT DECEMBER, 2025

On December 2, 1823, President James Monroe delivered a message to Congress that would become one of the most influential statements in American foreign policy: the MONROE DOCTRINE. Though two centuries have passed, its impact continues to shape global diplomacy and America's understanding as its role in the world. Yet beyond its political importance, this moment in history invites us to reflect on timeless biblical truths about leadership, responsibility, and God's sovereignty over nations.

After the American Revolution, the newly independent nations of Latin America began to emerge from colonial rule under Spain and Portugal. However, European powers—especially those in the HOLY ALLIANCE (Russia, Prussia, and Austria)—considered reasserting control over the Western Hemisphere.

At the same time, the United States was still a young and fragile nation. Many feared that European intervention would threaten American security and the stability of neighboring countries striving for independence.

In response, President Monroe issued a bold declaration:

KEY POINTS OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE

1. **No New Colonization**—The Western Hemisphere was closed to future European Colonization.
2. **Non-interference**—European powers must not interfere with the newly independent Nations of the Americas.
3. **U. S. Neutrality**—In return, the United States would stay out of European wars And political affairs.
4. **Mutual Respect**—The doctrine promoted a clear separation between the Old World And the New World.

Although the United States lacked the military strength in 1823 to enforce it, the Monroe Doctrine Set a precedent. Over time, supported by American economic and naval power, it became a cornerstone of U. S. foreign policy.

BIBLICAL THEMES REFLECTED IN THE MONROE DOCTRINE

While the Monroe Doctrine is a political document, it echoes several scriptural principals relevant to Christian thought.

THE PRINCIPLE OF STEWARDSHIP

Nations, like individuals, are called to exercise wise and responsible stewardship over what God has entrusted to them.

“To Whom much is given, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48)

For the United States, leadership in the Western Hemisphere meant protecting liberty and discouraging oppression.

PLEASANT PUPILS
BY: DENNIS WRIGHT DECEMBER, 2025

“HOPE: TRUSTING GOD’S PROMISES”

MEMORY VERSE: (NIV)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Have you ever had to wait for something good that felt like it would never come? Maybe a birthday, a trip or getting to see someone you love?

A STORY ABOUT HOPE

Emma stood at the window, staring at the dark, cloudy sky. The weather man had said, “Sunshine later today”! But right now, all she could see was gray clouds and rain drops.

“Mom, are you sure it’s going to be sunny?” Emma asked. “It doesn’t look like it at all”.

Her mom smiles. “ I don’t see the sun yet either, but I believe it’s still there. That’s a lot like hope.”

“Hope”? Emma asked.

“Yes,” her mom said. “hope means trusting that what God says is true, even when we can’t see it yet. We don’t just wish—we trust God’s promises.”

Emma thought for a moment. She remembered a verse from church:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.... “plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11)

She didn’t see the sunshine yet. She didn’t know how her day would go. But she could choose to trust that God was with her and had good plans for her.

Later that afternoon, Emma was playing in her room when she noticed something bright on the wall. She ran to the window. The clouds had moved, and warm sunlight was shining through!

“It came! The sun really did come out!” Emma shouted.

Her mom looked up and said, “See? You had hope while you waited. In the same way, we can always have hope in God. He always keeps His promises.”

Emma smiled. “Even on cloudy days, God is still working. I can have hope in Him.”

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN HOPE?

For followers of Jesus, hope is not just “I wish...” Hope is:

- Trusting that God keeps His promises
- Believing that God is with us, even on hard days
- Knowing that Jesus wins in the end
- Looking forward to the good things God has planned

We have hope because Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and is preparing a home for us in Heaven.

Nothing can stop God’s love!

TRY THIS AT HOME: “HOPE JAR”

You can make a hope jar to remind you of God’s promises.

1. Find a jar, a cup or a small box.
2. Cut small pieces of paper.
3. On each paper, write a promise or truth from God’s Word, like
 - * “God is with me.” (Joshua 1:9)
 - * “God loves me” (John 3:16)
 - * “God has good plans for me.” (Jeremiah 29:11)
4. When you feel worried, sad, or scared, pull out one paper and read it out loud
5. Thank God for the hope He gives you.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 25?

BY: DENNIS WRIGHT DECEMBER, 2025

A Christian Reflection on the History and Hope of the Date

Every year we gather on December 25 to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We read the familiar Story in Luke 2, sing “Silent Night”, and reflect on the wonder of God becoming flesh. But many believers have wondered: Why this specific date? The Bible does not tell us the exact day Jesus was born—so how did December 25 become the day the church chose to remember His coming?

EARLY CHRISTIANS AND THE SEARCH FOR A DATE

The earliest Christians celebrated the resurrection far more than Jesus’ birth. Over time, as the church grew, believers wanted to honor the incarnation—God stepping into time as one of us. By the early 300s, the church had begun to commemorate Jesus’ birth on a specific day, and December 25 gradually became the most widely accepted date. Two major reasons shaped this choice.

1. A Symbolic Date Connected to the Light of Christ

In the ancient world, the winter season was associated with darkness, cold and the shortening of days. Many early Christians believed Jesus’ birth should be remembered when light began to grow again.

- Around December 21—25 the winter solstice occurs—
The darkest point of the year, after which the days begin to lengthen.
- Early Christian writers saw this as a beautiful symbol:
Christ, the light of the world, entered the darkness to bring hope.

The church did not choose the date to “copy” other celebrations, but rather to declare a theological truth:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

December 25 became a proclamation that Jesus is the true rising of spiritual light, the dawn of God’s salvation.

2. A Belief That Great Events Fall on the Same Date

Some ancient Jewish and early Christian thinkers held a belief that holy events in a person’s life were connected. They believed that the world’s greatest prophets were conceived and died on the same calendar date.

Early Christian scholars concluded that Jesus was crucified on March 25.

If His life began on that date (the Annunciation), then His birth—nine months later—would fall on December 25. This way of thinking shows that the date was not chosen randomly. It reflected a deep desire to honor the unity of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

A Date Rooted in Hope, Not Guesswork

Whether Jesus was actually born in December is not the central issue. What matters is that the church chose this day intentionally, to point our hearts toward powerful truths:

- Christ is the Light who ends spiritual darkness
- Christ’s birth begins God’s plan of redemption
- Christ came at the perfect time, chosen by the Father
- Christ is worth celebrating every day, but especially together are His people

December 25 stands not just as a historical decision, but as a theological message that God breaks into our coldest seasons with warmth and promise.

A Closing Encouragement

As we gather this Christmas, may the meaning behind the date deepen our joy. Whether Jesus was born in December or another month, December 25 gives us a sacred yearly reminder:

God Comes Near

God Keeps His Promises

God shines in every darkness

May the Light of Christ fill your heart and home this season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



CEREAL BOX DRIVE

BY: EARL WILLIAMS

For Thanksgiving this year, Vass Community Pantry contacted us about supporting food boxes for their Thanksgiving 25 distribution. They asked for cereal boxes that they could put in the food boxes for those with kids. Our Church responded in a couple of weeks with over 45 boxes of cereal. Susan and I delivered them on 20 November in time for their Tuesday, 24 Nov distribution day. They were very appreciative and thanked our Church for responding to their call. In fact, they asked us to continue the cereal box drive for Christmas. We can turn in the boxes on 22 December in time for their 23 December, Tuesday distribution day. Thanks to everyone that supported our drive and we can continue with the Christmas boxes. Again, thanks to all.



TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
BY: SUSAN WILLIAMS

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study collected cans of ravioli and other grocery items for the Vass Community Food Pantry during the 4 weeks before Thanksgiving. We collected about 250 cans and other canned and dry good items. We turned them in— in time for their Thanksgiving distribution.

The month of December we are giving needed clothing items to two residents of the Pine Crest Gardens Nursing Home in Lillington, NC. This is the same facility we have supported for the last several years. We will complete that mission on December 14th.

We finished our Fall study “Finding I Am” at our November 18th meeting. December 2 we had our Christmas party hosted by Sandy Kennedy.

We will begin our next lesson, “Proverbs, the Beginning of Knowledge” in the new year. Join us on January 6 at 9:30 at the Church. We welcome new members.



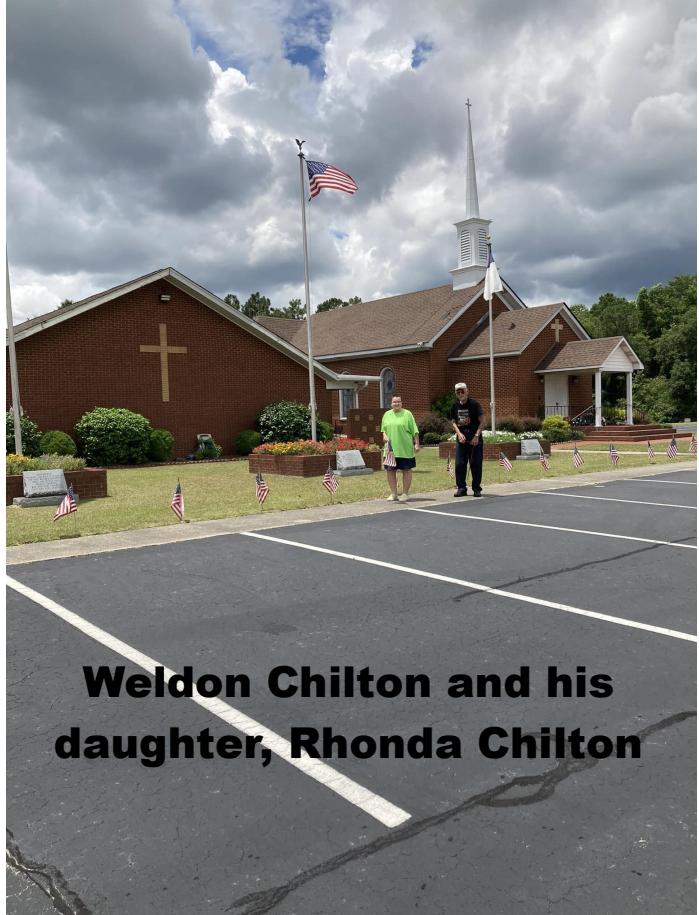
VETERANS DAY CHURCH FLAGS

BY: EARL WILLIAMS

On 21 November, in preparation for Veterans Day, several of us put out flags for our Church and in the Cemetery for those fallen Veterans. Memorial Day in May is for those fallen but those in our Cemetery are still Veterans so we chose to honor them also. We had a good group with Robert Kluzinski and his son, Josh; and Anthony and Melissa Spielvogel and me. We also lowered the big flags in honor of former Vice President Dick Chaney.

Thanks to all the help with the Flags, carrying on in the shadow of Weldon and Janet Chilton.





**Weldon Chilton and his
daughter, Rhonda Chilton**

WAS IT A COLD DAY IN BETHLEHEM?
BY: MARTHA BLUE DECEMBER 2025

**It was a cold winter night in Bethlehem
When a Baby Boy was born in a stable
 There was no room in the inn
 And they laid Him in a manger.**

**They named the Baby Jesus
The angels watched over Him
 They sang to the shepherds
 And told them the good news.**

**The shepherds traveled to Bethlehem
 To find the Baby asleep
 And knelt down to worship Him
 With the animals and the sheep.**

**King Herod heard the story
 Of the famous Baby's Birth
 And sent three wise men with gifts
 Of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.**

**The birth of Baby Jesus
Is the reason we celebrate Christmas
Remember the reason He came to earth
 Was to die on the cross to save us.**

**Merry Christmas to each and every one of you
 And may the Lord bless you
 And may your New Year be filled
 With Good Health and Happiness!**

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE
PROVIDED BY: MARTHA BLUE DECEMBER 2025

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago,
One day I saw a sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store".

As I got a little closer, the door came open wide.
And when I came to myself, I was standing there inside.

I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere,
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care".
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back for more.

First, I got some patience, love was in the same row,
Further down was understanding, you need that wherever you go.
I got a box or two of wisdom and a bag or two of faith,
I just couldn't miss the holy ghost, for it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some strength and courage, to help me run the race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered I needed some grace.

I didn't forget salvation, for salvation, that was free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer and I just had to put that in,
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
Peace and joy were all plentiful, the were on the last shelf,
Song and praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go".
Again, I smiled at him and said, "How much do I owe?"
He smiled again and said,

"My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago"!

THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER, AUTHOR UNKNOWN
SUBMITTED BY: HAL ABSHIRE DECEMBER 2025

Your thumb is nearest to you. So, begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a “sweet duty”.

The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

The third finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God’s guidance.

The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need our prayers day and night. You cannot pray for them too much.

And lastly comes our little finger the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, “the least shall be the greatest among you.” Your pinky should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective, and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH OF YOU!

A FAVORITE RECIPE TO REMEMBER
SUBMITTED BY: MARTHA BLUE
DECEMBER 2025

Take a cup of kindness
Mix it well with love,
Add a lot of patience
And faith in God above,
Sprinkle very generously
With joy and thanks and cheer
And you'll have lots of "Angel Food"
To feast all the year.



VARIETY SHOW 2026
BY: JANET CHILTON DECEMBER 2025

Exciting news! Many important things were stopped by the bad COVID germs! And many important things have started back up! One of those we are looking forward to is our annual Mt. Pleasant Variety Show. Usually held in the spring of the year and hosted by our own talented church entertainers.

In years past, we have had dancers, singers, comedians, and poets, from those that are in Sunday School, Worship service, and from our community. We have great performers sharing some of their many talents for our enjoyment!

If you are asked to participate, please say yes! We are expecting to have a great time filled to make many pleasant memories of our times and talents shared at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. Join us to have a super, relaxing, fun, time of fellowship at an exact date to be shared soon. Watch for the date



IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR TO
ADOPT A SOLDIER FOR CHRISTMAS
BY: HAL ABSHIRE

For those of you that are new to this event that I started, please let me explain! Every year we pack shoeboxes filled with small items as care packages for soldiers that are deployed during the Christmas season. I have attached what supplies our soldiers need but please don't stop there! Use your own imagination. You can pick up a clear shoe box from a dollar store and then add items listed below or other goodness that would make a soldier's day! A hand written card is encouraged to add a personal touch. Many of you work at businesses or are associated with different clubs, churches, etc. that may be able to help with this worthwhile project. They can donate filled boxes or items which we will use to fill boxes for our troops.

Thank you on behalf of our men and women in uniform. I am trying to have all boxes collected by December 7.

Last year we collected 425 shoeboxes. That number brought us to a total of 5,435 shoeboxes that have been distributed since I started this project.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness helping make our troops smile when they are away from their own families for Christmas! Hal Abshire: DECEMBER 7!

ADOPT A SOLDIER FOR CHRISTMAS

A list of suggested items to pack in shoeboxes for troops but everything is accepted:

NOTE: If for a female military, please label the box FEMALE:

FOOD ITEMS:

Candy: Heat resistant preferred

Instant coffee, hot chocolate, creamer, Gatorade, powdered drink mixes, tea or tea bags, snack bars, beef jerky, canned fruit, small boxes of individual cereals, granola bars, Girl Scout cookies, instant oatmeal, pop-tarts, Tuna kits, chewing gum, sugar packets

TOILETRIES:

Dental floss, mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, disposable razor, shampoo, foot powder, lotion, nail clippers, Q-tips, wash cloths, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, body wash, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, tissues, wet wipes, toiletries, nose spray (saline eye drops, Tylenol (individual packets)

ENTERTAINMENT:

Playing cards, games, game boards, checkers or chess, (travel size), crossword puzzles, sudoku, books, local newspapers, music, CD's, magazines (family type), writing paper, pens, pencils, envelopes

NECESSITIES:

Plastic spoons, sandwich baggies, batteries (AA, AAA, D), bug spray, fans, flashlights, flyswatters, fly strips, prepaid phone cards, disposable cameras. CHRISTMAS CARDS! THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAL ABSHIRE

PRAYER WARRIORS GROUP
BY: JANE EDMISTEN
DECEMBER, 2025

I'm so grateful for this past year, and I want to share why:

**I'm so grateful for the prayer warriors as we prepare
to enter our third year together.**

**Your faithfulness, your strength, and your commitment
to lifting each other up have been a blessing beyond measure.**

I am grateful for our Spiritual Uplift class every other Wednesday, week after week, we have encouraged one another, shared wisdom, and learned lessons that we carry into our congregation, our families, and our friendships. That time together has strengthened my spirit in ways I cannot fully express.

With my sight impairment, I am especially grateful for the many voices in our congregation who call out my name when I walk by. When I don't hear someone, I start to worry—Are they okay? Are they sick? Do they know I miss them? That's how deeply I love this church family. Your voices help me feel connected, present, and held.

I am also grateful for our pastor. When he traveled to his sister's graduation and ended up stuck at the airport, I felt a bit of sadness knowing he wouldn't be with us that Sunday. I hoped he was safe. But when they played the video he recorded from the airport—just for us—my smile stretched from ear to ear. Hearing his voice brought comfort, joy and reassurance.

Even from afar, he awakened us.

I want to leave this verse on your heart;

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”.

This verse reminds me that I am blessed and I am never alone. As long as I can hear your voices—my fellow believers in Christ—I know I am among family. And your familiar voices are a reminder of God's love, living and active in our church.

THE PERFECT GIFT
Copied from something received in the mail

As Christmas approaches, you can easily spend hours looking for the perfect gift for the people on your list. But have you every accepted the gift God has for you?

Romans 6:23 tell us that *“the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

God sent Jesus, who is without sin, to a fallen and sinful world; *“everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard”* (Romans 3:23). God gave us His perfect Son to pay the price for all of our eternal separation from God. Jesus paid that price through His death and resurrection. Therefore, Jesus is the only way for sinners to have a relationship with a holy God and the gift of eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve this gift. It is only through faith in Jesus. God has given you the perfect gift—the free gift of eternal life. Will you receive it today? If you believe that you are a sinner in need of a Savior, and you understand that Jesus is that Savior, you can tell Him so right now. Romans 19:9 says, *“if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

If you would like to learn more about the gift of eternal life, please come and talk with Pastor Chandler Wilkes or one of our Deacons. We would love to pray with you or tell you more about how you can have a relationship with God and a home in heaven. May the joy of having God’s perfect gift be yours this Christmas.



Prayer for Today

God, thank You for all You have done for
me and my family.

Please forgive my sins and cleanse my
heart. Renew my spirit and transform my
mind. Heal the wounds of my past and
cover me, my family, and my friends with

Your precious blood. Lord, bless and
protect all who seek You. I love You, and
I need You every day.

May God bless everyone who gives an
Amen, and I promise to share this prayer.

Don't forget Amen





A Christmas Reminder

lessonslearnedinlifeinc ©

You're going to come in contact
with an awful lot of people who are at
their absolute breaking point this season.

Friends, family, co-workers, teachers,
strangers in the grocery store,
retail workers.

While it may be the merriest time
of the year for some, it's the saddest,
loneliest, most stressful, most
heartbreaking for so many others.

We're all busy, but we're not too
busy to be kind, caring and patient.
**Remember the best thing you can
give someone right now is love.**

—Amy Weatherly

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MT. PLEASANT

WEEKLY:

Sundays: Sunday School: 9:45 AM—10:45 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM— Pastor Chandler Wilkes

Tuesdays - Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays - Adult Bible Study

Alternate Wednesdays—Choir practice

VARIETY SHOW: ANNUALLY

HOMECOMING/MEMORIAL DAY: MAY ANNUALLY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SUMMER ANNUALLY

REVIVAL: ANNUALLY

HARVEST SALE: OCTOBER 3RD SATURDAY ANNUALLY

MARKS-WRIGHT REUNION SECOND SUNDAY OCT

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: DECEMBER ANNUALLY

New 2026 Church Directory is COMPLETED.

ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN
PLEASE REMEMBER THEM DAILY IN PRAYER

LTC Dale Aebischer
Kyle Badgett JBPHH Unit 183
MAJ Trevor Barnes
MAJ Lindsay Barnes-Turner
MAJ Ryan Barnes
SGT Brandon Bartz
MAJ Andrew Berreth
SSG Brandon Berry
PFC Stephanie Berry
SSG Hunter Burns
PFC Brandon Camp
E3 Jordan Cole
CPT Alyssa Crandall
ILT Michael Crandall
MAJ Eddie Criss
SSG Everett Davis
Zachery T. Feltmann
LTC Andrew Gaab
MAJ Tanya Gaab
SSG Mark Glenn
SSG Triston Hatcher
Shawn A. Haynes
PFC Abel Kincaid
SGT David Little
CPT Mark Howard
SGT Walter Kirk
2LT Jackson Lanzafama
Emmanuel Lenau
E3 Madison Main
PV2 Paxton Nash
2LT Tyler Nilam
Sabrina O'Connell
Timothy O'Connell
LTC Joey Odell
SGT Donald Pearce Jr.
Alivia Pemberton
SSG Colleen Pemberton
SSG Jonathan Pemberton
MSG Neil Powers

These are our men and women who go to work daily in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy here in the United States of America.

We need to pray for them daily especially for their safety. Some are in places that can't be revealed to us. Their addresses do not show where they are currently stationed. Even their loved ones do not know where they are serving. They may be able to contact each other by computer occasionally, however it is seldom and doesn't involve personal information being shared with each other.

It is an honor for a family member to serve in our United States Military and we "homefolks" really need to support our military members serving and other families whose loved ones are serving. Thank you for your support of our Military Christmas Gifts which now number well over 5,000! Memories are made of those messages we receive back from them.

Thank each one of you for the contributions you have made and we ask you to continue as long as possible.
THANK YOU!

SFC John Presley
SGM Shawn P Spears
MAJ Matt Turner

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

IF YOU
WERE WONDERING
ABOUT MY
CULINARY SKILLS...

I'VE BEEN ASKED TO
BRING PAPER TOWELS
TO OUR
FAMILY GATHERINGS.

Always Keep
hope in your heart.

Love what you have.
Need what you want.
Accept what you receive.
Give what you can.
Let go of what's gone.
Be grateful for what you have.
Focus on what's in front of you.
Look forward to what
is to come.

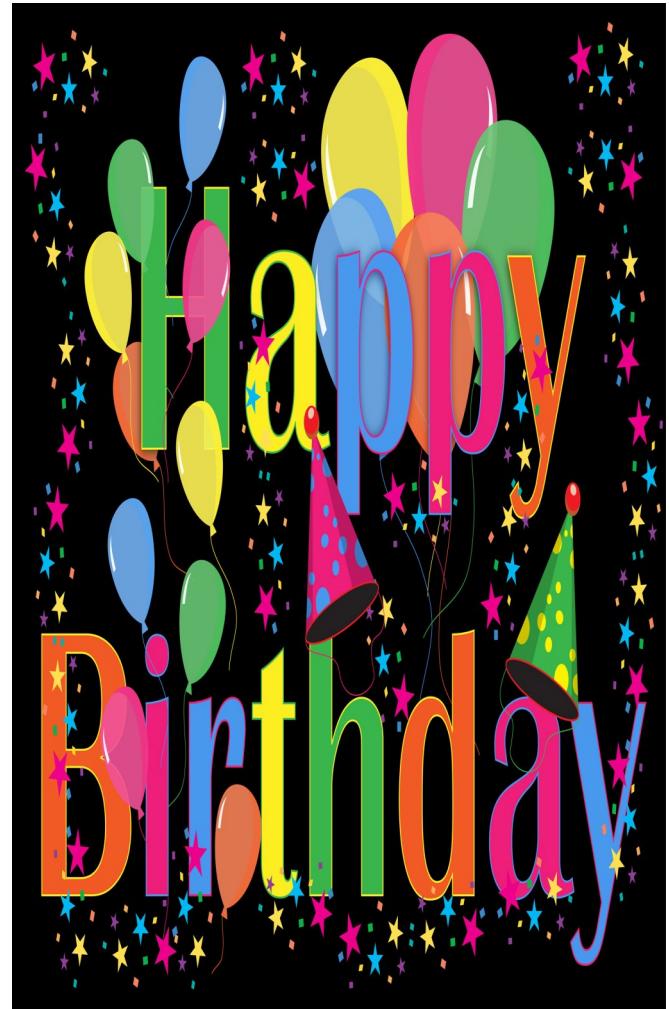
~Babz

inspire Positive
soul sensations **IPSS**

*There are times that are perfect
for telling those
who mean a lot to us
how important
they really are...*

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Janet Wright
- 6 Avis Cook
- 11 Sandra Worley
- 12 Ryan Mackey
- 15 Tommy Evans
- 21 Amanda Lane
- 21 Joy Hennings



Wedding Anniversaries



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Senior Dinner</i>	8	9	10 <i>Choir Practice 5:45 PWG 6-7</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>Youth Play 6</i>	15	16	17 <i>Prayer Warriors 6—7 PM</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Nativity Scene</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Christ mas</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Weekly Activities

Sunday School Every Sunday at 9:45 AM

Church Service Every Sunday at 11:00 AM

Women's Bible Study Starts Tuesday September 9th at 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study Starts Wednesday September 10th at 7:00 PM

Jane and Prayer Warriors at 9:30 AM (Seniors Classroom)