



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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## Latest News

The Urban Mission item of the month for December is Peanut Butter. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.

Many, many thanks to Norma and Bill Taylor. After years and years of service they are retiring from communion preparation and serving at Food for Friends. This Sunday will be their last communion prep.

## Community News

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 PM at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 North Porter in Norman.

*From the Pastor's Desk*

## December Darkness

The whole world waits in December darkness  
for a glimpse of the Light of God.  
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"  
and chase away the carolers  
have been seen looking toward the skies.  
The one who declared he never would forgive  
has forgiven,  
and those who left home  
have returned,  
and even wars are halted,  
if briefly,  
as the whole world looks starward.  
In the December darkness  
we peer from our windows  
watching for an angel with rainbow wings  
to announce the Hope of the World.  
-Ann Weems

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Advent!

In my sermon last week, I spoke about this season and getting ready for the coming of the Christ child into our lives. Sometimes we need to really look for signs of God's presence in our world and in our lives. It may be something that happens to us, it may be something we witness, or it may even be a story we read or saw that gave us a glimpse into God's actions in our world.

To that end, I invited the congregation gathered, and am now inviting you, to look for times that God's presence is being made known, especially in these next weeks of Advent.

As you see evidence, you are invited to "light" a candle (they are battery operated) on Sunday and place it on the chancel ledge. I encourage you to share your story of God's light with others!

We are lighting the Advent wreath one candle at a time, adding to the light in the darkness. As we light candles, we will witness to the Light and Hope of the World. May you be blessed in this season of preparation.

Grace and peace,  
Tracy

## Clerk's Corner

### CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of session was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7PM. Session took action on the following items:

1. Approved the ordination/installation of new officers for Sunday, January 8, 2017
2. Approved serving communion on Sunday, January 1, 2017
3. Approved a request from the Boy Scout troop that meets at our church to hold a lock-in on December 16h. (Friday night until 9AM Saturday morning)

The next regular meeting of session will be Tuesday, December 13 at 7PM and there will be a special meeting of session on Sunday, December 18 at 5:30PM for the purpose of examining the new officers.

Joan Cole

Clerk of Session

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Stewardship Update			
September 1 to October 31, 2016			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2016 Budget
<b>Pledges</b>	\$146,795.60	\$139,271.00	\$151,932.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$9,318.82	\$23,833.26	\$26,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$156,114.42	\$163,104.26	\$177,932.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$169,570.63	\$173,542.71	\$189,321.00



## December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Larry Upton

### December 4

Ushers: John and Susan Beck  
Communion Servers: Melissa Gill, Loreen Upton  
Coffee: Joan & Jona  
Sound Booth: Mike Cole  
Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen  
Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton  
Lock-up: Holly Van Auken

### December 11

Ushers: Jim and Linda Rodriguez  
Coffee: Georjana Mauldin & Holly Van Auken  
Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen  
Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton  
Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole  
Lock-up: Larry Upton

### December 18

Ushers: Kirk and Jessica Forthman  
Coffee: Trudy Beard & Ann Forsyth  
Sound Booth:  
Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole  
Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck  
Lock-up: Jessica Farris

### December 25

Ushers: Lucy Lanning and Charlotte Lovett  
Communion Servers: John Beck  
Coffee: Jim Rodriguez & Lisa Upton  
Sound Booth: Will Farris  
Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard  
Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard/Karen Girdner  
Lock-up: Jim Rodriguez



Indian Nations Presbytery  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

November 25, 2016

Tracy Evans, Pastor  
Joan Cole, Clerk of Session  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
601 24<sup>th</sup> Ave, SW  
Norman, OK 73069

Dear Tracy and Joan,

On behalf of Indian Nations Presbytery, I ask that you please send thanks and commend the session and congregation for the wonderful job they did in planning and preparing for October's presbytery meeting. From the morning breakfast items to the plentiful and savory lunch help to the volunteers at various entrances, the meeting went well in large part because of the welcome, hospitality, and good nature of the people of Memorial. The table fellowship and the space you all provided for visiting assisted this presbytery in so many ways that I cannot begin to express in words. As a former Memorial member, I couldn't help but feel a bit of pride – this was Memorial being Memorial!

May God continue to bless you to be a blessing in Norman.

In Christ,

Dr. Matt Meinke  
Stated Clerk



**Please join us December, 24th at 7:00 PM for our Christmas Eve Service.**

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Deacons' News:

Discussion of keeping the congregation in the "know" on what the deacons' are doing through the monthly Messenger.

This included:

1. Updating Prayer chain—any input would be helpful.
2. December 11th—Christmas Pageant with small gift bags for the children.
3. Ornaments for the congregation to be given out Sunday, December 4th by the Kids Club, be there and get your beautiful ornament; the kids did a great job getting them ready for you.
4. Dave & Tamara are needing help getting to church. The next 2 Sundays are already covered. If you would like to help please contact Tracy, Loreen or Donna. Thank You!

- Donna Vint

## M.Y GROUP NEWS DECEMBER 2016



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our December meeting schedule. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You are always welcome to bring a friend (or two). We will meet 5-6:30PM.

DECEMBER 18 - Come join in the reindeer games and more. This will be our Christmas party. NO gift exchange this year. Just bring yourself.

If you have any questions call or text me: (405) 830-8389).

Joan Cole

Christmas Mission Opportunity: Women's Resource Center,  
Norman, OK.

Memorial Presbyterian will be continuing a tradition of Christmas giving again this year by supporting the families currently living in the Women's Resource Center of Norman, OK. Families currently living in the shelter typically do not have the means to celebrate a traditional Christmas and have many stresses in their lives. Memorial will be sending love and support to these families, helping them to celebrate a more normal Christmas.

A board with family member's information is located in the hallway nearest the south-east doors to the church (near the playground). If you would like to sponsor one or more individuals living in the shelter, please take one of the cards, purchase and wrap gifts from that card and return the wrapped gifts with the card to Tracy's office by Sunday, December 18th. The gifts will be delivered to the shelter the following week.

The Mission & Evangelism Committee requests that you prayerfully consider supporting this mission project.

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Please join us for a  
**Christmas Potluck and  
pageant December  
11th.**



Memorial "bell ringers" staffed the Salvation Army Red Bucket at Dillards on Nov. 29. Thanks to Norma & Bill Taylor, Doris Hinson, Eileen Burke, Joan Cole, Joan Thraikill, Charlotte Lovett, Carolyn Montgomery, Harold Conner, Michael & Janann Yeager, Linda Echols & gals, Dianna Johnson, Bart Ward, and Paul & Erica Phelps. Paul Phelps will let us know how much the Memorial "bucket" took in for the day. Thanks again for donning the red aprons and ringing the bells.



(Joan Thraikill )

# Christmas Word Jumble

Unscramble these words that you might expect to find in the Christmas story.  
If you need help, the words are listed below the puzzle -- but not in order!

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. NNI _____       | 8. RTAS _____    |
| 2. ESEHHDPSR _____ | 9. NYOKDE _____  |
| 3. HWORISP _____   | 10. YABB _____   |
| 4. JHOPSE _____    | 11. RMGENA _____ |
| 5. TEHMHELBE _____ | 12. SSJEU _____  |
| 6. YMRA _____      | 13. IGFST _____  |
| 7. LATESB _____    | 14. AGLSEN _____ |

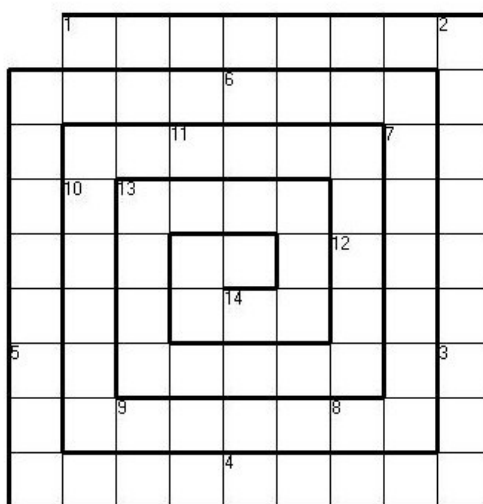
Mary  
Joseph  
manger  
star

stable  
donkey  
worship  
shepherds

inn  
Jesus  
Bethlehem  
baby

angels  
gifts

## A Christmas Spiral Puzzle



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The reason the wise men wanted to find Jesus | 8. An infant                            |
| 2. Animal that Mary rode to Bethlehem           | 9. He saves people from their sin       |
| 3. Earthly father of Jesus                      | 10. There was no room there for Jesus   |
| 4. Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds      | 11. The wise men brought these to Jesus |
| 5. Watched their flocks                         | 12. City where Jesus was born           |
| 6. It led the wise men to Jesus                 | 13. A place where animals sleep         |
| 7. Where the baby Jesus was laid                | 14. The mother of Jesus                 |

If you need a little help, here is a list of the words used in this puzzle.

Mary  
star  
stable  
angels  
baby

donkey  
Joseph  
manger  
shepherds  
inn

Jesus  
Bethlehem  
worship  
gifts

## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser  
Lola Carroll  
Sandy Clarke  
Janice Crump  
Dave Iske  
Jayelle Martin  
Paul Upton  
Devyn Upton  
Harry Wright

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Holly Van Auken whose mother died Nov.  
21  
Alison Baker whose grandfather died  
Family of Paula Coffman  
Family of Ruby Marsh

### Joys

Liam Timothy Farris born September 9,  
2016

### Seminary Student

Samuel McCann

In an effort to stay apprised of our on-going prayer concerns, prayer requests of those outside the MPC family will stay on the concerns list for one month. Please let the office know if there is a need to be listed longer.

To receive prayer requests by email,  
please contact Jona Thiessen at:  
jthiessen2@att.net

## December Birthdays

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Gabe Benson<br>Bruce Bunce<br>Carl Forthman<br>Nick Lindley |
| 3  | Jan Johnson   |
| 4  | Kurt Johnson  |
| 5  | Anita Harkey<br>Jacob Jones                                 |
| 6  | Ashley Wooliver   |
| 7  | Gene Bergstresser   |
| 8  | Betty Silman<br>Troy Johnston                               |
| 11 | Jack Adams  |
| 13 | Allen Silman<br>David Cole                                  |
| 15 | Kenny Martin  |
| 17 | Ruby Marsh  |
| 20 | Esau Jangha   |
| 22 | Jim Burns   |
| 23 | Kay Martin<br>Betsy Pennington<br>Norma Taylor              |
| 27 | Brooke (Thrailkill) Hesse                                   |
| 30 | Haley Williams  |

## December Anniversaries

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 13 | Kirk & Jessica Forthman |
| 20 | Judd & Alice Lanning    |
| 27 | Tim & Jona Thiessen     |
| 30 | Carl & Julie Forthman   |

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	6 6:00 pm Mission & Evangelism Committee 7:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting	7 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 5:30pm Christmas Potluck and Pageant	12 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	13 7:00 pm Session Meeting	14 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	15	16	17
18 12:00 P.M. Deacon Meeting 5:30 P.M. Stewardship Meeting 5:00 MY Group	19 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	20	21 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	22	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service
25	26 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	27	28 3:00 P.M. Kids' Club 4:00 P.M. Children's Choir 6:30 P.M. Chancel Choir	29	30	31

