



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## Latest News

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The Food & Shelter item of the month for December is **scarves and gloves**. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.

Please return your **pledge cards** as soon as possible so that the session may plan the budget for next year. Questions? See Mike Cole or John Beck.

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 PM at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 North Porter in Norman.



Memorial Presbyterian Church accepts **online donations** through a partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation, via the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. Look for the



"Give Now" button on our website, [www.memorialpres.org](http://www.memorialpres.org), or scan the QR code here. Recurring or one-time donations may be made by credit/debit card or by direct transfer from your bank account (EFT). We will continue to accept cash and checks as well.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Advent is upon us! This Sunday is the first of four Advent Sundays, that season of preparing for the Christ child's birth.

We will be using the well-loved classic song, **Silent Night, Holy Night** as our theme. This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the song, so it is appropriate that we highlight this beautiful piece. Each week we will use a different verse for our focus.

For those paying attention, this is quite different for us. Silent Night speaks of the birth of the baby Jesus. Our usual Advent worship and focus is on the waiting, the holy time of anticipation and longing. You will hear some of that as well, but there will be significant focus on the Jesus' birth.

This season brings about a variety of emotions. Maybe you feel stressed because of the expectations you have on yourself or from others. Perhaps you are feeling the darkness of being alone, or the pain of this being the first Christmas holiday without a particular friend or family member. Or you may be excited about this Christmas and the joy that will be part of it. Or, like me, you may be feeling a little of all of these things.

Regardless, I hope you will be intentional about focusing on the Peace, Joy, Love and Hope that are given to us through the birth of God's very son.

May you know God's peace in the midst of this season,

Tracy

In other news, our Kids' Club children are preparing a delightful Christmas pageant to be presented after our potluck on December 16<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss **Don't Freak Out: A Christmas Pageant** by Katherine Willis Pershey. You will love seeing this, I promise!

## Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, November 13 at 7PM at the church. The following actions were approved by session:

1. Elders will be trained on how to prepare communion.
2. Communion dates for 2019 were established.
3. Approved the Presbytery Task Force meeting at our church on Saturday, December 1
4. Two facility use requests were approved.

The next meeting of session will be on Tuesday, December 18 at 7PM

Respectfully,  
Joan Cole  
Clerk of Session

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Stewardship Update			
November 1 to November 30, 2018			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2018 Budget
Pledges	\$154,777.51	\$144,35.00	\$157,000.00
Other Income	\$6,149.97	\$5,499.89	\$6,000.00
Total Income	\$160,927.48	\$149,874.89	\$163,500.00
Total Expenses	\$168,666.86	\$170,389.45	\$185,881.00

## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

This Sunday we enter the season of Advent. In preparation for the coming of the “greatest gift,” a small but faithful group transformed the sanctuary into a more joyful space, worthy of His coming. Thank you to the Christmas elves who gave of their Monday evening. And thanks be to God!



## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Once again the magic of Christmas at Memorial Presbyterian Church! Last Sunday you saw and heard the wonders of the Children's Choir. What a blessing for us!

This year's advent theme is “**Calm and Bright: 200 Years of Silent Night.**” Thanks go to Rev. Evans for finding this series of services designed by Dr. Marcia McFee, and to Vince and Solena for their musical additions. Dr. McFee's prayer is “that this season of focusing on the need for God's ‘calm and bright’—peace and light—will offer a guiding light to the congregation in its mission of making this world a better place.”



## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Friends,

We are speeding towards a new year. As it approaches, a budget is being developed that will guide us in support of the missions and work of the church. Several weeks ago, budget packets were distributed for your review and to use in contemplating your gifts for 2019. If you have not had a chance to return your pledge card, please do, so that our planning process can be completed. If you have any questions about the information that you received please let me or someone on the Stewardship Committee know and we will make certain that they are answered. Thanks you and God bless.

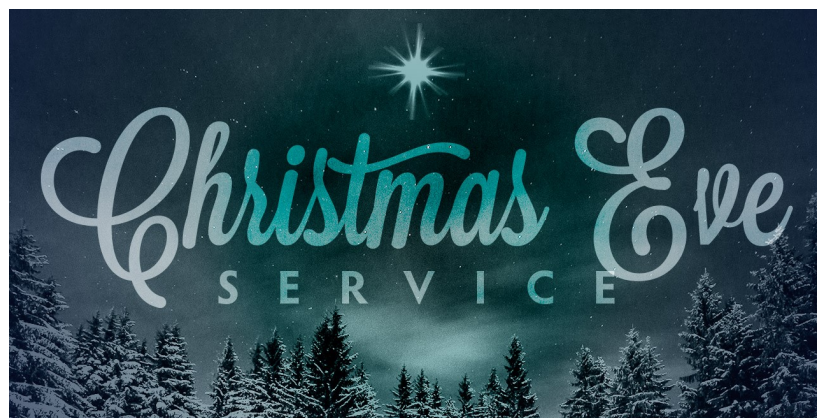
John Beck

This Christmas we will continue our annual mission project of providing gifts to women and children who are receiving shelter and other services from the Women's Resource Center. Since 1975, this organization has been helping people who have experienced violence in the Cleveland County community. Their Mission Statement is: "We believe that women have the right to live in safety, to be treated with dignity, to make choices and to hope." We are honored to support the families who are in a difficult transition at this special time of year.

We will place names of moms and kids on cards on a bulletin board, with gift suggestion and sizes. Please take a card or two, buy gifts based on the gift suggestions, and return the gifts UNWRAPPED with the name card attached. Please return the gifts by Sunday, December 16.

Mission & Evangelism Committee

Mark your calendars for December 16. Following worship we will be having a potluck and pageant. The children and youth will be presenting **Don't Freak Out: A Christmas Pageant.**



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



M.Y. GROUP NEWS  
DECEMBER 2018



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our December and January meeting schedule. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You are always welcome to bring a friend (or two). We will meet immediately following worship until 2PM.

DECEMBER 2 – It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

DECEMBER 30 – A new year is coming

JANUARY 13 – Baby it's cold outside (but not inside)

JANUARY 27 – It's a mystery.....

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

Joan Cole

THOSE VOLUNTEERING TO PROVIDE LUNCH:

December 2 – Melissa Gill

December 30 – Karen Girdner

January 13 – Julie Forthman

January 27 – Trudy Beard

DATES STILL AVAILABLE: February 17, March 10, March 24, April 7, April 28 and May 12

## December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: John Beck

### December 2

Ushers: Mike and Joan Cole

Communion Servers: Breanna Upton, Lucy Lanning, Mike Girdner and Melissa Gill

Coffee: Loreen and Breanna Upton

Sound Booth: Karen Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Melissa Gill

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Holly Van Auken

### December 9

Ushers: Trudy Beard and Ann Fayles

Coffee: Mike Cole and Trudy Beard

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard and Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Larry Upton

### December 16

Ushers: Larry and Lisa Upton

Coffee: Lisa Upton and Ann Fayles

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Jim Rodriguez

### December 23

Ushers: John and Susan Beck

Coffee: Linda Eckel

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up: Loreen Upton

### December 30

Ushers: Lucy Lanning and Charlotte Lovett

Coffee: Ann Forsyth and Eileen Burke

Sound Booth: Larry Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

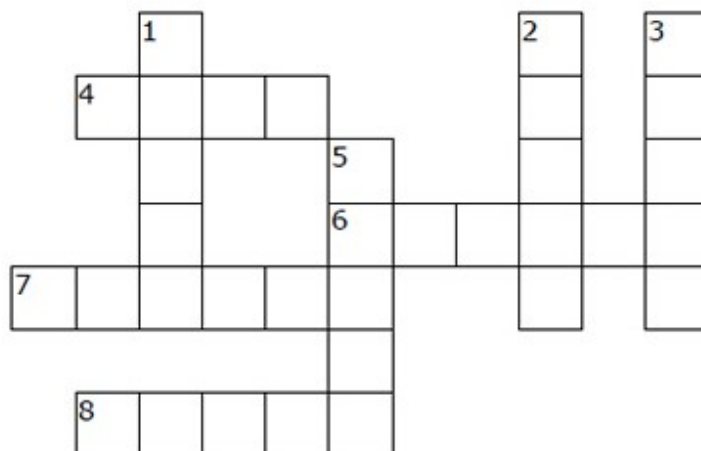
Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up: Trudy Beard

# Escape from Egypt

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 2:13-23



## ACROSS

4. To cause someone to die
6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
7. A female parent
8. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown

## DOWN

1. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark
2. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
3. A heavenly servant of God
5. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus

CHILD	KILL	NIGHT	MOTHER
ESCAPE	DREAM	HEROD	ANGEL



## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll  
 Sandy Clarke  
 Jim Eckel  
 Laura Eckel  
 Doug Forsyth  
 Ann Forsyth  
 Mike Girdner  
 Jona Thiessen  
 Karen Upton  
 Harry Wright  
 Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)  
 Wilhemina Ngunyah  
 Jordan Sanders (Joe Garlett's son-in-law's  
 grandson)  
 Alice Lanning

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

#### Joys

#### Seminary Student

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

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.

## December Birthdays

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1  | Gabe Benson                  |
|    | Bruce Bunce                  |
|    | Carl Forthman                |
|    | Nick Lindley                 |
| 3  | Jan Johnson                  |
| 4  | Kurt Johnson                 |
| 6  | Ashley Wooliver              |
| 8  | Betty Silman                 |
|    | Troy Johnston                |
| 11 | Jack Adams                   |
| 13 | Allen Silman                 |
|    | David Cole                   |
| 15 | Kenny Martin                 |
| 20 | Esau Jangha                  |
| 22 | Jim Burns                    |
|    | Everett Forthman             |
| 23 | Kay (Karen) Martin           |
|    | Betsy (Elizabeth) Pennington |
|    | Norma Taylor                 |
| 27 | Brooke (Thraikill) Hesse     |
| 30 | Haley Williams               |

## December Anniversaries

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

# December 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

4:00 p.m. UCC  
Worship Service  
12:00 p.m.  
Deacons  
12:00 p.m. MY  
Group

3

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

4

5

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club  
5:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

6

7

8

9

4:00 p.m. UCC  
Worship Service

10

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

11

6:00 p.m Mission  
& Evangelism  
Meeting

12

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club  
5:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

13

14

15

18

12p.m. Christmas  
Pageant &  
Potluck  
5:30 p.m.  
Stewardship  
4:00 p.m. UCC  
Worship Service

17

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

18

7:00 p.m Session  
Meeting

19

6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

20

21

22

23

4:00 p.m. UCC  
Worship Service  
30  
4:00 p.m. UCC  
Worship Service

24

7:00 P.M.  
Christmas Eve  
Service

25

26

27

28

29

31