



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## Latest News

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

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*May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy  
and peace in believing,  
so that you may  
abound in hope by the  
power of the Holy  
Spirit.*

**Romans 15:13**

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

Joy to the World, the Lord is come." -Isaac Watts

Dear Friends,

December 1 was the first day of Advent, and we had a wonderful worship.

We are using the theme of "Heaven and Nature Sing" from the beloved hymn "Joy to the World." This year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the song and is a beautiful theme for our time together.

Composer Isaac Watts' interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song"—and it is a powerful performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

The following is a translation of Psalm 98:4-6 by Nan C. Merrill:

*"Make a joyful noise to the Beloved  
all the earth;*

*break forth into grateful song  
and sing praises!*

*Yes, sing songs of praise extolling  
Love's way;  
lift up your hearts with  
gratitude and joy!"*

Happiness is fleeting, reliant upon outward circumstances. A beautiful day, a good cup of coffee or our team winning the game can all bring us happiness. Joy, however, is constant, an understanding that in all things, God will prevail. We can have joy in the midst of our sorrow or heartbreak. In fact, these are the times that we often feel even closer to God.

I hope you will join us in worship as we joyfully sing God's praises and declare the wonder of God's love for us!

Grace and peace,  
Tracy

## Clerk's Corner

Session met on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7PM at the church. The following actions were taken:

(1) Session approved a facility use request by Jim Burns for the purpose of hosting a Presbytery Pastoral Network workshop on Thursday, January 23, 2020.

(2) Session approved the request from Grace Tamukong to have her two grandsons baptized on Sunday, December 22, 2019.

The next meeting of session will be Tuesday, December 17, 2019.

Respectfully,

Joan Cole

Clerk of Session

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### Stewardship Update

As of October 30th.

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2019 Budget
<b>Pledges</b>	\$138,262.84	\$125,833.30	\$151,000.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$19,723.69	\$10,000	\$12,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$157,986.53	\$135,833.30	\$163,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$153,675.30	\$164,499.80	\$197,400.00

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

What beloved Christmas classic turns 300 this year?

Hint—it is the interpretation of Psalm 98 by Isaac Watts.

Did you guess it? Our theme for Advent is "Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 Years of JOY to the World!" Join us for worship each Sunday of Advent as we focus on a different JOY.



And mark your calendars now for the **Christmas Eve service** at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24. It will be a JOYFUL celebration of lessons and carols and our traditional candlelight service.

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## **MISSION & EVANGELISM**

We are continuing our annual holiday tradition of giving gifts to support the moms and kids who are at the Women's Resource Center shelter in a difficult transition at this special time of the year.

Everyone that took a card please return them unwrapped along with the card by Sunday, December 15.

If you have any questions, please ask Melissa Gill.

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Book Study Begins December 8

Philosopher James K.A. Smith, in his book **You Are What You Love**," attempts to give a more complete account of what it means to be human. Often we see ourselves as defined by what we think or believe. In this thought-provoking book, Smith argues that we are fundamentally loving creatures that love what we are habitually shaped to love. This raises significant questions for how worship shapes the Christian. Join us starting December 8, at 9:30 am in the church library to reflect on what it means to be human, what it means to worship, and to dive into the question what it is that we love. Samuel McCann will be leading this . Books are available from him.



Reminder there is **no Kid's Club** on December 18 and 25, January 1 and 8 for Christmas Break.



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### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

She sings in the choir. She ushers. She teaches Sunday School. She started as a teacher's assistant and now is the lead teacher. It has even been her choice to continue the class through the summer.

He sings in the choir. He ushers. He faithfully attends the parlor Sunday School class. He has been Memorial's contact person for the Salvation Army bell ringers.

When you see Erika and Paul Phelps, be sure to thank them for all they do for Memorial.

Thanks be to God!

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Mark your calendars for December 15. Following worship we will be having a potluck and pageant. The children and youth will be presenting **The Friendly Beasts**.





# Thanksgiving Potluck 2019



## December Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Tim Thiessen

### December 1

Ushers: John & Susan Beck

Communion Servers: Mike and Karen Girdner, John Beck, Charlotte Lovett

Coffee: Grace Tamukong & Donna Vint

Sound Booth: Tim Thiessen

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: Mike Girdner

### December 8

Ushers: Jim Rodriguez & Tim Thiessen

Coffee: Carl Forthman & Breanna Upton

Sound Booth: John Beck

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: John Beck

### December 15

Ushers: Paul & Erika Phelps

Coffee: Mike Cole & Trudy Beard

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Larry Upton

### December 22

Ushers: Will & Jessica Farris

Coffee: Lisa Upton & Ann Fayles

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard & Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

### December 29

Ushers: Charlotte Lovett & Lucy Lanning

Coffee: Gladys Jangha & Linda Eckel

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Melissa Gill

Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Jim Rodriguez

# Ready For The Christ Of Christmas

## Word Search

### Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Matthew 3

W	L	U	Z	M	H	V	J	O	J	Q	V	Q	S	U
I	Y	V	S	L	O	G	N	K	M	D	B	H	A	K
K	C	T	X	T	N	M	R	H	K	Y	T	E	X	X
C	I	X	J	T	E	Z	Y	J	T	A	E	S	L	E
P	N	N	Y	Y	Y	A	S	L	P	P	T	R	Z	T
R	B	M	G	J	W	I	L	D	G	S	U	E	S	Q
E	D	A	H	D	H	A	I	R	U	X	G	P	T	C
P	Z	O	P	Y	O	U	S	C	E	N	U	E	R	F
A	T	O	Q	T	W	M	O	H	I	N	J	N	A	F
R	Z	S	G	N	I	L	O	H	L	R	L	T	I	M
E	Z	J	N	P	O	Z	C	P	N	E	P	Y	G	P
E	S	P	O	A	E	A	E	H	M	N	N	Z	H	C
L	O	R	D	H	E	M	T	A	F	T	Q	X	T	Y
J	W	K	K	R	N	J	C	U	Y	C	T	Q	T	U
I	X	E	P	F	N	M	H	L	D	Z	D	E	N	I

LORD  
BAPTIZE  
REPENT

PREPARE  
STRAIGHT  
LOCUSTS

KINGDOM  
PATHS  
HONEY

JOHN  
PREACHING  
CAMEL

HAIR  
WILD  
BELT



## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll  
 Sandy Clarke  
 Jan Cunningham  
 Laura Eckel  
 Doug Forsyth  
 Karen Girdner  
 Blair Lanning  
 Judd Lanning  
 Jayelle Martin  
 Gary Thraikill  
 Jona Thiessen  
 Devyn Upton  
 Karen Upton  
 Janann Yeager  
 Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)  
 Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)  
 Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)  
 Jim Leseney (Vince Leseney's father)

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Mike and Joan Cole whose brother Jim Cole died November 12.  
 Linda Eckel and family whose husband Jim Eckel died October 31.  
 Lisa Upton whose father Nolan Spaugy died on October 30.

### Inquirer for Ministry

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	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 Amanda Forthman

## December Anniversaries

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

# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	2 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	3	4 3:00 p.m. Kids Club 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel	5	6	7
8 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	9 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	10	11 3:00 p.m. Kids Club 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Chancel	12	13	14
15 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Potluck 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Stewardship	16 6:30 P.M. Worship & Music Committee meeting 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	17 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Chancel	19	20	21
22 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	23 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28
29 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	30 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	31				