



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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Community News


The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on **Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 PM** at the Education Center at Norman Regional Hospital, located at 901 North Porter in Norman.

Latest News

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

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be **February 5** following worship with a Potluck in the Fellowship Hall.

You may bring a dish to share or just bring your appetite.



Genealogy Around the Table

Wednesday, February 15, 10 am
Registration Required

Kathryn Ramsay, Pioneer Local History and Genealogy Librarian, will lead a discussion of obstacles we face in our research and techniques which can help us make progress.

Pioneer
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Norman Public Library West
300 Norman Center Court
Norman, Oklahoma 73072
405-701-2644
pioneerlibrarysystem.org/westnorman

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I have really struggled about what to write to you this month. Maybe you, like me, are feeling overwhelmed with the turmoil and disagreement in our country today and don't have words to adequately express your feelings, or maybe, also like me, you aren't even sure you can comprehend enough to even try to get to your feelings.

As an alternative, I have been intentionally focused on the gifts we have from God; trying to see what is positive in this world. I've also been watching *uncontroversial* movies and TV, picking up my hobbies again and focusing on what is in my reach to accomplish.

As people of faith, I hope that you will remember to take care of yourself, noting that Jesus observed Sabbath, and that we can't pour from an empty vessel.

We are one month away from Lent, when we begin our journey to the cross. Ash Wednesday is March 1 and we will hold our Ash Wednesday service that evening. I encourage you to attend.

In planning for the upcoming months, consider joining me for a limited series study.

I also invite you to attend a Lenten study I will be leading on Sunday evenings, beginning March 9 from 5:00 to 6:00.

We will study the book **Forgiveness**, written by Marjorie J. Thompson. Thompson is well known for her book **Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life**. She is a Presbyterian pastor and spent thirteen years as Director of Congregational Spirituality with Upper Room Ministries.

This little book reminds readers that forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers. It will address such questions as:

Is forgiveness a Christian duty under all circumstances? Or are there situations when Christians do not need to forgive?

Is forgiveness a matter between individuals, or is it meaningful only in the context of communities?

Is forgiving the best route to healing for the injured?

How do we get past emotional barriers to real forgiveness?

We are stronger when we work toward growth of ourselves individually and corporately. I hope you'll join me in this discussion as we look at forgiveness.

Grace to you all,

Tracy

Would you be willing to help out Dave and Tamara Iske on the occasional Sunday Morning? The Deacons are looking for drivers who will pick up the Iskes at their house and drive their van to church at 9:30 am. and then drive them home after worship.

Clerk's Corner

There was a regular meeting of session held on January 17, 2017 at 7PM at the church. The following actions were taken:

1. Approved the 2017 budget
2. Committee chairs were assigned
Mission & Evangelism: Kirk Forthman & Melissa Gill (co-chairs)
Worship & Music - Charlotte Lovett
Stewardship - John Beck
Building & Grounds - Mike Girdner
Christian Education - Jessica Farris & Ross Robinson (co-chairs)
3. Elected Mike Cole as church treasurer
4. Elected Joan Cole as clerk of session
5. Elected Mike Girdner as session representative to PEF committee
6. Elected Ross Robinson as Elder Commissioner to Presbytery and Harry Wright as the alternate
7. Elected officers of the Corporation:
President - Mike Girdner
Vice President - John Beck
Secretary - Melissa Gill
8. Elected Kirk Forthman (chair) and Trudy Beard to the officer nominating committee
9. Approved the dates for communion in 2017 (first Sunday of every month plus some special services)
10. Approved session meeting dates in 2017 (February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, No Meeting in June, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 14 and December 19.

At a special meeting of session, session approved the purchase/upgrade of the computers in the church office for a cost not to exceed \$1,410.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Cole, Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update January 1 to January 31, 2017

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2017 Budget
Pledges	\$8,524.00	\$12,333.33	\$148,000.00
Other Income	\$860.17	\$916.66	\$11,000.00
Total Income	\$9,384.17	\$13,249.99	\$159,000.00
Total Expenses	\$14,343.43	\$15,793.27	\$189,521.00



Deacons Meeting, January 15, 2017

Present:

Tracy Evans, Bre Upton, Loreen Upton, Eileen Burke, Joan Thrailkill, Ann Forsyth, Doris Hinson, Holly Van Auken

Officer Election

Chair, Loreen Upton

Co-chair, Ann Forsyth

Secretary, Doris Hinson

Supply Supporter, Bre Upton

Deacons Fund

Funds are used for special events such as funerals, baby and wedding gift cards, and ten-dollar Wal-Mart cards for the Pastor to use for emergency aid as needed.

Review of Procedures

A Deacon will bring refreshments by assigned date for the Sunday coffee hour and be responsible for set up and kitchen cleanup. Those requesting reimbursement for incurred cost may use the available voucher system. Deacons meet immediately after church on the third Sunday of the month. The secretary will prepare a report to the session and a copy to the administrative secretary for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Outreach to Flocks

A bulletin board* displaying deacons' photos will list names within each deacon's flock so that members of the congregation will know who is their deacon of care and concern. *Special thanks to Ann Forsyth for making the bulletin board.

Doris Hinson
Secretary

Worship and Music Committee

An ad-hoc committee is currently working to plan Ash Wednesday and Lenten services (possibly also Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday and Easter) around the theme "See and Share" inspired by Rev. Evans' message "Come and See."

On-going responsibilities of this committee include but are not limited to securing ushers, head ushers, communion servers, and communion preparers, cleaning the baptismal fount, choosing appropriate banners, preparing the large-print hymnals and assisting the staff with preparation for services "that have special emphasis or feast day significance."

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13 at 6:00. If you are curious about our meetings, please come, see and share with us. All are welcome.

Building & Grounds

The church has contracted with 2 Green Chicks, a locally-owned, independent cleaning service, to clean the church facility. We have had hired janitorial staff in the past, but due to changing employment circumstances we were going to have to try and hire a new person for the position and felt this was a better way for the church to get our janitorial services done. They are to clean the church twice a week - a "full" cleaning on Friday evening to have the facility ready for services on Sunday, and a "quick" cleaning on Monday evenings to take out trash, check for other issues that need to be addressed, etc. (days and times subject to some changes). If you notice anything that needs to be brought to their attention relating to janitorial services please let one of the Building and Grounds Committee Members (Mike Girdner, Mike Cole, Donna Vint, Larry Upton or Holly Van Auken) know about it and we will put it on our feedback form to 2 Green Chicks.

Mental Health in Oklahoma

Several months ago, the session of Memorial Presbyterian Church determined that during the Church year the congregation would focus on a theme. For this year it will be on Mental Health in Oklahoma. This is in response to a call for justice, care, and hospitality for God's children, who suffer with challenges related to mental wellness, which have been enunciated by our denomination's General Assembly over many years.

Mental illness is a medical disorder characterized by a disturbance in thought, mood, or behavior that causes distress in spiritual, interpersonal, behavioral, and emotional functioning. It is estimated that 1 in 4 of us in our lifetime will experience some form of mental wellness challenges. In Oklahoma, over 630,000 people will suffer from such a life disruption – that is over 20 % of our population. Many do not receive the treatment they need. In comparison to other states, we are at the bottom in terms funding for needed services.

Because these challenges can impact on people in our community, and in our congregation, it was seen as imperative that we have a deeper understanding of the challenges associated with this kind of suffering. While the church cannot eliminate mental wellness challenges, we can have a deeper understanding of people who suffer with mental illness daily. Furthermore, we can share the message of God's love with those who more often than not feel isolated.

In the course of the year, various committees and groups within our church will be asked consider how their programming and activities can help in furthering greater understanding, and possible change.

February Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Mike Cole

February 5

Ushers: Paul and Karen Upton

Communion Servers: Ann Forsyth, Doug Forsyth, Breanna Upton, and Loreen Upton

Coffee: Ann&Eileen

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard/Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Holly Van Auken

February 12

Ushers: Tim and Jona Thiessen

Coffee: Donna&Grace

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Jona Thiessen

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up: Larry Upton

February 19

Ushers: Doug and Ann Forsyth

Coffee: Loreen&Doris

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up: Jessica Farris

February 26

Ushers: Carolyn Montgomery and Harold Conner

Coffee: Lisa&Trudy

Sound Booth: Larry Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: Jim Rodriguez

Coming In February
The MPC Showcase!

Mark your calendars for a one night only event! The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee is proud to present the MPC Showcase! This entertainment packed showcase will be on Saturday, February 11th from 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm, doors to open at 6:50 pm and the performances will begin at 7:30.

This event is open to everyone so invite all your friends and family to come. There will be a reservation sheet to sign to reserve your spot so we can make sure we have plenty of seating. We would like to suggest to those planning to attend to bring a finger food or snack to share.

Don't miss out on this fabulous social event where world renowned stars, superior cuisine and family & friends come together in one place for one spectacular experience.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 5 following worship with a Potluck in the Fellowship Hall.



Congratulations to the Winners of the Chili Cook-off!

1st place—Bill Silman

2nd—Georgana Mauldin

3rd—Breanna Upton

M.Y GROUP NEWS
FEBRUARY 2017



ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, here is our meeting schedule for February:

FEBRUARY 26 *Get your craft on*

Please contact Joan Cole, 830-8389, if you have any questions.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

25	15	21

1	18	5

20	8	5

19	1	12	20

15	6

20	8	5

5	1	18	20	8

2	21	20

23	8	1	20

7	15	15	4

9	19

19	1	12	20

9	6

9	20

8	1	19

12	15	19	20

9	20	19

7	12	1	22	15	18

 ?

3	1	14

25	15	21

13	1	11	5

9	20

19	1	12	20	25

1	7	1	9	14

?

9	20

23	9	12	12

2	5

20	8	18	15	23	14

15	21	20

1	14	4

20	18	1	13	18	12	5	4

21	14	4	5	18	6	15	15	20

1	19

23	15	18	20	8	12	5	19	19

13	1	20	20	8	5	23

5 : 1 3

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser
 Lola Carroll
 Sandy Clarke
 Janice Crump
 Dave Iske
 Jayelle Martin
 Paul Upton
 Devyn Upton
 Anthony Reid

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Melissa Gill, whose aunt died Jan. 23
 Holly Van Auken whose mother died
 Nov. 21
 Alison Baker whose grandfather died

Joys

Everett William Forthman and parents
 Amanda and Wade, Born December 22
 Liam Timothy Farris born September 9,
 2016 to Jessica and Will

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

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 3 | John D. Montgomery, Jr. |
| | Tim Mauldin |
| 5 | Cody Yeager |
| 6 | Laurianne Fisher |
| 9 | Gysheilla Jangha |
| 11 | Susan Annoh |
| 13 | Terry Williams |
| 16 | Mary Clark |
| 17 | Ryan Johnson |
| 20 | Jim Eckel |
| 24 | Georjana Mauldin |
| 26 | Larry Upton, Jr.
Will Farris |
| 27 | Jim Rodriguez |
| 29 | Jody Yeager |

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 11 | Mike & Joan Cole |
| 14 | Jim & Judy Burns |

February 2017

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