



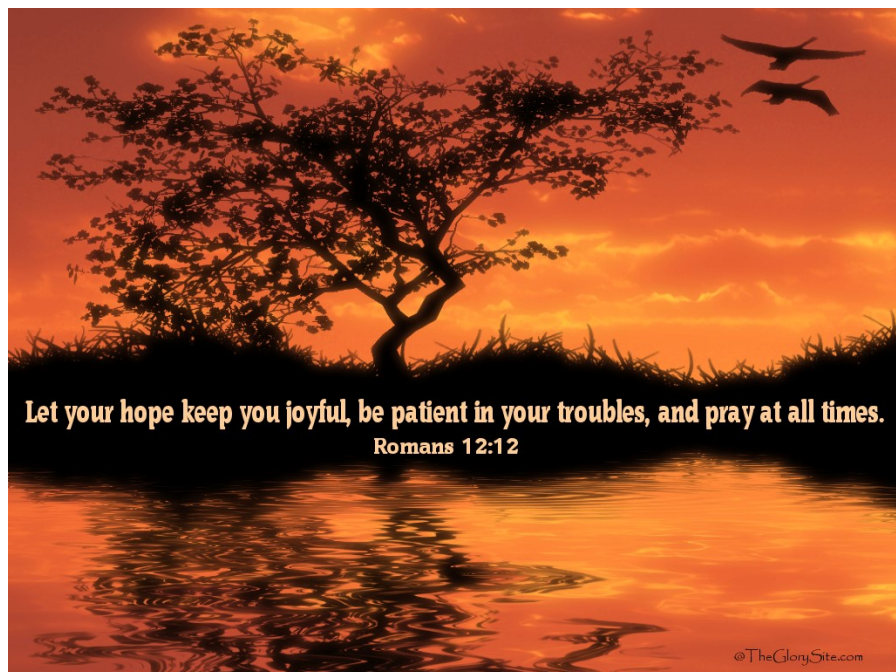
# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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## Latest News

The Urban Mission item of the month for September is **toilet paper**. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.



Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.  
Romans 12:12

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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 below. 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,

In 1995, I had completed seminary and was in the midst of a year of Clinical Pastoral Education (a kind of chaplain residency) at the OU Health Sciences complex. In April, the Murrah bombing occurred, and we had our hands full with wounded survivors. My chaplaincy ended that summer and I took a job for the Presbytery of Indian Nations as the Disaster Response Coordinator.

Through this work, I learned about and participated in the follow-up of a disaster. Government agencies, community groups, non-profits and religious groups all work together to try to meet the needs of those most impacted.

The recovery from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey will certainly be different than that of the bombing, but I can assure you that all the agencies will come together to work toward the rebuilding and recovery of southeast Texas.

Among those groups will be Presbyterians who have built a reputation among the disaster response community.

Because of my work in OKC, I was appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which I served for six years. I learned even more about disaster response, especially our connections and our work beyond the United States. I visited Malawi, a small country in Africa, where we witnessed food distribution, health clinics and schools that had been rebuilt as a result of the efforts of PDA. In San Salvador, El Salvador, we celebrated the completion of a community center in an area of hundreds and hundreds of corrugated tin homes.

At the end of August 2005, I was the Vice-Moderator of PDA's Advisory Committee. The Moderator and I were asked to go to Houston, San Antonio and Austin to help the congregations and presbyteries make ready for refugees coming out of the aftermath of Hurricane Katri-

na. At that time, PDA was in the early stages of having trained volunteers to deploy in disaster response. The well-trained folks were sent to Louisiana; we were clearly the "B" team, but we did what we could.

We visited the convention centers that we are now seeing on the news. We met with presbytery staff and church members who had no idea where to begin. Our presence, while it did not lessen the work to be done, gave them hope and assurance that they were not alone and would have guidance in the very lengthy process of recovery (and remember, these were not the areas that were affected by the hurricane).

In 2006, I led a group of volunteers from the church I was serving to Houma, Louisiana, where we stayed in a PDA "volunteer village" and worked on repair of a home that had been damaged in Katrina. We tore down, built up, cleaned and painted for a week, sleeping on cots, making our meals and building community not only in Houma, but in our own group as well.

PDA has supported the recovery of every major tornado we have had in Oklahoma. They have provided training to prepare for disasters as well as provide mental health support for responders and case managers.

I tell you all this (if you're still reading) to let you know how much I admire and believe in the work of PDA. They are known in the disaster community as "staying for the long haul." I suspect we will see their work in SE Texas for many, many years to come.

Please consider helping PDA as they work alongside the residents of southeast Texas. There is much, much work to be done. Through your support, we can say that we will be there "for the long haul," as the hands and feet of Christ in this disaster.

Grace and peace,  
Tracy

## Clerk's Corner

The regular meeting of the Session of Memorial Presbyterian Church was called to order on August 15, 2017, by moderator Rev. Tracy Evans and opened with prayer at 7:00 PM at the church. Ross Robinson provided a devotional and opening prayer.

After the adoption of the docket and past meeting minutes approved, the Session held an informal question-and-answer time with Samuel McCann, a second-year Pittsburg Theology Seminary student sponsored by Memorial. Samuel reports that his studies are going well and that he would like to hear from members of the congregation from time to time.

During the Moderator's Report, Rev. Evans announced some upcoming vacation days and reported on the status of Norman United's proposal to share Memorial's facilities.

Among the committee reports were:

STEWARDSHIP - Reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Budget will meet again Oct 3, 2017

WORSHIP AND MUSIC - Announced special emphasis services for Fall, including Blessing of Pets, World Communion, Reformation Sunday, Advent, and Christmas Eve.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION -Reported on the 2017 Vacation Bible School (VBS) and announced Christian Education Kickoff Breakfast for September 10, 2017

MISSION AND EVANGELISM - Reported on the school supplies and non-perishable, relatively healthy snacks collection.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – reported on various repairs and upgrades.

NOMINATING and PERSONNEL had no report.

DEACON REPORT: Given by Esau Jangha.

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee is planning a potluck lunch after worship on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017

OTHER BUSINESS:

Melissa Gill and someone to be named later will coordinate the Emphasis on Hunger.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Rev. Evans at 8:55PM.

-Michael Yeager

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

At the suggestion of the budget ad hoc committee, chaired by elder John Beck of the Stewardship Committee, the Worship and Music committee worked out a budget request reduction of \$1150.

The committee also agreed to assist Rev. Evans in preparing the following services:

World Communion.....Oct. 1

Blessing of the Pets....Oct. 8 at 5:00 pm

Reformation Sunday...Oct. 29

Four Sundays of Advent...Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24

Christmas Eve.....Dec. 24 at 7:00 pm

If anyone would like to join this committee and/or has an idea for worship, please let any committee member know. (Charlotte Lovett, John Beck, Lucy Lanning, Tim Mauldin, Nick Lindley, Joan Cole, Vince Leseney, Stephen Wurst, Rev. Tracy Evans.)

All are welcome!

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<b>Stewardship Update</b>			
August 1 to August 31, 2017			
	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>Budget YTD</b>	<b>2017 Budget</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	\$107,378.50	\$103,378.50	\$155,000.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$7,284.41	\$7,333.28	\$11,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$114,662.91	\$110,666.56	\$166,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$120,189.67	\$126,346.16	\$189,521.00





*Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. — Song of Solomon 8:7*

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. We are relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors.

**The needs for the response are great. God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

**ACT:** Put together Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas — hygiene kits and cleanup buckets are especially needed. For more information, go to [pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/](http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/).

Contact the PDA Call Center to be notified of volunteer opportunities.

Call (866) 732-6121 or email [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org).

**PRAY:** God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

Keep up to date on long-term recovery efforts at [presbyterianmission.org/pda](http://presbyterianmission.org/pda) or [facebook.com/PDACARES](https://facebook.com/PDACARES)

☐ \$500   ☐ \$125   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$25   ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

US Hurricane Response — Harvey — DR000169 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.




Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**

HH17-BI

## Behind the Scenes

They have literally and figuratively been behind the scenes of dinner theaters, talent shows and vacation bible school. They have been the movers and shakers of Trunk or Treat since its inception at Memorial. They have taught Sunday school, assisted acolytes, and installed the administrative assistant's new computer. They have been deacons and elders and ushers and communion servers and greeters. They have fed us at almost every potluck or special dinner. They are "go-to" people if there is a problem. One sang in the choir until her work schedule got in the way. One was in charge of custodial duties, at times assisted by one daughter or another. Memorial is so fortunate to have Lisa and Larry Upton among our members. Their talents, combined with their hearts for mission, are a blessing to us all. Thanks be to God!

(And may you receive some well-deserved rest as you step back from Trunk or Treat this fall. Thank you, Lisa and Larry!)



The Deacons met on August 6th. The meeting was primarily about the reception and lunch following Dave Iske's funeral.

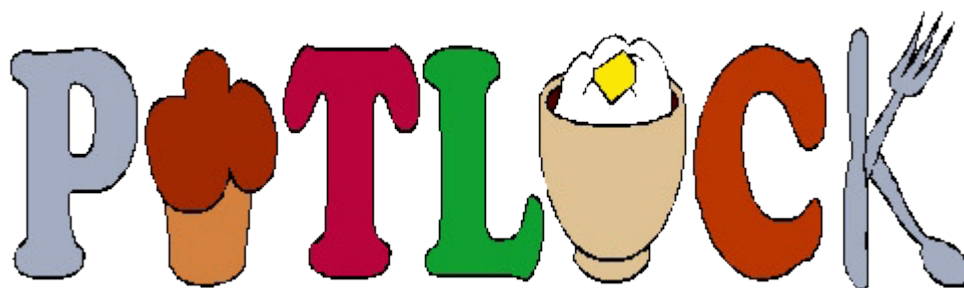
**MPC is collecting school supplies and non-perishable reasonably healthy snacks for Jackson Elementary**, our neighborhood school. A list of needed supplies is in the hallway.



**Kids Club begins** Wednesday, September 6. See Holly Van Auken or Tracy Evans for more info.



Fall kick off potluck breakfast **September 10.**



## September Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: John Beck

### September 3

Ushers: John and Susan Beck

Communion Servers: Susan and John Beck, Michael Yeager and Esau Jangha

Coffee: Loreen Upton and Doris Hinson

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard and Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Mike and Joan Cole

### September 10

Ushers: Kirk and Jessica Forthman

Coffee: Lisa Upton and Trudy Beard

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Melissa Gill

Nursery Assistant: Donna Vint

Lock-up: Charlotte Lovett

### September 17

Ushers: Jim and Linda Rodriguez

Coffee: Breanna Upton & Linda Eckel

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up: Doug Forsyth

### September 24

Ushers: Mike and Joan Cole

Coffee: Loreen Upton

Sound Booth: Larry Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up: Mike Girdner





Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me,  
he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.  
Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

## Known Joys and Concerns

### Those who seek healing

Gene Bergstresser, in Noble Nursing Home  
 Lola Carroll  
 Sandy Clarke  
 Janice Crump  
 Doug Forsyth  
 Tamara Iske  
 Alice Lanning  
 Jayelle Martin  
 Gerry Harner (Joan Cole's mother)  
 Denise Jones (Jayelle Martin's daughter)  
 Jan Ferguson ( friend of Georjana Mauldin)

### Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Family and Friends of Dave Iske who died on July 19.  
 Tim Thiessen family in the death of his father

### 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.

## September Birthdays

1	Larry Upton, Sr.
4	Trisha Bunce
6	Sumi Abunaw Odette Eckel
8	Jona Thiessen
9	Liam Farris
10	Donna Vint Moume Ngom
11	Terry Cast
14	Mike Cole
15	Rebecca (Cole) Bates
18	Alexandra Pennington
19	Jessica Forthman

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.

# September 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

5

6

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club4:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

7

8

9

10

9:30 A.M Potluck  
Breakfast  
12:00 P.M.  
Worship Meeting

11

7:00 P.M. Budget  
Ad Hoc Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

12

6:00 P.M.  
Mission and  
Evangelism  
meeting

13

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

14

15

16

17

12:00 P.M.  
Deacons  
Meeting  
5:30 P.M.  
Stewardship  
Meeting

18

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

19

7:00 P.M Session  
Meeting

20

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

21

22

23

24

25

7:00 P.M. Boy  
Scouts

26

27

3:00 p.m. Kids'  
Club  
4:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir  
6:30 p.m.  
Chancel Choir

28

29

30