



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

Latest News

The Food & Shelter item of the month for September is **pasta and pasta sauce**. Please place your donation in the box by the church information table.

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Community News

The Norman Chapter of Parents Helping Parents will meet on Thursday, September 12 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, 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,

Recently I was asked about our congregation here at Memorial. It's a question I field pretty regularly from colleagues I meet when I'm at conferences or other leadership gatherings.

We usually talk about size of the church, worship style, maybe staff and the type of town we are located in as well.

One of the things I always tell people is that we are a diverse congregation. I then go on to tell the various ways we are diverse. Our diversity includes:

- Cultural
- Political
- Theological
- Physical ability
- Socio-economic status
- LGBTQ
- Age
- Education

There are probably more, too. It's one of the things I like best about Memorial. I like that we are striving to look like God's kingdom.

It is also one of things that can feel like a struggle. We want to include everyone, but it takes a little extra effort—or sometimes a good deal of effort—to carry out. But my experience is that you all are committed to our diverse congregation and that you are willing to do what it takes to include one another as well as those outside the church.

What a great witness you are! Thank you for teaching me what it takes to work together. I appreciate you!

Grace and peace,
Tracy

Clerk's Corner

The session of Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7PM at the church. The following actions were taken:

1. Session approved the hiring of a new organist - Emily Rudquist. She will also be directing the children/youth choir.
2. Session approved advertising for a paid Kids' Club coordinator.
3. Session approved going with a new insurance carrier for the church. We will be receiving better coverage at a lower cost. Special thanks to Larry Upton for all of his research making sure we got the best deal.
4. Session approved a letter to be sent to the Presbytery Coordinating Council expressing our concern about the meeting times of this council.

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

Respectfully,

Joan Cole

Clerk of Session

Stewardship Update

As of July 31st

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	2019 Budget
Pledges	\$97,094.49	\$88,083.31	\$151,000.00
Other Income	\$15,813.35	\$7,000	\$12,000.00
Total Income	\$112,907.84	\$95,083.31	\$163,000.00
Total Expenses	\$106,007.27	\$115,149.86	\$197,400.00

Mission Committee

Please help us gather the following items recommended by our own educator – JoBeth Bailey. These are things that teachers



constantly need and run out of, because they don't get contributed as much as more conventional supplies for students: Hand sanitizer; Bleach wipes; Lysol spray; Baby wipes; Kleenex; Paper towels; Coffee filters (used as snack bowls); Card stock – 8 ½ by 11" - white & colors; Painter's tape and Packing tape. There are lists on the bulletin board in the hallway to help you shop. We will collect your contributions and deliver them to Kennedy and Jackson Schools. You can also, of course, contribute cash or a check; please annotate it for "School Supplies."



Thanks,

Melissa Gill, Chair

Stewardship Committee

If you have ever been in Memorial's building during the week, you will know a lot happens beyond our weekly Sunday worship. You likely know of the numerous committees, chancel choir, and Sunday school classes that use our facilities, but we are also able to support a number of groups who we feel have missions aligned with our own. These include a number of support groups for those struggling with addiction, a group for friends and family affected by addiction, and a Scouting troop, just to name a few.

While it is a joy to be able to provide a location for organizations in the broader community as well as our own activities, the building requires



constant upkeep. The roof is nearing the end of its life and will need to be replaced in the next few years. We are also looking to have the east faceted glass window in the sanctuary rebuilt. The estimated cost of to rebuild the east window is \$25,000, and the roof is expected to be \$75,000–\$100,000 depending on various options.

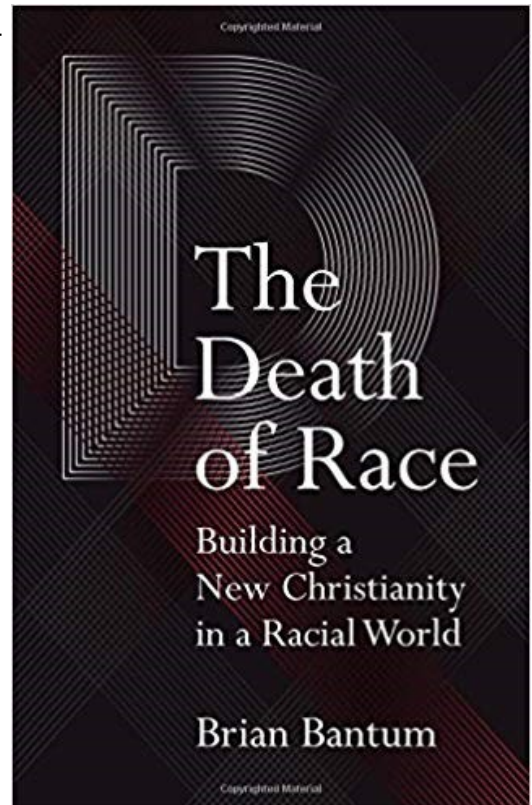
At the recommendation of the Stewardship committee, Session has created a separate fund for those who wish to help make these repairs possible. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write a separate check and note in the memo that it is for roof and window repairs.

Christian Education Committee

Below you will find a write-up about the class that our own Samuel McCann, recent graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will be leading beginning September 8 at 9:30. Books are available in the office, or you may purchase one from Amazon for your Kindle.

Death of Race Sunday School book study

Who is Christ? What has Christ done? What is Christ doing? These are major questions that Christians have asked themselves repeatedly throughout history. In many ways, we ask these questions directly or indirectly when we attend church each Sunday. What does Christ have to do with our lives, struggles, anxieties, concerns? In 21st century America we have to ask ourselves what Christ has to do with our history of racism and its continued grasp on our country's life. Brian Bantum, in his book *The Death of Race*, unpacks some of these questions. Theologically reflecting on his own life, our society, and the life of Jesus he offers us guidance in discerning what Christ is doing in our midst to tackle the problems of racism in the United States. I hope you join us as we read and reflect on this book and continue to ask ourselves what Christ is doing in our lives.



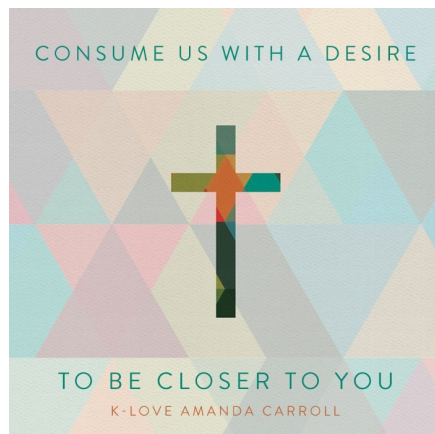
Kids' Club is coming! We may be getting a bit of a late start this year, but it will happen. Stay tuned!



We are in need of volunteers for our wonderful Wednesday program.

We need drivers to pick up at schools, folks in the kitchen to cook and/or clean, friends to help with homework and just adults who like to hang out with our great kids. If you have some time each Wednesday, or could fill in occasionally, please let Tracy Evans or Karen Girdner know.

M.Y. (Memorial Youth) GROUP NEWS
SEPTEMBER 2019



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12, our kick-off meeting will be Sunday, September 8 immediately following worship. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. You are always welcome to bring a friend (or two). All meeting times are 12:30PM – 2PM.

SEPTEMBER 8 – We are mission!

OCTOBER 20 – Crop Walk

We are in need of volunteers to provide lunch as well as help transport youth to and from the crop walk . Please contact if you can do either or both.

If you have any questions call or text me: (405) 830-8389). Thank you Larry Upton for volunteering to provide lunch for us.

Joan Cole

First Presbyterian Church of Norman is excited to welcome the Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, former Pastor in Sapulpa, to Norman. Rev. Dr. John Nelsen has been involved in border ministry for over a decade and currently serves as Pastor of University Presbyterian Church in El Paso. Dr. Nelsen will give a first hand account of what is happening along the southern border and how people of faith are responding.

John will be speaking both that morning in Sunday school and again from 3:30 to 5pm. We hope you will join us.



September Worship Duty Schedule

Head Usher: Carl Forthman

September 1

Ushers: Lisa & Larry Upton

Communion Servers: Melissa Gill, Eileen Burke, Carl and Julie Forthman

Coffee: Ann Forsyth & Eileen Burke

Sound Booth: John Beck

Acolyte Assistant: Trudy Beard

Nursery Assistant: Linda Eckel

Lock-up: John Beck

September 8

Ushers: John & Susan Beck

Coffee: Grace Tamukong & Donna Vint

Sound Booth: Karen Upton

Acolyte Assistant: Karen Girdner

Nursery Assistant: Karen Upton

Lock-up: Larry Upton

September 15

Ushers: Jim Rodriguez & Tim Thiessen

Coffee: Carl Forthman & Breanna Upton

Sound Booth: Mike Cole

Acolyte Assistant: Melissa Gill

Nursery Assistant: Joan Cole

Lock-up: Trudy Beard

September 22

Ushers: Trudy Beard & Ann Fayles

Coffee: Mike Cole & Trudy Beard

Sound Booth: Will Farris

Acolyte Assistant: Lisa Upton

Nursery Assistant: Susan Beck

Lock-up: Jim Rodriguez

September 29

Ushers: Melissa Gill & Linda Eckel

Coffee: Lisa Upton & Ann Fayles

Sound Booth: Mike Girdner

Acolyte Assistant: Joan Cole

Nursery Assistant: Trudy Beard & Karen Girdner

Lock-up: Larry Upton

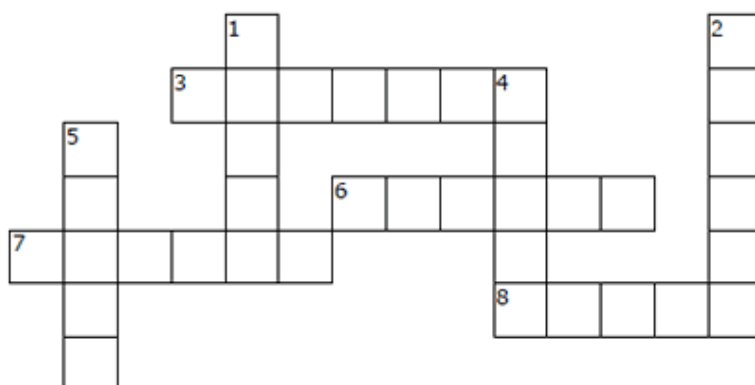
A Lesson in Humility

Crossword

A Lesson in Humility

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 14:7-14 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. A marriage ceremony and any celebrations which follow it
6. A person whom you know well and like a lot
7. To ask someone to go somewhere with you
8. A flat piece of furniture with four legs where we eat our meals

DOWN

1. A large meal for many people
2. Not proud or not believing that you are important
4. A person who has been invited to a social occasion, such as a party or a meal
5. To show great respect for someone, especially in public

GUEST
FRIEND

FEAST
WEDDING

HONOR
HUMBLE

INVITE
TABLE

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
 Sandy Clarke
 Jan Cunningham
 Jim Eckel
 Laura Eckel
 Doug Forsyth
 Alice Lanning
 Jayelle Martin
 Gene Thrailkill
 Jona Thiessen
 Devyn Upton
 Karen Upton
 Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
 Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
 Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

John Beck whose mother Mary Jean died on August 19.
 Donna Vint whose husband Harry Wright died on July 7.

 Carl Forthman whose mother Betty Forthman died on July 1.

Joys

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.

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
20	Mariolise Sama
24	Melissa Gill
28	Lucy Lanning
30	Susan Beck

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 12:00 p.m. MY Group 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	9 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	10 7:00 P.M. Fellowship & Hospitality Meeting	11 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13	14
15 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Stewardship	16 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	17 7:00 P.M. Session Meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	19	20	21 1:00 p.m. Project Outreach
22 10:55 a.m. Memorial Worship Service 4:00 p.m. UCC Worship Service	23 6:30 P.M. Worship & Music Committee meeting 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts	24	25 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	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		6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir			