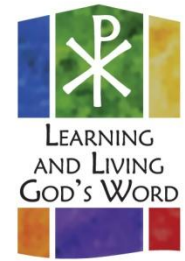


# Chimes

A newsletter for the Members & Friends  
of Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 2011



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The *Chimes* is published monthly except during the month of July. Articles are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for the following month's issue. Send your articles to Paula Hoglund, [mpc@athenet.net](mailto:mpc@athenet.net), or call the church office at 734-1787.

## Kathy's Corner

With the excitement of the congregational meeting to call an installed pastor for MPC, I begin preparations to leave you. I will put my Personal Information Form (PIF) onto "nationwide actively seeking" status and will contact networks of colleagues to find churches that need an interim pastor. I trust that God knows where I am needed and that the Holy Spirit will blow me in that direction!

I will prepare and lead the last two months of worship services, celebrate Advent and Christmas, and teach and preach on topics that will help to prepare you to greet and live in blessed ways with your new pastor. I will begin saying goodbyes. I will be cleaning out the pastor's office, sorting papers and packing books and preparing materials for your next pastor.

I am looking for a "forever family" for James' miniature Italian Greyhound dog, which I have been fostering since James' death in August. I will clean and pack my apartment, taking loads to Goodwill and the Habitat Restore. And when the time is right, I will leave the Fox Cities.

I anticipate my final Sunday with you being January 15, unless the Session and I work out a different date. I want there to be three weeks (and at least two Sundays) between my departure and the arrival of your new pastor. I am working with the Worship Action Group to schedule guest preachers for the between time.

Be sure to read Linda Boldt's article on page 11 of this issue, "Seven Deadly Words: 'Let's let the new pastor handle it.'" in which she compares the Advent of Christ and the advent of a new pastor. It is time to get ready for what is coming! May the words of Advent scriptures and the Christmas story speak anew to you this year!

--Pastor Kathy

*Mary gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger. Nearby shepherds were guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."* -- from **Common English Bible**





## Adult Christian Education Sunday Morning Series Welcomes You

### ADVENT THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE WHO WAITED

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. in the MPC Parlor. Refreshments provided -- come to any or all of the classes.

**Session 1-December 4:** The Hebrew Prophets, especially Second and Third Isaiah, introduce us to the season of Advent. The prophets introduce us to waiting and preparing for the Messiah -- our work for these weeks of Advent. This is not a simple task as our culture, both church and community, pushes us to prepare in bigger ways each year.

**Session 2-December 11:** John the Baptist heralds the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. John the Baptist's message was to alert people of the coming Messiah. He preached and baptized, the people repented, and God forgave.

**Session 3-December 18:** The annunciation of Jesus' birth to a small-town girl tells us much about God's desires for the world. We know very little about Mary; not even her parents' names are recorded in the Bible.

**Sundays, December 25 and January 1:** We take a break on Christmas day, and also on New Year's Day.

**Session 4-January 8:** The prophetic tradition continues with Elizabeth's greeting of Mary and Mary's song of praise to God. Mary and Elizabeth encourage us to slow down during the season of Advent. Listen to their conversation as they waited for the Messiah's birth. We hope to see you there for this special series!



**Advent Event!** The Children's Christian Education Action Group is sponsoring an angel-themed Advent Event for all ages on **Sunday, December 4**. Following worship and the congregational meeting, everyone is encouraged to come to Fellowship Hall to join in the fun. We will have stations set up to make angel sun catchers, angel snacks, an angel garland and angel ornaments to include on the deacon gifts for our homebound members. Family advent calendars and books will also be available. Come join in the fun!

### Friday, December 9: Keeping Christ in Christmas

This year's Women's Advent Coffee, "Keeping Christ in Christmas," is an opportunity for women of all ages to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. Please join us on Friday, December 9, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. For more information or to RSVP, contact Pam Dodge at 687-6445.

### Sunday, December 18: 10:00 a.m., *Music Sunday* and *Salvation Army Collection*

*"When you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in darkness." Isaiah 56:10.* On our Salvation Army collection Sunday, let's remember this Bible quote. Let the hungry of our community know that we celebrate the birth of Jesus by our act of kindness of sharing our bounty with them. In doing so all of us will see the light rise in the darkness.



## Advent and Christmas Services

### **Sunday, December 4, the Second Sunday of Advent.**

The Session has issued a Call for a **Special Congregational Meeting** to be held following the worship service on Sunday, December 4 for the purpose of receiving and acting on the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee to Call an Installed Pastor. The pastor-candidate will preach and serve the Lord's Supper. All active members of the congregation may vote. Nursery care will be extended during the meeting.

**Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent** We welcome new members.

### **Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**10:00 a.m. Music Sunday: *Christmas Angels!*** Adult and children's choirs and bell choir.

### **Thursday, December 22**

**7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas** The longest nights of the year are difficult for those who are depressed, have experienced losses, have Seasonal Affective Disorder, or for some other reason have a hard time with bright, joyful expectations. We believe that Jesus came for people who needed him, and that he comes today to those who live in darkness, grief, uncertainty and pain. This service is offered for members of the church and community and will be followed by a reception, hosted by MPC's Deacons. Invite a friend to join you for this quieter hour of scripture, music and poetry.

### **Christmas Eve**

#### **4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service**

The Senior High Youth will recreate the story of Christ's birth through shadow theatre. This special service is for all children and their families.

**10:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** The choir leads us in song, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated, and the flame of the Christ light will fill the sanctuary – passed from one to another.

### **Christmas Morning**

**10:00 a.m.** We celebrate Christmas Day with worship! See Matt Walsh if you, your family or a group would like to share a piece of your favorite music of Christmas. (Think instrumental or vocal pieces learned for school, duets and hymns.)

### **New Year's Morning**

**10:00 a.m.** Resolved: Love and Honor God; Love Neighbor as Myself. We will renew our Baptismal promises and our commitment to God during this service. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served.



## 2011 Christmas Joy Offering

In December, we will all have the opportunity to participate in the Christmas Joy Offering. No doubt that between now and then, we will all be focused on preparing for the holidays, hoping that we find just the right gifts for our loved ones. It is a great time of year, filled with hope and excitement and anticipation while remembering and celebrating the birth of Christ.

For a brief moment during these fast-moving days, we should also take a moment to remember the Christmas Joy Offering. While this offering does not directly impact those closest to us, it does keep the spirit of Christ alive by sharing some of our treasure with those who are less fortunate, yet who work tirelessly to spread the word of God. A good portion of this offering goes to the aid of church employees who need assistance during their senior years. Another portion of the offering provides assistance to underprivileged students who are pursuing an education that will allow them to serve the church. Please support the 2011 Christmas Joy Offering, a long-standing program of support for past, current and future leaders in the church community.

-- Dave Ogilvie

## Adopt-a-Family Efforts in Full Swing

In the spirit of giving, Memorial Presbyterian is again working with the Salvation Army in its annual Adopt-a-Family program. Under this system, the Salvation Army provides us with a list of area families that they have identified as being able to use some help with gift and grocery buying during the Christmas season. Members and friends of MPC can then select someone from the list to buy a gift for, or make a donation toward the purchase of grocery cards.

Sign-up sheets are currently available and will be in the narthex before and after each service through December 4, or until all names are gone (whichever comes first). All gifts must be brought to church by Sunday, December 11, so they can be inventoried and delivered to the Salvation Army in time for the families to pick them up. Monetary contributions are also welcome. If money is left over after we purchase the grocery certificates for the families we have adopted, it is sent to the Salvation Army to assist others.



### The Mitten

(Tune: *The Farmer in the Dell*)

The mitten in the snow,  
The mitten in the snow,  
Help us *please* so we don't *freeze!*  
The mitten in the snow...

We all know how cold Wisconsin winters can be! Therefore, MPC is again sponsoring a "Mitten Tree." How does it work? Shop for (or make) hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. Then bring them to church, look for the mitten tree, and use your nice warm donations to decorate the tree. All sizes are needed.

Last year we collected 93 items to donate to the Community Clothes Closet, and they were so happy to get them, as their supply was nearly out. Let's try to make it 100 (or more) this year. For knitters and crocheters, there is a basket of yarn and a folder of patterns under the table that is opposite the office. Help yourself.

## A Way to Warm Your Heart this Winter

We know it is getting very cold out and some of us dread winter's approach, but I have discovered a way to "warm your heart." The Fox Valley Warming Shelter is looking for some warm-hearted people to help them the third week of January (January 15 – January 21).

Opportunities abound. . .

- We need people to cook.
- We need people to be available for different shifts at the shelter, and bring your warmth to them.

The philosophy of the Fox Valley Warming Shelter is. . .

1. All human beings have the right to meet their basic human needs for food, clothing and shelter.
2. Each person should be treated with respect and dignity.
3. The presence of God dwells in every human being.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and sign up early to get the shift or cooking opportunity you want. Please find a way to fit this into your schedule and I guarantee that it will "warm your heart."

-- *Jeanne Nymoen, Coordinator*

## Coming Soon to a Bulletin Board Near You!

Have you ever wanted to see a local high school play or athletic event, but you didn't want to go alone? Can't wait to see your favorite book-turned-movie at the theater? Have a spare ticket to the symphony and don't know who to call? Want to go out for brunch after church some Sunday?

The Fellowship Action Group has a solution! We are designing a bulletin board for people who are looking for other people to join them in any of these activities and whatever else you can think of that you would like to do with someone else. The bulletin board is located at the back entrance and is titled "Let's Get Together." You will find blank invite cards in an envelope on the bulletin board as well as pens. Feel free to fill out an invite card for any type of activity and post it up on the board. There will also be blank note cards so you can write down information on any activities currently posted that you are interested in. We hope to see everyone utilizing the board and getting together!!

## The Perfect Gift is a Heifer Gift!

'Tis the season! Another year has flown by, and now we are running around, hunting for presents or wondering what to buy for that one aunt who seems to have all the doodads she could ever want. Yet, in the hustle and bustle and joy of the Advent season, please spare a moment for all the wonderful organizations trying to brighten up the Christmases and lives of those less fortunate.

Specifically, one way to pass on the Christmas spirit (and get something for that one aunt) is to buy part of a beehive, tree, llama, or of course a heifer, for Heifer International. A single hen can lay 200 eggs a year—plenty to not only feed protein-deficient children, but also plenty of eggs left to sell at markets. Gifts like these are unique in two ways—first, they provide a way for the less fortunate to be self reliant, and second, they keep on giving, as original recipients give their gifts' offspring to neighbors.

So, if you're gift hunting, spare a moment to check out the Heifer table. It's a gift fit for almost anyone. It's fast, it's easy, and best of all, such generosity reminds us of the whole spirit of Christmas as we celebrate a time of giving, not only to our friends and family but also to other families in need. As Matthew 25:40 says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

-- *Elizabeth Braatz, Heifer Action Group*



November was a busy month for the Senior High Youth! It began with the awesome “Power of One” concert on November 5. Ten MPC youth and adults enjoyed performances from several contemporary Christian rock groups. Many thanks to Kara and Tom Manuel for chaperoning! We’re happy to report that the youth raised \$290.00 at the Pancake Breakfast the following day, thanks to all the youth and their parents who helped out. On November 20, the Youth Group made casseroles, desserts, and dinner rolls, and then served over 40 people at the Warming Shelter. *Way to go, Sr. Highs!!!*

The activities continue in full force in December, so make sure to mark the following activities on your calendar:

- December 4 (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.) Adopt-a-Family Night. We will be shopping for gifts for our Adopt-a-Family and deciding on the destination of the 2012 work trip! We need *everyone* to be a part of this evening.
- December 11 (6:00 -8:00 p.m.) Meet at Stevie B’s in Darboy for some fun and fellowship. We need everyone to bring \$ and a friend.
- December 18 (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.) Christmas Party Time!!! We will meet at church and have a \$10.00 gift exchange. There will be caroling, games, and food. Be there!
- December 24 (4:30 - 5:30 p.m.) Shadow Theatre Take 2—we will be presenting a shadow theatre presentation during the Family Christmas Eve Service. Please let Jill know if you are able to help with this event.
- December 25 - Merry Christmas! (no meeting)
- January 1 - Happy New Year! (no meeting)
- January 8 (6:00 - 8:00 p.m.) - Welcome 2012!

### **Tweens Youth Group**

The Tweens Youth Group met on November 20 and created centerpieces for the Warming Shelter. They created pilgrim hats with flowers in them. They also made turkey pops to snack on. The Tweens group will continue to meet once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening.

### **Sunday School News**

During December, the children’s Sunday School classes will be learning the stories leading up to the birth of Christ. The children will not only get to hear the stories and talk about them during class, but they will be part of the stories as they act them out during worship. What a great way to really learn the Bible stories by being part of them!





## News of Our Members and Friends

Norm Colson wishes to express his appreciation for the prayers and concern during his recovery. “Thank you for being so thoughtful. It helps the mending process.”

The MPC family extends its heartiest congratulations to Michelle Ogilvie and Rene L’Esperance, who were united in marriage on November 5 in Madison. Michelle is the daughter of Dave and Patty Ogilvie, and granddaughter of Myrt and Doug Ogilvie. Congratulations, newlyweds!

## Fellowship Dinners Will Kick Off the New Year

Are you interested in getting to know other members and friends of MPC in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere? Then this is just the activity you’ve been looking for! Fellowship Dinners provide an opportunity to gather together and share a meal with other MPC members and friends. All adults are encouraged to sign up to attend one or both of the dinners. This year, the dinners will be held on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

A suggested menu will be provided for each dinner. It will include recipes for an entrée, salad, vegetable, and dessert. The host will be responsible for providing the entrée and contacting the other participants to schedule the dinner time and assign the other courses. The menus and the host locations will be distributed approximately two weeks before the dinner dates.

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex beginning Sunday, December 4. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Umland at 725-5492. The deadline to sign up for the first dinner is January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Session November Meeting Summary

- Session shared supper and discussion with Rev. Mike Spangler and Elder Bette Hoytink from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry during a triennial visit.
- We welcomed Greg Braatz, as he completes the term of Travis Andersen on the Business and Finance Elder Team. Greg will be the liaison with Property Action Group.
- Session voted to contract with Casavant Freres in Quebec and the Peters, Weiland & Company of Milwaukee to repair MPC’s pipe organ. The work may begin as early as December and we expect it to be completed before Easter.
- Session learned that installation of the Hearing Loop system will be delayed to coincide with the Chancel/organ work.
- At the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee, Session issued the **call for a special congregational meeting** after worship December 4 to consider the recommendation to call an installed pastor!
- Made referrals on policy for concealed carry signage and on the design for Chancel renovation when the organ “pit” will be made level with the Chancel.
- Session’s next regular meeting is scheduled December 13 at 7:15 p.m.



## Indicators of Active Membership: Part V- Building a Championship Church

For months now, we've been talking about what active membership looks like and I've shared the Book of Order's list of indicators. The Session of Memorial has fleshed out some of these indicators with some observable behaviors that they suggest as a very minimum of active participation. Their recommendations are as follows:

"Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church." -Taken from the Book of Order, G-1.0304

*Responsible involvement includes:*

- **Proclaiming the good news in word and deed**
- **Taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Keep in contact with Memorial by providing the church office with a current mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address, and,*
  - *Return or reply to calls, letters, or e-mails from the church and its members, when requested to do so, and,*
  - *Attend worship services as often as they are able, but at least twice a year, and/or,*
  - *Participate in fellowship events, small groups, and all-church projects, as often as they are able, but at least in one activity a year.*
- **Lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Participate in opportunities for prayer and reflection during the year, such as the Lenten Soup Suppers or the Prayer Chain, as often as they are able, but at least once a year.*
  - *Make a conscious effort to establish caring relationships with each other.*
- **Studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Participate in spiritual growth activities, such as Christian Education classes; small-group book or Bible studies; discussion groups relating faith to current issues, and so on, as often as they are able, but at least once a year.*
- **Supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Complete and return a financial pledge card during the annual Stewardship Campaign, and,*
  - *Strive to increase giving to the church to a tenth (tithe) of their income, and,*
  - *Volunteer their time and talents in service to the church through activities such as ushering, singing in the choir, teaching church school, helping with mailings, helping with clean-up days, and so on, as much as they are able, but at least through one activity per year.*
- **Demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church**
- **Responding to God's activity in the world through service to others**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Pay the full amount of the current per capita assessment each year, and,*
  - *Participate in church-sponsored mission projects, such as Adopt-a-Family, Mitten Tree, food donations, meal preparation at the Emergency Shelter, work trips, and so on, as often as they are able, but at least once a year, and/or,*

(continued on page 9)

## Indicators of Active Membership (continued from page 8)

- *Donate as much as they are able to the special offerings of the church, such as the One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Pentecost, or Peacemaking offerings.*
- **Living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life**
- **Working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment**
- **Participating in the governing responsibilities of the church**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Attend and participate in congregational meetings as often as they are able, but at least once a year, and,*
  - *Give prayerful consideration to requests to serve as a leader of an action group, an elder, or a deacon and accept the call, as they are able, with God's help.*
- **Reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.**  
*The Session recommends that all members:*
  - *Ask the Lay Ministry Coordinator to assist you in finding ways to use your gifts and talents more appropriately or effectively, whenever interests or life circumstances change.*

Adopted: May 10, 2011

These recommendations are a good start toward building an energized, growing congregation, but only a start. Now imagine what active membership would look like in a championship church. What would it look like if all of the members of MPC were actively and joyfully participating in the life and ministry of Memorial Church to the full extent that they were able? Here are some visions:

*A sanctuary full of worshippers each Sunday. Sunday School classrooms, including Adult Education, bursting with activity. Volunteers clambering to sign on to action groups. Members bold enough to talk about their volunteering out in the community as an outgrowth of their faith. Bible study groups that have to find more and bigger meeting rooms to accommodate their growing numbers. Members who invite their friends and neighbors to come and worship at Memorial. A waiting list of folks wanting to be ushers, greeters, coffee hosts, and so on. Visitors greeted and shepherded by friendly members of every age. One hundred percent of the membership making annual pledges. Homebound members keeping the church and its members in their daily prayers. Action group members willing to take leadership at the action group or Session level. Buzz throughout the Fox Valley about the amazing things happening in and because of Memorial Presbyterian Church.*

What is your dream? God has spared nothing to win our hearts, minds, and souls – not even His Son. Now is the time for each of us to reflect on our participation at Memorial and decide how we will respond. Not sure how you can participate? Talk to Linda Boldt, our Lay Ministry Coordinator. She'll help you discover your gifts and the ministry to which you're being called to serve.

Memorial is a good church. Let's make it a championship church. Let's all join together to do all that we are able to make Memorial the most vibrant, faithful, effective instrument of God's love possible.

-- Linda Boldt



## Hands and Feet of God

*Thank you, thank you!!!*

Representatives from all the churches in Winnebago Presbytery met at Memorial on Friday evening, November 11<sup>th</sup> and all day Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The planning committee of Beth Lepinski, Connie Olson, Rev. Wil Tabb from the Kimberly Church, Fred Umland, and I worked with the Presbytery staff to coordinate the efforts of over 40 volunteers. Many thanks are owed to everyone for the spectacular job you did in hosting this event!

The clean-up day volunteers gave the downstairs classrooms, parlor, kitchenette, library, and sanctuary a much-needed and thorough cleaning, so that workshops, business meetings, meals, and worship could take place in clean, gracious settings. Over 40 confirmation students and their advisors met in the Senior High room and discussed matters of faith and Presbyterian government.

The Technology Action Group installed and set up two WI-FI networks, one for staff and one for guests, so that commissioners could Skype with the Executive Presbyter of John Knox Presbytery and discuss plans for collaboration and consolidation of services between the two presbyteries. Many thanks especially to Tim Hornung and Jim Podlasek for their late-night efforts installing all of the necessary equipment and cables!

Arthur Steiner posted signs directing guests to overflow parking at Emmanuel Methodist Church.

Bakers provided dozens of cookies and bars to grace the meals with homemade desserts. Hosts and hostesses greeted our guests and directed them to the registration tables, the continental breakfast on Saturday, the meeting and workshop locations, and the restrooms. Not one guest was lost or mislaid in the process!

The Fellowship Action Group organized two meals for commissioners. Nancy and Fred Umland, Ken and Diane Lightfield, Josh and Stacy Carson, and their wonderful volunteers provided sub sandwiches, salad, cookies, and beverages on Friday evening for 50 people. The meal was served and cleaned up and the kitchen was back in order by 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, over 150 commissioners, visitors, confirmation students, and volunteers were fed baked potatoes with chili and all manner of toppings. Owing to the number of guests and the limited time for lunch, everything was delivered to the tables by runners. It was truly amazing to watch as everything - hot potatoes, toppings, and utensils - was served to all seventeen tables within three minutes!!

Set-up and clean-up couldn't have gone smoother. A list of tasks guided the volunteers' efforts, but whenever someone thought of something that hadn't been listed, they took the initiative to see that it was done. Jim Baumbach supervised the set-up of Fellowship Hall to accommodate the business meeting and meals. Alice Baumbach added an elegant, gracious ambiance with her stunning centerpiece. After lunch on Saturday, I was tied up conducting an elder training workshop, but the work went right on. The Fellowship Action Group directed clean-up in the kitchen, while Connie Olson marshaled the volunteers to clean up fellowship hall and put both MPC's and Project Bridges' equipment back in place, ready for Sunday morning. Hannah Herzog took on the task of being host to the Confirmation event in the Senior High room. She rounded up supplies, made photocopies, and assisted in every way she could. At the end of the event and without being asked, she began the turn-around for Sunday morning in the classrooms and directed the adult volunteers' efforts.

Meanwhile, upstairs in the sanctuary, experienced volunteers like head usher John Hill and communion preparers Margaret Fulton and Mary Lou Opgenorth prepared the worship space while Elder Beth Lepinski gave the communion servers their instructions. Pastor Kathy prepared and led a very meaningful service of worship which included communion, a commissioning, the installation of the new Presbytery moderator, and recognition of retiring moderator, Jeanne Nymoen. (continued on page 11)

## **Hands and Feet of God** (continued from page 10)

It was wonderful to watch everyone pitching in to make sure everything went well. The Presbytery staff and delegates couldn't say enough about the fantastic job Memorial and Kimberly did in hosting this meeting. I was so impressed by all of your efforts, so proud to be a part of Memorial, and so very, very grateful for gifts of your time, your talents, and your elbow-grease! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!--Linda Boldt, Lay Ministry Coordinator

### **Seven Deadly Words: "Let's let the new pastor handle it."**

It is both ironic and fitting that we find ourselves in Advent - a time of excited anticipation, waiting for both the birth of our Savior and the calling of a new pastor. How shall we prepare for their arrival? How shall we welcome them?

The wait for the Christ Child's coming can be long and demanding. We will spend countless hours preparing our homes, our gifts, our feasts, and our hearts for the celebration of His birth. The hopes and expectations of the season are high; our need for love, reconciliation, renewal, and redemption is great.

In a small way, our anticipation for a new pastor is similar. Our journey over the last few years has been arduous. The process of calling a pastor has been a long one. Our hopes and expectations of a new pastor are high. We may feel exhausted and ready to dump all the unresolved issues, all the challenges ahead into the lap of the new pastor, with a "Here, you deal with it" attitude. But that would not be fair to him or to us.

The guests who come to visit us this Christmas season will not be greeted with a broom and a grocery list. They will not be expected to prepare all the courses for the meal nor provide the Christmas tree. We will not be standing helpless in the living room waiting to be told where or how to hang the ornaments. We won't be asleep on the couch. No, when family and friends arrive, we will meet them at the door as gracious hosts, eager to welcome them into our homes and shower them with attention, food, and gifts - because, in doing so, we honor them and we honor Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Our preparations and welcome for the new pastor should be much the same. Memorial is a highly capable and talented community of Christians. We can, and have, faced difficult times and thorny issues with intelligence, imagination, and grace. We understand that in Presbyterian churches, power and responsibility are shared between lay people and pastors. To my mind what this congregation doesn't want and certainly doesn't need is to be told what to do and how to do it, no matter how tired we may feel at the moment. In my experience, when someone does the work that church members are quite capable of doing themselves, the feelings of being pampered and relieved of responsibility very quickly turn to feelings of not being needed or appreciated. Instead, what this congregation does want and need and does appreciate, in my opinion, is a caring, engaged pastor who will partner with us in learning and living God's Word.

For our new pastor to be successful at Memorial, he will need our support and encouragement. But that's not all. He will need all of us to do our part, so that he can concentrate on doing his part. That means he will need active, responsible elders to tackle the hard issues and make the tough decisions ahead. He will need the deacons to partner with him to do pastoral care. He will need strong action groups to organize vibrant Christian Education programs, plan engaging mission opportunities, provide responsible administration of our facilities and financial resources, and grow our membership. Most of all, he will need engaged members who participate to the best of their ability. We can be that kind of church. We can be partners in ministry to our pastor. In that way, we can ensure his - and our - continued success.

The Seven Deadly Words are phrases heard in and around churches that don't know who they are or where they're going. They're symptoms of anxious, unhealthy churches with a bleak future. They're not MPC. Now that we've named them, now that we understand why all the Seven Deadly Words are toxic to the health of a Presbyterian congregation, let's banish them forever from Memorial Presbyterian Church!!! AMEN. -- *Linda Boldt*



## Church Cancellation Policy In Case of Inclement Weather or Emergency Situations

It's getting to be that time of year again. Winter storms and sub-zero temperatures will soon be upon us. We're very hardy people and manage to keep going despite the weather – most of the time. But, if there is an occasion when weather or road conditions interfere with our church plans, here is the policy for cancelling church events:

**Memorial Presbyterian Church encourages individuals and families to rely on their own best judgment when conditions such as inclement weather, dangerous road conditions, or other emergency situations might put their health and safety at risk by attending church services or church-related events.**

**Events for Children and Youth** during the week will be cancelled whenever the Appleton schools are closed.

**Meetings or Other Events**, with the exception of Sunday morning education classes and worship services, will be cancelled at the discretion of the leader in charge of the event. The leader, with assistance from the office staff, will notify participants.

**Sunday Morning Christian Education Classes and Worship Services** will be cancelled at the determination of the Pastor in consultation with the Elder for the Worship Action Group. The decision will be made by 6:30 a.m. that morning and communicated to the congregation as quickly as possible through a variety of communication channels.

Please consult any of the following after 7:30 a.m.:

- 1) The church web site, [www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org](http://www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org)
- 2) The church answering machine, (920) 734-1787
- 3) Local TV and radio stations: **WFRV-TV-Channel 5; WLUK-TV-Channel 11; WBAY-Channel 2; WECB-FM(104.3), or WHBY-AM(1150).**
- 3) The church Facebook page, **MPC Appleton.**

**REMEMBER, USE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT!!**



The *Chimes* will soon be available for delivery to your inbox. To make sure that we have your current email address, just send a note to [mpc@athenet.net](mailto:mpc@athenet.net). That's all there is to it!

# Community Garden Survey Results

Did you attend the Adult Education Class on November 6<sup>th</sup> on the MPC Community Garden Project? Then you were one of the 40 people who completed the survey about what a garden would mean to MPC and how you would like to be involved! What? You weren't able to be there? You can still complete the survey online at the MPC website. Just print it out and send it in to the MPC office.

Below are the results of the 40 people who completed the survey! We are delighted with the responses! The results below are the areas where people want to be involved! Due to lack of space we have not included all of the positive comments (there were no negative ones), but rest assured that this is a project that has people excited and eager to build relationships within our MPC family as well as in the community!

## Planning/Coordination

- 6 Help plan and coordinate some element of the project

## MPC Gardening Tasks

- 6 Grow seedlings (in your home)
- 16 Plant seeds/seedlings
- 18 Pull weeds
- 11 Set up stakes and lattices
- 21 Harvest and clean produce
- 20 Deliver produce to a food pantry
- 1 Coordinate a gardening crew

## Community Gardens Partnership

- 6 Construct and/or refurbish benches, picnic tables, and other outdoor structures at other gardens
- 4 Organize tours for MPC members and friends to visit other gardens.
- 6 Become a member of the Community Garden Partnership

## Adult Ed - Learn about

- 12 Gardening
- 10 Canning and storing food
- 13 Faith and green living
- 10 Stewardship of water, soil and air
- 2 Food deserts (limited supply of good food in some communities)
- 10 Organic gardening
- 2 International hunger
- 12 Hunger in the Valley
- 8 Eating properly

## Adult Ed – Teach

- 4 How to garden
- 3 How to can and store food

## Worship

- 6 Plan a harvest celebration with worship services at the site
- 25 Pray for the project and good, sustainable food for God's people

## Fellowship

- 12 Events like "A Walk in the Garden"
- 12 Work with others in a gardening team

## Communications

- 12 Promote the MPC Community Garden
- 2 Build a raised-bed garden frame for display at MPC
- 4 Design and build a sign at the Community Garden site.



-- Connie Olson, Advisor to the Project



# Poinsettia Order Form



If you would like to contribute money toward decorating our church with poinsettias and greens for the Christmas services, please fill out this form and return it to the church office with your check before **Tuesday, December 20 at 12:00 noon**. You may contribute any amount; all contributions will be recognized in the Christmas worship service bulletins.

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (The approximate cost of one plant is \$13.00.) Please make checks payable to MPC and note "Christmas Decorations" in the memo portion of the check.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY! THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN:**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I would like to take a poinsettia plant home with me after the 10:00 p.m. service.
- No, I do not want to take a plant home.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address/Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



----- Complete and return to church office -----

**Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.**

## December Sunday Morning Volunteers

Date/Time	Greeters	Head Usher	General Ushers	Scripture Reader	Kinderchurch Assistants	Coffee Servers	Communion Preparers	Communion Servers
Dec 4 10:00 a.m.	Lisa Lux Mitch Lux	Tom Neal	O.C. Boldt Sue Neal Mike Harer Marty Ward	Barb Colson	Sophie Hornung Carol Bloemer	Sarah Beard Dolly Manning	Christine Cornell Mary Lou Oppenorth	Emily Guttenberg Tim Shoaf Pam Dodge Richard Dodge
Dec 11 10:00 a.m.	Florence Miller Pam Mompier	Les Angell	Renee Boldt Tom Boldt Tracey Hornung Jane Slater	TBD	Richard Dodge	Jim Tilkens Julie Tilkens	N/A	N/A
Dec 18 10:00 a.m.	Jackie Hoganson Connie Olson	David Mayefske	Steve Bloemer Mike Zuege Tracy Zuege	Kathy Privatt	Connie Olson	Christine Cornell	N/A	N/A
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:30 p.m. Family Svc	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Svc	TBD	Sharon McElrath	Kornish Family McElrath Family Smith Family	TBD	N/A	N/A	Mary Francis Margaret Fulton	Greg Braatz Laurie McCulloch Sharon McElrath Alice Baumbach
<b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00 a.m.	Dave and Sue Rozmarynoski	Sally Mielke	Jon McElhaney Ryan McElhaney John Mielke Tim Shaffer	Tim Shoaf	Pat Spindler	Jack Voight Marty Voight	N/A	N/A

# DECEMBER 2011

For daily calendar updates, go to [www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org](http://www.memorialpresbyterianappleton.org) and click on "MPC Calendar"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>08:45 am Education</p> <p>09:30 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Fellowship</p>	<p>7pm - Worship AG</p>	<p>6:30am - GNW</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Deacon Trng 1</p>	<p>6pm - Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30am - ATC</p> <p>9am - Bible Study</p> <p>1pm - Quilting Bees</p> <p>6:30pm - Property AG</p> <p>6:30pm - Sun AM Schedule</p>		<p>1pm - Meet and Greet</p>
<p>08:45 am Education</p> <p>08:45 am Welcome Waits</p> <p>09:30 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Congreg Mtg</p> <p>11:15 am Advent Event</p> <p>6pm - Sr. Highs</p>	<p>7pm - Fellowship AG</p>	<p>6:30am - GNW</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Children's CE</p> <p>6:30pm - Personnel AG</p> <p>7pm - Deacon Trng 2</p>	<p>6pm - Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30am - ATC</p> <p>9am - Bible Study</p> <p>10am - Women's Coffee</p>		
<p>08:45 am Education</p> <p>09:30 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Youth AG</p> <p>6pm - Sr. Highs</p>	<p>7pm - Elder Training</p> <p>7pm - Memb Renewal AG</p>	<p>6:30am - GNW</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Elder Teams</p> <p>7:15pm - Session Mtg</p>	<p>12:30pm - Wed Musicales @</p> <p>6pm - Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30am - ATC</p> <p>9am - Bible Study</p> <p>9am - Chimes Deadline</p> <p>1pm - Prayer Shawls</p> <p>1pm - Quilting Bees</p>		<p>8am - Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>08:45 am Education</p> <p>09:30 am Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 am Music Sunday</p> <p>11:00 am Fellowship</p> <p>Christmas Joy Offering</p> <p>6pm - Sr. Highs</p>	<p>9:30am - PB Center Sing</p> <p>7pm - Mission Outreach AG</p>	<p>6:30am - GNW</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm - Deacon Transition</p> <p>7pm - Deacons Mtg</p>	<p>6pm - Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>E/M No PM Class</p> <p>6:30am - ATC</p> <p>9am - Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Blue Christmas</p>		<p>4:30pm - Family Service</p> <p>10pm - Candlelight Service</p>
<p>10:00 am Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Fellowship</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>6:30am - GNW</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6pm - Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6:30am - ATC</p>		

Memorial Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
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Appleton, WI 54911-5697

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The people  
walking in  
darkness have  
seen a great  
light;...



*May the light of this  
holy season be a  
blessing to you and yours  
throughout the year.*

*From the staff of  
Memorial Presbyterian Church*