



The Chimes

A quarterly publication of Memorial Presbyterian Church
Appleton, Wisconsin

January - March 2018

Happy New Year!

The start of a new year invites us to reflect on many things: physical and mental health, spending priorities, and our spiritual life. I want to invite you to reflect on your participation in the life of Memorial Presbyterian Church. It's true each aspect of wellbeing is tied to the others. It's also true that you both are Memorial Presbyterian Church as well as a participant in the life of MPC.

Here are some questions to help you reflect on your spiritual life as part of MPC:

- How has your worship attendance been? Are you satisfied? What are the obstacles to attending each week? What benefits do you receive when you've spent time in worship?
- Are you helping to make MPC a welcoming on Sunday morning? Might you consider serving as an usher, greeter, or coffee hour server?
- Who are your spiritual mentors in your life? How have they impacted you?
- For whom are you a spiritual mentor? No matter where we are on the journey of faith, there is someone else who looks to us to teach them the faith through our spiritual life.
- Could this be the year you say, "Yes!" to a new opportunity to serve? MPC can't accomplish anything – not the familiar essentials like worship, Christian Education, or mission, nor new ministries and opportunities – without people at MPC being willing to serve. However, ideally the ways we serve would be less about "because no one else will do it" and more because "serving in this way feeds my soul." Trying something new might be just the spark you need. Here you will find opportunities to be a part of MPC's Sunday Hospitality ministries and ways to serve on Committees and Teams.
- What hunger and nudges is the Spirit provoking in you? Could others be sensing the same leading? Might you begin a new study or ministry at MPC because of the Spirit directing you? Who are conversation partners to help you bring the idea to life?

2018 promises much-needed renewal and wholeness. May God bless you as you care for your spiritual life and the vitality of MPC!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Goodwin

Holy Land Travelers Set Their Sights on Memorable Trip

by Greg Braatz, Commissioned Pastor and Group Leader

On Thursday, January 11, a group of 15 members of MPC will be heading out to visit the Holy Land. With 15 people going, there are at least 15 different reasons to make a trip of this nature, but for most it is a desire to see and experience the land we have all read about in the Bible. As the group heads out on this journey, we ask that you keep us in your prayers. So that you might be able to better visualize where we will be and what to pray for, we wanted to provide you with the itinerary and just a few of the daily highlights.

Thursday, January 11

We leave Appleton early in the morning for Chicago and a long day of traveling to Tel Aviv, Israel.

- *Please pray for our safe travel.*

Friday, January 12

We arrive in Tel Aviv mid-morning. Our first stop will be the 1st century city of Caesarea Martima. It was here that Peter welcomed the first Gentile, the centurion Cornelius, into the new church. We will also be stopping on Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. Our hotel for this night is on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee.

- *We ask you to pray for all members of our church, old and new.*



Saturday, January 13

The day starts with a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We then head to Capernaum, Jesus' base of operation and where he taught in the synagogue. We will also visit the places where Jesus fed the 5,000, preached the Beatitudes and told Peter to "feed my sheep."

- *We ask you to pray for all of those who are hungry (spiritually and physically).*

Sunday, January 14

Our first stop will be Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle. Here, some of the married couples in our group will be renewing their marriage vows. We then continue on to Nazareth, Jesus' home town, where we will visit the beautiful Church of the Annunciation, where the angel told Mary that she would be Jesus' mother. We then head to Yardenit, one of the sites on the Jordan River that celebrates Jesus' baptism. That night we will arrive in Jerusalem.

- *We ask you to pray for relationships, and also take a moment to reflect on the meaning of your own baptism.*

Monday, January 15

This day will include important historical sites, but not necessarily Biblical. We will start in Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Following that, we will head to Masada, a mountaintop fortress where a group of Jewish zealots held off the Roman army for three years. The final stop of the day will be a float in the Dead Sea.

- *We have now reached the midway point of our journey. We thank you for your prayers. Please pray for our safety and the energy to continue on.*



Tuesday, January 16

Today and tomorrow will be a busy days, starting on the Mount of Olives. This area is mentioned in many places in the Bible, but it is most remembered as the site where Jesus began his descent into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey on the day we now call "Palm Sunday." We will then move on to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed before he was betrayed, and Bethesda Pool where Jesus healed a crippled man. The Garden Tomb is the next stop, which is a pastoral setting similar to where Jesus would have been laid to rest. This will

be the setting for our communion service (it is about a half mile from where the first Lord's Supper occurred). We will finish the day at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (the holiest site in Christendom). This huge church covers the area where our Lord was crucified, his body prepared, and where he was buried.

- *On this day we will visit many of the sites where our Lord suffered, so we ask you to pray for all in the world who are suffering.*

Wednesday, January 17

Today we begin at the Temple Mount. Here we will visit the Dome of the Rock (the third holiest site in Islam) and the Western Wall (the holiest site in Judaism). We will also visit the "upper room," the site that celebrates when our Lord broke bread and drank wine for the last time with his disciples. In the afternoon we will visit a huge open-air market, shopping for food and vegetables. After that we will have a cooking class in Mediterranean cuisine.

- *Pray that somehow unity can be found between Abraham's three religions.*



Thursday, January 18

This morning will start out with a very sobering experience, as we visit Yad Yashem, the Holocaust museum. We will be remembering the horrible things that human beings are capable of doing to each other. The afternoon will lighten up some as we visit Bethlehem, the city of our Savior's birth. If the situation permits, we will visit the Security Wall and get a very small sense of what it is like to live behind this imposing structure. Jesus became flesh to bring peace on earth.

- *The places we visit this day are living demonstrations that we are in desperate need of peace, so we ask you to pray for peace.*

Friday, January 19

At this point in time I'm guessing we will be exhausted, so it is time to head home! We leave Tel Aviv mid-morning and arrive in Chicago that night.

- *Again, please pray for our safe travel.*

We look forward to getting back to MPC and sharing our adventures with you. At this time we are tentatively planning a Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, April 15, where we will share the details of what occurred on our journey. Thank you for your prayers of support! ~ Greg Braatz, Group Leader

Early Scholarship Application Deadline Announced for 2018

This year, applications for the three scholarships available to members of Memorial Presbyterian Church are due two weeks earlier than in previous years. Please note that all applications and supporting documentation are now due by **Sunday, April 15**.

The scholarships available are the Huss Family Memorial Scholarship, the Presbyterian College Scholarship, and the Ellmaker Scholarship. Selection is based on church involvement, community activities, leadership, and academic achievement. Award recipients will be notified by the Scholarship Team in time for high school awards ceremonies.

For more information on the scholarships, visit the church website at www.mpcappleton.org, or call the church office at 920.734.1787. Links to information and application materials will also be posted in the weekly newsletter, The Memo from Memorial.



New Year Begins with New Logo

With this year's first issue of *The Chimes*, we introduce Memorial Presbyterian Church's new logo, shown on the right, and in this newsletter's masthead. The logo was inspired by the new Mission Statement and Ends Statements developed by the Session earlier in 2017:



Connect. Inspire. Serve.

Connect people in faith, hope and love.

The people of MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, of all ages and backgrounds, connect in faith, hope and love. We:

- Explore the intersection of faith and life, where Divine and human, sacred and secular, community and individual meet.
- Approach life's questions through the lens of Presbyterian faith and values.
- Develop a deeper relationship with the Triune God.
- Know and care for one another as an inclusive community of faith.
- Connect across differences.

Inspire lifelong discipleship and spiritual growth.

The people of MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH inspire lifelong discipleship and spiritual growth. We:

- Challenge people of all ages to connect spiritually to Jesus Christ, and to live faithfully as individuals and as a faith community.
- Give generously of our time, talents and treasure to our faith community, to the Fox Cities, and to the world.
- Lead spiritually within and beyond our walls.

Serve our neighbors near and far.

The people of MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH serve our neighbors near and far. We:

- Answer God's call to discipleship through active service and engagement.
- Transform ourselves and our communities within and beyond our walls.
- Commit ourselves to faith, hospitality, life balance, and healthy lifestyles.
- Create authentic and meaningful relationships.

The center and the focal point of the new logo is the cross, which should look somewhat familiar to the viewer, as it is the same cross that is on the steeple of the church, on the front sign of the church, and also on the ends of the pews in the sanctuary. This cross reminds us that Christ is at the center of all that we do and where all of our efforts are focused. It is our grounding, our foundation, in our lives.

The recurring image of the cross shows movement, as we are not grounded in one place to remain static, but rather we are always doing our best to move forward. We are reformed and always being reformed, a concept that was highlighted in last fall's commemorative events on the 500th anniversary of The Reformation.

The bright, contemporary color palette suggests a rainbow, the symbol of God's covenant given to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth" (Genesis 9:18). It also reflects MPC's values of being a welcoming place to all people. The three words, "Connect. Inspire. Serve." encircling the top of the logo remind us that our new Mission Statement serves as an umbrella, giving us direction in all that we do.

The new logo will be officially introduced during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 7, the day on which new Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed.

Stated Clerk of Winnebago Presbytery Retires after 48 Years of Service

On December 31, 2017, Michael Lukens' nearly half-century-long tenure as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Winnebago came to a close as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Lukens' journey to this milestone began in 1970, when, after receiving his doctorate in theology, he accepted an offer to teach at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Shortly thereafter, Lukens was asked to serve in the Winnebago Presbytery. As described in an article written last fall by David Lewellen for the Presbyterian News Service:

As a relatively new faculty member, Lukens got a call from the pastor of a big nearby Presbyterian church, and he just said, 'You're going to be our next stated clerk' — typical of the way things worked at the time in most presbyteries, he said. "There was an election, but it was a formality. There was no job description and no support." That, he hastened to add, has changed a lot in the intervening years.

But even plunging in unprepared, he had some things going for him. The detail-oriented job suited him, and he liked being involved in church life without leading a congregation. And he likes meetings, too — if they are well run.

...As stated clerk, Lukens has been responsible for the presbytery's record-keeping and for facilitating the judicial process to interpret church law when necessary. On the national level, however, he served 10 years on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Permanent Judicial Commission in the 2000s, during a time of conflict over whether gay and lesbian persons could be ordained or married in the church.

...Michael is full of optimism," said Sarah Moore-Nokes, the general presbyter of Winnebago Presbytery, "He always sees possibilities; the future will always be better. And that's a great gift. He is a thoughtful, passionate, but always neutral voice." Being both passionate and neutral is hard, "but he does it," Moore-Nokes said. "It's amazing to watch. It's the core of who he is."

General Assembly Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II, was among the many who praised Rev. Lukens at a retirement party in his honor in early December:

"You have exemplified a willingness to affirm the power of faith through both good and difficult times," Nelson wrote. "Your leadership embraces the era of women's ordination, ending legalized segregation, reunion of the UPCUSA and the Presbyterian Church in the US, LGBT inclusion through ordination and marriage, and the passage of Belhar." Nelson concluded: "I feel extremely honored to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) during this special time in your life and ministry."

In retirement, Lukens and his wife, Barbara, plan to spend time in Berlin, German to continue Lukens' research on the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The MPC community extends its deep appreciation to Michael of his years of service to the Presbytery of Winnebago, and wish him all the best in retirement.

Lewellen, D. (2017, November 15). Winnebago Presbytery celebrates his 45 years of service. Special to Presbyterian News Service. Retrieved from www.presbyterianmission.org/story/michael-lukens-retire-long-tenure-stated-clerk

Office of the General Assembly Communications (2017, December 18). Nelson honors Michael Lukens on retirement. Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Winnebago concludes 48 years of service. Retrieved from <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2017/12/18/nelson-honors-michael-lukens-retirement/>



Michael Lukens. (Photo by Barbara McClure-Lukens)

Per Capita? Capital Idea!

per cap*i*-ta [per kap*i*-tuh] *noun* 1. by or for each individual person; for example, *income per capita*. *Origin:* 1675–85; < Latin: literally, by heads. Not to be confused with *per annum* (by the year) or *per diem* (by the day).

That's the dictionary definition of "per capita," but what does it mean in Presbyterian-speak? Per capita is the amount Memorial Presbyterian Church, and all PC(USA) congregations, pay per member per year to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year, our per capita rate has increased to \$35.33, which is multiplied by our total membership as of December 31, 2016 of 312. That means that on March 31, 2018, MPC will be asked to send a check in the amount of \$11,022.96 (\$35.33 x 312) to the Winnebago Presbytery to distribute as follows:

	Per Member	Total
General Assembly	7.73	2,411.76
Synod of Lakes and Prairies	5.40	1,684.80
Presbytery of Winnebago	22.20	6,926.40
Totals	35.33	11,022.96

According to the Presbyterian Church (USA) website, the "Westminster Confession says, 'all believers, are therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth.' Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 11,000 congregations and governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are connected and participate in the work of the wider church. Because it is rooted in the connectional and covenantal nature of the Presbyterian Church, as affirmed by the ordination vows taken by elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, per capita could be called the Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund."

Essentially, per capita brings Presbyterians together and keeps us connected. For example, per capita dollars pay for the cost of holding a General Assembly, including paying for the travel, room and board of commissioners and delegates, many of whom would not be able to afford this otherwise. It makes it possible for Presbyterians to govern ourselves the way we do, with a form of government built upon shared power and mutual accountability.

In 2017, MPC members contributed 34% of the assessed per capita. The previous year, 2016, 45% was contributed – the highest rate in the past 5 years! Why don't we try to match and even exceed this contribution by contributing \$35.33 for every

MPC member in your household?

Payment may be made by check, with "per capita" noted in the memo portion of the check, or online. To pay online, go to mpcapplleton.org and click on the link on the home page, or access the donation site by scanning in this Quick Response (QR) code.



- ✓ *Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.*
- ✓ *It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers.*
- ✓ *It is how Presbyterians discern God's call in their lives.*
- ✓ *It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on GA committees and commissions.*
- ✓ *It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (Book of Order, G-4.0101)*

Exploring the Gospel of John in Worship and Study

The Gospel of John holds some of the most beautiful and powerful stories in the whole Bible. Jesus turning over the Temple tables. Water turned to wine. The woman at the well. Raising Lazarus from the dead. The man born blind. Real Thomas and his doubts.

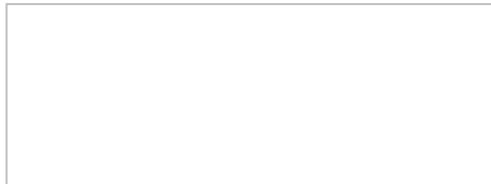
One of the gifts of following the Narrative Lectionary, as we have done for the past three years, is that we get a sustained season of John's gospel. Unlike the Revised Common Lectionary, which only sprinkles in John's gospel here and there, the Narrative Lectionary will help us dive deeply into the Gospel of John from now until after Easter.

Greg Braatz will be leading an overview of the Gospel of John on January 7, 2018 during the Adult Education class at 8:45 a.m. Starting in February, we will be conducting a lectionary-based Bible Study during Adult Education. I'm looking forward to exploring the Gospel of John with you in worship and in study. I hope you'll use the list of assigned readings below to deepen your spiritual practice. ~ *Pastor Mike*

Sunday, January 7 - John 1:35-51	Behold the Lamb of God, Call of disciples, "Come and see."
Sunday, January 14 - John 2:1-11	Wedding at Cana
Sunday, January 21 - John 2:13-25	Jesus cleanses the temple, signifying the destruction and raising of his body.
Sunday, January 28 - John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus, being born anew, and God's love for the world.
Sunday, February 4 - John 4:1-42	Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well, and speaks of living water and true worship.
Sunday, February 11 - John 9:1-41	Jesus is the light of the world, bringing light to the eyes of a man born blind.
Ash Wed., Feb. 14 - John 10:1-18	Jesus as gate and good shepherd who lays down his life.
Sunday, February 18 - John 11:1-44	Raising Lazarus; Jesus as the resurrection and life.
Sunday, February 25 - John 13:1-17	Foot-washing as a sign of Jesus' love and example.
Sunday, March 4 - John 18:12-27	Jesus' trial before Annas; Peter's denial.
Youth Sun., Mar. 11 - John 18:28-40	"My Kingdom is not from this world."
Sunday, March 18 - John 19:1-16a	Jesus is condemned; they have no king but Caesar.
Palm Sun., Mar. 25 - John 19:16b-22	The sign above the cross proclaims the crucified king.
Maundy Thurs., Mar. 29 - John 19:23-30	"Woman, behold your son; I thirst; It is finished."
Good Friday, March 30 - John 19:31-42	Jesus' bones are not broken; water from his side; a royal burial.
Easter Sunday, April 1 - John 20:1-18	The empty tomb; Jesus calls Mary by name.
Sunday, April 8 - John 20:19-31	Jesus gives Spirit; appears to Thomas.

Memorial Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
803 East College Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911-5697

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Save the Date!

Sunday, February 11, 2017
11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting and Pancakes!

Listen to a recap of the year's highlights at MPC while enjoying a delicious breakfast of pancakes and all the fixin's, served up by the Youth Fellowship Group. The cost will be \$5 per person or \$20 per family, with all proceeds benefiting the Youth Mission Trip this summer.



The Chimes quarterly newsletter of Memorial Presbyterian Church is published in January, April, July and October. Article submission deadline is the 1st of the month preceding publication. The weekly newsletter, "The Memo from Memorial," is published every Thursday.

To receive these publications via email or through the postal service, contact the church office.

Memorial Presbyterian Church
803 E. College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
920-734-1787 phone
920-734-5686 fax
www.mpcappleton.org
info@mpcappleton.org