

The Chimes

A Quarterly Publication of Memorial Presbyterian Church
Appleton, Wisconsin
April-June 2017

Making a list, checking it twice - Gratitude Edition

As I look forward to my season of sabbatical, there is much to do and much to look forward to, not the least of which is Holy Week and Easter Sunday. As the to-do list before I am away grows, I want to be intentional to keep gratitude at the top of the list. Here's my list so far, of what I am grateful for:

- * a heart-filled joy and celebration for all we've done in ministry together over the past five years
- * the Session and congregation supporting me to take this season of sabbatical
- * the staff members and church leaders who will take on additional responsibilities in my absence
- * the blessings God has in store for the congregation and for me during sabbatical
- * my family supporting and encouraging me at every turn.

There is much to do, but even more for which to be grateful. I'm trying to remember that when we keep the most important things in perspective, the details fall into place.

In the meantime, let us bring the season of Lent to a close, reflecting on how we might better connect with our neighbors. The final two Lenten sessions on "Reaching Out to Our Neighbors" will be April 2 at 6:00 p.m. when we will visit our neighbors at Lawrence University; and April 9, also at 6:00 p.m. when we will gather to discuss what we have seen and heard during Lent and discern how God is leading us to reach out to our neighbors.

Let us celebrate the Easter Season, embracing mystery and meaning of Christ's life, death, and resurrection – not as a story told long ago, but the story of God's steadfast, unfailing love that death cannot overcome.

Two last things I hope you'll plan to attend. On April 23 at 6:00 p.m. I will share about the study component of my sabbatical plan and talk about how you might join me in this work wherever your summer adventures take you. On April 30 after the worship service, a farewell will be held as the sabbatical begins (*see page 7 for more details*).

With gratitude,

Pastor Mike



We Have the Ability to End Hunger by 2030.

Will We? Will You Help?

Imagine caring for a hungry child, and not having the ability to give them the food that they need. While this heartbreaking scene happens too many times in the world today, it is happening much less than in the past, and can be eliminated if the world's citizens and leaders agree to meet the commitments they have made. MPC's participation in Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters will help.

Worldwide, extreme poverty — living on less than \$1.90 a day — has been cut in half over the past 30 years. But more work needs to be done. Nearly 800 million people in the world are still hungry. In the United States, 1 in 6 children lives in a family that struggles with hunger.



The federal budget uses the common resource of the people's taxes to supply the diversity of needs which includes those who are hungry and living in poverty. Federal budget proposals and resolutions can set forth a long-term vision of eliminating hunger and poverty.

Nations around the world, including the United States, have agreed to work for an end to hunger and related goals by 2030. And there is growing recognition among faith leaders, nongovernmental organizations, and business leaders that ending hunger and extreme poverty by 2030 is achievable.

Families, churches and community groups, and businesses all need to do their part to end hunger. It's crucial that our government also does its part. Through the 2017 Offering of Letters, we urge Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to ending hunger by 2030. This will be a challenging year. Programs that help families alleviate hunger and get out of poverty are threatened with deep funding cuts. Vital policies and safety-net programs — including WIC, global nutrition, SNAP, and refundable tax credits — must be properly funded and protected. Dismantling or cutting funding for such programs by the 115th Congress would take us backward and make the goal of ending hunger by 2030 unlikely. As in years past, your persistent and faithful advocacy will be important in defending the interests of people who are hungry.

These proposals include full employment, job creation, reframing our tax codes, safety-net programs like SNAP, WIC, global nutrition, and international development programs focused on poverty. The federal budget also sets the trend for states and other nations. By working to persuade Congress and the president to fund these measures, we are doing our part to end hunger and realizing God's vision of a world where all people "will hunger no more" (Revelation 7:16).

To learn more, watch for additional information and updates in the weekly Memo from Memorial, and in the Adult Education sessions offered in April.

A Sunday morning bulletin insert offering guidance for letters to Congress will also be available this month, or you can use this link to contact Congress now: [2017 Offering of Letters Campaign - Bread for the World](#)

Additional links:

Introductory Video: [2017 Offering of Letters](#)

Real-life stories about hope in the face of poverty in the U.S. and other nations: [Bread for the World Stories](#)

Find facts about hunger in the U.S. and worldwide [here](#).

Mission: Success

Although you may know that MPC's Community Garden is a successful mission project, you may not know what makes it work so well. For the past several years, we have been fortunate to be on the leading edge of utilizing MPC's new mission statement which reflects on connecting people in faith, hope and love; inspiring lifelong discipleship and spiritual growth; and serving our neighbors near and far.

We connect people in faith by having dedicated volunteers who spend quality time doing things that make the garden productive. We partner with other local community organizations that share a passion for feeding God's people in need. The fruits of this labor inspire us to look at ways we can grow each year, in quality and quantity of produce delivered, in ensuring our volunteers have a positive, spiritual environment in which to work, and to be effective in providing for the people who need fresh vegetables as part of their nutritional requirements. From the plans we make in February to lay out the garden, meeting with the folks from St. Joseph Food Program for garden needs, and Riverview Gardens who provide us with delicate seedlings, we make every effort to cover for any scenario that may occur during the growing season. Our partners at Petersen Farms provide the tilling, composting, and of course, the land.

Our MPC garden produces over 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables every summer. Where does that fresh produce go? It is provided at no cost to over 5,000 families during the summer. Additionally, it has allowed St. Joe's Food Pantry to decrease their budget by \$28,000 per year. That is a lot of money in savings to our partner.

Wait, if we are saving that much money for St. Joseph Food Program, what is the budgetary cost of our Community Garden to MPC? In the past three years, we have budgeted zero dollars. That is right. ZERO DOLLARS. How? Because we provide a great crop to our partners, they provide us with whatever we may need in the form of water tanks, garden sheds, tools, packaging, any seedlings, etc. by way of grants from local and federal sources.

So has this whetted your appetite to join fellow MPC members in volunteering at our garden? We are flexible, provide all tools and even have carts to sit/ride on while weeding, planting, and harvesting, etc. It is a great experience that brings you close to nature, God, and friends. Please join us in making this the most productive year yet. Call Ann Smith at (920) 205-6795 or drop her an email at mark.ann.smith@gmail.com.



Tom Neal and Sharon McElrath pause for a photograph while working in the MPC garden on a beautiful summer day.



If you like digging in the dirt - or just plain getting your hands dirty - mark your calendars for Saturday, May 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for our annual Spring Work Day! There are plenty of projects on the MPC property, inside and out, to keep you busy. A sign-up sheet is located on the table outside of the church office, or call 734-1787 or info@mpcappleton.org to indicate your interest.

MPC Team Explores Mission in Nicaragua

On Sunday, March 19, Fred Umland, Pat Spindler, and Barry and Becky O'Connor flew to Managua, Nicaragua to explore how our Memorial Presbyterian Church might partner with the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD). Presbyterian World Mission works in partnership with CEPAD and helps them promote justice and peace as they help the many economically impoverished communities of Nicaragua.

On our trip we saw how CEPAD works in the rural areas of Nicaragua with communities who are selected to participate in a five-year sustainable community development program. Each community selects people who are trained by CEPAD to develop and implement a plan to address their issues. These communities also become involved in services that address food security, strengthen families, address psycho-social issues, and promote pastoral leadership. Once a community completes the five-year cycle, they are organized with other neighboring communities into co-ops or associations that are recognized by the Nicaraguan government and which continue to address local issues and concerns.

CEPAD's International Partnership program provides the opportunity for churches to walk alongside rural Nicaraguan communities and to be in solidarity with them as they identify and address their issues. While in Nicaragua we had the opportunity to observe two U.S. churches that are in partnership with Nicaraguan communities. It helped us better understand what might be possible for us.



The MPC Team made new friends at Delmar Reformed Church in Nicaragua.



Fred Umland helps a young student to create a friendship bracelet.

We found Nicaragua to be a beautiful country with many great people. Most of them manage to live comfortably with much less than we have. Their

homes frequently have only two or three rooms. It is not uncommon for all family members to sleep in one room. In the rural communities they generally cook over wood fires. The food they served us was excellent even though we had rice and beans at every meal. Many of them have to get their water from community springs. Very few homes have indoor plumbing. There are community bathhouses where they take dip-and-pour showers. We found it to be a very refreshing experience.

The people of Nicaragua are very religious people who actively practice their faith. There is a church in most rural communities and many of them have both a Protestant and a Catholic Church. We had the opportunity to attend a Church of God Lenten service in the village of El Castillo. We were made to feel very welcome. At one point we were called to the front of the church and then hugged by all in attendance.

On this trip we had the opportunity to visit two rural schools and learn about the education system. The schools are small and the teachers usually have very few resources to use with their students. The kids we encountered in El Castillo were quick learners who enjoyed all the attention they received from us. Unfortunately many of them will be needed in the fields and will be unable to complete their education.

We learned much about CEPAD and the people of Nicaragua on this trip. It will help us as we decide how to proceed. A more detailed presentation will be provided at a later date. Watch the weekly "Memo from Memorial" for details.

Welcome, Joe Lindsay!



What started out as a mid-winter trip to the Fox Valley on the invitation of family members to “come and visit” took a delightfully unexpected turn for native Texan Joe Lindsay, and we’re glad it did! Joe, who was hired in March

as MPC’s new Director of Music and Organist, was reconnecting with professional colleagues in the area when he heard about the position here, and thought, “Why not?” As he explains, “I had been itching to use my talents and I hadn’t been on the bench in almost two years, and hadn’t had a choir to have a relationship with. That, for me, is what I thrive on.”

Joe’s circuitous journey to Appleton began in Longview, Texas, where he grew up and lived with his parents and younger brother, Sam. His interest in music began in the third grade, when his school’s music teacher started a new community children’s choir, Sing Company.

Beginning with about 15-20 kids, it grew by leaps and bounds every year and Joe stayed in the group until he “aged out” in the ninth grade.

During that time, he discovered his love for choral and church music, and was able to experience many different musical genres. He also recalls fondly that even as a young boy, he insisted on his mother playing her cassette tape recording of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* over and over again in the car.

The Sing Company happened to rehearse at a nearby Lutheran Church, whose pastor lived in Joe’s neighborhood. That began his relationship with the church, its people and the music environment, which ultimately led to the offer for Joe, at the ripe old age of 15, to take on the position of Music Director at a quaint, nearby Presbyterian Church. Alpine Presbyterian

Church boasted a small but dedicated choir who had a passion for ringing handbells, and provided a wonderful environment for Joe to hone his choir and handbell conducting skills. He was also busy with all that high school has to offer, along with choir, musical theatre, conducting, and piano study.

During the last two years of high school, he took advantage of the opportunity to study organ at First Presbyterian Church in Kilgore, Texas, on its landmark instrument, the Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1173. Undergraduate study in Sacred and Choral Music followed at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana – the town in which *Steel Magnolias* was filmed. “It’s a wonderful place! I had a fun time living right next to Truvy’s Beauty Salon on Henry Avenue.”

Organs are often in need of maintenance, and the organ at NSU was no exception. The organ technician who serviced the instrument needed an assistant, and Joe stepped up to the plate, traveling with him on weekends throughout East Texas to tune and repair countless organs. That’s when Joe was truly bitten by the organ repair bug, and he pursued that desire to the

University of Oklahoma’s new American Organ Institute, founded by Appletonian John Schwandt. There he studied choral conducting, organ, and organ technology until June 2012, when he was hired as

Music Director at First Presbyterian Church back in Longview, Texas, when the church was in a transitional period.

Joe recalled that his three-year tenure there was a great experience. “It was really a blank canvas to use music to its full potential. We partnered with other Presbyterian and Baptist churches to provide concert series and hymn festivals to let people know that this very large Presbyterian campus was quite active.”

The interim pastor at Longview’s First Presbyterian Church at that time, Harry Meissner, was full of vitality

God has a way of providing. My prayer turned from “Let me have a nice time here,” to “Thank you for the opportunity to do what it is that my heart wants.”

and enthusiasm, and served as a mentor and role model for Joe. "He taught me so much about Presbyterian polity and how things work, and at the same time completely supported the creativity and ambition and the avenues that the church blesses us with – arts and culture and communities."

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the next stop for Joe, to another Presbyterian Church and more organ-building and repair opportunities. "My formal employment has always been with the Presbyterian Church," Joe says with a smile.

While based in Philadelphia, Joe traveled throughout upstate New York, south to Richmond, Virginia, and even as far west as Ohio taking care of up to 150 organs in urban and rural churches, with both new and old instruments. "I had the great privilege of working on the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ in Macy's Center City, the world's largest fully functioning pipe organ."

This period of time also included a month at Atlantic City, New Jersey on the restoration of the W.W. Kimball Opus 7073, in Historic Boardwalk Hall, and he continues to be part of this important restoration project. Through all of these experiences, he developed and continues to run his own organ-building venture.

Joe's first impressions of the congregation here at MPC on a cold Sunday in January was that there was a sense of vitality in the congregation, and the feeling that the congregation is willing to move forward in new and different directions. In his new position as Music Director, he hopes to create a renewed sense of commitment and dedication to the church music program, because "the music program can be an avenue for many things to happen and can be a catalyst for growth. Quality and engaging church music facilitates that very easily."

Joe believes that music illuminates and supports the liturgy and the pastor's sermon, teaching through the words of the hymns. "I use the word 'theatre' to describe the worship experience in the creation of dialogue between the many different elements of the worship service. Everyone owns their part in that. That is ultimately our job as leaders in worship, how we charge people to go out into the world and to carry on with their charge on Sunday morning."

So what can we do to welcome Joe? "I love food. I love good food, and I don't like to eat alone. One of my favorite things is to share a dinner with other people."

Joe lost no time in getting involved in the community! He is conducting Mozart's Requiem, performed by Caritas Collegium on Palm Sunday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. at MPC. Admission is free.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The season of Lent is also the season for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This ecumenical effort, started in 1949 as an hour-long radio appeal, has become the most participated-in offering in the PC(USA). Last year MPC members contributed over \$2,600 to OGHS to help support PC(USA) domestic and global mission outreach through these programs:



- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. (32%)
- Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. (36%)
- Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills. (32%)

Through these programs our congregation engages both domestically and globally to provide disaster assistance, to assist refugees in war-torn corners of the globe, and to assist the poor.

You can be a part of this effort by contributing to this offering. Contributions may be made by using the Special Offering envelopes available in the pews, or, if you prefer to give electronically, you may click [here](#) and designate your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

For more information, check out the PC(USA) web site at: [PC\(USA\) One Great Hour of Sharing](#). Thank you for your contribution!

Reserve Your Spot Today
Sabbatical Bon Voyage Party
for The Goodwins

Sunday, April 30
11:15 a.m. (following worship)

Pullmans Restaurant
619 S. Olde Oneida St., Appleton

Lunch Buffet \$10.00/person
RSVP with payment by April 15
to the Church Office
(920) 734-1787



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.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Children's Choir Palm Processional with Chancel Choir
Pastor Mike will preach on Luke 19:29-44: "God's Steadfast Love: Moved to Tears"

Holy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

A Tenebrae Communion Service with Chancel Choir
Pastor Mike will preach on Luke 22:1-27: "God's Steadfast Love: In Remembrance"

Good Friday Service, April 14, 12:10 p.m.

Hosted by the Fox Valley Unitarian Fellowship, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton
A Service in the Style of Taize

Easter Sunday, April 16, 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. (identical services)

Communion Worship Service with Chancel Choir & Easter Brass
Pastor Mike will preach on Luke 24:1-12: "God's Steadfast Love: Good News and Idle Tales"