

2023–2024 Stewardship



**MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
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Commitment Sunday, November 19, 2023

9:00 a.m. Worship
in the Assembly Room

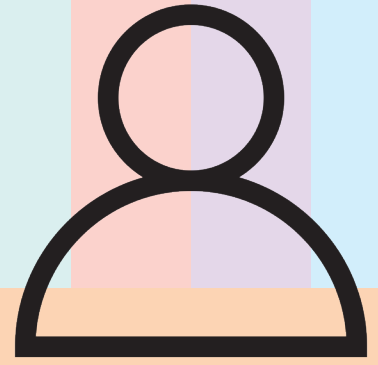
10:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting
and Brunch in Mayton Hall

10:45 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary

Memorial Matters to Me

In this season of gratitude, we urge you to give something that matters TO something that matters on Commitment Sunday.

Thank you!



CONGREGATION

SESSION: PASTORS & ELECTED ELDERS

“Make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded.” Mt 28:19-20

MPC'S FOUR PILLARS

WORSHIP & ARTS MINISTRY

Worship & Arts
Ministry
Coordinating Team

Workgroups

Ministering
Through the Arts

Welcoming
to Worship

Preparing for
Worship

STUDY MINISTRY

Study Ministry
Coordinating Team

Workgroups

Growing Leaders

Growing Children
in Faith

Preschool

Growing Youth
in Faith

Growing Young
Adults in Faith

Growing Adults
in Faith

Library Board

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY

Congregational
Life Ministry
Coordinating Team

Workgroups

Bringing
People In

Plugging
People In^{sc}

Stewardship Campaign

Connecting
People to People

Presbyterian Women

Nominating

SERVICE MINISTRY

Service Ministry
Coordinating Team

Workgroups

Reaching Out
Regionally &
Globally

Reaching Out for
Justice & Peace

Deacons

Workgroups

Reaching out
Locally

Hospitality,
Funeral Meals

Congregational
Care

Trustees
Workgroups
Property
Archives
IT
Non-Personnel
Policies & Procedures

Personnel
Workgroup

Finance
Workgroup^{sc}

Memorials &
Special Gifts
Workgroup

Advance Concepts
Workgroup

Communications
Workgroup

OPERATIONS MINISTRY



Memorial Matters to **Abigail Hnizda**

Abigail has been participating in Vacation Bible School since she was three years old. As a volunteer, she always chose to help in the drama and craft areas. What Abigail loves about VBS is “taking Bible stories that may be hard for kids to comprehend and people in the Bible who seem one-dimensional” and making them relatable and understandable while using humor too. She encourages others to participate in VBS because “the Bible has good life lessons that we rediscover through new activities.” In June, we welcomed 91 children to a ‘Stellar’ VBS with the help of 25 youth volunteers and 37 adult volunteers.

Memorial Matters to **Midland Community Foster Closet**

Our annual Pentecost Offering collection is designated for the encouragement, development, and support of the Church’s young people in our local community. Olivia Mayer is our Youth Deacon who proposed that we donate to the Midland County Foster Closet, a non-profit agency comprised of all volunteers who collect and distribute items that a foster child and family may need. MCFC co-president Pam Durfee says, “We are grateful that others would think of us.” Co-president Julie Stanley adds, “With this, we are able to supplement families’ extra and immediate needs without hesitation.” This aid greatly reduces mental and financial stress for the entire family. MCFC served 117 clients this year.



Memorial Matters to **Kindra Silk Kreislers**

In August, Kindra joined our staff as Children’s Ministry Director. Giving parents an open invitation to observe classes or join in the fun, she says, “We know it’s vital that our kids see us light up when they walk into the room. But not all parents know the thrill of their child’s positive reaction when Mom or Dad enters the Sunday School classroom as a volunteer. Every parent deserves to be the star of the show once in a while. That’s exactly what they are when they volunteer in their child’s Sunday School class, just by showing up.” We provided nursery care, Children’s Sunday School, and other fun family events to over 100 children from newborn to fifth grade. We are also grateful to Rachel Ludwig for serving as Children’s Ministry Coordinator for a year.

Memorial Matters to **Kayla Lyons, Bobbie Arnold, and Karie Arnold**

Kayla, Bobbie, and Karie have a long history with MPC. “This is home, this is where we feel connected,” says Bobbie. They have many fond memories, like the Christmas Eve pageants and Bobbie getting married in the chapel. Karie vividly remembers being baptized by Pastor Wally when she was a teen, recalling all the emotions she felt when he later baptized baby Kayla. Bobbie appreciates that Pastor Matt and Pastor Michael offer a welcoming atmosphere for young families. She sees the importance of attending church with each other and says, “It’s like eating dinner together. We are sharing an experience that is helping to build our family and our faith.”





Memorial Matters to Katie Wenban and Adeline Ludwig

Katie served as a confirmation mentor to Adeline and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know her and the other students better. Katie remembers her confirmation days and says, "It's a cool experience to see it from the other side. This reaffirms what I learned and what I believe. Through open and honest conversations, I am seeing things from their perspective. It's amazing. The world is in good hands." This year, six students were confirmed.



Memorial Matters to Ethan Dastick

Ethan has been volunteering with Helping Hearts & Hands for three years. He says, "The hardest part of any volunteer project is that first day. There has never been a project where I haven't initially doubted my skills and considered turning away. It isn't until I push myself to try new things and step outside of my comfort zone that I feel the joy of community and can spread God's love through my work, and it's this that makes it all worthwhile and is why I keep coming back. It's easy to do nothing. It's hard to make a difference. Without the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, there would be no change. I've made it my mission to be the change I want to see in the world and I encourage others to join me in making a difference." For two weeks this summer, 67 people served with Helping Hearts & Hands to renovate the roof, yard, and deck of a homeowner selected by Habitat for Humanity.

Memorial Matters to Ellen Woodard

Ellen leads our bell and chimes ministry. "Each person has two notes, so they act together, like the hands of a sole pianist." With this teamwork, ringers tend to form deep bonds. "Many offer support, pray for each other, and meet outside of rehearsal time." We hosted Ellen's Let's Get Moving bell festival initiative last year.



Memorial Matters to Jim & Anna Hemeyer

Anna and Jim look forward to intergenerational events hosted by Connecting People to People. Anna says, "Gathering with the church family at events like the summer picnic, the day at the Loons Stadium, and the Fall Festival are annual events we look forward to each year. Not only do they bring together longtime friends, but they are also perfect outings to meet new friends of all ages. We truly appreciate the wonderful people who work so hard to put these events together for us." Hundreds of people participated in CP2P's other annual fellowship offerings including the men's disc golf group, ladies' night out, crawfish boil, chili cookoff, cornhole tournament, curling event, and Christmas Eve cookie hospitality.





Memorial Matters to Diana Brookens

One way Presbyterian Women help neighbors in need is by raising funds through our annual spring and fall rummage sales. Diana has volunteered at the sales for over 20 years. She keeps returning because "it's fun to interact this way, seeing people outside of Sunday worship." Our PW use all proceeds for education, mental health, food security, medical needs, peace efforts, disaster assistance, housing, children and youth activities, mission co-workers, clothing, and more. About 70 percent of the funds are donated locally, with the remainder going to national and global programs. Diana says, "Joy comes in giving back to our community."

Memorial Matters to Central Park Elementary School

When our neighbor Central Park Elementary School opened in 2017, we developed a five-year Advance Concepts Fund to help the school with enhanced technology, after-school clubs, STEAM summer camps, and field trips. Now we continue aid by supplementing the parent teacher organization with contributions for field trips and other opportunities that the Title 1 school might not be able to accomplish on its own. On behalf of students and staff, Kara Stark (principal, right) and Chelsea Sauve (assistant principal, left) express their gratitude. Kara says, "Your gracious donations have allowed us to remove barriers that inhibit children from experiencing opportunities in their own backyard." Chelsea adds, "You help to provide all students with memorable, life-altering experiences."



Memorial Matters to Natalie Schramm

Natalie plays harp and piano and sings with our Praise Band and Chancel Choir. Making music allows her to express her feelings. Natalie is happy to share her musical gifts at church because she knows how much other people enjoy it and because "it's nice to be together with my family." Ladies who gathered at the tea party in March were blessed to hear her playing her harp.



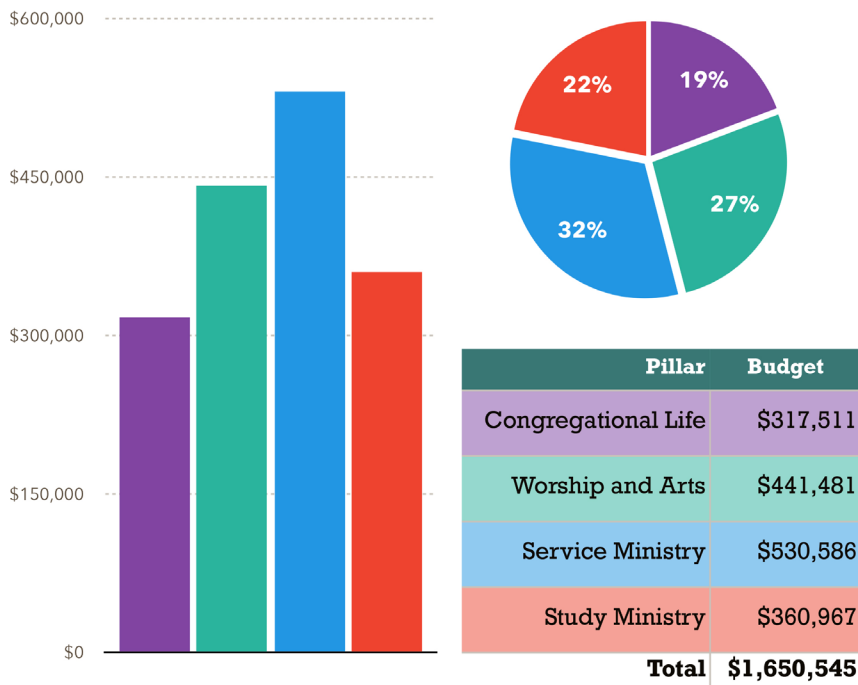
Memorial Matters to Martin Severance and Judy Morgan

Martin chairs the High School Scholarship Committee and he feels that their most rewarding role is providing meaningful aid to young people who are setting out on a path to further their education. Martin is grateful to those MPC members with the foresight to create endowed scholarships which have been in place for decades and are "a strong force for progress in the community." This year, we were blessed to support 38 awardees for a total of \$87,450 in college scholarships.

When Judy Morgan chaired the Jean and J. Lawrence Amos Endowed Adult Scholarship Committee, she was thrilled to receive updates from the recipients who show "amazing determination and grit as they work through life experiences and strive to better their situation." This year, we supported 10 awardees for a total of \$25,957.

Both committees serve under the Memorials & Special Gifts Workgroup.

NARRATIVE BUDGET 2023–2024



- MPC allocates over \$500,000 to support Christ’s work in the world through our “Service Ministry Pillar,” which includes local and global programs addressing issues like hunger, homelessness, disaster relief, poverty, domestic violence and child abuse, education, and much more. We “do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

- At MPC, our average annual pledge is \$3997, or \$75 per week. That is wonderful! However, we only receive pledged gifts from around 200 families, which is less than 50 percent of families represented in our active membership! If members who are not yet giving were to contribute the PC(USA) average per member contribution, we would be able to double our mission commitments!
- In 2023, New Pledgers accounted for nearly 10 percent of our pledged offering! Every gift has an impact!
- MPC is incredibly blessed with the MPC Legacy Foundation, which manages gifts given as endowments or with restricted uses. These funds contribute nearly \$800,000 annually toward the church’s budget, maintenance, and mission. However, many of these funds are restricted for special purposes. We use them whenever we are able, and we appreciate the chance to steward the gifts of those who have gone before us. However, your regular pledged offering remains the single greatest indicator of our ability to carry out God’s mission in Midland and beyond!

2023–2024 Stewardship Campaign

At Memorial Presbyterian Church, we ask members and friends to be highly committed financially so that ministry needs are met without having to pressure people or barrage them with emergency appeals. But it’s not just about the dollars. As we learn to be stewards, we become more aware of the blessings and gifts that surround us. We’re all in this together! We believe God can do great things with people who are learning how to give. After you prayerfully consider your commitment for 2024, please return your pledge information to the church. Choose the method that is easiest for you:

- **MAIL** your pledge card to the church using the provided envelope.
- **BRING** your pledge card to church on Commitment Sunday for collection during worship service or the congregational meeting.
- Go **ONLINE** to our website www.mempres.org and on the Tithe and Offering page, use the fillable form to enter your pledge information. Or click the link to go to Realm for automatic bill pay.
- Use the **REALM APP** at www.onrealm.org. Click “Giving,” then “+Pledge”). Selecting “Save Pledge” will automatically send your information to our finance office. Selecting “Save & Set Up Online Gift” will allow you to enter information for automatic bill pay.
- For **TAX PLANNING**, if you would like MPC to receive a direct tax-free distribution from your 401(k) or invested funds, contact your financial planner or MPC Financial Administrator Debbie Sweebe.