the church December 2014





Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow... News for our Friends and Family

The church VISITOR is published monthly by Morningside Presbyterian Church - 4327 Morningside Ave. - Sioux City, IA.

FROM PASTOR DAVE

"Bring out the boxes! Unpack the ornaments, lights, wrapping paper, candles, and wreaths! It's time for the pre-Christmas clutter! The excitement and anticipation of Christmas fill our Advent thoughts to overflowing. We fill our schedules and homes to overflowing as well, making Advent full of stress and exhausting. Our minds turn to family drama and anticipated conflicts; to lists of gifts and money we don't have but will spend anyway; to work schedules and worries for the new year; to news of violence in the world; to the rest we crave but won't find. What we should be doing- praying, going to church, laughing with family, and serving alongside the poor in our community- may feel like yet more chores cluttering our lives, more tedious tasks to be checked off the endless to-do list. This year, let's take a different approach. In the spirit of spring cleaning, let's do an Advent cleaning, and use the four weeks leading up to Christmas as a time of uncluttering, of emptying our schedules, homes, and hearts." by Kathleen Long Bostram.

The writing above comes from the prologue to the 2014 Advent Calendar presented by Presbyterians Today. For each day's entry there is a scripture reading and a suggestion about how we might simplify, empty, "declutter" our lives during this period of waiting, of preparation. I like the idea very much, but the reality is, myself, like many people, only think this, I won't actually do much to achieve this "decluttering." We complain about the busyness of the season leading up to Christmas and all the "stuff" that is going on, but we don't make many changes in our routines from year to year, and so nothing much changes. This period of anticipation for something wonderful, will again be just another stressed time where we become distracted from those things that really should matter to us. Maybe, though, this year can be different; maybe we can begin a process of letting go of some of those things that distract us: maybe we buy a little less, spend a little less, or give to charities a little more. It might hurt the economy (isn't it amazing how we have turned this birth of Jesus stuff into a large part of our nation's business economy?) a little bit, but it just may help us and those in need a little more. Maybe we can take in one less party and instead go sing carols at people's houses or serve a meal at the Gospel Mission, or spend some time at the church doing something (not sure what, but we always need things done). Instead of stressing about all you must get done, you ask God for a minute of calm, and you sit down and read a book or listen to music or just close your eyes and rest in peace. Maybe this year's time of waiting in hope can be just that, instead of the frantic mass of stress that is too often becomes. May the peace of Christ fill you all this Advent season. Amen.

Dave

Morningside Presbyterian Church Is on a pilgrimage to resurrect and expand our church community and to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We worship as an authentic expression of our gratitude to God for grace unimaginable and love unconditional. We strive to be God's heart, hands and voice to all ages as we grow in faith and engage in mission locally, nationally, and globally.

The deadline for newsletter submission is the 3rd Wednesday of the month prior to publication. Please direct articles & questions to Teri McCallum mpcsciasec@msn.com

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ADVENT WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES AT MPC

There are some special activities going on here at Morningside PC during the season of Advent, as well as our times for worship. Here is a listing of what is happening:

November 30- First Sunday of Advent, Mark 13:24-37, Being Ready For Advent

December 2- Angelus Worship Service and Dinner, 6pm

December 7- Second Sunday of Advent, Mark 1:1-8, Good News enters the world, Communion

December 14, Third Sunday of Advent, Luke 1:46b-55, The Children's Presentation

December 18- A Service of Healing and Wholeness (Blue Christmas), 7pm at 3rd Presbyterian

December 21- Fourth Sunday Of Advent, Luke 1:26-38, messiah's birth announced to Mary

December 21- 10th Annual Living Nativity Presentation, parking Lot of MPC, 5:30-7 pm

December 24- Christmas Eve, Luke 2, Celebration of the birth of Jesus, Communion, 7 pm

In addition to the above, during Advent we will host a gathering each Sunday of Advent to show a Christmas-themed movie for us to enjoy together. Times and movies will be announced soon.



Living Nativity Portrayal Sun., Dec. 21st 5:30 – 7 pm

Morningside Presbyterian Church Parking Lot ... 4327 Morningside Ave. Experience the Sights and Sounds of Christmas comfort of your car.

Join us for this FREE gift to the community Morningside Ministry Partners - Westminster, Third & Morningside Presbyterian

Keep your heart open to a Christ-filled Christmas



Please direct ideas, articles and questions to Teri McCallum 712-276-3121, mpcsciasec@msn.com



Worship Schedule

Service times

9:00-11:00 Library Open 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Staffed Nursery Available

7:00 Steel Magnolias AA 8:00 Big Book Group Study - Open AA

Living Nativity

We need clear gallon milk jugs again this year. These can be dropped off at the church any time. Please make sure they are cleaned out before you bring them.

The Living Nativity will take place on Sunday December 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Lectionary Scripture Lessons in November

- 7 Isa 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13p 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
- 14– Isa 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 21– 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- 24 Isa 9:2-7, Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- 25 *Dawn:* Isa 62:6-12, Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20 *Day:* Isa 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Heb 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
- 28 Isa 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Oct Attendance

Oct 5- 88
Oct 12 - at Westminster
Oct 19 - 74
Oct 26 - at 3rd Pres



THE CHRISTMAS "GIVING" TREE We will once again be putting up a "Giving Tree". Each "Ornament" on the Tree will have the name of a child in need. The "ornaments" are hung in pairs: one for you to put your name and phone number, to be placed back on the tree; and the other describing the child and the wishes/wants of this child to take with you. This "ornament" will be returned with the wrapped gift under the "Giving Tree" before Sunday, December 14th. This will give time for the workers to distribute them to the families before Christmas. It is not necessary to purchase all the items listed, as anything will be appreciated.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

December

Circles will meet:

Rebecca Circle Dec 3, 10:00 am Esther Bible Study Dec 11, 9:30 am

Card Making Dec 10, 9:00 am

The Presbyterian Women will donate the profit from the lunch and coffee served to the Presbytery Gathering: \$100 to the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, and \$100 to the Sock and Underwear Drive. Thank you for all who helped cook, bake, serve, clean up or otherwise participated in some way.

Our November 16 Bake Sale did very well in spite of the weather. There was some items carried over until Tuesday and offered at the Marterian Meeting.

A very few items leftover were taken to the Fire Station for them. Our total sales: \$233.70. We appreciate the cooperation of all the Presbyterian women who bring baked goods, and those of you who support us. The proceeds will be used toward our mission projects.

Janet Ross

Kitchen Grew for Dec is Rebecca Gircle



OPEN: When ever the church building is open.

Your church library has been decorated for the Christmas season and many books relating to Christmas are on display. These displays will be changed periodically throughout the season; so be sure to visit and browse the library more than once during this joyous time of year. It's a busy time, of course; but a few minutes relaxing with a good book can do wonders to restore the body and the spirit.

We have added three new selections to the shelves this month. The first is <u>Top Dog</u>, <u>The Story of Marine Hero Lucca</u> by Maria Goodavage. This book details the true story of Lucca K458, a decorated and highly skilled military working dog.

Our second book is <u>Zombie in Love</u> by Kelly Di Pucchio. This book is intended for children ages 4 to 8. In this story, Mortimer is searching for a 'ghoul' of his own.

Lastly, we have included <u>Killing Patton</u> by Bill O'Reilly. The author takes us inside the final year of WWII and recounts the events surrounding Patton's tragic death.

In the past few months, we have had several anonymous donations of books to our library. While we appreciate these fine additions to our collection; we would appreciate it even more if you could identify the giver.

The book club will meet Tuesday December 9th at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Each person is encouraged to read a book with a Christmas theme and tell a little about it at the meeting. This is a perfect time to join the group and share your favorite Christmas story. We will again have a cookie exchange for those who wish to participate. Bring 26 cookies or bars for the exchange if you choose to take part (24 for the exchange and 2 to have with your coffee following the meeting). The committee wishes each of you a blessed Christmas season.

Thank you,

The Library Committee: Shirley Watson, Lorraine Edmunds, Marlene Downs, Fran Graham, Mary Michell and Audrey Fenton



MISSION



Written by Lynda Miller, Kelly Berkenpas, Harriett Marsh, Karen Juhl

NEED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?

Do you need to borrow some medical equipment for short-term use? The church has wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs, etc. available on a loan basis. If you would like to borrow any of these items, contact the church office at **276-3121.**Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

SUPPORTED by MPC

Morningside Presbyterian Church provides stability for 12-step groups by providing space for five different groups' meetings. If you know of people, who are looking for 12-step support, please share this schedule.

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SUNDAYS - 7:00 p.m. - Steel Magnolias, Women's

Open AA - Meditation Rm.

8:00 p.m. - Big Book Group Study Open AA

Fireside Rm.

WEDNESDAYS - 7:00 p.m. - Gambler's Anon.- Fireside Rm.

(Hotline - 712-223-0909)

FRIDAY - 8:00 p.m. - Morningside Fellowship

AA Group-Dining Rm.

8:00 p.m. - Acceptance Al-Anon Meditation Room



Again, many thanks to those who served at the Soup Kitchen, Friday, Nov. 14. In the afternoon we had Marilyn and Don Loughry from Westminster Pres., Harvey Stokes from Third, and Harriett Marsh. In the evening there were Merlin and Brady Berkenpas, Sherry Collins, Sean Collins, Drew Becker, Dale Hill, and Todd and Angel Monk from Third. Truly a joint effort!! Our next date will not be until March 30th, but Third will serve January 7 and may need some help.



Our church wide Christmas Joy Offering is coming up Dec. 21 and 24; this offering benefits Presbyterian schools and colleges and special needs of retired church workers. The November Sock and Underwear Drive, again a joint effort of Morningside, Third, and Westminster, was a big success. Thanks to all who participated.

Please remember to keep John and Gwen Haspels in your prayers. Christmas blessings to all of you.

Nov/Dec UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS ARE HERE!



BOMA BULLETIN

Thanksgiving 2014

"When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them the most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Acts 20:36-38 Dear Friends,

Harm's Way: "Why are you going back into harm's way," I was asked? Nov. 9 found me in a plane flying back to Ethiopia. It was a good time to go because Desta, Heather, and Haptom were still in South Africa to care for Gwen. Monday morning I picked up my son, John T., at the airport in Addis. That began a long week of telling and re-telling the story. Because of rumors that Gwen had been killed in the incident, it was a time to reassure everyone that we were OK. It was a time of heartfelt thanksgiving and praise to God for our lives having been spared and for our deliverance from the hand of a gunman. It was a time to share that we had forgiven the man who shot us. Raw Emotion: Early Thursday morning found us in a helicopter heading for Tulegit. On board were Lanjoy, the Suri MP (member of parliament), Dr. Haili, a vet with a passion for evangelism, John T. and myself. Just two weeks before, Dr. Haili left for Addis to take a TEE exam. He was leaving behind a new church in Koka where John had been scheduled to do a baptism on Oct. 11. "Are you leaving us too," the Christians asked, "just like corn, ready for harvest, left standing in the field?" A large crowd instantly gathered as we landed. School kids left their classes and ran to the helicopter. One of the first to greet me, with an AK 47 strapped over his shoulder, was Workey, our first Suri tractor driver. As he wept unashamedly, he embraced me, unable to speak. Everyone wanted to shake my hand as they stared intently into my face. Some wanted to see which eye had been blinded. Others just wanted to be sure it was Mr. John. The women were asking, "Where is Mrs. Gwen? Is she still alive? Why didn't she come too?" We Want Revenge: After about an hour on the ground, we flew to Moga to reassure the people there. On Oct 1, we were on our way to Moga when the shooting took place. A crowd quickly gathered, again staring intently into my face. Again there were expressions of sorrow and grief. As we got ready to leave Moga, Bardugu, the acting chief of Moga said, "You are leaving too soon! We still have something to say." With an AK 47 strapped over his shoulder together with several other armed men, he said, "We are ready to go and attack the thief and his gang for what they did to you!" It gave us a good opportunity to share the Gospel with them. We told them that Jesus taught us that we should love our enemies, and that we should forgive them for what they did. That is what we did. The cycle of killing and revenge needs to be broken among the Suri. It can only be done by the heart changing power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by forgiving and being forgiven. Service of Thanksgiving: When we got back to Tulegit, hundreds of people gathered in the church. It was to be a time of thanksgiving and praise, sharing testimonies of what God has done. The junior choir sang a song which says, "Where would we be if Jesus had not died for us?" Psalm 23 was read and the story was told again of how God was with us through the valley of the shadow of death. Other testimonies followed. With tears, a government leader on behalf of all the Suri asked for forgiveness. Our Suri MP gave a speech. Ngakochi, an elder in the church, shared how God was with us in 1983 while we were being held hostage in Boma, South Sudan, and how the same God was watching over us as we passed through the valley of the shadow of death. The sevice ended with a prayer and the choir singing, "The Walls of Jericho Fell Down." Day of Great Joy: After a goat roast, we headed overland back to Addis. Passing through the town of Tum, I stopped beside the house of Aster who lived along the road. Aster had worked for many years with Gwen as a midwife. I still remember the day she came forward to receive Jesus as her Savior. Before that day she would wake up every morning wondering where her next drink was coming from. On that day her addiction was broken and she literally was 'born again'. I honked the horn outside her house as I always did. She came running out from behind her house, wailing and mourning, beating her chest with her hands. She fell to her knees pounding the ground with her fist in sorrow. I shouted at her, "Aster! Aster! This isn't a day of sorrow. Stop your crying! Gwen is alive. This is a day of great rejoicing." After looking at a recent picture of Gwen in a wheel chair, she began to make the Ethiopian joy cry, thanking God that we were alive. Twice along the road to Addis we were stopped by police thinking our van was a taxi. Both times the police wanted to know what had happened to us when they found out who was in the car. Twice when we stopped to fill up with fuel, people gathered around the car wanting to hear the story. Each time we told the story saving glory to God for his goodness and mercy on us. THANK YOU!!: Gwen and I are deeply grateful to each of you who have prayed and shared with us in this pilgrimage. It will be a pilgrimage of two or three years before Gwen is completely free of any more surgeries. We echo the words of Paul in Acts 20:24 "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

Together in His Service, The Haspels

December - our congregation in action



Prayer Families for December

7- Marlene Downs, Marv & Lorraine Edmunds, Glenn Ellis, Jerry &

Marilyn Erickson, Audrey Fenton, Mel & Laurenda Finken & family

14 - Carlotta Fox, Tim & Anne Fuchtman & family, Anita Gell, Jim & Linda Geusebroek, Kristen Geusebroek, Andy & Sue Gottsch & family

21 - Zach Gould, Fran Graham, Bill & Shannon Graves & family, Betty Grieve, Bill & Mary Hall, Lori Hansen & family

28 - Brian & Tina Hansen & family, Keith & Eileen Hansen & family, Lyall Hansen, Paul Hansen, Robert & Connie Hansen, Leo & Fran Harris

Ushers ...



24- Gerald* & Marilyn Erickson, Dick Pruehs, Sheryl Collins

7– Bob Ross*, Bob
Davis, Richard Delfs,
Josh Hicklin **28 -** Skip Trout*, Tom
Braddy*, Audrey Fenton,
Mary Michell

14 - Gary* & Mary Kay Wood, Bob & Vina Rodecker

21 - Gary* & Karen* Lien, Helen Lehnertz, Cliff Huseman

7- Gerald Erickson

14 - Clifford Huseman

21 - Bob Davis

28 - Merlin Berkenpas



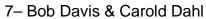
Communion Servers



7- Carlotta Fox, Becky Paulsen Audrey Fenton, Karen Juhl

24 - Sherry Collins, Dick Pruehs

Offering Counters



14 - Gary Wood & Marv Edmunds

21 - Elgerd Arnett & Gerald Erickson

28 - Mary Michell & Karen Lien

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

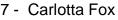


7 -Marterians

14 - Choir

21 - Tom & Dawn Braddy

†Greeters



14 - Angie Irwin

21 - Marilyn Blatchford

24 - Allen & Eleanor Tasker

28 - Bob & Janet Ross



COFFEE SERVERS

10:30 a.m before Worship

7 - Merlin & Peggy Berkenpas

14 - Bob & Vina Rodecker

21 - Kelly Berkenpas & Sherry Koehler

28 -



FLOWER DELIVERIES



14 - Elizabeth Boyer

21 - Sherry Collins & Rhonda Henry

28 - Audrey Fenton





- 2 Emily Hicklin lone Morgan
- 3 Merlin Berkenpas
- 4 Ella Kay Berkenpas 5 - Kathy Becker
- Lauren Osborn Gary Wood
- 9 Eileen Hansen

- 10 Elgerd Arnett
- 12 Diana Hack Peggy Reid
- 13 Coen Whipple
- 14 Lorraine Edmunds Kristen Geusebroek
- 18 Elaine Anderson
- 19 Robert Collins
- 20 Josh Hicklin
- 22 Brady Berkenpas Brian Hansen
- 23 Helen Lehnertz
- 27 David Dahl Aiden Hicklin
- 29 Linda Amman
- 30 Leo Harris
- 31 Roger Bobolz





20 - Bob & Vina Rodecker 28 - Dick & Marcia Pruehs

If you have a new phone number, have moved or have an email address you would like included in the directory, please call the church office at 712-276-3121 with that information.

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* Upcoming Events	米
*	米
Dec 2 - Angelus Dec 6 - Scout Chili Feed	米
Dec 21 - Living Nativity	米
Dec 24 - Office closed at noon Dec 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!	米
★ Office closed	米
Dec 26 - Annual Reports due Dec 31 - Office closed at noon	米
★ Jan 1 - Happy New Year - office closed	米
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Acceptance

Al-Anon

7:00 pm Scouts



2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6:30 am Study 8:30 am Men's Club 10 am Weight Watchers		8:00 & 9:30 am Weight Watchers
				4 pm Music Lessons 7:00 pm Deacons	8 pm Morningside Fellowship AA 8pm	

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 Quilting Group 6:30 Cub Scouts	2 4:00 Music lessons 6:00 Angelus	3 10:00 Rebecca Circle 12:15 Weight Watch	4 6:30 AM Study 8:30 Men's Club 10:00 Weight Watch	5	6 8:00 & 9:30 Weight Watchers 12-8 Scout Chili Feed
			4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 Gambler's Anon	4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 Deacons	8:00 pm Morningside Fellowship AA 8:00 pm Acceptance Al-Anon	Simi recu
7 9:00 Sunday School Worship Service 10:30 am	8 9:00 Quilting Group	9 9:00 Library Committee 4:00 Music	10 9:00 am Card Making 12:15 Weight Watch	11 6:30 AM Study 8:30 Men's Club 9:30 Esther Bible Study	12	13 8:00 & 9:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 pm Steel Magnolia AA 8:00 Big Book Study Open AA	6:30 Cub Scouts	lessons 7:00 Doll Club 7:00 Scout Committee Mtg	4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 Gambler's Anon	10:00 Weight Watch 4:00 pm Music lessons	8:00 pm Morningside Fellowship AA 8:00 pm Acceptance Al-Anon	
14 9:00 Sunday School Worship Service 10:30 am	15 9:00 Quilting Group	16 2:00 Book Club	17 VISITOR DEADLINE 12:15 Weight Watch	18 6:30 AM Study 8:30 Men's Club 10:00 Weight Watch	19	20 8:00 & 9:30 Weight Watchers
7:00 pm Steel Magnolia AA 8:00 Big Book Study Open AA	6:30 Cub Scouts	4:00 Music lessons 7:00 Committees 7:30 Session	4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 Gambler's Anon	4:00 pm Music lessons	8:00 pm Morningside Fellowship AA 8:00 pm Acceptance Al-Anon	
21 9:00 Sunday School Worship Service 10:30 am	22 9:00 Quilting Group	23 9:00 Library Committee 4:00 Music	24 Christmas Eve 12:15 Weight Watch	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26	27 8:00 & 9:30 Weight Watchers
5:30-7 pm Living Nativity 7:00 pm Steel Magnolia AA 8:00 Big Book Study Open AA	lessons 6:00 pm Fun & Fellowship	4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Gambler's Anon		8:00 pm Morningside Fellowship AA 8:00 pm Acceptance Al-Anon		
28 9:00 Sunday School Worship Service 10:30 am	29 9:00 Quilting Group	30 9:00 Library Committee 4:00 Music lessons	31 12:15 Weight Watch			
7:00 pm Steel Magnolia AA 8:00 Big Book Study Open AA		6:00 pm Fun & Fellowship	4:00 pm Music lessons 7:00 Gambler's Anon			

Morningside Presbyterian Church

4327 Morningside Avenue Sioux City, Iowa 51106

Phone: 712-276-3121

E-Mail (Pastor): mpcscia@msn.com E-Mail (Secretary): mpcsciasec@msn.com Website: www.morningsidepres.com

We're also on Facebook



Sunday Services

9:00 Library Open 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm



BOARD OF DEACONS

Elgerd Arnett Audrey Fenton Marlyn Arnett Rhonda Henry Merlin Berkenpas Sherry Koehler Peggy Berkenpas Bonnie Oliver Elizabeth Boyer Stuart Oliver Sheryl Collins **Becky Trout** Carold Dahl Skip Trout Marguerite Dahl Mary Kay Wood

THE SESSION OF MORNINGSIDE PC

Clerk of Session– Connie Sponder

Dick Pruehs Jeff Arnett Kelly Berkenpas Peggy Reid Marilyn Blatchford Robert Rice Connie Sponder Dawn Braddy Shirley Watson John Daniels Gary Wood Carlotta Fox

Karen Juhl

MORNINGSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF