Ginny Dodson invites her church family and friends to help her celebrate her 75th birthday on Sunday January 6, 2019 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Skaalen Village Clubhouse.

No gifts, please. Instead, please bring a canned good or donation for the McFarland Food Pantry.

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

Anita flowers are given in honor of Sharon Thieding by Ernie Thieding.

Communion wine is given in memory of Beat Sebok by Jean Pierce.

Last week’s attendance: 386
Christmas Eve’s attendance: 944
Christmas Day’s attendance: 62
Total: 1392

This week we thank the Health & Social Wellness Committee and those who took tags from the Giving Tree to provide gifts for the McFarland Food Pantry.

I grew Disciples – Growing Faith

Epiphany Quiz – From which direction did the magi travel? (The East.) What were they following? (A star.) What did they find? (Jesus with his mother.) ------ The star pointed to Jesus; it pointed to God’s love. What points you to Jesus? What reveals God’s love to you?

Are you thinking about baptism?

MLC’s is hosting a baptismal preparation class each quarter for people who are interested in having their child baptized or getting baptized themselves.

The next class is Tuesday, January 15, 2019, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Room 210. Contact either the church office or Pastor Tim to sign up (RSVP is required so sufficient childcare can be arranged.)

Pastor Kelli will be on vacation the weekend of December 29 & 30. She will be back in the office on Monday, Dec 31. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COMING: BETHEL SERIES

Wednesday evenings
7:30 - 8:45 pm
January 9 – May 22

Teacher: Pastor Jerry Pribbenow

For 60 years this congregation has been enriched through the Bethel Series. It will give you a “total picture” view of the Bible and will impact your life in unexpected ways. The returns on your “time invested” will be worth it! Discover for yourself why people are so enthusiastic and grateful for this study. Questions or Register - see Huldah Ellestad
New Financial Peace University Class in January 2019

The Stewardship Committee is again offering a 9-week class on managing finances with materials provided by Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU). This is a DVD-led class, and will be coordinated by MLC member Joe D’Amato. The class will begin on Sunday, Jan. 20, 11:15-12:45 p.m., in the office conference room (210). Child care will be provided. The Stewardship team is subsidizing the cost of the materials, so the cost per family unit will be $100. There is a sign-up sheet in the Great Hallway.

A family in last year’s FPU class has this testimonial to share about the experience: “We live in a culture that embraces personal debt – credit cards, student loans, car loans, mortgage payments, medical bills – as a given. Dave Ramsey and the Financial Peace University course let us know there’s a better way.

“With a simple step-by-step approach, Dave Ramsey’s approach has helped us payoff over $80k in debt in the last 16 months. Both individually and as a married couple, we better understand the psychology of money. Together are building a brighter future for our family.

“The program helps a variety of people. It will help a single person. It will help a married person. Anyone can jump in and benefit at any point in their life. For a person who can’t cover an emergency greater than $500, there are steps you can take to improve your situation. If you have children and need to plan for their education and your retirement, this program will help you move forward. If you are nearing retirement, this program will help you organize your budget for the next chapter of your life.

“Don’t hesitate. Don’t delay. Sign up, bring an open mind, and be ready for God to work on your heart and mind through his program.

Contact Joe D’Amato or another member of Stewardship Committee (Sarah Schutt, Steve Schoch, Carri Wolff, or Pastor Tim) if you are interested or have questions.