

# Local 9/11 service aims to honor and look forward

Mary Garrigan Journal Staff

Just as they did in the days immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, area churches will offer prayers and special services tomorrow to mark the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The special Sunday liturgies will acknowledge the past, honor today's emergency responders and look toward the future, pastors said.



(left) Mathew Clutter, left, Trent Counsellor, Caleb Brink, and Matt Albrecht follow along during a clapping activity to learn how to keep the beat of a song with the Worship Arts Academy group at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 7, 2011. (Kristina Barker/Journal staff)

Some churches will ring bells and others will hand out red bandanas to mark the day. St. James Episcopal in Belle Fourche, like others all across the United States, will ring its church bells at 1 p.m.

At First Presbyterian Church, 710 Kansas City St., director of worship arts Thomas Vozzella said he will use music and prayer to acknowledge the losses of the past, but also move forward in a post-9/11 world. Vozzella has planned a special 9 a.m. Service of Remembrance – 9/11: Looking Forward.

“Throughout our nation’s history, times of remembrance have been offered to acknowledge tragedies we have experienced as a nation,” Vozzella said.

But Sunday’s anniversary of “the most horrific attack on America by Al-Qaida terrorists” is also a time to look to the future, he said, and First Presbyterian plans to do that with patriotic choral and instrumental music, including a personal touch by Rapid City’s premier violinist, Kenny Putnam.

“We’re going forward,” he said. “A lot of people are showing the death video, but we’re celebrating the new memorial, and our music focuses on that.”



Patriotic favorites will be performed, including Celine Dion’s version of “God Bless America,” sung by Cathy Vozzella. Other music includes “Fanfare for the Common Man” by Aaron Copland and variations on “America” by Charles Ives.

(left) Ashley Vozzella follows along during a clapping activity to learn how to keep the beat to a song during a Worship Arts Academy class at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 7, 2011. (Kristina Barker/Journal staff)