

Multnomah Announcer

Monthly Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 246-5459 www.MultPresChurch.org

Volume 47, Number 3

March 2022

From the Pastor...

Dear MPC Family,

Wednesday, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. The season of Lent is marked by repentance: a turning from sin and a turning toward a loving, compassionate God. As we step into this season and prepare for the bright light of Easter, I would encourage all of us to consider how we might grow deeper in relationship to Christ and one another. Here are a few ways to connect at MPC during Lent:

Worship: It's the heartbeat of Christian community. Worship is not merely something we do, but it's an expression of who God created us to be. On March 6th, we're kicking off a *new sermon series* titled: "*The Lord is My Shepherd: A Journey Through the 23rd Psalm.*" I hope you can join us on Sunday mornings. If you have been thinking about returning to in-person worship, Lent is a great time to re-engage. We would love to see you!

Community: I'm very excited about a new initiative at Multnomah that we're calling *Church Outside the Sanctuary*. Simply put, we want to create opportunities for relationships to be built and formed, for God has designed us to do life *together*. On March 6th after Sunday worship (12-1PM), all are welcome to join us at the BG Food Cartel in Beaverton. Come grab lunch from your favorite food truck, and enjoy some fellowship with the MPC family! We are hoping these types of gatherings will be a regular part of our life together. Stay tuned.



Spiritual Growth: If you were in worship on February 27th, you may have heard me talk about a new resource called RightNow Media. Our church has secured a subscription to RightNow Media, which means that you can access thousands of bible studies, devotionals, and small group resources. You should have received an email inviting you to make an account. I would encourage you to make an account, download the app if you can, and make use of this **free** resource. It is a great way to grow deeper in our knowledge of God and His Word. Additionally, our Adult Sunday School ministry will be doing a study of Psalm 23 using RightNow Media. Join us, Sundays at 9:30AM starting March 6th!



Mission: Neighborhood House, one of our long-time mission partners, is currently in the midst of their SW Hope campaign. See the Missions article for some great ways to support this amazing organization!

Yours in Jesus,

-Pastor Danny Peters



Deacon News for You

In the past, we have held a "Meet Your Deacon" event after worship service. Due to COVID, we are not able to do that (again) this year. Instead, we thought you could get to know your Deacon through an article each month in the Announcer.

This month, we are going to spotlight Jaonna Morgan who has been a Deacon on and off for eight years.

Jaonna was born in Great Falls MT, has lived in Colorado Springs, Lakeside MT, Naha Okinawa, then moved back to Great Falls, all before the age of 18. She moved to Oregon after graduating high school. She and her husband Clay live in Tualatin, have two daughters (Leah & Tracey) and one cat named Willow. Jaonna has worked as an Office Manager & Accounts Receivable person at a wholesale distribution center for the past 18 1/2 years.

When asked about her best vacation, she reminisced about a family reunion outside of West Glacier in 2006: "It was the last time my whole family was together including our girls. After the reunion we stayed in Glacier park for a few more days. So beautiful."

Some of her adventures include parasailing, climbing Diamond Head, white water rafting in Idaho & central Oregon, snorkeling in Hawaii, horse back riding in Glacier Park, traveling to Alaska, a mission trip to Baja, watching alligators in Florida, and enjoying Disneyland.

In the future, she still wants to see the Grand Canyon and experience more of our beautiful country.

When asked about something she has done in her life that she is proud of or makes her very happy, she replied "Married my husband Clay, best decision ever!" Jaonna and Clay have been members of our MPC family for 24 years.

A thought to take with you: Take a look at the flowers and plants blooming around you. They didn't worry their way to awesomeness. And you can't either. God cares about you, so let Him carry your worries and fears (1 Peter 5:7). Whether it's a long walk on a sunny day or splashing through puddles during an unexpected shower, soak up the blessings of spring. Let the sights, sounds and smells of a new season bring to life something new within you.

Janet Lowrey (co-moderator)

Dave Tomastik (co-moderator)



Blessings



Our Deacons are still collecting "Blessings from within our church" each month. If you would like to share your blessings, please send them to Janet Lowrey, Dave Tomastik, or your own Deacon. Thanks.

Our Blessings this month are:

Janet Lowrey shared that her cousin Cynthia has made it through surgery successfully.

Dave T shared that he and Courtney are blessed to start enjoying retirement.



Buildings & Grounds Update

Things have been quiet around the church and Open Door from the maintenance perspective. Ongoing minor repairs and maintenance of the landscaping continues with help from several volunteers.

Audio/Video Booth Expansion

The live streaming of church services continues to be a very important tool for getting MPC's message out to those who are unable to attend services in person. Since we first started planning for having the live stream capability over a year ago, we started recognizing limitations we may face with the existing AV booth to accommodate both people and new equipment. With social distancing guidelines for COVID, this further complicated the situation. Space to accommodate three people to run the various pieces of equipment made it difficult to find space to bring additional people in to provide training for new people. As the result, the decision was made to expand the space for the AV operations. A new area was added in front of the existing AV booth to move the operation of the sanctuary video presentations into. Karen Black has appropriately named this new addition the "AV Annex".

If anyone is interested in learning more about what it takes to put a live stream together and see all the equipment involved, please feel free to stop by the AV Booth and Annex after any church service or contact Dennis Zerba. We are always looking for new people to help with the live streaming so if you may have an interest in volunteering to help please contact Ray McKean.



Missions Ministry

It's time again for SW Hope: Feed The Hungry, the campaign to keep the food pantry at Neighborhood House – the largest food pantry on the west side of Portland – stocked for the next few months. MPC is partnering with dozens of other faith communities and businesses to help food insecure households right here in the neighborhoods surrounding our church. Neighborhood House provides free food to more than 1400 individuals each month, with both deliveries and in-person shopping, and providing special items for those with dietary restrictions and specific cultural needs. Their goal this year is \$70,000, or the equivalent in pounds of food, up significantly from years past due to increased need and price inflation. Right now one in four households in Oregon are food insecure. The food pantry at Neighborhood House helps these households to not have to worry about choosing between food and utilities or rent.

If you would like to help, you can donate by check in the offering basket (please make the check out to “Neighborhood House”, with “SW Hope” in the memo line), with cash in an envelope marked for SW Hope, or online at this webpage: <https://nhpdx.org/swhope-donate>. MPC's goal is to raise \$2000 dollars. Due to a deal with the Oregon Food Bank, Neighborhood House can turn each dollar into four pounds of food. For this reason, cash donation are preferred. But we will also be collecting canned and non-perishable foods in the red bin in the Fellowship Hall. A list of most-needed items is available here: <https://nhpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/most-needed-items-list-updated-2.7.22.pdf>. And keep an eye out for printouts of this list at the Welcome Counter.

In addition to donating, you can help Neighborhood House by participating in the SW Hope Events:

- Tuesday March 1st - Dine-Out-To-Donate at Yalla
 - Friday March 4th, 4:30pm - SW Hope kickoff concert outside Neighborhood House
 - Monday March 7th - Dine-Out-To-Donate at Mediterranean Exploration Company
 - Monday March 14th - Dine-Out-To-Donate at Lil' Shalom
 - Wednesday March 23rd - Dine-Out-To-Donate at Salvador Molly's
 - Monday March 28th - Dine-Out-To-Donate at Shalom Y'all
 - Friday April 1, 5pm - Empty Bowls
 - Saturday April 2 10am-2pm - Drive-through food/cash donations outside Neighborhood House
- Saturday April 9 - SW Hope 5k at Oregon Episcopal School

10% of proceeds from Dine-Out-To-Donate goes to SW Hope. More information about these other events as well as donation hours at Neighborhood House is available on the SW Hope website: <https://nhpdx.org/sw-hope/>. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for further details about MPC's participation in these events!



Finance and Administration Update

F&A Committee met on February 15th, 2022 to review the financial reports and discuss a number of agenda items as outlined below. Budget performance for the first month of 2202 is positive as outlined below.

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 33,227	\$ 33,227
Expenses	\$ 26,832	\$ 26,832
Net	\$ 6,394	\$ 6,394

We are off to a great start in 2022 and look forward to re-starting a number of programs as Spring arrives and pandemics fade.

May God Bless and remember that our hope is in Christ,

Your Finance and Administration Committee

Quilters

HELP WANTED:

The Quilters are searching for non-sewers who would like to help us. Sewing is not a requirement for the following activities:

IRONING

MATCHING BACKS TO TOPS

TYING QUILTS

CONSTRUCTION OF LABELS

CUTTING SQUARES FOR QUILT DESIGNS

There is still a need for traumatized children to have a comfort quilt!! New babies and shut ins also benefit!!!

We meet on Mondays from 1-3 pm on the lower level of the Church, but you can work from home for several of the jobs. Fun time with lovely ladies. Men welcome also!!!

We have lost several members over the 20 years which Quilters have been doing our mission.

Thanks for your consideration!! If you think of anyone who might be interested, please let us know!!

Priscilla Downing

Jackie Magnusson

Claudia Zerba

Darlene Higgenbottom

Caroline Brandt



Prayer



You're invited to call or email the church with any prayer requests you have and they will be forwarded on to the Prayer Team who is continuing to meet via Zoom each Tuesday evening.

Please keep those who can't make it to church each Sunday in your prayers:

Maxine Shuler

Session Notes

At the February meeting, Session:

- Authorized the Mission Ministry to collect monetary funds and goods for Neighborhood House S. W. Hope Campaign from Monday, February 28 through Sunday, April 10, 2022. The fund raising goal for MPC is \$2,000.
- Elected Michael Anderson to be Elder Commissioner for MPC at the Presbytery Meeting on March 11-12, 2021.

Music News

Choir and Marimbas have started up again. If you would like to join in the fun of either ministry, please contact Ray McKean at ray.mckean4@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women

March is often: *"In like a lion, out like a lamb."* Let's hope that the omicron variant will be the same way and that we can soon meet in person. (We were hoping the same thing one year ago!)

In the meantime, let's keep on caring for each other and thanking God for our many blessings.



Church Outside the Sanctuary

We want to create opportunities for us to both get to know one another at MPC, but also to invite others to come and see what this faith thing and Jesus are all about. To do that we want to bring opportunities for having fun and doing service activities together both in and outside of the church. We need your help in creating opportunities we are calling Gather Ups. These can be anything from inviting others to go on a hike or paddle with you, inviting people on a trip to a favorite museum, monthly gatherings for lunch after church, and game nights and things once it's safe to be inside together. Basically low planning, low stress times to get together around common interests and that also might be fun to invite a friend to. We will be organizing some with the missions, outreach and CE committees also.

Our first event will be for lunch, Sunday March 6th at the BG Food Cartel, food cart pods in Beaverton. They have a large covered space and plenty of other outdoor seating as well as carts to fit any dietary need. You can check them out at <https://bgfoodcartel.com> We will meet you there around noon on Sunday 3/6. If you have a Gather Up you would like to facilitate, please email the church at info@multpreschurch.org, or talk to Heather.





Alaska Mission Auction

The Alaska Mission is back, we say with hope and optimism, and that means the auction is back. We are putting together a team of youth and adults to return to Skagway for a full week of programming in the community. We will have VBS and youth groups. Last year a small team of college students and adults went to reconnect and bring encouragement and our host at First Presbyterian Church of Skagway provided most of the funding, as we could not hold our fundraiser. We are happy to bring this opportunity for our church to partner with Skagway back to MPC and will hold our auction on **Sunday May 1st**; we are planning to have a lunch but what that looks like will be determined by Covid restrictions in May. If you have anything you would like to donate to our auction, please contact Heather Hellman.

Return to Weekly Children's Sunday School

We are so excited to offer in person Sunday School for kids in kindergarten through 5th grade again! After the children's lesson video kids will be dismissed to go to Sunday school downstairs in rooms 107-108. We will have a lesson time together and then have stations set up around the room for kids to pick from play and art opportunities. We will require masks to be worn while the local school districts still require them, and we will make efforts to maintain social distancing and room ventilation. We will probably go outside from time to time to run around in "the barn" too, so send them downstairs with a coat.

Youth Group for Middle and High School

Youth group is still happening in person in our well ventilated gym at the Open Door Wednesday nights at 7pm. We wear masks and will continue to do so while the school districts require them.

Good News Tues is actually on Mondays

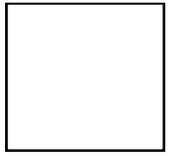
Our 2nd-5th grade youth group meets on Mondays; this month we will meet on the **14th** so we don't overlap with spring break. We will gather at the Open Door at **6:30pm**.

Vacation Bible School

This year VBS will be **June 20-24 from 3pm-6pm** for kids who have completed a year of preschool through those who will have completed 5th grade. The theme of our curriculum created by youth and kids at MPC is Australian Animals; we will be looking to them to teach us about Jesus. Students will move through story, art, outside games, music and science stations. Registration is online, you can email the church for a link. We are limiting class sizes to ensure social distancing will be possible. If masks are required by local school districts through the end of the year, we will require masks while indoors.

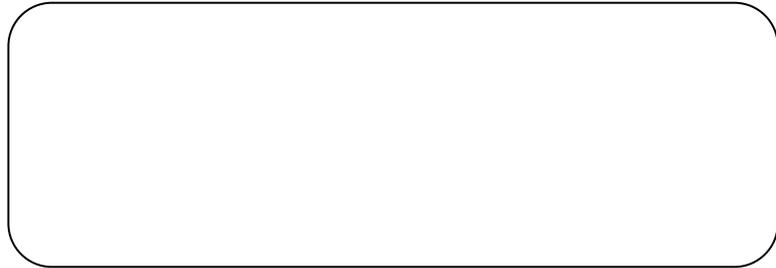
- 2 Marion Potthoff
- 4 Jenifer Aberle
Anne Braun
- 7 David Gassaway
Kelly Kindrick
- 8 Joshua Peters
- 9 Victoria Kerwood
- 11 Courtney Tomastik
- 14 Ralph Loomis
David McKean
- 18 Kate Eyberg
- 19 Greg Snook
- 21 Sammy Morehouse
Jacquelyn Ulum
- 23 Matthew McKenzie
Joyce Bradshaw
Joy Hall
- 27 Ashley Gannett
Danny Peters
Dan Williams
- 28 Tom Agosti
Barbara Stavig-Doane
- 29 Carol Hendricks
- 30 Christie Plame





7555 SW 45th Ave.
Portland, OR 97219-1516

**Return Service Requested
Dated Material
Please Do Not Delay**



**Our Mission Statement:
Loved by Christ, we love. Served by Christ, we serve.
Invited by Christ, we go, inviting others to Him.**

March Announcer

Alaska Mission Auction	7
Birthdays in March	7
Blessings	2
Building and Grounds Update	3
Children's Sunday School	7
Church Outside the Sanctuary	6
Deacon News for You	2
Finance & Administration Update	5
From the Pastor	1
Good News Tues (Mon)	7
Missions Ministry	4
Music News	6
Prayer & Prayer Team	6
Presbyterian Women	6
Quilters	5
Remember Our Shut-ins	6
Session Notes	6
Vacation Bible School	7
Youth News	7

