

VOL. 50 ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2025

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church
7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219
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MultPresChurch.org



INSISTING ON HOPE

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear."

Our Advent series, ***What Do You Fear? Insisting On Hope This Advent*** by A Sanctified Art, takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. Together we'll experience art and reflections which look closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invite us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

As we journey through this season, may our hope become gritty and resilient. May we remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.



A Sanctified Art

Sundays at MPC

Worship with us at 10:30am
in-person or via our Youtube Channel

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, December 7th
Communion

When We're Running Out
of Hope, God Is at Work

Sunday, December 14th
Coffeehouse Concert

Sunday, December 21st
**When You're Afraid,
Give Me Your Hand**

Wed, December 24th
Christmas Eve ~ 7pm

Sunday, December 28th
**Carol Sing & Potluck
at St. Andrew's ~ 10am
(No Worship at MPC)**



Upcoming Events

Candlelight Vigil at ICE
December 1

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, December 5 & 19

Advent Piano Concert
December 3 @ Noon

Red Cross Blood Drive
December 5

Mult Village Holiday Gala
December 5 ~ 5-8pm

Christmas Coffeehouse
December 12 @ 7:30pm
December 14 @ 10:30am

Dove Preschool Pageant
December 18 @ 6:30pm

Holiday Youth Event
December 20 @ 4pm

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 @ 7pm

Carol Sing & Potluck
December 28 @ 10am
3228 SW Sunset Blvd. 97239



Please join music director Ray McKean for a noontime concert on **December 3rd** celebrating the songs of the season! Ray will be presenting an eclectic mix of holiday favorites, arranged by some of the best sacred music composers today.

The concert is free and open to the public, and we will be accepting donations of new stuffed toys for **Project Lemonade**. Please invite friends and family to join in this holiday cheer!

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We will meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **December 5th & 19th** for a light breakfast of beverages, cereals, and pastries, along with a time of general fellowship and discussion. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba.

WOMEN'S PICKLEBALL GROUP

Inviting all women who are curious about the pickleball craze to come join the fun— No experience necessary! These sessions are about having fun in a low-stress environment. Come expecting to laugh & make mistakes while getting to know each other a little better.

Sign up at <https://forms.gle/x67sMYSFiayVzjhH8> to attend a Saturday session, and feel free to email Fran Barth for more information.

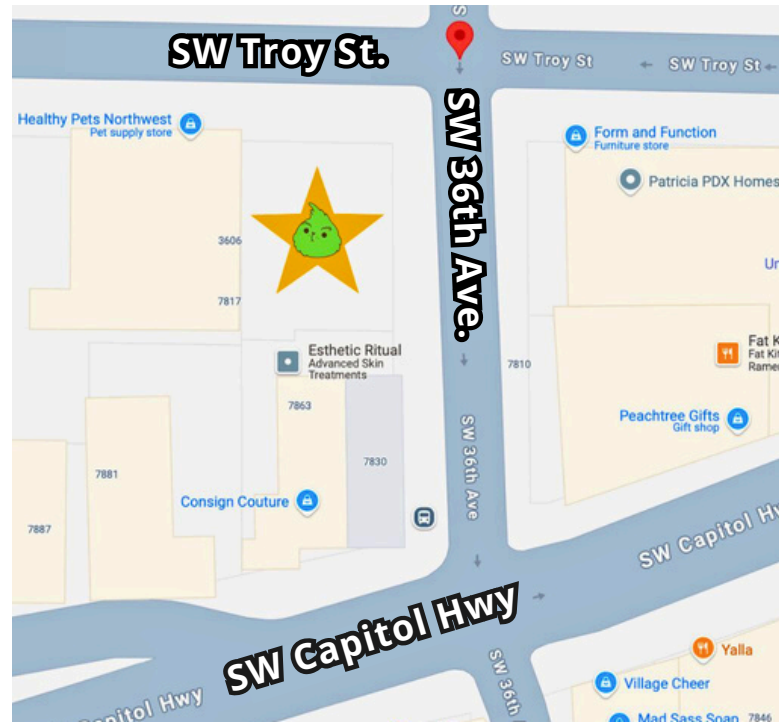




WHOVILLE AT MULTNOMAH VILLAGE'S HOLIDAY GALA

Join us **December 5th from 5-8pm** at the Holiday Gala in Multnomah Village. If you would like to help set up, we will be at SW Troy and 36th from 3-5pm setting up our Whoville, where our own Grinch will be taking photos with families (5:30-7:30). There we'll hand out goodie bags with invitations to our Christmas Coffeehouse Concert, we'll provide some live instrumental music, and we will be helping brighten the spirits of our neighbors.

This is part of our ongoing relationship with the Multnomah Village Neighborhood Association, which has brought us some great opportunities to partner with our community.



CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT

Angel Gabriel has called a gathering of the Heavenly Hosts. Harold, the new music director for the angelic choir and orchestra, is working on the big program to celebrate the birth of Jesus and is calling on all the talented angels to help him find just the right music for the big day! Join us for this festive time of music, laughter, coffee and cupcakes!

We will be accepting donations of either cash or new stuffed toys to support the foster youth program, **Project Lemonade**. The concert is **Friday, Dec. 12th at 7:30pm**, with an encore performance **Sunday, Dec. 14th at 10:30am**, both here at MPC.

Come, invite a friend or two, and join in!





YOUTH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 7:00-9:00pm

GOOD NEWS TUES CHRISTMAS PARTY (Grades 2-5)

Tuesday, December 16th 6:00-7:30pm

Our younger youth group will celebrate Christmas together at the Open Door with dinner, games, art, and more!

YOUTH GROUP HOLIDAY SHOWDOWN

This year we are going to have an epic holiday competition with a series of Christmas games including a mall scavenger hunt. **Saturday, December 20th from 4-10pm**, drop off and pick up are at the Open Door. Scan the QR code for more details and to sign up.

COMING IN JANUARY- DONUTS AND GAMES

Starting in January, all youth are invited to come to church on Sundays at 9am, meeting at the Open Door for donuts & board games before the worship service. We encourage you to stick around for worship too. More details coming soon.

MISSIONS

Bring in new stuffed animals for **Project Lemonade** from now through the Christmas Coffeehouse Concert on December 14th. Please place in the marked boxes in the Fellowship Hall. Project Lemonade inspires self-esteem to help youth in foster care thrive. Monetary donations can also be made online at <https://www.projectlemonadepdx.org/donate>.

Help prepare and serve more meals at the Eastside Esplanade with **HOMEpdx** on **Sunday, January 4th**. Contact Jenifer Aberle, Lisa Shelley, or anyone on the Mission Team if you would like to participate.

In November the Mission Team purchased \$1000 worth of coats for **NW Children's Outreach**. Grocery gift cards were also donated to our neighbors at **Stephens Creek Crossing Apartments**. Budgeted funds were also used to donate \$1550 to **World Vision**.

The Christmas Eve Offering will support ICE detainees and their families.





DOVE PRESCHOOL

Dove Christian Preschool has been serving families in the community since 1980. With the retirement of Barb Jones, who has been at Dove for 24 years, there were some questions as to whether Dove would continue to be a part of this outreach. Fortunately, there are people who stepped forward to serve on the Dove Preschool board with the start of the Fall 2026 school year.

The board welcomes:

- **Kathy McCourt**, who has been on the board since 2024. She previously served on the board from 2012-18. Kathy and her husband Randy have been members of MPC for over 30 years.
- **Jeanne Morehouse** was an assistant teacher at Dove from 2012-14. She left to join Elks Children's Eye Clinic. Jeanne has been a member of MPC for over 15 years.
- **Courtney Tomastik** was an assistant teacher for Dove from 2007-11. She was also the Office Manager for MPC. She and her husband Dave have been members of MPC for over 20 years.
- **Teri Price** was an assistant teacher at Dove from 2014-2020. Teri moved to Idaho, but is now back in Portland.
- **Barb Jones**, who is happy to volunteer with these amazing people to help Dove continue its success in our community.

Dove will now begin the process of hiring a new Head Teacher for Fall 2026. We thank you for your prayers as we begin this next step.

The kids at Dove had a great time in November learning about thankfulness through stories like the lost sheep and the lost coin. The families also donated over 100 pounds of food to Neighborhood House, joyfully sharing with their community. They had a week off for Thanksgiving break, enjoying time with their families. The kids also started learning the songs for the annual Christmas program. The program will be held on **December 18, 6:30 pm**. You are welcome to attend the cutest and best preschool Christmas program in Portland. We're excited to learn all about baby Jesus, and share this special story with family and friends. Dove will be on Christmas break starting December 22, and will return on January 5.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM DOVE KIDS, TEACHERS & BOARD



December Birthdays

- 5 Sam Jones
- 6 Elise Soumokil
- 7 Mike Clopton
Gene Meyer
- 11 Amy McKean
- 13 Ratna Pattison
- 15 Howard Hermanson
- 17 Tommy Barth
- 18 Niko Aberle
Daniel Eyberg
- 22 Hank Downing
- 23 Gary Miillé
- 24 Eve Cayton
- 28 Dave Johnson

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

It appears the community, including MPC, has really stepped up to support the Neighborhood House Food Pantry. They have been overwhelmed with food donations, so much so that they have to load donations on to pallets to store elsewhere. The labor to check expiration dates and sort it all takes a lot of time. So to help them out, they encourage people to donate money. This way, they can get what they need, not have to check dates, and manage crates of goods rather than individual cans. They can also purchase wholesale. We appreciate everyone stepping up to help out the community.

The Deacons hope to see many of our district families at the Coffeehouse Christmas concert on December 12 (evening) or December 14 during regular church hours. If you can be there, be sure and find your Deacon and say hello.

We wish everyone at MPC a warm, happy and very blessed Christmas!

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Here's an update on our financials through October.

	October	Year to Date
Income	\$ 15,710	\$ 224,665
Expenses	\$ 22,550	\$ 244,165
Net	- \$ 6,840	- \$ 19,500

Please turn in your 2026 Pledge Cards by **December 7th**, so we can start to finalize next year's budget.

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

December 7th

Matthew 11:1-11
Isaiah 43:19-21

December 14th

Luke 1:26-39
Jeremiah 1:4-10

December 21st

Matthew 1:18-25
Isaiah 41:5-10

December 24th

Luke 2:1-20

December 28th

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



PRAYER

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS TREE

The tree in the back of the sanctuary, near the lion and lamb stained glass, is our Blue Christmas Tree. It is a place to put ornaments for those whom we have lost, but who we still carry with us always. You are welcome to bring an ornament to place on the tree, or write on one of the ornaments available in the basket near the tree, to honor the loved ones who are no longer with us.

MINISTERING TO EACH OTHER

Our church family includes several "homebound" individuals – those who now have temporary or permanent limitations reducing their involvement in the church. When our homebound congregants are unable to come to church, we can take the church to them through prayers, visits, rides to church, and letters. Please inform the deacons as you become aware of someone who is homebound.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 6PM

We invite you to join us in a non-violent, peaceful gathering of faith communities, neighbors, and friends to stand against injustice. We will hold space for our grief and weariness as we look for hope in each other and God's love and presence.

We'll meet at **Elizabeth Caruthers Park** at 6pm, go over some rules and basics, then move to the ICE facility at 6:15. Battery-operated candles are encouraged. Please scan the QR code for more details.



Blessings From Within Our Church

Praise for a fun and successful Westside Dinner, and for all the volunteers

Praise for all the volunteers working so hard to get ready for the Christmas Coffeehouse

Praise for Ray McKean & his musical talents that he shares with so many

If you would like to share your blessings, you are welcome to send them to Barb Jones, or your own Deacon



SESSION UPDATE

Session met on November 25th for its monthly meeting. In addition to usual business, Session heard updates on the trail easement, the parish associate position (more information below), and Dove Christian Preschool.

All agreements related to the trail that passes through the church's property have been finalized. This includes an easement agreement with the city of Portland and an agreement with the organization **SWTrails PDX**, which will maintain the trail. Thank you, Randy McCourt, for spearheading this effort, which will protect both pedestrians and MPC! (Read more on page 9)

Dove Christian Preschool has been seeking volunteers to fill out its board for the 2026-2027 school year. The needed volunteers have been found and the board is moving forward with seeking a teacher.

Communion was served on November 2 and will be served on December 7.

Session heard ministry team reports and is excited about the many events that are coming up in December.

PERSONNEL

ANNOUNCING REV. JEFF SIEVERT AS PARISH ASSOCIATE AT MPC

Personnel Committee, working with Session, developed a staffing model for MPC that complements our current pastor, Heather Hellman, with a parish associate. This was important for 2026 as Rev. Jennifer Ackerman is returning to her full-time work with Fuller Seminary. Jennifer will not be a stranger to MPC in the months to come, just attending a bit less frequently. A job posting for the Parish Associate was issued in October, and candidates who responded were interviewed in November. A recommendation was forwarded from Personnel to Session at the November meeting, and we are pleased to announce that Rev. Jeffrey Sievert will become MPC Parish Associate.



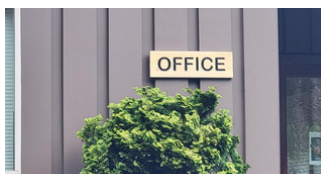
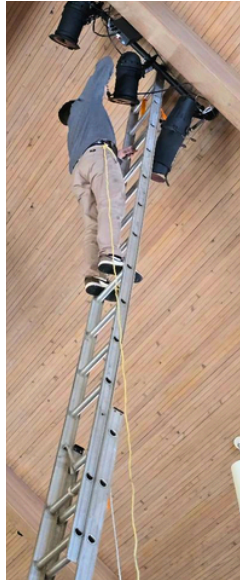
Jeff served 26 years as pastor at Reedville Presbyterian Church in Beaverton and recently as a Bridge Pastor at Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church. He has retired with his wife Lori and was looking for some part-time opportunity in his retirement transition. Jeff has a masters of divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a bachelors of arts from Whitworth University in Spokane. He provided a few Sundays of pulpit supply to MPC in 2023 as we transitioned from Rev. Danny Peters. Jeff will be joining us in January 2026, and will provide a Sunday or two of sermons each month, along with support in areas such as spiritual leadership, worship, pastoral care, and other tasks as determined by Heather and Session. More details to come as we approach his starting date.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to in the last month:

- Replaced fuse and light tube in two stage lights. Thank you to our aerial assistant, Eli.
- Bark chips were delivered, and a few were spread under the downstairs window to enhance the landscaping.
- New exterior "Sanctuary" & "Office" signs were installed on south end of the building, near office entry.
- Replacement AED pads are ordered. Training for use of an AED is being investigated.
- Carpet cleaning in sanctuary and office was scheduled, but is now on hold until after the Holidays.
- HVAC furnace inspection/service was scheduled for November 24th. An anchor point (for fall protection) was successfully installed above the Open Door furnace, which is above the pickleball court. Thank you Mike Barth & Dick Eyberg.
- The City of Portland is planning a culvert project and has been surveying our property. They plan to install a "Liner" inside the existing concrete culvert, from the East side of 45th over to the manhole, in the lower lot. They have yet to move past planning, and don't have a solid start date.



SW TRAILS AGREEMENT IN PLACE - SIGNS NEXT

MPC finalized an easement with the City of Portland on October 24th to formalize a walking route used for many years from SW Miles Court to Gabriel Park, across the MPC parking lot and down the hill. This was approved by Session in March 2025. It leans into Oregon Revised Statutes that provide immunity for liability for injury/property damage arising from public use of trails in public easements. The final step in the process was to have an agreement with SWTrails to perform maintenance on the trail, provide signs, and allow MPC to close access if maintenance is not kept up. That agreement was completed in November, so now we are all squared away allowing the community to pass through our site on walks around southwest Portland.



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.

DECEMBER ANNOUNCER

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