



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

The Outreach/Fellowship teams have chosen to recognize the **MPC Quilters** as our Volunteers of the Month!!

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

PRISCILLA DOWNING, CAROLINE BRANDT, NADINE HAYDEN, CAROL HENDRICKS, DARLENE HIGGENBOTTOM, KATHLEEN LOOMIS, JACKIE MAGNUSSON, COURTNEY TOMASTIK & CLAUDIA ZERBA!



For 21 years these very talented and dedicated women have been creating beautiful Lap Quilts. More than 3,000 Lap Quilts have been donated to Cares Northwest and Veterans, as well as, our own new babies, homebound and youth auction. This special ministry was the idea of **Betty Trowbridge**, who continued to be an active member of the group until she moved away last summer. Thank you Betty!! While several quilters have moved on over the years, their talent and contribution to this ministry lives on.



THE HOLLY AND THE IVORIES

An Advent Piano Concert Series

December 7th, 14th & 21st at Noon

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion
GUEST PREACHER: TED BUCK

Sunday, December 11th
3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18th
4th Sunday of Advent
CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Services
4:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY



Upcoming Events

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, December 2nd
Noon - 6:00pm

Cold Weather Kit Assembly
Sunday, December 4th
Following Worship

Blue Christmas Service
Tuesday, December 6th
7:00pm

The Holly and the Ivories
Piano Concert Series
December 7, 14, 21 @ Noon

Dove Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 13th
6:30pm

Christmas Coffeehouse
December 16 @ 7:30pm
December 18 @ 10:30am

Youth Holiday Overnight
Saturday, December 16th
9:00pm - 9:00am

Christmas Eve Services
Saturday, December 24th
4:00pm & 7:30pm

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Our service for those that are feeling a little conflicted about all the joy and merry of the season is on **Tuesday, December 6th, at 7pm**. If you are feeling a little disconnected from all the festivities around you because of loss, hardship, illness, anxiety...anything really, this is a service for you. We will acknowledge those things and see if we can find some hope and light in the midst of the darkness we are feeling as we look to the gift of Emmanuel through music, scripture and prayer.

This year we are also adding a blue Christmas tree which will stand in the back of the sanctuary through the whole Advent Season as we remember those we have lost, and acknowledge that the pain of that is not just confined to one night. If you would like to bring in an ornament to honor someone you have lost, you can do so at the Blue Christmas service. We also will provide ornaments you can customize that night.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year we have two services: 4pm and 7:30pm. We invite you to celebrate Christmas Eve with us and reconnect with our MPC community at either service. Both services will feature the candlelight singing of *Silent Night* at the end, and both will be full of wonderful music and worship for all ages. There will be activity bags and jingle bells for kids at both services, as well as a children's message and a sermon that are accessible for everyone. The youth marimba ensemble will be performing at 4pm, and the adult marimba ensemble will perform at 7:30, along with the ukulele group and the choir. Whether you are a regular attender, watch online, or only come once a year, we are excited to see you! And if you are feeling under the weather or out of town, you can always join with us online.



MISSIONS MINISTRY

HOME PDX LUNCH

On Sunday, October 9th a team of nine volunteers from MPC joined HOME Pdx and served a homemade lunch of spaghetti casserole, garlic bread, caesar salad, and ice cream bars to the houseless community living around the East Bank Esplanade. Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen and who helped serve! It was a great afternoon of service and face-to-face connection with those in need.



THANKSGIVING AT STEPHEN'S CREEK CROSSING

Although we were not able to provide fresh turkeys this year as we have in the past, MPC was able to donate thirty three \$30 gift cards to Fred Meyer and a note from us to the residents of the public housing community Stephen's Creek Crossing that is located very close to us, up Vermont. We also donated \$150 to help with the cost of providing Thanksgiving dinner sides that the management of Stephen's Creek Crossing is doing for the residents. We are truly blessed by the Lord to be able to support others.

KIT ASSEMBLY EVENT

On **December 4th** after the service we will assemble cold weather kits in the fellowship hall during coffee hour. The assembly of each kit will involve ribbons, a personalized Christmas card, and an array of items that we hope will lift the spirits of those in need during these cold days, so it should be a fun and festive event for all ages. There might also be Christmas cookies... Hope to see you there!

To accompany the kits, the Mission Committee is in the process of purchasing 25 Coleman sleeping bags rated to 20 degrees.

WORLD VISION

To finish out the year, the Mission Committee approved a donation of \$650 to World Vision's "Most Needed" fund.





December Birthdays

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 4 Cameron Carlson
- 5 Sam Jones
- 6 Elise Soumokil
- 7 Mike Clopton
Gene Meyer
- 9 Shannon McKenzie
- 11 Amy McKean
- 13 Ratna Pattison
- 15 Howard Hermanson
- 17 Tommy Barth
- 18 Niko Aberle
Daniel Eyberg
- 22 Hank Downing
- 23 Gary Miillé
- 24 Annette Carlson
- 28 Dave Johnson
- 29 Susan Peña
- 30 Maxine Shuler

F&A Committee met on November 15th, 2022 to review our latest financial reports and continue the budget process for 2023. Budget performances for the month of October and the first ten months of 2022 are outlined below. Heather Hellman sat in representing the staff and will do so for now until we have a permanent pastor.

	Last Month	Year to Date
Income	\$ 27,681	\$ 298,145
Expenses	<u>\$ 21,320</u>	<u>\$ 290,780</u>
Net	\$ 6,361	\$ 7,365

We ended the month with an account balance of \$ 281,780. Overall, we have a balanced budget for the year.

We have begun to review the summary of pledges coming in on a weekly basis. We were greatly encouraged by the feedback we received after the congregational meeting. We will continue to track pledges and then in December prepare a final budget proposal for Session to approve in January.

If you have not yet pledged, it is not too late. Every little bit helps to insure we are able to build our true mission into the budget and activities we support in 2023.

Finally, on behalf of the F&A Committee, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May God bless and keep you,
Your Finance & Administration
Committee





DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

First, the Dove teachers would like to thank the following people for sharing their time in October, making Halloween a little extra special for the Dove kids: Dennis Zerba, Dick Eyberg, Kathy Wheeler, Vicki Smallwood, Heather Hellman, Rick Aberle, and Dave & Courtney Tomastik. They all went out of their way to make it a memorable time. Thank you!!



The kids at Dove will have just a few weeks after Thanksgiving to prepare for the annual Christmas program. We've been working on the songs since the middle of October. Everyone is looking forward to sharing this night with family and friends. It will take place on **Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m.** You are welcome to attend if you're interested. It's seriously the best Christmas program in town! Thank you to Ray, Dennis, and anyone else involved in moving risers, tables, props, etc. so we can have an extra special night.

And from all the Dove students and the teachers: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

SESSION UPDATE

At their last Session meeting, Elders:

- Set the Annual Meeting date for January 29, 2023
- Authorized an article in the January Announcer regarding the Nursery Update project so those so moved will replenish funds in the Building and Grounds Designated Fund for future maintenance and/or update projects.
- Concurred with Missions that donations received at the Friday evening Coffeehouse event will be donated to Safe Families charity, and monies received at the Christmas Eve service will be donated to Refugee Care Collective.
- Decided to pre-record New Year's Day service for Jan. 1, 2023.





YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

High School

Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

Middle School

Sundays 7-8:30pm

Elementary School

(Grades 2-5)

Monday, December 19th 6-7:30pm

We will meet at the open door for some Christmas fun!

We'll have pizza, play games,
and celebrate Jesus' birthday together



HOLIDAY OVERNIGHT

Friday, December 16th, after the Coffeehouse Concert, we will have the return of the youth group overnight Christmas party. This year we are inviting St. Luke's youth group to join us for a night of Christmas fun with lots of games and snacks. The event will go from 9pm Friday to 9am Saturday, and everyone is asked to bring a wrapped gift of \$10 or less value for the gift exchange game.

Have you noticed that there are less youth and kids in worship on Sundays?

There are less people overall in worship, aren't there? Our youth and kids still make up over ten percent of our worshipping population, which is a healthy ratio of youth & kids to adults for a church. Yes, we have lost some younger children and youth, just as we have lost adults attending. It makes sense that as one population declines in attendance so will the other, but there are other factors that make it harder to see the youth and kids that are part of our MPC community.

Most of our families attended 1-2 times a month pre-pandemic and now that attendance is less, even for families that consider themselves part of our church. This has happened with our adults too. So if you are only coming 1-2 times a month and a family is coming once or every other month, you might miss each other.





Another reason you may see less youth is that they are already at church multiple times a week and may not be able to make it on Sundays. Most of our youth are involved in marimbas on Saturday, and youth group on Wednesday night or Sunday night. While we are lucky to have some helping on Sunday mornings, with Sunday school and in our audio visual booth for worship; our students are very busy just as our families are. Sports schedules which used to be seasonal, now have offerings year round, many of which happen on weekends. Some of our families are busy or quite exhausted on Sunday mornings and choose to watch at home. We see some of our families of young children only at special events, holidays, and at monthly Good News Tues because they cannot get here most Sunday mornings. The demands on families are higher than ever, and they are spread thin, so how can we help them connect with the life-giving love of Jesus and the fellowship of church community that helps sustain that?

We are currently working on ways to try and meet our families where we can, and to help them connect to MPC. We are redoing the nursery and hiring a child care person so that we can provide that resource on Sunday mornings, and hopefully provide some relief for parents. We will need volunteers in the nursery as well, a great way to connect with our families. We would love to have more volunteers to help us connect with children, youth and families. Spencer Magnusson, Sherri Kessler, John England, and Valentine Hellman already get to connect with our kids outside of Sunday mornings and experience the amazing families we serve. Ray, Amy and I get to see them on Saturday mornings and catch up with the parents during marimba, and we invite you to do the same. Would you like to come, make some coffee, offer treats, take our fellowship time on Sundays and bring it to our Saturday morning parents? Maybe if you enjoy putting on events, would you like to help with our Easter egg hunt or next year's trunk or treats? These are great ways to connect with our Saturday and weekday families and our preschool. On Sunday mornings we could always use more Sunday school volunteers too - Margie Bender, Karen Black, and Sherri Kessler have done a wonderful job leading on Sunday mornings.

We are working on ways for everyone to be more connected to MPC. We want people of all ages to enjoy the life-giving community of church. It's something we are all going to have to work on together, and it means we need more participation in things like mission events, and church outside the sanctuary, as these things make us more visible to people of all ages in our community.

We are excited and hopeful as we think about what we may be able to do with a temporary and then our next called pastor. We are grateful for all of our wonderful volunteers who make not just our kids and youth ministry but the life of the church in general a great thing to experience.



DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

WESTSIDE DINNER BLESSINGS

After a two-year hiatus, many dedicated hands cooked and served a delicious ham dinner for our friends from Westside Community Focus. Our friends were excited to be back at MPC and expressed their thanks.

We could not prepare this meal without the various donations of time and talent from our congregation. We offer one huge **THANK YOU** to the following:

- Those who donated pies and relish trays
- Dinner angels who helped defray the costs
- Set-up crew for tables, chairs, and settings
- Advance meal shoppers & cooks
- Head chef
- Kitchen helpers
- Servers
- A crack clean-up crew



A CHRISTMAS
COFFEEHOUSE
CONCERT

CASTING CALL: A CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT

It's December and MPC still hasn't decided on the cast for the Living Nativity! Ray and Amy want to do a musical, and Heather is getting a lot of interesting advice from her prospective cast members! Come sit in on auditions and learn the true meaning of Christmas while enjoying music and drama provided by our choir, marimba ensembles, and special guests. Admission is free and we will be accepting donations for Safe Families for Children. Join us Friday 12/16 at 7:30PM or Sunday 12/18 at 10:30AM.

CASTING CALL

December 16th
7:30PM

December 18th
10:30AM



MOVIN' ON...

It is time to say farewell to three of our outstanding, long-standing members.

Carol & Steve Hendricks have moved to Newberg recently, and are starting their new retired lives there. Carol has been very valuable in helping around the church during various functions, for coffee hour after church, and a faithful member of the Quilters' ministry. Steve has contributed to our church in many ways. Most of you will know him as the sound and light guy at the back of the church. The choir and praise team really appreciate how he makes us look and sound great. We are very grateful for all the things Steve does behind the scenes to prepare our church every Sunday for our worship service.

Steve Goodfellow moved to Newberg years ago to be closer to his family. He has settled nicely into that community. Steve has helped our church in so many ways over the years, including running the slides for Sunday service, and cooking for the men's breakfast group. We will miss seeing his joyful face and his wonderful sense of humor.

On **Sunday, December 18th**, we will honor them after the Worship Service. We pray God's blessings on them as they embark on this new phase of their lives.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will be taking a short hiatus while we assess how to best meet the wants and needs of MPC's women. We will have a survey available after the first of the year to get our MPC women's input as to the direction of this Women's Ministry. All of your thoughts and ideas are welcome and needed to make PW a vibrant ministry.

May you all experience the Peace and Hope of the Christmas Season!

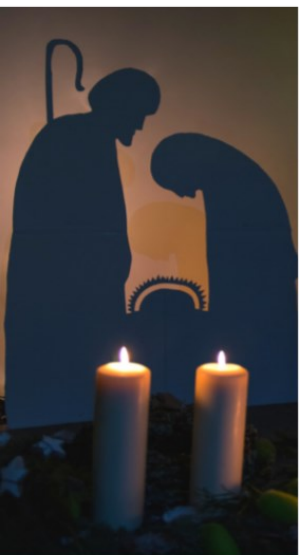


PRAYER

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.

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.





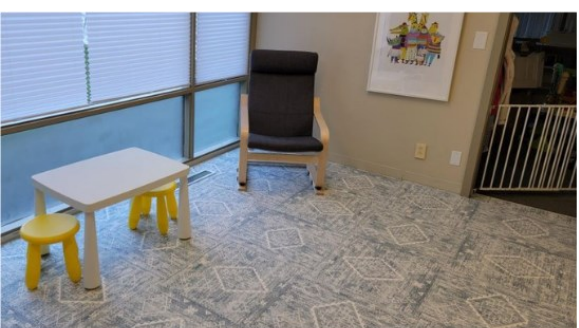
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

NURSERY IMPROVEMENTS

In a joint undertaking by Christian Education and Building & Grounds, the downstairs nursery is being updated to present a safer and more inviting environment for young children and the nursery attendants. Among the upgrades are:

- A new flooring system using interlocking foam floor tiles. This will provide a wall-to-wall surface that is soft and easily cleaned, and transitions to adjacent floors will eliminate tripping hazards. This replaces a hard vinyl floor that had two area rugs that did not cover all the floor and presented challenges to keep clean.
- New paint on all the walls and wood trim
- New adult chairs that will eliminate pinch point safety hazards and a worn-out fabric recliner
- New plastic tables and chairs suited for small children
- New book rack and toy storage cabinet
- New wall hangings and curtains appropriate for a nursery and small children
- Several new books and safer toys
- New interactive wall-mounted toy to promote fun and learning
- Installed a TV in the nursery so the Livestream service from the sanctuary can be viewed live

Once the main nursery is completed, the room between the nursery and the preschool will be cleaned out, wallpaper removed and new paint in this room and the small children's restroom should make this area more inviting as well.





TENT REPAIRS

Heavy winds during November tore most of the roof canvas off the tent located outside the preschool. Many of the grommets tying the roof to the frame had ripped out of the canvas.



With help from Dick Eyberg, Mike Barth, Clay Morgan, Dave Tomastik and Dennis Zerba, the roof canvas was pulled back into place. New grommets were installed to replace the ones pulled out and additional grommets and other tiedowns were installed to help prevent similar incidents in the future.

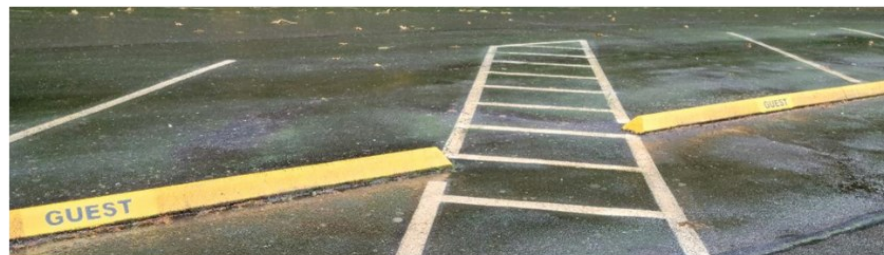
Earlier in the fall, when the tent was first set up, a decision was made to install cedar chips over vinyl fabric with a plastic containment system, rather than last year's setup of placing straw over the bare ground. This proved to be a good decision since the high winds did not blow the heavier chips out of the play area.

We're so grateful that no one was injured, that insightful decisions were made in the past, and that we have the resources to reach out to those who can jump in and fix things when they go wrong.



GUEST PARKING SPACES

The Building and Grounds Committee has stenciled two guest parking spaces in the upper parking lot, just across from the front doors. Now guests can feel welcome when they arrive at MPC, before they get to the front door! Thank you for leaving these spots available for our guests!





Multnomah
Presbyterian Church

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.

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