

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church
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PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

We are continuing to facilitate and participate in actions that oppose the immoral, unjust acts we see ICE committing in our country. One of the ways we have done this is by connecting with the community of protestors and organizations that gather at the facility in the South Waterfront neighborhood. We are starting a monthly meal on the first Saturday of the month—if you would like more information contact Heather—and there is also a silent solidarity march on the last Saturday of each month in the afternoon. These actions help us build community as we stand together and try to respond throughout our community to help our neighbors most impacted by ICE presence in Portland. When we stand together and help our immigrant neighbors we also reclaim our faith from those that would use it to oppress others. We have an opportunity to be the light and love of Jesus.

ASH WEDNESDAY OUTSIDE THE ICE FACILITY

We will be doing an imposition of ashes and short service on Ash Wednesday, **February 18th**, outside of the ICE Facility. See Heather for more details about times.

HOLY WEEK SHARED WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Lent is approaching and we will once again be working with St. Andrews and Valley Presbyterian Church to share our Holy Week services. Palm Sunday and Good Friday will be hosted here at MPC, and Maundy Thursday will be at Valley Presbyterian.

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, February 1st
Communion
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, February 8th
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 15th
Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday, February 22nd
John 2:1-11
Matthew 13:31-32



Upcoming Events

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, February 6 & 20

Good News Tues
February 17

Ash Wednesday
February 18

No Place To Grow Old
Movie Screening
March 1

Spring Fun Day
March 14

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We'll meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **February 6th and 20th** 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.

SPRING FUN DAY

Join us on **Saturday, March 14th** from 9-11am, as we celebrate the Easter season with families from our community by hosting a pancake breakfast, Easter egg hunt, and time with baby goats. This event is a great opportunity to invite our neighbors to our campus, so they can meet us and see what a church community is actually like. It's a day to serve our neighbors in ways that speak to their need for a fun, easy outing too. It's not just for families— anyone can come for pancakes and baby goats! So invite your friends and neighbors for an easy introduction to our church.



No Place To Grow Old

a documentary that sheds light on Portland's growing homeless population of seniors

March 1st 12:30pm at MPC

Screening of Documentary
and Panel Discussion/Q&A to Follow



FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATE

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where I ought to be;
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;
to turn, turn, will be my delight.
Till by turning, turning we come round right.*

-Joseph Brackett Jr., Shaker Song

Anyone who's retired, or changed jobs, or moved, or graduated, or lost a loved one, or been installed as a church officer, has felt the mix of anticipation and anxiety that can accompany the transition. Sometimes we feel as if we've let go of a trapeze and haven't yet caught the next one. Sometimes there's a moment of unsettledness as we get our feet on the ground and gain a feel for the terrain. Sometimes we wonder if we've come down where we ought to be, in our search for the valley of love and delight.

As I begin my work with you as your Parish Associate, we become part of each other's turning. After some unsettled years of discernment and discovery, the congregation is rolling out into promising new territory. After 35 years as a church pastor, I'm rolling into retirement. None of us knows exactly what that means. But for a stretch of the good road we share it with each other.

Over the next few months we'll get to know each other. I'm grateful for nametags. We'll begin to develop some patterns and routines. We'll discover what works for us both. We'll make some mistakes. We'll try different things. We'll turn and turn toward the place just right.

Thank you for the warm, gracious, genuine, and encouraging welcome. It's a privilege to be joining your gifted staff and be welcomed into your faithful community. I look forward to the days ahead.

Grace and peace,

Jeff





February Birthdays

8 Diane Shingledecker

9 Darlene Higgenbottom

11 Ellen McKean

12 Fran Barth

13 Sierra Killian

14 Olga Iturralde

15 Janice Mullins

19 Mike Mullins

21 Matthew Eyberg

24 Nancy Unrath

25 Gayle Clopton

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

The Deacons are getting organized and ready to serve. Dave Tomastik will be serving as the Deacon moderator for the year. Those of you whose Deacon's term ended will be contacted by your new Deacon. And we will be introducing our new Deacons, Judi Davis and Jackie Magnusson, over the next few months.

In the meantime, please remember that if you or your family has a need, please contact your Deacon (at church, with a phone call or text) and that person will be ready to assist you. Nothing is too big or too small. We are here for you! And with February approaching, we wish all of you a month filled with love!



BUILDING & GROUNDS

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to so far this winter:

- The chairs in the sanctuary were rearranged to create a more "intimate" atmosphere for the holidays. The arrangement will continue for a few more weeks. Extra chairs have been stacked and stored downstairs.
- Three new Trail ID signs were installed to inform trail users of things they should be aware of when using the trail across the MPC property.
- All of MPC's 9 HVAC units were inspected, filters replaced as needed, and no issues were reported.

THANK YOU

Hank Downing's Celebration of Life service was held January 24th at MPC. The Downing family gives their heartfelt thanks to the congregation for all your love and support.



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.

Blessings From Within Our Church

Praise for MPC's new parish associate, Jeff

Praise for all the sun and dry weather we had in January

Praise for a fun pickleball showdown

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



DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The kids at Dove spent the month of January learning about safety. Thanks to Dennis, Dick and Clay, they were able to practice a fire drill. At the end of the month, the Pre II kids took a field trip to Portland Fire Station 18 in Multnomah Village. They memorized the following verse, "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, Oh Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8). February will bring all things love to Dove.



We are accepting registrations for Fall 2026. If you have family, friends or neighbors looking for a preschool, we hope you will refer them to Dove. Give them our website, www.dovepreschool.com or our email address, dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.



YOUTH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
Sundays 7:00-9:00pm


GOOD NEWS TUES
(Grades 2-5)

February 17th 6:00-7:30pm
Join us for dinner, games, and a lesson about Jesus's great love for us.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

As you can see in the financial summary table, we had a fantastic financial result in December, resulting in a positive net income in 2025. Thank you for keeping MPC in your prayers, and thank you for your continued support of our church!

Sincerely, Your MPC F&A Committee
Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Tom Base, Gayle Clopton, Dennis Zerba

		December	2025 Year Totals
Income	\$	35,051	\$ 301,872
Expenses	\$	30,542	\$ 297,800
Net	\$	4,509	\$ 4,072



SESSION UPDATE

Session met in person on January 20th for its stated monthly meeting. Session met jointly with the deacons for the first part of the meeting and welcomed the new officers for 2026, who were installed on January 18.

The deacons and Session discussed building security during Sunday services, potential deescalation training, and incorporating the deacons into scripture reading and serving communion.

The next stated Presbytery meeting is on Thursday, January 29, online via Zoom, at 6:00pm. Session did not elect any commissioners.

A Session retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, which will include a discussion of questions from the Presbytery's ongoing mission study.

Session heard ministry reports and approved the following annual business:

- to elect Darlene Higgenbottom to serve as Treasurer of MPC for 2026
- to elect Lisa Shelley to serve as Clerk of Session of MPC for 2026
- to elect Chris Ulum as President and Lisa Shelley as Secretary of MPC for 2026
- to approve serving communion at MPC on the first Sunday of each month in 2026
- to approve the Annual Statistical Report for 2025 for submission to the Presbytery
- to elect Janet Lowrey (as chair) and Spencer Magnusson to the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2026
- to approve end of year transfers of remaining budgeted funds from 2025
- to approve the final 2026 budget
- to approve per capita and Presbyterian Partnership Giving for 2026
- to approve the Pastor/Head of Staff Covenant with Heather for 2026

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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