

# Multnomah Announcer

Monthly Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 246-5459 [www.MultPresChurch.org](http://www.MultPresChurch.org)

Volume 46, Number 9

From the Pastor...

September 2021

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”*

-James 1:2-3

Dear MPC Family,

In recent days, I've been reflecting on these verses from the Book of James. I would encourage you to take a moment to read this passage for yourself. "Consider it pure joy...*whenever you face trials.*" How does that sit with you? I found myself deeply challenged here, and I suspect you might be as well. I write to you in the midst of another disruptive moment in our community, our nation, and our world. Earlier this summer, we were filled with hope that the COVID 19 pandemic would soon be behind us, but in recent days it seems that has changed. Our minds and hearts are once again clouded with feelings of confusion and uncertainty. Our hearts break for those impacted by earthquakes and wildfires. We lament the division and disunity that persists throughout our country. And yet, God's Word still comes to us: "Consider it pure joy...*whenever you face trials.*"

This is the great power of the Gospel: in a world filled with bad news, when faced with trial, and even when all seems lost...joy is available to us. CS Lewis once wrote: "If you want to get warm, you must stand near the fire; if you want

to get wet, you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them." In Jesus Christ, we have inherited a joy that cannot be dictated by circumstance or anything in this world. To find our joy, we don't have to wait until "things get better." As Lewis wrote, we find true joy when we get close to Jesus and immerse ourselves in His love, His grace, His goodness. May we experience the joy of Christ as we walk together in this season.



Yours in Jesus,

-Pastor Danny

## Fall Sermon Series (beginning Sunday 9/12)

*“Teach Us to Pray: Exploring the Lord’s Prayer”*

Join us this Fall for a teaching series based on the Lord's Prayer! We're going to spend seven weeks walking through this prayer, which is considered to be one of the most important teachings we have from Jesus.

Sunday 9/12: "Our Father in Heaven"

Sunday 9/19: "Your Kingdom Come"

Sunday 9/26: "Your Will be Done, on Earth As in Heaven"



**Please Note:** In an effort to keep our community safe, we are asking that masks be worn by *everyone* (regardless of vaccination status) when attending worship, events, or any meetings inside the church. Thank you for your cooperation.  
- The MPC COVID Response Team



## Finance and Administration Update

The Finance and Administration Team met in August to review the July financial report. Though we continue to run a deficit, we are beginning to close the gap as we move toward the latter part of 2021. The budget performance as of July 31, 2021 is as follows:

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 34, 181	\$ 201,939
Expenses	\$ 28,624	\$ 210,460
Net	\$ 5,557	\$ (8,521)

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of the MPC family. As we continue to navigate this season of constant disruption, we are heartened by your commitment to MPC and your investment in God's Kingdom. In the coming weeks, the F&A Team will begin the budget process for 2022.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

-The Finance and Administration Team (Roy Magnusson, Chair)

## Missions Ministry

### AUGUST DONATIONS

The Mission Committee approved three donations to our mission partners:

- To World Vision for their work helping with the crisis in Syria, where half the population have been displaced from their homes due to civil war;
- To Refugee Care Collective and their support of locally settled refugees;
- To HOMEpdx in lieu of doing sack lunches for the unhoused this month.

### GOD AT WORK IN AFRICA

An African market benefitting Harambee Center and Grace Kuto's projects in Uganda and Chwele, Kenya, will take place on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Tigard Community Friends Church (15800 SW Hall Blvd). African donuts and chai tea will be served. Sale items include baskets, clothing, purses, jewelry, quilts, artwork and more!

The water harvesting project in Matala, Uganda that we helped support last year is now fully funded and underway. It is expected to be complete in December!

### PAMOJA HOUSE

Part-Time Volunteer Help Needed

Pamoja House is a non-profit that serves refugees and immigrants. We are in need of part-time women volunteers to work in the preschool starting in September. We would love for you to join our team as we bring hope to the refugee and immigrant community! While women from many different countries work to learn English, you can give them a great gift of caring for their preschool children (Grandmas are welcome!) For more information: Call Ruth Carpenter: (503) 740-5555, or text Jeanette Cook: (503) 467-6882. Thank you for considering serving Jesus and others in this way.




## Buildings & Grounds Update

### Fire Marshall Inspection

A representative from the Portland Fire Marshall's office conducted a fire safety inspection of the Church and Open Door. Prior to the inspection, several batteries in the emergency exit signs had to be replaced as well as replacing a couple of emergency light fixtures. No major problems needing correction were identified during the inspection.

### Dispose of Hazardous Materials

With help from Steve Brandt, we were able to recycle nearly 100 pounds of lead/acid, Alkaline, NiCad and Lithium batteries that had been accumulating for several years.

### Audio/Video Upgrades

Major progress has been made installing new audio and video equipment hardware and software to enable live streaming of church services.

Three cameras, a new soundboard, AV computer, stage sound monitors and other

equipment have been installed. We are currently finishing the installation and integration of the equipment and learning the new vMix production software. Additional training will be required from our Contractor Delta AV before going live with the streaming process.



### Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently in need of volunteers to help with many grounds maintenance projects such as trimming bushes, weeding and cutting back ivy from the trees. We are also looking for someone to wash windows inside and out. If you would be willing to help in some way, please contact Dennis Zerba at [dennis\\_zerba@msn.com](mailto:dennis_zerba@msn.com) or call 503.710.7128

## Community Outreach

### Supporting West Portland Cheer

Beginning in August, a local organization called **West Portland Cheer** will be meeting at MPC (at The Open Door) for Tuesday night practices. We are grateful to be able to host their group, and we wish them a safe and enjoyable season!

West PDX Cheer was founded in 2015 as Wilson Youth Cheer. Two years ago, they became West Portland Cheer in order to serve a broader area in the community. The organization provides cheerleading opportunities for students in grades 3-8.



## News About MPC Alerts

Our church is now using a mass texting system called Clearstream. It is similar to the MPC Alert system we have had in the past. We will send texts to your mobile device whenever we have time sensitive events, such as weather problems or changes in service times, or when the church has information that needs to be dispersed quickly.

If you have previously signed up to receive MPC Alerts, you are still enrolled. If you would like to be enrolled, please contact Dave Tomastik ([d\\_tomastik@hotmail.com](mailto:d_tomastik@hotmail.com)) or the church office with your name and mobile phone number and we will place you on the list.



# Outreach Ministry

## PRACTICE MPC HOSPITALITY - SIGN UP ONLINE TO BE A GREETER OR USHER

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. — [Hebrews 13:2](#)*

The Outreach Ministry Team is focusing our attention on hospitality and evangelism. We intend for our hospitality and service to members and guests of MPC to be genuine and filled with love, grace and compassion.

We all need to be warm and open to folks who join us for Christian worship and fellowship, and there is a special need for a few folks who are outgoing to serve as greeters and ushers to personally welcome members and guests.

The time commitment is not great. Two greeters and one usher show up about 15 minutes before the service and remain available through the conclusion. Greeters welcome folks with the love of Jesus, check that they are masked and showing no COVID symptoms, and record their names. Ushers pass out programs and answer any questions. This is another opportunity to welcome guests and make them feel comfortable.

Sign up is easy! Just go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoF4FAFAD2BA4FACF8-hospitality> and enter your name on the date or dates you'd like to serve. Please consider signing up for multiple Sundays. You'll receive a confirmation email after you select the "Submit and Sign Up" tab.

Thank you for considering participation in this important ministry!

- Outreach Ministry Team



After a somewhat restful summer, the doors of Dove are preparing to open. We were fortunate to have a 9-week Spring 2021 session, which gave us the opportunity to not only serve the children, but helped us determine what to do to best serve them during the Covid pandemic.

We are returning to the normal class schedule with slightly smaller classes in order to operate safely. We'll be starting the year off learning about children around the world and how God loves everyone, regardless of where they live. We'll also start the academic process with the Pre II class, and start routines and social lessons for the Pre I class.

We are so grateful for the kids and the families that God provided. Please keep Dove, the kids and the teachers in your prayers as we start the year. We pray for health and safety for everyone, and for many joyful days ahead.

## Quilters

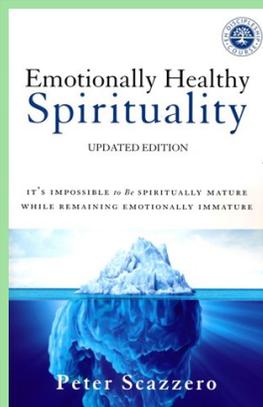
QUILTERS are meeting Monday afternoons, from 1:00 - 3:00 in the downstairs room next to the kitchen. We would welcome visitors if you would like to see what we do. Maybe there would be a part that might fit your talents.

We can always use fun fabrics for designing quilts and 1 1/2 yd. pieces for backings. Keep us in mind if you have any "cleaning out" projects coming up!

Thanks from the Quilters.



## Adult Education



### FALL CLASS OFFERING:

### EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY by Peter Scazzero

**WHEN:** Wednesday Nights from September 29th - November 17th (8 weeks)

**TIME:** 7:00 - 8:30PM

**LOCATION:** TBD (please indicate whether you prefer in-person or online)

**COST:** \$30 (We never want cost to be the reason someone doesn't participate. If the course fee is an obstacle, please contact Pastor Danny)

**TO SIGN UP:** Use the following link (<https://forms.gle/JSuqgwKgNodxeseK6>) or email Pastor Danny Peters at [danny@multpreschurch.org](mailto:danny@multpreschurch.org)

I (Danny) first came across this book in the summer of 2020, and it has been nothing short of life-changing! I loved it so much that I wanted to invite the MPC family into the experience as well. If you invest yourself into this material, I'm certain that you will grow in your love for God and His people. Along with the book, the course kit also includes a daily devotional and a workbook that we'll use throughout the study. Below is a brief description of the book, and please visit [emotionallyhealthy.org](http://emotionallyhealthy.org) to learn more!

*Peter Scazzero learned the hard way: you can't be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.*

*Eventually God awakened him to a biblical integration of emotional health, a relationship with Jesus, and the classic practices of contemplative spirituality. It created nothing short of a spiritual revolution, utterly transforming him and his church. In this best-selling book Scazzero outlines his journey and the signs of emotionally unhealthy spirituality. Then he provides seven biblical, reality-tested ways to break through to the revolutionary life Christ meant for you. "The combination of emotional health and contemplative spirituality," he says, "unleashes the Holy Spirit inside us so that we might experientially know the power of an authentic life in Christ."*

## News from Karen & Jesse Black

We are still working with our contractor to finish up some small issues. We have many boxes to unpack and pictures to hang. We have insulation and debris to clean out of storage containers that were in the garage when the tree fell.

We are looking forward to being under our own roof once again.

Thank you for your continued prayers during this transition and for the wonderful moving assistance.

Karen and Jesse Black



# Prayer



Prayer Night

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

## Deacon News for You

Greetings from your Deacons!!

We hope this finds you all safe, healthy and "faith-filled."

For any folks that would enjoy helping a **Back-To-School drive** for school supplies, please go to **KGW.com** and join them on their website.

The **CDC.gov website** has a variety of very interesting information ranging from traveling to healthy living to regular updates on the DELTA variant.

We would also like to encourage all of us to have a "recipe" to help us to **reduce stress** during these times...here are some helpful ideas:

- \*Pray/meditate 5 minutes each day.
- \*Eat more veggies, fruits, whole grains and of course drink at least 24 oz of water daily.
- \*Have a cup of herbal tea; mint or chamomile and add honey for a sweetener.
- \*Strive for 8 hours of sleep each night; short naps no longer than 30 minutes a day for a quick pick me up.
- \*LAUGH (it really does help)
- \*Talk to a family member, friend, Deacon, your Pastor, or a professional therapist if you are needing support of any kind.

Please remember if you or someone you know needs food, housing and/or assistance, PLEASE contact our Church office 503-246-5459 and/or your Deacon.

We close with **Galatians 6:9** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

God Bless you,  
Robyn Biehler Co-Deacon moderator - 503-351-4780  
Janet Lowrey Co-Deacon moderator - 503-347-9967

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Gary Hartfeld, a regular attender at MPC.

Please keep Gary's son, Matthew, and the Hartfeld family in your prayers. Pastor Danny will preside over the memorial service for Gary on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021, at Willamette National Cemetery.

## Presbyterian Women

We were hoping to have a meeting this month but then decided it was too soon. We hope all of you have had a nice summer and are ready for fall. Continue to reach out to one another and pray for each other and our church.

We are so thankful for our church staff and look forward to the time we can meet in person.

WHEN YOU CAN'T CONTROL WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND YOU, CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO CONTROL THE WAY IN WHICH YOU RESPOND .



THAT IS WHERE YOUR TRUE POWER LIES.





**YOUTH GROUP**

Middle and High School Youth Group will switch to Wednesday nights starting September 15 and will continue to meet outdoors with our masks on. We will be taking a two week break for 9/1 and 9/8 as all of the school districts we serve get through their first weeks of school.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Our families of elementary and preschool kids are facing a stressful return to the classroom as the Covid variants continue to affect children who are not old enough to be vaccinated. We hope our church family will join us in praying for our kids and families during this time.

To help families as they ease into the school year, we are suspending all in-person kid's programming at MPC for a few weeks. We know that getting kids into classrooms is the priority. We also know that, unlike at school where kids have one cohort of classmates, we are a gathering place for kids from many schools and districts and therefore want to take extra precautions to make our space safe for kids. Some families have expressed to us that their kids will not be attending any indoor activities with us until they are vaccinated, so we are exploring ways to make gathering outdoors in the changing fall weather safe and fun for our MPC kids. We will likely begin monthly Sunday Funday activities and Good News Tues Youth Groups outdoors in October with the guidance of the Pandemic Response Team.

- 2 Joyce Rosenbalm
- 4 Julia Meyer  
Donna Rogers
- 5 Mike Bell  
Dave Tomastik  
Peggy White
- 6 Karen Black
- 7 Molly Dischner  
Macy Lawrence
- 8 Cameron Andrews  
Linda Jäger
- 15 Priscilla Downing  
Elius Graff  
Maicy Jane Kindrick
- 16 Steve Graeper  
Melissa Milnor
- 17 Amy Barth
- 18 Bob Mullins
- 19 Elijah Hellman
- 21 Andrea Kuehnel
- 23 Mark Unrath  
Cynthia Papke
- 24 Laura McCourt
- 25 Kiana Killian
- 26 Louis Nackley  
Bob Plame  
Samantha Soumokil
- 28 Paul Barnum  
Theresa Haynes



**Choir News**



"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." Attention all MPC music lovers! The choir will be starting on Wednesday, September 15th at 7:00 and I would love to see all of you there. No audition is necessary; just a love of music and a desire to worship the Lord thru song. For our first meeting, we will gather outdoors at the church to talk about the fall season, hand out music, have some light refreshments, and maybe even sing (!). Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed.

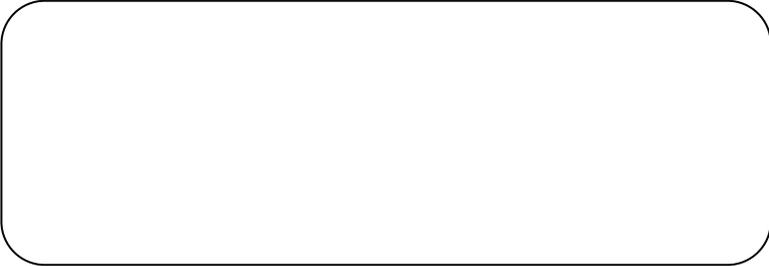
I anticipate for the fall that we will be meeting virtually and doing some more recordings, so if you have questions about how to attend a meeting via Zoom, record a video, or any other tech difficulties, please bring your equipment and we will figure it out! Hope to see you then! Any questions, call/text Ray McKean at 503.277.3480 or email [ray.mckean4@gmail.com](mailto:ray.mckean4@gmail.com).



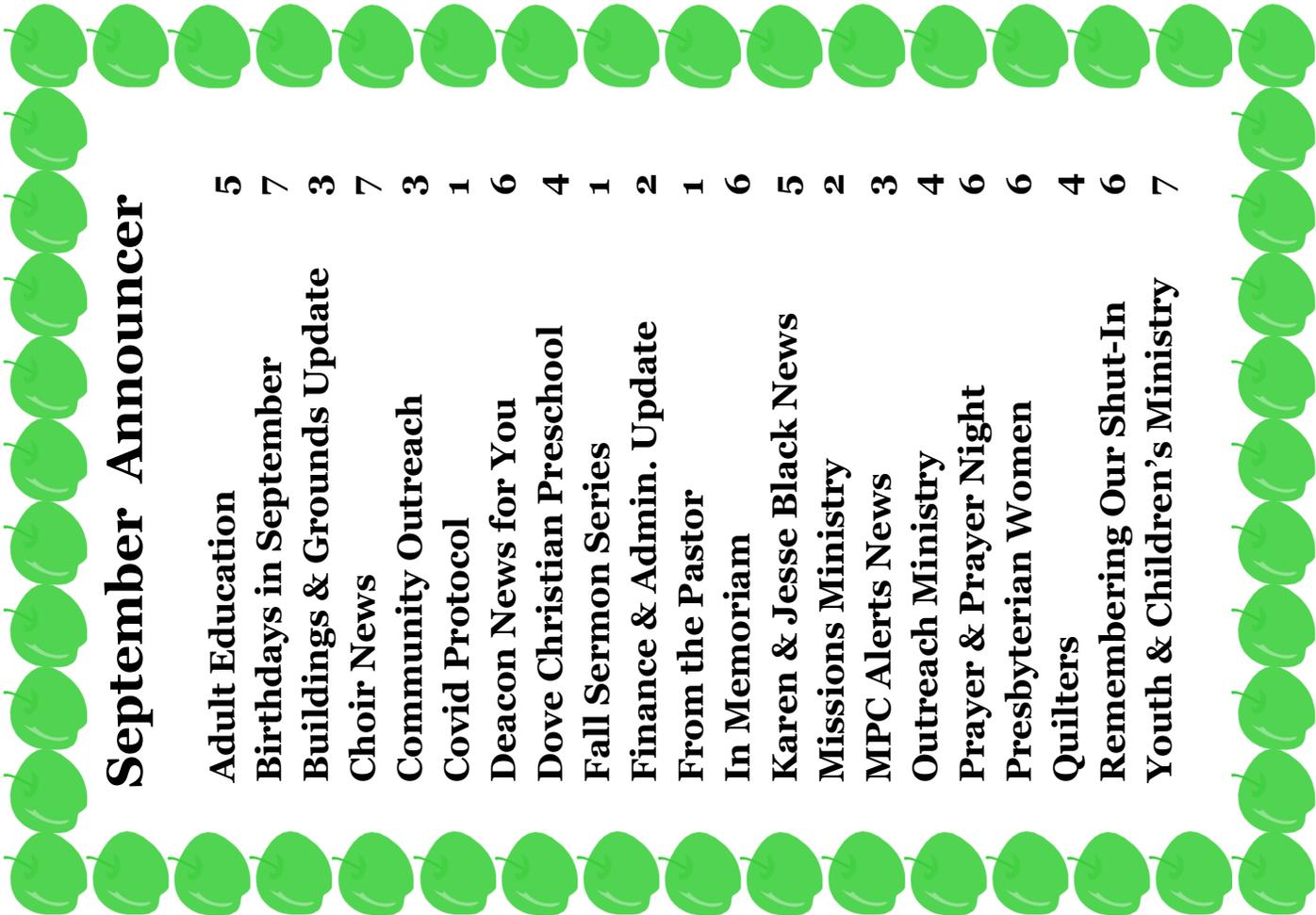


7555 SW 45th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97219-1516

**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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