



VOL. 48 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY 2023

# THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

(503) 246-5459

MultPresChurch.org



## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

The Outreach/Fellowship teams have chosen to recognize the musical members of our **Praise Team, Jubilation! Marimba Team,** and **Choir Team** as our January Volunteers of the Month!!

## Sundays at MPC

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

## Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, January 1st**  
**New Year's Day**

ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY

**Sunday, January 8th**  
**Communion**

GUEST PREACHER: BOB STEBE

**Sunday, January 15th**

GUEST PREACHER: BOB STEBE

**Sunday, January 22nd**

GUEST PREACHER: TED BUCK

**Sunday, January 29th**

GUEST PREACHER:  
JENNIFER ACKERMAN

## CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

JENIFER ABERLE, MICHAEL ANDERSON,  
MARGIE BENDER, TIM BERNASEK,  
KAREN BLACK, LISA BODE,  
KARIN CHESNUTT, JENNIFER GASSAWAY,  
LISA GREEN, ANNE & JEFF HILL,  
BARB & TOM JONES, LORRAINE LARSON,  
JANET LOWREY, ROY MAGNUSSON,  
JULIE MEYER, LISA SHELLEY,  
COURTNEY & DAVE TOMASTIK,  
MARK TRULLINGER, AND, OF COURSE,  
THEIR AMAZINGLY TALENTED LEADERS:  
RAY & AMY MCKEAN!!!



Thank you for **ALL** your time and talents that bring such Joy into our Church and hearts with your music each and every Sunday...you are greatly appreciated!







# Upcoming Events

**Mission Connexion 2023**  
**January 20 - 21**

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 29th**  
**following worship**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Tuesday, January 31st**  
**Noon - 6:00pm**

## ANNUAL MEETING

**January 29th, after Church**

On Sunday the 29th we will hold our annual meeting after our 10:30 worship service. We will review the final budget for 2023, and hear reports from some of our amazing ministry teams. Come celebrate the many blessings of MPC from the past year with us. Snacks will be available before the meeting begins.

## NURSERY UPDATE & OPPORTUNITY

As we plan for 2023, our hope is to move closer to restoring the level of programming we offered pre-COVID by re-opening the Nursery for families with young children. The amazing Building & Grounds team has given the space a much needed update to

make it feel welcoming and safe, as well as up to date with the ability to stream the worship service. Walls have been painted and a new padded flooring system was installed, which will keep our little ones safe as they explore, whether they are crawlers or new walkers. We added new chairs for the adults, as well as a fun exploration center which was mounted on the wall. And as we move further into 2023 we hope to hire staff to help with Sunday morning care, so with the safety, visual and technology improvements the space will look warm and inviting to young families.

Most of this nursery upgrade was paid for from a Building & Grounds designated fund. If you are interested in contributing to that fund to "refill the well," shall we say, you may send a check with "Building and Grounds Designated Fund" on the memo line to help complete this project. This will help the Building and Grounds Team continue to update other areas of our church. Thank you for your support with this project!







## MISSIONS MINISTRY

On December 12th, MPC was able to deliver 77 cold weather kits, 31 sleeping bags, and assorted other loose items to HOMEpdx to be distributed to our unsheltered neighbors during the Christmas season. Thank you so much for helping assemble kits, bringing in items, and for your generosity to MPC, which made this possible! It was a fun event and HOMEpdx was SO grateful.

In January, the Mission Committee will also be taking 48 children's winter coats to Northwest Children's Outreach for children in need.



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR MISSION CONNEXION 2023

January 20-21, 2023

Sunset Presbyterian Church

14986 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97229

<https://missionconnexion.global/northwest/>



This is a **free** event with speakers, workshops, and exhibit booths. Online registration is required and only takes about one minute. The conference is Friday evening and all day Saturday. You can attend as few or as many events as you like. Mission Connexion is for everyone! You don't need to be on the MPC Mission Committee or be on the MPC staff to attend Mission Connexion. It is a great way to learn about local, regional, and international missions, and to connect with other churches.

There are at least 25 workshop topics to choose from (but you'll only have time for four this year!) and plenty of exhibits and resources to explore! This event was where we first learned about Refugee Care Collective and the care kits we have made for refugees here in Portland. Previous Mission Connexions also allowed us to:

- find out what it's like to have secret Bible studies in countries where Christians are persecuted
- learn about serving in the mission field by piloting small planes with mission workers to remote parts of foreign countries
- hear from refugees who fled wars and genocide before arriving in Portland, Oregon.

For this year's conference schedule, keynote speakers, workshops, and other details about the event, check out the website (above) and register today! Questions? Contact Karen Black (503.977.0409) or Amy Clements. Don't miss this free uplifting and educational event!





# January Birthdays

- 1 James Mayik
- 2 Steve Brandt
- 6 Nancy Donner  
Anne Hill
- 7 Jeanne Morehouse
- 9 Vance Kerwood  
Jackie Magnusson  
Barb Twitchell
- 11 Nancy Trullinger
- 12 Jackie Snook
- 14 Sue Cunningham
- 15 Judi Davis
- 18 Sylvia Dilworth
- 19 Mariah Jones  
Mark Trullinger
- 22 Sue Ballenger  
Peter Oberdorf
- 25 Heather Hellman
- 26 Jaxsen Colenso

## DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We welcome the New Year and new opportunities for, and within our church. We thank Jan Hawthorne for her dedicated service as her deacon term ends. She was a faithful servant and continues to be. Look for her smiling face as she continues to usher on Sundays.

The deacons welcome two new members for 2023, but no strangers to the role. Former deacons Courtney Tomastik will be serving a 3-yr. term, and Lisa Bode a shortened 2-yr. term. This means that deacon districts will be slightly adjusted. Look for an upcoming welcome if you will be assigned a new deacon.



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A DEACON AT MULTNOMAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

**Deacon Mission:** We the Deacons of MPC, are called by God to be ministers to our church family and community through loving care, support, and prayer...

To accomplish this, we strive to make quarterly contact with church families through greetings at church, phone calls, and email. We offer support through the prayer chain, bereavement meals and services, and outreach programs that seek to teach charity and to urge concern while following the loving example of Jesus Christ.

One such outreach program is the **FOOD DONATION** box in the Fellowship Hall. Our Deacons deliver donated food to our local Neighborhood House in Multnomah Village. Please look in your pantry and bring sustainable things like soup, pasta, tuna, etc., to our donation box so we can help stock the Neighborhood House pantry for our neighbors in needs.

If you are in need of prayer or support, please contact your deacon, a co-moderator, or any deacon. Find us Sunday after service or call during the week. We are here for you.





## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

F&A Committee met on December 20th, 2022 to review our latest financial reports and continue the budget process for 2023. Budget performances for the month of November and the first 11 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	\$ 31,900	\$ 330,045
Expenses	<u>\$ 21,648</u>	<u>\$ 312,428</u>
Net	\$+10,252	\$ +17,617

We ended November with an account balance of \$285,794. Overall, we have a balanced budget for the year.

### BUILDING THE 2023 BUDGET

We reviewed a summary of pledges coming in on a weekly basis. As of the Coffeehouse weekend we were slightly ahead of the giving at the same time last year. That said, we are still about \$20,000 below last year's total. 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.

In early January we will update the draft budget based on the pledges and status of our pastor search, and provide the final budget proposal to Session for consideration and approval.

### LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

As we are sure you have noticed, our numbers have been gradually dwindling over time. F&A has begun to discuss possible longer-term plans that are consistent with our mission to serve Christ while remaining good stewards of the resources we have been given. As it turns out, there are many small struggling churches that are having difficulty finding a place to worship together. Other churches, including ours, were built for larger congregations. This results in challenging budgets and wasted space.

We have formed a small exploration group to assess the market for leasing some of our space for worship or activities of other Christian groups. Dennis Zerba, Amy Clements, and Roy Magnusson will be screening interested groups and discussing lease options. Rest assured that we will not move forward without Session approval and congregational discussion on any such project. We are hopeful that we can find a win/win situation where we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ by sharing resources while maintaining our sense of community and ownership.

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

May God bless and keep you always - Your Finance and Administration Committee



# CASTING CALL

A CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT

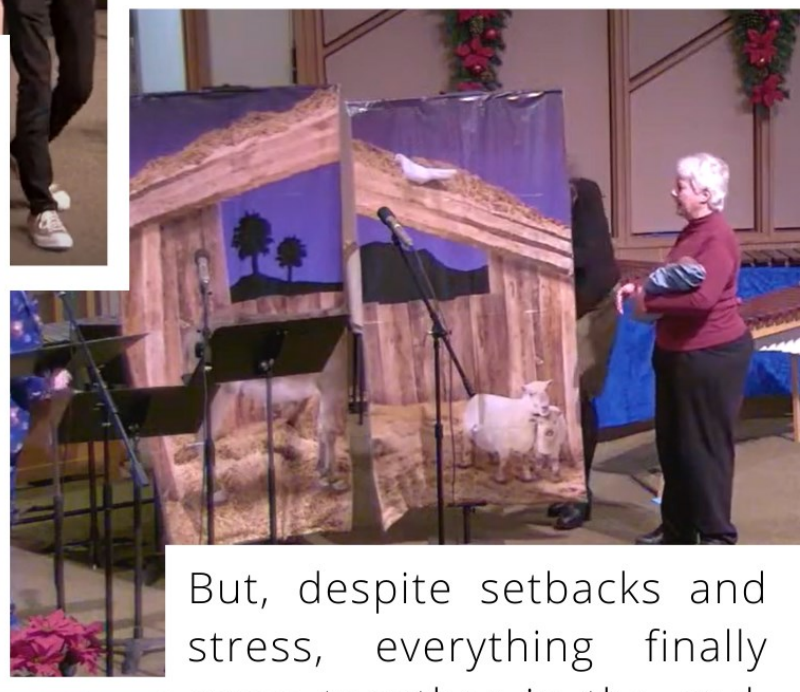


This year's Christmas Coffeehouse Concert followed Heather and Ray's efforts to put on a Live Nativity. Ray was bound and determined to put on a big musical production, complete with orchestra, choir, soloists, and marimbas!





Heather, meanwhile, was in charge of managing Ray's expectations and finding a cast for the play. And let's just say she experienced some... interesting auditions.



But, despite setbacks and stress, everything finally came together in the end. What's more, the concerts collected donations of nearly \$3,000 going to Safe Families for Children. **Thank you** to everyone who attended and helped!!!





In addition to the Coffeehouse Concerts, we also enjoyed even more music this Advent season. Ray shared his musical talents in *The Holly and the Ivories*, three unique piano concerts, even being joined by musical guests, Amy and Karin.

Finally, after weathering an end-of-the-year deep freeze, our two Christmas Eve services ended the season with singing, playing instruments, and candlelight.



If you missed, or would like to re-experience or share any of these Advent services, you can find them all on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@multnomahpresbyterianchurch7643/streams>

## 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.







# YOUTH

## YOUTH GROUP TIMES

**High School**  
Wednesdays 7-9pm

**Middle School**  
Sundays 7-8:30pm

**Elementary School**  
**(Good News Tues)**  
**(Grades 2-5)**

Monday, January 16th, 6-7:30pm

We will meet at the Open Door for games, pizza and learning fun.

## KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have Sunday School each week during our 10:30 worship service for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children head downstairs after the Children's Lesson video.

# DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Dove is back from Christmas break and ready to dive into more fun. We had an amazing Christmas program. Two former preschool students narrated the story of Baby Jesus and the preschool kids sang songs. It was a magical night! Coming up in January, we'll be learning a little about our community, focusing on the safety side. I'm hopeful the fire station can visit the school, and the big kids can go to the fire station first hand.

It's also the time of year when Dove begins the process of enrolling for Fall 2023. We will host an Open House on January 26 at 6:30 pm. Families can visit the school, meet the teachers, and pick up registration materials. We'll be accepting registrations at that time for 3-year-olds (must be 3 by Sept 1, 2023) or 4-year-olds. If you know of families, friends, or neighbors looking for a preschool, please let them know about Dove. We can be reached at [www.dovepreschool.com](http://www.dovepreschool.com) or [dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com).







## MPC ALERTS

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

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



## QUILTERS

Happy New Year from the Quilters!

Our first quilting time of the new year will be Monday, Jan 9th at 1pm to 3pm.

This American flag quilt was made by the MPC Quilters in response to a request by an MPC church member,

Linda Jäger, who serves with Cascades Region American Red Cross Services to Armed Forces, to support the Bereavement Program of the Portland VA Health Care. At a Portland hospital when a veteran moves to comfort care, they receive a handmade quilt. The quilt will then stay with the family after the death of the veteran. The veteran and the family are provided with as much comfort as possible during this time.

Additionally, if anyone has a connection like the one we have with Scrub Med, who has provided us with leftover scraps from their uniforms for our quilts, we would appreciate you letting us know.

Have a blessed 2023!

Love from your MPC Quilters:

Jackie Magnusson, Claudia Zerba, Caroline Brandt, Priscilla Downing, Nadine Hayden, Darlene Higgenbottom, Kathleen Loomis & Courtney Tomastik.





# BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

## SANCTUARY STAGE LIGHTS

Leading up to all our Christmas festivities, we replaced two spotlight bulbs in the sanctuary stage lights, which required renting a lift to reach them.



## TENT

A team consisting of Mike Barth, Rick Aberle, Dave Tomastik, Dick Eyberg and Dennis Zerba removed the tent roof to prevent damage from the December snow/ice storm and stored it away in the OD. The whole process only took 25 minutes. However, the strong winds blew out one of the plastic windows in the side wall that was not taken down. Repairs will be researched and conducted in the near future.



## NURSERY

We completed initial phases of improvements to the nursery including painting, new flooring, new furniture (including TV for livestreaming), wall hangings, interactive wall hanging, bookcase/storage rack and toys.



## OTHER COMPLETED PROJECTS

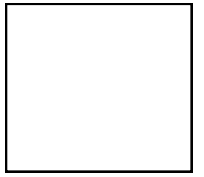
- Replaced remaining 3 sets of Sanctuary door hardware.
- Replaced door closer in the preschool.
- Replaced Sanctuary Video Projector Lamps.



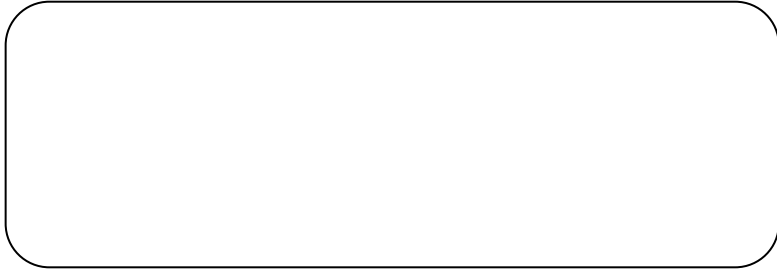


Multnomah  
Presbyterian Church

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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