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THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

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MultPresChurch.org

REVIEWING AND REIMAGINING WORSHIP AT MPC

Over the last few years the Worship Committee has been discussing the various things we have learned from visiting and associate pastors. They have all brought new ideas and questions about why we do the things we do in worship. At the same time we started noticing how the visual aspect of our online worship doesn't seem to reflect the vibrance of our congregation.

As we thought about these things, Jennifer Ackerman brought our attention to a Lily Foundation Grant for "Vital Worship, and Vital Preaching" which helps congregations review and reimagine worship, and provides funds for enhancements. The worship committee and session feel it is a great opportunity to learn about worship, why we do what we do, how the sanctuary itself fits in, and more.

In October we will conduct a survey to learn about what is important to all who attend worship, and we will meet after church to learn more using the curriculum attached to the grant. We will explore what elements are meaningful to all of us as we consider the purpose of worship. After we have gone through that process we will apply what we learn to the grant application, which is due in the Spring of 2027. We are looking at this as a way to imagine what possibilities there are to enhance the way we worship both in person and online.

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

September 6th

Communion

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th

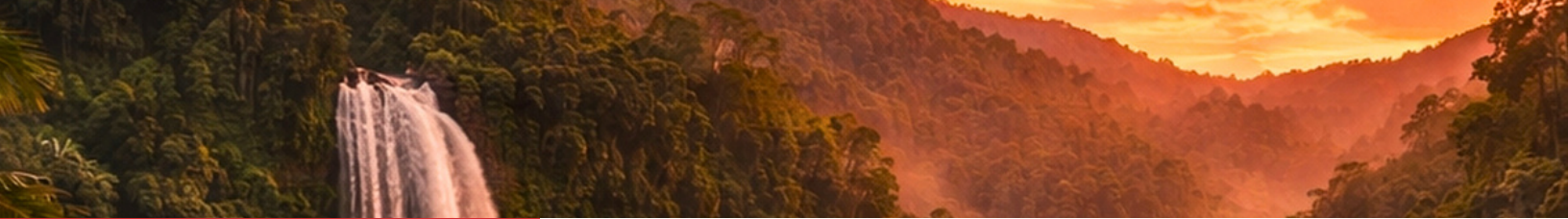
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20th

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th

Matthew 21:23-32



Upcoming Events

Project Lemonade Drive
August 23 - September 13

Friday Men's Fellowship
Friday, September 18

Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, September 24

MPC Game Night
Saturday, September 26

Save the Dates

Advent Piano Concert - Dec 2

Holiday Gala - Dec 4

Tacoma Support Action
Dec 5

Coffeehouse Concerts
Dec 11 & 13

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship returns! We will meet starting on **Friday, September 18th** this year, followed by the 1st and 3rd Fridays after that. We meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am for a light breakfast of beverages and cereals and pastries along with a time of fellowship. Anyone who may be interested in joining us (Please note: Women are welcome as well!) are invited to attend. If you have any questions or would like to attend this meeting, 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.

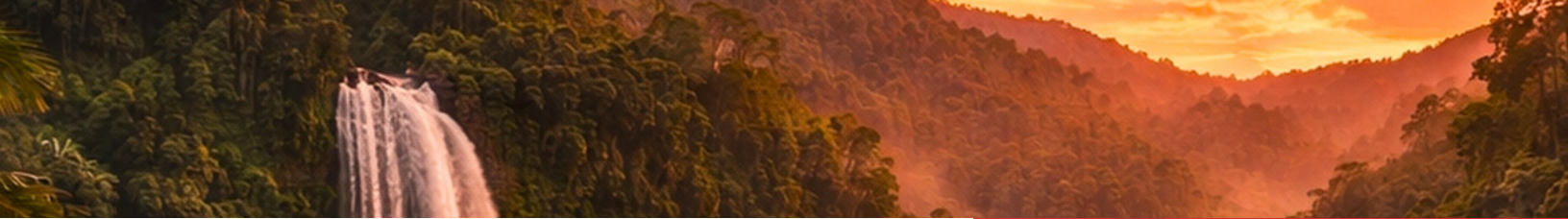


YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is back to Sunday nights starting September 6th from 7:00-9:00pm

GAME NIGHT AT MPC

We spend a lot of time being busy and focused, working hard to share Christ's love and mercy to our neighbors—it's important to slow down and enjoy the community we have here at MPC. Saturday evening, **September 26th** from 6:30-8:30pm, come for an evening of board games, snacks, and friendship. Bring your favorite game, a snack to share, maybe even a friend or two, and join us for an evening of relaxation and friendly competition. No need to feel obligated to play—put your feet up, enjoy the evening, the snacks, and the friends!



A RITE OF PASSAGE

I threw away my comb today. I haven't needed a comb for four decades. But I've held onto it, all the more so because it's inscribed "Dwayne's Barber Shop – *Go Bears,*" suggesting that it had some sort of sentimental value at some point. And I had some hair. At this point I don't remember Dwayne's Barber Shop and I don't have combable hair.

It's part of a larger project underway in slow motion at the Sievert home to sort, recycle, donate, discard, and downsize. We want to live more free of clutter now, and be more prepared when The Time comes to move on from this 1100-square-foot home.

It's not easy, especially for me. I'm the one who holds on to things (see above) often because of emotional attachments of one kind or another. Also, because someday I'm going to write a Pulitzer Prize winning memoir and I'll need these things for research. I still have the purse my mom was "using" at the time of her death. I say "using" because she had Alzheimer's and wasn't really using anything like that at the end of her life. I still have an address book from my high school days. Someone suggested I ceremoniously burn it page by page in our fire pit. I won't even mention the letters from cherished friends at pivotal points in our young lives.

But it's time to move on. Time to be the me I am now, rather than the me I was. Time to live the life we're living now, rather than recapture or maintain some version of the me I was.

Four Thousand Weeks is the title of a gently bracing book by Oliver Burkeman. Four thousand weeks is about how many we get if we live into our eighties. Subtitled "Time Management for Mortals," a central theme is coming to grips with our finitude. The purpose is to live the life we have now, rather than the life we had or the life we imagine to be in our future.

It's true for us as individuals and for the church, to be the people, the church, we are now, not what we were, or what we think we have to be.

Grace and peace on the journey-

Pastor Jeff, Parish Associate

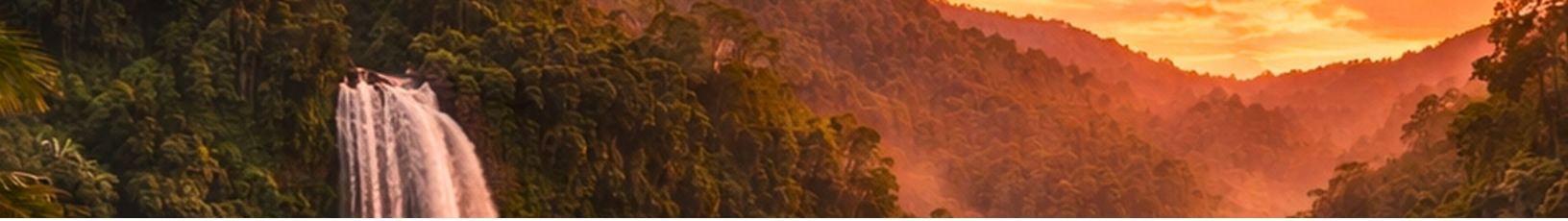
Weekly **Musical Gatherings**

Worship Praise Team
Sundays
9:15 - 10:00am

MPC Ukeleles
Wednesdays
6:00 - 7:00pm
(Starting Sept 9th)

Chancel Choir
Wednesdays
7:00 - 8:15pm
(Starting Sept 9th)

Jubilation! Marimba Ensemble
Thursdays
5:00 - 6:00pm
(Starting Sept 10th)



TENDING THE SOIL

I just returned from a study leave trip to Minneapolis where I was able to learn from faith leaders and other community leaders. The amount of information I received was like drinking from a fire hose, and I am still trying to process it all.

What I immediately came away with, though, was the beauty of deep connections across many different types of organizations and the special place the faith community can hold within that. We get to be listeners, peacemakers, and pull more chairs up to the table. Because we follow Jesus, we get to be people of hope, and offer care and light through the love and welcome he modeled. To do this work we need to continue building relationships with our community. We need to listen to and platform the voices and the wisdom of those most impacted and follow their lead.

This beautiful work can be messy though, and I heard many stories of conflict along the way. It requires humility, patience, forgiveness, and reconciliation. MPC has a rich history of doing work like this and we continue to expand our connections with our community. God has been leading us into new spaces and new ways of being present and learning, and new ways of coming alongside to support those already doing important work.

Minnesota also taught me the importance of cultivating joy, fun, laughter, and connection along the way. Our Fellowship and Outreach Committee has already been working on ways to promote more fun, more joy, more time to connect in ways that don't involve a lot of extra work for our volunteers or staff. MPC has a rich tradition of fun and joy too. So let's lean into the best parts of this community that God has brought together and see where the Spirit takes us as we continue following Jesus together.

Pastor Heather

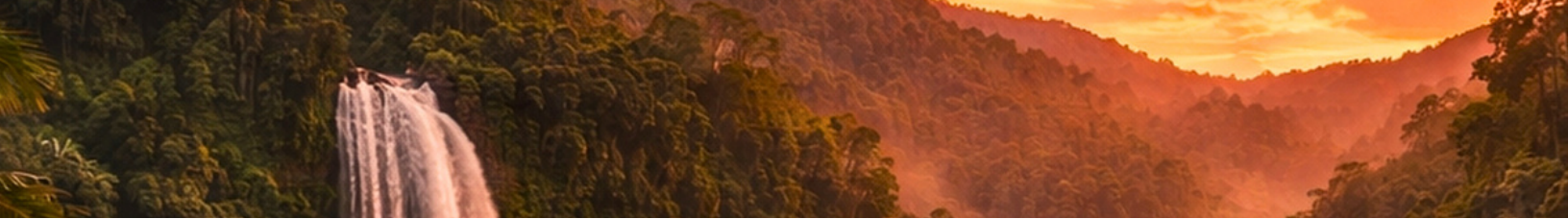
SESSION UPDATE

Session met for its monthly meeting on August 25th.

A new members class will take place in September. Elders will meet with the prospective new members over breakfast and some elders will participate in the new members class.

In addition to its regular monthly business, hearing ministry team reports and reminders about upcoming events, Session also approved the Worship Committee to reassess certain liturgical elements for the purpose of enhancing worship.

Session will meet next on September 22nd.



MISSIONS MINISTRY

HARAMBEE CENTRE ANNIVERSARY

The Harambee Centre is celebrating it's 25th anniversary this year with a big celebration and fundraiser. There will be a program describing the Centre's work in Kenya and Uganda, a silent auction, an African market, and a meal. The event will be held **Sunday, October 18th** from 1:30pm to 5:30pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel near Washington Square. Multnomah Presbyterian Church will have a table at the celebration, and we are looking for attendees to fill the table. If you are interested in attending this wonderful event, please contact Jennifer Gassaway or Lisa Shelley.

Our church has supported the Harambee Centre since its early days. We started our giving to help support a health clinic and ambulance in a rural town in Kenya called Chwele. The Harambee Centre's activities expanded to provide scholarships to two schools - one in Chwele and one in Matala, Uganda. The Centre also helps teen mothers with vocational skills training and mental health support. Visit **harambeecentre.org** for more information.

PROJECT LEMONADE DONATION DRIVE

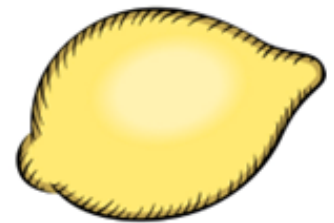
Now through September 13th we are collecting back-to-school items for Project Lemonade. Since 2012, Project Lemonade has been helping youth and young adults affected by foster care thrive by offering high-quality services tailored to their unique needs. At the heart of Project Lemonade is their flagship store, a vibrant, welcoming space where foster youth can shop for clothing and essentials at no cost, while gaining confidence and dignity through choice. Collection bins for the following items are in the fellowship hall:

NEW

Backpacks
Water Bottles
Pencil Cases

Wallets
Belts

Sports Hats
Sports Bras



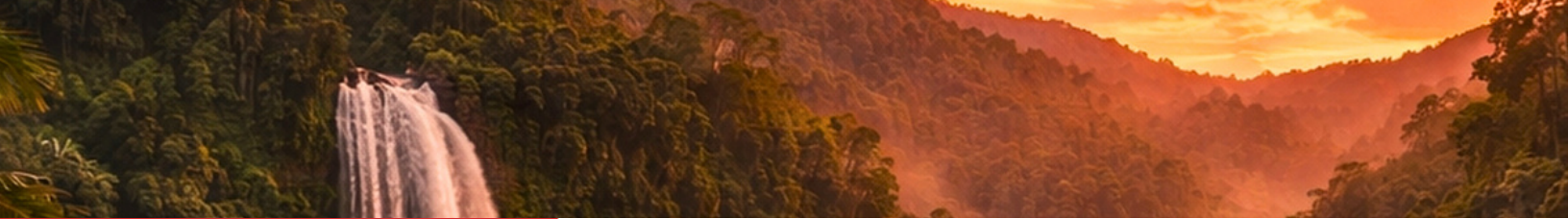
projectlemonade

NEW & LIKE-NEW

Hoodies (sizes kids 5T-18 & adults XS-5XL)

You can also shop Amazon Wish Lists for requests at **www.amazon.com/registries/gl/search**
(Registrant: 'project lemonade' | Date: 2026)

The Mission Team always welcomes new members. Feel free to talk to members Jennifer Gassaway, Fran Barth, Amy Clements, Judi Davis, Linaya Leaf, Jaonna Morgan, and Lisa Shelley.



September Birthdays

- 1 Pete Shingledecker
- 2 Joyce Rosenbalm
- 4 Julie Meyer
Donna Rogers
- 5 Dave Tomastik
Peggy White
- 6 Karen Black
- 7 Molly Dischner
- 13 Sarah Butler
- 15 Priscilla Downing
Elius Graff
- 16 Steve Graeper
Melissa Milnor
- 17 Amy Barth
- 18 Bob Mullins
- 19 Elijah Hellman
- 23 Mark Unrath
- 25 Kiana Killian
- 26 Bob Plame
Samantha Soumokil
- 28 Paul Barnum
Theresa Haynes

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

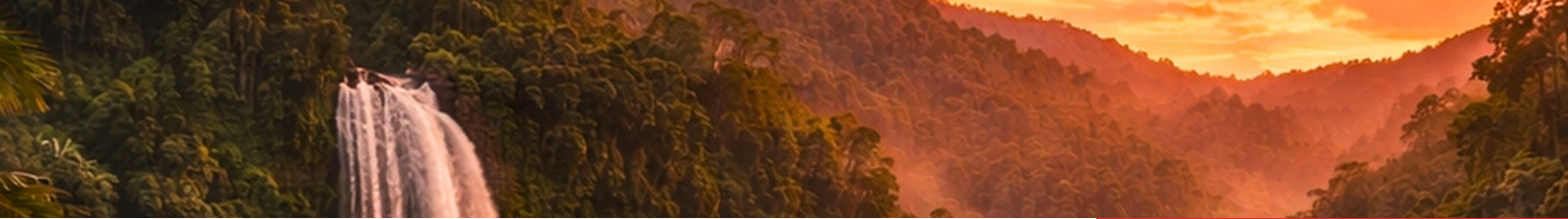
As we look at the beauty of fall, we are reminded that God designed seasons. The trees teach us that there are times to grow, times to flourish, and times to let go. The falling leaves aren't a sign that the tree has failed—they are part of God's design for its renewal. Perhaps there are things in our lives and in our church that God is asking us to release. We may not understand the season we're in, but we can trust the Lord, who holds every season. What looks like falling may actually be preparation for new growth.

And speaking of new growth, the Deacon ministry will be losing a few members at the end of the year due to expiring terms. This means the Deacons are preparing for renewal in the way of new members. If you enjoy helping people and being involved, but not in the forefront, the Deacon ministry might just be your ticket. Each Deacon has a district, and through contact at church, a card, a phone call or email, we keep in touch with those in our district. It's a great way to give something of yourself to MPC and its members and regular attendees.

Another way to give is a donation to the Deacon fund. This fund provides assistance for people within our church as well as our community.

So during this fall season, think about helping the renewal of MPC as we hopefully experience new growth.





**Andrea Kuehnel's celebration of life will be held
on Sunday, Sept. 13th, 2026 at the U&I Cafe
from 1:00-5:00pm (Ed will speak at 2:30pm)**

Blessings From Within Our Church

**Praise for the
successful hip surgery
for Dick Eyberg**

**Praise for the new
member candidates**

**Praise for the cycling
series events**

**Praise for a new
preschool year**

**If you would like to
share your blessings,
please send them to
Barb Jones,
or your own Deacon.**

Faithfully Dissident Crowded Table

**A liturgical dinner experience with
author Chelsea Kim Long**

Portland

Saturday, Sept 26, 2026, 5:00–7:00PM

**At a private residence in
East Portland**

**Learn more and buy tickets:
faithfullydissident.com**

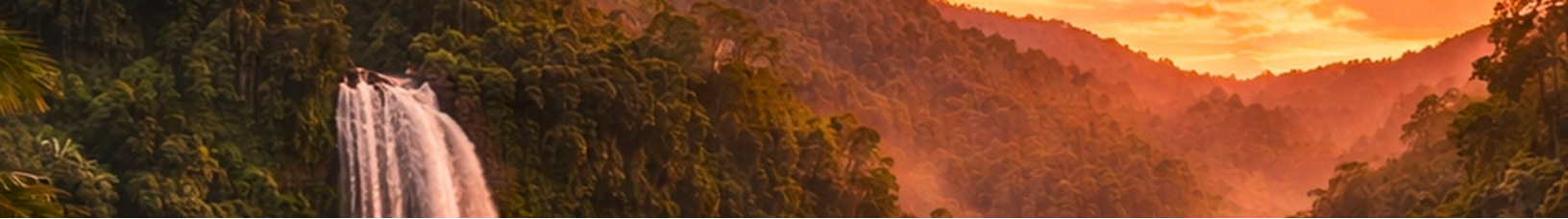


PRAYER

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

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to this summer:

ITEMS COMPLETED

- The mold issue along the ceiling beam in the west room of the Open Door was cleaned off and mold-preventing paint was applied to the area that was cleaned.
- The garden alcove next to the office entry had all its bushes and plants trimmed - Thanks Dennis!

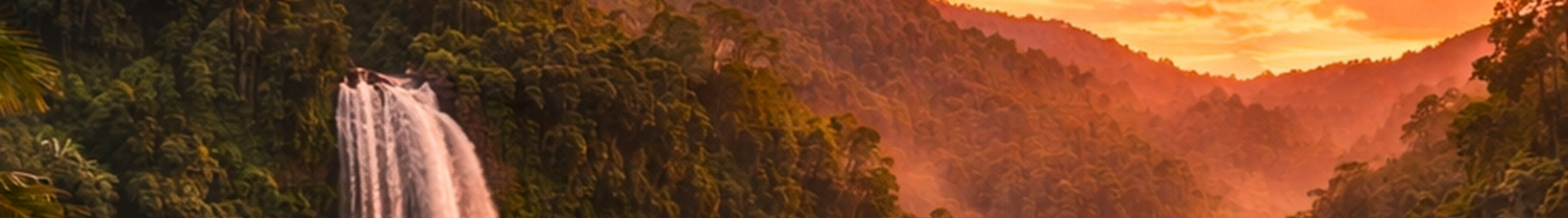


- Bioswale near the Open Door had a rip in the interior fabric. That was recommended to be repaired by a City of Portland Inspector. The area in need of repair has been remedied. (see a before photo right)
- Weed trimming near the Bus stop on 45th below the lower entry was done.



FUTURE PROJECTS

- Powerwash parking lot yellow curbs and refresh the color. Also re-stripe all parking spaces in both upper & lower lots.
- Install handrails along the new wood steps on the East end of the Open Door.
- The last Family Bike Event for this year was Saturday, August 29th.
- Chips will be spread around the MPC sign area.



meet our new teachers!



Teacher Katrina
Lead Teacher



Teacher Nicole
Asst Teacher

DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

A new preschool year is just around the corner! And this year, a new year means new teachers, new friends, new adventures, and LOTS of fun activities ahead! Teacher Katrina and Teacher Nicole have been working hard to get things ready. They are excited to welcome the little ones back for another year of learning, growing, playing, and making wonderful memories together. Both classes still have some space available (we could use a few girls in the very boy-heavy Pre I class for 3-year-olds). If you know of anyone looking, please send them our way!

www.dovepreschool.com | dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com

And as always, please pray for a successful year for the teachers, the students, and the preschool board.



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

As shown in the table here, we had a positive net income of \$2,510.55 in the month of July. With this positive month, we are now about \$10,400 in the red through July. Again, given our consistent history of increased income in the fourth quarter of prior years, we are not recommending changes to our budget at this time. Thank you for your continued support, financial and otherwise, of MPC!

	July	Year To Date
Income	\$ 25,524	\$ 167,744
Expenses	\$ 23,013	\$ 178,203
Net	\$ 2,511	- \$ 10,459

Sincerely,

Your MPC F&A Committee

Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Gayle Clopton, Kate Eyberg, Dennis Zerba

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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