

Multnomah Announcer

Monthly Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 246-5459 www.MultPresChurch.org

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From the Pastor...

January 2022

Dear MPC Family,

I hope that you had a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year! This year, I trust that many of us were able to return to beloved holiday rhythms and traditions we missed so dearly in 2020. It was pure joy to be gathered together as a church family on Christmas Eve, and I remain deeply thankful for all of the ways the Spirit continues to bind us together in the love of Christ. And yet, 2022, much like previous years, begins with a cloud of uncertainty as yet another COVID-19 variant makes its way throughout our nation and world. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the church family, for all you have done to ensure that our worship gatherings remain a safe place for everyone. While I don't know what this year will bring, I'm certain that our God will continue, just like always, to lead us through this season.

In a sermon a couple of weeks ago, I referenced this poem called "The Work of Christmas," written by Howard Thurman, an author, theologian, and civil rights leader:

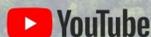
*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

What a brilliant reminder of our common calling! And what a blessed reality that we are called not merely to *celebrate* Christmas, but to *do the work* of Christmas. MPC, I look forward to doing this work with you in the coming year.

May God bless you and keep you,

-Pastor Danny Peters

REMINDER: Starting Sunday 10/3, we are no longer using Zoom for online worship. Instead, visit our Youtube Channel, Sunday mornings at 10:30AM!



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

F&A Committee met on December 14, 2021 to review the financial reports and discuss a number of agenda items as outlined below. Budget performance through November is as follows.

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 31,430	\$ 328,025
Expenses	<u>\$ 27,806</u>	<u>\$ 333,903</u>
Net	\$ 3,624	\$ (5,878)

Thanks to your faithful and generous giving, we are catching up on our budget goals and very close to break even with December giving still to be counted.

Our budget process for 2022 is well underway. We have prepared a conservative budget that will be presented to the Session for approval in January. We now have 54 pledges totaling 270,000 dollars for next year. There is still time to submit your pledge if you have not already.

We will be providing a full summary of 2021 in the Annual Report in late January.

May God Bless and remember that our hope is in Christ,

Your Finance and Administration Committee



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By Christie Black— Creations from the Heart



Buildings & Grounds Update

Things have been pretty quiet around the church and Open Door from the maintenance and project perspective. Ongoing minor repairs and maintenance of the landscaping continues with help from several volunteers.

Completed Projects:

- Hard surface floors had not had any maintenance done for the past two years. In late December all the hard surface floors were either cleaned and buffed or stripped, waxed, and buffed.
- We cleaned out the environment runoff structure and planted several new plants to replace those that had died over the past couple of years. This was to bring the structure into compliance with City regulations.

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 or call 503.710.7128

Play Area Tent

This fall we put up a tent to provide a covered play area for the preschool and youth groups during inclement weather. It has been well used but as impending snow and ice were in the forecast, the decision was made to take off the canvas roof and sides to prevent damage from snow and ice buildup. Mike Barth, Tom Jones, John Prutsman, Dick Eyberg, Jesse and Karen Black and Dennis Zerba showed up and made quick work of the task.



Surplus Tables for Sale

Over the years we have been gradually changing out the folding tables used at the church to acquire ones that have adjustable legs to better fit how tables are used. We now have a few surplus tables with folding legs that we would like to make available to church members. We have two 30Wx96Lx29H and one 30Wx72Lx29H folding table with a Melamine surface on high density particle board. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in any of these tables, please have them contact Dennis Zerba (503.710.7128).

Make Sure You're On the List

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) or the church office with your name and mobile phone number and we will place you on the list.



Missions Ministry

Coats for NW Children's Outreach

MPC was able to donate 50 warm winter coats to Northwest Children's Outreach for children in need this winter. We were so grateful to be able to do this again this year.

Cold Weather Items

On Tuesday December 22nd the Mission Committee dropped off nearly 50 kits as well as several bags of loose items and 40 large black jackets to HOMEpx. Your donations made this possible – thank you so much! Our bin was overflowing and the car was stuffed! HOMEpx was extremely grateful as they were running low on all of their items. After the extremely wet weather right before this, these dry items will be greatly appreciated.

Hot Meal For HOMEpx

Riversgate Church cooks and serves a hot meal to the unsheltered population in downtown Portland in cooperation with HOMEpx every Sunday. The third Sunday of January – January 16th – they have a church retreat and they need someone to fill in. MPC has answered the call!

We need 6-10 volunteers to be a part of cooking a hot lunch at MPC and then taking it downtown to serve outdoors to about 40-80 guests. This hot, plated Sunday meal, especially in the winter months, is an important weekly event.

If you are interested in serving, that is great, but if you would prefer to only be part of the food preparation, that is great too! Please sign up [here](http://shorturl.at/ckqxQ) (shorturl.at/ckqxQ) if you are interested or contact the church office and you can email Lisa Shelley (xashesxashesx@gmail.com) with any questions.

We will meet immediately following the service to get the food prepared, head downtown around 12:20 pm, and will be done serving by 2:00 pm at the latest. If you would prefer to prepare a food item at home, we can work on coordinating that with the rest of the meal. Lisa Shelley will be in contact with those who have signed up about the details.

Quilters





The four months that Dove has been in session finished with a bang with the incredible Christmas program. The kids shared "Candles of Christmas" with their families, telling the story of the birth of Christ through story and song. All of the practicing paid off as the kids sang each song with enthusiasm and energy. After a 2-week Christmas break, classes will be back in session. We will be talking about safety, along with continuing social learning, with academic learning mixed in for the Pre II class.

As of this writing, it's unknown if Dove will hold an in-person Open House in January. We will, however, begin accepting registrations for Fall 2022. Families can learn more about Dove by visiting our website, www.dovepreschool.com, or contacting Teacher Barb at dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com. If you have a preschool age child, or know of a family member, neighbor or friend who is looking for a preschool, please have them check out Dove. We're happy to provide information and answer questions. Happy New Year!



Session Update



At their November meeting, Session took the following actions:

- Removed, with regret, the following people from the membership rolls, at their request: Matt McCourt, Grace Dilworth, Cynthia Papke, Shirley Feuz, Jane Gauger, Darren Megarry, Hillary Miller, Lisa Pridgen, Kyle and Josie Scupien, Dennis and Shari Erickson, Janice Bridgeman, Doug and Karen Sedwick, and Kitty Bunten.
- Approved to serve communion at the Blue Christmas worship service on Tuesday, December 7, at MPC with Pastor Danny Peters presiding.
- Approved payment of the 2022 budgeted per capita apportionment to Cascades Presbytery on an installment basis, to be completed by September 30, 2022.
- Authorized the offering from Christmas Eve service to be donated to Feed the Mass, a local charity focused on bringing people together around food, providing daily meals for anyone, using donated food that otherwise would go to waste.
- Approved to hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, following the 10:30 worship, for the purpose of electing church officers for the class of 2024.
- Decided not to meet in December unless truly necessary, and if so, to hold the meeting December 14, 2021, at 7 pm via zoom.

At the Congregational Meeting held December 12, 2021, the following people were elected to the class of 2024:

Elder: Michael Anderson
Karen Black
Robyn Biehler

Deacon: Mary and Allen Pinero
Sherri Kessler

In December, via email, Session also:

- Authorized communion be held on January 9, 2022, rather than January 2, 2022, to accommodate Pastor Danny's vacation schedule
- Approved the annual congregational meeting be held January 30, 2022, following 10:30 am worship.



Prayer



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

Happy New Year from your Deacons!

We celebrated our December meeting with welcoming our new Deacon SHERRI KESSLER and saying thank you to our departing Deacons PAT JOHNSON, LIBBY AGOSTI and ROBYN BIEHLER.

We wish for you our LORD and Savior's blessings throughout Christmas and a New Year filled with His love.

“FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD. AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU; YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER.”
LUKE 2:11

Praying for you,
Janet Lowrey Co-Deacon Moderator
Robyn Biehler Co-Deacon Moderator

Music News

Choir will be starting up again the 2nd week of January. Marimbas will be starting up January 8th. If you would like to join in the fun of either ministry, please contact Ray McKean at ray.mckean4@ gmail.com.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women wish You All a year full of Kindness and Love!



MPC Staff Update



For the past seven years, Courtney Tomastik has been serving as the Office Manager at Multnomah, and she will be retiring from that position in early 2022. Her last day in the office will be Friday, February 11th. We are so grateful for the gifts she has brought to MPC for the past several years, especially as our church has navigated a pastoral transition and a global pandemic. Courtney's administrative gifts, along with her joyful disposition, have been a wonderful blessing to us.

In retirement, Courtney looks forward to spending more time with her family and traveling with Dave. Of course, you will continue to see Courtney around MPC. In the coming weeks, please be sure to tell Courtney how grateful we are for her service to us. Thank you, Courtney!





- 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
- 20 Josh Meyer
- 22 Sue Ballenger
Peter Oberdorf
- 25 Heather Hellman
- 26 Jaxsen Colenso



KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is our intention to start weekly in person Sunday School for children in kindergarten through 5th grade on Sunday January 16th during worship. Kids will be dismissed after the video children's lesson to go to rooms 107/108. We will require masks, practice social distancing, and will have some windows open and a fan going for ventilation. All of this is dependent of course on what is decided by our Covid team as they examine risks in the coming weeks.

WHEN WILL KIDS BE CALLED UP FRONT AGAIN FOR THE CHILDREN'S LESSON?

This is a complex question with no easy answers. We know some people miss having the kids come up front for children's lessons as they did pre pandemic. There are several factors that make resuming that practice complicated and have us relying on video children's lessons. One of those factors is our wish to provide a hybrid worship experience that is good for both the person watching at home and the person who is in the sanctuary. It goes hand in hand with protecting kids privacy online and the fact that our services are now live streamed so any kids who would come to the front of the sanctuary would be on camera. If we panned far from the front and did a wide shot to not show kids' faces, the viewer at home would be missing out on the interactions that made those up front kids lessons so wonderful. Video children's lessons allow us to make content that is engaging for both at home and in person worshipers. From time to time we may have children come up front for preplanned participation in worship or in the worship videos. Those moments would give us opportunities to allow kids to participate with the understanding that what they did was being shared and with parent permission in a way that just calling kids up on a Sunday would not allow. We are also still mindful of the fact that kids under 5 yrs of age cannot yet be vaccinated and social distance and masking requirements are still in place, things that are important to protect the health of our kids but also further complicate "just calling the kids up". We are doing our best to provide content and opportunity for our kids both in person and at home. While that may look different than what we did pre pandemic, we hope you can appreciate that we are working to protect the kids in our MPC family while continuing to provide opportunities for them to grow in faith.

YOUTH GROUP IS BACK IN THE OPEN DOOR GYM

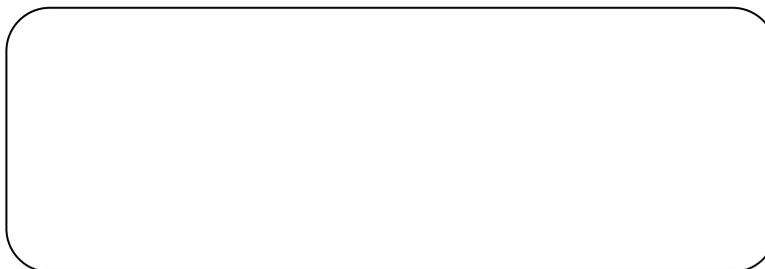
We are still holding youth group for middle and high school on Wednesdays from 7-8:30, but now instead of being outdoors only, we are in our youth building's gym. The gym has multiple doors and a large exhaust fan that can all be engaged for ventilation as well as plenty of room to spread out. We still require masks for everyone.





7555 SW 45th Ave.
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**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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