



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...

February 2021

*“All around,
Hope is springing up from this old ground;
Out of chaos life is being found, in you;
You make beautiful things;
You make beautiful things out of the dust”*

“Beautiful Things” by Gungor

Dear MPC Family,

This month, we are stepping into the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Traditionally, Christians across various traditions gather for worship to receive the sign of the ashes and to hear these words: “you are dust...and to dust you shall return.” Ash Wednesday is a moment wherein we “wake up” to our own mortality and dependence upon the Lord. It’s a good practice. But I don’t believe this is a year we need to be convinced of our own mortality. This year, we are keenly aware of the reality that we are not promised tomorrow. Those words ring true: we are dust...to dust we shall return. But it’s also true that we serve and worship a God who creates life and beauty from dust and ashes.

I have often experienced Lent as a time of denial, depravation, and discipline. Shortly before Ash Wednesday, I begin to consider: What can I “give up” for Lent this year? This year, I’m asking a different question, and I’d invite you to do the same. As we step into the season, I encourage us to consider: How can Lent be a time of *renewal*? This is the work Jesus wants to do in our lives. He wants to renew us and transform us more into his likeness. This year, we continue to deal with the ashes of struggle, loss, grief, and uncertainty...but the good news is that God can bring life and beauty from ashes (if you don’t believe me, read Isaiah 61:1-3!). For your consideration, I’d like to offer a few ways that you might seek the Lord’s renewal during Lent this year:

- **Join our Lent book study** of “The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose in an Age of Distraction.” This book has had a profound impact on my life and I hope you’ll consider being part of the study. More information can be found in this newsletter.
- **Lent in a Basket:** Our staff has created a Lenten experience for our congregation called “Lent in a Basket.” The basket you will receive includes spiritual practices you can do at home that will anchor you to God’s goodness and grace. You can pick up your basket after Zoom worship on 2/14 in the parking lot, anytime between noon-1:30PM. We’d love to see you!
- **Tuesday Night Prayer:** Our prayer team meets weekly over Zoom on Tuesday evenings and is open to anyone with a desire to pray in community. Email Anne Hill (hillannep@comcast.net) to get the link.

With Joy in Being Your Pastor,

-Danny



Finance and Administration Update

Review of 2020 Financial Performance – This past year was challenging in so many ways due to Covid-19. And yet, we are pleased to report that MPC budgeting and planning succeeded in ending the year with a surplus of just over \$26,000. Despite hardships and constant uncertainties, your generous giving sustained and supported MPC mission. We were able to maintain our staff salaries and mission support without interruption. We transitioned custodial services to a contract that will go into effect when we can assemble again this year. We end the year in a strong financial position with \$296,191 on the balance sheet and the general fund at the target level.

Pledge Report - As of January 19, 2021, we have 61 pledges for 2021 totaling \$295,612. This is just over \$30,000 above the pledge level at the same time last year. This represents approximately 71% of the proposed 2021 budget.

2021 Budget Recommendation –The budget that we prepared for Session for 2021 is very similar to the 2020 budget with a few key improvements. We have reduced overhead in a number of administrative (office) expenses. We are holding off on custodial costs while unable to meet in person, we increased salaries with a cost of living increase and we maintained but redistributed mission support to local, active missions.

Roy Magnusson, F&A Committee Chair

(((MPC Alerts)))

Even though we are meeting virtually, occasionally some information needs to be sent out quickly and immediately. Our church has a system in place called MPC Alerts which uses text messages sent to your mobile device. Previously, it has been used for service or activity cancellations, but this year it is also being used for information that needs to be dispersed quickly. If you have previously signed up to receive these alerts, you are still enrolled. However, if you are not already in, but would like to be, please contact Dave Tomastik or the church office with your name and mobile phone number and we will get you on the text message list.



MPC Adult Sunday School “Church at Home”

Meeting Date/Time: Sunday mornings, 9:30 am

Format: Zoom (link will be sent out via email)

Group Leaders: Dan Williams, Tim Bernasek, and Kate England

To Sign up: Email Office Manager Courtney Tomastik at info@multpreschurch.org, or call the MPC office at 503-246-5459



Beginning Sunday, January 17th, our adult class began walking through the “Church at Home” study from The Bible Project. This is a great opportunity to go deeper into Scripture! And if you are not able to make it every time, that is perfectly fine. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. Each session represents a lesson on a unique biblical theme, so you don’t have to worry about falling behind in the study. We’d love to have you join us to be encouraged, and perhaps challenged by God’s Word.



Buildings & Grounds Update

Things have been pretty quiet around the church and Open Door from the maintenance and project perspective. On going maintenance of the landscaping continues along with minor repairs.

Completed Projects:

- Semi Annual elevator inspection and maintenance
- Inspection and repair of ten church and Open Door gas furnaces
- Replacement of the Sanctuary Emergency Lights
- Construct Open Door furnace access platform (Mike Barth)

Parking Lot Patching

A special thanks to a group of volunteers who spent a Saturday morning in November helping patch some of the worst potholes in the parking lot. The individuals who helped with the project are: Mike Barth, Rick Aberle, Tom Jones, Clay Morgan, Dave Tomastik, Dick Eyberg and Dennis Zerba. A contractor who needed space to stage cement trucks for a project while working in the area contributed 60 bags of high-quality asphalt patching material to the project.

Sanctuary Emergency Light Replacement



Sunday Morning Worship on Zoom.

We will have worship together, **every Sunday at 10:30 am on Zoom**. It is encouraging to be able to see each other as we worship, and also to connect with one another through our "virtual Coffee Hour" following the service. Here are some details that will be helpful in accessing our services:

- **Link to join Zoom Worship** (the link will be the same every week): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89257926328>
- **Zoom Meeting ID:** 892 5792 6328
- **Call in Options:** You do not need a smartphone or laptop to worship with us! If you would like to use a phone (mobile or landline) to call in and listen to the service, you may dial (253) 215-8782 and enter the Meeting ID (listed above).
- **The service recording** will be available on the [MPC Youtube Channel](#) in the evening on Sundays. It takes some time to edit and upload the video, hence the delay.



Missions Ministry

MPC has an opportunity to partner with HOMEpdx once more to provide another 120 sack lunches to the unhoused in our area like we did last November. For many of us, this was a fun and rewarding way to engage with those in-need in our community in a safe way. We are asking for volunteers to make six sack lunches and drop them off at the receiving area at front doors of the church the evening of Tuesday, February 9th, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, to be distributed the following day. Please sign-up [here](#) by Saturday, February 6th at noon at the very latest if you are interested in participating.

HOMEpdx (homepdx.net) is a local organization that aims to provide necessities to those living outside while loving “face-to-face” the way Jesus would, sharing not just food and clothing, but also hope and community. At a time when a significant number of meal programs and indoor facilities have closed their doors, these sack lunches are more important than ever. For many of the people served by HOMEpdx, it could be their only meal of the day.

An ideal sack lunch for those we will be serving would be as high-calorie of a meal as possible (at least 1000 calories). The suggested menu is:

- two sandwiches made of meat and cheese (and any sandwich alternatives, such as burritos or wraps, when possible, are greatly appreciated)
- chips or crackers or something similar
- granola or protein bar or something similar (soft is better, because of teeth issues)
- fruit
- treats/desserts
- drink (something such as juice or soda is preferred to water)

The Missions team will be adding packets of mayonnaise and mustard and wet wipes to the lunches before they got to HOMEpdx, and the lunches will be refrigerated overnight. If anyone is able to bring their lunches in a cardboard box or donate any boxes to help with transportation of the lunches, it would be very much appreciated. Larger paper sacks, if needed, are available at Cash and Carry/Smart Foodservice and Dollar Tree.

From HOMEpdx: “We want these lunches to be a blessing. Yes, we need to feed people. At the same time making a sack lunch that is special says to our friends that they are special, that they are worth more than simply a pbj sandwich and a water. There are plenty of people telling my outdoor friends that they are worthless. A heavy sack lunch full of surprising goodness literally and actually fights against that message with good news that we, the church, love them and care about them. It’s my job to convey that message and the larger message that we do all of this because God loves us all. That’s the actual ministry that I’m asking you to partner with us to accomplish.”

Items Needed for the Neighborhood House Pantry

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Boxed Milk (powder) | 8. Dishwashing detergent |
| 2. Can openers | 9. Feminine hygiene products |
| 3. Salt & Pepper shakers | 10. Diapers (any size) |
| 4. Sugar and Flour | 11. Shampoo |
| 5. Tuna in packets and/or cans | 12. Toothpaste |
| 6. Sandwich bread | 13. Stove Top Stuffing |
| 7. Cake/Brownie mixes &/or canned frosting | |

THESE CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOLLAR STORE



MPC Lent Book Study

***The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction* by Justin Whitmel Earley**

Dates: Thursday Evenings from February 18-March 18

Time/Format: 7:00-8:15pm on Zoom (link will be shared via email)

Facilitators: Kate England and Gene Roberts

Use the following link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/wk3ztCkS2cxDXkUn8>

All participants should order a copy of the book or eBook for themselves from Amazon or another retailer.

On Thursday evenings during Lent, we hope you can join us for this study of *The Common Rule*. Throughout the study, we are encouraged not simply to read but also to practice habits that form us in our faith. All are welcome to join us to learn and to be mutually encouraged in following Christ!

“The Common Rule offers four daily and four weekly habits, designed to help us create new routines and transform frazzled days into lives of love for God and neighbor. Justin Earley provides concrete, doable practices, such as a daily hour of phoneless presence or a weekly conversation with a friend. These habits are “common” not only because they are ordinary, but also because they can be practiced in community. They have been lived out by people across all walks of life—businesspeople, professionals, parents, students, retirees—who have discovered new hope and purpose. As you embark on these life-giving practices, you will find the freedom and rest for your soul that comes from aligning belief in Jesus with the practices of Jesus.”



Dove Christian Preschool has been temporarily closed to do our part to slow the spread of Covid 19, and keep our families and community safe. With the arrival of the vaccine, Dove will be able to open its doors again, starting Fall 2021. We're excited to get back into the class to serve the children. Our new teacher assistant, Katrina O'Hearn, is very excited to begin her journey with Dove.

Because of the temporary closure, Dove will be rebuilding its student base for both classes. We'd like to ask your help in getting the word out that Dove will be in operation again. If you have family, friends or neighbors who are looking for a preschool for a 3 or 4-year-old, please refer them to Dove's website. There is a video tour available, along with two other videos that show a little bit about the Dove experience. There is also a contact form so anyone can send an email for more information. Dove's website:

www.dovepreschool.com, email: dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.

We appreciate the support of Multnomah Presbyterian Church in the operation of Dove, which has been part of this community since 1980. It's an honor to serve the children & families, and to offer them an outstanding Christian preschool experience, an experience that will give them confidence to step into kindergarten and be successful both socially and academically.



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:

Eleanor Caufield
Nancy & Chuck Hill
Faye Quinn

Maxine Shuler
Evva Swan



Presbyterian Women

As we begin a new year, let us keep praying for each other, our church, our nation and the world. During this time, let's also think about what purpose we want Presbyterian Women to have in the future. I'm sure there are many ideas out there and we can broaden the scope of our group to make it more interesting and relevant. I know we're all looking forward to the time we can gather together at MPC again.

Deacon News for You

GREETINGS FROM YOUR DEACONS!

Your Deacons met on ZOOM for our monthly meeting on Sunday Jan. 17, 2021. We welcomed 2 new Deacons! Christie Sargent and Dave Tomastik. They are replacing Kathy Wheeler and Steve Brandt who completed their terms as Deacons. THANK YOU, Kathy and Steve, for your services as Deacons; you are greatly appreciated.

Your Deacons are serving on various committees at MPC:

Nominating Committee - Jaonna Morgan

Memorial Service Coordinators - Janet Lowrey, Pat Johnson, Poppy Bernasek

Deacon Assistance Team - Libby Agosti, Christie Sargent

Welcoming New Members - Christie Sargent, Dave Tomastik

Contactors - Nancy Trullinger

Please contact your Deacon &/or our Church office (503-246-5459) if you or someone you know may need food/financial assistance. Also, if you are having any technology issues viewing our online Church services.

Until we see each other, let us remember Matthew 11:28

“COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”

Praying for you,

Nancy Trullinger - 503-245-4388

Robyn Biehler - 503-351-4780





multpresyouth



SUNDAY FUNDAY

Sunday Funday - Kid's Sunday School is on Zoom every first Sunday of the month at 9:45 am; this month it will be on February 7th. The link will be sent out each Friday and repeated the morning of. Heather is also sending out resources each week for activities you can do at home that correspond with the themes of the worship services. If you are a family that has not been receiving emails to these links and resources and you would like them, please contact Heather.

YOUTH GROUPS

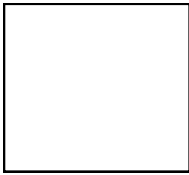
Youth groups are happening each week on Zoom. This month the middle school group will be preparing a 'Nailed It' night for the High School Group on 2/10 and the high school students are doing a 'Chopped' night for middle school on 2/11. Baskets of ingredients will be dropped off at student's homes and we will get to do the cooking over Zoom. If you know of a student that doesn't regularly participate in Youth Groups, but would like to participate in these events, please let Heather know by February 4th so we can make sure they are included.

- 4 John Graf
- 6 Jessica Kindrick
- 9 Darlene Higgenbottom
- 11 Ellen McKean
- 12 Fran Barth
- 13 Sierra Killian
- 14 Olga Peña
- 15 Janice Mullins
- 19 Quintin McChesney
Mike Mullins
- 21 Matthew Eyberg
- 22 Christine Unrath
- 24 Charles Walls
Nancy Unrath
Dean Nackley
- 25 Gayle Clopton
Stacy Kerwood
- 29 Julie Lawrence

**Thank You for Your
"Per Capita" Contribution**

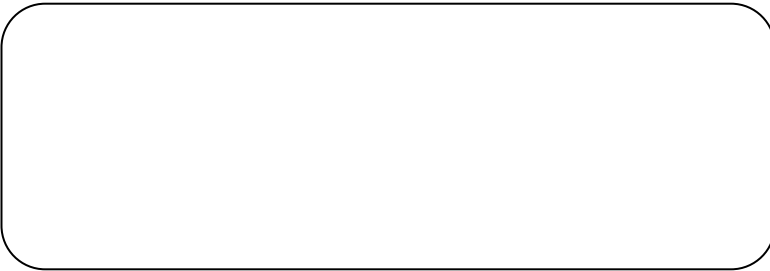
Our church pays an annual assessment to our denomination. This year the fee is \$36.50 per member. The apportionment covers administrative and other costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your contribution to cover the fee is appreciated.





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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