



# 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 6**

**From the Pastor...**

**June 2021**

Dear MPC Family,

I recently heard the story of Father Damien, a Catholic Priest who ministered in Hawaii in the mid-19th century. It's an amazing story, and I believe there was even a movie made about his life and ministry. Father Damien was ordained to the priesthood in 1864 in Honolulu. Around that time, Hawaii was dealing with a spread of leprosy. To deal with the outbreak and to stop the spread of the disease, the government decided to deport those who were infected to a remote peninsula on the island of Molokai. Effectively, those with leprosy were exiled to Molokai where they would most certainly die. Hearing of this, Father Damien volunteered to go to Molokai to tend to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. Many priests stayed for a few months, but Father Damien decided to stay. He decided to live at Molokai among these people who had been cast aside and forgotten. After more than a decade of serving the lepers of Molokai, Father Damien contracted the disease himself in 1885, and he died four years later. It's an amazing story of compassion, love, and sacrifice. Father Damien sought to be a *healing presence* in a place filled with pain and suffering.

I'm not sure how many of us would ever be called to serve as Father Damien did, but his story reminded me of what we are called to do as the church. We are called to partner with Jesus in the work of healing. Ecclesiastes chapter 3 says that there is "a time to heal." I believe the pandemic has created a collective longing for healing. All of us need to heal from the pain of this tumultuous season. I recently heard the point that mental health challenges will be the "enduring legacy of COVID," meaning that long after herd immunity and economic recovery, those challenges will remain. Given all of this, my hope and prayer is that Multnomah Presbyterian Church would be a conduit for the healing work of Jesus Christ. And I know, this sounds quite lofty, and in some sense "above our pay grade." This is the gift of Christian community: we have the capacity, through the Spirit's power, to be a *healing presence* for one another. Over the past several months, I have seen this in action in our church. I have seen extravagant generosity toward those who are hurting. I have seen you bearing one another's burdens and walking with one another through grief and loss. This is the healing work of Jesus!

So, I ask you to prayerfully consider: what would it look like for you to participate in the healing work of Christ? How might God use your words, your gifts, your talents? How might God simply use your presence to bring healing to someone else? I'm grateful to be on this journey with you following Jesus, who is our Savior, Master, Friend...and our Great Physician.

Blessings in Jesus,

-Pastor Danny Peters



## Finance and Administration Update

F&A Committee met on May 18th, 2021 to review the financial reports and discuss a number of agenda items as outlined below. Budget performance through April is as follows.

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 25,073	\$ 103,348
Expenses	\$ <u>32,607</u>	\$ <u>122,039</u>
Net	\$ (7,534)	\$ (18,691)

Giving is off from last year by just over \$ 14,000 dollars. This is not unexpected given the impact that the pandemic has had on so many financially. Fortunately, spending is below budget. As it turns out, a number of expenses are “front loaded” each year and so the typical pattern of budget performance is to catch up to budget later in the year. F&A did not recommend any actions to adjust spending at this time. We do encourage everyone to send in pledged offerings monthly so we can plan with confidence.

Jenifer Aberle joined the meeting to present a proposal from the Outreach Committee to change our Building Use Policy to allow outside groups to use our facility under certain circumstances. We discussed insurance implications, potential costs and charges, and the overall benefit of the outreach effort. In the end, we support the concept as outlined by Outreach and will facilitate any of the financial or business elements that are needed to be successful. This proposal will now go on to Session.

We also reviewed a draft policy regarding the approval process for Deacon spending. The policy outlines the already strong practices in writing to facilitate handoffs as the Deacon leadership changes over time. This policy was approved and will go to Session for final review.

We continue to track and support the work of the Worship Committee in developing technical plans to implement on line worship as outreach in the future.

Finally, we want to express our gratitude to all of you who have remained so faithful during this season of isolation and illness. It was wonderful to be able to gather together once again on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to worship in our MPC home. We look forward to a bright summer and 2021-2022 year.

May God Bless and Keep You,

Your Finance and Administration Committee

I'm working on a new typeface to be used for church bulletins...  
I call it 'Baptismal Font.'





## Buildings & Grounds Update

### MPC Outdoor Cleanup Day



On behalf of the Building & Grounds Committee we would like to thank all who showed up on Saturday May 15th to trim plants and bushes and clean up landscaped areas which had not had any major attention for over a year. Special thanks to Dick Eyberg for coordinating the event and Steve Brandt for capturing a few pictures of people at work. Those helping out included:

Allen Pinero, John England, Darlene Higgenbottom, Karen Black, Roy and Jackie Magnusson, Dave and Courtney Tomastik, Steve and Caroline Brandt, Danny and Joshua Peters, Tim Bernasek, Dick Eyberg and Dennis Zerba.





**HYGIENE ITEMS DRIVE**

The Mission Committee is collecting full-size hygiene items to go to Howard's Heart, a local organization that serves teens in foster care. Sometimes teens entering a new foster care situation have nothing but the clothes on their backs and Howard's Heart puts together boxes of hygiene essentials to help them in their transition to a new home. Some of the most-needed items at this time are body wash, body lotion, and deodorant, but we are collecting all of the basics: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, etc.. There is more information and a full list [on their website](#). There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall. If you will be not be attending in-person worship but would like to donate, please contact Lisa Shelley ([xashesxashesx@gmail.com](mailto:xashesxashesx@gmail.com)) or the MPC office about alternative drop-off opportunities. The drive will end on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SACK LUNCHES**

There is another opportunity this month to show love to our unsheltered neighbors by providing sack lunches. These lunches not only help meet basic needs when resources are scarce but can express much more. **We need 20 volunteers or families to make just six lunches each** in order to be able to serve the population living around

the Park Blocks downtown where HOMEpdx, an organization dedicating to providing not just food but the message that we and God care, ministers. If you would like to help, please sign-up [here](#), or contact Lisa Shelley ([xashesxashesx@gmail.com](mailto:xashesxashesx@gmail.com)). Optional guidelines for the lunches and information about the drop-off are on the sign-up page. We are collecting the lunches on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm but please reach out if you would still like to participate but that time does not work for you. Please sign up by 1:00 pm on June 26<sup>th</sup> so that the Mission Committee can make plans for any additional lunches that may need to be made. Thank you!

**DONATIONS**

In May, the Mission Committee approved two special donations - \$1000 to World Vision and their Coronavirus Emergency Response, which is providing much needed relief to



India during their crisis; and \$400 to Faithful Friends mentoring program, to support them during their fundraising campaign. We thank the Lord for the important work these organizations are doing and for the blessings that allow us to support them.

**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.



At their April meeting, Session:

- noted the deaths of Evva Swan and Nancy Hill, bringing our church membership to 166.
- authorized the guidelines for a safe return to in-person worship.

At their May meeting, Session:

- Accepted the resignation of Theresa Haynes from the MPC Session, effective May 25, 2021, with regret.
- Elected Julia Meyer as MPC Elder Commissioner to June 12-13, 2021, Stated Meeting of the Cascades Presbytery.
- Authorized the expense for Clearstream Texting Service from line item 1651.
- Authorized Thursday Night Bible Study group to resume Bible study at the church on Wednesday afternoons, 3:30-5 pm, beginning June 2, 2021, following MPC's established guidelines for small group gatherings.
- Noted Missions Ministry is collecting full-sized hygiene items each Sunday through June 6 to benefit Howard's Heart, a non-profit organization helping foster care teens.

## In-Person Worship

In-Person Worship began on May 23rd with 35 pre-registered attenders. Each week we will be holding an In-Person worship service at 9:00 am. People need to pre-register to attend. To pre-register, an email is sent out to the MPC mailing list with a link to click on, or you may call or email the office to pre-register. 40 registered attenders is our maximum capacity under CDC and MPC guidelines. Here are some scenes from May 23rd worship service where our Adult Marimba Ensemble rocked the rafters!



Dove Christian Preschool finished the 9-week spring session right before Memorial weekend. The Pre I kids came to school once a week, learned the Dove routine and friendships developed. They had a ceremony on their last day to celebrate becoming the "big kids" of Dove. The Pre II kids spent 4 days a week at Dove, doing art projects related to the alphabet and getting themselves ready to move on to Kindergarten in the fall. Despite only having 9 weeks of school, we are confident these kids will find success when they start school. Thirteen students graduated with a Covid-friendly ceremony at the church. Teacher Katrina and Teacher Barb are so thankful for the opportunity to have some preschool this year. Thank you to MPC for supporting Dove and the teachers. We're looking forward to a full year of preschool starting in Fall 2021. If you know anyone looking for a school, please tell them about Dove. We have room for a few more students, mostly in the Pre II class (4-year-olds). Go to [www.dovepreschool.com](http://www.dovepreschool.com) to learn more about Dove.



## 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

Your Deacons had their monthly meeting via Zoom on Sunday, May 16th. We decided to continue our Zoom meetings for June (we don't meet in July) and revisit a possible in-person Deacon meeting in August.

We are currently in the process of updating our Deacon Assistance policies and procedures to better serve our church families and the tri-county areas.

As of Sunday, May 23rd, we will be having in-person worship for the 9:00 am service, and continue with Zoom worship for the 10:30 am service. We will be limiting the number of people in attendance so a link to register for the 9 am service will be sent to your email EACH TUESDAY or you may call the church office (503-246-5459) to register. Wearing a mask and social distancing will still be in effect. No coffee, food, etc., will be offered.

Your Deacons are always a phone call, email, or text away if you or someone you know needs prayers, financial and/or food assistance. You can also call the church office 503-246-5459.

We close with a verse from Joshua 19: "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged for the LORD your GOD, is with you wherever you go."

Co-Moderator - Robyn Biehler 503-351-4780  
Co-Moderator - Janet Lowrey 503-347-9967

## Presbyterian Women

Dear Women of MPC,  
It won't be long until summer and warmer weather are here. Let's enjoy it!



Some of you are already meeting together in other groups. Continue to support and pray for one another as we wait for a more normal situation. It will be wonderful when we can finally meet again in person. Blessings to all of you.

## MPC Baby News

Jessica and Ken Andrews have just been blessed with a brand new baby girl! Her name is Corallynn and she was born on May 17th, 2021, weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces. They also have a son, Cameron, who is very excited to have a new baby sister. Jessica & Ken have been coming to MPC for several years now. Congratulations!!



## Flower Guild

### God's Minute

"I have only just a minute, only sixty seconds in it, forced upon me cannot refuse it; did not seek it, did not choose it, but it is up to me to use it; I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it. Just a tiny little minute: but Eternity is in it."







### SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

We are excited to be Zoom-free and meeting on Thursday nights from 7:00 -8:30 pm with both middle and high school students. Mask wearing outdoors may be changing soon, but students should always bring a mask in case it starts raining and we need to head into the large gym area in our Youth building. Our students agreed that they would wear masks until everyone had the opportunity to be vaccinated, as they didn't want some to have to wear them while others could go without. We are so proud of our students for extending the care of Jesus to each other in this way, as they do for others what they would want done for themselves.



- 3 Janice Bridgeman
- 5 Janet Kirkland
- 9 Mary Pinero
- 11 Dick White
- 14 Karen Dischner  
Rich Deich
- 16 Audrey Bernasek  
Josie Scupien
- 17 BJ Aitchison
- 18 Richelle Colenso
- 21 Jesse Black
- 22 Davina Soumokil  
Elijah Soumokil
- 23 Rick Aberle  
Kellan Gauger
- 24 Mike Barth
- 26 Dawn Hall
- 27 Anna Peters
- 29 Clay Morgan
- 30 Poppy Bernasek

### KIDS AND FAMILY EVENTS THIS SUMMER



We are working on opportunities for families with kids to gather safely while children await the opportunity to be vaccinated. We have several outdoor events being prepared for families, the first of which will be game nights and picnic on Sunday, June 13th and Saturday, June 26th 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm. Bring a picnic dinner and we will spread out for food. Then we will mask up, (unless recommendations for unvaccinated people gathering from multiple households have changed) and play some games together. We hope these events will be a safe gathering space for our youngest MPC family members to get together again.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year we will be offering a VBS that can be done at home, or with our Youth Group online over Zoom during the week of June 28-July 2. We will have kits with all the supplies needed to participate and links to online videos for those that would like to use the materials as a family at home. Our youth will also be taking kids through the games and activities in the curriculum/kits over live Zoom sessions each day of that week. The curriculum was put together by our high school Youth Group during our Zoom Youth Group nights and some of our local church friends will also be using it for their families this summer.





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.

## June Announcer

Birthdays in June	7
Buildings & Grounds Update	3
Deacon News for You	6
Dove Christian Preschool	5
Finance & Administration Update	2
Flower Guild	6
From the Pastor	1
In-Person Worship Service	5
Kids & Family Events This Summer	7
Missions Ministry	4
MPC Baby News	6
Prayer & Prayer Night	6
Presbyterian Women	6
Remember Our Shut-Ins	6
Session Update	5
Sunday Morning Worship on Zoom	4
Vacation Bible School	7
Youth Group News	7