

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

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU

**DARLENE HIGGENBOTTOM,
KATHLEEN LOOMIS, JACKIE MAGNUSSON,
BARB TWITCHELL, CLAUDIA ZERBA**



This month we'd like to thank those who consistently volunteer their time to make sure offerings are processed and bills get paid. Every week a duo of either Claudia Zerba, Kathleen Loomis, Barb Twitchell or Jackie Magnusson make sure offerings are properly accounted for. At the same time Darlene Higgenbottom spends many hours to make sure the church's expenditures are properly and timely paid. This is such an important function of any organization, and we are so thankful for these faithful volunteers at MPC.

TEMPORARY PASTOR PURSUIT

An updated temporary bridge pastor job description has been out since early February which opens up the candidate pool to the potential of part-time service to MPC. The Personnel Committee will be reviewing applications and providing recommendations to Session for next steps in March. While everyone would appreciate having some stability during this transition process, finding the right individual for MPC takes time. While nothing is settled for now, maybe after Easter we will have more news (if not before).

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, March 5th
Communion

GUEST PREACHER:
JENNIFER ACKERMAN

Sunday, March 12th

GUEST PREACHER:
MATT HEISLER

Sunday, March 19th

GUEST PREACHER:
HEATHER HELLMAN

Sunday, March 26th

GUEST PREACHER:
KELLY DICKSON

Upcoming Events

**SW Hope
Community Food Drive**
February 26 - April 15

**Men's Fellowship
Planning Meeting**
Friday, March 3

Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, March 12

Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, March 31

Palm Sunday
April 2

HOMEpdx Lunch Service
April 2

Good Friday
April 7

**Intergenerational
Easter Celebration**
Saturday, April 8

Easter Sunday
April 9

Alaska Mission Auction
Sunday, April 30

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The former Men's Breakfast Group has been meeting once a month in a local restaurant for the past several months. We are in the process of restructuring this group. Towards that end, we will be meeting in the Church Fellowship Hall on **Friday, March 3rd at 8AM** to discuss what we want this group to be going forward. Coffee, tea and pastries will be provided. At this point, we are looking to meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Fridays of each month. Anyone who may be interested in helping define the future for this men's group at MPC is invited to attend. If you have any questions or would like to attend this meeting, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba (dennis_zerba@msn.com).

MPC COMMITTEES

Are you curious about how our church ministries and programs are run? We have committees led by our elders and staff that collaborate on the many things we have happening at church. The following is a description of those committees and information on who to contact if you have ideas, feedback, etc.





Building & Grounds Committee

The objectives of the B&G Committee are to

- Provide a comprehensive plan & annual budget for dealing with maintenance issues facing MPC.
- Communicate information to Session and the congregation about the needs and priorities for accomplishing church maintenance and improvement projects.
- Identify & oversee volunteer and contractor resources to work on the various tasks and projects.
- Continually evaluate maintenance needs and adjust the priorities as necessary.

Current committee members include Elders Karen Black & Dennis Zerba, and At-Large Members Amy Clements, Clay Morgan, John Prutsman, and Dick Eyberg. Our current committee size is about right, but we are always open to other participants as current members decide to no longer serve on this committee, or someone brings special skills to support the objectives of the committee.

If anyone has concerns, sees things that need to be addressed, or has ideas about ways to improve the facilities and grounds at MPC, they should contact any of the B&G Committee members.

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee works with the director of youth and children's ministry to oversee, advise and equip the youth, children and intergenerational ministries of MPC. The committee also recruits and plans for adult Sunday School opportunities. If you are interested in getting involved or have any comments related to these programs you can contact CE Elder, Kate England.



Committee Contacts:

Christian Education

kate.england.645@gmail.com

Building and Grounds

dennis_zerba@msn.com

Finance and Administration

armagnusson@gmail.com

Missions

jdaberle@yahoo.com

Nominating

kkayblac@aol.com

Outreach & Fellowship

bthkfl46@gmail.com

greatland.class@yahoo.com

Personnel

503.randy.mccourt@gmail.com

Finance & Administration Committee

The role of the Finance and Administration Committee at MPC is primarily to work closely with our treasurer and Session to manage the finances of the church. This includes establishing the budget each year, reviewing expenditures, establishing good accounting practices, and overseeing the giving campaign each year. We also discuss the details of the administrative elements of a nonprofit such as insurance, office costs and operations, etc...

Current members of the committee include Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Tom Base, Dennis Zerba, Gayle Clopton, Chris Ulum, and Roy Magnusson (Chair). Typically we also have the pastor in our monthly meetings; Heather Hellman is serving in that role during the search.

If you have interest in joining the committee or would like further information on its current activities, feel free to contact Roy Magnusson.

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee is responsible for local and international mission activities and giving. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Proposing to Session an annual budget for financial support for mission/charitable organizations.
- Organizing collection of food and other items for donation to local organizations.
- Preparing and serving meals to others in the community, together with other groups and independently.
- Supporting Mission trips, including the annual Youth trip to Alaska and occasional adult trips.

The committee currently consists of Jenifer Aberle (Chair), Fran Barth, Margie Bender, Amy Clements, Jaonna & Clay Morgan, Lori Roberts, and Lisa Shelley.

We encourage participation in all Mission activities! We also welcome anyone who would like to join us on the Committee. Please contact Jenifer or any member with your interest, questions or feedback.

Outreach/Fellowship Committee

Our mutual goals are to provide opportunities outside of the Church for participants to get to know each other in a variety of activities. We want to provide hospitality through Fellowship by sharing meals and serving coffee & cookies after Sunday services.

We encourage MPC to invite friends and neighbors to Outreach & Fellowship events.

Our Outreach/Fellowship Committee is chaired by Robyn Biehler & Michael Anderson. Dave Tomastik and Sherri Kessler also volunteer on these teams. We welcome any volunteers, and if you are interested please contact Robyn.

Personnel Committee

Personnel addresses MPC's needs related to staff. This includes things like search and hiring of positions (other than Pastor which the Pastor Nominating Committee handles), compensation, policies & procedures, benefits, professional expenses, staff review and recognition. This includes oversight of the Pastor, Director of Youth Ministries, Music Director, Office Manager, Nursery Attendant, Director of Marimba Ensembles, Production Assistant, and Custodial Staff/Services.

Current members on the committee are Randy McCourt (Chair), Jennifer Gassaway, Kelly Kendrick, Melissa Ulum, Darlene Higgenbottom, and Kate England.

Personnel Committee (cont.)

This year we will be actively helping identify a temporary bridge Pastor, finalizing compensation for the "new" Pastor, considering Nursery staff needs, and supporting MPC's vision and other ministries. We are always interested in people who wish to help with our ministry, particularly with regard to staff recognition. As the Personnel Committee oversees MPC's staff, always feel free to reach out to Randy or any of the committee members should you have questions, concerns, comments, or praise.

Clerk of Session

The Clerk of Session is elected annually by Session at their January regular meeting and records the minutes of all Session regular and special meetings, as well as the congregational meetings. In addition, the Clerk maintains registers for church membership, elders and deacons (ordination & service), pastors, baptisms, marriages, and the Bylaws of the Church. The Clerk of Session is the parliamentarian for Session using both Presbyterian Book of Order and Roberts' Rules of Order.

At MPC, the Clerk of Session compiles the agenda for each meeting, assists in ordination and installation of deacons and elders, and handles correspondence on behalf of Session (including but not limited to Announcer articles, transfers of membership to other churches). As one of the liaisons between MPC and Presbytery, the Clerk submits statistical reports to Presbytery as requested, and participates in a review of church records with other Clerks in the Presbytery.

The Clerk of Session serves as the Corporate Secretary for MPC on the Board of Directors (also elected annually).

Congregational Nominating Committee

The role of the CNC is to nominate members of the church to serve in various roles, mainly as church officers: elders and deacons. When needed, the CNC nominates members to serve on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Each year, the CNC also nominates members to serve as

At-Large members on the next year's CNC. The selection of the MPC CNC is normally completed at the January Annual Congregational Meeting. For 2023, the CNC consists of Karen Black (Chair) & Robyn Biehler representing Session, Sherri Kessler representing the Deacons, and Judi Davis & Linda Jager representing the congregation.

From the MPC By-laws, Article IV, Section 6:

Nominations shall be made by a representative nominating committee of at least four and not more than seven Active Members of the church. The committee shall be chaired by a member of the Session and include at least two other members of the congregation. The Board of Deacons will designate one of its members to serve on the committee. No member of the nominating committee shall serve more than three consecutive years. A pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee without vote.

This committee shall present to the congregational meeting nominations for each office to be filled. Additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by an eligible voter. (See Book of Order.)

Traditionally, MPC has had 6 members on the CNC - 2 seated elders (one of whom was on last year and will chair the group, to give continuity, and the other is "in training" to lead the following year) - these are elected by Session; Deacons elect their representative; and three members of the committee are elected from members of the church at large, representing the various areas of the church/generations.

If you are interested in being on the 2024 CNC, please contact Karen Black, a member of the CNC, or another elder.

March Birthdays

- 2 Marion Potthoff
- 4 Jenifer Aberle
- 7 David Gassaway
Kelly Kindrick
- 8 Joshua Peters
- 9 Victoria Kerwood
- 11 Courtney Tomastik
- 14 Ralph Loomis
David McKean
- 18 Kate Eyberg
- 19 Greg Snook
- 21 Sammy Morehouse
Jacquelyn Ulum
- 23 Matthew McKenzie
Joyce Bradshaw
Joy Hall
- 27 Ashley Gannett
Danny Peters
Dan Williams
- 28 Tom Agosti
Barbara Stavig-Doane
- 29 Carol Hendricks
- 30 Christie Plame

MISSIONS

SW HOPE COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE February 26th - April 15th

MPC has set a goal of raising \$2,500 for SW Hope again this year. Monetary donations are the most effective way to support the drive. Instructions for donating by check or cash can be found by the offering basket at the back of the sanctuary. Donations may be made online at www.nhpdx.org/sw-hope. Please fill out a slip located by the donation basket to indicate your online donation or let Lisa Shelley (xashesxashesx@gmail.com) or Jenifer Aberle (jdaberle@yahoo.com) know so we can count it in our total. Food donations are also welcome and can be placed in the red collection barrel in the fellowship area.



Dine Out to Donate Nights

Enjoy a night out at any of these restaurants, and a percentage of your meal price (10% unless otherwise noted) will be donated to SW Hope.

March 6th: Yalla

March 7th: Mediterranean Exploration Company

March 8th: Lil' Shalom

March 12th: Salvador Molly's
(25% of proceeds donated!)

March 13th: Shalom Y'all

March 14th: Dolly Olive

March 15th: Bless Your Heart Burgers

March 25th: Jack's Tap Room and Grill
(special menu, 25% of proceeds donated!)



Thinker Toys Shop-a-Thon March 13 & 14, 10am - 6pm

Mention SW Hope and Thinker Toys will donate 10% of your purchases.



MISSIONS (continued)

SW Hope 5K Marathon

April 15th @ Oregon Episcopal School

The Campaign will finish with the SW Hope 5K. The kids' run will start at 10am, with the adults' at 10:30am. Last year a group of more than 20 of us represented MPC and we plan to do it again! We will meet before the event and walk (or run) together for a time of fellowship and fresh air. Invite friends and neighbors! Registrations have not begun yet, but when they do, join the "Multnomah Presbyterian Church" group when you sign up. Although some participants will be running, many of us will be walking. Those who are walking more slowly or are daunted by the length of the course can opt out of the second lap. Hope to see you there!

HOMEpdx LUNCH ON THE WATERFRONT

April 2nd, Palm Sunday

MPC will prepare and serve lunch together with HOMEpdx at the Eastside waterfront. Join us for any part of this effort.

Sat. April 1st, 11:00-12:30 : Food prep at church

Sun. April 2nd, 12:15-2:00 : Transport and serving at the waterfront

Contact Jenifer Aberle (jdaberle@yahoo.com) or Lisa Shelley (xashesxashesx@gmail.com) for more information.

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 continue to meet via Zoom each Tuesday.

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.

Blessings From Within Our Church

We are blessed with Dr. Jennifer Ackerman's presence and sermons.

Our improved gym and new pickleball court are bringing people of all ages together.

The marimbas and ukulele ensembles are causing smiles and joy.

An 8 yr. old friend's parent trusted God, her gut, and her daughter, to persevere until the right diagnosis was found, resulting in a successful open heart surgery.

If you would like to share your blessings, please send them to Janet Lowrey, Dave Tomastik, or your own Deacon.





BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

MPC MULTI-PURPOSE COURT

With start of using the gym in the Open Door for pickleball as well as ongoing youth activities, the decision was made to enhance safety of the area by installing a new floor surface, padding posts and other items near the court, along with general cleanup and other improvements to the audio platform, and refinishing the basketball backboards. Many thanks in a big way to the following volunteers who spent over 120 manhours and took on numerous and sometimes challenging tasks throughout the project:



- Heather Hellman and Spencer Magnusson coordinated a project with the youth group to clean out storage areas, move pads, tables and other items from around the court, along with disassembling the old pool table and ping pong table. The highlight of the evening was the group taking swings with a sledgehammer to break down the three large pieces of slate.



- Heather and Elijah Hellman spent time on a ladder sanding the stubborn old paint and writing on the backboards to prepare them for a fresh coat of paint.
- Mike Barth, Dick Eyberg, Rick Aberle, and Dennis Zerba spent time moving and recarpeting the audio platform, as well as covering everything in the kitchen and storage areas with plastic to protect them from the dust that would be generated during the floor refinishing.



- Gene and Lori Roberts, John Prutsman, Roy Magnusson, Mike, Dick, Rick, and Dennis spent several hours on hands and knees removing adhesive, old tape, and paint stripes from the concrete floor.



- Dave Tomastik, Mike, Dick, Rick, and Dennis spent several hours grinding concrete joints and metal strips in the joints along with chemically stripping paint, sanding the floor, wet & dry vacuuming, and scrubbing mop boards.
- After the contractor finished all his work preparing the floor surface, Gene and Lori, Roy and Spencer, and Dennis and Claudia wiped down all the walls to get rid of the dust.
- On the final day of the project, after the contractor finished applying six layers of paint and striping the floor, several of the above volunteers assembled to remove the plastic covering, wipe down all the walls, counters and cabinets, cleaned the floors in the restrooms, kitchen and storage areas, while Heather and Elijah cleaned and organized the upstairs area in the OD.



On behalf of your Building & Grounds Committee, thanks again to all these volunteers for helping put together a safe and inviting space for all people to enjoy.





Pictures from Ski Day



YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

High School
Wednesdays 7-9pm

Middle School
Sundays 7-8:30pm

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

Monday, March 20th, 6-7:30pm

We will meet at the Open Door for pizza, games, art projects, and more as we discover more about Jesus's love for us.

EASTER EGG HUNT, BABY GOATS, PANCAKES & FLOWERS

Saturday April 8th, we will have an intergenerational Easter celebration from 10am—Noon. There'll be pancakes, the baby goats will be back, we'll have the Easter Egg hunt, and more! You can also bring flowers to decorate the flower cross for Easter worship if you like. To help us have the best celebration together, we would love your help with the following:

- Donate bags of wrapped Easter candy to go into plastic Easter eggs
- Donate plastic Easter eggs we can fill with candy
- Volunteer to help with the set up or clean up of the event (you can even get some extra goat snuggles!)
- Invite anyone you know that would enjoy seeing baby goats, sharing flowers from their garden, hunting for Easter Eggs, or just a fun get-together. You can use this as an opportunity to show off our new nursery and youth building/pickleball improvements, and introduce friends to our MPC family.

EASTER NURSERY CARE HELP

We have a beautiful new nursery, but no childcare staff yet. The first priority in new staff is a temporary pastor, so we have not been able to start the process for a childcare provider, but we would love to have the nursery open for any families that might come for Easter. Would you be willing to help with childcare during worship on Easter Sunday? Talk to Heather or Kate England if you are able to serve that day and help us provide a safe, inviting place for families with small children. A background check will be required, and is easy to complete with our online service.



GRATITUDE FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

From Safe Families for Children

Multnomah Presbyterian Church Family,

I want to express our deepest gratitude for championing Safe Families at your December coffeehouse fundraiser.

We are so encouraged and grateful for your partnership and generosity. Thank you for investing in this movement to develop Circles of Support around families in crisis.

Gratefully, Steve Pringle

From Frontier Fellowship

Dear friends,

We are incredibly grateful for your support of Frontier Fellowship in 2022. Your gifts served our staff and global partners during a pivotal year. 2022 saw a return to international vision trips, exploration of partnerships in new frontier regions and a gathering with friends from around the world [...]

In December, I was honored to visit one of our partners in Ethiopia to participate in three joyous events marking a new Bible translation for a least-reached people group. I can't begin to describe the enthusiasm I witnessed – through singing, dancing and worship – as people embraced a Bible in their own heart language for the first time.

Thank you for being part of the Frontier Fellowship family.

Blessings, Richard L. Haney

DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Dove is accepting registrations for Fall 2023. If you have family, friends or neighbors that are looking for a preschool, please have them contact Dove to schedule a tour. We have openings in the Pre I class (3-year-olds) and Pre II class (4-year-olds). We can be reached at dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com or through our website, www.dovepreschool.com.

Also, the preschool board is looking for new members. The board meets once a month Sept through May. If you would like more information, please contact Kate Eyberg (mpcdoveboard@gmail.com). We'd love to talk with you about how you can become involved in a stress-free volunteer position while serving a great preschool. Thank you!

*Multnomah Presbyterian
Church Family,*

*I want to express our deepest
gratitude for Championing Safe
Families at your December
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*We are so encouraged and
grateful for your partnership
and generosity. Thank you
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to develop Circles of Support around
families in crisis.*

Gratefully, Steve Pringle



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.

MARCH ANNOUNCER

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