

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...

April 2021

"The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it."

-NT Wright

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will be in the middle of Holy Week, walking together through the story that saved the world: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In our world, there is so much chaos and turmoil, and yet I rejoice that there is good news to be proclaimed. Christ is risen...He is risen indeed!

Along with a sense of anticipation and joy, I must also acknowledge the feelings of disappointment that remain. By now, you have likely gathered that for the second consecutive year, we will not be holding in-person Easter worship at Multnomah Presbyterian Church. I want you to know that our Session and COVID Response team has been incredibly thoughtful and faithful in regard to the conversation about regathering. In the coming days, we will give the congregation an update on how we are moving forward in the spring and summer months. With declining COVID cases and the proliferation of vaccines, we are confident that we will be able to return to in-person services soon. You have been incredibly patient and steadfast over the past year. You have continued to engage with our services on Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube. I want to thank you for bearing with us as we navigate the complexities of community life in a pandemic.

Like I said, there is disappointment...but there is also hope. As we move through Holy Week, let us be ever mindful that we are people of the resurrection. We are *Easter* people. We are a people convinced that Good Friday does not (and will never) have the final word. I look forward to celebrating Jesus alongside you this week!

With Joy in Being Your Pastor, Danny

Easter Events



Thursday, April 1st **Maundy Thursday** 7:00 pm Zoom worship service

Friday, April 2nd **Good Friday** worship service 7:30 pm on Facebook Live and [MPC Youtube Channel](#)

Saturday, April 3rd Bring cut flowers and branches to decorate the cross in front of the church, 10 am to 2:00 pm

Sunday, April 4th **Easter Sunday** 10:30 am Zoom worship service and photo session in front of the cross from 12 - 2:00 pm



Finance and Administration Update

F&A Committee met on March 16th, 2021 to review the financial report for February 2021 and to further discuss committee goals for 2021. Budget performance year through February is very similar to last year.

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 24,443	\$ 47,007
Expenses	<u>\$ 26,990</u>	<u>\$ 54,166</u>
Net	\$ (2,547)	\$ (7,159)

In February, we were fortunate to have a guest, Rob Hagan, from the Presbytery. He is a retired pastor who now advises northwest churches on financial options. We invited him specifically to begin initial exploration of two topics. Legacy Giving is the process of estate planning that involves donating to worthy causes (such as MPC) at the end of life. We also discussed the process of developing a foundation account for endowments. In this month's meeting, we had a follow-up discussion and agreed to further explore these options and plan to provide more information to all this fall, COVID permitting. We also reviewed the remaining funds in past Memorial Funds and developed a plan to communicate with the families of those honored to discuss best uses for these funds. We continue to track and support the work of the Worship Committee in developing technical plans to implement on-line worship as outreach once we can gather together at MPC.

Soon and very soon! We wish you all a wonderful and meaningful Easter Season.

Your Finance and Administration Committee

Session Update

Since the beginning of the year, Session ...

- Approved to donate monies collected at the Christmas Drive-in events to HOMEpdx.
- Elected Darlene Higgenbottom Treasurer for MPC for 2021
- Elected Roy Magnusson as President and Julia Meyer as Secretary for MPC for 2021, as reported to the State of Oregon, with the ability to sign contracts on behalf of MPC
- Approved the Annual Report (2020 Church Statistical Report) as written, for submission to Presbytery
- Approved 2021 Communion dates – the first Sunday of every month February 2021 through January 2022, Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), and Good Friday (Apr. 2)
- Approved the expenditure of \$249 to have elders and leaders participate in the online Future Church Summit on Feb. 19 and 20.
- Approved the 2021 Church budget
- Approved end-of-year balance transfers for year-end surplus from 2020 budget to Designated Fund #391 for the purposes of updating the technology in our sanctuary for ongoing live streaming of worship services
- Elected Kelly Kendrick and Karen Black to serve as Session representatives on the 2021 Nominating Committee, with Kelly Kendrick as chair
- Participated in the Future Church Summit in February via live stream and Zoom
- Elected Paul Barnum and Jenifer Aberle as MPC Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting Mar. 12/13
- Authorized Dove Preschool to resume classes beginning March 29, under the guidance of the Dove Christian Preschool Health and Safety Plan and monitoring by the COVID-19 Response Team
- Authorized the Missions ministry to collect funds for Neighborhood House in March to support SW Hope: Feed the Hungry campaign



Buildings & Grounds Update

Completed Projects:

- Treated Moss in grass and on the parking lot and sidewalks
- Repaired Sanctuary and Downstairs furnaces
- Inspected Open Door gym furnace
- Installed a new thermostat in sanctuary to help manage air circulation
- Installed a UV light in downstairs ductwork to help improve air quality in the areas used by the preschool as well as making changes to the furnace controls increase air circulation.

Audio/Video Upgrades

We are currently working with the technology committee to evaluate proposals for upgrading Audio and Video systems in the sanctuary to support live streaming of services. Once we have chosen a contractor and decided on a final scope of work we can move forward with the actual procurement and installation.

Sanctuary Stage Lighting

We have discussed various aspects of replacing the sanctuary stage lighting as part of the overall AV upgrade. However, we felt this may not be the best use of church resources at this time. Replacement lights are no longer manufactured but they can still be found and we currently have a couple of spares. Will need to upgrade at some point in the future but we will keep the existing system going as long as we can.

Fire Alarm Control Panel

We are looking into options to replace a faulty display board or possibly replace the whole fire and security alarm panel. The alarm panel is reaching an age where replacement parts may be no longer become available. Costs for service calls and system testing are going up all the time so we are looking into other companies that may provide similar services just to see if there may be any potential options for saving some money.

Preschool and Church Reopening

We have met with City Wide Services to discuss janitorial needs to support current plans for phased reopening of the church. Phase one would consist primarily of the downstairs area to support the preschool and the upstairs office and restroom areas. The second phase would include all the other areas of the church as well as the Open Door. We have signed an interim contract for just the phase one needs and this is to go into effect in late March.

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.



Presbyterian Women

Dear women of MPC,

I know we're all looking forward to spring and new beginnings for 2021. Hopefully, all of you that want the vaccine have gotten it or will soon. It's exciting to know that, hopefully, we can soon be back to meeting in person! Everyone stay well.



Clean-up at Karen & Jesse Black's

During the ice storm over the Valentine's Day weekend, a very large tree fell on the home of Karen & Jesse Black. They are currently working with the insurance people to get their home rebuilt, but in the meantime, they are living in a house in Beaverton.

After the storm passed and the ice and snow melted, much of the tree was cut into manageable pieces and hauled away. Karen asked some of our MPC folks to help clean up all the sticks and branches remaining in their yard. On Saturday morning, March 13, a dozen of our church family members showed up to clear their yard of all the fallen debris. It was hauled away using wheelbarrows and pickup trucks.



Karen and Jesse would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for all the workers that helped, and all the people who have been praying for them since this unfortunate incident occurred. They request your continued prayers as they deal with the challenges before them in the clean-up and the rebuilding process.



This is a section of the enormous Oak tree that fell on Karen and Jesse Black's house.

Helping clear away debris were Tim Bernasek, Amy Clements, Dick Eyberg, Clay Morgan, José Carlos Peña, John Prutsman, Dave Tomastik, Dennis Zerba, and a friend of Karen's from her work.



Outreach Team

Help Grow MPC Online

The church needs your help to grow our online presence.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and under Pastor Danny's leadership, MPC is doing more online than ever. But as we think about returning to in-person worship, we don't want to lose ground in the digital universe. In his book "Secrets of a Secret Shopper," Greg Atkinson states, "Guests will visit you online before they visit you in person. Count on it."

Here are five things you can do as a member or visitor to grow MPC's presence online.

1. Visit the church's [website](#). It's been recently upgraded, so check it out! If you are not getting MPC's monthly newsletter, subscribe by providing your email address in the box at the bottom of the page.
2. From the website, you can go to MPC's [Facebook](#). There are 227 followers. Are you one? If not, then "follow" MPC. "Like" some of the posts. Make a comment. You can also select "Reviews" and briefly tell what you like about MPC.
3. Also from the website, you can go to MPC's [YouTube](#) page. Be sure to subscribe. View some of the videos and give them a "Thumbs up!"
4. Search Google for "Multnomah Presbyterian Church." On Google, you can rate the church. Give it 5 stars and write a review.
5. Are you a member of "Nextdoor?" Go to the website and "[Recommend](#)" MPC.

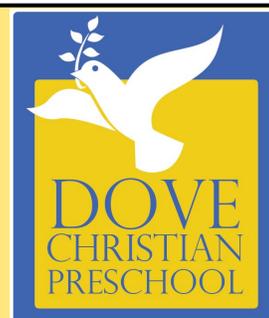
These are easy ways that you can help MPC grow online. Later on we'll talk about using other platforms, like Instagram, Twitter, etc. Atkinson said it best, "I can't stress enough how crucial it is for you as a pastor or church leader, **as well as your congregation**, to be active and engaging on social media."

Do you have some ideas? We want to hear from you! Contact either [Paul Barnum](#) or [Jenifer Aberle](#) with your ideas and suggestions. Let's do this!

Outreach Team

Dove Christian Preschool opened its doors on March 29, welcoming back children after a year's absence. The Pre II kids are coming 4 days a week to get prepared for kindergarten in the fall. There's a lot of work to do to help them prepare and we are ready for the challenge. The Pre I kids will come one day a week and get their first taste of preschool, and will spend time preparing themselves to be the "big kids" in the fall. Teacher Katrina is so happy to finally start her job as assistant teacher, having been hired a year ago. Both teachers are ready and thankful to be back in the class. We'd like to thank the pandemic committee, Session and the preschool board for all the support in getting Dove up and running again. Also, thank you to the Aberle family for the use of their power washer so we could clean the playground. And a big thank you to Dennis and Dick for getting things like the heat back on, and all the little details in place so we can return to a warm, safe and inviting school.

We continue to recruit students for Fall 2021 for both the Pre I and Pre II classes. If you have family, friends or neighbors that are looking for a preschool, please let them know about Dove. Information is available on Dove's website, www.dovepreschool.com.



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:

Nancy Hill
Maxine Shuler
Evva Swan

In Memoriam

It's with sadness that we announce the passing of long-time MPC member, Eleanor Caufield, on March 17th, 2021. Eleanor celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year. A small service for family will be held at Willamette National Cemetery on March 30th. Please keep the Caufield family in your prayers.

Paul Barnum has informed us that his uncle, Chuck Hill, a long-time member of MPC, passed away Saturday, March 27th. Chuck was 91 years old, died of natural causes and passed peacefully. Chuck's wife, Nancy, is at home, being cared for by family. Chuck and Nancy became MPC members in the late 1960's. The family will hold a private graveside ceremony. In lieu of flowers, cards may be sent to Mrs. Nancy Hill, c/o Ken Hill, 15680 SW 79th Ave., Tigard, OR 97224.



Deacon News for You

An Easter prayer from your Deacons

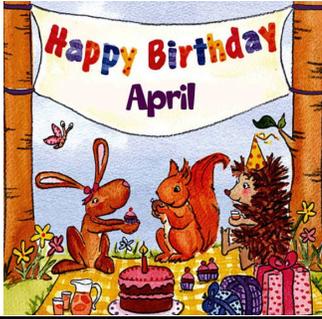
Dear Lord, may I realize afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with YOU through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Happy Easter to you all.

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 |





VBS

This year Vacation Bible School will be going virtual with an amazing Zoom component. The high school youth group has been working on a curriculum of fun activities, Bible stories and socially distanced animals. We plan to offer activity kits with art and game supplies that would go along with a week of live Zooms, or can just be done at home with families. The students will lead kids through art, science and games in an hour long zoom that will include Bible Story and science videos too. More details are coming soon.

Youth Groups

Our High School Youth Group will start meeting outside on Wednesday nights when weather permits. We will maintain social distancing, wear masks and take other necessary precautions. If it's too rainy we will text and post on Instagram to let everyone know we will be meeting over Zoom instead. College youth group and Middle School youth group will remain online.

- 1 Jennifer Gassaway
- John Prutsman
- 3 Robyn Biehler
- 4 Ray McKean
- 6 Thomas Base
- 7 Bob Ballenger
- 10 Karen Sedwick
- 13 Barb Jones
- Lil Dorman
- 16 April Bell
- 17 Gina Hermanson
- 18 Caroline Brandt
- 19 Jessica Andrews
- 20 Shirley Feuz
- Hazel Kindrick
- Jordan Metz
- 22 Julie Bettis
- 24 Derek Gannett
- 25 Karen Altman
- Steven Goodfellow
- 27 Evelyn Prutsman
- 28 Allen Pinero
- 29 Tom Jones
- Lois Oberdorf

Flower Guild

Giving

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered
 And nobody helped us along,
 If each and every minute we looked after ourselves
 And good things all went to the strong
 If nobody cared just a little for you,
 And nobody thought about me,
 And we all stood alone in the battle of life,
 What a dreary old world it would be.

Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made
 And the things which in common we share;
 We want to live on, not because of ourselves,
 but because of the people who care.
 It's giving and doing for somebody else
 On that all life's splendor depends,
 And the joy of this world, when you've
 summed it all up,
 Is found in the making of friends.



(INSERT)

Missions Ministry

SACK LUNCHES

We are collecting sack lunches for the unsheltered community next week. It's not too late to sign-up! If you are interested in participating, please sign-up [here](#) by Saturday April 3rd at noon at the very latest. The lunches will be collected at the church Tuesday evening April 6th from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm. If you would like to do lunches and that window does not work for you, please contact Lisa Shelley (xashesxashesx@gmail.com) about an alternative arrangement. Information about the suggested menu for the lunches is available on the sign-up page.

The lunches will be distributed by HOMEpdx, an organization located in the Park Blocks in downtown Portland and engaging in a meaningful way with the unhoused population living in that area, providing not just food but important human connections and trying to meet as many needs as they can. For many of those served, these sack lunches could be their only meal of the day. This is a time when many of their lifelines for food, electricity, and warmth and shelter are no longer available.

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."

SHEPHERD'S DOOR

Shepherd's Door, a division of Portland Rescue Mission, helps get vulnerable women and mothers back on their feet: "At Shepherd's Door women and women with their children find healing through addiction recovery, vocational training, spiritual encouragement, and transitional support in a safe, retreat-like setting for one year." You can find more information about the shelter [here](#) on their website and a story from KATU news [here](#). It is located at 13207 NE Halsey St, Portland OR 97230.

Right now, they are looking for some volunteers to help with their flower and vegetable gardens and do some planting. They are also looking for some plant starters. They are very flexible. [Here](#) is the link to sign up to volunteer as an individual but there is also the possibility of organizing a small group if you would like. You can go one time or regularly on a weekly or monthly basis.

You can contact Holly Hummel (holly.hummel@pdxmission.org) with questions.

SW HOPE: FEED THE HUNGRY

SW Hope: Feed The Hungry runs for another week and a half and it's not too late to donate or participate. The number of food insecure households in Oregon has grown to nearly 1 in 4 due to the pandemic and the food pantry at Neighborhood House makes a huge difference to individuals and families right here in SW Portland.

Remaining events:

- April 3 (Saturday) – Drive Up to Donate food/cash at the SW Community Center (10:00 am-2:00 pm) and each \$20 is a raffle entry
- April 6 (Tuesday) – Take Out to Donate from Mediterranean Exploration Company

April 5-11 – Virtual 5k (Sign up [here](#).)

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Please visit the SW Hope website (nhpdx.org/sw-hope) if you are interested in one of these events and need more details, or you can email Lisa Shelley (xashesxashex@gmail.com) with questions.

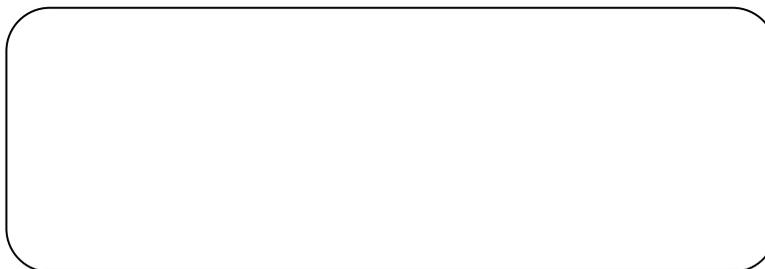
If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can mail a check to our church: please make the checks out to Neighborhood House and put SW Hope in the memo line. You can also donate directly to Neighborhood House on their website at nhpdx.org/sw-hope or text SWHOPE to 44-321.

You can also make food donations during open hours (M/W 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Tu 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Th 10:00 am-5:00 pm) at the food pantry itself: 3445 SW Moss St., Portland OR 97219. Requested food items include dry & canned beans, canned vegetables, canned soups, canned meats, pasta sauce, tomato products, pasta, cereal, and breakfast items.



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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