

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

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MultPresChurch.org

ROSES FOR WORSHIP Sunday, May 12th

For the past few weeks, we've been looking at how the five senses can affect our worship and help us connect us with the resurrection life we find in Jesus. On May 12th we will be looking at Smell, and since that is also Mother's Day, we would like to invite people to bring roses to honor an amazing woman in their life. It does not have to be a mother, it can be a friend, aunt, any woman who has shown you the love of God. We will be filling vases with the roses that will hopefully bring a great fragrance, as well as beauty to our worship that morning.

If you would like to have the woman's name recognized in our worship bulletin, please submit their name to the office by Sunday, **May 5th** and let us know if the recognition is "In Honor of" for a living person, or "In Memory of" if they are deceased.



Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, May 5th
Communion

Sunday, May 12th

Sunday, May 19th
Pentecost

Sunday, May 26th

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

May 5th

Matthew 26:20-29
Psalm 98:1-9

May 12th

John 12:1-8
Psalm 1:1-6

May 19th

John 15:4-16
Acts 2:1-21

May 26th

John 3:1-17
Psalm 29:1-11



Upcoming Events

All Church Work Day
Saturday, May 4

Deacons Installation
Sunday, May 5

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12

Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Friday, May 17

Dove Graduation
Thursday, May 30

American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Thursday, May 30

Howard's Heart Drive
Deadline
Sunday, June 16

VBS
June 17-21 3pm-6pm

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group normally meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. This month we will meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am only on **May 17th** for breakfast, along with a time of general fellowship and discussion. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba.

ACCESS & SECURITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

A task force of Session that is reviewing access and security has begun to draft up a guide for MPC. This includes how we utilize the 19 doors we have, what we are doing in terms of locking them (one concept in evaluation is "locked unless monitored"), keys to doors and their management, surveillance (CCTV, lighting, and alarms), communication, and training (for things like CPR/medical issues, evacuation, and event procedures). The guide is being organized around visitor planning, access & security strategies, and rental requirements. If anyone has ideas they would like to share, feel free to reach out to any of the task force members: Randy McCourt, Chris Ulum, Clay Morgan, Tom Jones, and Gary Cayton.

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.



SESSION UPDATE

At the April meeting, Session:

- Concurred with CNC recommendation for Pat Johnson to fill a deacon vacancy in the class of 2024.
- Approved calling a congregational meeting on April 28, 2024 following the worship service to elect Pat Johnson to fill a deacon vacancy.
- Approved installing Dave Tomastik and Pat Johnson on May 5, 2024.
- Noted Heather Hellman, CRE was commissioned on April 14, 2024 and is now Temporary Pastor, CRE. Jennifer Ackerman is Transitional Pastor.
- Heard commissioner reports from Karen Black, Heather Hellman, and Jennifer Ackerman on the Presbytery Spring Stated Meeting they attended April 19-20. Highlights included motions and overtures in support of relationships with local indigenous communities. Barbie's Village at the former Laurelhurst Presbyterian Church and the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church are two such communities. The Presbytery of the Cascades (POC) concurred with the "Becoming Free From Plastic Pollution" overture which will go to the 226th General Assembly later this year. John and Sylvia Dilworth transferred from the POC to Inland Presbytery. The Warm Springs Presbyterian Church is celebrating their 150th anniversary on August 10. Everyone is invited to the salmon bake - RSVP by **June 1**. Contact Karen Black for details.
- Heard an update from the Security Task Force. They are still gathering and organizing information. Randy was asked by POC to share what the MPC Security Task Force has done and where we are at, so he gave his presentation to Session. Randy summarized the process and information they have gathered so far. The next steps for the task force are to coordinate processes with Dove Preschool, develop guidelines & processes, and then get Session approval. A request for better communication on implementation of the new practices was made.
- Heard from CE Committee that VBS registration is open and that we need to do more advertising. VBS is June 17-21.
- Heard that the Missions committee bought 12 Chromebooks for the Stephens Creek Crossing Homework Club using designated funds.
- Heard from the Finance & Administration Committee that after the first quarter of 2024, we are within about \$1800 of breaking even. A suggestion was made to apply for a Barnabas Grant through POC.
- Heard from the Personnel Committee that policy updates have been postponed until summer.
- Heard Jennifer Ackerman has a book out titled **Preaching the Gospel of Justice**.
- Heard from the Treasurer that the 2023 Financial Records Review was completed by Janet Lowrey, CPA and Kathy McCourt. The records are in good shape. One recommendation was made for improvement.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we were up to this month:

- Backflow testing was completed on March 26th. All devices passed and our information was sent to City of Portland. The technician noted a slight leak on one of the test ports, but it stopped leaking by the time we left.
- Discussed stage lighting operation: there is one light that is currently turned off due to the glare it causes on the face of the speaker for online viewers.
- We scheduled an All Church Work Day for **Saturday, May 4th** starting at 9am. Our main task is to spread fresh bark along the entire front planter area. We'll also provide a light lunch at the end of the work (aiming around 11am).
- Fire Alarm Testing was performed April 11th.
- Front entry closing mechanisms were adjusted to prevent closing too fast and potentially contacting folks as they enter.
- Regarding our downstairs wall murals: Amy is in discussion with a couple other members to plan to refresh and/or paint over them.
- Clay had his first round of mowing completed without incident, and Dennis followed two weeks later (photos below).





MISSIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE SW Hope Community Food Drive

On the right, you'll see the smiling faces of the 10 folks from MPC who participated in the SW Hope 5K run/walk on April 6th. **Thanks to all who donated!** Together we raised over \$2045 (including 5K fees) and collected 38 lbs. of food for our neighbors!



HYGIENE ESSENTIALS DONATION DRIVE FOR TEENS IN FOSTER CARE

Starting in May and running through Sunday, June 16th, the Mission Committee will collect hygiene essentials including full-size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and toothbrushes for **Howard's Heart (howardsheart.org)**, a local non-profit organization that serves teens in foster care.

Sometimes, children entering a new foster care situation have nothing except the clothes on their backs, and Howard's Heart puts together boxes of essentials to help them in their transition to a new home. Foster care teens also have an opportunity to visit the Howard's Heart shop located at Lloyd Center to choose items for themselves.

We are looking for full-size shampoo and conditioner of different varieties and for different hair types, as well as toothbrushes and toothpaste. Donations can go into the red barrel in the fellowship hall. The drive will run through **Sunday, June 16th**. Please reach out to Margie Bender and other Mission Committee members if you have any questions.

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

During the month of May our denomination collects a special Pentecost Offering to support children at risk, youth and young adults. 40% remains with MPC to support youth ministry, and 60% supports young adult volunteers, youth ministries, and child advocacy. For more information and to donate visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost>.





May Birthdays

- 1 Brad Doane
Betty Trowbridge
- 2 Sherri Kessler
- 3 Dennis Zerba
- 6 Tabitha Hellman
- 9 Pat Hoff-Clement
Chris Ulum
- 10 Barbara Geurink
Janet Lowrey
- 12 Lloyd Nackley
- 15 Amy Clements
Holley Carlson
- 16 Lori Roberts
- 20 Lorraine Larson
Grecia Denisse Peña
Nathaly Peña
- 22 Samuel Ulum
- 25 Betsy Deich
- 28 AJ Colenso
- 31 Ray Enzor

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

MEET YOUR DEACON

There are several new Deacons who started their terms in January 2024. This month we would like to introduce you to **Richard "Dick" Eyberg**.

Dick grew up on a small family farm in southwestern Iowa surrounded by extended family and a close-knit small town community. Some of the most influential places he has lived are his small town, in the army, Africa, and Portland, which he now calls "home."

Dick made his career at the Portland VA hospital as a medical technologist, then got promoted into management. He met his wife Kate there and likes to say "we're an office romance gone good." Kate and Dick have two great sons, Daniel and Matthew.

Kate and Dick started attending MPC on Easter Sunday, 1999.

When asked about traveling, Dick said that travel and having adventures have always been his great desires growing up. He has been fortunate to experience both. He has celebrated Easter on the plains of Vietnam and the coast of California, seen the sunrise from the peak of Mt. Hood, watched the moon rise over the Indian Ocean, gazed at the Southern Cross, been stranded in the mud near Lake Turkana, swam in the Blue Nile river, viewed the Himalayas in the distance, commercial fished in Alaska (long line), driven grain trucks in eastern Oregon, and taught Sunday School to fifth graders. One of his regrets was turning down an invitation to go tiger hunting when living in Saigon.

His best vacation was visiting Maui with Kate.

When asked about something he has done in his life that he is proud of, he said in his personal life it is definitely his family. Kate is an excellent Mom. They are very proud of their two sons and the fine young men they have turned out to be.

On the professional side, his goal was to hire laboratory staff who were smart, hard working, and had a positive outlook on life. Check, check, and check!



DEACON NEWS FOR YOU (continued) **NEW DEACON DISTRICTS**

Our office manager Vicki has taken tremendous time and care to update our Members and Friends Directory with the most current information available. The new directories, in bold red, are available at the welcome counter. Please note the addition of new deacon district 7, overseen by returning deacon Pat Johnson. This means that all families may have a new deacon district number, located to the right of your name. Pages 10-11 show the deacon that oversees each district.

If your deacon has changed, be on the lookout for a welcome notification. It is helpful for us if you try to find your deacon on Sunday and introduce yourself, as we will be trying to do the same. The deacons are here to help care for our families – with prayer, with food or transportation during difficult times, with organizing memorial services. Let us help you!

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE FOOD BARREL

Now that the SW Hope Food Drive has concluded, please remember the deacons collect non-perishable, non-expired food items all year long for Neighborhood House. The bin is located in the Fellowship Hall.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Spring has sprung and it seems everyone should be celebrating, but some are definitely feeling they are in a fall or winter season. Please pray for our church families that are struggling with end of life, mental health, relationship, and financial issues.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. – Ecclesiastes 3:1-7

Blessings From Within Our Church

It was truly a blessing to witness Heather Hellman's commissioning and to welcome and celebrate with all the distinguished guests who helped with the process.

We thank God for the positive medical diagnoses received and surgeries performed in recent weeks.

We celebrate all those with graduation milestones this season.

If you would like to share your blessings, please send them to Barb Jones or your own Deacon.



DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The year for Dove students is quickly winding down. April was spent learning a little more about music. A few parents came in and shared instruments. We also celebrated Earth Day, and made crafts to remind us of all the beauty around us.

This month we'll be heading to the Oregon Zoo, as well as doing final things to get all the kids ready to move to their next level in the fall. There are 10 kids graduating from Dove on May 30. All are excited to make a move to Kindergarten. We are so proud of the kids and know they will find success after preschool. Please pray for this last month of school, and for all the kids and their families.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with the Dove Preschool board, please let us know. If you have accounting skills, we'd love to talk with you about the Treasurer role specifically. The board is a non-stressful opportunity, meeting once a month during the school year. Contact us at dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com to find out more.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The MPC Finance & Administration (F&A) committee met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 and reviewed our March financial results. As you can see in the table, March giving lagged behind expenses. Through the end of the first quarter of 2024, we are negative \$1,800. On a positive note, we are spending about 2.5% below budget through the first three months of 2024.

	Last Month	Year to Date
Income	\$ 23,712	\$ 72,332
Expenses	<u>\$ 27,091</u>	<u>\$ 74,154</u>
Net	(\$ 3,379)	(\$ 1,822)

Sincerely, Your MPC F&A Committee
Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Tom Base, Gayle Clopton, Roy Magnusson, Dennis Zerba



YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

Middle School
Wednesdays
6:30pm-8:00pm

High School
Wednesdays
7:00pm-9:00pm

Elementary School

See Heather for information about this month's Good News Tues.



ALASKA AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Alaska Auction this year to fund our trip to Skagway. So far we have raised just **over \$10,000** and have met our goal for this year!!! We are so grateful to everyone who gave so generously. Thank you to everyone who helped with the auction set up, the auction itself and clean up. Sherri, Darlene, Clay, and Caroline made an excellent meal for us. Darlene, Jackie, Courtney, and Adrienne made the cash out process a breeze, and Theresa and Hayley helped make the auction look beautiful.

VBS VOLUNTEERS

This year VBS is **June 17-21** from 3pm-6pm. We are hoping the late afternoon time will allow more of our MPC family to participate in this great week of outreach to the kids in our community, as we provide a low cost, fun experience for kids to hear about God's great love for them. This year we are looking at dinosaurs. We need lots of helpers to make this week a success. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Heather.



Register students
Pre-K - 5th Grade
online here



We were blessed to see some beautiful sights and some familiar faces recently. Thank you to everyone who provided these pictures to share from our Easter celebration and Heather's Commissioning.





THANK YOU FROM HEATHER

Thank you MPC for a wonderful Commissioning Sunday. I appreciate everyone's support in the process of becoming a "legit" pastor. The gifts from our Session, the enthusiasm of all who came to worship that day and those who participated made it a wonderful experience. Truly, I came away from that day seeing God's love in abundance. I am humbled to be in this position and realize that with the title of pastor comes more opportunities for ministry, more expectations, and also more opportunities to disappoint those I minister to and with. I hope, though, that you will continue to have grace with me as we learn and grow together.

While churches everywhere face uncertainty, we have a lot to be grateful for. We have amazing leaders in our elders and deacons, an extraordinary staff, and incredible volunteers. I look forward to continuing the work of MPC. I think we may be the best kept secret in churches right now, but hopefully together we can change that by sharing our stories. Stories of the ways we have seen Jesus as we follow him together at MPC. I am grateful to have the chance to tell Jesus' story with all of you.





Presbyterian Church

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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