

# THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church  
7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219  
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MultPresChurch.org

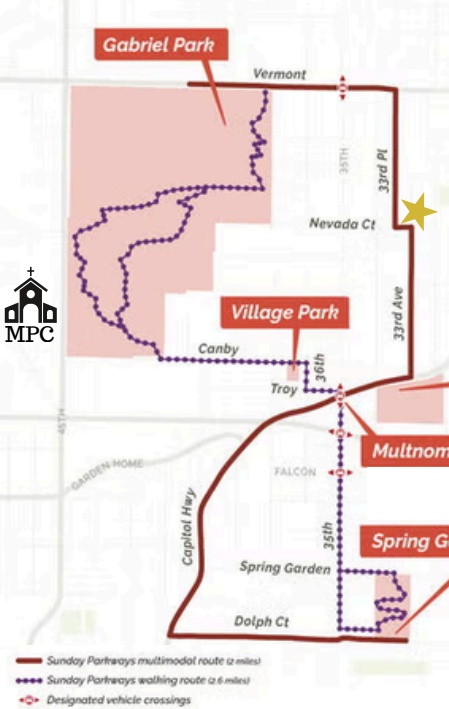


## SUNDAY PARKWAYS

**Sunday May 17th** is our 4th year of being asked by Portland Parks and Recreation to host two intersections as part of their Sunday Parkways Event. Thus, we will not have worship that Sunday, but instead be out in the neighborhood helping our neighbors.

Sunday Parkways closes streets in our neighborhood down to car traffic so neighbors can enjoy a route of safe biking and walking trails and festivities. We create our own mini festival during the event at the top of the hill where Nevada Ct. connects 33rd Pl. and 33rd Ave. The ukuleles will be playing, we will have a prize wheel and snacks and water for people as they make it up the steep hill.

We need volunteers to help us greet those riders and walkers and help distribute water and snacks. Set up will be at 9am, and there will be shifts from 10am—4pm for volunteers. If you are available to help, please contact Kevin Marshall or Heather.



Text "SOUTHWEST"  
to 888-520-0526  
for event updates!

## Sundays at MPC

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

## Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, May 3rd**  
**Communion**  
**John 14:1-14**

**Sunday, May 10th**  
**John 14:15-21**

**Sunday, May 17th**  
**Sunday Parkways**  
**NO WORSHIP**

**Sunday, May 24th**  
**John 20:19-23**

**Sunday, May 31st**  
**Matthew 28:16-20**



# Upcoming Events

**Men’s Fellowship Breakfasts**  
**May 1 & 15**

**Community Meal at ICE**  
**May 2**

**Sunday Parkways**  
**May 17**

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**May 28**

**Dove Graduation**  
**May 28**

**Family Cycling Event**  
**May 30**

**VBS**  
**June 15-18**

# **HONOR AN AMAZING WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE** **Sunday, May 10**

Do you have an amazing woman in your life? We invite people to bring flowers to honor an amazing woman in their life, past or present. It can be a mother, but doesn't have to be; it can be a friend, aunt, or any woman who has shown you the love of God. We will be filling vases in the front of the sanctuary with the flowers that will bring beauty to our worship that morning and honor someone who was or is a part of our story. We will have tags for you to attach to your flower to indicate who it is in honor of/in memory of in the narthex, then you can place them in a vase in the sanctuary. At the end of the service, we invite you to collect your flower(s) and bring it home so you will have a beautiful visual reminder of this person's part of your story.

## **FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Friday Men’s Fellowship group regularly meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We’ll meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **Fridays, May 1st and 15th** for a light breakfast of beverages, cereals, and pastries, 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.

## **WOMEN’S PICKLEBALL GROUP**

Inviting all women who are curious about the pickleball craze to come join the fun— No experience necessary! These sessions are about having fun in a low-stress environment. Come expecting to laugh & make mistakes while getting to know each other a little better.



Sign up at <https://forms.gle/x67sMYSFiayVzjhH8> to attend a Saturday session, and feel free to email Fran Barth for more info.



## BREAKING BREAD TO BREAK ICE

Our monthly First Saturday Meals outside of the ice facility continue on **May 2nd**. We join with other churches and Operation Inflation to provide a meal. The facility continues to be a community space where people show up to express their frustration with all the cruelty they see happening around everything from immigrants being targeted, to SNAP benefits being cut, and healthcare issues. It is a space we have been invited into as communities of faith to provide comfort and care, and show that Jesus stood with the vulnerable.

If you can't make it to the event to help serve, donations of food and water are a big way to support the community. We will be serving curry and rice on the 2nd—we have a generator to which we can plug in crockpots and rice cookers—and we welcome all donations of food, water, and dessert too. We set up at 6:30, have a short liturgy at 6:45, and start serving by 7pm. If you would like to donate food contact Heather.

## CONTINUED WORK WITH TOGETHER LAB

I have been working with Together Lab—an organization our Presbytery supports whose focus is building and exercising collective power toward a horizon where life can flourish for all—since last fall. They have been organizing faith leaders from over 200 congregations to advocate for those who are most vulnerable. While much of the focus has been on advocating for our immigrant neighbors, as many of them have been facing incredible hardships due to ICE, we have also been organizing around climate change, the housing crisis, food assistance, and public safety.



With Together Lab I have met with many city councilors, administrators, and law enforcement to advocate for justice and an Oregon where all belong. We have learned a lot in this work about policy making and public safety. We have also helped elected officials learn about the heart of Jesus, and that care for our neighbor is at the heart of who we are as faith communities. We have also learned that faith communities can have a big impact that looks nothing like the Christian Nationalism we see in headlines. We can be prophets asking leaders to bring justice and mercy. We can be salt and light as we care for our neighbors with no agenda but to meet their needs.

I am proud to work with Together Lab and represent Multnomah Presbyterian Church's commitment to care for our city, and if you would ever like to join me at some of these advocacy events, please let me know.

– *Heather*



# MISSIONS MINISTRY

## SW HOPE FOOD DRIVE RECAP

**\$2000 Goal Reached!**



Wow! We reached our fundraising goal with at least \$2025 in donations collected and reported. **A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who donated. We are grateful for this contribution to the Neighborhood House's Food Pantry in Multnomah Village.

And the Deacons want to remind you that we can continue giving year-round by bringing non-perishable foods for the Neighborhood House Food Pantry any Sunday.



## MISSIONS IN MAY

Our Lady of the Lake, a Catholic church in Lake Oswego, collects and distributes sack lunches to the unhoused. The Missions Committee would like our congregation to support this effort.

We will be collecting sack lunch items during the month of May. Our Lady of the Lake requests specific items for the sack lunches: apple sauce (or fruit cups), chips, granola bars, and Capri Sun juice pouches. Items should be individual-sized. Please bring these items and drop them off in the bin in the Fellowship Hall by **May 31st**.

## DO YOU HAVE EXTRA TIME AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT?

Join the Missions Committee! We are looking for a couple of additional members. This committee is responsible for our church's local and international mission activities and giving. We organize the collection of food and other items for donation to local organizations. We also prepare and serve meals to others in the community, as well as propose an annual budget to Session for financial support for the church's mission/charitable organizations. Members include Jennifer Gassaway (Elder), Fran Barth, Amy Clements, Judi Davis, Linaya Leaf, Jaonna Morgan, and Lisa Shelley. If interested in joining, please talk to Jennifer Gassaway. Of course, you can always participate in our missions without being on the committee.



## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Your MPC F&A Committee  
 Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom  
 (Treasurer), Gayle Clopton, Dennis Zerba

	March	Year To Date
Income	\$ 28,005	\$ 67,206
Expenses	\$ 29,272	\$ 77,240
Net	<b>- \$ 1,267</b>	<b>- \$ 10,034</b>



## VOLUNTEER FOR FAMILY CYCLING EVENTS

This summer we will once again be hosting a few cycling workshops for kids and families in our parking lot. These are a great opportunity to engage in our community and provide a safe space for kids to ride and work on bike-riding skills. But we can't put these on without a little help from you.

Our first event is **Saturday, May 30th**, and we are looking for about a dozen volunteers to assist in setting up cones, tables and such, signing in participants, handing out snacks, water, etc. Volunteers will need to arrive early and park in the lower lot near the logs.

If you are interested in helping set up the parking lot, come at 8am on the 30th and find Clay Morgan.

If you are interested in managing sign-ups, snacks, or various other duties, you can arrive closer to 9:30am and see Kevin Marshall.

And please feel free to share these events with any families who may be interested.

**b.i.k.e.** BICYCLES & IDEAS FOR KIDS' EMPOWERMENT  
 PRESENT  
**Family Cycling Events**  
 ALL AGES • ALL TYPE OF BIKES!

**May 30**  
**June 27**  
**July 25**  
**August 29**

*Leg Speed Camp*

*Practice Criteriums*

*Racing Team Tryouts*

**10:00am**  
**Last Saturdays of the Month**  
**503-484-7838**



## May Birthdays

- 1 Brad Doane**  
**Betty Trowbridge**
- 2 Sherri Kessler**
- 3 Dennis Zerba**
- 6 Tabitha Hellman**
- 9 Chris Ulum**
- 10 Janet Lowrey**
- 15 Amy Clements**
- 16 Lori Roberts**
- 20 Lorraine Larson**  
**Grecia Denisse Peña**  
**Nathaly Peña**
- 22 Samuel Ulum**

## DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

We would like to introduce you to Judi Davis, who joined the Deacon team in January 2026:

Judi lived most of her life in Portland, except her time in Eugene where she attended University of Oregon. After she graduated, she became a flight attendant for TWA, where her home bases were San Francisco and Los Angeles. She returned to Portland and got her Master's in Special Education and worked in a number of schools. Then she got her Counseling/Psy degree and worked as a teacher and counselor in Portland middle schools until she retired. Judi also worked as a freelance photographer, and taught photography as an elective in middle school, as well as doing PDX Photo Camps during spring breaks and summer.

Judi grew up sailing with her Dad on the Columbia River. She eventually had her own boat and went sailing & camping with her sons. She was also involved in sailing in the British Virgin Islands with friends. She said sailing brought her relaxation, peace and joy. One other thing that brought great joy for Judi was being a Docent at the Portland Art Museum. She did tours with kids. She loved sharing art with them.

Judi has been married twice and has 3 children of her own. She's been with her sweetheart, Tom, for 26 years, and between the two of them there are 8 children and 11 grandkids. Judi has been attending MPC for over 40 years.

If you haven't yet, please welcome Judi to the Deacon ministry.



And please remember, if you have any needs, big or small, or just a prayer, please reach out to your Deacon. If you're unsure who your Deacon is, check the directory, or contact the church office.



## JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS

Here are some photos shared from our Easter Sunday service, as well as Evelyn Prutsman's 90th Birthday celebration last month.



## Blessings From Within Our Church

**Praise for a successful and fun Alaska auction**

**Praise for Meet Your Deacon Sunday. Thanks to those who came to see their Deacon!**

**Praise for MPC's world renowned music program led by Ray McKean**

## 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 is continuing to meet via Zoom each Tuesday evening.

### 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.

**If you would like to share your blessings, you are welcome to send them to Barb Jones, or your own Deacon**



## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to recently:

- Annual backflow device testing was completed and no issues were found.
- Annual fire alarm system testing and device inspection was completed - no issues were found.
- The lower lot was mowed with out any issues of getting stuck - Yeah!!
- The refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen had a new compressor installed, after the old one stopped working.
- A new battery-powered leaf blower was purchased so MPC is compliant with new City of Portland guidelines banning gas-powered blowers beginning in September.

## HOW DOES THE SIGN IN FRONT OF MPC CHANGE?



Funny you should ask! Randy McCourt puts up a message weekly between Sunday and Wednesday (availability driven). He is ably backed up by Dave Tomastik. The messages focus on when our Sunday services are held, the themes of our sermons when we have a series underway, short excerpts from scripture for the week, emphasis of key events, and "Best of" messages. The occasional "Best of" messages were a Men's Ministry idea. We are always interested in ideas on how to make MPC more welcoming and feel free to let Randy know if you have any ideas on how to achieve that.

## SESSION UPDATE

Session met for its monthly meeting on April 28th. The meeting began with prayer and a reflection on Deuteronomy 10.

Session acknowledged the loss of member Linda Jager, who passed away on April 8, 2026.

Session heard ministry reports and reminders about upcoming events. In addition to its regular monthly business, Session approved adding Kate Eyberg as a check signer for MPC and approved an adjustment in the hourly wage of the office manager, effective January 1, 2026. The adjustment did not require any changes in the amount budgeted for the position in the 2026 budget.

Session will meet next on May 25th.



## FROM THE PARISH ASSOCIATE

*The heavens are telling the glory of God...*

— Psalm 8

As Pastor Heather pointed out on a recent Sunday, we are *Easter people!* Do you feel different? Maybe a little?

There's a touching scene in the late, great Robert Duvall movie, "Tender Mercies." After some tough times, Duvall's character Mac has been baptized along with Sonny, the young son of his new wife. In the pickup truck on the way home from church, Sonny eagerly queries Mac, "Do you feel any different?" To which Mac replies with a smile, "Not yet."

It takes time. Do you feel like Easter people? Maybe? Not yet? Of course, we've been Easter people for a couple thousand years. But each Easter it's new again. Each year the world is different, times change, church changes, we change.

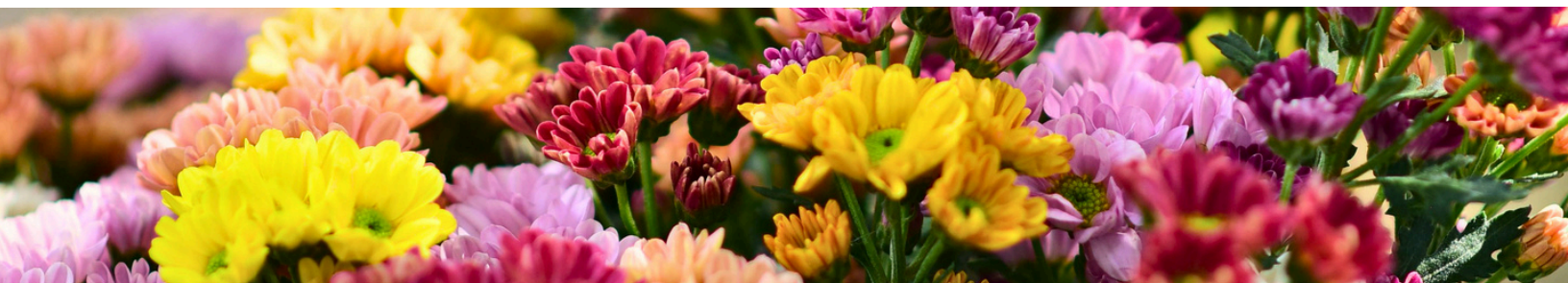
This Easter roughly coincides with the Artemis mission to circle the moon in the new Orion spacecraft designed for the purpose. Some may remember the Apollo program President John F. Kennedy initiated when he committed to putting a person on the moon within the decade. Astronauts circled the moon numerous times in that program, and famously landed on the lunar surface on July 20, 1969. Now we, NASA, are back, representing the whole human race. Apparently the world was united for about two minutes.

So we are *Artemis* people, too, reaching for the stars, doing it together, marveling again at the mysteries of the universe and the gorgeous blue globe we call home. Do you feel any different? It takes time.

God's resurrection of Jesus, and the community that blossoms in its wake, profoundly alters the landscape. We may not yet feel different...but we are, continuing to practice living like we believe it.

Happy Eastertide,

*Jeff Sievert*





## DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

The Dove Christian Preschool has a full staff lined up for Fall 2026. Teacher Katrina has been promoted to the Lead Teacher position. She has been with Dove since 2021, and will be a wonderful lead for the school. Nicole Baumer has been hired as the Assistant Teacher. Nicole has been Dove's substitute teacher since 2021, so she is a perfect fit to slip into the Assistant role. Nicole also had 2 of her boys attend Dove, so she also understands the school from a parent's perspective. Barb will temporarily assist Dove in an administrative role to help with a smooth transition of the new teachers.

During April, the Dove kids learned about the hope of Easter through Bible stories. They also enjoyed coloring eggs and doing some of the more fun traditions of Easter. We finished off the month with a field trip to the Oregon Zoo. During May, the Pre II kids will put the finishing touches on their skills in preparation for kindergarten. They will graduate on May 28. The Pre I kids will be preparing themselves for their "big kid" role when they return in the Fall.

We still have openings in both the Pre I and Pre II classes. If you know any friends, neighbors of family looking for a preschool, please have them check out Dove at [www.dovepreschool.com](http://www.dovepreschool.com).





## YOUTH

### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS

Sundays 7:00-9:00pm

### GOOD NEWS TUES

(Grades 2-5)

May 19th 6:00-7:30pm

Join us for dinner, games, and a lesson about Jesus's great love for us.



### THANK YOU FROM THE ALASKA TEAM!

We had a fun night going back to the 80's for our Alaska Auction. Sherri Kessler and Darlene Agee put together a fabulous spread of food. Valentine Hellman was an amazing DJ. We had an incredible team of cashiers led by Darlene Higgenbottom, who was joined by Jackie Magnusson, Kate England, and Valentine Hellman. We are so thankful to all who attended and donated. Once all promised proceeds are in, it looks like our total will be \$7500 for the evening. Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a successful event. We look forward to reporting back from the Alaska trip this summer to tell you about all the things we were able to do thanks to your donations.

### VBS IS COMING JUNE 15-18

This year we are looking at aquatic animals who persevere and just keep swimming. The cost is \$30 per student. Camp runs 9am-noon. Register at the QR code below and feel free to pass this information on to any families who may be interested in participating.



## AQUATIC FRIENDS ADVENTURE

### June 15-18, 9am-Noon



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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