

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...

May 2021

Dear MPC Family,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. As you may know, we are planning to resume in-person worship at MPC on Sunday, May 23rd. This is an exciting development given that we have not been in the sanctuary together since March 8th of last year. In order to facilitate a safe return to in-person worship, we will be making some modifications to our service. Below you will find some information that might be helpful to you.

What will the Sunday schedule look like?

- Beginning 5/23, we will be holding *two* worship services: 9:00AM in-person in the sanctuary, and 10:30AM online over Zoom. This Sunday schedule is only temporary, as we are currently in the process of outfitting our sanctuary to livestream worship services. Until then, we feel that this worship schedule is the best way to maintain the worship life of the congregation.

Will we be limiting the size of gatherings?

- Yes. Initially, we will be limiting the 9am service to 40 people, plus worship leaders, greeters, and sound/AV volunteers. Advance registration will be required.

How do I register for in-person worship?

- Each week, a registration link will be sent out via email from the MPC Office. The link may also be found on the MPC website. If you are unable to register online or if you experience technical difficulties, you may call the church office at 503-246-5459, and we will assist you in getting signed up. When you register, please remember to include the names of all people in your household who will be attending.

What should I expect on a Sunday morning?

- Arriving at MPC on Sundays: To allow for adequate time for seating, we ask that all participants arrive between 8:40-8:55am. A volunteer will greet you at the door, refer you to our COVID-19 screening questions, and direct you to the sanctuary where an usher will assist you in getting to your seat.
- Physical Distancing and Masks: In compliance with state guidelines, we will create a worship environment that will allow for a minimum of six feet between individuals/households/pods. To reduce close contact between worshippers, we will provide clear signage and appropriately spaced seating. Masks will also be required, even for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Touch-Free Environment: We are working to ensure that our gatherings are as touch free as possible. You will not be asked to open doors, pass offering plates, or sign connect sheets. For now, communion will only be observed at our Zoom service. Additionally, we will not be hosting a coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall until further notice.

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- **Connecting After Worship:** We realize that there will be a strong desire to connect with others in the church family. Following the 9am service, we do ask that all participants exit the building, and if you have a desire to talk with others, please do so outdoors, away from high-traffic areas.
- **Building Sanitization:** On a weekly basis, our janitorial contractor will clean our facility, including the sanitization of all high touch surfaces. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- **Families with Children:** At this point, we will not be resuming in-person Sunday school or nursery care during the 9am service. We fully honor the presence of kids in our worship services, and we will do our best to find ways to engage our young disciples in gathered worship.
- **Music in Worship:** Initially, our gatherings will not include congregational singing or choir anthems. We expect that the music will be mostly instrumental, and may include ensembles (like the marimbas) or soloists.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

- If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly (danny@multpreschurch.org), the MPC Office (info@multpreschurch.org), or any one of our elders.

I want to thank you for your patience, your flexibility, and your continued engagement in the life and ministry of Multnomah Presbyterian Church. I am privileged to be your Pastor, and I'm so excited to see some of you in-person once again.

In Christ,

-Pastor Danny Peters

Sermons & Scriptures for May

Pastor Danny will continue in the Book of 1 John through May 23rd, Pentecost, when he will speak from the Book of Acts. Beginning May 30th, Pastor Danny will begin a new sermon series entitled "Coffee Mug Verses," examining frequently-quoted Bible verses in context and delve into the deeper meaning of 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.



Buildings & Grounds Update

Completed Projects:

- Furnace Repairs and Controls
- Irrigation system started up and repairs made
- Serviced mower. New deck drive belt, sharpen blades, oil change and lubrication
- Backflow testing

Audio/Video Upgrades

Contract has been signed with Delta AV for upgrading the Audio and Video systems in the sanctuary to support live streaming of services. Some delays are projected due to an industry-wide shortage of processor chips used in the audio mixer and computer.

Janitorial Contract

We have met with City Wide Services to discuss janitorial needs to support current plans for phased reopening of the church. Phase one is now in effect and consists primarily of the downstairs area to support the preschool and the upstairs office and restroom areas. The second phase would happen when we move to in-person services in the sanctuary and would include all the other areas of the church as well as the Open Door and is expected to be initiated in late May.

Outdoor Cleanup Day

There will be an outdoor cleanup day at the church on May 15th from 9:00 am until noon. Primary focus of the work will be to trim plants and bushes and clean up landscaped area which have not had any major attention for over a year. Even though this is an outdoor event, we will be following masking and social distancing guidelines. Please contact Dick Eyberg if you would like to help out in this endeavor. If you can bring along your favorite clippers, pruning shears, rakes, hoes and wheelbarrows that would be great.



HYGIENE ITEMS DRIVE FOR HOWARD'S HEART

Howard's Heart is an organization that supports Portland-area teens in foster care and they are in need of hygiene items for their kits. We will be collecting full-sized hygiene items beginning with our first in-person church service on May 23rd and for the following two weeks. Stay tuned to the bulletins for details about most-needed items.

**WORLD VISION**

It is estimated that 1 in 10 people in the world doesn't have access to reliably clean water, and the number of people who die each day from water-borne diseases is staggering.

World Vision is drawing attention to this ongoing need and to the struggles of those who routinely walk several miles each day carrying water to their homes through a Walk 4

Water 6K. You can sign up [here](#) to participate in the local event in Lake Oswego on May 8th or sign-up [here](#) to learn more and participate on your own on May 22nd along with thousands of others around the globe.

The Mission Committee approved a donation of \$1000 in April to World Vision's disaster relief fund supporting displaced persons and refugees from famine and conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region. So far World Vision has helped nearly 800,000 people by providing clean water, food, and shelter. Drought, locusts, Covid, and war have created a humanitarian crisis sending nearly 3 million people away from their homes.

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION/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. 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. You can go one time or regularly. Please contact Holly Hummel (holly.hummel@pdxmission.org) with questions.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE/SW HOPE: FEED THE HUNGRY

It's time to celebrate because the SW Hope fundraising campaign met its goal of raising \$50,000 (or the equivalent in donated food) to support the Neighborhood House food pantry! The Mission Committee approved a donation of \$1000 in March to the campaign on behalf of MPC. Thank you to everyone who donated or participated in the events.

HOME PDX/SACK LUNCHES FOR THE UNHOUSED

On April 7th Pastor Danny delivered 120 lunches to HomePDX to be distributed in the park blocks area of downtown to the unsheltered population living there. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make lunches – these meals have a direct impact, not only in feeding those who have very few resources during this time, but in showing them that we care about them and God loves them.



A special thanks to Clay and Jaonna Morgan, Priscilla Downing, Lisa Shelley, Lori Roberts, and Amy Clements who collected and organized the lunches and made 96 sandwiches.



ARE YOU A “FRIEND” OF MPC?

In today’s digital age, it's important that our church has a vibrant online presence. Guests will check out the church online before deciding to attend - virtually or in person. So what can you do? Visit the church’s [website](#). It’s been recently upgraded; check it out! From the website, you can go to MPC’s [Facebook](#) page. 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. Check out MPC’s [YouTube](#) page. Be sure to subscribe. View a few of the videos and give them a “Thumbs up!” Do a Google search for “Multnomah Presbyterian Church.” On Google, you can rate the church. Give it 5 stars and write a review. Are you a member of “Nextdoor?” Go to the website and “[Recommend](#)” MPC. If we all pitch in, we’ll help make the church more visible online.

Session Update

At the March Session meeting, Session took the following action:

- Accepted Karen Sedwick’s resignation from Session effective March 31, 2021, with regret.
- Authorized communion to be served on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021, with Danny presiding over the Zoom service at 7:00 pm
- Authorized the MPC Quilting group to resume in-person meetings on Monday, May 3, 2021, with the understanding the group will adhere to our guidelines for small group gatherings.
- Approved the expense of \$22,193 from Designated Fund 391 and contract with Delta AV for the purpose of installing equipment for the live streaming of weekly worship services.
- Approved a new Sunday worship schedule beginning May 23rd: 9:00 am in-person service (with limited attendance, masks, social distancing), 10:30 am online worship over Zoom.
- Noted the janitorial services began March 24, focusing on the preschool areas and office areas; they will expand as we start using more of the building.



Dove has been operating for the last 4 weeks, and we've had a great time with the kids. We've enjoyed conversations, watched problem-solving at its best, enjoyed the sunshine and outside time, all while working on getting ready for kindergarten for the Pre II kids, and helping the Pre I kids transfer to "big kid" status. Things are shaping up nicely for Fall 2021. We have just a few spots available in the Pre I class, and spots available in the Pre II class. If you know anyone looking (especially people with 4-year-olds), please have them contact us and see why Dove should be their choice for their child's preschool experience. We can be reached at www.dovepreschool.com or email dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.



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

Presbyterian Women

Dear women of MPC,

Spring is here and beauty is all around us! It's exciting to know that the early service will be back later this month and those who feel they can attend in person will be able to be with others. Stay well, and we can all look forward to meeting together soon.



In Memoriam

Long-time MPC member Nancy Hill passed away April 27, one month after the death of beloved husband Chuck Hill on March 27. Born June 19, 1931, Nancy was 89 and died of natural causes. The family began attending MPC in the late 1960s following a move to a home they constructed off Taylors Ferry Road. Survivors include daughter Katie (David Sablan), sons Ken, Doug and Dave (Suanne), seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The family plans a private graveside memorial at River View Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be sent c/o Katie Sablan, 15680 SW 79th Avenue, Tigard, OR 97224.

Quilters

WE WILL BEGIN MEETING AGAIN ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS, STARTING MAY 3 @ 1:00 pm!

We have over 100 quilt tops to match with backings, iron fabrics, place the batting between, secure with pins, sew on labels, bind, and tie!!

CARES NW is in need of the quilts for traumatized children!! If you are able to join us, you are required to have been fully vaccinated and wear a mask. We will have to sterilize all surfaces and set up for preschool when we leave. The children use the space in the mornings.

We can definitely use all the help available!! Quilts could be tied at home, if you can't make it to church!

Thanks, Priscilla and crew!!!

Flower Guild

Mother's Day

Your Mother is always with you...She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of detergent in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter and she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate you.



Don't forget: OUTDOOR CLEANUP DAY on Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 am to noon. See the Buildings & Grounds article on page 3 for more information.





ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

As you are probably aware, Session has decided that beginning on Sunday May 23rd, services will resume in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am, while a service on Zoom will occur at 10:30. This is an exciting development as I know many in the church, and I suspect a number of you as well, might be interested in attending this 9:00 service. Accordingly, our thought is to resume our Zoom Adult Sunday School sessions for those who might be interested, beginning on Sunday, April 25 through May 16. We plan to continue to use the *Bible Project's* small group resources for our time together much like we have for most of the past year.

ALASKA MISSION

After being separated from Skagway for nearly two years now, we are exploring the possibilities for a trip to Skagway this summer with a small group of vaccinated students over the age of 18 with adult youth leaders. First Presbyterian Church of Skagway has extended an invitation to us to join them this summer for outdoor outreach to the youth and adults of the community. We will not be doing VBS this year as they have decided not to have any gatherings of children since kids are not eligible for the vaccine. Skagway has been hit very hard by the effects of the pandemic as tourism has been drastically cut without the cruise ships. It has changed their way of life and kept them very isolated, so we are anxious to go up and offer any encouragement we can and reform the connections with the community. We will need to raise funds for this trip and another trip we hope to make with our under 18 (and hopefully vaccinated by then) students in the winter of 2022. We gave a large portion of the funds leftover from our last trip to the church in Skagway to help with relief efforts. We know our traditional auction fundraiser will not work due to our in-person limitations, so we will let you know soon how you can support this ministry as plans develop.



UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

We know our kids are as eager as we are to get back together for in-person activities and off of Zoom screens. We are limited though in space, volunteer capacity, and vaccine is still not available for our kids. We hope to offer some outdoor events this summer that will include distancing and masks. VBS will remain virtual this year with a live Zoom component. We don't have traditional Sunday School in the summer, but we will be consulting with the Pandemic Team on possible monthly outside alternative events.

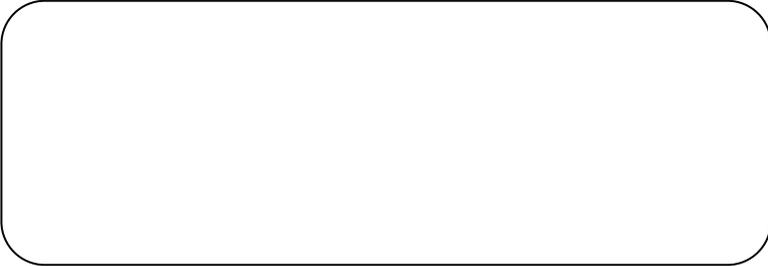
- 1 Brad Doane
Betty Trowbridge
- 2 Sherri Kessler
- 3 Dennis Zerba
- 6 Tabitha Hellman
Michael Kuehnel
- 9 Pat Hoff-Clement
Chris Ulum
- 10 Barbara Geurink
Janet Lowrey
- 12 Lloyd Nackley
- 15 Amy Clements
Holley Carlson
- 16 Lori Roberts
- 20 Lorraine Larson
Grecia Denisse Peña
Nathaly Peña
- 21 Brittany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





7555 SW 45th Ave.
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**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.**

May Announcer	
Adult Sunday School Update	7
Alaska Mission Update	7
Birthdays in May	7
Buildings & Grounds Update	3
Children's Ministries Update	7
Dove Christian Preschool	5
Flower Guild	6
From the Pastor...	1 & 2
In Memoriam	6
Missions Ministry	4
Outreach Team	5
Prayer & Prayer Night	6
Presbyterian Women	6
Quilters	6
Remembering Our Shut-Ins	6
Sermons & Scriptures for May	2
Session Update	5
Sunday Morning Worship on Zoom	2
Work Day Reminder	6