



VOL. 51 ISSUE 1 • JANUARY 2026

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

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

2026 IS HERE AND SO IS OUR PARISH ASSOCIATE - REV. JEFF SIEVERT

Over the last few months we have noted the change in Rev. Jennifer Ackerman's schedule and work load as assistant professor of preaching in the School of Mission and Theology at Fuller Seminary. She will remain linked to MPC as her home church but no longer in the transitional pastor role she has blessed us with the past year.

Rev. Jeff Sievert will join us at the beginning of January and will work part-time (a little less than two days a week). Jeff retired as Pastor at Reedville Presbyterian Church after 26 years and was interested in continuing a less than full-time role that fits perfectly for MPC. Since retirement, he and his wife have been attending First Presbyterian in Portland, and he will continue to split time there as he becomes familiar with the MPC congregation. Jeff is originally from Portland and studied at Whitworth University in Spokane and San Francisco Theological Seminary. After a tenure in Nebraska at a Presbyterian church, he returned to the Portland area as pastor at Reedville Presbyterian in Beaverton.

Jeff is highly adept in preparing sermons, leading worship services, and providing pastoral care. He is skilled in directing day-to-day operations and cultivating sustainable systems when developing programs to grow ministry and outreach. He works to meet the spiritual needs of individuals of diverse backgrounds, and is eager to apply his experience and skills in a variety of different positions as MPC Parish Associate. He will be assisting with sermons, and helping with pastoral care and assorted tasks under the direction of Heather Hellman, our pastor. Please take time to welcome Jeff to MPC.



Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, January 4th **Communion**

Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

Sunday, January 11th **Isaiah 42:1-9**

Sunday, January 18th **Isaiah 49:1-7**

Sunday, January 25th **Isaiah 9:1-4**



Upcoming Events

HOMEpdx Lunch Service
January 4

Pickleball Showdown
January 11

Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Friday, January 16

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 25

Red Cross Blood Drive
January 29



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 25th, after Church

On Sunday the 25th we will hold our annual meeting after our 10:30 worship service. We will elect at-large members of the Congregational Nominating Committee, review the final budget for 2026, and hear reports from some of our amazing ministry teams. Come celebrate the many blessings of MPC from the past year with us.

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. This month we'll skip the first Friday, and instead meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am only on **January 16th** 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.

MPC PICKLEBALL SHOWDOWN

Join us down in the Open Door for a showcase pickleball match between two teams of MPC pickleball players. Starts at 12:30pm on **Sunday, January 11th, 2026**. A light meal will be provided. So come cheer on your MPC friends as we battle it out!

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 better.

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



SESSION UPDATE

Session met on December 16 for its monthly stated meeting. At the meeting, Session:

- Reflected on some of our favorite Christmas song lyrics and how they are meaningful to us
- Noted with sadness the loss of longtime member Hank Downing
- Discussed the installation of new elders at the January 18th service and the Congregational Meeting the following Sunday on **January 25th**
- Voted to keep the arrangement of chairs and table groupings in the sanctuary as they currently are for now, with the extra chairs to be stored in a place still to be determined
- Heard ministry team reports and reminders about upcoming events
- Was updated on the church's finances (see the Finance & Administration article below for more details)
- Celebrated Jennifer Ackerman's time with us as a co-pastor and thanked her for sharing her many gifts

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

As you can see in the financial summary table, we had an amazing financial result in November! As a result, we have erased the deficit we were running through October, and appear to be on track for another break-even year. Thank you for keeping MPC in your prayers, and thank you for your continued support of our church!

Sincerely,

Your MPC F&A Committee

Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Tom Base,
Gayle Clopton, Roy Magnusson, Dennis Zerba

	November	Year to Date
Income	\$ 42,157	\$ 266,821
Expenses	\$ 23,093	\$ 267,258
Net	\$ 19,064	- \$ 437



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

God has given us amazing opportunities to connect with our community in the past couple months. It started with our pet costume contest and photo booth at the Multnomah Village Trick or Treat.





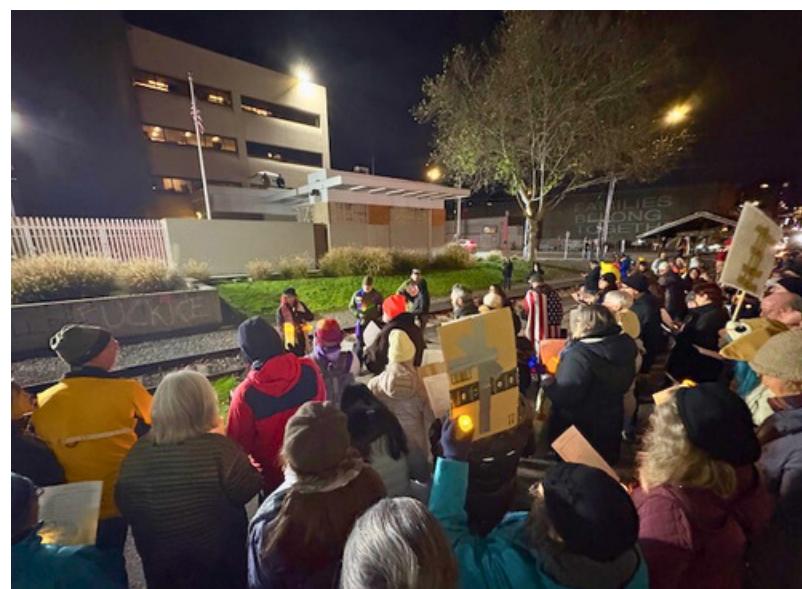
We had an amazing Paint Night for Project Lemonade, where we got to see our creative sides come out, and raised \$700 for Project Lemonade! Thank you so much to Sarah Butler for instructing!



We also hosted our annual Westside Thanksgiving Dinner.



December kicked off with our Blue Christmas service at the ICE facility.





And of course we can't forget our Whoville at the Multnomah Village Holiday Gala, complete with Grinch, live music from the ukulele carolers and 'brass' trio, and even some intermittent snow!





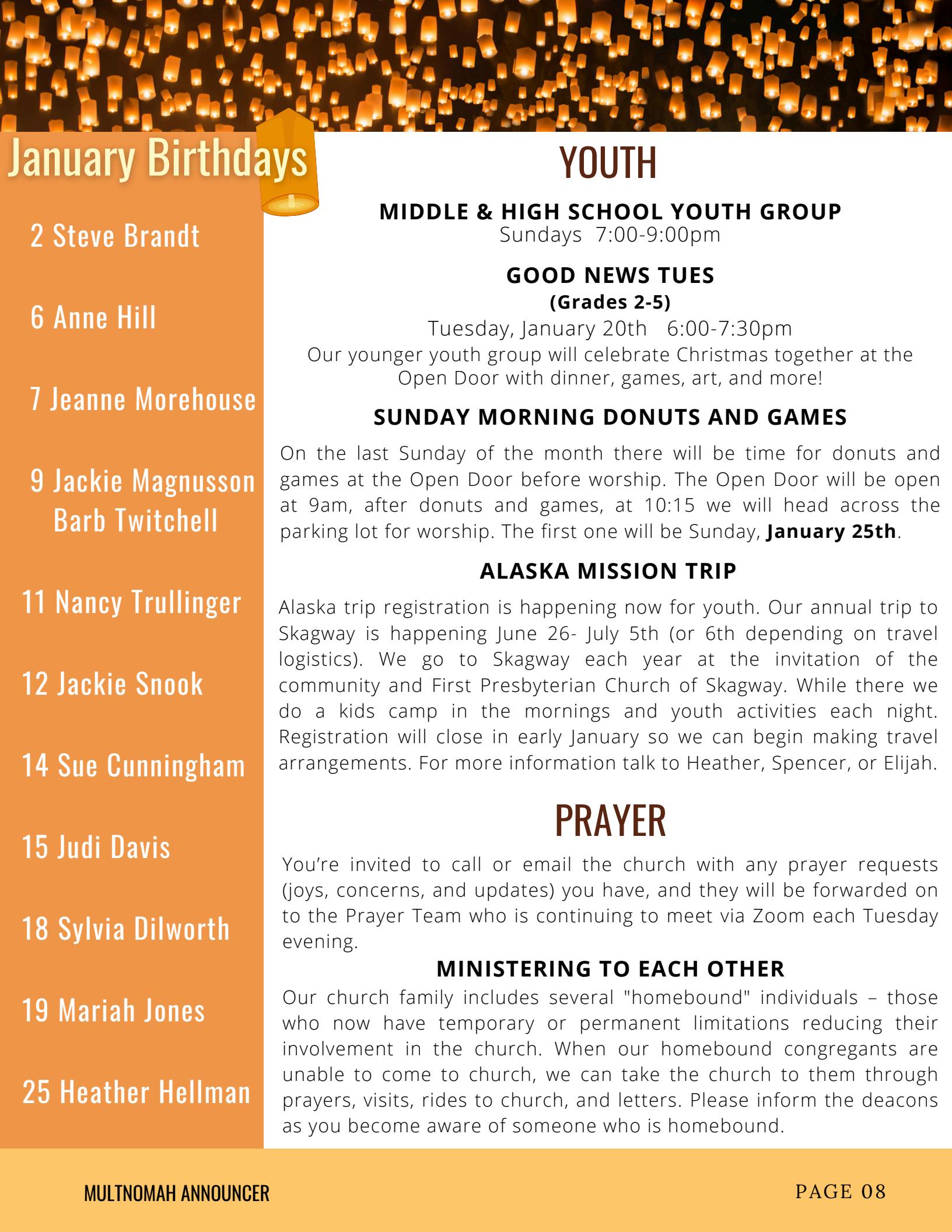
We also invited the community back with us by hosting our Holly and Ivories piano concert... (see Ray & Lily McLean on the right)

...and both our Christmas Coffeehouse Concerts!



We have been given some wonderful ways to be a light of hope and joy with our neighbors.

We are grateful to all who volunteered and supported this work.



January Birthdays

2 Steve Brandt

6 Anne Hill

7 Jeanne Morehouse

9 Jackie Magnusson
Barb Twitchell

11 Nancy Trullinger

12 Jackie Snook

14 Sue Cunningham

15 Judi Davis

18 Sylvia Dilworth

19 Mariah Jones

25 Heather Hellman

YOUTH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 7:00-9:00pm

GOOD NEWS TUES (Grades 2-5)

Tuesday, January 20th 6:00-7:30pm

Our younger youth group will celebrate Christmas together at the Open Door with dinner, games, art, and more!

SUNDAY MORNING DONUTS AND GAMES

On the last Sunday of the month there will be time for donuts and games at the Open Door before worship. The Open Door will be open at 9am, after donuts and games, at 10:15 we will head across the parking lot for worship. The first one will be Sunday, **January 25th**.

ALASKA MISSION TRIP

Alaska trip registration is happening now for youth. Our annual trip to Skagway is happening June 26- July 5th (or 6th depending on travel logistics). We go to Skagway each year at the invitation of the community and First Presbyterian Church of Skagway. While there we do a kids camp in the mornings and youth activities each night. Registration will close in early January so we can begin making travel arrangements. For more information talk to Heather, Spencer, or Elijah.

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.



DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

As 2025 marches out and 2026 comes rushing in, the Deacons will have a few personnel changes. Completing their Deacon service, we have co-moderator Janet Lowery, Courtney Tomastik, and Jaonna Morgan. They all served with grace and a full heart. When you see them, please be sure and say thank you for all the time they donated to the congregation.

The Deacons serving in 2026 will be Dave Tomastik (co-moderator), Dick & Kate Eyberg, Barb Jones, Pat Johnson, and new members Judi Davis and Jackie Magnusson. There will be some changes in Deacon districts, and you will be hearing from your Deacon as soon as things are organized.

Please remember you can reach out to your Deacon for support. We pray your struggles will be minimal, and wish all of you a joyous New Year and pray that 2026 brings warmth and blessings to you and your family.

DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

As the children return from Christmas break, we get ready to learn about safety in our homes, schools, and community. We'll also continue academic studies to get the Pre II kids ready for their transition to kindergarten in the fall.

Dove is currently searching for a new Head Teacher to start in Fall 2026. Requirements include a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Development or Education, 3-5 years teaching experience with young children preferred, strong organizational skills, and a collaborative work style. If you know a person who fits this description and is interested, please have them contact Barb Jones, dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.

Also, Dove will be opening up registration for the 2026-27 school year at the end of January. If you know any families looking for a school filled with love that honors family values, please let them know about the Open House on **January 22**. We will begin accepting registrations at that time. More information can be found on Dove's website, www.dovepreschool.com.

Blessings From Within Our Church

Praise for a fun and memorable Holly & Ivories concert and the Christmas Coffeehouse

Peace at the Blue Christmas event

Praise for all the stuffies donated for Project Lemonade

Praise for Jennifer Ackerman and all she has brought to MPC

Praise for the peace and joy for 2026

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

MISSIONS

Help prepare and serve lunch at the Eastside Esplanade with **HOMEpdx** on **Sunday, January 4th**. Contact Jennifer Gassaway, Lisa Shelley or anyone on the Mission Team if you would like to participate.

Wow! Thanks to everyone for all the stuffed animals donated to **Project Lemonade** in December. As you can see on the right, the boxes were overflowing!

Coats were purchased with Mission funds and delivered to Northwest Children's Outreach by Clay Morgan and Dennis Zerba in December.

Randy McCourt also distributed additional jackets donated by the organization **Transforming a Life** to the following Mission partners:



Multnomah Safe Rest Village	112 jackets
Beaverton School District Clothes for Kids	28 jackets
Northwest Children's Outreach	28 jackets
Neighborhood House/Stephen's Creek Crossing	56 jackets
Good Neighbor Center	28 jackets
Project Lemonade	28 jackets



BUILDING & GROUNDS

In a show of appreciation for the Building and Grounds Committee, along with several people who regularly volunteer to help maintain the grounds and facilities at MPC and a few other special guests, a full turkey dinner with all the fixings was held on Tuesday, December 2nd. The event was organized by B&G Chairman Clay Morgan, who also served as Head Chef in preparing the meal!

A HUGE THANK YOU

to everyone involved, and to Clay for keeping everything running smoothly.



Left to right around the table: Rick Aberle, Kinton Hutchinson, Jackie & Roy Magnusson, Dennis & Claudia Zerba, Kevin Marshall, Dick & Kate Eyberg, Amy Clements, and Jaonna Morgan.
The man behind the camera was Clay Morgan!

Happy New Year

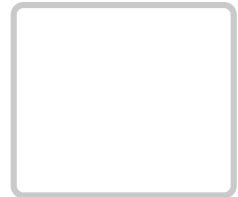




Presbyterian Church

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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2026 & REV. JEFF SIEVERT

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