

VOL. 51 ISSUE 11 • NOVEMBER 2026

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

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

DONATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BEND TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS

Our Session has voted to send $500 to First Presbyterian Church of Bend to encourage them as they support the community after the shooting at Silver Rail Elementary. The church is working hard to provide support while being affected and exhausted themselves. We are sending this gift with no strings attatched, to be used as they see fit. It is coming from a designated fund that is part of our Missions money for local efforts. It is taking a sizeable portion of money the committee intended to use to help support projects to aid those in need next year.

If you would like to give a gift to the Mission's Fund, to help offset this gift and support First Presbyterian Church of Bend's efforts to help Silver Rail Elementary and its neighbors, you can put a check in the offering with “Missions: 1st Pres Bend” in the memo, or make a donation online to the general fund and put the same thing in the note.

We want the Bend community to know they are not alone at this time, and we grieve with them as they work to mourn the lives lost and forever changed, and move forward together.

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

November 1st
Communion
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8th
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15th
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22nd
Matthew 25:31-36

November 29th
Isaiah 64:1-9



Upcoming Events

Worship Grant Meeting
Sunday, November 1

Friday Men's Fellowship
Fridays, November 6 & 20

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 15

Project Lemonade Donation Drive
Nov. 22 - Dec. 6

Westside Dinner
Monday, November 23

Advent Events

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 22 after worship

Advent Piano Concert
Wed. December 2 @ Noon

Christmas Coffeehouse
December 11 @ 7:30pm
December 13 @ 10:30am

Christmas Eve Service
December 24 @ 7pm

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on **November 15th,** for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the class of 2029, and a preliminary review of the 2027 church budget.



Remember to set your clocks back an hour at 2am November 1st!

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8am on **November 6th & 20th** for a light breakfast, along with a time of general fellowship. Anyone who may be interested in joining us (Please note: **Women are welcome as well!**) are invited to attend. If you have any questions or would like to attend this meeting, 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 contact Fran Barth for more information.

YOUTH

Youth Group is now on **Sunday nights from 7-9** for high school and middle school students. Good News Tues, our elementary group, will meet **November 17th**. All groups meet at the Open Door, the building across the lower parking lot.



DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



October was a fun month at Dove. The kids got used to the routine, they bonded as classmates, and things hummed along. Parents were able to get a tour of the class from their kids during Back-to-School Night. Both classes went to a new pumpkin patch and had an amazing time. They played in the hay, checked out the sheep, did a craft, and enjoyed picking out a pumpkin. Halloween gave them a chance to wear their costumes to school and enjoy some trick-or-treating around the church. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this a memorable day.

Dove will be closed the week of Thanksgiving so kids & their families can enjoy the holiday together.

If you know anyone who might be looking for a preschool in the future, please have them contact Dove thru our website, **www.dovepreschool.com** or email **dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com**

Happy Thanksgiving from Dove Christian Preschool!!

VITAL WORSHIP GRANT

For those unable to attend the after-church video series 10/18, 10/25, and/or 11/1, you can find the videos in this link: https://worship.calvin.edu/grants/info/worshiping-communities/apply Scroll down to #3 in Developing a Proposal to see the videos and questions for consideration. Our schedule is as follows:



<u>October 18</u>

What is Vital Worship? Three Meanings of the Term Worship
Ten Core Convictions about Christian Worship - videos 1-3

<u>October 25</u>

Ten Core Convictions about Christian Worship - videos 4-7

<u>November 1</u>

Ten Core Convictions about Christian Worship - videos 8-10

If you are able to join us in person for our November 1st discussion, we are meeting in the Fireside Room from 11:45-12:30. Feel free to bring your lunch.



LOVING GOD WITH OUR ARMS, MINDS, AND COURAGE

We know that Jesus said the most important command was to love God and love your neighbor. I appreciate the way the First Nations Translation helps us understand the love God portion of that commandment in Matthew 22:37: **Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered him, "You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart. This is the first and greatest instruction."** Looking at this translation reminds me that loving God is so much more than just attending worship and singing praise songs. It tells me that even though as Presbyterians we like to do things "decently and in order," loving God requires so much more. We love God by loving our neighbor with the things we do, the way we set our minds, and the way we step forward into the problems and needs of our community.

I am thankful that Multnomah Presbyterian has loved God well with our arms, minds, and courage. We took brave steps to become a welcoming community. We work hard with our arms to maintain this property so it can be a place the community can find welcome, comfort and care during memorial services, find joy and laughter in art classes for seniors, preschool, music programs, youth groups, and so much more. We also take that hospitality to the community as we have served 4 years alongside Portland Parks and Recreation at Sunday Parkways, this is our 3rd year of hosting the Grinch space at the Multnomah Village Holiday Gala, and our 2nd year hosting a trick-or-treat space and pet photo contest in Village Park for Multnomah Village's Trick-or-Treat. We reshaped our thinking about how to connect with kids and families, about what our neighbors needed from us, and in doing so we have become a trusted part of our community and shown people Jesus's love in a way they can appreciate. Those things took a lot of hard work and courage to move forward differently, and I believe we loved God well in the process.

I am also thankful for the support of MPC as we moved into activism for justice and the vulnerable among us. We have been able to be a voice in the community of Jesus's love and care for our immigrant neighbors and those who work to support them. So many times in this work, I have heard people express that they didn't understand or like Christians or churches before. As they saw us stand with them to protect our neighbors, watched us work for accountability with local leaders and police, saw us be peacemakers and caretakers during crisis, those things let them know that we might actually be following that Jesus guy and doing what he said. We have been an example of Jesus's care, compassion and love even when it posed great risk and may have cost us a few church members.

continued...



This work of loving God can be exhausting, scary, and confusing, but it can also be connecting, liberating, joyful, and fun. Multnomah Presbyterian does a great job of holding it all. I am grateful to look over the last few years and even this last year and see the things God has led us to. While I wish none of it was necessary, and people did not have to suffer any of the injustices we see each day, I am grateful to see Jesus's love so clearly in the midst of it all, and to be on this adventure of reshaping this mess to look more like heaven. I know God weeps with us, but I think God smiles with us too as we have loved God well. Let's keep up the good work together with our arms, our minds, and our courage.

Pastor Heather

MISSIONS MINISTRY

PROJECT LEMONADE CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Please join us in our Christmas Giving to Project Lemonade. This year we'll be collecting stuffed animals and jewelry.

All kids love hugging and playing with Stuffies!





Finding and seeing jewelry will bring joy into their lives. Being able to choose pieces and start wearing it makes them feel like themselves and fit their style. Please place your Jewelry in the little bags that we'll have available starting Sunday, November 8th.

Bins for stuffies and a special Jewelry Box will be located in the Fellowship Hall for three weeks **beginning Sunday Nov. 22nd & ending on Sunday Dec. 6th**.

The Mission Team always welcomes new members. Feel free to talk to members Jennifer Gassaway, Fran Barth, Amy Clements, Judi Davis, Linaya Leaf, Jaonna Morgan, and Lisa Shelley.



November Birthdays

2 Randall Fuehrer
Liz Graff
Lisa Shelley

5 Adrienne Gassaway

6 Dave Meyer

7 Andrew Hill
Cindy Mullins

9 Maeson Graff

12 Jaonna Morgan

18 Gene Roberts

23 Pat Johnson

27 Melissa Ulum

29 Kate England

30 Kathy Wheeler



Westside Community Focus has assisted adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Portland area for more than 50 years. Residents reside in four group homes, or live by themselves with support from WCF. Group homes are capped at five residents each to ensure the highest level of care, and are managed by 24-hour staff who provide a safe, fun, and supportive living environment.

The Deacons will once again be hosting a dinner for Westside Community Focus on **Monday, November 23rd, 5:00-6:30p.m.** We're happy to be able to continue this loving tradition of 30+ years, but we still need a little assistance to make it a success.

There are multiple ways you can help:

- Volunteer to bring a pie (baked & bought are both welcome)
- Donate $20 to the event (clearly marked **Westside Dinner**)
- Help out with one or more jobs before/during/after dinner

All volunteers are welcome to eat dinner with our guests. Look for sign-up sheets after Sunday services. You can also email coordinator Janet Lowrey (**pdxjlow@gmail.com**) to find out more and to sign up. We have a reliable process in place, so all hands are welcome, with no previous experience needed. It's a fun and fulfilling event, and a great way to get to know people!



DEACON NEWS (cont.)

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded to slow down and reflect on our blessings. It's easy to focus on what we need, what we wish was different, or what lies ahead, but this time of year reminds us to pause and remember all that God has already done for us.

The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, **"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."**

Giving thanks in all circumstances does not mean that every day is easy, or that life always goes according to our plans. Rather, it means trusting that God is with us through every season of life. Even in difficult times, we can find comfort in His promises, strength in His presence, and hope in His unfailing love. As a church family, we have so much to be thankful for. We are grateful for the opportunity to worship together, encourage one another, serve our neighbors, and share the love of Christ with our community. Specifically, the Deacons are thankful for your generosity throughout the year with your donations to the Deacon Fund. As we all know, grocery and gas prices continue to rise. The Deacons offer gas vouchers and Fred Meyer gift cards to people who come to our door in need. We recently increased the amount given on the gas vouchers. Your donations to the Deacon fund help us to be able to continue this small outreach to our community.

We give thanks for our pastor and church leaders, volunteers, families, and all those who faithfully give their time and talents to make our church a place of welcome and fellowship. May we be people who notice the blessings around us, share generously with others, and give God the glory for everything. Happy Thanksgiving from your Deacons!



Blessings From Within Our Church

Praise for the beautiful fall weather

Praise for the new members

Praise for a fun and successful game night

Congratulations to Jeff Sievert for receiving the title Pastor Emeritus of Reedville Presbyterian Church

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



SESSION UPDATE

Session met for its monthly meeting on October 27th.

The meeting was opened with a prayer, and a reflection on Matthew 22, Verse 37 from the First Nations translation. Heather also shared about the workshop she did before the recent Presbytery meeting about the activity of ICE.

A new member breakfast was held on September 27th. Session met with prospective new members and then voted to add them to MPC's rolls. Juli Cordill joined by affirmation of faith. Pete and Diane Shingledecker have transferred from Tigard Methodist Church.

A Congregational Meeting was approved for **November 15th** for the purpose of sharing the draft 2027 budget and electing new elders and deacons for the term beginning in January 2027.

The Finance & Administration Committee and the Treasurer presented the proposed 2027 budget, which will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on November 15th. Pledges and comments from the congregation will be reviewed and the budget will be finalized in January.

The chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee discussed the slate of nominees for open elder and deacon positions. The congregation will vote on the nominees at the Congregational Meeting. At the time of the Session meeting, one deacon position did not yet have a nominee.

Session heard ministry team reports and reminders about upcoming events.

Session voted to make a donation of $500 to First Presbyterian of Bend to support their support of their community following the tragic shooting at Silver Rail Elementary School. The donation will come from the Mission Discretionary Designated Fund.

The next regular Session meeting will be on November 24th.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

As shown in the summary table, we have a cumulative loss of $12,786 year to date. We usually have positive financial results in the last couple of months of the year—please keep MPC in your giving plans and prayers as we enter the holiday season. Thank you for your continued support.



	September	Year To Date
Income	$ 21,381	$ 216,198
Expenses	$ 26,827	$ 228,984
Net	**- $ 5,446**	**- $ 12,786**

Sincerely, Your MPC F&A Committee

Chris Ulum (Elder), Darlene Higgenbottom (Treasurer), Gayle Clopton, Kate Eyberg, Dennis Zerba



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS



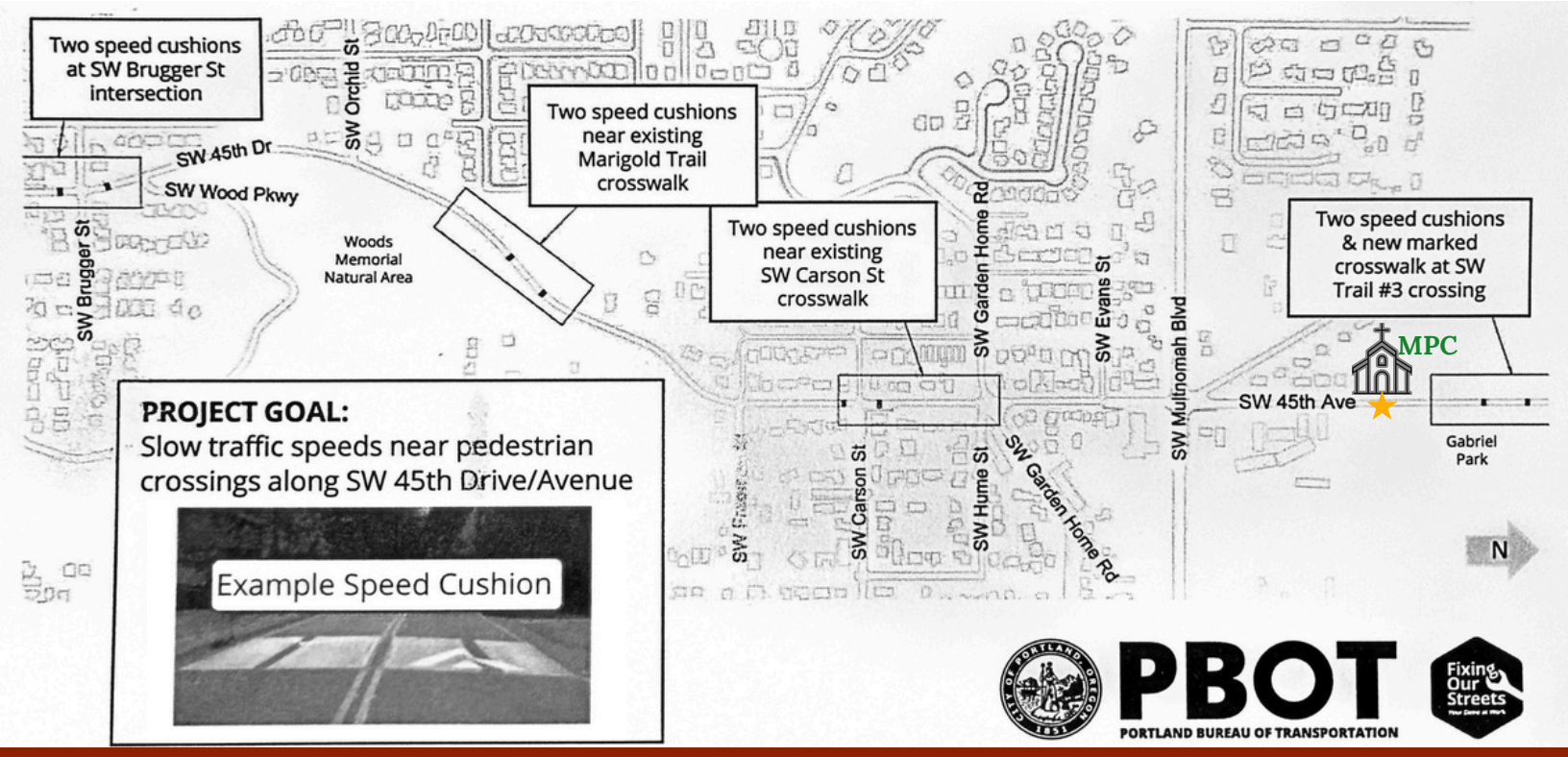
Greetings MPC Family - Here's what we've been up to this past month:

- Cleaned the Open Door gutters.
- Received and distributed new bark chips.





- We were informed that PBOT is planning to install speed bumps and a crosswalk just north of us on 45th Ave, to aid the trail crossing from Gabriel Park, sometime between now and Spring of 2027. We will let you know when we hear more details about dates. They are also planning to install speed bumps at three more crossing locations along 45th Drive, south of Multnomah Ave, but again have given no specific dates. Be aware and plan accordingly.



Multnomah
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.

NOVEMBER ANNOUNCER

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER	6
BLESSINGS FROM OUR CHURCH	7
BUILDING & GROUNDS	9
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	2
DEACON NEWS FOR YOU	6-7
DONATION TO BEND	1
DOVE PRESCHOOL	3
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	8
LOVING GOD WELL	4-5
MEN'S GROUP / WOMEN'S PICKLEBALL	2
MISSIONS	5
SESSION UPDATE	8
UPCOMING EVENTS	2
VITAL WORSHIP GRANT	3
YOUTH	2