



Monthly Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Ave, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 246-5459 [www.MultPresChurch.org](http://www.MultPresChurch.org)

**Volume 46, Number 11**

## From the Pastor...

**November 2021**

*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.*

*Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.*

-Romans 12:1 (The Message)

Dear MPC Family,

Each day, I look out my window and see the changing colors in the trees, a reminder that we are in a season of transition. In the same way, our church is currently experiencing a transition (in a good way) as we seek to restore some of the rhythms and practices we have been missing so dearly since March of 2020. Nearly six months ago, we made the decision to return to in-person worship, while maintaining an online presence for those who need to worship from home. As your Pastor, it has been extremely life-giving to be back in our sanctuary singing together, praying together, and hearing together the good news of Jesus Christ. Outside of Sunday worship, we are excited to see some of our groups and ministries return to in-person meeting formats. Ray is leading the choir in a hybrid format, with some members in-person and others online. Several of our small groups, as well as our Adult Sunday school ministry, have begun to meet once again. And our Youth and Children's ministries have continued, aided by the large tent on our north lawn that permits outdoor gatherings. We are deeply grateful for all of these signs of God's goodness and grace.

In early November, all members and friends of Multnomah Presbyterian Church will receive a stewardship letter in the mail. In this season, we are asking you to prayerfully and intentionally consider your financial commitment for the year 2022. Our pledge process is a critical aspect of our budget planning, and we would deeply appreciate your response. There are three ways for you to submit your pledge for the year 2022:

- You can mail your pledge card to the MPC Office
- You can drop your pledge card off, using the mailbox outside the MPC Office
- You can also submit your pledge online by visiting: [multpreschurch.org/pledge2022](http://multpreschurch.org/pledge2022)

The pledge process is not merely a "fundraiser" for the church. Rather, it is an opportunity for us to participate in the work God is doing at MPC, in Portland, and around the world. Our giving is a means of advancing the Kingdom of God! So, we hope you will join us as we seek to continue our ministry in the name of Jesus. In the coming weeks, we will also be distributing a "Dedication Form" that outlines some of the ways you can give your time to build up the body of Christ. We have many areas of volunteer need



Yours in Jesus,

-Pastor Danny Peters

REMINDER: Starting Sunday 10/3, we are no longer using Zoom for online worship. Instead, visit our YouTube Channel, Sunday mornings at 10:30AM!



**Please Note:** In an effort to keep our community safe, we are asking that masks be worn by everyone (regardless of vaccination status) when attending worship, events, or any meetings inside the church. Thank you for your cooperation.  
- The MPC COVID Response Team



## Finance and Administration Update

F&A Committee met on October 19, 2021 to review the financial reports and discuss a number of agenda items as outlined below. Budget performance through September is as follows.

	<u>This Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 26,621	\$ 250,788
Expenses	<u>\$ 35,376</u>	<u>\$ 274,904</u>
Net	\$ (8,755)	\$ (24,116)

We are now three quarters of the way through 2021 and significantly behind budget. This is not unexpected given the impact that the pandemic has had on so many financially. However we are asking those who can to give generously during the coming advent season so we can balance the budget as we finish the year.

The 2022 budget draft was completed by committees, rolled up and discussed at the F&A Meeting this month. After much discussion, we realized that our revenue has been down over the past 2 years and that we need to make adjustments to the budget for the coming year. At Session on October 26<sup>th</sup>, we asked committee leaders to review and reduce their budgets by 10 percent. This will again be rolled up and we will be presenting this draft budget to the congregation in November.

The reality is that many if not most churches and businesses are tightening their belts this year due to the economic impact of the pandemic. We need to adjust accordingly and redouble our efforts to find creative ways to serve Christ in the coming year.

This past month we lost an exceptional leader when Colin Powell passed. In his book, he outlined 13 essential lessons that he learned along the way. I offer number 13 to you here. *“Be optimistic. Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.”* His message is clear. If we have faith and remain hopeful, all things are possible.

May God Bless and remember that our hope is in Christ,

Your Finance and Administration Committee

## Session Update

At a Stated meeting, Session :

- Accepted with regret the resignation of Davina Soumokil from MPC Session.
- Accepted with regret the resignation of Paul Barnum from MPC Session.
- Reduced the size of MPC Session from 12 to 9 members, effective with the class of 2024.
- Approved the distribution of the stewardship letters to the congregation.
- Approved a new line item, #1343, in the MPC Mission budget for “Meals on Wheels.”
- Took a first look at the MPC Budget for 2022.
- Elected Julia Meyer as Elder Commissioner for the November Presbytery meeting.
- Agreed to have one worship service on Friday, Christmas Eve, at 7:30 pm.



## Buildings & Grounds Update

### Play Area Tent

The latest addition to the MPC Campus has arrived. Thanks to Dick Eyberg's organizing skills and the help of some volunteers, we were able to erect a 20x30 tent with side walls in the grassy area north of the preschool in roughly 2 hours. Those participating in this rewarding activity were Dick Eyberg, Mike and Fran Barth, Jesse Black, John Green (Dick's Neighbor), Dan Williams and Dennis Zerba. Preschool kids have already given it their seal of approval.



### Volunteer Opportunities

We are currently in need of volunteers to help with many grounds maintenance projects such as trimming bushes, weeding and cutting back ivy from the trees. We are also looking for someone to wash windows inside and out. If you would be willing to help in some way, please contact Dennis Zerba at [dennis\\_zerba@msn.com](mailto:dennis_zerba@msn.com) or call 503.710.7128

## Adult Education Class

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT 9:30 AM IN-PERSON!**

We meet in person at 9:30 am in Room 107. Everyone needs to be masked and socially distanced. We ask participants to refrain from bringing food or beverages to class. This will allow us to maintain mask use. The room is basically set up for the Dove Preschool so we do not have adult-sized tables for our use. We are continuing our journey with *The Bible Project* but since we are meeting in person, the format varies slightly. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kate England at [kate.England.645@gmail.com](mailto:kate.England.645@gmail.com). All are welcome!



## Missions Ministry

### **Africa Inland Mission/Africa International University**

We have been supporting John and Sylvia Dilworth's work at the theological school at Africa International University for six years now. Their time in Kenya is over but we wanted to continue to help the same people they were serving while they were there. With the remaining funds budgeted to support their mission in 2021, the Mission Committee made donations to a scholarship fund for students at the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School Of Theology and to the food bank on the Africa International University campus. We are so excited to be supporting these enthusiastic and passionate future pastors of Africa and lending a helping hand during the economic struggles they are facing.

### **Chwele, Kenya**

The Mission Committee was very fortunate to have a visit from Grace Kuto at our October meeting where she updated us on her ministry to the village of Chwele in Kenya.

This year, our donations to Chwele went to pay the salary of the ambulance driver for the clinic, insurance for the ambulance, and repairs to the vehicle, as well as regular servicing required by law. This is the only ambulance in an area of tens of thousands of people and we are so grateful that the Lord has blessed us to be able to support it. Over the past couple of years, we have made some additional donations to Chwele to help with necessary modifications to allow the clinic to join the national healthcare system. After a lengthy process involving renovations and no small amount of red tape, the undertaking is in its final phase and the clinic is on track to generate enough income to support the ambulance! While this may take a couple of years, it is very exciting.

In 2021, Chwele faced not only the Covid pandemic but also catastrophic flooding and devastating locust activity that hadn't been seen for over half a century. The loss of crops led to food insecurity and lowered income. Since many houses don't have foundations, only mud floors, the flooding damage was extensive. Our extra donations towards these needs went to house repairs, food, and medical care.

Looking ahead, Grace's organization has two programs that they are currently fundraising for; the first is mental health support. As we have seen all over the world, isolation due to Covid has led to anxiety and depression. It has also led to substance abuse and domestic abuse. This program will support those suffering from these issues and their families, and also train them to be mentors to others.

The second fundraising effort is for vocational training for teen mothers. Teen pregnancy has increased 40% during Covid among girls 12-18 in the Chwele area due to schools and activities being closed, abuse, and other factors. 98% of these girls will never return to school due to the stigma. This growing issue was observed at the clinic and there was a desperate request for help, so Grace's organization is partnering with a local Rotary Club to fundraise for a proposed program and application for a grant. Their goal right now is to raise enough to provide 100 girls with a sewing machine to keep, supplies, and training in both sewing and operating their own small businesses. This program will help both these young mothers and their children. The cost for a young mother to be in the program is \$360, which includes primarily the sewing machine but also the other supplies and the training. The Mission Committee has approved a donation towards this fundraising effort. If you or your small group would like to sponsor a mother/purchase a sewing machine, please reach out to Lisa Shelley ([xashesxashesx@gmail.com](mailto:xashesxashesx@gmail.com)).

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## (continued) Missions Ministry

There is a virtual fundraiser on November 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please check the Harambee Center website: <https://harambeecentre.org/2021-november-online-fundraiser>.

### **Cold Weather Kits**

This year we would like to repeat our mission of providing “cold weather kits” to serve those living on the streets. The exact details of when in December these kits will be collected will be announced later, but if you would like to begin collecting items or taking advantage of Black Friday sales, below is the information about what the kits might look like. We have had a donation of 40 adult jackets that we will be able to donate along side these kits.

The preferred kit would include: a scarf, a pair of gloves, a hat, a pair of socks.

And, optionally: Non-perishable snacks or treats (nothing too hard, because of teeth issues), chap stick, hand warmers, hygiene supplies, personalized notes.

Whenever possible, please choose items that would be suitable for both men and women.

Please keep in mind that the recipients do not have access to laundry and may dispose of the items if they become too dirty so these items do not need to be expensive, Dollar Store-quality is fine. Ideally, kits could be dressed up a little with ribbons, bows, or tissue paper so that it feels like a gift, and bundled into a ziplock or waterproof bag to keep them clean and dry until they are opened.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS AT  
2:00 am NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
SO PLEASE SET YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ONE HOUR!**

## **News About MPC Alerts**

Our church is now using a mass texting system called *Clearstream*. It is similar to the *MPC Alert* system we have had in the past. We will send texts to your mobile device whenever we have time sensitive events, such as weather problems or changes in service times, or when the church has information that needs to be dispersed quickly.



If you have previously signed up to receive *MPC Alerts*, you are still enrolled. If you would like to be enrolled, please contact Dave Tomastik ([d\\_tomastik@hotmail.com](mailto:d_tomastik@hotmail.com)) or the church office with your name and mobile phone number and we will place you on the list.



# Neighborhood House News

**Knitting for Neighbors**

**November 8-13**

Knit a hat, scarf, mittens or blanket for the NH community!

Here's how you can get involved:

- Join us for the virtual kickoff on Monday, 11/8 from 5-5:30pm! RSVP for free [here](#) or at [nhpdx.org/events](http://nhpdx.org/events).
- Donate \$25 or more to NH, and/or drop off a hand-crafted item and be entered to win a "Learn to Knit" gift basket from Northwest Wools. Basket includes yarns, needles and a one-hour private lesson with a shop instructor!
- Donate \$50 to NH and receive a free skein of yarn from Northwest Wools (30 max.)
- Buy the "Knitting for Neighbors Scarf" pattern from Northwest Wools. Profits will be donated to NH.
- Share your knit items on social media and tag @nhpdx @NorthwestWools #nhpdx

Knit items will be dispersed during Winter Wishes clothing & gift drive in December.

Northwest  
WOOLS



# Red Cross Blood Drive



## Red Cross Blood Drive – Urgent Donation Need

MPC will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall December 10<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 6:00 PM. Please consider donating as there is an emergency blood and platelet shortage.

Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> and search by date and location to sign-up. While COVID-19 vaccination does not affect your ability to give blood, knowing the name of the vaccine manufacturer is needed to verify eligibility.

# Quilters

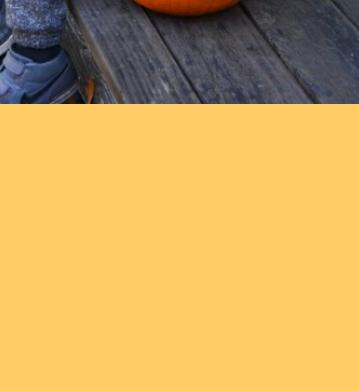
This picture is one of our wild colored quilts!!! Each quilt has its own personality, just like the children we serve!

We have passed our 3,000 quilt mark!!! Quilters started in 2001. For over 20 years, we have given all those quilts to C.A.R.E.S. NW, new babies and shut-ins in the church, a few to Foster children, and a few to Veterans.





The kids at Dove were very busy during the month of October. They learned about how much God loves them and the world, doing craft projects and reading stories about His love for them. They celebrated fall with crafts, nature walks, Teacher Katrina taught about seeds, and they took a field trip to Teacher Barb's house for a fall celebration. They also celebrated Halloween, wearing costumes to school, playing games and reading books. Both classes are getting into the routine of school, making friends and learning. In November, we'll spend time giving thanks for the many wonderful blessings from God, and collecting canned goods for Neighborhood House. We will have the week of Thanksgiving off from school. All the Dove kids and teachers wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.



*Happy Thanksgiving!*





- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 2  | Randall Fuehrer<br>Liz Graff<br>Lisa Shelley |
| 3  | Brian Kirkland<br>Matthew Kirkland           |
| 5  | Adrienne Gassaway                            |
| 6  | Bill Kirkland<br>Dave Meyer                  |
| 7  | Andrew Hill<br>Cindy Mullins                 |
| 8  | Claire Lawrence                              |
| 9  | Maeson Graff                                 |
| 11 | Emily Gaston                                 |
| 12 | Jaonna Morgan                                |
| 15 | Jeff McKenzie<br>Kaitlin Peters              |
| 18 | Gene Roberts                                 |
| 20 | Ken Andrews                                  |
| 21 | Ed Kuehnel                                   |
| 22 | Chris Fraher                                 |
| 23 | Pat Johnson                                  |
| 24 | Hilary Miller                                |
| 25 | Carlos Peña-Cibrian                          |
| 27 | Melissa Ulum                                 |
| 30 | Kathy Wheeler                                |

## Presbyterian Women

Welcome, November and *falling leaves* and *pumpkin* everything! A time to look back and be thankful for all we have been given in this strange pandemic time. We are trying to figure out a way to get together and chart a course for PW in the upcoming year. If you have any ideas and/or would like to brainstorm, let Joyce Bradshaw or Kathleen Loomis know.



As we move into Fall, keep MPC and each other in your prayers. Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!! Hoping that you can spend time with friends and family over this holiday time.



## 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

## In Memoriam



It's with great sadness that we tell you our sweet Super Silas Haynes went home to be with our Lord October 1, 2021. He was five years old. He lit up our halls with joy at MPC and he will never be forgotten. Please remember the Haynes family and Silas' really close friends, the Hellmans, in your thoughts and prayers. A beautiful memorial service was held for Silas on Saturday, October 23rd at MPC. You may currently view it on the MPC YouTube channel.

## Deacon News for You

Greetings MPC family from your Deacons,

We continue to "Count our Blessings" from our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ! If you would like to include your Blessings, please email them to [bthkfl46@gmail.com](mailto:bthkfl46@gmail.com).

\*Dave T. - Nathaly Peña & Hugo Medina announced they are expecting their 2nd child.

\*Mary P. - KT's family has been blessed.

\*Janet L. - In lieu of the Westside Dinner, Jubilation! We will be hosting a marimba concert with MPC's Jubilation! Marimba Ensemble for the Westside Community on Sunday, Nov. 21st from 2:00 - 3:00 pm with music and take-home Pumpkin pie.



\*Robyn B. - My MPC family and Deacons.

Please remember if you or someone you know needs food, housing, and/or other assistance, please contact our church office 503-246-5459 and/or your Deacon.

May our LORD bless your life..."**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.**"

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

God bless you,

Janet Lowrey Co-Deacon Moderator - 503-347-9967

Robyn Biehler Co-Deacon Moderator - 503-351-4780





multpresyouth

### SUNDAY FUNDAY

November 7th is Sunday Funday! Before worship, children Kindergarten through Fifth grade can be dropped off at the tent on the north lawn for games and activities during the worship service.



### GOOD NEWS TUES

November 16th is Good News Tues! Youth group for 2nd-5th graders, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. We will meet under the tent on the north lawn.

### YOUTH GROUP

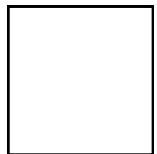
Youth group is meeting every Wednesday night under the tent 7:00 -8:30 pm.



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

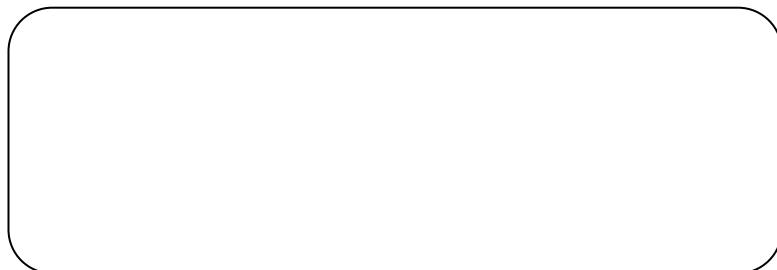
Please plan on staying after the service on **Sunday, November 21** to decorate the church for the Christmas season, before the Westside Community Concert at 2:00. Always a fun event for the church family.





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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