

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church
7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219
(503) 246-5459
MultPresChurch.org



OCTOBER EVENTS

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, October 6 & 20

Food Cart Lunch
Sunday, October 15

Good News 'Tues'
Monday, October 16

Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 29

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

Oct. 1st

Exodus 17:1-7
Philippians 2:1-13

Oct. 8th

Psalm 19:1-14
Philippians 3:4-14

Oct. 15th

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9

Oct. 22nd

Exodus 33:12-23
Matthew 22:15-22

Oct. 29th

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Matthew 22:34-46

UPCOMING PULPIT SUPPLY

Week	October	November	December
1	Zomermaand	Ackerman	Hellman
2	Zomermaand	Ackerman	Ackerman
3	Zomermaand	Ackerman	Ackerman
4	Hellman	Ackerman	Hellman
5	Ackerman		

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, October 1st
Communion

with Conley Zomermaand

Sunday, October 8th
with Conley Zomermaand

Sunday, October 15th
with Conley Zomermaand

Sunday, October 22nd
with Heather Hellman

Sunday, October 29th
with Jennifer Ackerman



PERSONNEL

Over the past year, the Personnel Committee has scheduled a variety of voices in our pulpit supply series as the process to identify a new permanent pastor continues. In the past month the Personnel Committee has been working on a staffing approach for 2024 and the reviews of MPC staff. We are fortunate to have the excellent team working for MPC, and thank you to all the members who offered staff appreciation notes in September. Given our church size and resources, we are proposing for 2024 that Heather Hellman continue as the acting head of staff and Reverend Jennifer Ackerman will be hired as a part-time transitional bridge Pastor and moderator. This is intended to provide consistency, stability, and regularity to this transition period as MPC continues its journey into the future.

Because this is a temporary/transitional staffing configuration, the Personnel Committee has recommended the above model to Session for 2024. Session controls this hiring (it is not a call or installation). The congregation will review the 2024 budget and the staffing plan at its congregational meetings in November and January. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will continue its work to fulfill the Presbytery requirements for building a profile, job description, role, and Ministerial Data Form (MDF) for the next permanent full-time Pastor for MPC. This work has already taken over 30 meetings and is likely to require significant time into 2024. The permanent pastoral call for MPC, while recommended by the PNC to Session, is ultimately installed by the Presbytery of the Cascades, requiring the approval of the Commission on Ministry of Presbytery and vote of approval by the MPC congregation. Because of this process, it takes time.

In addition, Heather Hellman has felt the call of a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Her application was approved by Session in August and forwarded to the Presbytery of the Cascades to join with her in the process of becoming a lay Pastor. Upon Commissioning by Presbytery, this will allow her to preach, deliver communion, and complete certain other tasks commonly reserved for Pastors within the Presbyterian Church. When completed, this will allow Heather to perform pastoral duties at MPC.

In her role, Jennifer Ackerman will be available part-time (mostly on Sundays) to preach several times a month, moderate Session meetings, and assist with planning and strategy for MPC during the transition period. Once Heather has become a Commissioned Ruling Elder, Jennifer will continue with us part-time, including preaching assistance.

While this process is on-going Heather will be the day-to-day person to bring Pastor related communication to. You can call (503-246-5459) or email (info@multpreschurch.org) the MPC office Tuesday through Friday. Heather will be at MPC on Sundays and can be reached directly at heather.hellman.mpc@gmail.com. She will work collaboratively with Jennifer to determine the best approach to address key tasks. Jennifer can be reached via email at jenniferackerman@fuller.edu.

Feel free to reach out to the Personnel Committee if you have any questions about the process we are undertaking or to share your thoughts on future MPC staffing (Randy McCourt is the chair, 503.randy.mccourt@gmail.com). We continue to ask for your prayers and support as we work through the process of finding MPC's next permanent pastor.



Transition Plan to Installed Pastor

Rotating Pulpit Supply

Heather Hellman
Acting Head of Staff

Rev. Jennifer Ackerman
Part-time Transitional Bridge Pastor

Heather Hellman
Acting Head of Staff

Heather Hellman, CRE
Lay Pastor & Head of Staff

Rev. Jennifer Ackerman
Part-time Preaching & Support

**Installed
Permanent Pastor**
Authorized by Presbytery
& Approved by MPC
Congregation

2023

2024

2025?

MPC Pastor Nominating Committee

KEY FAQs

Will Heather be the Pastor or the Youth Director?

Heather will be designated by Session to be MPC's acting head of staff until the PNC completes its work. Heather will be working with Jennifer Ackerman to balance out pulpit supply needs and pastor strategy/planning. Volunteer support in children's ministries will increase to fulfill those tasks Heather has done. Heather will continue with youth groups and will provide video children's lessons on weeks she is not preaching. Session and Deacons are reviewing all ministry efforts to make sure we provide appropriate leadership to the congregation and to support Heather and Jennifer.

Can Heather or Jennifer apply to be the permanent Pastor?

Yes. This is not the formal interim Pastor approach within the Presbyterian Church, which requires that the interim Pastor not be part of the permanent Pastor candidates.

How long will this be?

We do not know at this point. It took two years to complete a simplified process the last time we transitioned into a new Pastor, and now—with the aftermath of the pandemic, staff availability issues, and finances—this time it may take that and possibly a bit more time.

What is Commissioned Ruling Elder?

They are lay leaders, trained in Presbyterian ways and polity, governed by the presbytery, granted permission to conduct various tasks (may include moderating Session, preach, communion, marriages, baptism,...). Commissioned Ruling Elders can be assigned particular Pastoral service for up to three years, renewable by Presbytery annually.

How soon will Heather become a Commissioned Ruling Elder?

The Presbytery of the Cascades follows the requirements of the Book of Order, which includes preparation and training appropriate to the particular commission. As Session has forwarded Heather's CRE application to the Presbytery, this could occur later this year or early next year. Presbytery will commission Heather at that time.

Who do I call if I need Pastoral Care?

Calling your Deacon or the MPC office during business hours Tuesday through Friday (9am to 4pm) are the first lines of contact to address your care needs. We will work collaboratively to see that you are best served by the most appropriate person. You are also welcome to speak with either Heather or Jennifer on Sundays. If emergency circumstances arise that are not during office hours or Sundays, please contact Heather directly.

October Birthdays

2 Kristen Young

3 José Carlos Peña
Ryan Soumokil

4 Christie Sargent

6 Ann Lemon
Linda Miillé

7 Kathy McCourt

12 Karen Beers
Tim Colenso

15 Pat Bell

18 Chester Hill

19 Sue Williams

22 Callie Wheeler

23 Lisa Bode

24 Wyatt McKenzie

27 Shari Erickson

28 Dennis Erickson

31 Jack Bertell
Dick Eyberg

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship returns! This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We will meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **October 6th & 20th** for a light breakfast of beverages, cereals, and pastries, along with a time of general fellowship. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba (dennis_zerba@msn.com).



CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATIONS

In preparation for this year's church officer elections, the Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the positions of Deacon and Elder. Terms are for three years, beginning in January. Deacons provide support to members and non-members through acts of prayer and service. Elders make up Session, which is the governing body of the church. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Kate England (kate.england.645@gmail.com, 503-502-0652) or any other member of the committee.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this important ministry.

2023 Congregational Nominating Committee:

Kate England & Robyn Biehler (elders), Sherri Kessler (deacon),
Linda Jager & Judi Davis (members at large)



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us Sundays at 9:30am for a time to dive into what our reformed faith really means. Rev. Bob Steebe, our Session moderator, suggested we use studies from TheoAcademy which was created by the Synod of Mid America. Our New Members Class piloted one series and it was well received. Our Adult Sunday School will launch a new class on **Sunday, October 1st** titled "An Introduction to Reformed Theology" which features Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell, a professor at Louisville Theological Seminary. The format of the class will start with a thought provoking question, followed by a video segment, then a discussion. Please join John and Kate England for this five week series. The lessons work even if you cannot attend all five Sundays. We will meet in the chapel and hope to see you there. If you have any questions, reach out to Kate England at kate.england.645@gmail.com.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

On Tuesday mornings we will be looking at a similar TheoAcademy study "Being Presbyterian: Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship." We use this for our new members, but it's a great course for all of us to learn about Reformed Theology and how that informs our system of church government. The class will be led by Heather Hellman, and will use scripture and our church Book of Order and Confessions. This class will meet in the chapel on Tuesday mornings at 10:30am starting **October 10th**.

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.

Blessings From Within Our Church

Tacos & Tunes was a fun, smashing success.

We are excited to be back in the swing of things with the return of Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, and Good News Tues.

We celebrate and welcome our 3 new official members to MPC.

If you would like to share your blessings, please send them to Janet Lowrey, Dave Tomastik, or your own Deacon.



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Summer is over. The kids are back at Dove Preschool. The holidays will soon be upon us with Trunks and Treats. Thanksgiving and Advent seasons are on the way. As if that is not enough to bring us tremendous joy, we also have the most exciting part of fall still in front of us. Yes, you guessed it: It is **BUDGET SEASON!**

In the Presbyterian tradition, developing the budget for the coming year is an interactive and collaborative process. We have included a timeline of the key dates on the next page for you to use as a reference. To summarize it briefly, we have already given spreadsheets to elders and key committees to review and make their requests for next year. We will gather these together and review the summary in our F&A meeting on Oct. 17th. The next step is to share this draft with all of you in a congregational meeting to get your input on how to best support the mission of MPC. This is followed by the Pledge drive in November. Once we have some idea of the resources we will have in 2024, we use December to adjust the budget accordingly. Finally, in January, the budget is approved by Session and presented to the Congregation.

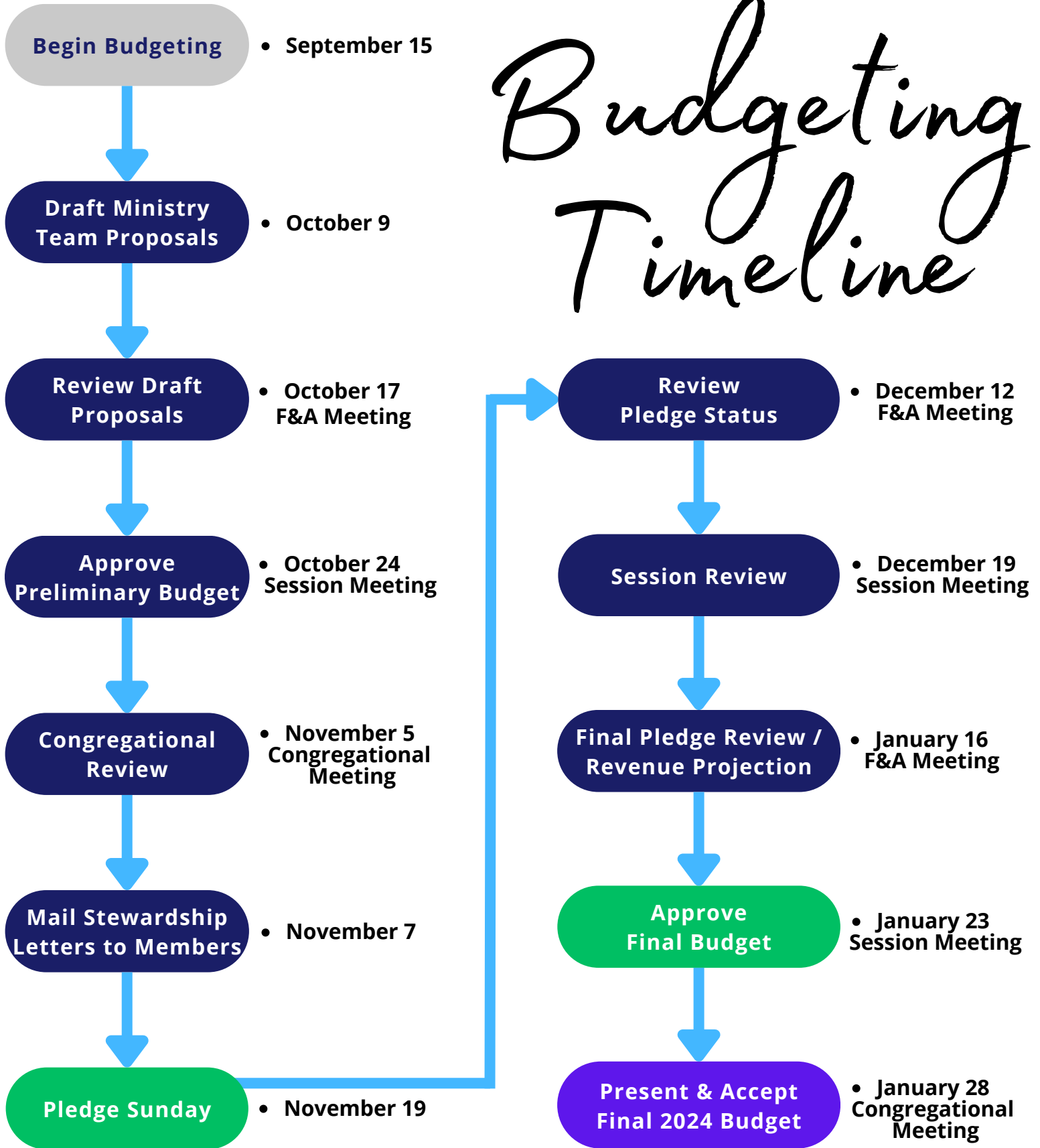
It is no secret that we are a church in the middle of a significant transition period. This will make budgeting a bit more challenging this time around. Session is implementing 3 fundamental strategies to address these challenges. These include:

1. Revising the staffing plan for 2024 while we transition. This work is being done by the Personnel Committee and is outlined in their Announcer report.
2. Sharing Sacred Spaces is a pilot project supported by the Presbytery to help churches find ways to bring the community into their facilities and properties to share cost and support both church and community needs. Heather Hellman and Roy Magnusson are participating in an 8-week program designed to identify goals and options for sharing our space.
3. Becoming known as a welcoming church has been a focus of the Session discussions for several months and many ideas are already being implemented. This work will continue in 2024 with the goal of welcoming more people to the love of Jesus and growing together as we become a more abundant faith community.

We look forward to working with all of you over the next few months on the budget. We will need your input to be the best possible stewards of the gifts we have been given. Thank you in advance for your love and support as we transition MPC and prepare ourselves to serve Christ in the coming years.



Budgeting Timeline





YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

High School
Wednesdays
7:00pm-9:00pm

Middle School
Sundays
7:00pm-8:30pm

Elementary School
(Good News "Tues" - Grades 2-5)

Monday, October 16th, 6-7:30pm

We will meet at the Open Door for food, games, art projects, and more as we discover more about Jesus's love for us.

TRUNK OR TREAT

After worship on **Sunday, October 29th** from 12-2pm we will be hosting Trunk or Treat in our lower parking lot. We would love to make this a great event for families in our community. To do that, we need to pack our parking lot with lots of cars for kids to trick or treat at. You are welcome to dress up and decorate your car, but you can also just sit with a bowl of treats too. It's a fun event to get to know your MPC family as we spend the afternoon together too. You can sign up to hand out treats by contacting Heather. We would also love your help in spreading the word about this event with families in your community. If you would like a digital flyer to post on your online community site, text or email to others, contact Heather. You can also share our MPC [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) posts that include Trunk or Treat on your own profiles in the coming weeks. We will be posting weekly until the event. Let's make this another great day to introduce our community to our neighbors.



BOTTLEDROP FOR THE YOUTH ALASKA MISSION FUND

We have set up a non-profit account with Bottledrop to create a relatively easy way to help build the Youth Mission Fund back up after the huge airfares of this past trip. All you need to do is pick up one of our blue Bottledrop bags at church (they have our account code on them), fill them, and return them, and we will receive the money from all of the bottle and can deposits. You can return your filled blue bags by dropping them at a Bottledrop Center, or by bringing them back to church and we will drop them off. There is no individual counting needed; bags with our code are just dropped off and then Bottledrop scans the bags and counts the cans. We will appreciate each filled blue bag because, as we have learned, it's a lot of small donations that make this very big trip possible each year.



MISSIONS

COLD WEATHER KITS FOR HOME PDX

The change in the weather is a good reminder that it's not too early to think about items for cold weather kits. These will be collected in November, later assembled into kits at MPC, and then distributed to houseless folks by HomePDX.

Items to be included are:

- Hats**
- Gloves**
- Socks**
- Scarves**
- Handwarmers**
- Thermal Blankets**
- Disposable Ponchos**

- Wipes**
- Lip Balm**
- Tea Bags**
- High Protein Snacks**
- Instant Drink Packets**
- Blank Christmas Cards**



DOVE PRESCHOOL

The preschool year has started with great success. The returning kids are excited to be back in class, and the new kids are learning the ropes. We spent September talking about how God has made each child a shining star. We also talked about the oceans, the skies and all the wonderful things that God has made for us. The kids will get the chance to show their parents the school at Back to School Night in early October. We'll spend the month learning about how God takes care of us. We'll be heading to the Jones Estate for the annual Fall Field Trip, and having fun dressing up and celebrating the joys of Halloween. Thank you for your continued prayers for the kids, their families and for Dove. We're blessed to have such a wonderful school! If you know anyone interested in a preschool in the future, have them check out our website, www.dovepreschool.com.

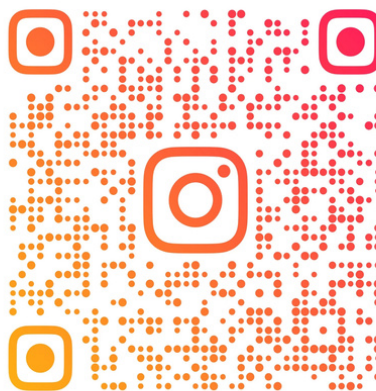




FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the two back-to-back weeks of great events. What a wonderful way to introduce ourselves to our neighbors and to have a great time of fellowship together.

Sunday Parkways was an outstanding event, and we are grateful to Portland Parks and Recreation for including us and posting about us on their Sunday Parkways social media accounts (see link below). They gave us an awesome intersection to help control traffic at and keep people safe, and allowed us to share wonderful music, treats, and beverages with weary riders and walkers. We communicated Jesus' love with our community through granola bars, popsicles, drinks, and a drum circle they could join and ukuleles they could sing along with.



Thank you to Kate England for coordinating with the parks department; to Amy Clements and Dick Eyberg for being our intersection super heroes; and to Gary Cayton for helping haul everything over and back, which meant pinning his truck in for the whole day.

POST SHARED ON SEPTEMBER 27
BY PORTLANDSUNDAYPARKWAYS
(click or use phone's camera)



Tacos and Tunes was a great new spin on the classic church picnic. Special shout out to Clay and Jaonna Morgan for preparing and coordinating all the taco fixings for a wonderful meal. Thank you to everyone who provided sides and desserts as well.

Our musicians did a wonderful job of making that a very fun afternoon, thank you to Valentine, Ray, and all of our ukulele players!



We were also blessed to be able to celebrate Priscilla Downing's 95th birthday as a part of the festivities that day.

Priscilla sends a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who sent such lovely notes on her Birthday. Also, to the crew who prepared the meal and did all the clean up!!

BLESSINGS ♥♥♥



Our next gathering will be **Sunday, October 15th**. Join us at BG's Food Cartel (4250 SW Rose Biggi Ave) for lunch and fellowship — invite family and friends! There are indoor & outdoor tables to accommodate no matter the weather, and plenty of options for all dietary needs. We will meet at the Food Cart Pod in Beaverton around 12:15pm. If you need to carpool please meet at the Welcome Desk by 11:45am.

For more info, email Robyn at bthkfl46@gmail.com



BG's Food Cartel
AT THE ROUND



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.

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