

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

(503) 246-5459

MultPresChurch.org

NEW STAFF COMING ON BOARD

We are celebrating Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman joining us on staff as a Temporary Transition Pastor. Jennifer is bringing so much talent and experience to work with our staff to create our worship services, preach and help our leadership with transition tasks.

Jennifer is already employed full time by Fuller Seminary as the Director of the Brehm Preaching Institute. She is helping out on a limited basis of 10 hours a week, working in conjunction with Heather Hellman, the Director of Ministries. She will not be available for pastoral counseling, leading Bible studies, or other tasks.

If you have a need for pastoral care, you can direct those to Heather and our Deacon Team. If you have other needs, questions, or concerns, you can reach out to Heather or our team of Elders. We are so excited for Jennifer to join us, eager to see how God will use all of her gifts in our community, and we want to be respectful of her time as she joins us.

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

January 7th

Luke 3:15-23

Mark 1:4-11

January 14th

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

January 21st

Jonah 3:1-10

Psalms 62:5-12

January 28th

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Mark 1:21-28

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

After finishing up our Advent series,
Heather and Jennifer will be
preaching on the prophets

Sunday, January 7th Communion

We Trust Our Belovedness

Sunday, January 14th
"Speak, Lord,
your servant is listening."

Sunday, January 21st
"The word of the Lord
came to Jonah."

Sunday, January 28th
"The Lord will raise up a
prophet like me."



Upcoming Events

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, January 5 & 19

HomePDX Lunch Service
January 21

Dove Open House
January 25

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28

ANNUAL MEETING

January 28th, after Church

On Sunday the 28th we will hold our annual meeting after our 10:30 worship service. We will review the final budget for 2024, and hear reports from some of our amazing ministry teams. Come celebrate the many blessings of MPC from the past year with us. Snacks will be available before the meeting begins.

FRIDAY MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Friday Men's Fellowship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. We will meet in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall at 8am on **January 5th & 19th** 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 (dennis_zerba@msn.com).

PERSONNEL

As we swing into 2024, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman and Heather Hellman will begin their positions fulfilling our Temporary Transition Pastor role for Multnomah Presbyterian Church. Similar to the last few months of 2023, Jennifer and Heather will be trading off sermons on Sundays, and sharing Bible stories around how we can continue our journey in welcoming people to Christ and MPC. Jennifer will be available most Sundays, even when she's not preaching. Heather will be available during office hours during the week, and providing Children's Lessons when she isn't preaching on Sundays. She is pursuing designation as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at MPC this year...more on that as the year progresses.

Personnel will be updating the Policy Handbook for MPC, getting things up to date. If anyone is interested, please contact Randy McCourt - 503.randy.mccourt@gmail.com





SESSION UPDATES

At December's meeting, Session:

- Discussed the 2024 budget, ~\$324,000, and the pledges received so far, ~\$206,000. The pledges cover about 64% of the proposed budget which is in line with past budgets and pledges. The budget is very tight. Members are encouraged to pay Presbytery per capita fee for 2024 (\$45.60 per member) which is unchanged from 2023.
- Started the conversation to look into the future of Dove Preschool and where it might be in 3-5 years. Want to consider the Preschool Promise program and the needs of the community.
- Approved moving \$1500 in unused funds from account 351 (Youth Activities) to account 352 (Youth Annual Mission Trip).

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Happy New Year one and all! The F&A Committee completed its work for 2023 during its December meeting and presented a summary of 2024 budget adjustments and pledging results to Session on December 19th.

We will be recommending only a few minor adjustments to the budget presented in the November Congregational meeting. Overall the budget is at \$324,000 and includes the staffing plan recommended by the Personnel Committee. Pledges at the time of this writing totaled \$222,000. This represents about 68% of the overall budget. A detailed review of the activities in 2023 and the 2024 budget will be included in the Annual Report coming out in January.

Treasurer Darlene Higgenbottom is reviewing the list of designated funds that are no longer in use to consolidate and add into more active fund areas. This will be done at the end of 2023.

If you have not yet done so, please send in your pledge as soon as possible so that Session will have this information when it convenes in January to approve the final budget for 2024.

As a final note, I would like to thank the Committee members and all of you for your trust and support as I chaired the F&A Committee over the past 6 years. I remain amazed at your commitment to sharing the news and love of Jesus in our community. Chris Ulum will be taking over as the F&A Chair. I have agreed to stay on the committee to enhance a smooth transition and help navigate the 2024 budget.

May God bless and keep you all,

Roy Magnusson, (outgoing) Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

DANGER TREE REMOVAL

A crew from Ash Tree Enterprises was contracted to remove six danger trees from church property. Some of the trees were dead and had been infested with bugs and were in danger of falling into the Open Door or on vehicles in the parking lot. The limbs and smaller pieces of the tree were chipped and spread on church property for use in various landscape locations.



The larger pieces of the trees were cut into firewood length, then a crew of Clay Morgan, Roy Magnusson, Kinton Hutchinson, and Dennis Zerba split the wood into small pieces and it was offered to people in the church and others with a need for the firewood.





YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

Elementary School

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

Monday, January 15th, 6-7:30pm

Join us for dinner, games, art projects, and learning about Jesus and his love for us.

Middle School

Wednesdays

6:30pm-8:00pm

High School

Wednesdays

7:00pm-9:00pm

Youth Groups are back to our regular Wednesday Night Schedule following a short winter break.



HELPING SERVE WITH HOME PDX

On **January 21** after worship, our youth groups will head to the waterfront near OMSI to serve lunch with our Missions Team and HomePDX. We will walk around distributing plates of food to those who want one, then clean up and head back to the church. Dress warm and RSVP to Heather if you plan to attend.

ALASKA ADVENTURE 2024

Registration is available for students currently in 8th grade through college



DOVE PRESCHOOL

Dove students and teachers are back after a relaxing and renewing Christmas break. This month we'll be learning about health and safety, with a tour to the fire station on the agenda for the Pre II class.

Dove will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, **January 25** at 6:30 pm. If you know a family member, neighbor or friend who is looking for a preschool for Fall 2024, please share this with them. Those who attend can see the school, meet the teachers and pick up registration materials. More information can be found at www.dovepreschool.com, or email dovechristianpreschool@gmail.com.



MISSIONS

DECEMBER COLD WEATHER KITS AND COAT DRIVE

We are grateful to the many who contributed to the successful collection of more than 50 kits, 62 coats, and numerous hats and scarves to our neighbors served by **Northwest Childrens' Outreach, Rose Haven, and HomePDX**. Thank you!

HOMEPDX SUNDAY LUNCH ON THE WATERFRONT JANUARY 21ST

Join us for any part of the preparation and serving of lunch with the HOMEpdx community!

- Shop for supplies the week prior
- Food prep at church the Saturday prior, 11 – 12:30.
- Transport and serving at the waterfront Sunday, 12:15 – 2:00.

Contact Jenifer Aberle (jdaberle@yahoo.com) or Lisa Shelley (xashesxashesx@gmail.com) to sign up, or for more information.

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU

The deacons wish to thank Poppy Bernasek for her years of service as she finishes her 6th year as a deacon. We thank Poppy for her calm, insightful voice and compassionate heart. And a big thanks to Robyn Biehler for stepping in to complete a vacated deacon term while also fulfilling her duties on Session.

We have three new deacons joining us in 2024: Barb Jones and Kate & Dick Eyberg (who will be sharing one district). The deacons will reassign districts in January. If you do not have a deacon and would like one, please contact the church office or speak to Janet Lowrey or Dave Tomastik. Don't know if you have a deacon? Look up your name in the MPC Directory - a number next to your name indicates your deacon district. If there is no number, you are not currently assigned a deacon. Deacons are the helping hands at MPC, ensuring each congregant feels cared for and offering assistance to those in need. "Care Group" indicates you belong to a small group with the group acting as deacon for the group.

Wishing you peace & joy in 2024.



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.



MUSICAL HOLIDAYS

We were lucky enough to be treated to multiple musical concerts this advent season.

Things kicked off in November with The Holly and the Ivories piano concert. We were treated to eight Christmas carols, four Celtic renditions of holiday favorites, and two spirited duets, making one fantastic concert. Even with some microphone issues, it is a pleasure to listen to again (available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69QF6QVfcV8>)



And more was to follow in December...
Follow Ray's lead and turn the page!





CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE

We had an absolute blast bringing to life the 'radio broadcast' When Worlds Collide accompanied by musical numbers by the KMPC Jewel Tones, Harmonaires, Jazz Tones, Rhythm Rebels, Silver Belles, and Ukulele Orchestra.

Both concerts collected donations for **Howard's Heart**, a local non-profit dedicated to providing individual and non-transactional support for teens and young adults in the foster care system within Multnomah County. Between the two coffeehouses and the earlier piano concert, our collections totaled **\$954**.

If you'd like to re-watch either concert or share the coffeehouse with others, both broadcasts are available to view on our YouTube channel:

Friday & Sunday

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VxvV0KlswHY / www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xoXhb9roco

Our Christmas Eve services also collected a donation for **Neighborhood House**, which reached **\$322**.





January Birthdays

WELCOMING THE MESSAGE

Leading up to Advent, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman asked us to think of and share some of the ways we've experienced welcome, whether through gratefulness, generosity, hospitality, or belonging. Join us in celebrating together some of the ways we are practicing living as a welcoming community at MPC.

Unending Gratitude

- We are very glad Jennifer Ackerman is back with us and we get to keep her!
- Reached out to a friend and began texting things together we were grateful for and it allowed us to focus each day. We became more aware of Gods blessings, how to be thankful - we grew closer together and had a great exchange.
- Made a list of things I was thankful for my father, had more appreciation of how he treated me in my life with him.
- I'm grateful for the people that do so much with the upkeep of the church grounds, people who take the effort to make our community look great, and dry fall leaves that blow in the wind.

Unmerited Generosity

- Providing students more time during grading rather than strictly following the rules and schedule.
- Saw a person at corner near Costco after picking up a roasted chicken and heard a voice to give him the chicken. I did, and they were very grateful.
- During ACT testing for children with special needs, brought treats and drinks to get them through the 3-hour period
- Had a medical appointment and brought brownies for the staff – they all thought they were supposed to be serving her and here she was serving them.
- When I was checking out at the self-check, an older woman in front of me finished ringing up her groceries and when she went to pay for them realized she did not have her wallet in her purse. So when she went out to her car to look for it, I paid for her groceries.

1 James Mayik

2 Steve Brandt

6 Nancy Donner
Anne Hill

7 Jeanne Morehouse

9 Vance Kerwood
Jackie Magnusson
Barb Twitchell

11 Nancy Trullinger

12 Jackie Snook

14 Sue Cunningham

15 Judi Davis

18 Sylvia Dilworth

19 Mariah Jones
Mark Trullinger

22 Sue Ballenger
Peter Oberdorf

25 Heather Hellman

26 Jaxsen Colenso

Uncomfortable Hospitality

- Got a blood test at the clinic, found a confused person and helped them sign in – they were so relieved and we had a lovely experience chatting together.
- When PPS teachers went on strike and our school's childcare program had nowhere to go - MPC said yes to hosting them at the Open Door. Approximately 50 families who live in this area were able to receive care and have a place for their kids to go who would otherwise have been stuck at home. It enabled families to work, and showed great hospitality to our community. Campfire staff and families reiterated again and again how grateful they were to MPC for opening their doors to them. It was an example of being inclusive, big hearted and showing God's love to everyone - not just to your typical church goers. And it made us proud to say this is where we go to church. Thank you for saying yes and being a church that is giving and hospitable.
- Opportunity to reconcile with a son and see their baby for the first time, an answer to prayer.
- Our family participated in the Westside Dinner this year for the first time. We weren't sure what to expect - but it gave us a chance to show God's love to people in our community who may be different than us. Our kids learned through example how to serve others, and to show great hospitality as a church. We had fun doing it and even connected with one of the attendees over her pets. I asked the kids what we gave and what we received that night - and they said we gave pie (true) and we received dinner (also true) - but we also received joy by giving our time. We enjoyed the ukulele music too!

Unexpected Belonging

- Glad for healing and to be back with the congregation.
- I felt I belonged to God and "out of the tree" during a series of events when I knew God was there, God made a difference, ONLY God could have made that happen. Because of those God-events I believed he WAS in my life and I did belong to Him. Each day as I look for God, I find Him and remind myself I DO belong to Him.
- Even though I am mostly online and haven't attended many church functions, I have felt nothing but welcome and grace from everyone here. I've seen the efforts to expand the welcome of this church to the local and marginalized communities and am excited to share in that belonging.

Blessings From Within Our Church

The Westside Dinner was a success thanks to the many volunteers and donors. Our friends had a great time and were very appreciative.

We were blessed with the talents on display in the annual Christmas Coffeehouse.

The music and drama were superb under the leadership of Ray McKean.

Thanks to all of MPC for the prayers and offers of support for the many surgeries our congregants underwent recently. They were felt and appreciated.

We collected over 65 coats for NW Children's Outreach and were blessed with beautiful hand-made hats for the cold weather kits.

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



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.

JANUARY ANNOUNCER

ANNUAL MEETING	2
BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY	10
BLESSINGS FROM OUR CHURCH	11
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	4
CHRISTMAS COFFEEHOUSE	8-9
DEACON NEWS FOR YOU	6
DOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL	5
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	3
MISSIONS MINISTRY	6
MUSICAL HOLIDAYS	7
NEW STAFF	1
PERSONNEL	2
PRAYER	7
SCRIPTURE REVIEW	1
SESSION UPDATES	3
WELCOMING THE MESSAGE	10-11
YOUTH	5