

THE MULTNOMAH ANNOUNCER

Official Newsletter of Multnomah Presbyterian Church

7555 SW 45th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

(503) 246-5459

MultPresChurch.org

A TIME FOR BEING THANKFUL

On behalf of the Building & Grounds Committee, we would like to thank the many volunteers who work to keep the church, Open Door, and grounds in great shape throughout the year. There are those people who come together for special workdays or projects, or those who regularly perform cleaning and maintenance tasks. Groups such as the Pickleball players who have taken on cleaning responsibilities for the Open Door, do a great job and have helped us eliminate the contractor janitorial services for that building. There were others that came together to put up and take down the tent we had outside the church for several months. There are numerous "Silent Servants" who go about taking care of the small things like taking out trash, watering plants, trimming bushes, pulling weeds, cutting ivy back from tree trunks, washing windows, sweeping sidewalks, cleaning the parking lot, repairing siding on the buildings, and cleaning the church sign, just to name a few. We are so thankful for all the servants the Lord has given MPC to care for his church!

Have a Great Thanksgiving!

Your B&G Committee: Karen Black, Gary Cayton, Amy Clements, Dick Eyberg, Clay Morgan, John Prutsman, and Dennis Zerba

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

Nov. 5th

Matthew 20:1-16

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

Nov. 12th

Luke 7:36-50

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Nov. 19th

Luke 19:1-10

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Nov. 26th

Luke 1:1-23

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Sundays at MPC

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

Worship Opportunities

This month Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ackerman will be preaching on Welcoming the Message, leading us into the Advent Season.

Sunday, November 5th Communion

Unmerited Generosity

Sunday, November 12th Uncomfortable Hospitality

Sunday, November 19th Unexpected Belonging

Sunday, November 26th How Does a Weary World Rejoice?



Upcoming Events

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts
Fridays, November 3 & 17

Congregational Meeting
**Sunday, November 5
after worship**

Pivot NW Summit
**Nov. 17 & Nov. 18
7pm-9pm 9am-Noon**

Westside Dinner
Monday, November 20

Advent Events

Pies and Pines
**Sunday, November 26
after worship**

Advent Piano Concert
Wed. November 29 @ Noon

Christmas Coffeehouse
**December 15 @ 7:30pm
December 17 @ 10:30am**

Christmas Eve Services
**Sunday, December 24
4:00pm & 7:30pm**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on **November 5th, 2023**, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the class of 2026, and a preliminary review of the 2024 church budget.

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 **November 3rd & 17th** 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).



PIES AND PINES



Bring a pie to share as we kick off our holidays around the dessert table together. Join us **Sunday, November 26th** after worship for pie and to put up all the (artificial)pine and other decorations that make our space beautiful for advent. All you have to do is come to worship, bring a pie if you can, stay, eat pie, decorate, and have fun with our MPC community. If you would like to volunteer for pie setup/cleanup, please contact Tom Jones or Robyn Biehler.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVORIES

Music director Ray McKean will be presenting a solo piano concert of Advent music on **Wednesday, November 29th** at Noon. Come and listen to holiday music arranged in various styles (classical, jazz, pop, celtic) by today's best sacred music composers. The concert is free and open to the public. Please invite friends & family to come enjoy this event and help spread the good news!



PERSONNEL

The past year has been one of adaptation and transition for Multnomah Presbyterian Church. Following the departure of Pastor Danny Peters in fall of 2022, we endeavored to find a temporary transitional bridge pastor. While we advertised the position for over six months, we were not able to find a candidate who fit our needs. Given that circumstance, we lined up a series of pulpit supply from pastors in the region, starting in the spring through the end of this year. Thank you to Reverends Jeff Sievert, Dr. Bob Stebe, Conley Zomermaand, and Dr. Jennifer Ackerman for providing sermon series this year, allowing us to hear from a variety of voices. Heather Hellman has also pitched in monthly, providing her invaluable support to our Sunday service. The main feedback we heard from members through all this was a desire for greater consistency and stability in leadership during the transition.

Taking all this experience and feedback into consideration, over the last three months the Personnel Committee has developed a staffing strategy for 2024, and in August proposed this plan to Session. This plan is being incorporated into our draft 2024 budget. It includes Heather Hellman continuing to act as Head of Staff and the Reverend Dr. Jennifer Ackerman being hired part-time to provide Pastor support. Heather is seeking approval from the Presbytery of the Cascades to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder (also known as Lay Pastor) which will allow her to perform pastoral duties at MPC during this transitional time, as established by Presbytery.

The next chapter in our transition will be seeking a permanent MPC Pastor. Our Pastor Nominating Committee continues its efforts working collaboratively with the Presbytery of the Cascades. The PNC includes Jesse Black, Dick Eyberg, Adrienne Gassaway, Valentine Hellman, Lisa Shelly, Courtney Tomastik, and Chair John England. As you all have seen from our last Pastor search (two years), this process involves many steps and takes a lot of time. At some point in 2024 we will post the position description seeking the next permanent pastor for MPC. This all depends on following through with the proper process to support this next step. We will be keeping you up to date monthly on our progress. In the meantime, always feel free to share your thoughts with our Elders or reach out directly to me (503.randy.mccourt@gmail.com).





BUILDING AND GROUNDS

MPC'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE



One of the things that we often hear from members and visitors when they come to the MPC campus is the beauty of the site with all the large trees and bushes. Sadly, over the past three years, a changing climate with periods of longer and hotter temperatures and extended periods with no rain has resulted in the die off of several trees and bushes on the property. We have removed some of the small dead trees and bushes but are now faced with the realization that we are going to have to hire contractors and remove some of the larger dead and dying trees. In order to manage costs, our focus will primarily be on trees that present a potential hazard to buildings like the Open Door and to people and vehicles in the parking lot.

The predominant species of those trees dying are the Western Red Cedar and a few Large Leaf Maple. These trees make up roughly 30% of the large trees on the property. We have had arborists look at our situation, and they confirmed that most of the Western Red Cedars in Portland are facing the same fate as those on our property and may be totally gone within the next few years. Since the church property is classified as an environmental or conservation zone, there are certain restrictions put on these areas by the City of Portland which require extensive permitting such as site maps of all the trees and planting replacement trees for those trees which are removed.



If you would like to take a closer look at the situation we are facing, please feel free to contact Dennis Zerba (dennis_zerba@msn.com or call him at 503.710.7128) and he will be happy to walk you around the property and discuss what lies ahead. And we'll have some cedar firewood available after all is said and done - contact Dennis with interest.



MISSIONS

COLD WEATHER ITEMS COLLECTED THROUGH NOVEMBER 26TH

We appreciate any of the following items you can donate for cold weather kits, which we will assemble together after the service on **December 3rd**. Place them in the food barrel/box in the fellowship area. After assembly they will be distributed to houseless folks by HOMEpxd.

Items to be included are:

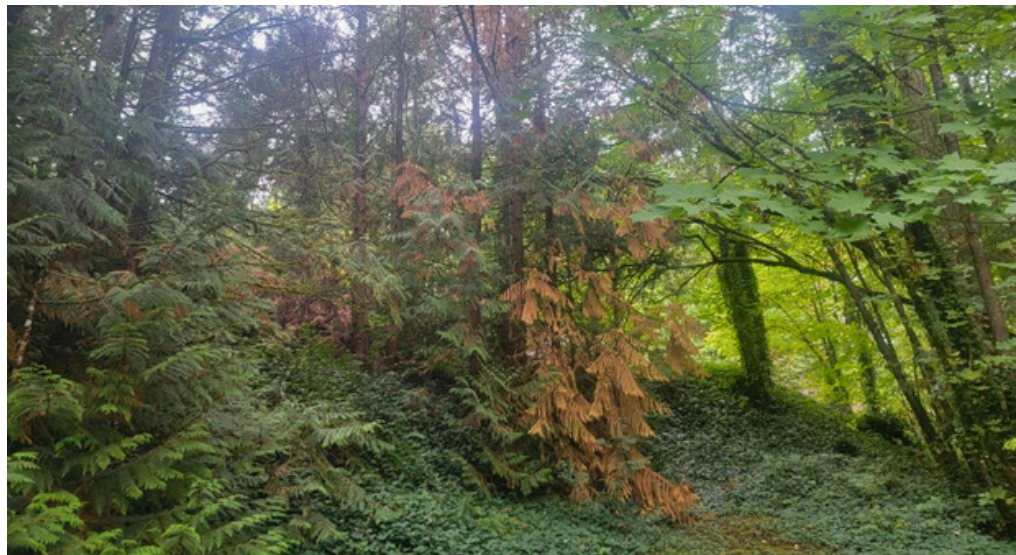
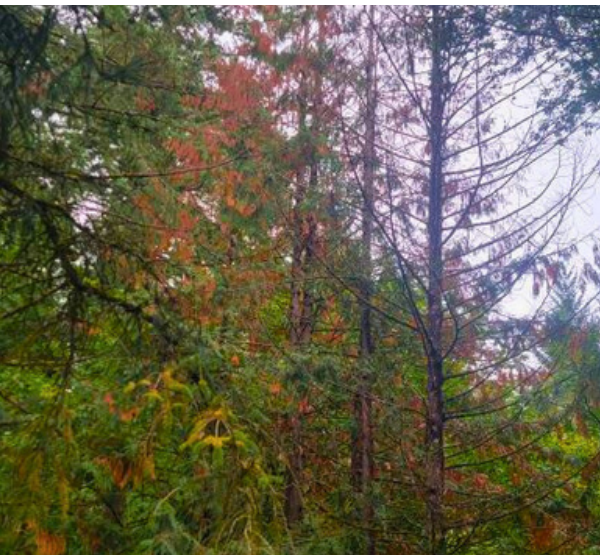
Hats
Gloves
Socks
Scarves
Handwarmers
Thermal Blankets
Disposable Ponchos

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



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

PCUSA receives four special offerings a year, the next of which is the Christmas Joy Offering. This fund assists current and retired church workers in need and also supports future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Although MPC will not be collecting this offering in the plate on Sundays, we encourage you to find more information and online donation at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> . Envelopes for mailing in individual donations will also be available at the welcome counter.



November Birthdays

2 Randall Fuehrer
Liz Graff
Lisa Shelley

3 Brian Kirkland
Matthew Kirkland

5 Adrienne Gassaway

6 Bill Kirkland
Dave Meyer

7 Andrew Hill
Cindy Mullins

8 Claire Lawrence

9 Maeson Graff

11 Emily Gaston

12 Jaonna Morgan

15 Jeff McKenzie
Kaitlin Peters

18 Gene Roberts

21 Ed Kuehnel

23 Pat Johnson

25 Carlos Peña-Cibrian

27 Melissa Ulum

30 Kathy Wheeler

DEACON NEWS FOR YOU



WESTSIDE THANKSGIVING DINNER
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
5:00-6:30 PM

Musical entertainment provided by the MPC Ukulele Group

2023 will mark our 38th dinner for Westside Community Focus. The clients look forward to this dinner each year, as it gives them a chance to socialize with their friends, which includes us. The joy each year is infectious, and volunteers come back year after year.

VOLUNTEERS

There are multiple ways you can help. Look for sign-up sheets at the welcome counter on Sundays, or email coordinator Janet Lowrey at pdxjlow@gmail.com to sign up or to learn more. We have a reliable process in place, so no previous experience is needed.

- Volunteer to bring a pie (home-baked or store-bought)
- Volunteer for night-of duties: set-up, serving, clean-up
- All positions include a free dinner!
- Become a dinner angel by contributing to the cost of the meal. Mark your check or envelope for "Deacon Fund – Westside Dinner"

Born from a passion for helping others, Westside Community Focus has assisted adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Portland Metro area for more than 50 years. Visit their website to learn more: <https://www.westsidecommunityfocus.org/about-us>



FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

Stay active by serving youth in local communities through AmeriCorps Seniors as a Foster Grandparent. Foster Grandparents befriend and guide children who have faced challenges. They help tutor students to excel in school, mentor teenagers and young parents, care for children with disabilities, and provide early intervention. There are flexible volunteer schedules, anywhere from 5 to 40 hours per week, serving in schools, day-care centers, and Head Start programs. .

This program is designed for people 55 and older who are living on a modest income, and offers a chance to make a little extra money while helping their community. Volunteers will receive training by the organization where they serve, cost of transportation, free meals while volunteering, as well as a non-taxed stipend per hour worked. This means that for those who are receiving other benefits based on income, such as SNAP or subsidized rent, this money does not impact that at all.

In order to ensure the safety of children, Foster Grandparent Volunteers must pass a comprehensive background check and meet income guidelines. Please call 503-545-6441 to learn more and have an application mailed to you.



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

José Carlos Peña & Jenny Herrera-Peña welcomed their newborn son Sept. 12. He is precious and perfect & joins big brother Austin.



MPC has received thanks by letter and phone call for our \$1000 Missions donation to Water is Life Kenya.

Mike Clopton was inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame for his 38 years as head baseball coach (Wilson High & Jackson High) including 2 state & 10 PIL championships. What an achievement! He was inducted alongside Rick Adelman for comparison's sake.

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



YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP TIMES

High School

Wednesdays
7:00pm-9:00pm

Middle School

Wednesdays
6:30pm-8:00pm

Elementary School

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

Monday, November 13th, 6-7:30pm

This month we are meeting on the 13th instead of the 3rd Monday. We will gather at the Open Door at 6 for pizza, games, to learn about Jesus and make art. Pick up is at 7:30.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE CHANGE

Middle school is moving from Sunday nights to Wednesdays. Middle School will meet from 6:30-8:00 every Wednesday and High School will still meet from 7:00-9:00. This will give both groups an opportunity to enjoy games together, while still giving each their own time to explore their faith as smaller groups.

YOUTH GROUP HOLIDAY OVERNIGHT

Friday December 8th will be our annual youth group Christmas event from 7:30pm Friday - 9am Saturday. More details will be available in the December newsletter.



YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CHURCH SUMMIT November 17 - 18 @ MPC

Churches everywhere are seeing a decline in young adult participation. We are partnering with Pivot NW Research to explore why that is and how we can welcome them back into our church.

Pivot NW Research has spent 6 years studying young adults and the church, and they are excited to share their findings with us and any churches we would like to invite. We will discover insights, engage in meaningful discussions, and enjoy free coaching. Join us Friday evening, November 17 from 7pm to 9pm and/or Saturday morning, November 18 from 9am to noon; you are welcome to attend either or both! Breakfast will be provided on Saturday.

RSVP to Heather if you would like to attend; and if you know of another congregation that would like to attend, please connect them with Heather so we can get them registered for the event.



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

November is a very important month for all of us at MPC. It is a time of harvest, when we count our blessings and show our gratitude on Thanksgiving. We are actively preparing to celebrate the arrival of our Savior with music and worship during Advent. There is, of course, one more exciting activity that peaks in November. We will be having our congregational meeting to present a proposed budget for the coming year and ask for pledges to support the church and its many activities and missions.

In the Presbyterian tradition, developing the budget for the coming year is an interactive and collaborative process. We included a timeline of the key dates in last month's Announcer 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. These requests were summarized and reviewed by both F&A and Session in October. 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 three 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. The revised model is now built into the budget proposal.
2. 1. 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 currently participating in an 8-week program designed to identify goals and options for sharing our space. We are halfway through the program and finding it very helpful in generating potential programs for MPC.
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 increasing the size of our congregation.

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.



We had a blast at the Food Trucks last month, and can't wait to do it again!



A SCARY GOOD TIME

We had a wonderful turn out at Trunk or Treat this week from both our church and the community!
Thank you to everyone who came and participated!!!





DOVE PRESCHOOL

The month of October was filled with so many activities, as well as learning how God is with us, especially when we're afraid. We had a Back To School night. The kids showed their parents around, and showed off some of their craft projects. We took a Fall Field trip to the Jones Estate for some outdoor fun and pumpkin picking. And we celebrated Halloween with fun-filled days, wearing costumes and trick-or-treating around the church. (Thanks to our helpers who gave goodies to the kids!)



November will go quickly as we give thanks for all the blessings God gives us. Dove will have the week of Thanksgiving off to be with family & friends. When we return, we'll have a short few weeks to get ready for the December Christmas pageant.

Thanks for continued prayers for the kids and their families, and for the success of Dove. If you know anyone interested in a preschool, have them check us out at www.dovepreschool.com. You can find us on Facebook, too. Like our page...it's worth it!

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

A SCARY GOOD TIME	10
A TIME FOR BEING THANKFUL	1
BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER	6
BLESSINGS FROM OUR CHURCH	7
BUILDING & GROUNDS	4
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	2
DEACON NEWS FOR YOU	6
DOVE PRESCHOOL	11
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	9
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROG.	7
MISSIONS	5
PERSONNEL	3
PIES AND PINES	2
PRAYER	7
UPCOMING EVENTS	2
YOUTH	8