



MPC Highlights

March 2024
Newsletter of Milwaukie Presbyterian Church

Holy Week at MPC

Palm Fern Sunday Worship, March 24, 10 am

In ancient Jerusalem people gathered roadside branches and leaves to wave for Jesus. At MPC, we use ferns. Let Worship Chair Erin Jenkins know if you are willing to trim fern fronds from your garden to help celebrate “Palm” Sunday.

Good Friday, March 29, 7 pm

Gather online or in the sanctuary for a contemplative evening prayer service.

Flowering of the Cross, Sat., March 30, 3-5 pm

How does your garden grow? Bring flowers, blossoms and greens to the church to flower the cross. Many hands needed to continue this beloved tradition! Refreshments provided.

Easter Celebration and Fellowship, March 31, 10 am

Come join the celebration with a festive worship service at 10 a.m. Brunch Fellowship after Easter worship. Please bring pastries or a brunch item to share.

Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter. All children welcome! Hippity Hop race for all ages!

[See page 4](#) for Easter season volunteer opportunities.



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OUTREACH AND MISSION UPDATES

One Great Hour of Sharing

by Linda Marquam, Outreach Chair



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs.

- 32% Rebuilding Hope – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- 36% Growing Food Security – Presbyterian Hunger Program
- 32% Partnering in Progress – Self Development of People

Donations can be made through the month of March. Please note on your remittance that the donation is for OGHS offering. This offering serves as a tangible expression of our thanks for all that God gives us and an opportunity to share our blessings with others.

Backpack Buddies

by Cherie Kennedy and Cynthia DeVore

Families received a delivery that included ingredients for a spaghetti entree. On top of that, each family received a beautiful handwoven 100% cotton dishcloth mailed all the way from Vermont for them. Backpack Buddy volunteer Tim Stockton has a sister-in-law who loves both weaving and Backpack Buddies. This is her contribution this month. Thank you, Virginia Stockton!

We will continue to deliver a bag of food for our Head Start families through June. Breakfast items, snack bags and food items for a meal will be supplied each month. The menus are planned and if you would like a shopping list, just take a photo of the donation table in the narthex to make needed purchases (you can always donate cash by designating your gift to MPC “for Backpack Buddies”).

If you would like to make a special donation of fresh fruit or vegetables for the families one month, please contact me at clkennedy88@hotmail.com.



OUTREACH AND MISSION UPDATES

Clackamas Women's Services

by Linda Marquam, Outreach Chair



Donation Corner will feature Clackamas Women's Services through mid-April. The shelter staff have requested donations of new toiletries, e.g., new shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, razors, and toothpaste.

CWS are a community that honors survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, elder abuse and trafficking. Their programs and services are free and confidential. They support people of all gender identities, ages, or immigration statuses to ensure anyone escaping interpersonal violence can access the resources they deserve. Their mission is to break the isolation of domestic and sexual violence. Last year 1,403 survivors accessed their community-based services.



Thank you, SON Volunteers!

by Linda Marquam

Thank you to the volunteers who provided meals for our SON families and to those who have donated funds for the program to operate. Four churches participate, and we have finished the first rotation, with the program ending in mid-April. The families really appreciate the meals and the fact that someone they don't know provides a little extra care for them.

These are the numbers for this year:

- 9 Families (13 Adults + 17 children)
- 50 meals were provided
- 20 volunteers participated, plus \$600 in donations received

Be a helper at MPC

Join us in serving our neighbors and community:

- Help with worship as a liturgist or Zoom host: use the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or send an email to office@milwaukiepres.org.
- Sign up to bring treats to share or help serve coffee at coffee hour (in person).
- Volunteer at a Second Saturday Grounds Clean-Up, 9-11 am at MPC.
- Join the choir, Wednesdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 9 am, September through May.
- Sign up to be a volunteer in the nursery when our childcare workers are away. (Background check required).

Email Outreach Chair Linda Marquam at bljmarq@hotmail.com or Hospitality Chair Gail Medeiros at gail_medeiros@yahoo.com to ask about other service opportunities.

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS



MPC Choir

by Molly Kerns, Music Director

Regardless of the church I work or worship in, I always love being a musician during Lent. As a child, I really struggled with this liturgical season. I was able to find meaning through the music—and I continue to do so.

Church musicians are constantly rehearsing songs as much as two months in advance, alongside whatever we will be singing the upcoming Sunday. As such, we get the surreal experience of seeing what will arrive at Easter at the same time as we work through Lent. When I was a child, I was clearly able to see the contrast in the Lenten and Easter songs while we rehearsed. It helped me understand both seasons better.

During Lent, we can express the areas of emptiness and longing in our life. We can share in the communal human experience of lacking. Most of us feel moments of despair at some point in our lives. We feel the guilt that we should have done more. We feel that if we just try hard enough, we might be able to find an answer to all of life's unanswered questions.

And then Easter comes along. We all experience faith differently, but hopefully Easter comes as a reprieve to some of those feelings. If nothing else, we get to live in the utter and complete joy of our community at one of the most meaningful holidays. With music, we have an outlet for that joy. I think working through the full spectrum of emotion in community is one of the greatest gifts of choir. I look forward to experiencing it with Chancel Choir this Easter!

Easter Activities – Be a helper!

by Erin Jenkins, Worship Chair

Need activities to do with your children or grandchildren during Spring Break? Or maybe you just want a way to participate in Holy Week? Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to boil & dye eggs, bring flowers, and decorate the cross with the donated flowers. The more the merrier!

Please bring flowers to the church by 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30. If you're not able to help decorate at 3 p.m., please label your bucket with your name so we can get it back to you. There will be light snacks provided for everyone who joins in the decorating fun.

If you'd like to contribute dyed eggs for Easter Sunday, please contact me.

Want more ways to help? Please join us at 7 p.m. on Wed, April 3, for "Easter Clean-up"! We'll be taking down and undecorating the flowered cross. Many thanks to those who can pitch in!

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS

Chili Cook-Off 2024

by Sabina Spicer, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

The Chili Cook-off came back this year and what a night it was! There were 9 different chilis, along with baked potatoes, corn bread, all the chili toppings, and desserts! Have you ever had a hot cocoa cookie? Well, we did that night and it is a new favorite. All together we raised \$400 for the Emergency Assistance Fund which goes directly to the people of Clackamas County.



Thank you to Gail M., Chris D. and Pastor Katie for managing the entry table, the Bocek family and Rusty for the help setting up, and everyone who attended, participated, donated, and helped to clean up. This was a group effort and it shone beautifully!

Here are the prizes awarded to the 9 chilis:

Furthest Traveled - Tommy & Tamika Sanchez

Best Use of White Beans - Andi Coover

Most Competitive Husband - Bill Marquam

Kindest to Animals - Beverly Romney

Fan Favorite - Gail Medeiros

And Rusty Garrison won Cheesy Corny Mr. Potato Head (his requested name)

Newest Entry - Frank Beaty

Best Use of Veggies - Erin Jenkins

Spiciest - Linda Marquam

Best Presentation - Kelley Gutman

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER EVENTS



Courageous Conversations Lenten Study

by Katie Pate, Pastor

You Are Changing the World Whether You Like it or Not by David LaMotte
Mondays at 7 pm on Zoom

3/4 Part II Narratives of Change, ch. 10

3/11 Part II, ch. 11-12

3/18 Part III What is Yours to Do?, ch. 13-17

3/25 Part III, ch. 18-Part IV Pick One

"This book serves as an antidote to the hopelessness so many of us feel about our world today. ...Through his many examples of communities of ordinary people who are demonstrating that disparate people with differing opinions can live in harmony, LaMotte encourages us to find our own way out of cynicism and despair." - Kathleen Norris

Personnel Update

Dear Members and Friends of Milwaukie Presbyterian Church,

Life brings many changes. This spring, we will say goodbye to Sabina Spicer, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. Sabina will be returning to school to finish her degree.

For more than eight years, Sabina has generously shared her gifts for ministry with all ages, in addition to her work in intergenerational education and worship leadership. We will miss her energy, adaptability, and sense of humor as well as her gifts for hospitality and creative thinking.

Our community has grown in many ways thanks to Sabina's leadership. It is an understatement to say that we will miss her a great deal. We are so grateful for all that she has brought to our congregation, and we wish her every good thing in the future.

It is difficult to say goodbye to Sabina, but I invite you to celebrate her ministry at MPC with a baked potato potluck on Sunday, April 14. In addition, baskets will be located in the narthex and the church office to leave letters and cards for Sabina.

During the coming months, Personnel Committee and Session will turn their attention to evaluating priorities and hiring new staff. We will keep you posted on that process along the way.

With gratitude,

Katie Pate

Pastor

Milwaukie Presbyterian Church

YOUTH AND CHILDREN



Little Ones Playtime!

Thursdays, 9-10 am

We continue to meet in the nursery every Thursday, 9-10am for stories and socializing. Grownups get to have conversations with other grownups and little ones get to be as silly as they want. All little ones are welcome to come and remember to bring your coffee!



Mr. Rogers Day Story Time

Wed., Mar. 20, 9-10 am

Fred Rogers (Mister Rogers) will always be remembered for his impact on education and our culture with his gentle nature and open heart. All are invited for an hour of story time in the nursery. We will read as many books as possible and enjoy the gift of community and literacy together.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

by Sabina Spicer

We are looking for volunteers to be on a standby list of nursery helpers. Occasionally the nursery staff is out and there must be two adults in there to welcome and watch the smallest of us. This is not a commitment to any set day, but if the need arises, you'll be asked if you can help out. Your participation will be appreciated! Email me if you are interested, youth@milwaukiepres.org.

CALENDAR - MARCH 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 7 pm AA	2
3 10 am Worship w/Communion After Worship Fellowship Fish Art 12:30 pm Deacons Mtg	4 10 am Personnel Mtg 7 pm Courageous Conversations	5 8 am Men's Group 11:30 am Staff Mtg	6 12 pm BCG 7 pm Choir	7 9 am Playtime!	8 7 pm AA	9 9 am Second Saturday
10 10 am Worship After Worship Backpack Buddies Fellowship <i>Daylight Saving Time</i>	11 7 pm Courageous Conversations	12 8 am Men's Group	13 9:30 am Property Mtg 12 pm BCG 7 pm Choir	14 9 am Playtime!	15 7 pm AA	16
17 10 am Worship After Worship Vow Renewal Reception <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 7 pm Courageous Conversations	19 8 am Men's Group 7 pm Session	20 9 am Mr. Rogers Day Storytime 10:30 am Outreach 12 pm BCG Backpack Buddies Distribution 7 pm Choir	21 9 am Playtime!	22 7 pm AA	23 9 am Playtime!
24 10 am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 *Office Closed* 11:30 am Worship Mtg 7 pm Courageous Conversations	26 *Office Closed* 8 am Men's Group	27 12 pm BCG 7 pm Choir	28 9 am Playtime! 1 pm Easter Crafts	29 7 pm Good Friday Worship 7 pm AA	30 2:30 pm Drop off Flowers 3 pm Flowering of the Cross
31 10 am Worship After Worship Easter Celebration <i>Easter Sunday</i>						

Zoom meeting login and links:

[Worship Services](#) (Meeting ID: 309 450 149, Passcode: 940126)

[Bible Conversation Group](#) (Meeting ID: 839 8936 5187, Passcode: 216802)

[Courageous Conversations](#) (Meeting ID: 892 3674 0770, Passcode: 686553)