

MPC News

April 2015

Constant Change

When I came to MPC, I brought a lot of change with me. Some changes were intentional; some were inadvertent. It's amazing to me how much change happens whether we want it to, or not. A few years ago, I felt like Session was handling huge projects each month. I longed for a boring meeting, with nothing but routine acts of business. When I voiced that, an elder offered me another perspective: "Yes, it's busy. But it makes me feel like we're really doing something." She was right. We are really doing something here.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" describes Christ as "from age to age the same." And yet, change is a natural part of growth. I see this in the children of our church, as babies I've baptized grow old enough for school. I see this in our neighborhood, for the changes the light rail brings may open new connections with our neighbors. I see this in the vibrant, flourishing relationships we enjoy as a church. How do we grow and stay the same in the ways that matter?

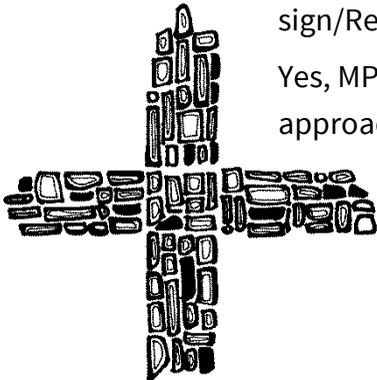
On April 26, we will dedicate new Taizé Songbooks in worship. These songbooks were purchased with memorial gifts given to the glory of God and in honor of Art Babbitt.

One Taizé chant prays: "Word of God, renew your people, make us now your living sign/Recreate us for your purpose in this place and in this time."

Yes, MPC is changing, and so is our neighborhood. As long as we approach change with honest questions, realistic expectations, and intentional conversations, our community will continue to grow and thrive.

Grace be with you!

-Pastor Katie



Worship, Teaching and Community

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship with Communion
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Hot Cross Buns, Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- ◆ 7 p.m. High School Youth Group

Sunday, April 12

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship, Doug Vitro preaching
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Handbell rehearsal
- ◆ 6 p.m. Rock Climbing - Middle and High School Youth Groups

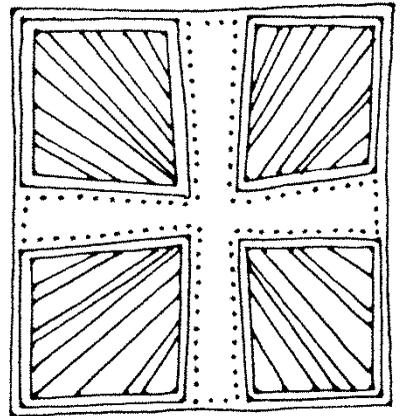
Sunday, April 19

- ◆ 10 a.m. Worship, The Rev. Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland preaching
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Handbell rehearsal
- ◆ Noon Outreach Committee, Youth Planting

Sunday, April 26

- ◆ 10 a.m. Taizé Worship, Handbell choir plays
- ◆ 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment
- ◆ 11:30 a.m. Session/Vision lunch
- ◆ 3 p.m. Youth After Easter Egg Hunt @ First Pres.
- ◆ 7 p.m. READ Book Group

ETERNAL · LORD



YOUR
· KINGDOM ·
HAS
BROKEN
INTO
OUR
WORLD

Holy Week



Good Friday Community Worship Service, April 3, 7 p.m. @ MPC Gather with our neighbors from St. John the Evangelist Episcopal, Milwaukie Lutheran and King of Kings Lutheran for a contemplative candlelight service.

Flowering of the Cross, April 4, 3 p.m. 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!

Easter Sunday is April 5!

Come join the celebration with a festive worship service at 10 a.m.

Hot Cross Buns & Brunch Fellowship after Easter worship. Please bring hot cross buns or a brunch item to share.

Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter. All children welcome!

Taizé Worship, April 26th

In worship on April 26, new Taizé Songbooks called *Hear the Prayers that Rise* will appear in the pews. These songbooks are produced by Oregon Catholic Press and feature traditional Taizé favorites alongside newer compositions in the style of Taizé music. Many pieces in these songbooks will be familiar, as they appeared in bulletin music inserts in years past.



Christian Enrichment

Sunday School

Upstairs, age 3 – 5th grade

April 5: Easter Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt

April 12: Seasons of the Spirit Lesson

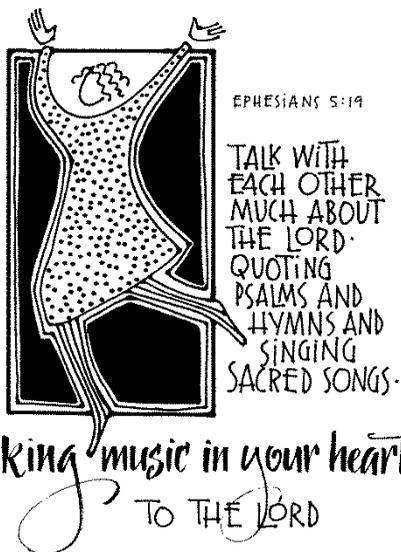
April 19: Seasons of the Spirit Lesson

April 26: Children's Service Project

Adults, Schmidt Hall

April 5: It's Easter Sunday. After worship it's fellowship time and treats in Schmidt Hall. (Watch for children returning from their Easter Egg Hunt!)

April 12: "Wisdom, Wisdom, Wisdom!"



It's time to share YOUR wisdom! Bring in your favorite scripture reading, song, parable, poem, picture, journal entry, painting, video clip, book, recipe, author, painter, story, experience, prayer, art work, conversation, memory... and share it with the group. Sam will attempt to facilitate group flow.

April 19: Guest Speaker: Our Confessions, They Are A-Changing.

The Rev. John Hasenjaeger will review the most recent changes to the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. Next year the General Assembly of our denomination (meeting here in Portland for the first time since 1967) will finalize the latest version of its official statements of beliefs. "The Belhar Confession" will likely become its newest statement, and a new version of the "Heidelberg Catechism" will become official as well. Why are these changes happening? And what do they mean for us?

April 26: "52 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day"

Join Sam for a rapidly paced review of: *God, the Creator*, the faith reasons behind stewardship, inspirational quotes from the Book of Psalms, New Testament scriptures on caring, plus what environmental activism means. A year's worth of stewardship ideas to remind you how Christians celebrate Earth Day.

— Sam Cole, CE Director

Youth News



Easter Eggs On Easter, the Youth are asked to be here at 9:30 a.m. to help hide Easter eggs for after the service.

Rock Climbing On April 12th, the youth will be going rock climbing at the Circuit Bouldering Gym in Tigard from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 plus \$4 if you want to rent climbing shoes. Chaperones are welcome to climb too. Let me know if you are interested.

Earth Day After worship on April 19, the youth will be helping to plant some of the new plants in front of the church. All church members are welcome to join us. Lunch

will be provided. Hope to see you there!

After Easter Egg Hunt On April 26 the youth will be joining youth groups from all over Portland and Vancouver for the After Easter Egg Hunt @ First Presbyterian - a huge scavenger hunt in downtown. Youth are encouraged to wear walking shoes, clothes fitting for the weather, and to bring a camera if they wish. Chaperones (and a good photographer) needed. Meet 1:15 p.m. @ MPC.

Caravan Update The Caravan trip this year will take place June 21 – 27, working with the tribes in Yakima. There will be a celebration and thank you June 26 for all the hard work the youth will be putting in. Chaperone spots still open!

— Youth Ministry Director, Doug Vitro

Outdoor Sanctuary Adoption

Nearly eight years ago our congregation began the arduous task of restoring the three and a half acres of wasteland behind our church to health and balance. With the aid of partner organizations and the support of Session and our Presbytery, we acquired a series of Metro “Nature in the Neighborhoods” grants which led to 50 work parties during which 85 of you spent 600 hours on the land cutting ivy, blackberries and clematis and planting 1,000 native trees and bushes.

We can now claim success. There is nothing clinging to the trees, ivy and blackberries are well-controlled, and the property is returning to its natural



balance and harmony. Native plant diversity has increased and native wildlife has returned. We have beavers in the pond, wood mice, 47 species of birds have been noted... and even a coyote. Trails give access for us to walk, observe, reflect, and listen for that “still, small voice.”

We are entering the final stage – caring for what is now here. We have divided the land into 10 manageable parcels and are asking you as families or small groups to “adopt” a site for a year and take it into your care.

Call Shirley Stageberg or Pat Carter for information on which sites are still available - their terrain and level of care needed. Thanks for your support!

— Pat Carter

Read Eat And Discuss Book Club

The book club is reading *Jesus Wants to Save Christians* by Rob Bell. Come discuss the book on Sunday April 26, at 7 p.m., at the home of Cherie Kennedy. RSVP 503.698.8308 or ckennedy88@hotmail.com. All are welcome, whether you've read the book or not.

From the back cover: "We want you to discover the Bible as its own best commentary. We offer you a way to read the Bible that doesn't require a library or a preacher or a politician or an academic to interpret for you. Once justice is seen as the thread woven into the fabric of biblical history, the whole Bible becomes much clearer."

Not-Just Prayer Shawls Ministry

Next Gathering: Noon, April 28 in Schmidt Hall

Do you knit or crochet or quilt? Would you like to learn? Through this group we have an opportunity to offer tangible signs of love, support, and prayers to those who may need comfort and care. Together we will create gifts of lovingly crafted shawls, lap robes and baby blankets and have time to share in fellowship with one another. Contact Marilyn Barnes (503.659.9837) or Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland (503.558.1209) with questions or if you would like to request a prayer shawl to give.



Session Update – from the March 10 Regular Meeting

- A first reading of the pastor's sabbatical proposal was completed. A final draft will be considered at the Session's March 31 meeting.
- A new copier will be purchased at the conclusion of our current lease in June. This will result in a significant savings.
- The annual membership rolls review was completed.
- The 2015-2016 budgeting process has begun with committee budget requests due March 31.
- Session accepted the retirement of Christian Enrichment Director Sam Cole, effective June 30, 2015. Plans for a farewell celebration are pending.
- Moderator Katie Pate will be on study leave April 7-24. The April Session meeting was rescheduled for March 31, 7 p.m.

The Session wishes to thank:

- Julia, Mike and Tom Loudermilk for preparing the church grounds for new landscaping.
- Nathan Hobson, for researching copiers and negotiating a new copier contract
- Claire Hobson and Bill Marquam for spearheading the purchase of new chairs for Schmidt Hall and the Fellowship Hall.
- Rusty Garrison for helping out with the delivery of our new chairs.
- Bill and Linda Marquam and Rusty Garrison and Marilyn Barnes for assembling new chair racks and unloading the chairs.
- Deacons and others for delivering meals to those who are ill or caring for the sick.



Giving Update, 2014-2015

As of 2/28/2015	Actual to date	Budget to date	Annual Budget
General Fund Income:	\$155,890.33	\$145,688.00	\$217,040.00
Carryover 2013-14:	\$8,395.00	\$8,395.00	\$8,395.00
Expenses:	\$157,923.15	\$161,104.00	\$241,640.00
Difference:	\$(2,032.82)	\$3,779.00	\$(16,205.00)
Surplus/(Deficit)			

Thank you so much for your generous giving! Keeping your pledge up to date helps MPC's budget stay on track. Watch your mail for quarterly Giving Status Updates in the coming weeks.

Elders	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Vision</u>
	Claire Hobson	Linda Marquam	Mark Neher
	<u>Property</u>	<u>Grounds</u>	<u>Youth</u>
	Dave DeVore	Rusty Garrison	Christopher Jenkins
Deacon	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Hospitality</u>	<u>Worship</u>
	Madeline Davis	Marci Hartson	Kelley Gutman
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	Andi Coover	Kim Adams	Wayne Sabin
	Lynette Hall	Carolee Neighorn	Sarah Carver
	Pat Jones	Richard Nelson	Tom Muti
	Bill Marquam	Mary Surface	Phyllis Zimmerman

Email or drop a note in the church office to be added to the MPC mailing list,
or to receive our weekly enews.

The deadline for the May newsletter is April 15.
Send submissions to office@milwaukiepres.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2015</h1>			1 Noon Finance Committee 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	2 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. Program Staff meeting	3 7 p.m. Good Friday Community Worship	4 3 p.m. Flowering of the Cross
5 Easter 9:30 a.m. Youth setup for egg hunt 10 a.m. Worship with Communion 11:15 a.m. Hot Cross Buns, Easter Egg Hunt	6	7 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's	8 Noon Finance Committee 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	9 7 p.m. Deacons	10	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter 10 a.m. Worship, Doug Vitro preaching 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Handbell rehearsals 6 p.m. Combined Youth Rock Climbing	13	14 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's	15 May Newsletter deadline 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	16	17	18
19 Third Sunday of Easter 10 a.m. Worship, The Rev. Kristen Hamilton-Sutherland preaching 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment, Handbell rehearsals Noon Outreach Committee, Youth planting	20	21 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	22 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal	23	24	25
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Stewardship Sunday 10 a.m. Worship, Stewardship Gifts Dedication; Blessing of Taizé Songbooks, Handbells play 11:15 a.m. Christian Enrichment 11:30 a.m. Vision/Session lunch work meeting 1 p.m. Combined Youth After-Easter Egg Hunt 7 p.m. READ book group	27	28 8 a.m. Men's Group @ Libbie's Noon Not-just Prayer Shawls	29 4:45 p.m. Worship Committee	30 9 a.m. Music Staff meeting 10 a.m. All Staff meeting	Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. You can also find our church calendar online at www.milwaukiepres.org/calendar	