



# MPC Highlights

April 2024  
Newsletter of Milwaukie Presbyterian Church

## Thank You

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

I am excited and sad to be leaving MPC as the Youth and Children's Ministry Director. Though I am leaving the job, I will still be in the Milwaukie community.

It would be silly of me to try to put into words what my feelings are about this community. I have a foolish reputation to uphold, so here goes. Thank you for the hard moments, the easy moments, the funny, hilarious, and beautiful moments. Thank you for looking at the sky with me and saying hello to God. Thank you for singing Christmas songs in July. Thank you for letting me read to you and be with you for over 8 years. Thank you for allowing me to become part of your families and your community. Thank you for holding my hand when I became a parent, and opening your arms to my family. Thank you for allowing me to be in the audience while we watched your children grow and become the beautiful people they are. Thank you for trusting me to try new things and explore faith through chalk, art, bubbles, protests, seders, wind-up bunnies and more. I have learned so much from you and am humbled at the spirit I have witnessed in your deeds. I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds for MPC and myself.

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# FROM STAFF & PERSONNEL

Least favorite moment: writing this.

Favorite moments:

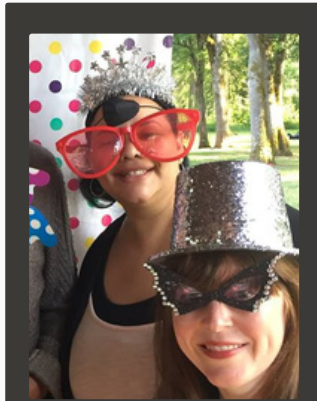
- Witnessing Ellie Caruso crawl for the first time, wearing a lamb bonnet, while practicing for the Christmas Pageant.
- Introducing the Hartson boys to Ding Dongs and PopTarts while Marci looked on with trepidation and amusement.
- Hearing everyone join in on “The Wheels on the Bus” at the Chili Cook-Off when Ella and Zarria asked us if we all had “heard of this great song.”
- Laughing to tears during game night many, many times.
- Feeling so proud when Grant Didway and Coleman Neher brought kitchen sponges to bathe with on the San Francisco trip, because, in their words “My mom uses it all the time and the dishes are clean.”
- Feeling so proud when Abigail Nash reminded me that she and I can like different things and still be “just fine” (she was in 2nd grade). I still smile just thinking about that moment.



- Watching Christopher Nash and Daniel Gunderson and Sam Decker take charge of several projects during City Camp.
- Seeing Alexandra Gunderson shine on stage.
- Seeing Grace Didway and Lanie Neher communicate silently through eye movement.
- Watching Verne Duncan win the Hippity-Hop Race two years in a row.
- Laughing with Pastor Katie about a million times, but especially about soup and origami.
- Hearing David Devore and Daniel Gunderson “watch” each other.
- Seeing the Rocky Mountains with Pastor Katie and seeing Casa Bonita was a real restaurant.
- Supporting one another through the COVID-19 Pandemic, knowing we all had one other's backs.
- Hearing the voices of the youth group sing, make jokes, share secrets, and be kids on every single trip.
- Getting to work with the compassionate, dedicated people on the MPC staff.
- And many more.

With love,  
Sabina Spicer

# FROM STAFF & PERSONNEL



# FROM STAFF & PERSONNEL

## Childcare Attendants Opportunities

*by Madeline Davis, Personnel Chair*

Megan Nguyen and Hillary Wong have faithfully served as our Childcare Attendants since we reopened for hybrid worship. Their last day with us will be April 14. They have served us well and will certainly be missed. We have posted the two positions for Childcare Attendants. We need one of our Childcare Attendants to be at least 18, and a second Childcare Attendant to be at least 16. We are posting these positions at \$15.45 /hour from 9:30-11:30 Sunday mornings. Please pass the word to anyone you think might be interested.

It can take time to fill these positions, so we would like to have a cadre of volunteers to cover the nursery until Childcare Attendants can be hired. Our goal is to keep the nursery open while the hiring process proceeds. Our hope is to have enough volunteers that no one would need to cover the nursery more than once or twice before we can get our hired Childcare Attendants in place. Per MPC policy, at least two childcare attendants need to be in the nursery at all times. We plan to have an iPad in the nursery so volunteers can still be part of the church service. If you are willing to volunteer, we need to have a background check completed. The form is quick and easy to fill out. Please contact me at [personnel@milwaukiepres.org](mailto:personnel@milwaukiepres.org) if you are able to help. Thank you.

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## MPC Choir

*by Molly Kerns, Music Director*

Do you love the tradition of singing “Come to the Water” to celebrate a baptism at MPC? Well, mark your calendar for an upcoming “Sing One Sunday” opportunity! This particular occasion coincides with one of our upcoming baptisms, so you can have the opportunity to share in this MPC tradition with the choir! All you need to do is show up ready to rehearse at 9:00 on Sunday, April 14. You will rehearse with us, and then we will sing together during Worship. We look forward to sharing this experience with you!

# OUTREACH AND MISSION UPDATES

## Clackamas Women's Services

*by Linda Marquam, Outreach Chair*

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



Brenda Kinoshita, CWS Development Director, will give a hybrid presentation to MPC after worship on April 7.

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.

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## Backpack Buddies

*by Cherie Kennedy*

So far this year, we have provided three food bag deliveries and have three more to go before Head Start ends the pre-school program for summer break (July-August). The families have all enjoyed the program and are most appreciative of the extra food. Currently there are about 20 families and 22 children in Early Head Start and Head Start.

If you would like to make a donation of fresh fruit or vegetables for the families, please let me know in order to coordinate the number of families and the delivery date for that month. You can also donate extra food items or snack items that have a stable shelf life; or make a donation through your regular giving – just designate the donations as: “Backpack Buddies”.

Thanks to all of you who have supported the program this year – it's working!

If you would like to volunteer, make a food donation, or if you have any questions, please contact me at [clkennedy88@hotmail.com](mailto:clkennedy88@hotmail.com).

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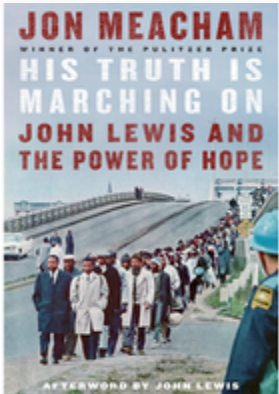
## Be a helper at MPC

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](mailto: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](mailto:bljmarq@hotmail.com) or Hospitality Chair Gail Medeiros at [gail\\_medeiros@yahoo.com](mailto:gail_medeiros@yahoo.com) to ask about other service opportunities.

# FELLOWSHIP AND EVENTS



## Courageous Conversations Spring Study

by *Katie Pate, Pastor*

Mondays on Zoom at 7 pm

After reading *You Are Changing the World Whether You Like It or Not*, the group wanted to be inspired by the life story of someone who lived out their faith in courageous ways. Beginning April 15, we are reading *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by Jon Meacham. This book is for sale online and is available from local libraries.

- April 15: Overture, Chapters 1-2
- April 22: Chapter 3
- April 29: Chapter 4
- May 6: Chapter 5
- May 13: Chapter 6
- May 20: Chapter 7 and Epilogue

For more information:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/606295/his-truth-is-marching-on-by-jon-meacham/>



## Knowitallism Trivia

by *Sabina Spicer*

Tues., April 2, 6 pm

Come one! Come all! Let's have one more night of (possibly) useful trivia to keep our minds sharp and our dinner party chatter informative! Join us on Zoom at 6 PM. Click [here](#) to join the Zoom.



## Sabina's Farewell

Sun., April 14, After Worship

It is difficult to say goodbye to Sabina, but you are invited to celebrate her ministry at MPC with a baked potato potluck on Sunday, April 14. Baskets will be located in the narthex and the church office if you would like to bring a letter or card for Sabina.

# CALENDAR - APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <i>*Office Closed*</i>	<b>2</b> 8 am Men's Group	<b>3</b> 10 am Personnel Mtg  12 pm BCG 5 pm Nominating Committee 7 pm Easter Clean-Up <i>*No Choir this week*</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  7 pm AA	<b>6</b>  1-4 pm Verne Duncan 90th Birthday Celebration
<b>7</b> <b>10 am Worship w/Communion</b>  12:30 pm Deacons Mtg	<b>8</b> 10 am Personnel Mtg	<b>9</b> 8 am Men's Group  11:40 am Staff Mtg  4:30 PM Finance Mtg	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Property Mtg  12 pm BCG  7 pm Choir	<b>11</b> <i>*Office Closed*</i>	<b>12</b>  7 pm AA	<b>13</b> 9 am Second Saturday
<b>14</b> <b>10 am Worship w/Baptism</b>  After Worship: Sabina Farewell	<b>15</b>  7 pm Courageous Conversations	<b>16</b> 8 am Men's Group  7 pm Session	<b>17</b>  12 pm BCG  7 pm Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7 pm AA	<b>20</b>  2 pm Gail Cook Memorial
<b>21</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>  After Worship: Faith Through Art	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Worship Mtg  7 pm Courageous Conversations	<b>23</b> 8 am Men's Group 10:30 am Outreach Mtg	<b>24</b> 12 pm BCG Backpack Buddies Distribution 7 pm Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  7 pm AA	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10 am Worship</b>  After Worship: May Day Bouquets	<b>29</b>  7 pm Courageous Conversations	<b>30</b> 8 am Men's Group				

**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)