



The Spire

A monthly newsletter published by Magnolia Presbyterian Church:
A welcoming community of caring Christians in service to God...
A well of faith and renewal.

February 2018

Volume 11, Issue 1

Pastor Message: "Come, Sail Away"

As we begin the new year, our MPC Session (church governing board) has begun a book study together, reading "Sailboat Church" by Joan S. Gray. The author explains her chosen metaphor this way: "This boat has sails spread wide, allowing the wind of the Spirit to move the church where God wants it to go. It is God-powered." She contrasts this with the image of a "rowboat church" that "believes and acts as if its progress depends on its own strength, wisdom, and resources."

As Session tries on this metaphor for size, and talks about how it might apply to our congregation, we invite you to consider with us: where might God's Spirit be blowing in and around MPC this year? Where might we be invited to set down our oars long enough to notice God moving us in new directions?

Grace and peace to you as we sail together!

Pastor Deb

Save the Date:

Sunday February 25th
Annual Congregational Meeting



**All- Church
Celebration Luncheon/
Valentine Party
February 11th
See Page 5 for more details**

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Liina-Ly Roos Beatty Returns as Children's Ministry Director

I am excited to be back as the Children's Director at MPC! It has been so wonderful to work with these kids and I look forward to getting to know them more and sharing God's amazing love with them!

The children's program will be changing a little during this winter, since our previous Preschool Class has graduated. The older group now has many amazing kids in quite a variety of ages. Starting in February, we will be dividing the children into two groups: Preschool-K-1st and 2nd-5th grade. I will continue to work with the older grade kids, while wonderful volunteers have signed up to teach the younger kids' classes. Along with this change, we will be reorganizing and refreshing our classrooms. I will report back with other exciting details about this process.



In our classes we are using a new curriculum, called *Dwell*, which gives the children different opportunities to dwell on the stories from the Bible and on the many ways that we can see God's love working in our lives. In addition, the children will have an option to learn one Memory Verse per quarter. I am excited to help them become more familiar with Scripture and to give them this opportunity to begin carrying important words from God with them wherever they go. This winter our Memory Verse is John 3:16.

We will continue to have singing time all together with our music director, Andrey Spichak, before we divide into our two separate classes. The kids are really enjoying the songs and many are excited to do some solos.

- Liina-Ly Beatty, Children's Ministry Director

Session for 2018

Your Session members have the following responsibilities for 2018. Please let them know if you have ideas or questions.
(Contact information is available in the church directory.)

- Clerk of Session** - Pete Smith
- Budget & Finance** - Linda Keylon
- Adult Education / Small Groups** - Scott Edwards & Pete Smith
- Building & Grounds** - Cheri Yonich, Jim Glaser, David Malda
- Children's Ministry** - Sharlene Bathum
- Childcare / Nursery** - Cheri Yonich
- Communication / Publicity** - Riki Clark & David Malda
- Emergency Preparedness** - Jim Glaser
- Hospitality** - Sharlene Bathum
- Nominating Committee** - Linda Keylon, Pete Smith
- Personnel** - Riki Clark, Catherine McCollister
- Stewardship** - Scott Edwards, Sharlene Bathum
- Worship & Music** - Catherine McCollister, David Malda
- Youth Ministry** - Justin Beatty



Back row: Pastor Deb Sunoo, David Malda, Scott Edwards, Justin Beatty, Jim Glaser, Riki Clark, Pete Smith
Front row: Linda Keylon, Cheri Yonich, Catherine McCollister, Sharlene Bathum

Hooray for New Plumbing!

We are so grateful to our dedicated team of Building and Grounds Elders Jim Glaser, Cheri Yonich, and Jerry Leighton for devoting an incredible amount of time and energy over the last couple of years to addressing the plumbing problems throughout our church building. Each one has been involved in far too many emergency repairs over the years, even on busy Sunday mornings, so they knew it was high time for a long-term solution.

They spent countless hours carefully minimizing costs and ensuring our new behind-the-walls pipes will serve us well for many years to come. In addition, the project provided us with fresh new paint, light fixtures, toilets, sinks, and counters in every one of the bathrooms throughout the church. What a triumph!

In return Cheri, Jim, and Jerry wish to express their appreciation to the congregation for your patience through a construction process that ran longer than any of us could have anticipated. We hope you will feel rewarded for that patience each time you make use of our new facilities!

We are also most grateful to each of you who has contributed to our fundraising campaign for our new plumbing and our new roof. To date we have received almost **\$100,000** with many of you also pledging future donations. What a generous congregation we have!



Stories from Houston

Laurie Trettel, one of our MPC Deacons, travelled to Houston, Texas in January with a team from University Presbyterian Church to help with clean up and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Harvey. You can imagine how pleased the team was when Laurie, a professional chef, volunteered to serve as their cook for the week! Laurie will be sharing stories and pictures from the mission trip with us in worship on Sunday, February 4th.

CONNECT Youth Class Updates

The CONNECT Class (6th – 12th grade) was joined by Rev. Janine Moriarty in January to help us finish up our Bible study series on King David. On February 18th the class will begin a new series for the season of Lent.

Also this month, the youth class will lead our Souper Bowl of Caring offering, on Sunday, February 11th, collecting money and canned goods for the Ballard Food Bank. Thank you in advance for supporting our middle school and high school youth in this effort!

We also appreciate all the adult buddies who have joined us in class over the last few months.

- Justin Beatty, Youth Pastor

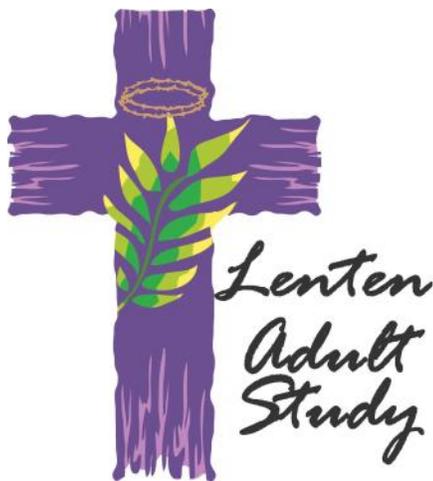
Lent Begins February 18th

A 40-day period of preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the season of Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Our observance of Lent here at MPC will begin in worship on Sunday, February 18th.



Lenten Devotional Conversations

As 2018 begins, we will be experimenting with a new format for adult education. Thanks to those who provided feedback on our Adult Education Survey.



During the season of Lent, we will be having a weekly Lenten devotional. For each of the 6 Sundays in Lent, after some initial time to visit at coffee hour, we will transition to a half-hour "Community Conversation" over coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

The Lenten devotional book "A Way Other Than Our Own" by Walter Brueggemann (available through Amazon) will provide the jumping off point for these conversations. It will not be necessary to read the book in order to participate in each week's discussion, although anyone wishing to read the book in its entirety during the season of Lent is invited to do so. A weekly topic, Scripture reference, and questions for reflection will be announced at the start of Sunday worship services as well as sent to you via email earlier in the week. You can choose your level of reflection and engagement with the topic: reading and reflecting prior to Sunday or simply joining our Community Conversations without prior reading.

An activity table with jigsaw puzzles, coloring books, crayons, and other engaging activities will be available for children and placed near the discussion table. Older children are, of course, invited to participate in the conversation with us if they wish to do so.

We look forward to joining with you in some deeper Lenten Devotional conversations beginning on Sunday, February 18th after coffee hour.

- Scott Edwards and Pete Smith, Adult Education Elders

Global Ministry Focus on Sunday, March 4th

We look forward to welcoming to our communion service in March the Multicultural Worship Team from University Presbyterian Church – a group of international young adults – and Rev. Ken Sunoo, pastor of Global Ministries at UPC. We will be treated to worship music in languages ranging from Chinese to Spanish and Portuguese. We will also have a chance to hear exciting stories of how God has been at work in Christian communities around the world.

Afternoon Bible Study February 1st

Our Afternoon Women's Bible Study on "Jewish Roots - the Heritage of the Christian Faith" meets next on Thursday, February 1st at 1:30 pm in the Mount Rainier Room. This month's lesson is entitled "Jesus: The Puzzle Is Solved." We hope you can join us!

Supper Club February 10th

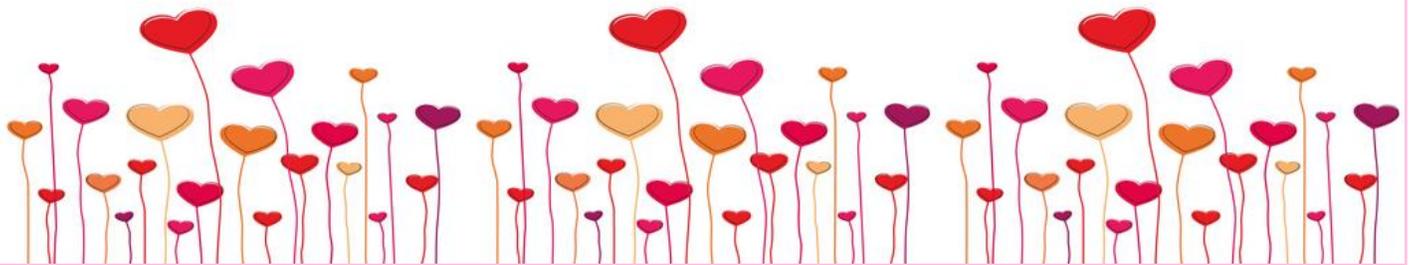
Mark your calendars - Robin Maddox and Steve Meginniss will host the February 10th Supper Club. You're invited to bring food to share and come to their home 3434—10th Avenue West. Dinner and fellowship will get started at 6:30 pm. To let Robin know you're coming call 206-605-7855 or e-mail madmail@oz.net

All-Church Celebration Luncheon/Valentine Party on February 11th

Join us immediately after worship on February 11th for a luncheon in Fellowship Hall to celebrate the completion of our plumbing project! After lunch we will make Valentine cards for our homebound members and those we love. If you are able to contribute to the lunch, contact Sharlene Bathum. We need home-made soups, sandwich makings, desserts, and anything else you would like to contribute. Hope to see you there!!

Evening Bible Study February 26th

Our Evening Women's Bible Study continues in Exodus 19 with God creating a covenant relationship with his people. Join us on February 26th at 7 pm in the Mt. Rainier Room. We'll gather for tea and treats followed by the lesson, "Becoming a Holy People."



You Are Invited to Make MPC your Church Home

If you have been worshipping with us regularly, we are glad to have you with us, and invite you to consider joining the church family!

Pastor Deb Sunoo will be meeting this winter with people who have expressed interested in church membership. If you would like to learn more, please let Pastor Deb know. We'll find a time that's convenient for everyone, with childcare if needed.

It's not necessary to have already made a decision to join the church to participate in our conversation. If you choose to become a church member, you will be welcomed and received into membership during one of our regular Sunday morning worship services.



Women's Afternoon Bible Study

February 1st at 1:30pm
in the Mt. Rainier Room

Session Meeting

February 6th at 7:00pm
in the Mt. Baker Room

Supper Club

February 10th at 6:30pm
at the home of Robin Maddox &
Steve Meginniss

Deacons Meeting

February 11th at 9:15am

Valentine's Lunch & Celebration

February 11th at 11:30am
in Fellowship Hall

Operation Nightwatch

February 14th at 7:30pm
Meet at the church

Lenten Studies—Weekly

Beginning February 18th after
coffee hour in Fellowship Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 25th at 11:30am

Women's Evening Bible Study

February 26th at 7:00pm
in the Mt. Rainier Room

Men's Coffee Group

Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the
Mt. Rainier Room

AA Meetings

Two AA groups are now
meeting at MPC—Tuesdays at
8 pm and Wednesdays at
6:45pm. All are welcome to
attend.

Remember our friends at home:

- Les Deibert
- Alice Eastman
- Charlotte Ferguson
- Dorothy Ferguson
- Barbara Kivi
- Nancy McPhaden
- Muriel Wellwood

FEBRUARY

Linda Anderson	2/1	Finn Coleman	2/12	Scott Mills	2/19
Corinne Moore	2/3	Steve Moore	2/12	Gene Wong	2/21
Meaghann McDermid	2/6	Laurie Trettel	2/15	Sara Malda	2/21
Jeff Tyler	2/7	Matthew Wyrick	2/17	Don Bailey	2/24
Chris Wyrick	2/11	Jason Mills	2/19	Jonas Novak	2/24
Gabriel Anderson	2/12	Ryan Mills	2/19		

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We welcome you to join us any Sunday!

9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship Service
11:30 am	Coffee Hour