



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.

March 2018

Volume 11, Issue 2

Pastor Message:

Repairing the World

A few weeks ago, in Laurie Trettel's mission trip report, we saw photos of repairs underway on a hurricane-ravaged Houston home. This reminded me of something that's been coming up in conversation with my rabbi friends recently - the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam*, which in English simply means "repairing the world." The verb for "repair" there is the same verb used in modern Hebrew for fixing a broken bicycle, repairing a computer that's stopped functioning, or mending a torn shirt. So while the concept of a whole world in need of repair is a broad one, with far reaching implications, it brings with it a very concrete image and a verb we often use to talk about fixable problems. What could it mean to understand "repairing the world" in that sense?

A lot of work in 2017 went into repairing our own church home, this wonderful building in which we're privileged to gather. With that behind us, how might we redirect our energy this year to doing our part to repair the world outside these walls? How might we ensure that everyone in our congregation is invited to participate?

Let's find ways to pick up our respective tool kits and get to work, repairing the world one small break, tear, knot, or scrape at a time.

Pastor Deb



Mark Your Calendars for Holy Week

Palm Sunday **March 25**
Maundy Thursday **March 29**
Easter Sunday **April 1**

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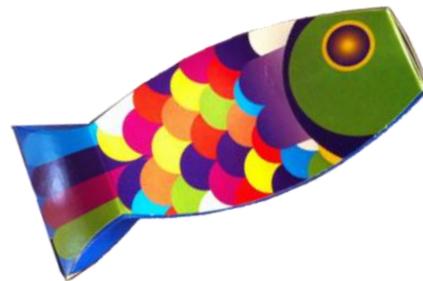
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Global Ministry Focus on March 4th

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 the 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, and hear exciting stories of how God has been at work in Christian communities around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This special denominational offering supports important global ministries such as Presbyterian Disaster Relief and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. To learn more, watch your bulletin inserts on Sunday mornings, or go to <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>. On Palm Sunday we will collect both your checks and the coins you and the children have gathered in your “fish banks” throughout the Lenten season.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday

March 25th

10:30 am Worship Service with Palm Parade around the sanctuary, lead by our MPC kids

Maundy Thursday

March 29th

7:00 pm - We will gather to remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. After a series of traditional Holy Week hymns and Scripture readings, we will pass the communion elements to one another around the Table, and will conclude our service with a look ahead toward Good Friday.

Easter Sunday

April 1st

9 am Breakfast

10 am Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am Easter Worship Service



Worship Notes: What is Maundy Thursday?

On Maundy Thursday, we remember that Jesus gathered with his disciples in an upper room, washed their feet as a sign of his servanthood, ate his Last Supper with them before he died, and asked them to remember him each time they broke bread together in this way. The word Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum novum* or new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on this day: "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)



Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary

If you wish to purchase one or more lilies to help decorate our sanctuary for Easter, please send a check for \$10, with "Easter Lilies" in the memo line, to the church office by Palm Sunday, March 25th. Please let us know if your gift of a lily is in memory or honor of someone, so we can list your dedication in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



Children's Ministry Updates

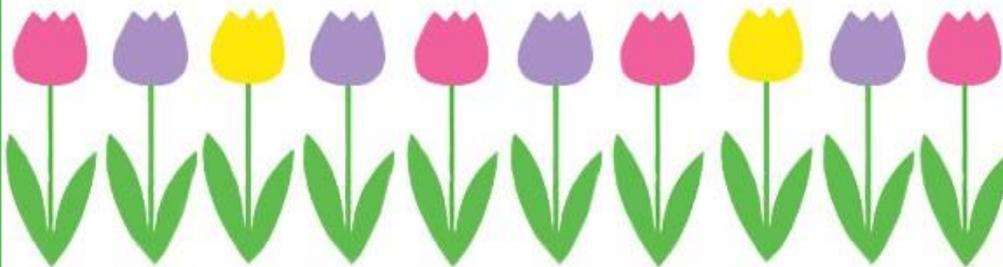
Our children's classes are going well! We have just divided into two classes (Pre-K-1st and 2nd - 5th), and I am so thankful to be working with such great volunteer teachers for the younger kids.

During Lent the children are collecting coins in their "fish banks" to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides hunger relief and disaster assistance around the world. These coin banks will be gathered in a big basket on Palm Sunday, March 25th.

In our classes this winter we have been focusing on Jesus' miracles and stories about his life. With our new curriculum *Dwell* the children have an opportunity to imagine and wonder what it was like to see Jesus at work or, for instance, what it might have felt like to be in the big crowd and suddenly see a man coming down through the roof to be healed by Jesus. The kids are excited and engaged with these stories, and it has been really fun working with them!

If this sounds like fun and you feel like you would like to come and be part of these cool lessons, please sign up with me to be a helper in the kids' classes! The main tasks for the helpers are setting up the snack, providing another adult presence, and hanging out with our awesome kids!!

Liina-Ly Roos Beatty
Children's Ministry Director



Church Officers Retreat

On Saturday, March 10th, our Deacons and Session members will gather for an all-day retreat here at the church. Please hold them in your prayers as together they seek to discern where God is calling us to focus our energy as a church family this year.

New Members Welcomed February 11th



Sally & George King met in early 1961 and were married at Magnolia Presbyterian Church in August 1963 by the Reverend William Chalmers. They remember teaching a Sunday School class of first graders in their first year. Later, friends invited them to attend Bethany Presbyterian Church where they were active members for many years.

The Kings have been Magnolia residents for over 50 years and raised their three children here. They have enjoyed traveling to England and Ireland and to Europe to visit Italy, with Venice being a real favorite. While their son, David, was in the Peace Corps, they flew to Tunisia to travel with him.

George and Sally returned to MPC for Easter almost three years ago. They are able to walk to church and to worship where they started their marriage. Sally says "We like meeting so many wonderful, caring people in this congregation. George and I appreciate Pastor Deb, and we think that she has such a beautiful, caring heart."

Vicki Ross

Vicki was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was christened and grew up worshipping at the Canadian Bethany United Church. She went to a small all-girls Anglican school where the Head Mistress assembled the students daily for prayer. Vicki converted to the Catholic Church when she married and brought up her children in that faith.

Vicki has two adult children, two adorable grandchildren and an amazing husband who owns Seattle Sailing Club and Sail Northwest where she works part time.



Vienna Jones Baptized

Tim Jones and Kristen Choiniere presented their daughter Vienna to be baptized on February 25th. The happy occasion included Vienna's grandma Dolores Choiniere, a family friend Lilliana Ramirez, and Vienna's godparents Andrew and Molly Gabel.



Remembering Charlotte Ferguson

Long-time MPC member Charlotte Ferguson passed away on Thursday, February 8th at Bayview Retirement Community. A career businesswoman with Shell Oil, first in Houston, Texas and then in northern California, Charlotte immediately found her church home here at MPC after moving back to Seattle in retirement. She served both on Session and on our Board of Deacons over the years. She was at various times a faithful office volunteer and a dedicated church librarian, as well as an active participant in our Presbyterian Church Women's groups. Charlotte and her cat Moonlight will also be remembered for their bravery in attending our first Blessing of the Animals back in 2012. Moonlight was the only cat in a big group of dogs!

I will long remember wonderful visits with Charlotte, an avid reader who loved to swap book recommendations. She also enjoyed sharing travel stories and comparing notes on the latest Masterpiece Theater programs. Recently Charlotte and Flo Lentz offered me a complete tour of the renovations at Bayview, and we compared construction experiences with those at the church.



Toward the end of her life, Charlotte mentioned being confused, as a young child who'd just lost her father, by the biblical verse "O death, where is your sting?" (I Corinthians 15:55). While our belief in the resurrection assures us that the person who has died no longer feels that sting, we agreed that those of us who are left behind certainly feel the loss. Charlotte will be dearly missed both by friends from the church and friends from Bayview. She is survived by a younger sister, a niece, and a nephew.

MPC friends gathered on Tuesday, February 27th at Bayview for a time of remembrance for Charlotte, who was a great gift to our church family. We are so grateful she is at peace and has now embarked upon a whole new adventure. I have no doubt that a glorious new life is being thoroughly enjoyed by this remarkable woman who, sick as she was, greeted me enthusiastically on our final visit: "Read me a joyful psalm!"

Pastor Deb Sunoo

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the February 11th Souper Bowl of Caring offering for the Ballard Food Bank. The Connect Youth Class is pleased to report they collected \$820.00 and 33 pounds of canned food!



March 1st Afternoon Bible Study

We hope you can join us at 1:30 pm, Thursday March 1st for the Afternoon Bible Study on *Jewish Roots – the Heritage of the Christian Faith*. This month's lesson is #7 – "A Tenuous Relationship."

Evening Bible Study Meets March 26th

"Covenant Living under God's Law" is the theme for the Monday, March 26th Evening Bible Study. Join us in the Mount Rainier Room at 7 pm for tea and treats, followed by the lesson from Exodus 20-23. Learn how God's law provides instruction on how to honor God and others in daily living.

"A Parable Universe"

A few years ago during the season of Lent, Anna Carter Florence "started thinking in parables." She continues:

I don't mean Jesus' parables in Scripture, which I love, by the way. I mean parables that just hit me when I wasn't looking for them and certainly wasn't expecting them. I guess that's appropriate, since the word parable literally means 'thrown alongside.' As in: now you don't see it - *boom!* - now you do. One minute you're humming along, everything's normal, and then, without warning, you just collide with some flash of insight, and you know for sure that the kingdom of God has come near and you just saw a piece of it. You don't know why. You don't know how. You're just glad you happened to be paying attention in the moment it broke.

"What if we simply assumed that parables were all around us, and our job was to walk around looking for them?" she asks.

In our Sunday sermons I've been encouraging you to watch for kingdom of God sightings throughout the season of Lent. On Sunday, March 18th, we will have an opportunity to share these with one another in worship. For surely signs of God's kingdom are all around us as we make our way through this parable universe!

Pastor Deb Sunoo



Women's Afternoon Bible Study

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

Session Meeting

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

Deacons Meeting

March 11th at 12:15pm

Hungarian Reformed Church

March 11th at 12:30

Operation Nightwatch

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

Women's Evening Bible Study

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

Lenten Studies—Weekly

Through March 25th during
coffee hour in Fellowship Hall

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
- Dorothy Fergusson
- Barbara Kivi
- Nancy McPhaden
- Muriel Wellwood



MARCH	Cherryl Towey	3/2	Zib Marshall	3/18
	Donna Leet	3/4	Greg Kelly	3/23
	Sarah Madill	3/6	Ruth Trail	3/24
	Nordika Jones	3/7	Mike Parr	3/27
	Dave Bowman	3/11	Scot Madill Jr	3/27
	George Keylon	3/14	Jim Mills	3/31

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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