



Monthly newsletter of Magnolia Presbyterian Church - October 2019

### Dedicated with Our Thanks

We would like to dedicate this issue of The Spire to Nancy Wright, who has served as newsletter editor for this congregation for over 25 years. Nancy stepped up with Earl Collins in the early 1990's to begin producing newsletters in a brand-new format: on a computer! She has faithfully gathered stories and photos for us every month since, and we have benefitted from her careful attention to elements of church life worth celebrating and highlighting along the way.

Nancy is ready to retire from her newsletter role at this time (we could hardly refuse her request after a quarter century of faithful service!), and her contributions will be greatly missed. On behalf of the whole congregation, thank you Nancy, for the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love you have devoted to your work on the Spire!

- Pastor Deb Sunoo & Kris Clark



### World Communion Sunday, October 6th

It's time to celebrate World Communion Sunday, a reminder of our unity with brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe. Our worship service this week will begin with the Lord's Prayer spoken in multiple languages. We'll also invite our MPC kids to remain with us in worship for an intergenerational story and conversation focused on the final chapter in the communion books we distributed last spring. A Place for You by Daniel Erlander concludes with a beautiful vision of the whole creation gathered around God's throne.



## CALENDAR



**Oct 6th**  
World Communion  
Sunday

**Oct 6th**  
Anniversary Video  
Filming

**Oct 27th**  
Remembrance Sunday

**Nov 10th**  
Anniversary Video  
Filming

## 75th Anniversary Video



We are creating a video to prepare for our 75th church anniversary in 2020, and you are all invited to be part of the fun! Filming will take place on Sunday, October 6th and Sunday, November 10th and will include an opportunity for everyone to respond to the prompt: ***“I’m here at MPC because...”***

(Permission will be secured from parents for children’s participation in the project; there will also be ways to opt out for anyone not comfortable being filmed.) Our hope is we will have a terrific turnout on both Sundays, so be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join us on October 6th and November 10th. Together let’s capture on film what this congregation means to us!

## Remembrance Sunday October 27th

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest...” Join us in worship on Sunday, October 27th as we remember those in our church family who have passed away in the last year. Each one who has died since our last Remembrance Sunday will have their name read aloud, a chime will be rung, and we will observe a moment of silence to give thanks for all they have meant to our congregation. You will also have an opportunity to share aloud the names of others dear to you who have died in the past year.

### Welcome Aboard!

If you have been worshipping with us regularly here at MPC, you may be curious about what’s involved in church membership. Pastor Deb would be happy to meet with you and answer any questions you may have.

Contact her at [deb@magpres.org](mailto:deb@magpres.org) or (206)283-3322 to learn more!



## Men’s Fellowship Moves to Wednesdays

All men in the congregation are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am at Caffée Appassionato for coffee, breakfast, and conversation.



## Kitchen Improvements

Many thanks to Laurie Trettel for serving as our point person on much needed improvements to our church kitchen over the past few months, and thanks to Greg and Brayden Kelly, Anné Wikstrom, Scott Edwards, and Cheri Yonich for their parts in the project as well.

Improvements began back in the spring with our non-functional stove being replaced by a brand-new stove and wall ovens donated by Albert Lee Appliances. Since then, Laurie and her team have worked tirelessly to ensure that our kitchen is outfitted with a new refrigerator, new sink (complete with garbage disposal and necessary plumbing repairs), electrical upgrades, a fresh coat of paint, new cabinetry, and stainless-steel tile backsplash. In fact, Laurie has spent so much time at the church recently we’ve joked about sending out change of address cards for her!

We are also very grateful to the Collins family for the bequest which made these kitchen upgrades possible.

Be sure to peek in the kitchen next time you are at church. Finishing touches are nearly complete, and then Laurie will offer an orientation to new kitchen procedures to ensure our newly outfitted kitchen stays beautiful and functional for many years to come.

It’s almost time to celebrate! We are eager to put the new kitchen to work feeding our neighbors!



## Red Barrel Collection



You may recall last June enjoying the upbeat music provided by the choir of The City of Glory Church International or perhaps the inspirational message from their Pastor Lauden Kangele. Located in Federal Way and affiliated with Seattle Presbytery, The City of Glory Church International is a new congregation much in need of our support as they continue their good work of assisting refugee resettlement.

We all can provide this needed support through the Board of Deacons October Red Barrel project. We will be collecting warm clothing (both for adults and children), bedsheets, blankets, and household cleaning supplies. The City of Glory Church International will then, in turn, pass along our donations to refugee families they are assisting.



### A Safe Church for All God's Children

We all want to believe that churches, of all places, must certainly by their very nature be safe places for all. Yet we also know that abuse in church settings has been very much in the news. At MPC we cannot and will not ignore the tragic potential for abuse in the hope it can't happen here.

We began the process of developing our safe conduct policy in January 2019 by examining existing safe conduct policies in place at churches across the country. Adapting the best parts of the policies we reviewed and under the watchful, critical oversight of Session we wrote a safe conduct policy document to fit the particular needs of our congregation. The safe conduct policy we put in place is well conceived, thoughtful and, importantly, do-able. A copy of our safe conduct policy will be given to every staff member. Additional copies are available to everyone in the congregation. You may pick up a copy in the church office.

Our safe conduct policy lays out specific procedures for identifying and responding to various forms of abuse. Perhaps more importantly, it also provides procedures for preventing abuse. Defining abuse is the crucial first step in combating it. In general terms we have defined abuse as significant endangerment or harm caused by physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and/or neglect.

Here's how everyone benefits from our safe conduct policy:

- It provides measures designed to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place.
- It provides safeguards against abuse for children and adults.
- It provides direct means to report abuse either witnessed or received.
- It provides fast, fair, sensitive, and effective response to reported abuse.

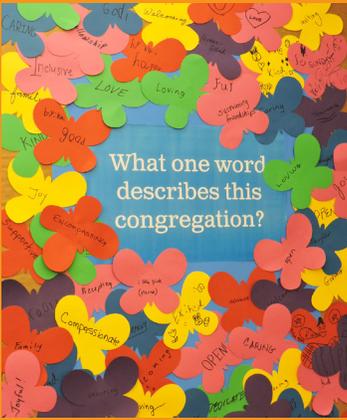


Here, in general terms, is how the policy will be implemented.

- Everyone who works with children, both staff and volunteers, will be screened via a rigorous national background check. There will be no exceptions to the background checks.
- Anyone who either witnesses or experiences abuse is urged to report it via an "Incident Report Form" which is easily available in the church office. The form contains simple instructions for completion and submission.
- Reported incidents will be investigated promptly. Complete investigations will be carried out under strict confidentiality.
- If abuse allegations are confirmed a scaled response appropriate to the incident will follow.
- Throughout all phases of investigation due process will be observed to protect the rights of everyone involved.

Ensuring safe conduct is not only the responsibility of our church staff members or of the Session, or of the Board of Deacons. The reality is that we are all in this together. We look out for each other. We know that the safety of our children and the vulnerable within our community is the responsibility of each of us. Abuse will be stopped in its tracks when any of us who either experiences or witnesses abuse, reports it. Please know your church leaders are committed to responding to such reports quickly and effectively. Together we'll assure that our church community is a safe place for all.





Indoor Church Picnic on Sept 8th



Back to School Blessing on Sept 8th

