

Mendocino Presbyterian Church

MPC Newsletter

July, 2022



Dear Mendocino Presbyterian Church,

I have been reading the book "Sailboat Church" by Rev. Joan Gray which reminded me how often we humans are trying to "fix stuff". Not only are we always trying to fix the fence or the re-do the sprinkler system or fix the "check-oil" light in the car, but too often the church is trying to fix programs and fix people. I believe we are in trouble if "fix-it" strategies are the dominant way of thinking for the church. Joan Gray describes the "fix-it" mentality metaphorically as "rowboat" living. When we approach our life relying on our own muscles for power, life can be exhausting. When we approach life looking for the grace of God and love of Jesus Christ, we let go of the oars and instead harness the power of the wind through sails. "Sailboat" as a metaphor for Christian living invites us to acknowledge God in charge, trusting that God through Jesus will take us where we need to go.

Joan Gray says that we are "created to sail". How might Mendocino Presbyterian Church "sail" rather than "row" in 2022? This is a question I invite you to live into. Come to the church office and check-out the book "Sailboat Church" (six copies were purchased...thx Susan Holi) which provides a common language for our discussion. Then on September 14th, Maggie Harmon who serves as the Ministry Relations Officer of the Southwest of the Presbyterian Foundation will lead in worship and in small groups sharing opportunities to use our gifts responding to God's grace. To a large degree, our faithfulness in responding as a "sailboat" church to God's grace will depend on our ability to listen to ourselves, the church family and the larger community. I give thanks that Maggie will help us discern how we can further let Mendocino Presbyterian Church be God-resourced and God-led.

Over the next several weeks, I will be listening to God as Jennifer and I enjoy three Sundays (July 17, 24 and 31) for Sabbath. Elders Martha Madrid-Lopez, Sally Swann and Robert Scott will be leading in worship when I am away. Listen for God's Spirit as they preach and teach wondering how Jesus is transforming our community.

Grace and Peace

Matt

Celebrating Mary Magdalene

Friday, July 22 5:30 PM

in the Historic Mendocino Presbyterian Sanctuary
44831 Main Street, Mendocino



Artwork by Sue Ellen Parkinson

Mary of Magdala was a woman of great spiritual authority, expanded consciousness, and devotion. During Yeshua's ministry, Mary helped support Him and the other disciples. When many fled, Mary stayed with Yeshua at the cross. On Easter morning, Mary was first to bear witness to His resurrection. Mary is known as an Apostle and close companion to Yeshua.

Share stories, art and song of Mary Magdalene in celebration of her feast day on July 22th. We will hear her story. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick-Vrenios and Marie-Claire Dizin will reverent Magdalene with vocal solo and piano. Sue Ellen Parkinson will give a presentation of her paintings that are inspired by the legends surrounding Magdalene. Lavender Grace and the Honey Hive Ensemble will follow with festive singing and drumming in praise of Mary's devotion and love.

Email office@mendopres.org for information. All are welcome to this donation-optional event.

Dear MPC Family and Friends,

We have come to the midyear time of 2022! The days and months have gone by so quickly. The finance committee continues to meet on ZOOM on a monthly basis and thanks to the dedication and faithfulness of the finance team, we have financial statements for review in great detail.

In the words of one of our leaders – Bill Scott - one hope/ goal for our congregation is maintaining our cash flow. “It is the most important metric we have: does the cash coming in equal or exceed the cash going out? If so, good for us; if not, why not, and what can we do about it?” Our church’s budget has always had fluctuations in cash flow on a month-to-month basis. Overall, at this point in the church year ending in May – we have had an average shortfall of approximately \$1700 a month – which is actually less than we had budgeted. In addition, our expenses have been tracking below budget.

Our church’s long-term endowment and designated gift funds have been impacted by the current decline in the financial markets, but continue to supplement our mission and ministry opportunities. As we are moving into more “normal” times, the excitement of sharing music, fellowship, community activities and intentional mission projects continue and we are able to realize some rental revenues again.

Some of the upcoming plans for our church in relation to our financial team - implementing optional giving option with “Q-Code” scanning option, exploring other potential grant opportunities for appropriate projects, participating in workshop time in September with Maggie Harmon from the Presbyterian Foundation, and revising the current MPC investment policies.

This past month, the finance committee reluctantly “accepted” the resignation of Mike Moreland as our Financial Secretary of the church at the end of this year. The session will be looking for someone to answer this faithful stewardship position/calling.

Finally, we encourage all who are interested to participate in a book study of a book titled “Sailboat Church” written by Joan Gray, which will include a 40-day prayer challenge prior to our fall programs.

Lois Leister,

MPC Finance Chair



An Update From the MPC Deacons



Ongoing prayers, sharing of time & talents, and Deacon Funds are ways MPC demonstrates God's love within and beyond the congregation. In the first six months of 2022, three families were richly blessed financially via the Deacons. One lost their home to fire, another with ongoing health challenges, and the third an emergency birth. Your generous support of Deacon Ministries blesses one and all. For prayer support and to reach the Deacon on call, phone: 707-397-1360.

A Note or Two From our Music Director

Summer is just about here and with that, the blessing of enjoying world-class musicians and singers from around the world in many styles of music at the Mendocino Music Festival. This year will be slightly different. There will not be the iconic white festival tent on the Headlands on Main Street. Instead, we are graciously holding many of the concerts right here in our Preston Hall, while the other concerts will take place at Cotton Auditorium.

In exchange for offering the use of our space, the Music Festival has generously offered us complimentary concert tickets. I am (for the first time) also acting as the Stage Manager for the daytime concerts in Preston. Quite exciting! If you are interested in attending a particular concert or several at the festival, please let me know and email me at mcdizin@gmail.com or call me at (707) 734-3862, and I will make sure to set aside some free tickets for you! - *Marie-Claire*

A word from the PC (USA) "Be a Matthew 25 Church, be Fearless..."

Matthew 25:35–46 calls all of us to actively engage in our community and the world — and to be a relevant presence of Jesus Christ. **The PC(USA)'s goal is to help our congregations become radical and fearless disciples** by embracing one of more of three focuses:

- Building congregational vitality by challenging people to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and world.
- Dismantling structural racism by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.