

Mendocino Presbyterian Church

MPC Newsletter



Pentecost, 2023

Dear MPC Family and Friends,

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them.” Acts 2:1-3

The Holy Spirit fills up the Mendocino community of faith this Spring/Summer 2023.

From the faithful MPC Choir praising God on Sunday to the compassionate presence of dedicated volunteers serving food and making friends every Tuesday to Women’s and Men’s Bible Studies studying scripture engaged with the Word every week; we are reaching out sharing the love of Jesus in the Mendocino community. Our strategic location blesses us with opportunities to listen for the Pentecostal rush of a mighty wind.

This wind doesn’t come off the Pacific Ocean.

Nor does this wind flow over the mountains.

This wind emanates from the Creating God who touches us to care in the name of Jesus—the Compassionate One. May this wind be a cool breeze to you this summer yet heating our hearts!

Let us invite the Spirit to transform us. Let us also remember that this rush of Spirit invites “oneness”. The Spirit celebrates unity through diversity. Especially over the next two months, we will have opportunities to name how we see the Spirit working in our community. Each of us “names” the power of the Holy Spirit uniquely. Each of us affirms neighbors, friends and strangers whom God is empowering. All of us are called to give thanks for Christ’s compassionate presence when we experience it.

In this Pentecost season, I encourage you to read about the exciting ways we are blessing the community in the next two months including inviting the children of the community to a Vacation Bible School as well as hosting the Mendocino Music Festival. I especially want to encourage you to attend (but also invite your friends/neighbors) to join us on the Big River Beach at 8 AM on Sundays. We live in such a beautiful place that one cannot help but praise God. This informal worship opportunity will be on six Sundays starting June 18th. Let us breathe deep on the beach knowing that God’s mighty Spirit is above you, below you, beside you, and in you.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Matthew Davis, Pastor

MPC Bible Study & Educational Opportunities

MPC Bible Studies and Christian Book Studies

Christian Spirituality Study Group Eidsath House, Fireside room Thursdays at 4pm. All are invited to join. The study is **facilitated by Michael Moreland**

Men's Bible Study The MPC Men's Bible study meets in person and also on Zoom Thursday mornings 9:30am in Eidsath House, Fireside room

Women's Bible study and Prayer Bible Study begins 10:30am on Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining the women's Bible Study, please call Pat Westfall: 937-5570.

MPC Book Club
King: A Life
by Jonathan Eig
Date: Friday, June 23
Time: 4:30-5:30pm
Location: the NOYO Harbor Inn Bistro

Sunday Bible Study Eidsath House, Fireside room Sundays at 10am. All are welcome to join. This is a wonderful opportunity for Sunday fellowship, prayer and diving deeper into the Word. **Led by Dr. Don Claybrook**

Christian Spirituality

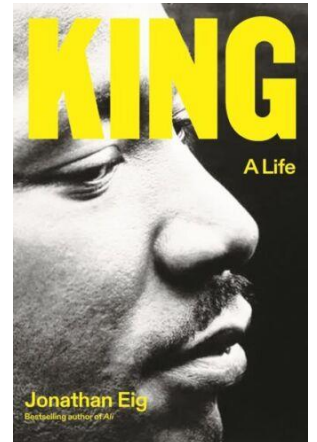
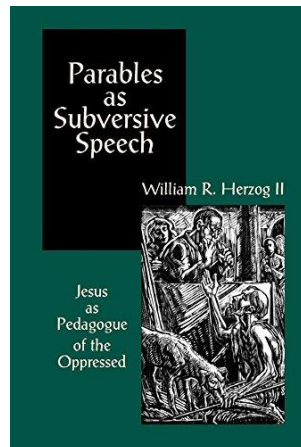
Dates: Thursdays June 8, 15, 22 & 29

Time: 4-5 PM

Location: Eidsath House, Fireside Room

***"Parables as Subversive Speech"* Led by Michael Moreland**

For four weeks in June, Michael Moreland will be leading a study of selected parables of Jesus based on the writings of William R. Herzog II, former professor of New Testament Interpretation at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York. Crozer Divinity School is the alma mater of Martin Luther King, Jr. Herzog is the author of several books and shapes some very important questions for discussion and dialogue. Participants will be given small assignments of extra-Biblical readings as well as specific parables to study for next conversations.



MPC Book Group

Date: Friday, June 23

Time: 4:30-5:30 PM

Location: the NOYO Harbor Inn Bistro

Led by Pastor Matt Davis

This is the first major biography of Martin Luther King Jr in the last thirty years. It is a timely read as racial issues in the United States are bubbling over in angry rhetoric and violence. Eig's interpretation of the broader historical forces helps us better understand the ongoing struggle for civil rights in the United States. Eig does not offer a glorification of MLK but a critical assessment of his strengths and weaknesses supported by extensive research in the historical archives. Even if you haven't read the book come on down to the NOYO Harbor Inn to hear the broad-brush strokes and to consider the arc of racial relations in the last 80 years. The NOYO Harbor Inn is located at 500 Casa Del NOYO in Fort Bragg. Take the left-hand turn as you head down the harbor. Look for folks on the deck looking out to the NOYO River.

MPC is Celebrating Youth Opportunities and Gifts!

A. Westminster Woods Camp Bible School is a strong program experience for youngsters. MPC is happy to offer full or partial scholarships to MPC youths and beyond that would like to have a great camp experience...just reach out to Pastor Matt or the MPC office. Check out the details and program options below and on the next page.

B. MPC Vacation Bible School. Aka: VBS !

A week-long Vacation Bible School "God's Wonderful World" to be co-led by Rev. Dr. Sunny Farley and Pastor Matt

Dates: July 10-14 (the week after Fourth of July and the week before Mendocino Music Festival)

Time: 2PM to 5PM Monday through Friday

Ages 4-10

Max enrollment: 30

Check out the details and more information starting on Page 4

C. Fall Camping Experience to Yosemite we will be building upon last October's pilgrimage to the Grand Canyon. Max: 14 students and 6 adults, led by Jason Island and Erika Kohr-Island. We are blessing the young people and encouraging them. What are the stories that are blessings? We are planting seeds. (Time and details to be announced at a later date)

Program Descriptions

WESTMINSTER WOODS



SHERWOOD FOREST Dates: Week 2 (June 25th-30th) and Week 4 (July 9th-14th) Ages: 9-12

Sherwood is a ministry designed around the adventures of Robin Hood. Campers will have the opportunity to engage the way God heals community and discover their own purpose within that adventure. Through experiential "hands on" learning, fellowship, and the encouraged use of imagination, Sherwood campers will discover that they have a place in the story, and it is a tale they will not want to miss



JUNIOR HIGH CAMP Dates: Week 2 (June 25th-30th) Ages: 11-14

JHC is an exciting chance to get out of the house and come to the forest for a week filled to the brim with activities! What better way to spend a week of summer than meeting new friends, taking a "stroll" through the Redwood canopy on the Westminster Woods Challenge Course, playing wild games, and growing deeper in what faith means to us.



THE GROVE: AWW FAMILY CAMP Dates: Week 3 (July 2nd-7th) Ages: All Ages The Grove is a "Beyond Family Camp" experience, designed to bring the larger human family together for a week of West Sonoma County recreation, relaxation, and fellowship for the whole Westminster Woods community. This is an inter-generational, family and friends camp.



HIGHSCHOOL CAMP Dates: Week 4 (July 9th-14th) and Week 6 (July 23rd-28th) Ages: 14-18

Through transformational ministry, HSC engages our relationships with the self, others, nature, and God. Whether sitting in a sun-drenched meadow or within the cool shade of the Redwoods Canopy high up on the Challenge Course, a camper coming to HSC can develop eyes that see and ears that hear to reconnect with their self-identity and the community around them!



A WEEK IN THE WOODS Dates: Week 5 (July 18th-21st)

Ages: Adults with developmental disabilities aged 16+
Formally known as Friendship Camp, A Week in the Woods is created for teens and adults with developmental disabilities to experience the glory of God's creation immersed in nature and surrounded by loving people.



DRIFT WOOD Dates: Week 6 (July 23rd-28th) Ages: 11-14

In this "shipwrecked" themed camp, campers explore how to adapt physically, emotionally, and spiritually when presented with team challenges that represent what it's like to be stranded on a deserted island. Campers build self esteem and gain confidence through learning primitive skills while creating community with those different from themselves.



CAMP HEARTWOOD Dates: Week 1 (June 19th-24th) Ages: 9-14
Discover greater self-confidence and independence, explore the beauty of the redwood forest, and create life-long friendships! The staff you know and love from School Programs bring you a sleep-away summer camp focused on friendship, self-discovery and fun



BE A VOLUNTEER CABIN COUNSELOR Dates: Choose the week(s) you can volunteer! Ages: 15+ Interested in being a Volunteer Counselor at WW Summer Programs? Volunteer Cabin Counselors are dedicated to spiritual formation guiding campers to deepen their relationship with themselves, others, nature, and God. Volunteers aged 15-18 must participate in our High School Leadership Training on May 19th-21st. Volunteers aged 19+ must fill out our Summer Staff application to apply as a Volunteer Cabin Counselor.

God's Wonderful World

Vacation Bible School

**@ Mendocino
Presbyterian Church**

Children Ages: 4-10

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
M- F, July 10-14**

**Bring your children
for a fun-filled week
of music, crafts and
adventure!**



God loves little children and so do we!

To register or for more information, contact Rev. Dr. Sunny Farley at 903-574-1309 (call or text) or email her at pastorsunnyfarley@gmail.com



Hey Parents/Caregivers,

Our VBS leaders want to bless you! We will offer a free dinner at 5 p.m. each night of VBS for our children participants and their parents, guardians and caregivers. Just stick around after checkout and we will feed you while your kids show off what they've made and learned during the week.



VBS (Vacation Bible School)

Here's What the Week Looks Like:

Monday: Good, good earth. Today, we will look at the beautiful, wonderful world God has made. We will consider the magnificence of beaches, flowers, trees, animals and people).

KEY VERSE: “God saw everything that was made, and indeed, it was very good.” – Gen. 1:31a (Note: As mainstream Christians, we do not hold creation and evolution in conflict. We do, however, believe that God is the ultimate source for all things.)

Tuesday: Big and small, God’s uses us all. Today, we will look at how God has a plan and purpose for everyone.

KEY VERSE: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” – Matt. 13:31-32 (Note: We believe God created and loves everyone without exception. We also believe God uses us at every stage of life.)

Wednesday: We are all unique! Today, we will look at how each of us is special in our own way.

KEY VERSE: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” – 1 Cor. 12:4-6 (Note: We believe God has given us all abilities, talents and gifts. We use these in concert with the unique abilities, talents and gifts of others to accomplish great things in the world – which is tomorrow’s lesson.)

Thursday: Jesus uses us! Today we will talk about Jesus' miracles. Jesus used and still uses people to accomplish the seemingly impossible.

KEY VERSE: “And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.” – Matt 14:20 (Note: We believe our job as disciples is to pay attention to what God is doing and participate.)

Friday: Let’s Get Busy! Today, we will look at practical ways we can make the world a better place. We will reflect on the lessons of the week and challenge ourselves to live into what we’ve learned by using what we have to offer.

KEY VERSE: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.” – Matt 25:35-36

“Mendocino Strings” Gracing the Community and MPC with their Gifts

If you haven't already seen the 2014 documentary "Alive Inside: A Story of Music and Memory," I hope you will look it up on YouTube. Following the mission of one man's work with advanced dementia and Alzheimer's patients, it communicates how our earliest musical memories are not just sources of nostalgia but are personal gateways into our emotional lives and deepest selves over the ages. Watching an elderly gentleman's face change from vacant to rapturous as his earbuds play the big band sounds of Count Basie is poignant beyond expectation.

My own musical pathways were laid as a teenager growing up in Bakersfield. As adolescence and teenage turmoil surged, I took refuge in the classical music I was privileged to study and perform as a young violinist, in school orchestras, quartets, and eventually our city's symphony. Under the tutelage of my beloved violin teacher, Rebecca Brooks (who is just as feisty and urbane now at age 87), I was pushed, urged, and enticed to hone my skills and develop my highest self. As a sensitive kid, the wordless emotion communicated by Beethoven, Brahms, Copland, Mahler, Rachmaninoff and so many of my other favorites, helped me come to terms with the scale of human suffering and to weep in gratitude for the exaltation of human spirit in spite of the human condition.

As lofty as this sounds, I feel certain that the skill of making music is not a luxury for young people. It's a valid life skill, a coping strategy for belonging to an imperfect human species. For my 12-year-old son, wrestling with the study and awareness of past and present slavery, genocide, colonization, and all manner of human exploitation and cruelty, I know that my insistence in his learning the piano and violin NOW, while his brain cells are malleable, is somehow connected to his future ability to metabolize this suffering and address it, in whatever way he chooses, without self-destructing.

Since moving to Mendocino three years ago, I have met so many talented artists and musicians who described to me the rise and fall of arts programs in the school and community. How can a town with a music festival and symphony NOT be cultivating the next generation of musicians? What does it take to sustain music in the schools? What are alternative ways of bringing music to children in a consistent, demanding way that yields the joy of both competency and community?

In response, these wise locals told me again and again that a small community cannot depend on systems and infrastructure. It takes individuals, committed to their mission, to make anything of worth happen. And since individuals are temporal beings, we cannot expect our labors of love to continue beyond the energy we give. Legacy is a luxury. But life needs our labors of love whether or not they are guaranteed to leave a mark.

Humbled by this perspective, last Christmas I put out a call to all the local music teachers I could find, inviting their students to create a holiday show for children. The result was humble in number -- six young

musicians ages 11 to 15 -- but the impact was grand. A young singer-pianist came out of the woodwork; a string quintet formed; and while their skill levels varied, playing Christmas carols and Hanukkah songs was an accessible and coalescing goal. After six rehearsals and a "busking" session outside Gallery Bookshop, the kids were ready to perform. Over 60 parents and children attended the concert in Preston Hall, and our teens and 'tweens shone in competence and camaraderie. They had something to give to this community.

This semester I beckoned them back, blessed once again by Pastor Matt with the privilege of rehearsing in Preston Hall. Every Wednesday our quintet kids hustle from their Mendo and Fort Bragg schools and gather in resonant Preston, to refine their technical and ensemble skills, and to enjoy each other's quirky company. It is a delight to teach them and to feel that I am passing on the legacy of my own dear teacher and the talented adults who invested in me at a vulnerable moment, poised with potential. I see that same poise and potential 30 years later in these young adults. I am so grateful to the Presbyterian Church congregation for supporting them -- and hopefully many more coming up behind them! -- by providing the priceless treasure of Preston Hall as a space that honors their dedication and potential.

Be it Beethoven or Buck Owens, the musical tracks laid in our consciousness early on are truly lifelines -- both to our unique selves and to something greater than ourselves. That subtle connection is a legacy I'm willing to invest in.

Southey Kulkarni

Mendocino Strings



Upcoming Event!

Mendocino Music Students' Recital
Preston Hall - 4pm
Sunday June 4th

Celebrate the talent & dedication of the Coast's young musicians .
 This Event is FREE & open to the public. We hope to see you there

Southey Kulkarni
 Mendocino Strings

MPC Mission Haiti Update:

Letter from: Marc Cloveus, Pastor, Christ Pour Tous, Jacmel, Haiti

Pastor Marc leads these efforts:

- Evangelism and discipleship training
- Plants /builds and strengthens new churches in mountain villages
- Trains new pastors
- Hosts an annual conference for people from surrounding villages celebrating the baptisms of new converts and a wedding ceremony for multiple couples.
- Coordinates food assistance in times of crisis
- Visits and ministers to those in prison

Here are communiques from Marc, including this background on John Turnbull's involvement

Written May 2020: Background on MPC's commitment to Christ Pour Tous

"It is so good to hear from you. Praying God will use you mightily as her servant for His glory. I'm sure that we will be together sometime. We in Christ Pour Tous church of Jacmel are so humble to partner with MPC for about 7 years. John Turnbull was a true friend. In general, John used to bring to the Church \$2000 for this activity and \$1000 for my personal needs. He used to give rings for the brides and grooms, some suits and some wedding dresses."



I also send some pictures of the last wedding we did. As you might know, each December John Turnbull and Doug Moyer always come in

Haiti to help celebrating the week of our annual conference. In that week, we always help some couples to get married. We already marry 84 couples in 6 years, we give all Glory to our God. The weddings take place in December at their annual conference.

6/17/21, 6:25 AM

We are doing well here and we continue to walk in faith despite the difficult days here. We planted a new Church this year in a remote village named Tessert. We ordained 4 pastors and two deacons for the plant churches last month and 20 people were baptized. How are you all doing in MPC? Yes please would you send \$1000 to Isaiah's legacy now (Drew Burton is my key contact there) and in November you would send the \$2000. I use them bc they know how to wire money directly to my Bank account. WU is not a good way anymore to send money in Haiti.

Hope you are doing well bro. We just arrived in Jacmel. It was a wonderful trip. We saw things that broke our heart and put tears in our eyes. We heard terrible story that touch us deeply. There was a family in Camperin, when the man saw his baby inside of his house and the house is fallen, he run inside to save the baby, he died and the baby was saved. We met a woman that explained to us the same situation,... but both her and the baby were saved. We went in a village in the mountain, 100% of the small houses we saw were broken completely . Thankfully, we could give a bag of rice and a gallon of oil to 140 families, and we prayed with some of the families we visited. The team is back to Jacmel today, but we left 3 people that will stay there for 20 days to build two rooms of house for the pastor who host us. Maybe we will help rebuild some other house with wood as wall and metal as roof . Would you pls pass our greetings to MPC. Things continue to be difficult here because of rise of price of food, fuel and everything. We are trying to support each other, and the church do it's best to help the members.

9/5/22, 3:11 PM

It has been a wonderful week in the mountain of Seguin. 51 people come to the Lord Jesus. This morning before we left, about 300 people came to get a plate of food. Then we blessed 80 families with a bag of rice that will last 15 days.



Marc Description of the plan for the annual conference in Dec. 2022.
MPC sent \$2,500 in support



“We are working on the plan for the annual conference now. We do not know for sure what we will be able to do due to the problem of security and the rise of the inflation everyday. We are keeping our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. We have 7 couples that is ready to get married on Dec 3rd. The revival will start in Nov 27th. About 500 church members from the mountains will arrive in Dec 2nd to stay with us till Sunday 4th for the big celebration. We will have baptism on Friday evening, Marriage on Sat. morning, kids dedication on Sat evening and the feast will be on Sunday 4th. Please, keep praying for our safety and God wisdom.

**Photos from annual conference
December 2022**

Pastor Marc Cloveus

MPC Summer Worship, and Fellowship Opportunities

MPC Choir, May of 2023

We are so blessed! Thank you, Elizabeth Vrenios and Jack Leung, for leading us in Song and Worship!



The MPC choir will be taking a summer vacation from July 1 to August 20th. The rehearsals will resume August 10 and 17 at 5:00. We welcome those who want to join us! Come and share the glorious experience of song. We want to share our excitement with you.

MPC Friday Friends:

Monthly on the third Friday of each month (unless announced) Friday Friends meets at the home of Darlene Clay for fellowship, conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and laughter... Come on over and join us! We are having way too much fun to not share it with you. We will see you, Friday June 16th at the second house west of the Chinese temple. See you there!

NOTE: We will not have a Friday Friends the Month of July due to the Music Festival

MPC Movie and Pizza Night: The Peanut Butter Falcon



Don't miss out on another fun night of free pizza and a movie at Mendocino Presbyterian Church's Preston Hall. It's happening on Friday, June 9th at 5:30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and enjoy a night out with the community. We'd love to hear your suggestions for future movies to show, so drop us an email or contact Elder Kathleen Alexander!

"The Peanut Butter Falcon is an adventure story set in the world of a modern Mark Twain that begins when Zak (22), a young man with Down syndrome, runs away from the nursing home where he lives to chase his dream of becoming a professional wrestler by attending the wrestling school The Salt Water Redneck. Through circumstances beyond their control Tyler (32), a small-time outlaw on the run, becomes Zak's unlikely coach and ally. Together they wind through

deltas, elude capture, drink whisky, find God, catch fish, and convince Eleanor (28), a kind nursing home employee with a story of her own, to join them on their journey."

—IMDb staff writer

Celebrate the Wonder of Creation

Big River Beach Worship

8:00 – 8:30 Sunday mornings
June 18 – July 23, 2023

Open Gatherings - All are welcome
Including well-behaved dogs on leash!
Big River Beach on East side of the bridge



Wear your beach shoes and gather around the fire as we celebrate the beauty of nature with music, singing, scripture, communion, and reflection.

All are also invited to join Sunday worship at 11:00 in the historic Mendocino Presbyterian Church sanctuary.

FUN OPPORTUNITY! **TAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOP**

- Saturday, June 3, 2023
- 3:30 PM 4:30 PM
- MPC Greenspace

An introduction to the art and culture that is taiko. The one-hour workshop will take you through the basics and guide you through an exploration of the many aspects of taiko playing and performing. Hosted by Sonoma County Taiko.



\$30 per person. Space is limited to 20 participants. Sign up through the Mendocino Film Festival

Deacon Note of Gratitude

Appliances Support Our Blessing of Others: New Oven for Preston Hall Kitchen Installed

Many thanks to Don Bettencourt for taking the lead in the acquisition and installation of a new electric oven in the Preston Hall kitchen. Some time ago the west oven died. This left us with just the east oven, not enough capacity when preparing meals or doing receptions for groups of folks. With two ovens, all will be less stressful for the volunteer chefs.

The next priority is the replacement of the refrigerator freezer. Doing this can cut the energy usage in half and problems with noise, overheating, and alarms sounding during concerts resolved. Might the exiting unit be replaced prior to the 2023 Music Festival? I sure hope so.

Susan Holli,

Deacon Moderator

