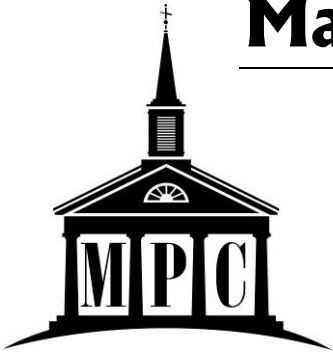




Marple Presbyterian Church

105 N. Sproul Road
Broomall, PA 19008-2023
Phone: 610-356-1098
Email: marplepc@gmail.com
Website: www.marplepres.org

Reminder – Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 1



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 1, 2026 - 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, All Saints' Day

Rev. Roberta Kearney, Transitional Pastor | Sermon – Stewardship of Enough

We welcome you to join us in-person or virtually. You can access the live stream on Twitch [HERE](#).

Past services may be viewed on our YouTube channel using the link on our website. The live stream link and weekly bulletins are also available on our website, www.marplepres.org.

MARPLE PRESBYTERIAN THRIFT SHOP

Saturday, Oct. 31 10 am – 4 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 3 10 am – 3 pm

JOYS AND CONCERNS ON ZOOM

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3 – 4 pm

zoom.us/j/6103561098 Password MPC

Nov. 2 – 2 am to 1 pm – HBO will be renting our parking lot (no interior access) for parking and catering as they film Season 2 of Task in Delaware County.

Nov. 4 at 7:30 pm – Deacon's Meeting

Thursdays at 6:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 8 – Worship, Guest Pastor Sherry Elliot

Nov. 18 at 7 pm – Session Meeting

Nov. 22 - Cantata; Attendees are invited to donate non-perishable food items for Chester Eastside

Nov. 25 - 27 - Church Office Closed

Dec. 2 at 7:30 pm – Deacon's Meeting via Zoom

Dec. 6 at 10:30 am – Worship, Communion, Caroling Luncheon following worship

Touchpoint Growing our Church

Thanks to the folks who stayed after church on October 11 and on October 28 to explore ideas on growing our church. I hope we can continue to meet after church to continue the dialogue and 'brainstorm' ideas on how to capitalize on the success and lessons learned from Touchpoint.

While it would be great to have a steady team working on this program, I know people's schedules may mean that people interested and able to help will change from week to week. The good news is that having new ideas will give the program energy and creativity.

We will not meet this Sunday November 1 but I would like to meet again after church on November 8. The emphasis will be on next steps toward relational connections and blessings. So, if you are still curious on what this entails, please plan to attend the next meeting. Even if you can't or won't attend, your prayers for our success are welcome.

John

HBO

HBO was on site this past Friday, Oct. 23, 2026. Fellowship Hall and our parking lot was used as a staging and feeding area as the second season of Task is filmed in Delaware County. Thank you to Mack Smith for making sure the space was set properly and for being on site at 6:15 am on Friday morning. Thanks to John Strain for ensuring the space was clean and all the necessary parties notified of the rental.



Giving for PC(USA) Per Capita

We, as members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), are connected to a larger body of believers through our congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

As a connectional church, we both benefit from and contribute to the ministries of the PC(USA).

One way we support our shared ministry is through our per capita allocation. Per capita is Latin meaning paying “for each head”.

Per Capita, is constitutionally required by our Book of Order. Per capita is the annual amount assessed for each member of the church to enable the work of the PC(USA) in governance, leadership, and mission work of the denomination.

These funds support the work of our councils, the preparation and training of church leaders, constitutional and judicial functions, and the ministries that connect and strengthen Presbyterian churches across the country.

Our congregation's Per Capita assessment is \$40 per member; a cost we ask each member to contribute to the church for this purpose.

If you have not already designated your contribution, we invite you to contribute your Per Capita share of \$40. By doing so, you help relieve this expense from our church's operating budget and enable more of our resources to support the local ministries of our congregation.

How your contribution is used:

- \$24.56 supports the Presbytery infrastructure which supports shared ministries in Philadelphia, Delaware, Bucks and Montgomery Counties
- \$2.40 goes to the Synod which consists of 16 Presbyteries across Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia and Ohio
- \$12.04 goes to the Office of the General Assembly, which supports our Synods, Presbyteries, and over 10,000 congregations.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and for helping us live out our connectional commitment as the body of Christ.

Stewardship

GROWING OUR FAITH

Stewardship of Enough

Without naming it as “God’s economy”, we have been reflecting on the core values of living in accord with God's economy and how God shows us these values in Exodus.

One of God’s values is that everyone has enough. So, what does it mean to have enough? How might our lives change if we trusted God to provide for us and we shared what God provides so others would also flourish? In Exodus 16:1–5, 13–18, the Israelites find themselves in the wilderness after escaping slavery in Egypt. Uncertain about the future, they begin to long for the familiar foods of their former lives. God responds by providing manna, daily bread to sustain them. Each person gathers what is needed, and everyone has enough. The story teaches: God's provision is not simply a gift to accumulate for ourselves, but is shared so that the whole community has enough.

From Scarcity to Abundance

We know how easy it is to worry about having enough—enough money, time, security, or resources. Our economy often encourages us to believe happiness comes from having more. Yet God's economy invites us to consider a different understanding of abundance: not how much we possess, but whether everyone has what they need. Generations later, in John 6:1–14, Jesus feeds a crowd of thousands with five barley loaves and two fish. What appears to be insufficient becomes enough to feed everyone, with food left over. These stories remind us that God can work through the gifts we offer. Stewardship is about more than money. It includes sharing our time, talents, resources, and compassion. It calls us to notice our neighbors' needs and ask how we can participate in God's economy of enough for all.

The Freedom to Rest

God also instructs the Israelites to gather extra manna on the sixth day so they can rest on the seventh. They are learning to trust they do not have to work constantly to secure their future. For people who experienced slavery, Sabbath was a gift of freedom. Now their worth was no longer defined by endless labor. They could rest, worship, nurture relationships, and enjoy God. We, too, need this reminder. Our value is not measured by how much we accomplish or acquire. Practicing Sabbath helps us trust God, renews our spirits, and makes room for people and relationships. Stewardship of enough invites us to examine our priorities. Are we holding on to things out of fear? Are we making room for rest? Are we sharing what God provides so others may thrive? God's abundance is not an invitation to endless accumulation. It is an invitation to receive gratefully, share generously, and build a community where everyone has the opportunity to flourish. May we learn to live with grateful hearts, open hands, and the faith that, together, we can help make God's promise of enough a reality for all.

**Marple Presbyterian Church will be
collecting donations for Chester Eastside
on Sunday, Nov. 22.**



The CEI Food Pantry Most Needed Items:

- beans, rice, and pasta
- soup, stew
- canned fruits and vegetables
- peanut butter and jelly
- tuna fish and canned fish/meat
- biscuit/pancake mix
- instant mashed potatoes
- cornbread mix



The CEI Clothes Closet Most Needed Items:

- socks, underwear, hats
- blankets
- toiletries



**Please mark your calendars for
Nov. 22 – we will have a
workday after Worship to sort items from the MPC Thrift
Shop for Chester Eastside. Any time you can give to
help is appreciated.**

Making Room for Everyone: Introducing the Sanctuary Pew Planner

Why We Built the Pew Planner

Recently our family said goodbye to Kristen's father Rich. The love and support from our church community were a comfort to us, and we are grateful for every person who came to the service.

One of those people was our friend Jen, who uses a wheelchair. She came through the receiving line to offer her condolences and asked where she should sit. My heart sank, because I knew the honest answer: she could either sit in the aisle or in the few designated spaces at the very back of the sanctuary.

When I shared that story, others from our church told me their own version of the same story. Their experiences were quickly adding up to more than a few isolated incidents, which raised the question of what could be done.

Cutting the pews to make room is risky. The old wood is beautiful but brittle, and I didn't want to damage pews we rely on. But I knew that several pews that had been moved out of places like the choir loft are shorter than our standard full-length pews. If we swapped a few of them in, we could open up spaces. Those spaces could also hold standalone seats, which would give us more options.

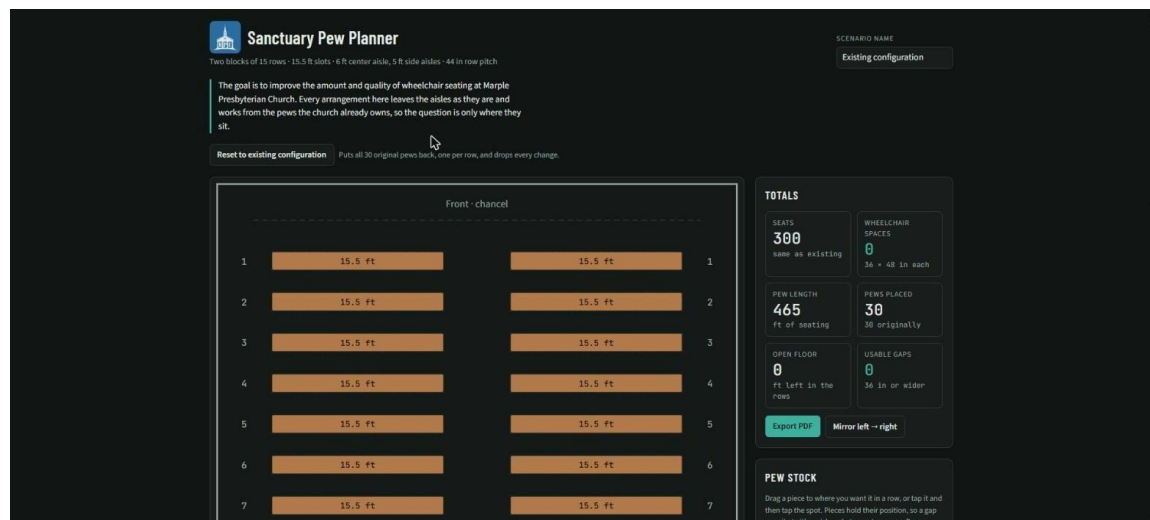
So I went through the church and inventoried every pew. Then I built the Pew Planner so we could test layouts on screen before moving a single pew.

I also want to be clear that changing the sanctuary is no minor request. The look and feel of our worship space matters deeply to many of us, and decisions like this should be made together, not by one person acting alone. The Pew Planner is meant to start that conversation, not to settle it.

To try it, visit <https://www.1031f.com/pew-planner.html> in a desktop browser at normal zoom.

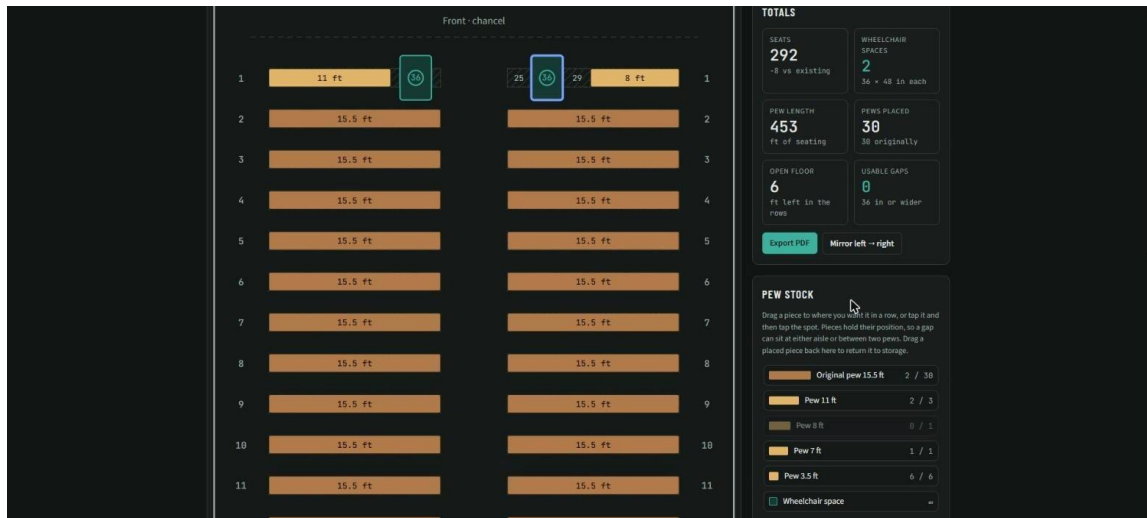
How the Pew Planner Works

The Pew Planner is a web tool that lets you test different sanctuary layouts before anything is moved. It is built around our existing pews, so the aisles stay as they are and the only question is where each pew sits.



- **Start with the current layout.** Use "Reset to existing configuration" to return all 30 original pews to their rows, one per row.
- **Remove a pew.** Click the pew once so it has a blue outline, then press the Delete key. The space becomes an empty row.

- **Place a pew.** Drag a pew from the Pew Stock panel into an empty spot in a row. Place smaller pews at the ends of a row, not in the center, so the open space stays usable.
- **Check the numbers.** The Totals panel updates as you work. It shows Seats (compared with the existing 300), Wheelchair spaces (each 36 × 48 in), Pew length, Pews placed, Open floor, and Usable gaps (36 in or wider).



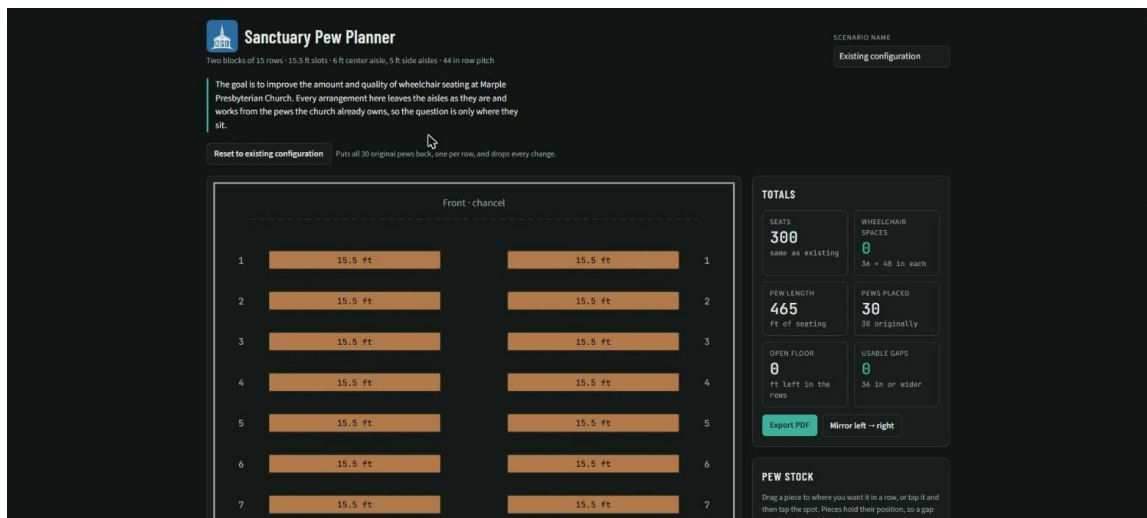
- **Save your work.** Name a changed layout before you save it. The planner asks for a name when the rows no longer match the existing configuration. Then export it as a PDF to share or print.
- **Compare sides.** The "Mirror left → right" option copies the left block onto the right, so you can compare both halves of the sanctuary.

To try it, visit <https://www.1031f.com/pew-planner.html> in a desktop browser at normal zoom.

Wheelchair seating test

We tested the scenario "Wheelchair test 1" to see how many wheelchair spaces the existing pews can make room for. The steps below follow the screenshots in order.

1. **Start with the existing layout.** All 30 original pews are in place, with 300 seats.



2. **Remove the two row 1 pews.** Click each pew, then press Delete. Row 1 is empty, leaving 280 seats and 28 pews placed.

Sanctuary Pew Planner
Two blocks of 15 rows · 15.5 ft slots · 6 ft center aisle, 5 ft side aisles · 44 in row pitch

The goal is to improve the amount and quality of wheelchair seating at Marple Presbyterian Church. Every arrangement here leaves the aisles as they are and works from the pews the church already owns, so the question is only where they sit.

[Reset to existing configuration](#) Puts all 30 original pews back, one per row, and drops every change.

Front · chancel

Row	Left Pew	Right Pew
1	empty row	empty row
2	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
3	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
4	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
5	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
6	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
7	15.5 ft	15.5 ft

TOTALS

SEATS	WHEELCHAIR SPACES
280 +20 vs existing	0 36 × 48 in each

PEW LENGTH	PEWS PLACED
434 ft of seating	28 30 originally

OPEN FLOOR	USABLE GAPS
0 ft left in the row	0 36 in or wider

[Export PDF](#) [Mirror left → right](#)

PEW STOCK
Drag a piece to where you want it in a row, or tap it and then tap the spot. Pieces hold their position, so a gap can sit at either side or between two pews. Drag a placed piece back here to return it to storage.

Item	Count
Original pew 15.5 ft	2 / 30
Pew 11 ft	2 / 3
Pew 8 ft	1 / 1
Pew 7 ft	1 / 1
Pew 3.5 ft	6 / 6
Wheelchair space	=

Seat width: 18 in per person
Wheelchair space: 36 in clear width

3. **Place the 11 ft pew at the left end of row 1.** Drag it from the Pew Stock panel.

Sanctuary Pew Planner

The goal is to improve the amount and quality of wheelchair seating at Marple Presbyterian Church. Every arrangement here leaves the aisles as they are and works from the pews the church already owns, so the question is only where they sit.

[Reset to existing configuration](#) Puts all 30 original pews back, one per row, and drops every change.

Front · chancel

Row	Left Pew	Right Pew
1	11 ft	empty row
2	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
3	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
4	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
5	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
6	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
7	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
8	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
9	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
10	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
11	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
12	15.5 ft	15.5 ft
13	15.5 ft	15.5 ft

TOTALS

SEATS	WHEELCHAIR SPACES
287 +15 vs existing	0 36 × 48 in each

PEW LENGTH	PEWS PLACED
445 ft of seating	29 30 originally

OPEN FLOOR	USABLE GAPS
4.5 ft left in the row	1 36 in or wider

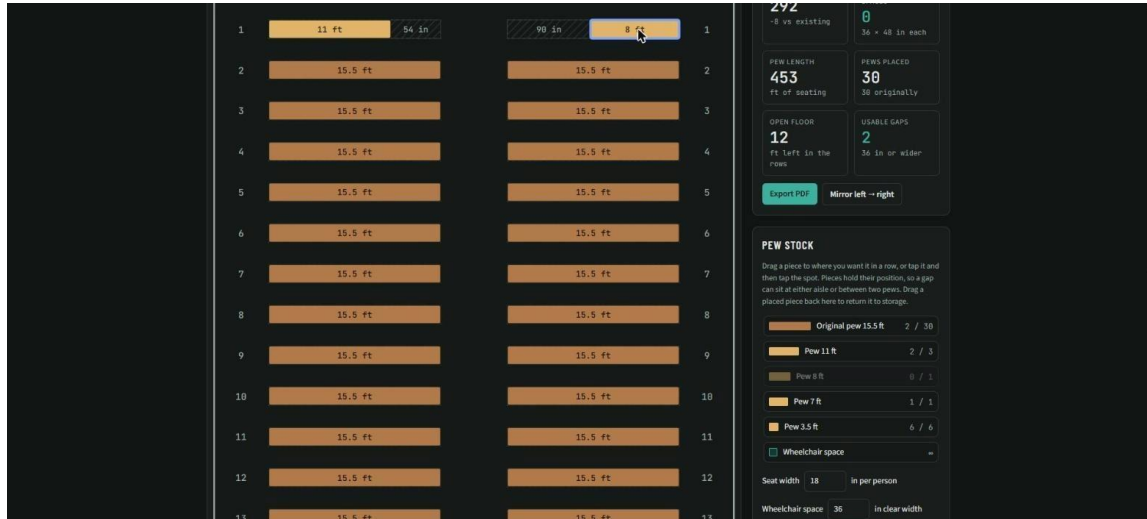
[Export PDF](#) [Mirror left → right](#)

PEW STOCK
Drag a piece to where you want it in a row, or tap it and then tap the spot. Pieces hold their position, so a gap can sit at either side or between two pews. Drag a placed piece back here to return it to storage.

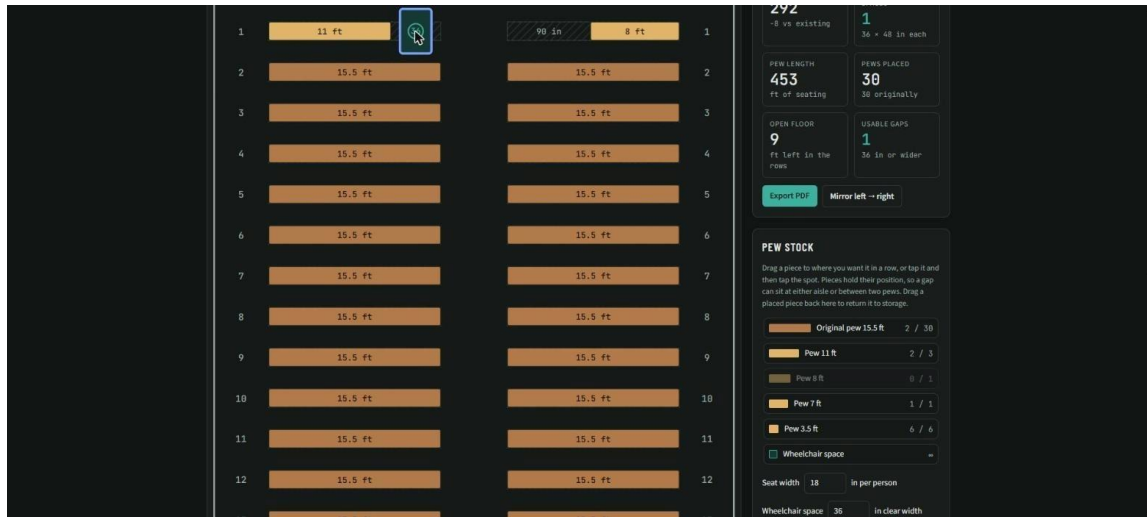
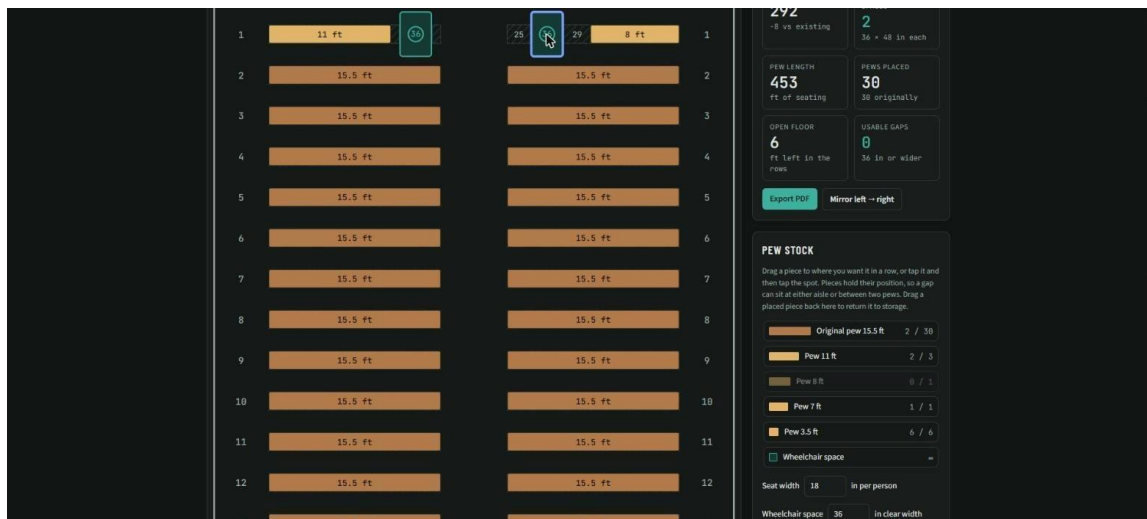
Item	Count
Original pew 15.5 ft	2 / 30
Pew 11 ft	2 / 3
Pew 8 ft	1 / 1
Pew 7 ft	1 / 1
Pew 3.5 ft	6 / 6
Wheelchair space	=

Seat width: 18 in per person
Wheelchair space: 36 in clear width

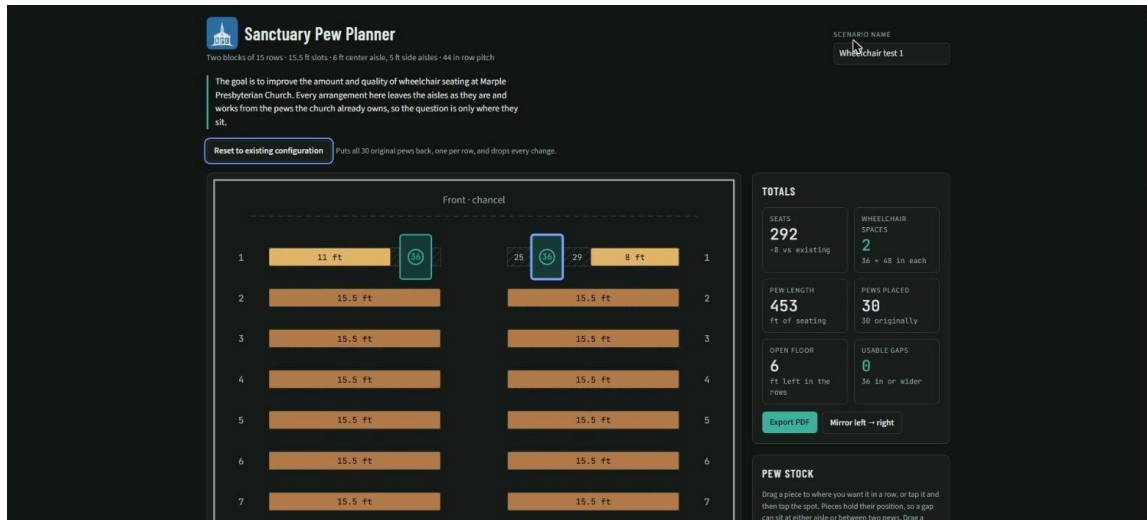
4. Place the 8 ft pew at the right end of row 1. Drag it from the Pew Stock panel.



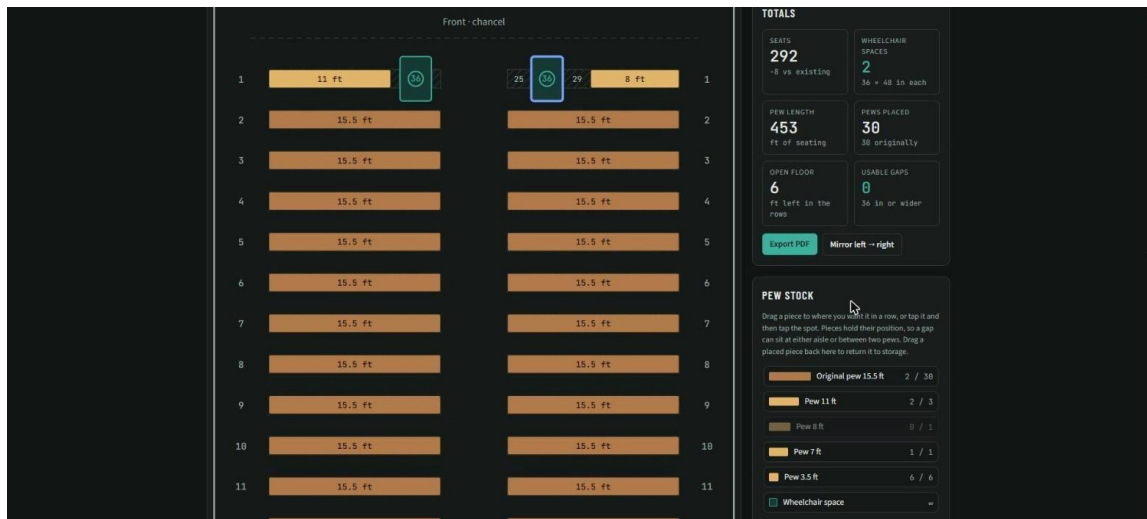
5. Place a wheelchair space beside each smaller pew. Drag a wheelchair space into the open space next to the 11 ft pew, then another next to the 8 ft pew. The Wheelchair spaces count in Totals goes up with each one.



6. **Name the scenario.** Enter "Wheelchair test 1" in the Scenario Name field. The warning about the rows no longer matching the existing configuration goes away.



7. **Check the totals.** The Totals and Pew Stock panels show the final result.



Measure	Result
Seats	292 (-8 vs existing)
Wheelchair spaces	2 (36 x 48 in each)
Pew length	453 ft of seating
Pews placed	30 (30 originally)
Open floor	6 ft left in the rows
Usable gaps	0 (36 in or wider)

Your Part in This

Please take a few minutes this week to try the Pew Planner yourself, then email your plan to benmitchelliii@gmail.com.

As you look at the layouts, please think about more than the numbers. Consider these situations:

- You are attending a baptism or a wedding, and a member of your family uses a wheelchair. How far from the family would you want them to sit?
- Any of us may need mobility help someday, whether for a few weeks after surgery or for the rest of our lives. Where would you want to sit then?
- Most of us have a seat we think of as ours. How close would you like to be to your preferred section, and what would you be willing to adjust so that others can sit near their families too?

Pray about it, consider the options honestly, and send us your suggestions. Every plan helps us see the sanctuary a little differently, and together we can find a layout that welcomes everyone.

Thank you for helping us make our sanctuary a place where everyone can worship with their church family.

Ben Mitchell

During this time of pastoral transition please be aware that the Deacons will be available for addressing and communicating any pastoral needs. You can email or text/call:

Joyce Holmwood jholmwood433@comcast.net 610-888-7458

OR

Linda Pursley lpursley1981@gmail.com 631 942- 5758

or any Deacon listed in the bulletin. Please be sure to e-mail Pastor Roberta as well at rkearney@marplepres.org