

Magnolia Presbyterian Church

UpLook January 2021



Minister's Musing

"I look as far as I can into future days, weeks, months, desiring to see what is ahead and waiting for me. But my vision is limited and clouded with desire. I return to seeing only what is in this present moment. I do not need to know that which is far beyond. I only have to trust you to direct me, All-Seeing One. The gradual disclosure of what is best for my life will reveal itself when the appropriate time comes. It is enough for me to rely on your endless affection and to listen carefully to your wisdom within me."

Joyce Rupp from **Fragments of Your Ancient Name**

This week you all should be receiving your "star word" for 2021 in the mail. As I think back to last January when the stars were first handed out, little did I or anyone else know what 2020 had in store for us! I, like some of you were a bit disappointed in my word. I'm not sure what I was hoping for, but it wasn't "servanthood". Not sure that's the best admission coming from a pastor but since when does that stop me? I guess the reason I was a bit bummed is because isn't servanthood included in the very definition of pastor? Of course, what I wasn't prepared for in this pandemic year was how challenging servanthood would become and I suspect many of you can relate when you reflect on your word for 2020. I imagine joy, travel, balance, and delight would have also been challenging in their own right. Someone in our congregation received "cooking" for their word and boy that probably would have been prophetic if I'd chosen that one; either that or "Doordash" ☐



So, what is the upshot of all of this? As I have reflected throughout the year and just recently, I've realized that for me servanthood became an encouragement to keep on going when I was tired or frustrated and helped realign my thinking when it got off track. The Magi also probably had to recalculate when they had their own star to follow which ultimately led them to Jesus. This of course is also our destination and home. As you look forward to a new year, may you also take time to reflect on your journey in 2020 and hopefully to the new insights the Holy Spirit guided you through. As you receive your word for 2021, know that there is nothing magical or even deliberate on our part; allow it to be the Spirit's message and if it really doesn't work for you, please know you may choose another.



May you be blessed as we move into this new year-

Pastor Claire



Join a
Committee

<i>Session 2021 Committee Assignments</i>	
Buildings and Grounds Ann Laudermilk - Chair	Erin Gettis John Reinhardt
Christian Education Zach Gipson - Chair	Eric Brandenberger Zachary Gipson
FOM (Fellowship, Outreach, Membership) Linda Bingham & Melissa Holden, Co-Chairs	
Mission Interpretation David King – Chair	Chris Nettles
Stewardship Jay Nicholson- Chair	Dick Kirby
Worship Brenda Flowers – Chair	Deanna Cohen

Interested in serving on a committee? Contact one of the pastors or call the church office. It could be the start of a beautiful friendship -- and service to MagPres.

Session Meetings and Minutes

Session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday* of every month at 7 pm via Zoom.

These meetings are open, so if you would like to attend and listen to the conversation, you are most welcome.

Copies of all session minutes are available in the office, or by email request.

*Adjustments made for holidays.

Zoom Groups

Meeting ID for all Meetings

259 885 602 (password 7200) or use the link

<https://zoom.us/j/259885602?pwd=VUJQMxR0SVZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQT09>

Having problems with Zoom? Call the church office

(leave a message! if no one answers) and we'll help you during the week.

10 - 10:30 a.m. Time for Children | 12:30 p.m. Zoom Community | Prayer Group



ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE

You can participate in worship by going to [magpres.com/](https://magpres.com) watch or by visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres).

Celebrating Membership Milestones - 2021

Eight years ago, I started a yearly recognition of our long-time members celebrating milestone years (in five year spans), starting at 40 or more.

Please join me, as this tradition continues, in wishing these special members "well done good and faithful servant" for their priceless, loyal and unwavering contributions to our Magnolia family.

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



<i>Member</i>	<i>Milestone Year</i>	<i>Date of Membership</i>
Walker, Bob	55 years	September 25, 1966
Walker, Lou	55 years	September 25, 1966
Megenney, Bill	50 years	April 4, 1971
Megenney, Ruth	50 years	April 4, 1971
Wayne, John	50 years	June 13, 1971
DeLeal, Sharon	45 years	November 28, 1976
Ludwig, Laurie	40 years	May 31, 1981
MacDonald, Jody	40 years	May 31, 1981
Shea, Kris	40 years	May 31, 1981

Deacon's Corner

We are starting a new year, a new beginning with the lingering effects of the Pandemic which has touched everyone. We open our hearts, minds, and souls to the Lord knowing He is in control and will see us through. We put our faith and trust in the Lord which gives us great hope for this new year.

Knowing how important it is to stay connected, the Deacons continue to reach out to others through phone calls, emails, and cards. You can call on your Deacon for any need you might have. We are here for you.

I have this verse on my refrigerator for encouragement:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11.

We can pray for patience, for perseverance, to prevail, and bring us peace.

God bless us all!

Danielle Good, Deacon



Things to Know / Things to Do

Offering Envelopes

There are TWO extra envelopes in your offering packet.

1. The "Per Capita Apportionment" funds some essential functions of the Church (PCUSA), both nationally and locally. **Per Capita for 2021 is \$36.00 per member.**

2. "Initial Offering" covers the cost of the envelopes and postage. **Suggestion: \$4.00 per packet.** Please use the appropriate envelope and mark on your check what it is for.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31

A "virtual" meeting at 12:30 p.m. Details sent via weekly eblast (which also appears on our Facebook page). Need to get on the list? Call the church office.



Family Promise is looking for...

people to help with our golf tournament. We have an experienced chair that has secured the date and location but he needs some helpers. If you are able to help, please contact Deanna at dncohen@hotmail.com or 951-295-0787.

The tournament will be Monday, April 26th at Victoria Country Club.

Office Closed

Monday, January 18 in observance of MLK Day.

Check Out the New Elders' Bio Sketch and Photos

Crossways

Starts again January 6. Interested in this in-depth study? We'd love to have you!

Magnolia Has Ears To Hear!

Bible Listening Program. Contact Eric Brandenberger at magnoliahasearstohear@gmail.com.

A group of people listening individually, at their own pace, to personally hear God, then interacting with the group as they feel comfortable for support and fellowship.

Blog: www.magpres.com/ivegotears

YouTube listening link: <http://youtu.be/B2tIR3nfzjQ>

From our friends at LSS



In November, we were able to get Thanksgiving Baskets out to 43 (138 individuals) families who signed up for our special Thanksgiving Pantry Day.

I want to thank you for supporting this event with your food donation. I was telling my supervisor, Darlene Mees, how Magnolia Presbyterian is always with us. She agreed and stated that you have supported us for many years. How awesome that I have been with Lutheran Social Services for close to 11 years which means your support was long before my arrival!

I hope that your families and your church families have been safe this year. Although it has been a challenging year, we are still strong in providing rental assistance, food, clothing, hygiene and case management to our homeless and at-risk of becoming homeless neighbors in the City and County of Riverside.

I wish you all a safe holiday ahead and from my heart....MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Blessings,
~Deniece

Deniece Marshall, MFT
Lutheran Social Services
Area Director
4162 Rubidoux Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506
951.689.7847 office

dmarshall@lsssc.org

Embrace, Equip, Empower

Do you ever wonder "What Can One Person Do?" Here's your answer:

We are continuing with our TWO-CAN Sundays.
Bring two cans (or boxes) of food (per person in your household)
SUNDAY, January 10 front parking lot, between 2 -3 pm.
Donations go to our partners at Lutheran Social Services,
where it is distributed to local residents.

December total: 587 Items.
Can we keep it up for January?

**Calendar Year 2020 = RECORD RESULTS
2695 ITEMS WERE COLLECTED IN 2020
The Highest Yearly Total EVER.**



Thank you from the Deacons, who manage this program. See the above letter from LSS as well.



BIRTHDAYS

Flora Livingstone	January 2
Margie Watson	January 3
Krysten Stiffler	January 4
James Walters	January 4
Precious Mabena	January 6
Susie Phillips	January 7
Chris Nettles	January 8
Cynthia Spring-Pearson	January 8
Payton Rinker	January 9
George Robbins	January 10
Clarke Prescott	January 13
Wayne Andrew	January 14
Steve McKee	January 14
Leah French	January 14
James Laudermilk	January 15
Ryan Laudermilk	January 15

Michelle Laudermilk	January 15
Maddy Gipson	January 17
Arlo Sachs	January 17
Lance Alford	January 18
Deanna Lacy	January 19
Lowell Lacy	January 20
Makenzie Nelson	January 20
Sherry Nettles	January 22
Betty Hillebrand	January 28
Laurie Ludwig	January 29
Tammy Duncan	January 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Megenney , Bill and Ruth	—January 5
Thornton , Cherylyn & Thomas	—January 15
Rehnke , Mel and Rhonda	—January 17
Rinker , Kyle and Kendall	—January 27

Scout Corner

Troop 16 is rechartering (an annual effort) to take Scouting thru 2021 at MagPres. Many thanks to Scoutmaster Mark Buhay, who is stepping down after two years and to Allison George for stepping in to be the new Scoutmaster after having been Troop Committee Chair for a year. Brian Kissam will continue to be Advancement Chair and will also fill the role of Troop Comm. Chair. Terry Tebbetts will continue as Troop Treasurer. Allison has a long history with Scouting, but wishes for an adult male leader as Scoutmaster. ***If you are interested in helping boys to become leaders in the community,*** like the outdoors, a structured program with lots of training available, please give me a call or contact the church office.

We have been contacted by another Scouter who is moving up from Cub Scout involvement and wishes to start another troop that would continue meeting at the same Elementary School in the La Sierra area as the Cub Pack. He has approached us about sponsoring his troop also. If you would like to represent the church at occasional Troop meetings by becoming the Charter Organization Representative, again let me or the church office know.

Tim Lewis
Charter Organization Representative



January 2021

January 2021

February 2021



Prayer Calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY MONDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					Jan 1, 21	2
					Karn and Suzanne Griffen	Sandra Griffith
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MagPres Bible Listening Program (get info at magnoliahasearstohe ar@gmail.com)	Beverly Guidero	Everal Hathaway	Tom and Marti Hendrix	Betty Hillebrand	Melissa Holden	Richard and Jeanne Hood
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Human Trafficking Awareness (https://www.presbyt erianmission.org/mini	Dave Hurlbaas	Tom and Julie Hutchinson	John and Connie Jackson	Barbara Johnson	Dave and Mary Josselyn	Kay and Caitlin Keovilay
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Racial Justice (https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/)	David and Claudia King	Dick and Bonnie Kirby	Paul and Michelle Knopf, Paul Jr., AJ	Lowell and Dee Lacy, Deanna	James and Ann Laudermilk, David, Brian, Ryan, Michelle	Marshall and Mary Lee, Ben, Sam
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
US President, Senators, Representatives	Tim and Diana Lewis	Flora Livingstone	Adrien Lowery	Mrs. Ann Lowry	Jeff and Laurie Ludwig	Marge Ludwig
31						
MagPres Session						

2021 - Begins the Listening Group

What is it?

Answer: A group of people listening individually, at their own pace, to personally hear God, then interacting with the group as they feel comfortable for support and fellowship.

What does it cost?

Answer: No money involved. God's word is 100% benefit.

Is the group using a specific translation of the Bible?

Answer: You can use whichever version you would like. We have a link for an audio feed and CDs for the NIV Version with dramatized production, but you can select another version if you'd prefer. The CDs can be provided to you, or you can access through the YouTube link, or both.

How does the group communicate with one another?

Answer: First we should pray for one another as we progress through this blessed journey. We have a blog set up so that people can communicate by typing messages at any time. If a phone, Zoom or in person discussion develops, all the better, but we'll make that happen as the group wishes. We're family; sisters and brothers in Christ, we can communicate however and whenever is appropriate.

Why should someone do this?

Answer: This is a question appropriately asked and answered between you and your Creator. No teaching is going to happen here. No-one is in between you and God. No-one is here to tell you what is right and what is wrong, or what you should believe. We should all go into this with the faith that God will handle the communication and God's Will will be done with each of us.

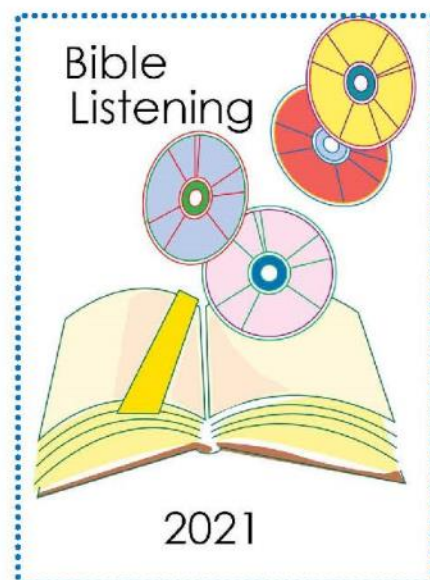
Why is it being done in this manner?

Answer: To better your relationship with your Creator, Lord and Savior. The Bible is the greatest book ever compiled. The contents have been written down by numerous authors over thousands of years with virtually uncountable events and inputs combining to form the Bible. It is Divinely inspired so that combined, in the blessed order, each person who listens to it in its entirety can hear God being revealed for the purpose of a personal relationship between Creator and the uniquely created. (that's you!) Listening for the purpose of communication and relationship with God will be very different than considering The Bible for study, reference or its individual stories.

Whoever has ears, let them hear. (Matthew 11:15)

More details to come...If you plan to participate please drop an email to:

magnoliahasearstohear@gmail.com



Need Some Connection and New Reading Material? Get a Mystery Box.

The FO&M committee would like to share materials from the church library with YOU by distributing mystery boxes. To get a box, call the church office and ask; it's easy!

A box will soon appear on your doorstep via contactless delivery. You don't know what you will find inside! Feel free to share it with your family and pass it on to a friend if you are inspired to share.

When you have finished with the box call for a contactless pick up or drop it off at the office door. Who is ready to be surprised?



**Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.
—Thomas Blake**



WEBSITES with lots of info
<https://www.riversidepresbytery.com>
<https://www.pcusa.org>
<https://www.biblegateway.com>

**“A New Year’s resolution is something that
goes in one year and out the other.”
—Unknown**



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – January 2021

Please join me in thanking our Elders who are going off Session—Tim Lewis and Sherry Nettles. They have both given their time, talent and energy to making Magnolia great! As we start a new chapter, we welcome Linda Bingham, Eric Brandenberger, and John Reinhardt as they begin their terms, and Ann Laudermilk and Melissa Holden who return for second consecutive terms on Session. Read on to find out more about our newest three Elders:



*Welcome
New Elders*

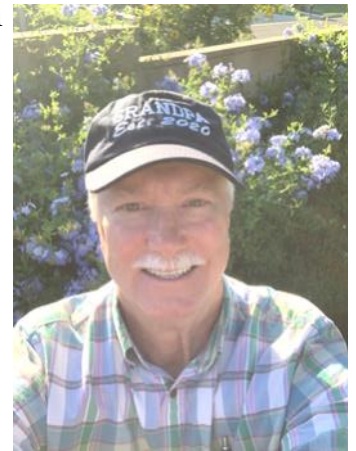
Linda Bingham is serving her first term on Session and has been a member of Magnolia for 14 years, attending for 18. She is married to Bill and has one son, Brian. She is retired from the State of California, Department of Transportation after 35 years of service, and from the United States Air Force Reserve with 33 years of service. She volunteers for the Assistance League of San Bernardino, a non-profit organization which supports philanthropic projects including the Dr. Earl R. Crane Children's Center, which provides complete dental services to uninsured children ages 5-21 for the community of San Bernardino. Linda's favorite vacation destination is at the Hale Koa in Honolulu, Oahu. An interesting fact about Linda is that she likes to watch unsolved mystery shows. She enjoys reading and her favorite book "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom. Her favorite Bible verse is John 15:12 "This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you." She likes being at Magnolia for the Pastors and the congregation, "because the people are loving and caring." Over the years at Magnolia, she has been on Stewardship, the Social Programming Team and has served as Deacon. (And she was the Session secretary for years, helping out this Clerk of Session tremendously!). When asked why she answered the call to serve on Session, she shares "I prayed about serving. God put it into my heart, now is the time I can humbly serve Him and Magnolia." It is her hope for Magnolia to "come out stronger in response to recent church, local and global challenges."

Eric Brandenberger is serving his third term on Session and has been a member of Magnolia for 7 months, although he was a member for 9 years before. He has been married to his wife, Anna, for 31 years. They have two children, Andrew and Emily, who are both in college. He is in Project Management, Public Safety Communication and is also currently a Seminary student. Eric's hobbies include softball and tennis. His favorite vacation destination thus far is Hawaii, and England and France are on "the dream list." If not his own career he says "being the General Manager of a Major League baseball team seems like a fun job." Eric's favorite books of the Bible are Job and Ecclesiastes. He says of Magnolia "it is a loving Christian family." He has served on both the Missions Committee and Stewardship. When asked why he answered the call to serve on Session, he says "It is an opportunity to serve God, Christ's church and the local church of Magnolia. This is a wonderful time for Magnolia as we literally see the church begin growth out of the ashes. I am proud to be of service to God and all during this time." As to his hope for Magnolia's future "in the interest of, 'People do not live on bread alone', I'd like to see us



expand our feeding people who are suffering from malnutrition of the Word. As a result of this feeding program I would like to see our membership expand to include a growing membership outside of the walls as well as inside the walls of our building.”

John Reinhardt is serving his fourth term as Elder, and has been a member of Magnolia for 28 years. He has been married to Sharon for 34 years and has a step-daughter, Lisa, step-grandson, Joe, daughter Katie and now a 7 month old granddaughter, Cory! He is a Chemist by trade, doing research and development of personal care/cosmetic products for 46 years! Did you know he developed Aquafresh toothpaste and lipsticks for L’Oreal and Covergirl? He’s been a Technical Consultant for the past 28 years and is currently semi-retired. Had he not been a Chemist, his other choices would have been Veterinarian, Park Ranger, Zoo Curator or Marine Biologist. His hobbies include fishing, golfing, volleyball, snorkeling/scuba diving, NFL and MLB. Mostly though, anything having to do with nature: including bird watching/rescue, raising monarch butterflies, and gardening. Favorite vacation destinations for John are Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. John has served on the Stewardship Committee for 12 years, 6 of those he chaired; served on Personnel committee, and with Sharon served on Social Programming Committee for 12 years, heading up the annual Memorial Day Volleyball picnic for 11 years!! He also was an advisor along with Pastor Brad on TRAILS senior high backpacking trip for 4 years. He is currently serving on the Buildings and Grounds committee. His favorite books of the Bible are Genesis and Jonah and a favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8 “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” He answered the call to serve on Session because “nominating committee asked me and I said ‘Yes.’” When asked what his favorite thing about Magnolia is and what keeps him here? John answers simply “the people.” His hope for Magnolia is “to survive COVID and get our new church built.”



Compiled and submitted by Melanie Nelson, Clerk of Session

*⁸ I will instruct you and teach you
about the direction you should go.
I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.-Psalm 32:8*



A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Magnolia strives to share God's love with all and grow spiritually in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other.

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7200 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92504-3829
Phone: 951-684-7200
Email: church@magpres.com
Website: www.magpres.com
Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:30 am—3 pm
Closed Friday

**January
2021**



A Merry Heart...

Staff

Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

Rev. Paul Knopf
Co-Pastor

James Walters
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein
Contemporary Music Leader

John Wright
Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

[vacant] Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant



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