

Magnolia Presbyterian Church

April 2021 UpLook



Hello MagPres family!



We are excited to let you know that beginning on Easter (April 4th) at 10am outside under the Mac-Quarrie oak, we will be worshipping together and celebrating our risen Lord. Because of the Covid guidelines, our commitment is to keep everyone as safe as possible; and to allow everyone who wishes to worship in person the ability to do so. Due to the size of our sanctuary, it is not feasible for us to worship indoors for now. We will also Livestream and record the service if you prefer to worship with us at home. In addition, we will be celebrating

Communion together and you may bring your own elements or we will provide a self-contained Communion packet.

Other considerations:

- Bring flowers for flowering of the cross!
- Bring your own chair or cushion: we will provide a metal chair if you prefer.
- We can sing! as long as we are distanced and wearing masks.
- Masks and social distancing are necessary at this time. Extra masks and hand sanitizer stations and will be available.
- Arrive early; we will have a sign in, waiver, and temperature check station on arrival.
- Restrooms will be available one family at a time.
- Unfortunately, we aren't able to serve coffee or snacks yet.
- Please dress warm! We will be in the shade. In case of rain the service will be Livestream and recorded from inside the Worship Center with worship staff and Pastors only.
- Families are invited to sit together including children as the nursery, Sunday school, and playground aren't open yet.
- Please leave the small parking lot in front of and behind the office available for our differently abled congregants and visitors.
- Let us know you are coming at [Magpres.com/Easter](https://magpres.com/Easter) or email church office at church@magpres.com for planning purposes.

Whew! We know this is a lot of information but we are committed to making this time together safe and meaningful and are excited to worship with you this Easter and moving forward. May God continue to bless you and our church at this time.

Sincerely,

Your Session and your Pastors, Claire and Paul



Deacon's Corner

Now that 2020 is behind us and just like you I am looking forward to a new, brighter, physical, and spiritual journey in 2021. During this last year along with the help of others I have had the opportunity to oversee the collection of your food contributions for Magnolia's Drive Thru 2 can Sundays and delivering the food to LLS Food Pantry which aids in feeding the local community here in Riverside. This would not be possible without your generosity and caring hearts. I know I can speak for our Pastors, Deacons and Elders in giving all of you in this community effort **A big Godly thank you.**

During this pandemic period like the rest of you, it has given me time to reflect on many things, but one of many keeps coming back to me and that is our ability to talk face to face and even give one another a hug or a shake of the hand when we gather or come together for worship and fellowship.

We as Deacons have been busy reaching out to our flocks through various means of communication with phone calls, cards, emails, and let us not forget the technology of Zoom.

In reading the book "Let not your heart be troubled." The author says the world is full of trouble, but God is in charge and our prayers matters as we look for good news, hope and redemption. We cannot escape trouble, but we can experience God's peace in those times only if we reach out and seek it.

Please remember that the Pastors, Deacons and Elders are here for your spiritual growth so if we can be of assistance just reach out.

**Gary Welman,
Deacon**



Let not
your hearts
be troubled.
Believe in God;
*Believe also
in me.*

John 14:1

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

On March 11, the second group of Elders (and all Deacons) started its 10-week “Rooted” program. After this is completed, Session will determine how to adapt the program to the MagPres community, in order to bring it to the entire congregation.

R- Readiness, Receptiveness, Renewal

O- Obedience, Oneness

O- Opportunities

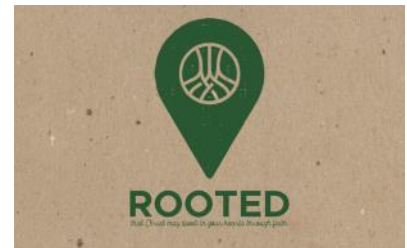
T- Teamwork, Transition, Trust,

E- Emotions, Encouragement, Endurance, Excitement, Expectations

D -Decisions, Determination, Differences, Discernment, Dreams

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



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=VUJQMXROSZ3My91amMyaGpQQk9QQTog>

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/watch or by visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres). Services are archived for you to watch later (or again!)

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

The Stewardship Committee is starting a series of notes to encourage a “Culture of Generosity”. To participate in giving comes in many forms. The thought is, to share with you how some of your Stewardship Committee members foster this culture in our own individual ways.

Although most of us have difficulty “tooting our own horn” or even sharing about our philanthropic involvement, it is also important to let our light shine, so we might inspire others.

One of my avenues of giving has been serving on the board and as treasurer for one of my favorite organizations, POWER (Purposeful Outreach With Eternal Results) Ministry. While giving my time, and contributing financially, I am overwhelmed witnessing the enormous and widespread generosity of so many people not only financially but also physically. None wishing for any accolades but giving freely from their own abundance and as a thanksgiving.

I know many of you have this Culture of Generosity in many aspects of your life. You adopt and develop habits that support it. Share with others, as we’ll do with you this practice.

Brian Nelson, Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9:6-7



CALLING ALL GRADS!

Did you or a loved one graduate from high school or a place of higher education?

If so, please send in a photo of yourself (.jpg works best) and description of your accomplishments - we’ll publish them next month.

Email: CHURCH@MAGPRES.COM



Graduates and Virtual Graduates

NEWS for YOU

BUILDING UPDATE

The tentative Demo date of April 5 has been moved “a bit.” We will need to do asbestos abatement before demolition. That program should begin April 1.

GIVING MADE EASY

You can now give simply and easily using Pushpay for your tithes, offerings, and special gifts! To start, access our newest online giving page: www.magpres.com/give. Or you can **text magpres to "77977"** and follow the prompts to give through your smartphone! Pushpay currently accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover, as well as ACH (bank account) gifts! For more info, watch this short clip: <https://vimeo.com/234563307>.

The Church App has arrived!

Magnolia Presbyterian Church is now on the Apple App store. Go to your device's AppStore and search "Magnolia Presbyterian Church" and hit *download now*. This is going to be a place where you can go to connect with everything "MagPres" Google Play Store download coming soon.

Crossways

We have two sessions every Wednesday. You can still join! Call the church office 951-684-7200.

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/B2tlR3nfzjQ>

Family Promise is in need of a few good people to serve on its Board of Directors. It might be you or someone you know. The enclosed flyer has all the details.





Interested in being on the 2021 Board of Directors for Family Promise?

Are you passionate about serving our **unhoused neighbors**? Do you believe that every child should have a safe place to call home? *Consider joining our Board of Directors today.*

We are in search of 4-8 new members that possess specific skills and experiences to include but not limited to:

- Financial Management and Controls
- Bookkeeping experience
- Fund Development/Fundraising
- Board Development
- Marketing & Communications
- Facilities/Building Structure
- Real Estate - residential rental market, multi-family property management
- Homeless services / underserved youth services program administration
- Lived experience with homelessness/past program participant
- Legal – specific to housing, real estate, and property management
- Information Technology
- Human Resources

We are looking for new Board Members that have connections in the below areas:

- Corporations
- Small Businesses
- Philanthropy
- Media
- Social Services
- Education

Board Member Expectations:

The FPR Board meets at 4pm on the 1st Thursday of every month except July and December. We ask our members to commit to at least 8 of these 10 meetings. The meetings typically run about two and a half hours. The Board is also made up of 5 subcommittees and we require that each Board member participate on at least one of these committees:

1. Fund Development
2. Day Center Development
3. Transportation
4. Advertising and Communications
5. Host Team Recruitment and Coordination

Interested in learning more? [Fill out THIS application today!](#)

Deadline to apply: March 31st or until positions are filled.

Email FPofRiverside@gmail.com with questions or call 951-684-7200.



FAMILY OF EIGHT

The Journey Continues



In October we, Magnolia, embarked on an adventure that would make mission personal but also cost money, sweat, tears, and emotion.... It would change the Session members and how we see the world. Back in October 2020, Family Promise got a call from Path of Life Ministries asking if we could take in a family of 8. Family Promise was not open yet so we said, “No.” Path of Life then explained that this family would be sleeping in the car unless we knew of a church or group that might be willing to take them in. At that

point Family Promise notified Magnolia, “We know you have been open to the idea of helping families that are homeless...” Session held an emergency meeting (you know the kind everyone loves). The Session talked at length about the challenges and liabilities that taking in a family of 8 would pose to us. They might break stuff, ruin stuff, steal stuff, damage things.... The longer we talked the clearer it was that all our concerns were very real and legitimate concerns but all of them were simply about things. How could we say we cannot help a family with 6 kids when we have a building sitting empty and funds in the bank. It was determined that though we knew it would be risky and possibly a lot of work... we were called to help those that struggle. Session voted unanimously to open our doors for 2 weeks to the family of 8 on a trial basis. They would stay in the youth room. We continued to “renew” their stay until the end of February.

During this time John Wright and the Cohen family provided coaching. This included check-ins on house hunting, passing along articles on credit recovery, printing budget worksheets, reminders about pulling needed documents together, praying and mentoring. The family was provided 80+ meals from the community meal train, boxes of groceries, gift cards, and more. They were even able to get connected with Charity Cars and receive a “new to them” car to ensure they had reliable transportation to and from work (Yes, the father has a job). The BAG committee did walk-throughs and knew that the building was getting significant wear and tear, and discussed with Session and determined that still this was something we were willing to put up with to make a difference in 8 people’s lives.

After some months it was clear that we had provided what we had the capacity to provide without enabling and it was time for the family to leave Magnolia. At that point, the family was notified and expressed their deep appreciation for all Magnolia did. They explained that we, “allowed them to be a family under one roof again.... gave them time to think and readjust their plans and life strategy.”

Generous gifts outside of Magnolia's budget provided the family with a parting gift to help them transition away from Magnolia. A week's hotel stay was provided so they would leave us and still have a roof. We also gave them the envelope system (some of you are familiar with this financial strategy from Dave Ramsey). They were provided an envelope for...gas, car repairs, housing, food, utilities, other... Inside each were gifts people had given to help them get to self-sufficiency. The food envelope had gift cards in it, the car repair fund had a small amount of cash and 20 bus passes, ... The intent of these envelopes was explained..."Use these to save for your next expenses. Add to them now so they never run out..."



When the family left, as expected, there was damage, a substantial mess and repairs that need to be made. Work on our building must be done. (To be fair, the building was already in need of some repairs prior to this endeavor.) This is what buildings are for. For us to work out of, for us to serve with, for us to reach beyond ourselves. And so we continue to work, cleaning, painting, replacing flooring and furniture, repairing and restoring so that we can continue to serve... **(Donations for CE building flooring/repairs can be made out to Magnolia with "CE fix up" in the memo line.)**

Many have asked what we learned from this. Oh, so much. We have a two-page list of lessons learned. Some of the major takeaways:

- Serving costs and is risky
- Jesus did not ask us to do easy things
- While 3 people were on the front lines and the ones being seen and having daily interactions with this family, there were over a 100 people supporting us so we could support them through donations, Session votes, labor and sweat, cooked meals and so much more. No one gets out of a homeless situation on their own. Most of us who are not homeless, have a HUGE support network (even if you do not realize it) and we are called to be that support network for others.

When asked if looking back on it if we would do it again, I would say, yes. It is not a matter of if but when. We continue to pray for this family. Their journey continues and as for us... our journey continues as well... Where will we be called next?....

MagPres Prayer Calendar

April 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



<u>4</u> Easter People	<u>5</u> Chuck and De- lores Tobin	<u>6</u> Alma Vierich	<u>7</u> Robert and Louise Walker	<u>1</u> Krysten Stiffler Family	<u>2</u> Jon Swearingen	<u>3</u> Thomas and Cherylyn Thornton
<u>11</u> MagPres Design and Reopening	<u>12</u> Margie Watson	<u>13</u> Olive Watson	<u>14</u> John Wayne	<u>8</u> James and Su- san Walker	<u>9</u> Alene Ward	<u>10</u> Ray and Loret- ta Ward; Sarah
<u>18</u> Earth Day	<u>19</u> John and Cynthia Wright	<u>20</u> Brenda Wynsma; Lukas	<u>21</u> Carol Young	<u>15</u> Gary and Linda Welman	<u>16</u> Bev and King Williams	<u>17</u> Kit and Dee Wilson
<u>25</u> <i>Rooted and Crossways Studies</i>	<u>26</u> Wayne and Kristina An- drew	<u>27</u> Lance and Jo- Ann Alford	<u>28</u> Ruth Baker	<u>22</u> Gail Zwart and Dan Skipper	<u>23</u> Jeremy and Janelle Anderson; AJ,	<u>24</u> Ken Anderson
				<u>29</u> Gary and Jean- nie Belangeri	<u>30</u> John and Kaycie Bel- anger; Baylee	

A purple banner featuring stylized white clouds and raindrops on the left, and the word "APRIL" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on the right.

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

Samuel Lee, April 1
John Jackson, April 2
David Josselyn, April 4
Kylee Stiffler, April 6
Timothy Lewis, April 8
Alene Ward, April 8
Joy Bower, April 11
Bill Megenney, April 13
Ramsey Sindaha, April 13
Kaycie Belangeri, April 16
Brian Laudermilk, April 16
Aaron Cohen, April 16
Robert Lewis, April 19
Liberty Mabena, April 20
Dee Lacy, April 21
Lex Mabena, April 21

Addison Nicholson, April 22

Julianne Schlegel, April 23

Sydney Smith, April 26

Gwenyth Manley, April 27

Susan Simmons, April 27

April Anniversaries

Doshier, Mike and Janet, April 4

Smith, Shawn and Robin, April 7

Nicholson, Jay and Katie, April 8

Lacy, Lowell and Dee, April 8

Grant, Gary and Edith, April 26

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Have you changed your address/email/cell phone? Call the office or email church@magpres.com with updated stuff. If you need to check what's there, call the church office for the password to view the current directory at www.magpres.com/people.

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Staff

The Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

The 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

Jeff Ludwig
Treasurer

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A Merry Heart...



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