

# Magnolia Presbyterian Church

## UpLook

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

Volume XXVII, No. 9

September 2019

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is an opportunity for youth to explore their faith, reaffirm their baptismal vows, be baptized if not previously so, and learn more about what it means to be a Christian and a Presbyterian. At the end of this 12-week class, the youth will have the opportunity to write a statement of faith and join MagPres as an active member if they so choose. We hope that you and your youth will prayerfully consider attending these classes. The decision to make a public profession of faith and join the church is a significant one. It is a big step in their Christian walk and our hope is that this will be a meaningful time in their lives.



Thank you so much to all that came out to support the Family Promise Community Meeting. Thank you to Stacy Pollard (the director of Family Promise) for flying out from Oregon to share

with us about how we can work together to make a huge difference in the families effected by homelessness. Thank you also to the City's Homeless Outreach Dept. for joining us. We had 40+ faith groups represented and 60+ members of Magnolia in attendance.



There will be a follow up meeting on Sept 30th at 7:00 for all those that attended the first meeting and for those that might have missed it. Email Deanna for questions: [dncohen@hotmail.com](mailto:dncohen@hotmail.com)


**Confirmation Classes are coming.**  
Intro on Sunday, September 15; 10 -11 am.

RSVP to [Claire@magpres.com](mailto:Claire@magpres.com).

More information in the enclosed flyer.

**Pastor Claire and Pastor Paul**



Autumn is upon us and that means pumpkins and costumes.   
The (great) Pumpkins are arriving on October 13th. Please plan to stay or come back to help unload them. Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 27.

#### In this issue

- ◆ Master Calendar and Prayer Calendar
- ◆ Living with Loss brochure
- ◆ Invitation to Youth for Confirmation Class
- ◆ Pictures of Magpres people on every page

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 Connect With Us 

 [church@magpres.com](mailto:church@magpres.com)

 [www.magpres.com](http://www.magpres.com)

**Encounter God Sundays**  
**9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)**

# Co-Pastors' Page



## A Minister's Musing

*There are different spiritual gifts but the same spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

I recently had the opportunity to attend a Facilitator Training in Baltimore, MD for the Vital Congregations Initiative in which our Presbytery is hoping to participate. One of the tasks assigned to the facilitators prior to the training was to take the *Clifton Strengths Finder* test. In the shorter version of the test a person's top five strengths are identified based on their answers to various questions. Educational Psychologist Donald Clifton's research found that contrary to popular opinion, well-roundedness is overrated and dull and not a good predictor of success. On the other hand, success is based on working within a person's area of strength. He says,

***"From this point of view, to avoid your strengths and to focus on your weaknesses isn't a sign of diligent humility. It is almost irresponsible. By contrast, the most responsible, the most challenging, and, in the sense of being true to yourself, the most honorable thing to do is face up to the strength potential inherent in your talents and then find ways to realize it."***

He goes on to say that if we work within our strengths, we will find that our passion for our work will be ignited.

What does this all mean for the future of MagPres? This is what your Session spent many hours in July trying to discern. Some of the questions we explored were; "What are some words to describe us now? What are the top five characteristics we hope to embody? What would a word picture or story look like if we were living into who we want to be?" and lastly, "In what ways are we not doing this now?" The Session is looking to keep in mind the answers to these questions as we make decisions as to what our new worship space might look like. Please continue to lift up our leadership as we discern where God is leading.

Pastor Claire

## A Pastor's Pondering

*"Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry." James 1:19 (CEB)*

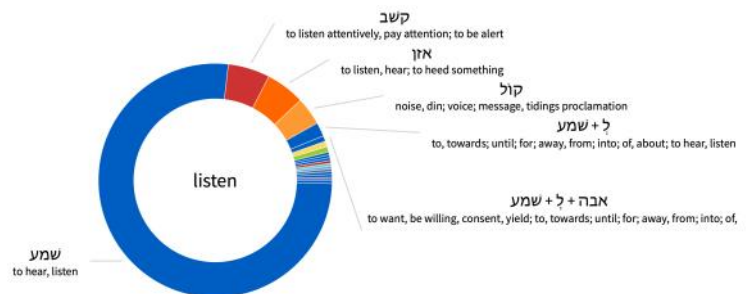


During Youth Sunday on August 18th, those present were invited to pull a "heart card" which had a specific task on it to complete that week. One of the cards read, "Converse with someone you disagree with; ask 10 questions that help you understand their position; seek to understand even if they won't."



Does this seem odd to you? Is listening some special task that we need to be encouraged to practice?

There are six Hebrew words that are translated "listen" in our Old Testament and nine words in our New Testament totaling over 360 verses. If you read a verse once every day, it would take you a year to get through them all. This is an important task but how can we successfully listen?



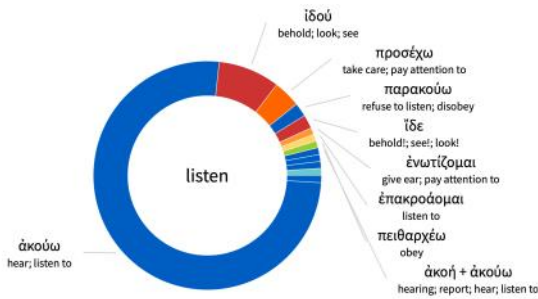
In a number of sermons, I have offered advice that was helpful to me for a number of circumstances but it seems to apply here:

***Stay Curious (keep asking questions), Suspend Certainty (what if I am wrong about this) and Embrace Empathy (attempt to see and experience an issue from the other's perspective).***

---continued on Page 3

## Pastor's Pondering continued from Page 2

Maybe the old adage make this even more simple: "the good Lord gave you two ears and one mouth; which should you use more?"



Unfortunately, the reality is that we have to make a concerted effort to listen. Will you give it a try?

Your listening Co-Pastor,  
Paul

Afterthought: The phrase *"You're such a good listener"* is a praise young children strive to hear and adults too.

## DEACON'S CORNER

I was asked to write an article about being a deacon.. Well, here goes...

I accepted the position of deacon a little over 2 1/2 years ago. I really enjoy helping with the memorials, communion, hospital calling, Magnolia Cafe, 2-can Sunday and delivering food to Lutheran Social Services. Not part of my deacons duties, I also help fold the Sunday bulletin, the monthly UpLook, ushering, and greeting.

I really enjoy our deacon meetings. Being that I'm the only male deacon you would think I would feel overpowered. But really, I don't! The female deacons are super nice and hard workers; I feel privileged to work with each of them.

I feel honored to do these things for the people of our own church and beyond. Magnolia Presbyterian has given me more than I could have imagined.

Gary Grant , Deacon

Interested in Outreach and Helping others?

Missions  
Committee



Members needed on the Mission Interpretation Committee. Contact Deanna Cohen at

951-295-0787 [Dncohen@hotmail.com](mailto:Dncohen@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

## Keep Riverside

### Clean and Beautiful

Fun Volunteer Opportunity for all ages!



Join FOM (Fellowship, Outreach, and Membership) on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in the morning.

Location: University Ave. from Chicago Ave. to Ottawa Ave.

Children under 14 can join their adults

See Heather Dickenson for details. Contact her at (951)688-6582



More  
Talent!

Boy Scout  
Troop 16  
meets every  
Wednesday  
night at 7 pm.



Church Office Closed  
Monday, September 2,  
in observance of Labor Day.



*Welcome, Maddy Gipson, our Wedding Coordinator. If you would like to be married here (or know someone who would) at Magnolia Presbyterian, she will guide you through the process. Her contact info is (951)218-6448 or MadelineNelson7@gmail.com*

Birthday, anniversary or other special remembrance coming up? Purchase a floral arrangement to beautify our worship space.



Call the church office to find out how.

Men's Group (meets monthly)  
Monday, September 9, 7 pm  
location TBD



Women's Monday Morning Bible Study. Every week beginning September 9, 9:30 - 11 am Christian Education Building  
Call the office for more info.

Youth Group meets every\* Sunday evening.  
Middle School (grades 5 to 8) meets from 5 to 6:30 pm.  
High School (grades 9 to 12) meets from 7 to 8:30 pm.  
First Sunday of each month there is a meal for the combined groups.  
COME TO YOUTH GROUP—BRING A FRIEND  
\*Schedule may change due to holidays, church events or offsite activities.



### OFFICE Relief HELP NEEDED

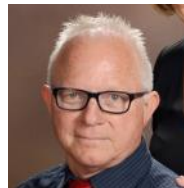
Looking for volunteers to staff the office for a few hours now and then as well as substitutes for longer term office relief.

You will get trained on the phone system, office procedures, and basic computer skills (for short-term), plus Microsoft products for long-term relief. Hours could be from 8:30 am to 3 pm Monday through Thursday. Call the office at 951-684-7200 or email church@magpres.com.



**You Are All Invited**  
(A special event for one of our members)

**John Wright** has been chosen by the American Cancer Society, Inland Empire Region, as their *Cancer Survivor of the Year*. He will receive this honor at a Gala to be held on **September 7 at 6 pm** at White Park, downtown.



John would like to invite all of his church family to attend who wish too. As John says, *“my church family helped me to get through this cancer, so this award is just as much theirs as mine.”* You may find details of the event on the American Cancer Society web page: [www.acswhiteparty.org](http://www.acswhiteparty.org)

Keep in mind, this is a fund raising event for the American Cancer Society, and the tickets to the event are not inexpensive, so no pressure if you choose not to attend. God Bless you all!



Growth Groups will be forming soon for our fall session.



VBS Update: **\$194 was donated by the VBS Kids in July.** Their chosen charity was the CHOC Foundation, which funds research, technology, toys and supplies, and children’s programs.

**Destiny Nicholson** has this to say: “I spent a week at Children’s Hospital of Orange County after having a 9 hour spinal fusion surgery. I am grateful to the doctors, nurses and all of the staff at CHOC for taking such great care of me, keeping me busy, motivating me, and caring about me.”





## 2019 “Fearless Generosity” July Financial Report

The July 2019 Treasurer’s report indicates an income of **\$285,972.11** and **\$248,518.10** in expenses. The result is a current positive balance of **\$37,454.01** for the month of July. God is Good!!!

Thank you for your fearless generosity. Please continue to support the Church’s 2019 budget by staying current with your pledges. Third Quarter giving statements will be available in October.



### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session Highlights from the August meeting will be included in the October UpLook.



**Stater Bros. script cards** are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 increments on the first Sunday of every month after each service. You can pay by cash or check. When you shop for your groceries – at any Stater Bros. store - you get full value for the card you purchase. MPC gets **6%** of every card purchased! Cards can also be purchased in the office during regular hours.

### Music for God

When we read our Bibles, we often come across verses that speak about singing songs of praise, they sang songs and worshipped, they danced and sang and played instruments in praise. It appears that music has been an important part of worship from the very



beginning. It still is. If you are looking for a place to plug in at church, come give our choir a try. We have a very eclectic music library and between James, Cynthia and John, we have a combined 100+ years of experience in church music and worship leadership. Our choir is more than a place to come sing. We strive to make your choral experience a ministry where you can share joys and concerns, pray for yourself and others, all while making music for God.



**Join the Choir ...  
You'll Be Glad  
You Did!**

If you have listened to the Alleluia Ringers and thought, “I’d like to try ringing handbells,” come try it out. Our members work as a team and welcome new ringers. Rehearsals are a time for music, fellowship and laughter.

We meet on Thursday evenings at 7 PM for Chancel Choir; 6 PM for Handbell Choir; and Sunday mornings at 10 AM for worship service preparation. (earlier if it is a unity service). Come join us for 30 days and see if this is where you should be. If so, continue with us, and if not, what did you lose?

For more information contact John Wright, [music@magpres.com](mailto:music@magpres.com) or 951-218-8966

or James Walters at [j.walters@outlook.com](mailto:j.walters@outlook.com).



Craig MacDougall	September 1
Laura Medrano	September 1
Jay Nicholson	September 1
Ruth Megenney	September 2
Kierstyn Cohen	September 5
Andi Mabena	September 5
Allie Robinson	September 5
James King	September 6
Mel Rehnke	September 6
Peter Manley	September 12
Melanie Nelson	September 12
Janet Nicks	September 12
Alma Vierich	September 13
Dave Richards	September 14
Shawn Smith	September 14
Gale Teunissen	September 14
Gary Welman	September 14
Caitlyn Cohen	September 15
Becky Doshier	September 15
Monique Mowry	September 15
John Peden	September 15
Cherylyn Thornton	September 17
Joey Contreras	September 19
Norah Sachs	September 19
Adam Martinez	September 23
Julie King	September 25
Diana Lewis	September 26
Janelle Anderson	September 30
Edith Grant	September 30



## Time and Talent Recognitions

✝ For everyone who helped make Family Promise night a success.

✝ Aaron Cohen for installing

the TV in the Sunday School Room.

✝ Carolyn Raughley, Kris & Evelyn Shea for helping with the spaghetti dinner

✝ Tessa Islas for gathering the youth to help with the dinner

✝ Cynthia Wright for organizing and emceeing the talent show

✝ Kris Shea for organizing the Quakes game

✝ Kristy & Wayne Andrew for hosting the Regatta

✝ Evelyn and Kris Shea for the plants out in front of Fellowship Hall and Kris Shea for the décor in our worship space.

✝ Allie Manley and Sarah Ward for sharing their Triennium experience.

✝ Tessa Islas and the youth for participating in the August 18 service.

✝ Linda Welman for the Ice Cream Social.



McKee, Steven & Jan	September 1
Smith, Phil & Sally	September 2
Gettis, Aaron and Erin	September 6
Ludwig, Jeff & Laurie	September 8
Ward, Ray & Loretta	September 9
Mordue, Lance and Laurie	September 11
Bingham, Bill & Linda	September 26
Andrew, Wayne and Kristina	September 29



**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

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:30 am—3 pm

Closed Friday

www.magpres.com



September  
2019

**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

Youth Leader (vacant)

AJ Belangeri  
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis  
Administrative Assistant

***A merry heart does good ...***





MagPres Master Calendar

Sep 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deacons Door Offering Stater Bros. Cards For Sale, 9am - Worship + SS / 11am - Worship w/Communion +	2 Office Closed 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	3 5:45pm - CE Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte.	4 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	5 10am - Rvsd. Presby. Personnel 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 7pm - Choir Practice	6 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	7 Keep Riverside Clean and 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
8 MagPres Staff Meeting TWO-CAN Sunday 9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	9 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Men's Group 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	10 5:30pm - Stewardship Cmte. 6pm - FOM Cmte. 6pm - Worship Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte.	11 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	12 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 7pm - Choir Practice	13 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	14 Presbytery of Riverside Stated 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various 10am - Sack Lunch Prep @ 12pm - Sack Lunch Serve @ 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
15 Saw Shein Out 9am - Worship + SS 10am - Conf.ClassIntro 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	16 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	17 7pm - Deacon Meeting	18 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	19 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 7pm - Choir Practice	20 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	21 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various 6:35pm - Outreach Night
22 9am - Worship + SS 10am - Conf.Class2 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	23 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	24-26 Pastor Paul Study Leave 9-24 to 9-30			27 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	28 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
29 Pastor Paul Study Leave 9-24 to 9-30 9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	30 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Outreach Night - Family 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	1-3 All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please see <a href="http://www.magpres.com/calendar">www.magpres.com/calendar</a> for the latest calendar.			4-5 	



# MagPres Prayer Calendar

## September 2019

September 2019							October 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
29	30												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 1 MagPres Committee: Personnel	2 John and Connie Jackson	3 Barbara Johnson	4 Dave and Mary Josselyn	5 David and Claudia King	6 Jim and Julie King	7 Dick and Bonnie Kirby
8 Path of Life: <a href="http://www.thepathoflife.com">www.thepathoflife.com</a>	9 Paul and Michelle Knopf; Paul Jr. and AJ	10 Lowell and Dee Lacy; Deanna	11 James and Ann Laudermilk Family	12 Marshall and Mary Lee Family	13 Bob and Lee Lewis	14 Timothy and Diana Lewis
15 Lutheran Social Services: <a href="http://www.lsssc.org">www.lsssc.org</a>	16 Flora Livingstone	17 Adrien Lowery	18 Mrs. Ann W. Lowry	19 Jeff and Laurie Ludwig	20 Marge Ludwig	21 Liberty and Andi Mabena; Precious and Liberty
22 City of Riverside: <a href="http://www.riversideca.gov/homelessolutions">www.riversideca.gov/homelessolutions</a>	23 Jody Macdonald	24 Lisa and Craig MacDougall	25 Peter and Michelle Manley; Allie, Gavin, Gwen	26 Adam Martinez	27 Cathy McGraw	28 Steve and Jan McKee
29 Family Promise: <a href="http://www.familypromise.org">www.familypromise.org</a>	30 Dorothy McLaughlin; Arlo and Norah					



Prayer Calendar



August 15, 2019

Dear Parents and Youth,

Y'all are invited to learn about Confirmation on September 15 @ 10am in the Youth Room. At this meeting, we will explain the requirements for those wanting to participate in confirmation and begin with the introductory lesson. The proposed schedule for Confirmation classes is to meet between services (10am-11am) on: Sept 15 (Introduction), Sept 22, Oct 13, Oct 27, Nov 10, Nov 24, Dec 8, Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, and March 15. This allows for prospective confirmands to be confirmed on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

We are excited about confirmation and hope you'll attend this introductory meeting on September 15 @ 10am. Please let us know whether or not you are attending and if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Claire ([claire@magpres.com](mailto:claire@magpres.com)) or Pastor Paul ([paul@magpres.com](mailto:paul@magpres.com)).

Sincerely,

Pastors Claire and Paul

# Living with Loss

**RIVERSIDE**  
Community Hospital



*“What we have once enjoyed  
deeply, we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply  
becomes a part of us.”  
- Helen Keller*

**“Living with Loss” is a program which provides compassionate care and grief support following the loss of a loved one.**

After the death of a loved one, we experience a wide variety of feelings and emotions. Grief is challenging, and all of us express and experience grief in our own unique way.

Bereavement support groups help people come together to share their loss and pain and offer opportunities to talk about their own grief journey and stories of their loved one.

**A bereavement group offered by Spiritual Care and Pastoral Services at Riverside Community Hospital.**

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**Volunteer Board Room by the Main Entrance**

Riverside Community Hospital

4445 Magnolia Avenue

Riverside, CA 92501

**Every Tuesday, 7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.**

**Every Thursday, 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m.**

For more information and to RSVP, contact

Chaplain Caroline Flanders at (951) 779-3915.