



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. 11

November 2019

Dear MagPres,
As we approach our 140th Anniversary, it is bittersweet that interior demolition has begun on our sanctuary. While some of us are excited that we are finally beginning the new build, for others this will inevitably cause some grief to resurface. Please know that wherever you are in the grief process, Pastor Paul and I are here to walk alongside you. If you would like to come and spend some time in the space please know that we will make that happen for you. As always, we are grateful for each of you and grateful for our church community.
In Christ's love,
Pastor Claire



Advent and Christmas Activities

It's time to plan ahead for Christmas. Friday, November 22 (6 pm) is the date to save for our Annual Advent Party. We are combining the Advent Party with filling boxes for the hungry.



Start shopping now to fill those boxes. (See list inside.)

We are also doing Christmas crafts - give one to the Christmas box and take one home. If you have ideas for crafts, let me know. You can also bring enough supplies for 20 people to make your craft (bring an example and plan to teach others).

Start planning for this exciting event. TEXT or CALL me if you have questions/suggestions. SHERRY NETTLES, 951-662-4756, nettlesrn@yahoo.com

Save the Date for the Progressive Dinner

Saturday, December 7. Appetizers Starting at 5 pm; dinner and dessert to follow. If you are interested in hosting a dinner, or have other questions, contact Maddy Gipson at



madelinenelson7@gmail.com or (951)218-6448

Poinsettias have been a part of our Advent Season for decades. We will be decorating the sanctuary once again with colorful flowers. If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia plant for the church at \$10 each, please sign up after church in the Fellowship Hall. Note: this year we are purchasing our flowers through the Junior League of Riverside for their fundraiser. The JLR uses its funds to support many community projects.



● Connect With Us ●

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✉ church@magpres.com

🌐 www.magpres.com

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

Pastor's Pondering

I spent half of the last month away from church on Study Leave. One of the things I did on leave was attend a CREDO Conference which is run by the PC(USA) Board of Pensions and encourages pastors to take care of their physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, and vocational well being. We were invited to explore our habits in each of these areas and encourage to create healthy habits which in turn would make us better pastors. For instance, practicing good boundaries around time with family, would allow me to fully devote myself to my pastoral craft when I am in the office. Or developing a plan for retirement allows me to enjoy my work now recognizing that at some point, my work will end.

As I continue to reflect on this CREDO Conference, I found some overlap with our current sermon series: *What Disciples Do: Practical Advice for Followers of Christ*. We have been exploring our weekly lectionary readings through the lens of discipleship and encouraging one another to create habits that reflect Christ's disciples.

What habits do you practice regularly? Do you brush your teeth (at least twice a day)? Do you always have breakfast? Is coffee required before you have any coherent conversation? What are your discipleship habits? Do you spend dedicated time with God, reading scripture and praying?

Are you finding ways to show you value people over property? Are you thriving while experiencing exile?

What I learned (maybe even was reminded of) at this conference was that intentionality is required and checklists don't always work. If I want to create good habits it takes intention and I cannot just check things off a to-do list. The same is true with discipleship. Cultivating a life of discipleship is not a decision one can make one day without intentionally modifying the way they live; it takes intentionality.

Continued Next Column



Also, checking items off a to-do list can make discipleship a burden; figuring out a way to make these habits part of who one is is true discipleship.

What habits will you work on adopting?

Your always learning Co-Pastor,
Paul

OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, November 11, in
observance of Veterans
Day

Thursday and Friday,
November 28 and 29 for
the Thanksgiving Holiday



Thanks from the Mission
Committee:

\$598 was received for the Peace
and Global Witness Offering in
October.

Building Gratitude and Generosity Together
Stewardship Dedication
October 27



Children's Christmas Program

(Help Wanted)

Jesus refers to children and says, "... their angels in heaven are always looking into the face of my Father who is in heaven." Matt.

18:10

Please see the enclosed flyer and consider giving your talent and time for this program.



Your shoebox can change despair to hope!

Operation Christmas Child, a Franklin Graham ministry (www.samaritanspurse.org), is being supported at Magnolia this year. Shoeboxes need to be brought to the church **November 17th**. There's a flier enclosed with more details.

Scout Corner

We celebrate the contribution the Scouts and scout adults made by helping unload several hundred pumpkins for the church pumpkin patch. Yeah and many thanks! Popcorn sales have been completed and several scouts are on their way to funding summer camp next year.

Adults and parents are also active in support of the Troop and we want to take a moment and say thanks to outgoing Troop Committee Chair Jim Davis for about three years of leadership in that position (among many years in several positions at several levels of Scouting.). Thank you Jim!

And a big welcome to Allison George as the new Chair. She also has held several Scout positions and we look forward to utilizing her knowledge of scouting. For all you future Scouts we meet Wednesday evenings at 7pm at the church. See you and your friends at that time. Tim Lewis, Charter Organization Rep.



FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. In worship services on Sunday, November 24, the congregation of Magnolia Presbyterian will be giving thanks for the blessings of another year. And, along with people across America, we will sing the hymn "We Gather Together" (Glory to God #336).

This hymn has long been a favorite song for expressing gratitude and thanks. What are its origins? Who first sang it and what were they giving thanks for?

For eighty years, Dutch Protestants, mostly theological children of John Calvin, fought for independence from Spain. In 1597, Adrianus Valerius wrote a poem celebrating a Dutch victory in the Battle of Turnhout.

The author identifies God's role in this Dutch victory over their oppressors:

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing:

He chastens and hastens His will to make known.

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.

Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Twenty-nine years of struggle had elapsed from the time the conflict began till Valerius penned these words:

So from the beginning the fight we were winning;

Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

And when he writes

"Let Thy congregation escape tribulation,"

the poet is referring to the very real possibility of violence shattering his community. The struggle between the Dutch and Spanish continued for another fifty-one years, concluding in 1648 with the end of the Thirty Years' War.

In 1877 Austrian choir director Eduard Kremser paired the text with an old Dutch tune (later named KREMSEK for him). An English translation appeared in 1894.

When the Dutch Reformed Church in America decided in 1937 to broaden their repertoire to include singing hymns as well as the Psalms of David, "We Gather Together" was selected to be the first hymn in their new hymnal. Today it appears in no less than 181 hymnals, becoming one of the modest body of hymns that almost all American Christians know.



James Walters



Thanksgiving
Dinner and
Hymn and
Praise Sing
On November
10, 2019
At 6:00 pm
Spaces are

limited for dinner, so sign up by November 3.

Then stay for an evening of music featuring your favorite hymns and praise songs.



Cost for dinner: freewill offering.

**Hymns
& Praise**

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.

Fall Work Party Tasks

Thank you to all who have signed up and completed tasks! There are still tasks to be claimed. Check out Sign-up Genius link



(www.magpres.com/workparty) and watch your bulletin for announcements. We may have a work party on November 23rd!
--from your Buildings and Grounds Committee

TWO-CAN Sunday Report
180 cans and boxes were collected and delivered to Lutheran Social Services.
Thanks for your generosity - and don't forget to stock up for November 10.



.....
: 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.
:



A Rich Tradition...

2019 "Fearless Generosity"

Stewardship REPORT

The October 2019 Treasurer's report indicates an income of \$363,611.34 and \$324,840.16 in expenses. The result is a current positive balance of \$38,771.18 for the month of October. God is Good!!!

Thank you for your fearless generosity. Please continue to support the Church's 2019 budget by staying current with your pledges.



Our Christian Education has accumulated LOTS of Sunday Schools lessons and worksheets which need to be disposed of. If you have a use for the lessons, please see Danielle Good before the church work day on November 23.

Confirmation Class Dates

Nov. 10, 2019
Nov. 24, 2019
Dec. 8, 2019
Jan. 12, 2020
Jan. 26, 2020
Feb. 9, 2020
Feb. 23, 2020
March 15, 2020



2020 Stewardship Emphasis

Building Gratitude



and Generosity

"Building Gratitude and
Generosity Together"

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Day of Prayer

on October 25, and to those who returned their 2020 pledge cards on Stewardship Dedication Sunday, October 27. You can still drop your pledge cards in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

Groups at MagPres



Men's Group (meets monthly)
Monday, November 11, 7 pm
At the home of Brian Nelson

Women's Monday Morning Bible
Study. 9:30 - 11 am,
Christian Education Building

**Call the office for more info on either
group.**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

“Journey: an act of traveling from one place to another.”



With Thanksgiving upon us, we are reminded of the journey the pilgrims took to come to this country. We, too, at

MagPres are on a journey... a journey where we may be met with adversity and doubt. In those difficult times of the journey, we look to the word of God for strength and direction.

Journeys usually require planning, and it begins with the first step – sometimes not a physical step but a step of faith. It is with this step of faith Session is moving forward on bringing the mission of Family Promise to Riverside; changing from a program-based church to a life-group model; brainstorming on visions for Magnolia’s future; and of course, re-building of the Sanctuary; knowing and trusting that with God’s leading all things are possible. Just as our early settlers experienced choppy waters, extreme conditions, and challenging environments, we will encounter obstacles as well. How will the people of MagPres ride out this journey...it is your Session’s hope that you will do it with steps of faith.

“They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.”
3 John 1:6

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

DEACON’S CORNER

A while ago I found a picture of myself, Sunday School Class, age seven. It brought back memories of singing “Jesus Loves the Little Children,” “Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain:” (with motions), and hearing the books of the New Testament in song. Then there were Sword Drills (which of us could find the book, chapter, and verse of the quotation given by the teacher. Most important - attendance. There was some form of recognition for the latter two. Did we learn for the recognition or to be a better Christian? I don’t know, but we learned. I still remember some of it eighty years later.

What do you remember from your Sunday School days? More importantly, what will your children remember?

In Christian Love,
Evelyn Shea, Deacon



What gift is the perfect size for everyone on your list? Make your Christmas shopping easy with Stater Bros. script cards.

They 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.



Dick Kirby	November 3
Bobby Doshier	November 5
Brad Copeland	November 6
Connie Jackson	November 6
Holly Goulet-Perez	November 11
Bret Benninger	November 12
Deanna Cohen	November 13
Richard Dickenson	November 15
Everal Hathaway	November 15
Tom Safford	November 15
Dee Wilson	November 17
Doug Reed	November 18
Richard Hood	November 20
Danielle Good	November 21
Katie Nicholson	November 21
June Hall	November 24
Zach Gipson	November 25
Evelyn Shea	November 25
Laurie Mordue	November 28
Suzanne Griffen	November 29
Lori Copeland	November 30
John Wayne	November 30



Mabena, Liberty & Andi	November 14
Hurlebaus, Dave and Cyndee	November 23
Peden, John & Jane	November 27
Reinhardt, John & Sharon	November 30

Time and Talent Recognitions

PUMPKIN PATCH PEOPLE

Heather Dickenson, Lead; Dee Lacey; Brad and Lori Copeland; Carla Carrasco; Richard Dickenson; Neil and Cathy Cohen; Chuck and Carolyn Raughley; John Wright; Linda Bingham; Laura Medrano; Brenda Flowers; Chris and Sherry Nettles; Gettis Family; Laurie Mordue; Barbara Johnson; Ann Lauder milk; John and Jane Peden (also counters); Mary and Marshall Lee; Flora Livingstone; Brian and Melanie Nelson; Judy O'Bier; Janet Field; Danielle Good; Chris Tolleson

AND MORE

- ◆ Janet Doshier for heading up Trunk or Treat, and all those who treated!
- ◆ Brad Copeland for power washing the sidewalks and other surfaces.
- ◆ Tom Thornton for moving debris from the campus and cleaning eaves.
- ◆ Aaron Cohen for installing the video doorbell system.
- ◆ Tim Lewis and John Reinhardt for cleaning rain gutters.
- ◆ Laura Medrano for the 140th Church Anniversary Reception and Phil Smith for the cake.
- ◆ The Stewardship Committee for the 2020 Campaign.
- ◆ The Youth for the Haunted House on October 27.
- ◆ Saw Shein for construction of the "gratitude tree."
- ◆ Hosts and leaders (ongoing) for growth groups.



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



November
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

Tessa Islas
Interim Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A merry heart does good ...

