

Magnolia Presbyterian Church

UpLook

November 2020



A Pastor's Pondering



"We may be uncertain what the future holds but we can be certain who holds our future." These words began a pastoral letter to the congregation back in March, which in COVID time, feels like a few years ago now. Seemingly there is just as much uncertainty today as there was in March, when we made the shift to an online-only worship experience. Businesses are still struggling, some of our children are struggling with doing school virtually, and meaningful, financially supporting jobs seem difficult to come by. Despite the struggles and uncertainty, I am confident there are blessings that have come from this time as well.

For me, personally, I have appreciated the opportunity to worship together with my family, yes, sometimes in my pajamas. Pre-pandemic, I would watch as family, attending the 11am service, would be scattered: Michelle with the choir and the boys with friends or on their own. But because our worship is online-only, we are able to sit together on our living room couch and participate together. I have also appreciated the participation from our congregation in leading worship; you all who have volunteered to record yourself reading a part for the worship service. I hope that will become a staple of our worship services, even when we return to in-person worship. I have appreciated family gatherings, even as we practice them in socially distant ways, and sometimes via zoom. Pre-pandemic I remember getting frustrated when a family member who has difficulty hearing asked me to repeat myself, over and over. But my joy in seeing and being around this loved one covers any frustration I might experience from needing to repeat myself.

"Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (CEB)

We set aside time, every November, to appreciate things: to give thanks. What are you thankful for? Yes our holiday celebrations will be different this year: no door to door trick-or-treating, no church Thanksgiving Dinner (meaning we won't get any of Laura's cooking), potentially no large family gatherings at Thanksgiving, and not on Christmas either. Even in the midst of lamenting the year 2020, the year that was so different from every year before it, can we express thankfulness for what we do have?

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



We're celebrating **Music Appreciation on Sunday, November 22nd**

Record yourself or your family singing/playing a song and upload it at magpres.com/musicapp to have it included in the service on November 22nd. Need help with accompaniment or choosing music? Our Saw is willing to help, email him: Saw@magpres.com

Deadline: Friday, November 19, 5 pm

PASTOR'S PONDERING CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

One tradition celebrated at Thanksgiving is to have everyone present share something they are thankful for before dining on the turkey, stuffing, and everything that goes with it. Perhaps this is a practice we can adopt together. Let us share what we are thankful for. We can post it via social media, we can write a letter to someone expressing our thankfulness for them, we can call each other when we recall how thankful we are for each other.

By way of example, I'd like to go first:

I am thankful for all of you. For your support and prayers, for your willingness to be a Christian witness in this world, for your complaints about the building design and things you don't like, for your participation in worship and sharing of your time, talents, and treasure, and for your peculiarity. Thank you, all of you, for being you.

If there is someone or something someone did that you are thankful for, will you share your thankfulness with them?

Your Thankful Co-Pastor,

Paul

Deacon's Corner

Your deacons have been meeting virtually - remembering those in prayer who have felt sickness, loss, and other challenges in our "new normal" world.

The "2 Can" Sunday donations have totaled 1857 toward our yearly goal of 2100. The collection of backpacks & clothing proved most generous and has been discontinued for the time being. Thank you for your continued participation in the "2 can" endeavor for the food pantry.

The following are excerpt from S.M House:

"May you find serenity & tranquility in a world you may not always understand.

May you discover enough goodness in others to believe in a world of peace.

May a kind word, a reassuring touch, and a warm smile be yours everyday & may you give these gifts as well as receive them.

Find time in each day to see beauty & love in the world around you.

May you always feel loved." Evelyn Shea, Deacon



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/ watch or by visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres).

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Eiffel Tower – 1665 steps

Empire State Building – 1860 steps

Willis Tower (Sears) – 2109 steps

Statue of Liberty – 357 steps

Magnolia Sanctuary re-build....

Here are the steps that have been taken so far:

April-June 2019: Elders on Session participated in "Rooted"- a 10-week book study in which they explored their visions for Magnolia and the missions of the Church.

Following the study, 2019: Information gathering took place, asking for input from all Committees and Deacons – wish-lists, ideas, design elements, etc.

July 2019: Session took all of that information and prioritized the pieces they felt were of vital importance to meeting their vision and mission for Magnolia. Design Team then took that information to the Architect and he incorporated those ideas/wishes into an initial design.

August 19, 2020: The design concept was presented at Session for approval, so it could go to the City for their approval...without this step of City approval, nothing else could take place (ie: demo, fine-tuning of plan).

Next Steps:

October 14, 2020: Deadline for congregation to submit responses to design

Elders will contact those members that did not respond to the design to see if you have comments to share

October 22, 2020: Session had a workshop to review responses and develop plans to respond to questions asked, and how to proceed with ideas/suggestions that were given, and to decide on steps to be taken moving forward.

Once initial plans are approved by the city, demolition of the fire-damaged Sanctuary will begin. Fine-tuning and making adjustments to the design plan

Other important highlights from your Session:

The Re-opening team (Elders Brenda Flowers, David King, Sherry Nettles, Ann Laudermilk and Co-Pastor Claire Schlegel) is planning to meet soon to develop protocols for in-person worship services as Riverside County begins (at least at the time of this writing) to loosen restrictions...

At a Called Session meeting on September 24, 2020 your Elders approved housing a family of 8 (2 parents; 6 children) in our Christian Education youth room. They had been staying at Path of Life and exceeded that stay, and needed a place for 2-5 weeks until they could secure an apartment. All concerns and details were discussed and Elder Deanna Cohen was empowered to develop a list of restrictions and the authority to communicate all pertinent information to the family. It was expressed that "Magnolia has always been its best when doing Mission work."

"If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand." Psalm 37:23

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.

NOVEMBER Sermon Series: Entrusted

Nov. 1 Rise of Servant Leaders
Nov. 15 Multiplying Impact
Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 8 Be Prepared
Nov. 22 With Each Other

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## Stewardship Report

Our 2020 Stewardship Theme “*Gratitude and Generosity*” has been realized in our financial stability in a most unprecedented year and for that we are most grateful to you.

This year the Stewardship Committee along with your Pastors chose the theme “THRIVE” for the year 2021.

As we look to the future and the year to come, we are preparing to transition from our old, historic sanctuary to the building of our new Worship Center. Through this time, we can be assured that MagPres has deep faithfulness and generosity to not only care for our members but also impact our community and the world for the next 140 years. In addition to the new building, we will continue our Crossways Bible Study, start a one-year Bible-listening program, and implement our new Life Groups Model for the whole church.

In lieu of our traditional Annual Day of Prayer, your Stewardship Committee asks that you set time aside this coming week to pray for our church and its leadership, and to reflect on your pledge of your God-given Talents, your valuable Time, and a portion of your Resources to Magnolia Presbyterian Church in 2021.

If you have not received a 2021 pledge card, please contact the church office. The pledge card is an opportunity to express what it means to be fearless by recording your commitment of time, talent, and treasure for 2021 and guide the Stewardship Committee in budgeting for 2021. Please mail or drop your pledge card by the office at your earliest convenience. We appreciate your prayers and your consideration of your commitment. Thank you for being a part of Magnolia Presbyterian Church.  
Yours in Christ,

Jason Nicholson, Chair; Dick Kirby, Elder; Chris Nettles, Elder; Phil Smith, Marshall Lee, Brian Nelson, Jan McKee, Adam Martinez.... your Stewardship Committee

Claire Schlegel, Co-Pastor and Paul Knopf, Co-Pastor...your Pastoral Team

## Mark Your Calendars: Congregational Meeting December 6

## Feeling Mysterious?

The F O & M committee would like to share materials from the church library with church members 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?



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, November 8 the front parking lot, between 2 -3 pm.

Donations go to our partners at Lutheran Social Services, where it is distributed to local residents.

**MagPres donated a total (as of Nov. 1) of \$1042.20 for the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering. Thanks for your generosity.**

The Scouts and the Troop Committee (parents) met the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in the small back parking lot and the Scouts again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (in addition to normal Wednesday Zoom mtgs.) It is so much easier to meet together to communicate and answer questions. There had been a backlog of Rank Advancements that was satisfied. We now have 5 scouts that have reached Life Rank and will be working on their Eagle Rank! In the second on site meeting many Blue Cards (each Merit Badge requires its own Blue Card) were signed and put into the computer system. So though there have been Zoom meetings, we now have been able to bring administrative actions up to current. Meetings have required masks, social distancing, temperatures were taken and for the parent meetings they brought their own chairs or tailgated.  
Tim Lewis



## FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities

- ◇ ONLINE: Visit our website at [www.magpres.com/give](http://www.magpres.com/give)
- ◇ MOBILE via text Text "magpres" to 77977
- ◇ MOBILE via app -- Download our church app - COMING SOON!
- ◇ U.S. MAIL

Send a check via US Mail to our mailing address  
7200 Magnolia Avenue | Riverside CA 92504

Questions? Email [stewardship@magpres.com](mailto:stewardship@magpres.com)



# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**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  
**Gale Mitzner** 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  
**Danielle Good** November 21

**Katie Nicholson** November 21  
**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  
**Peden, John & Jane** November 27  
**Reinhardt, John & Sharon** November 30

*Happy birthday to — and for — you!*

Birthdays are unique because they celebrate who someone *is*, not what they've *done*. Henri Nouwen wrote, "It is more important to celebrate a birthday than a successful exam, a promotion or a victory. Because to celebrate a birthday means to say to someone, 'Thank you for being you.' ... On a birthday we do not say, 'Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished.' No, we say, 'Thank you for being born and being among us.'"

To rejoice over someone purely for who they are is an echo of God's joy over us. Some families celebrate "baptism birthdays" (anniversaries) by lighting candles, sharing scripture and prayer, perhaps looking at photos and recounting stories of that milestone event that marked the beginning of their faith life.

On a birthday, said Nouwen, "we lift someone up and let everyone say, 'We love you.'" In baptism, God lifts us to his very heart and declares, "You are my precious child. I love you."

Published in: [September 2019](#) Newsletter Newsletter



Prayer Calendar

November 2020

November 2020

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1  | 2  | 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 |    |    |    |    |    |

December 2020

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 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                                                  | TUESDAY                      | WEDNESDAY                       | THURSDAY                                 | FRIDAY                          | SATURDAY                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Nov 1<br>Worship Committee                                        | 2<br>Kit and Dee Wilson                                 | 3<br>John and Cynthia Wright | 4<br>Brenda Wynsma; Lucas       | 5<br>Carol Young                         | 6<br>Gail Zwart and Dan Skipper | 7<br>Lance and JoAnn Alford                        |
| 8<br>Fellowship, Outreach, and Membership Committee               | 9<br>Jeremy and Janelle Anderson; AJ and Joey           | 10<br>Ken Anderson           | 11<br>Wayne and Kristina Andrew | 12<br>Ruth Baker                         | 13<br>Gary and Jeannie Belanger | 14<br>John and Kaycie Belanger; Baylee and Bradley |
| 15<br>Christian Education Committee                               | 16<br>Bret and Debbie Benninger                         | 17<br>Bill and Linda Bingham | 18<br>Joy Bower                 | 19<br>Candy and Bill Bowman; Jena, Lydia | 20<br>Ann Brady                 | 21<br>Eric and Anna Brandenberger                  |
| 22<br>Missions Committee                                          | 23<br>Dan and Karrie Brooks                             | 24<br>Dan and Jenny Brooks   | 25<br>Mark and Sarah Brooks     | 26<br>Carla Carrasco                     | 27<br>Merle and Doris Clark     | 28<br>Kathy and Neil Cohen                         |
| 29<br>CA Construction and TR Design (Church Reconstruction Firms) | 30<br>Aaron and Deanna Cohen; Kierstyn, Caitlyn, Parker | Dec 1                        | 2                               | 3                                        | 4                               | 5                                                  |

church@magpres.com



*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.

**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

November 2020



**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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