

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. 12

December 2019

A Minister's Musing

advent

['ad , vent]

NOUN

the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.

synonyms:

[arrival](#) · [appearance](#) · [emergence](#) ·
[materialization](#) · [surfacing](#) · [occurrence](#) ·
[dawn](#) · [origin](#) · [birth](#) · [rise](#) · [development](#) ·
[approach](#) · [coming](#) · [looming](#) · [nearing](#) ·
[advance](#)

the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

Christian theology

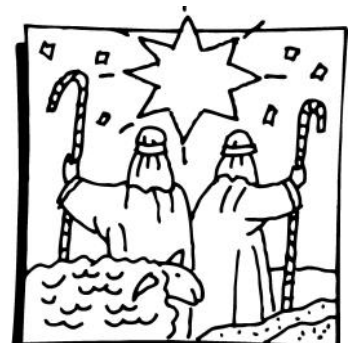
the coming or second coming of Christ.

It's that most wonderful time of the year!

"Kids jingle-belling and everyone telling you 'be of good cheer', parties for hosting and marshmallows toasting, much mistletoeing, hearts all a glowing" ...or so the song goes. My sister and I joke around because she is a "can't wait for Christmas-it's after Halloween-start playing Christmas Carols- kind of person" and I am a "wait until after Thanksgiving-before any decorations-tree or carols-kind of person."

Yes, it's a wonderful time of year and also that time of year when there is tension between the secular and non-secular world we live in. Christmas displays and gifts were in stores and around before Halloween this year in the hopes that

customers would start their frenzied buying early. And yet for the Church, Christmas doesn't start until one second after midnight Christmas Eve and continues for 12 days until Epiphany. Until that time the church waits. We wait with anticipation and expectation for the ultimate gift for all of humanity. While the world goes crazy, the Church slows down and reflects. While the world goes into debt, the Church is content with a humble stable with a star overhead, a few shepherds, and some smelly sheep.



Yes, it is that most wonderful time of the year. It is that time when we await and celebrate the arrival of the love, joy, peace, and hope of that lowly birth-the breaking in of God into our lives- the coming of the Savior of the world.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Pastor Claire

In this issue

Page 2: A Lesson on Antiphons

Page 4: Advent Calendar

Page 6: Birthdays and Anniversaries

Page 7: Thanks

Page 8: Cartoon

 www.facebook.com/magpres

 Connect With Us 

 church@magpres.com

 www.magpres.com

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

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

The O Antiphons/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Once again, we find ourselves in the midst of Advent while focused on Christmas and all its busyness. You may be looking for something to use in your devotional life that connects with the deep meaning of Christmas and the promised Messiah. There is an ancient text in our hymnal you can use in your Advent devotions – the O Antiphons.

An antiphon is simply a sung response to a spoken text. In some traditions, the O Antiphons are sung, one antiphon each day, from

December 17 to 23. They are reflections on seven attributes of the promised Savior, taken

from the book of Isaiah. The Presbyterian Book of Common Worship includes a version of them to be read in morning or evening prayer.

In the 18th century, the antiphons began to be sung to the tune we know as “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” #88 in *Glory to God*. While most hymnals do not include all seven verses, the Presbyterian hymnal does, though the verses appear in a different order from the original antiphons.

The seven antiphons are:

- O Wisdom** of our God Most High; guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge. (Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29)
- O Leader** of the House of Israel, giver of the law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power. (Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22)
- O Root** of Jesse’s stem, sign of God’s love for all his people:
come to save us without delay! (Isaiah 1:1; 11:10)
- O Key** of David, opening the gates of God’s eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness! (Isaiah 9:6; 22:22)
- O Radiant Dawn**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death. (Isaiah 9.1)
- O King of the Nations** and keystone of the Church:
come and save man, whom you formed from the dust! (Isaiah 9:5; 2:4)
- O Emmanuel**, our King and Giver of law:
come to save us, Lord our God. (Isaiah 7:14)

In your devotional time, you might read the texts from Isaiah and sing the appropriate stanza of the hymn or meditate on its meaning in your life. You can also listen to some of the many recordings of the O Antiphons on YouTube.

--James Walters



From our Music Director

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

“for unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given...” Isaiah 9:6



Advent, a season of preparation...

How are Session Committees preparing during Advent?

Working with our Pastors in developing deep and meaningful worship services through music, prayer and scripture; creating outreach opportunities in filling Christmas food boxes and Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to help those in need in our church, community and globally; providing fellowship for our Magnolia family with the progressive dinner; leading our Sunday School children in rehearsals for their Christmas program; finalizing the 2020 budget; organizing final details for Family Promise; overseeing the re-building of our Sanctuary; and always, continuing to offer petitions and thanksgivings in prayer.

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

Session Meetings and Minutes

Session meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday* of every month at 7 pm in the church library. 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.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets every* Sunday evening.

Middle School (grades 6 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.

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.

ADVENT and  CHRISTMAS Calendar

- December 1 1st Sunday of Advent
Worship with Communion 9 am and 11 am
- December 7, Saturday 5:00 pm (sign-ups requested)
Annual Progressive Dinner, \$5 per person
- December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent
Worship 9 am and 11 am
- December 15 3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship 9 am and 11 am
- December 22 4th Sunday in Advent
Worship 9 am and 11 am
MagPres Kids will bring their musical offering at both services
- December 23, Monday 7:15 pm
Blue Christmas Service *more information later*
- December 24, Tuesday 7 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service
KIDS: WEAR YOUR PJs FOR THIS SERVICE
- December 24 and 25
Tuesday and Wednesday Office Closed
- December 29 Unity Service 10 am
Christmas Sunday

**December 1, 8, 15 and 22 Services will include
the lighting of the Advent Candles.**



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



Confirmation Class Dates
Dec. 8, 2019
Jan. 12, 2020
Jan. 26, 2020
Feb. 9, 2020
Feb. 23, 2020
March 15, 2020



PLAN AHEAD
Make sure your giving is up-to-date and that all contributions are made by December 31, 2019.

Church Office Closed
Tuesday and Wednesday
December 24 and 25.
Limited hours the remainder of the week.
Also, Tuesday, December 31.

Men's Group is taking December off. Look for updates in 2020.

TWO-CAN Sunday Report
158 cans and boxes were collected and delivered to Lutheran Social Services. Thanks for your generosity - and don't forget to stock up for December 8.

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study. 9:30 - 11 am,
Christian Education Building
December 9: Christmas Brunch
Dark until January 6, 2020.



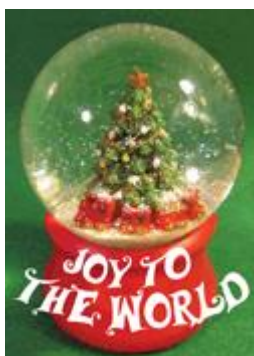
Birthday, anniversary or other special remembrance coming up? Purchase a floral arrangement to beautify our worship space.
Call the church office to find out how.



Kristi Andrew	December 3
Eric Brandenberger	December 3
Claire Schlegel	December 7
AJ Knopf	December 12
AJ (Adrian) Belangeri	December 19
Chris Cox	December 19
Brenda Flowers	December 22
Thomas Thornton	December 24
Paul Knopf	December 25
Ann Brady	December 28
Gavin Manley	December 28



Brooks, Dan and Karrie	Dec. 19
Simmons, Roger and Susan	Dec. 19



FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

**From Deanna Cohen
Family Promise of Riverside
Board President**

I am super excited to announce that the Session of Magnolia has talked at length about our role in working with Family Promise and they unanimously voted to be a host church for Homeless children and their families on a rotating basis, 4 weeks a year. They also voted to make a sizable donation to Family Promise of Riverside. From the 2019 budget Magnolia is donating 2/3 of the K18 Missions line item to Family Promise of Riverside. Magnolia has been very gracious in giving of their time and talents as well as treasures to Family Promise of Riverside. Magnolia truly does have a heart for Missions. Thank you all for hosting Meeting #3 last Monday night at which there were about 60 people. The community of Riverside is a special place to work. Thank you for your ongoing love and support. Please plan to come to Meeting #4 on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm at Magnolia. Please invite the community as well as your church friends!



Time and Talent Recognitions

- ◆ Those who completed work party tasks and to those who came to the work party on the 23rd to finish up.
- ◆ The giver of new sinks in the restrooms and to Aaron Cohen and Brad Copeland for installing them.
- ◆ Dee Lacey, Alli Shaff, and Brenda Flowers for wreaths in worship space.
- ◆ The Music Department for the Hymn Sing on November 10
- ◆ Laura Medrano for cooking Thanksgiving dinner on November 10
- ◆ Evelyn Shea for organizing Prime Time/ Bunco in November.
- ◆ Tim Lewis for work with gas line relocation
- ◆ Sherry Nettles for Advent Party
- ◆ Mission Committee and Deacons for food box compilation and distribution
- ◆ Many people who have volunteered and shown interest in Family Promise
- ◆ Hosts and Leaders of Fall Growth Groups
- ◆ Erin Gettis for organizing the field trip to St. Mark's Presbyterian for architectural ideas.



Reminder: The remaining balance of your TICKETS FOR

The Carole King Musical
Fox Performing Arts Center
Sunday January 19, 2020, 8 pm
is due December 15.

THANK YOU

Dear Magnolia Family,

We'd like to thank you, for all your prayers, cards, text messages, visits and support during King's hospitalization and finally coming home. I've never seen King that ill before, it truly scared me. It was without a doubt the prayers that pulled him through. Once again, King is the Miracle Man, such a trooper!

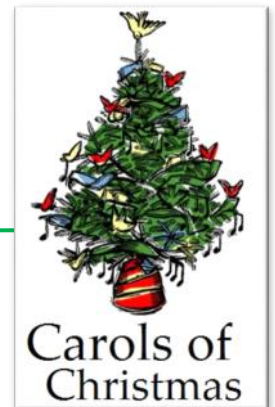


Thank you, all so much. You have no idea how much you all mean to us. We are definitely family.

Special shout out to Pastor Claire and Pastor Paul for being at the hospital for King.

Praise the Lord, giving God all the glory.
King and Bev Williams

*Carols of Christmas:
Sermon Series in
December*



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



December
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

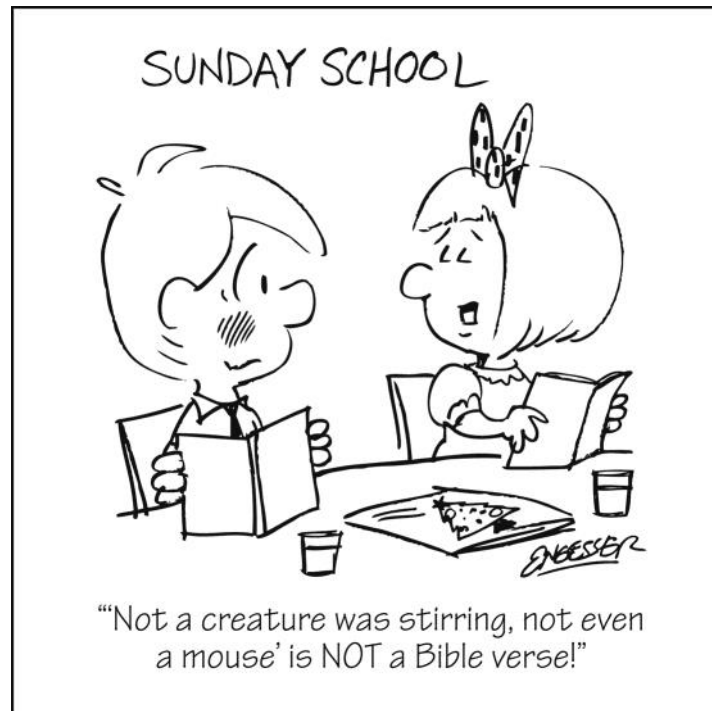
Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant

Tessa Islas
Interim Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A merry heart does good ...



MagPres Master Calendar

Dec 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deacons Door Offering Stater Bros. Cards For Sale, 9am - Worship + SS / 10:15am - Congregational 11am - Worship w/ Communion + 5pm - MS Youth 7pm - HS youth	2 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	3 5:30pm - Stewardship Cmte. 6pm - CE Cmte. 6pm - Committee Potluck 6pm - FOM Cmte.	4 Pastor Claire Out 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Elder-Deacon Training 7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	5 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 6pm - Called Session Meeting @ 7pm - Choir Practice	6 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	7 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various 5pm - Progressive Dinner
8 Pastor Claire Out TWO-CAN Sunday 9am - Worship + SS 10am - Conf.Class7 11am - Worship + SS 12:15pm - MagPres Staff 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	9 Pastor Claire Out Pastor Paul Out 9:30am - Women's Monday 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Family Promise 7pm - Men's Group 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	10 7pm - Elder Training @ Nelson	11 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm - Elder-Deacon Training 7pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4	12 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 7pm - Choir Practice	13 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	14 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various 10am - Sack Lunch Prep @ 12pm - Sack Lunch Serve @ 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and
15 UpLook Articles Due 9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	16 Pastor Claire Out Pastor Paul Out 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	17 7pm - Deacon Meeting 7pm - Session Meeting-L	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
22 9am - 9 and 11 Children Bring 9am - Worship + SS 11am - Worship + SS 5pm - MS Youth 5-6:30 7pm - HS Youth 7-8:30	23 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life 7:15pm - "Blue Christmas"	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 7pm - Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed, Christmas Day 	26 Pastor Claire Vacation Pastor Paul Vacation 6pm - Alleluia Ringers 7pm - Choir Practice	27 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC Worship	28 8am - EEEAC-S and FH, various
29 10am - Unity Service	30 Pastor Claire Vacation Pastor Paul Vacation 1pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - Young Life @ Young Life	31 Office Closed	1 	2 All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. www.magpres.com/calendar	3	4

MagPres Prayer Calendar

December 2019

December 2019							January 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Dec 1 Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and First Responders	2 Gary and Linda Welman	3 King and Bev Williams	4 Kit and Dee Wilson	5 John and Cynthia Wright	6 Brenda Wynsma; Lucas	7 Carol Young	
8 Those Receiving Food Boxes from MagPres	9 Gail Zwart, Dan Skipper, Kayla and Krista	10 Lance and JoAnn Alford	11 Jeremy and Janelle Anderson; AJ and Joey	12 Ken Anderson	13 Wayne and Kristina Andrew	14 Ruth Baker	
15 Those Having a "Blue" Christmas	16 Gary and Jeannie Belangeri	17 Kaycie and John Belangeri, Bradley, Baylee	18 Bret and Debbie Benninger	19 Bill and Linda Bingham	20 Joy Bower	21 Bill and Candy Bowman; Lydia, Jenna	
22 Those Traveling at Christmas	23 Ann Brady	24 Dan and Karrie Brooks	25 Carla Carrasco	26 Merle and Doris Clark	27 Aaron and Deanna Cohen; Kierstyn, Caitlyn, Parker	28 Neil and Cathy Cohen	
29 Someone You Haven't Thought of for a While	30 Sandy Cooper	31 Brad and Lori Copeland					Pray for the individuals listed for each day. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 -- Pray without ceasing