

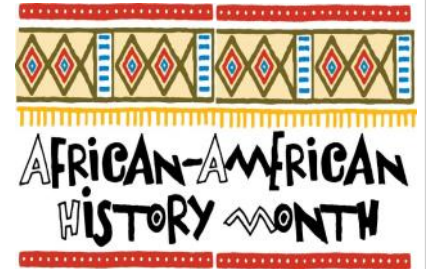


Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

February 2023

Church Attic Clean-up discarding old items after Feb 15th
Women's Bible Study Toiletry Bag assembly party, , Feb 20th
Ash Wednesday Service and Simple Supper, Wednesday, Feb 22nd
Guest Chef welcomes more team members to cook & serve meals



Pastor's Ponderings



On Epiphany, we celebrated the story of the magi who came from the east in search of the newborn king of the Jews (Matt 2:1-11). **When Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him.** (v.3)

One of the gifts of the Epiphany story is that it contrasts two different responses to disruption.

Herod, and "everyone in Jerusalem," responded to disruption by fighting it vehemently (he does something so barbaric, we don't include it in our lectionary).

The magi, on the other hand, those sorcerers, magicians, or astrologers, embraced disruption and changed their life. They uprooted their lives in search of this new thing God was doing.

At MagPres, we have faced significant disruptions over the last few years. As a congregation, we seemed to have responded more like the magi than like Herod. There are at least two things that we predict and proclaim:

- 1) there will be more disruptions
- 2) even if we don't know what the future holds, we know who holds the future

When the next disruption comes, how will you respond?

Your "embracing disruption" Co-Pastor,
 Paul

*~this is adapted from a sermon preached on January 3, 2016
 to a congregation experiencing pastoral transition*



Join us for Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd at 7:00 pm.

Service will include Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

A Simple Supper of soup will be served at 6:00 p.m.

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A Letter From Pastor Claire

(This letter was previously sent out in an email, USPS, and posted on the MagPres Facebook page. It is reprinted here in case you missed it.)

Dear MagPres Friends,

Grace and peace to you. In September of 2011, I began my Call here at Magpres as a Pastoral Assistant. A year later I was ordained and installed as your Associate Pastor and 4 1/2 years after that was installed as Co-Pastor alongside the Rev. Paul Knopf.

It has been quite the journey these past eleven and a half years. My time here has been an uplifting, joy-filled, challenging, and growing experience for me. I have come to love and appreciate the people of MagPres and all you have to offer our community and the world.

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you of my decision to retire from congregational ministry as of May 1, 2023. If I had to choose one word to describe my time here it would be the word "transition". I have watched as both the leadership and congregation of this church maneuvered through the retirement of Rev. Brad Copeland, the 3-year Interim of Rev. Tim Avazian, and took a chance on a Co-Pastor model with Paul and myself.

Of course, it goes without saying that the fire of our primary worship space on Dec. 23, 2018 and the subsequent decision to build a new and different multi-purpose worship space, has also given MagPres an opportunity to stretch and grow not only physically, but spiritually as well. The pandemic beginning in March 2020, gave us another opportunity to learn new things and you all hung in there through it all.

What I will miss the most in leaving, is you, the people of MagPres. I have worshipped with you, sat at Table, baptized, had great meals and fellowshiped with you, learned with you and because of you, played and prayed with you, and grieved with you. I leave grateful for my time here at MagPres, for the opportunities, friendships, and yes, even the difficulties along the way, all which have enriched my life immensely. Although I will be gone physically from you all, you will remain in my heart and prayers always. My hope is that you will fully know the gift you are to the world.

May God continue to richly bless you in your lives and mission,
Pastor Claire



DEACONS' CORNER

Random facts brought to you by: Anna Brandenberger The random facts I bring to you are about the month of February. While Magnolia Presbyterian Church's newsletter is designed to provide you with the latest & upcoming events, news and prayer requests, I would like to offer up a few random facts that will take one's mind off of daily tasks and perhaps provide an excuse for why any "New Year's resolution" may have been left by the wayside.

Did you know: That the name "February" is derived from the Latin word *februa* which means "to cleanse". The month was named a Roman festival that consisted of purification and atonement that lasted the whole month.

Originally, February was made the last month of the Roman calendar year (c. 713 BC) and consider to be a month-"less" period in such calendar as February is in the winter.

Traditionally, months have flowers and gems associated with them. February hails the violet as

the symbolic flower. Violets signify loyalty and faithfulness. The gem for February is Amethyst. This gemstone is thought to prevent intoxication and keep one thinking sharply. This lovely gemstone was also worn by English royalty in the Middle Ages. We also know that "Groundhog's Day" is February 2. I came across a piece of folklore that helps foretell the weather:

If February gives much snow,
a fine summer it doth foreshow.

Also in February, Ash Wednesday (Western) is the 22nd marking the first day of Lent. February 27th is known as "Clean Monday," or "Pure Monday" marking the beginning of Great Lent for the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church.

Stay faithful my friends.

Anna Brandenberger,
co-Moderator of the Board of Deacons 2023.

*This information was taken in part from:
The Almanac.com*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FEB 20TH SPECIAL

The Women's Bible Study meets every Monday morning at 9:30 am in the Church Library. On Monday, Feb 20th, we will meet at Evelyn Shea's home at 10am to assemble toiletry bags for the local women's shelter. Everyone is welcome!

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade is offered In-Person and via Zoom during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. In-person will meet in the Fireside Room at 10:20 a.m. Those attending via Zoom simply sign in to Zoom and use the Meeting ID: 259 885 602 and the Password 7200 to join the fun. Sunday School includes Bible lessons, songs, crafts, and play time.

Our memory verse for February is Luke 8:8

"Everyone who has ears should pay attention"

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is: "Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced one hundred times more grain than was scattered." As he said this, he called out, "Everyone who has ears should pay attention."



It produced
100 times more



CAFÉ MAGNOLIA will be offered both Sunday February 5th and 12th right after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Join us in the Fireside Room for Java and Treats...and stay for the Fellowship and Conversation! Please sign up on the kitchen counter on Sunday if you think you can occasionally bring treats, help set up or clean up.

CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE

View our directory online or via the FREE mobile app. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com & follow the "Sign In" prompts to "Create a login now."



Confirm your email address to sign in. Download the free mobile app at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store, and the Amazon Fire App Store. Use your email (as listed in our directory) to create your log-in. Need help or have any questions? Please contact Pastor Paul (paul@magpres.com).

With the arrival of new year the Scouts from what used to be Troop 270 have been meeting with and getting to know the Scouts from Troop 16. Introductions all around as Scouts and parents of the newly merged Troop got acquainted. Then Scouts then went to the Scout Room and began the task of prioritizing what equipment, materials, and memorabilia to keep as they set about tidying up. There was a review of who needed what Merit Badges for advancement and parents were solicited to be the Merit Badge Counselors. We look forward to the coming year as Troop 16 begins its second century. --Tim Lewis



Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

Both Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) and High Schoolers (9-12) welcome.

Meet us in the youth room (enter off Potomac St, through the gate on the left, and use the first door).

Meets Every Sunday in February except Feb 19th

Treasurer's Report General Fund as of 12/31/2022



Balance Jan. 1, 2022	\$0.00
2022 Income	\$436,664.05
2022 Expense	\$436,664.05
Balance Dec 31, 2022	\$ 0.00

Session will meet again in March

February 2023 Prayer Calendar

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
			1 Krista, Sean, & Sara Hollenhorst	2 Richard & Jeanne Hood	3 Tom & Julie Hutchinson	4 John & Connie Jackson
5 Fellowship, Outreach, & Membership Committee	6 Barbara Johnson	7 Dave & Mary Josselyn	8 Caitlin, Kay, & William Keovilay	9 Claudia & Dave King	10 Dick & Bonnie Kirby	11 The Rev Paul, Michelle, Paul, & AJ Knopf
12 Mission Interpretation Committee	13 Dee, Lowell, & Deanna Lacy	14 Ann, James, Michelle, & Ryan Laudermilk	15 Ben Lee	16 Mary & Marshall Lee	17 Sam Lee	18 Lee & Bob Lewis
19 Stewardship & Finance and Endowment Committees	20 Diana & Tim Lewis	21 Flora Livingstone	22 Adrien Lowery	23 Ann Lowry	24 Jeff & Laurie Ludwig	25 Marge Ludwig
26 Worship Committee	27 Liberty, Andi, Precious, & Lex Mabena	28 Jody MacDonald				



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



February Birthdays

Sharon DeLeal	1st	Canon Sindaha	10th	Anne Denham	23rd
Jan McKee	5th	Ann Laudermilk	15th	Tom Hutchinson	23rd
Aaron Gettis	6th	Abby Sindaha	18th	Claudia King	25th
Julie Hutchinson	7th	John Wright	18th	Anna Brandenberger	26th
Paul (III) Knopf	7th	Karrie Brooks	21st	Catelyn Garcia	26th
Christian Garcia	8th	Patty Hernandez	21st	Sonia Campos	28th
				Alyssa Timoschuk	29th

February Anniversaries

Chuck & Delores Tobin	7th	Richard & Jeanne Hood	14th
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
								
5 10am - Communion 10am - Deacon Door 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 6pm - Youth Group!	6 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts,	7 9:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - CE Cmte. 6pm - Endowment Comm 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte. 7pm - Stewardship Comm	8 	9 6:30pm - Rooted 7pm - Choir Practice	10 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	11 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal		
12 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 6pm - Youth Group!	13 9:30am - Women's Bible 6pm - Worship 6:30pm - Boy Scouts,	14 9:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte  Valentine's Day	15 	16 6:30pm - Rooted 7pm - Choir Practice	17 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	18 9:30am - EEEAC		
19 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's  Pres. Day	20 Office Closed UpLook Articles Due for 10am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts,	21 9am Session Mat'ls Due 9:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Deacon Meeting	22 6pm - Simple Soup 7pm - Ash Wednesday	23 6:30pm - Rooted 7pm - Choir Practice	24 Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC	25 9:30am - EEEAC		
26 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's 6pm - Youth Group!	27 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts,	28 9:30am - Staff Meeting 7pm - Session Meeting						



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee highlights ...the Worship Committee

Who's Who on the Worship Committee? Chaired in 2022 by Elder Eric Brandenberger, and this year by Elder Melissa Holden, with James Walters, John Wright, Saw Shein, and Brenda Flowers, Pastor Claire Schlegel, and Pastor Paul Knopf.

Purpose: Facilitate meaningful, prayerful, celebratory, and accessible worship **Roles and Responsibilities** (as stated in the Standing Rules of Session):

1. Work with the Pastor(s) and Music staff in planning worship services
2. Oversight and management of worship ministry including: Pulpit Supply, Music, Communion, Ushering, Placement of Liturgical Paraments; Décor of the worship space, including flowers; Equipment and instruments normally used in Worship; Worship Materials (hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, prayer cards); Other art forms such as dance and drama; Weddings and Funerals; Membership, direction and coordination of activities of all choirs or music groups
3. Make recommendations, in conjunction with the Personnel Committee, regarding paid and unpaid music staff including Wedding and/or Funeral Coordinators
4. Make recommendations to Session for approval or authorization of: Occasions for worship services including healing services and special recognitions; Celebrations of the Lord's Supper and Baptism; Changes to the hymnals and Bibles
5. Evaluate the worship life of the congregation
6. Develop an annual committee budget, in coordination with the Stewardship and Finance committee and manage committee budget on a monthly basis
7. Oversee other funds related to its work, in conjunction with the Stewardship and Finance committee

*"And here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me"*
Lyrics by Tim Hughes

--Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

WHERE YOU CAN HELP...

HELP NEEDED FOR GUEST CHEF



Would you like to be a team lead or help cook and serve a meal at the City of Riverside Emergency Shelter Cabin Village at Hulen Place? The commitment would be three times a year for a team of four to prepare, bring, and serve a meal at Hulen Place. If interested please contact Barbara Johnson.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Church Family, The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers to teach Sunday School. It can be for one week at a time or more. Individuals / couples or friends / youth under the age of 18--all are welcome. Contact Christian Education Committee Chair, Heather Dickenson, at hdickenson61@gmail.com or the church office. Thank you all for your prayerful consideration.



HOW TO GIVE TO MAGPRES

Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities.

ONLINE: Visit our website at www.magpres.com/give **MOBILE:** Text "magpres" to 77977

MOBILE: Download our church app through Apple App Store or Google Play. Search for "Magnolia Presbyterian Church"

U.S. MAIL: Send check via US Mail to our address at 7200 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



CHOIR REHEARSALS: Come lend your voice to the Chancel Choir! Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Have Questions? Email John Wright at music@magpres.com

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: Monday mornings 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library (main office building). Join us for a relaxing time to delve into the previous Sunday's Scripture, pray, and fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children in grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade is offered in-person & via Zoom during our 10am worship service. In-person will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link:

Meeting ID: 259885602 Password: 7200

STANDING ANNOUNCEMENTS



ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE: You can participate in worship by going to magpres.com/watch or visiting our Facebook page (facebook.com/magpres). *Services are archived for you to watch later (or again!)*

COMMUNION: First Sunday of every month, communion is served as a part of the worship service. For those worshipping via Zoom, feel free to gather your own "bread & cup" elements at home and join in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with the whole congregation.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY: On every 2nd Sunday of the month, we bring 2 Cans or Boxes of food to be donated to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California to help feed hungry neighbors in our community. In January, we collected 162 food items. **Keep up the good work(!)** as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! Our next Two-Can collection date will be **February 12th**.

DEACONS DOOR OFFERING: The first Sunday of every month, we collect the DEACONS DOOR OFFERING. This is a dedicated offering to help friends and family of MagPres members experiencing hardship. Your gift, large or small, is a gift of kindness.

STATER BROS. GIFT CARDS: Gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available to purchase in the church office. Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 3:00pm. Whether you are buying as a gift or to do your weekly grocery shopping, the church receives 5% of every sale! How nice--give twice!

CHURCH DIRECTORIES: Directories are available in the church office, or you can have one mailed to you. Instructions on downloading the app to our "Instant Church Directory" are on page 7 (great way to keep up with birthdays and anniversaries in our church family!)

As always - if your address, phone, or email changes, let us know with an email to church@magpres.com

DAILY DEVOTIONAL: *Our Daily Bread* quarterly booklets are available in the Worship Center foyer (on the Welcome Table) and in the church office. Pick one up for yourself and for a friend or stranger.

...making fully formed followers of Jesus Christ

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



February 2023

Magnolia Presbyterian
Church Staff

The Rev. Claire Schlegel
Co-Pastor

The Rev. Paul Knopf
Co-Pastor

Adrien Lowery
Office Manager

James Walters
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein
Contemporary Music Leader

John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson,
Nursery Attendant

Jeff Ludwig, Treasurer

[vacant] Youth Leader

It's Church Attic Clean-up Time!

The Worship Committee would like to clean up and reorganize the room in the attic that houses all the banners and decorations for the Sanctuary. We will be repurposing and discarding some of the more worn and discolored items after **February 15th**, so if you have a fond attachment to any of them, please let Pastor Claire know if you want them.

Say It With Flowers!

If you would like to donate a flower arrangement to display in the Sanctuary to honor a special occasion or person, please email the Church at Office@MagPres.com to receive a Flower Request Form.

Arrangements are \$60 each*



*Butterflies Not Included