



Magnolia Presbyterian Church

The UpLook

February 2024

BOOK STUDY FOR LENT “The Walk” by Adam Hamilton - Sign-up now!

LENT SUPPER & SERVICE on Feb. 14th - Lite soup supper at 6pm, service at 7pm

TWO-CAN SUNDAY non-perishable food collection on Sunday, February 11th

NEW BUILDING FUNDRAISER on Feb. 18th at PANERA’S in RIV. PLAZA from 4-8pm

A Pastor’s Ponderings

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated this year on February 14th (we’ll have a simple supper at 6pm followed by a worship service at 7pm). Lent is often signified by fasting: some give up chocolate, others give up television, I give up football. Because our siblings who identify as Roman Catholic give up meat on Fridays during lent, you usually can get a good deal on fish sandwiches at fast food chains.



While Lent is known for giving something up, some Christian faith traditions choose to take something on. For example instead of avoiding something for the 40 days of Lent, they will instead volunteer at a shelter or a feeding program. One year, I participated in the SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge, which invited people to only eat what a person on food stamps could afford (for more information, visit: <https://www.moneycrashers.com/snap-food-stamp-challenge/>). This meant I could only spend \$5 a day, or \$30 a week, on food. This allowed me to better understand the struggles one faces when your primary source of food is food stamps.

This year for Lent, we are doing a sermon series entitled: A Wandering Heart, which focuses on the disciple/apostle Peter, his life, and takeaways we can apply to our own lives. In addition to this sermon series, we have two types of devotionals for you to consider: 1) a traditional devotional with readings that invite you to think, reflect, and act; and 2) devotional cards that offer a centering practice (like listening to music or sitting in silence for a few minutes) followed by 1 question to ponder. These are great for individual study and will help you to focus on your faith during lent.

In addition, our growth groups are returning this lent, as we explore Adam Hamilton’s book “The Walk.” If you were part of a Rooted group in the past, your leader should have contacted you about getting together again. If you were not in Rooted or are looking to be a part of a new group, sign up by visiting magpres.com/lent or on the sign-up sheet in the narthex/foyer.

I hope you will take on one or both of these opportunities to focus during lent and experience a blessed Lenten season.

Your “taking something on this lent” Pastor,
Paul



HAPPY
VALENTINE’S



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Resolutions: “a resolve or determination: to make a firm resolution to do something.”

A month ago, some of us made resolutions for the new year. The big question, is it still intact or are you still pondering what yours should be?

Your Session Committees are here to help...

“I resolve to...”

Missions:

- ~~ get involved in a feeding program, mission project, or Family Promise
- ~~ donate items for Ramona Closet, or an unused car for Project Spark
- ~~ listen to stories of those involved with the Path of Life Guest Chef Night
- ~~ sponsor a Compassion Child
- ~~ give just a little extra to the special offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, or Christmas Joy
- ~~ participate in the CROP Walk
- ~~ join the committee

Buildings and Grounds:

- ~~ come out for the spring & fall work party
- ~~ see something in need of attention around the church and take it on
- ~~ get to know the “handy-persons” who are always fixing something and offer to help out
- ~~ help out with Sunday campus lockup responsibilities
- ~~ join the committee

Stewardship & Finance:

- ~~ recognize money as a tool to benefit the Lord’s work
- ~~ take part in a fundraiser for the Capital Campaign
- ~~ offer prayers for a sustainable financial outlook
- ~~ be a good steward
- ~~ join the committee

Fellowship, Outreach, Membership:

- ~~ get involved with Café Magnolia
- ~~ help with one or more fellowship events of the year
- ~~ get to know a visitor to Magnolia
- ~~ introduce myself to someone I haven’t met at Magnolia
- ~~ bring a friend to Magnolia
- ~~ participate in a new social event this year

..Cont’d

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS continued...

Christian Education:

- ~~ visit the Sunday School kids or offer to help with a week or two of teaching
- ~~ stretch myself and offer up a children's story
- ~~ make a meal for the Youth Group on Sunday evenings
- ~~ share my time or talent with the Youth Group
- ~~ participate in Women's Monday Morning Bible Study
- ~~ join the committee

Worship:

- ~~ sign up to assist Pastor Paul in worship
- ~~ join the choir
- ~~ offer to usher once to try it out, or on a regular basis
- ~~ help out with the audio/visual people during worship
- ~~ join the committee

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13*

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

Join us for winter fun with



Sunday nights from 6-8 p.m.

for both Middle School (grades 6-8)
and High School (9-12) students.

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Feb 4 | Dinner Meeting |
| Feb 11 | NO Meeting |
| Feb 18 | NO Meeting |
| Feb 25 | Game/Party Meeting |

We will be meeting in the youth room (enter off Potomac St, through the gate on the left, and the first door is the Youth Room).

Hope to see you there!

~ Catelyn



**JOIN MAGPRES ON SUNDAY, FEB. 18th. 4-8pm at PANERA'S FOR THE NEXT
"RISING FROM THE ASHES"
FUNDRAISER TO REBUILD THE CHURCH!!!**

RAISE SOME DOUGH

Help support us!

25% of sales will benefit
Magnolia Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2024
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT
3560 Riverside Plaza Drive, Riverside, CA

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-Up • Delivery
Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.

Panera
FUNDRAISING





Deacon's Corner

When considering a topic for the month of February, the first one that generally comes to mind is love. Stores are bedecked with heart shaped balloons, flowers, boxes of candy, stuffed pink and red teddy bears, and other decorations and gifts symbolizing love.

The Bible is chock full of references to love. My concordance lists 514 verses that contain the word, and that doesn't even include the use of "loved".

One of my personal favorite references to love is the Great Commandment from Matthew 22:36-40. *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*

This passage contains an "aha" moment that took me until adulthood to recognize. Those two little words "as yourself" had never really registered. Of course, the requirement to wholeheartedly love the Lord is clear, as is the command to love our neighbor. But there is an implication in this verse that is easy to overlook, and that is, we must love ourselves in order to be able to extend love to others. It is a prerequisite.

Having been raised in a very conservative church, I learned early on to confess "have mercy upon me for I am (nothing) but a poor miserable sinner" on a weekly basis. The formal liturgy did not change, and I remember thinking as a child that I must be a rather hopeless case. Loving yourself was not a topic that was raised in my recollection, nor was self-forgiveness.

So, how does a Christian go about loving themselves? Contemporary society is full of self-indulgence, vanity, and selfishness. How is it possible to have the healthy self-esteem God actually expects of us without falling into the trap of self-obsession?

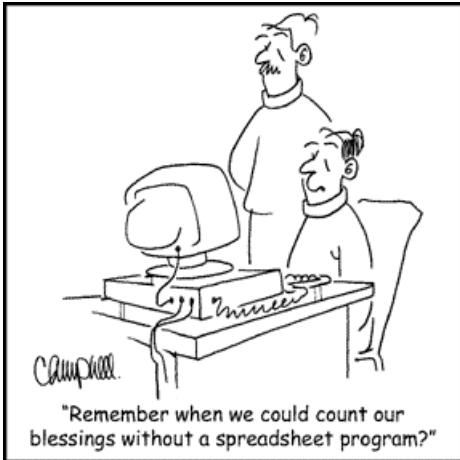
I humbly submit the following suggestion. Since there are another 509 verses that discuss love in the scriptures, that is a great place to start. Corinthians 13 is one example. This passage contains a list of what love is and isn't. If we give ourselves permission to apply those qualities inwardly, something wonderful happens.

Those of us who have a little extra life experience can often become grumpy. It's easy to complain when your joints ache and daily activities become challenging. This passage reminds us that loving yourself means it is okay to be patient with yourself, and to be kind to yourself as well as others. Sometimes regrets and frustrations creep in. But, we can let go of self-recrimination and anger over past mistakes because these verses remind us that love means not keeping a mental list of all the bad stuff.

The infirmities and imperfections we see in the mirror are not what God sees. We are wondrously made, and He loves us! Hallelujah and Happy Valentine's Day!

Laurie Mordue

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH



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

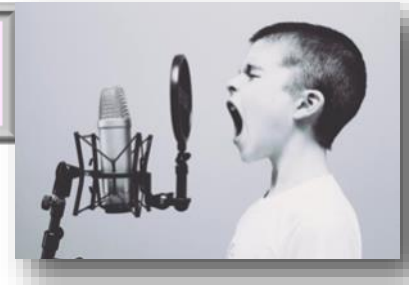
WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: Led by Laurie Mordue on Monday mornings at 9:30a.m. Join us in the Library for a relaxing time to delve into Scripture, prayer, and fellowship.

TROOP 16: Meets every Monday night at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Our Charter Organization Rep is Tim Lewis (webelewis@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP: meets on Sunday from 6-8pm in the Youth Room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children in grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade is offered during our 10am worship service in-person in Room 8 and via Zoom. Nursery is in Room 9. If you would like to connect on zoom, please use this link: **Meeting ID: 59885602 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!)

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. Keep up the good work as we continue loving our neighbors who are hungry! **Our next Two-Can collection date will be February 11th.**

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: 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 at church@magpres.com

DEACONS OFFERING: The first Sunday of every month, we collect the DEACONS 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.

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.

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.

YOU CAN HELP...

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.



Sunday School
Volunteers



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Those of you who have always dreamed of a career of stuffing newsletters and applying address labels--*your time has come!*

Our trusty Office Admin could use the help of a rotating crew of volunteers one morning a month to get out the *UpLook* newsletter, and other fantastic activities you can do while seated in the most comfortable chair in the office!

If you think you could offer your help monthly or even just occasionally, please email Church@MagPres.com and let us know your possible availability (best days of the week & times). Thank you!!



Remember Your
Offerings

HOW TO GIVE TO MAGPRES

Please take advantage of these convenient Giving Opportunities:

DONATE: Check or cash in offering plate or dropped off in the office

BANK: Set-up one-time or recurring donations with your bank bill pay

ONLINE: Visit our website at www.magpres.com/give

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

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 children will meet in Rm 8 and Nursery in Rm 9 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 **Mark 4:41**

Even the wind and the sea obey him!

For more advanced Bible scholars, the full verse is:

Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

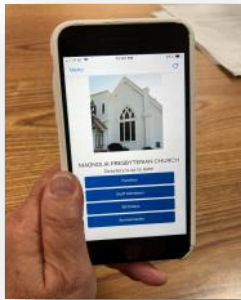


Bible Memory Verse

DON'T FORGET...

The next Mag Café will be February 11th right after the 10:00a.m. Worship Service.

Join us in the Fireside Room for Java and Treats... and stay for the Fellowship & Conversation!



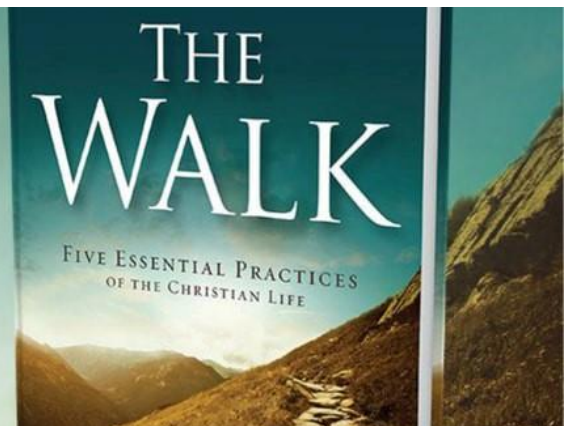
CHURCH DIRECTORY...ONLINE!

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).

**Lenten Study
Begins Week of Feb. 11**

SIGN UP TODAY!
magpres.com/lent



**We believe that faith is done better together.
Join a group this Lenten season and explore spiritual
practices for your walk in 2024!**

**Meetings offered in-person or via Zoom -
Sundays at 11:30am (after service) or Thursdays at 6:30pm**

**Consider purchasing your own copy of the book at your favorite retailer today..
\$15 paperback & \$10 ebook**

Sign-up at Sunday Service or online at: MagPres.com/Lent



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RIVERSIDE, CA
PERMIT NO. 490

...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



Magnolia Presbyterian
Church Staff

- The Rev. Paul Knopf
Pastor
- Lisa Gulino
Administrative Assistant
- James Walters
Trad. Music Director/Organist
- John Wright
Choral Director
- Cynthia Wright
Pianist/Accompanist
- Allison Robinson
Nursery Attendant
- Catelyn Garcia
Youth Leader

*****CHURCH PARKING LOT*****

The main church parking lot has received slurry and restriping provided by Western Municipal Water District and is now open for parking.

TWO-CAN SUNDAY

Every 2nd Sunday of the month MagPres collects non-perishable food donations for Lutheran Social Services local food distribution. Last month we collected 66 items. Let's see if we can top that for February!
The next TWO-CAN SUNDAY is FEBRUARY 11th.
Donations may be dropped off during Sunday Service or in the church office.



February 2024 Prayer Calendar

| <u>SUNDAY</u> | <u>MONDAY</u> | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u> | <u>SATURDAY</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 Rick & Jeanne Hood | 2 Tom & Julie Hutchinson | 3 John & Connie Jackson |
| 4 FOM Committee | 5 Barbara Johnson | 6 Mary & Dave Josselyn | 7 the Keovilay family | 8 David & Claudia King | 9 Dick & Bonnie Kirby | 10 the Knopf family |
| 11 Mission Committee | 12 Dee & Lowell Lacy | 13 Ann & James Laudermilk | 14 Michelle Laudermilk | 15 Ryan Laudermilk | 16 Marshall & Mary Lee | 17 Bob & Lee Lewis |
| 18 Personnel Committee | 19 Tim & Diana Lewis | 20 Flora Livingstone | 21 Adrien Lowery | 22 Ann Lowry | 23 Jeff & Laurie Ludwig | 24 Marge Ludwig |
| 25 Stew & Finance Committee | 26 the Mabena family | 27 Jody Macdonald | 28 Lisa & Craig MacDougall | 29 the Manley family | | |
| | | | | | | |



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 Timoshuck | 29th |

February Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--|--------------------|------|
| Chuck & Delores Tobin | 7th | | | Rick & Jeanne Hood | 14th |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--|--------------------|------|

February 2024 MagPres Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 9:30am - EEEAC |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Deacon Door Offering 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop | 6pm - CE Cmte. 6:30pm - FOM Cmte. 7pm - BaG Cmte. 7pm - Mission Cmte. | 7pm - Choir Practice | | Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 9:30am - EEEAC 4pm - Path of Life Meal Prep |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 10am - TWO-CAN Sunday 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop | 6pm - Worship Cmte 7pm - Stew_Fin Cmte | 6pm - Simple Supper 7pm - Ash Wed Service | 6:30pm - Community-Family | Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 9:30am - EEEAC |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 4pm - Panera - Capital 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop | 7pm - Deacon Meeting | Session Mat'ls Due 9am 7pm - Choir Practice | | Office Closed 5pm - EEEAC | 9:30am - EEEAC |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |
| 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - Children's Sunday 6pm - Youth Group Meeting | 9am UpLook Mat'ls Due 9:30am - Women's Bible 6:30pm - Boy Scouts, Troop | 7pm - Session Meeting | 7pm - Choir Practice | | | |