



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 XXVI, No. 12

December 2018

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Cost: \$5/person

Start together for appetizers at 5:00 pm

Continue to host homes for dinner

End together with dessert and gift exchange

(If you choose to take part in the exchange, bring a \$5-\$15 gift)

SIGN UPS are being taken NOW. Locations will be assigned as the event gets closer.

Adults-only Event: childcare will be offered at the church.



CHRISTMAS Progressive Dinner

**So many *Advent* and *Christmas* opportunities!
See Page 3 for a complete listing.**

What happens to your cans of food every second Sunday?

Deacons Edith and Gary Grant count cans and drop off our donations at Lutheran Social Services. YOUR donations help fill empty pantry shelves.



Help fill these shelves!



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

A PASTOR'S PONDERING

Growing up and going to school, I loved it when teachers would take roll. As my classmates responded with the word "here" upon hearing their names, I often chose instead to say the word, "present," which often elicited a laugh or two from others. I had an unusual affinity for this word, "present." Perhaps it is because I was born on Christmas Day, 36 years ago, and this word was my way of claiming that I was a gift to the class in addition to acknowledging I was physically present. Maybe it was because this word allowed me to be different from my fellow classmates. Possibly it was because the word started with the letter "P." I'm not really sure why, but I do like the word.

The Rev. Timm High, who serves our presbytery as the Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision and Stated Clerk, uses the word often in this way, whether verbally or in writing:

"Thank you for your presence and your presents."

Timm's usage of this word reminded me of my positive attachment to this word, and reminds me of the (big P) Presence that is so present in my life.

As we enter into this Christmas season and begin the exchange presents, may we be reminded of the Present who became present to us all and is still present to anyone desiring His presence. And as you remember and celebrate:

Merry Christmas!

Your "present" Co-Pastor,
Paul

PS - I saw this online and thought it might be helpful to some of us this season:

-
 Christmas Rules:
 1. Don't go into debt trying to show people how much you love them.
 2. Don't go visit your family if it compromises your mental health.
 3. If someone comments on your weight...eat them.

A MINISTER'S MUSING

Tis' a gift to be simple, tis' a gift to be free...

"Keep it simple". This is the phrase my friend Patricia and I say to one another whenever we go camping together or invite each other's families over for a meal. Most of the time I am not very successful at it, mainly because cooking for others is how I show my love and care for them. I come from a long line of women who never kept it simple when it came to entertaining (thus my obsession with table linens). Lately however this phrase "keep it simple" has been like an earworm in my head that won't leave. Part of it I admit comes from looking ahead to one of the busiest times of the year for Pastors. But I think also a big part of it is out of response to the devastation of the wildfires this month.

So, with the holidays approaching and gift buying and giving on the horizon I've been reflecting on whether I really need anymore "stuff". Do I need to stand in line for hours on Black Friday or spend hours online for Cyber Monday or the insanity of last-minute Christmas Eve stocking stuffer CVS trips or is there a better way to spend my time and money? What is really important at Christmastime? Is it the decorating, lighting, baking, eating, buying, present opening? Which I admit are all things I love. Or is it more about spending time with family and friends, going to church on Christmas Eve, or singing carols? Is it more about Santa Claus or is it about that baby born in humble surroundings? I wonder why the Word became flesh and made his home among us as a King wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in an animal feeding trough instead of a palace. Would it be a different kind of message, a different kind of Savior, if Jesus' birth and life were not so simple? Would our message be different?

In full disclosure, I am not completely ready for a "simple Christmas". I feel I need to ease into it, to "do a small thing" as Pastor Paul preached on a few weeks back. So, my one small thing will be to give money to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the fire victims, instead of buying gifts for my friends. As you look forward to this Advent/Christmas season, may you feel blessed and loved and share it with others-

In Christ,
Pastor Claire



Advent and Christmas 2018 at Magnolia Presbyterian Church

Friday November 30	Hanging of the Greens 6 pm—Pizza and drinks provided as we decorate our worship spaces
Saturday December 1	Advent Party (FH) 10 am—1 pm: Join us for FUN for all ages: crafts, food, fellowship.
1st Sunday of Advent December 2	Worship with Communion 9 am (FH) Worship with Communion 11 am (S)
2nd Sunday of Advent December 9	Worship 9 am (FH) Worship 11 am (S) with Musical Offering by Redlands Adventist Academy
Tuesday, Dec. 11	Christmas FOOD BOXES DUE
Saturday December 15	Annual Progressive Dinner, \$5 per person 5:00 pm (sign-ups requested)
3rd Sunday of Advent December 16	Worship 9 am (FH) MagPres Kids will bring their musical offering Worship 11 am (S) MagPres Kids will bring their musical offering
4th Sunday of Advent December 23	Worship 9 am (FH) Worship 11 am (S)
Monday December 24	7 pm Candlelight Communion Service (S)
Monday and Tuesday December 24 and 25	Office Closed
Sunday, Dec. 30	10 am Unity Service Worship (S)

Through the season of Advent we will observe the weekly lighting of the Advent Candles to remind us of this time to prepare for Christ's coming.

We encourage you to walk through this season by participating in our Advent Calendar/coin bank ministry to support Operation Safehouse. The *Our Daily Bread* devotional book also contains Advent-centered readings.

(FH = Fellowship Hall / S = Sanctuary)

**2018
"Our Year of Commitment"
October Financial Report**

The Treasurer's report contains great news!

It appears that many of you have taken our Stewardship theme for 2018 to heart, "Our Year of Commitment".

Our income for October was \$342,260.23 and expenses were \$325,670.89.

This results in a current positive balance of \$16,589.34 as of October 31st. Praise God!!



Also, if we consider the \$11,637.50 of endowment interest and \$8,407.95 of deficit reduction funds that were budgeted to meet potential shortfalls, our adjusted balance for October is \$36,634.79.

Thank you for supporting your Church's 2018 budget by staying current with your pledge. The Stewardship Committee is confident that our church family will stay committed to the use of their Time, Talent and Treasures for our church.

Please note the following Church Office Hours Closed: Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25. Monday, Dec. 31



Men's Group meets the second Monday of every month. Our next meeting will be December 10 at 7 pm at the home of John Jackson. Call the church office or see John for more info.

**Save the Date
Women's Retreat!
March 29 – 31, 2019
Luther Glen Conference
Center in nearby Yucaipa**

***From the
Stewardship
Committee:***



We would like to thank all of you that have made a financial pledge to support the programs of Magnolia Presbyterian

Church. As of 11/25/18, we have received pledge cards from 70 of our church family members with a total pledge amount of \$245,045. We have a very generous congregation.

If you have not submitted a pledge for 2019, please do so as soon as possible.

Your Stewardship Committee:
Marshall Lee, Chair
Ken Eberwein
Sheryel Eberwein
Dick Kirby
Chris Nettles
Jane Peden
Phil Smith

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

During Pastor Paul's report to Session in October, he reminded Elders of Magnolia's financial surplus and how to consider that surplus in planning for next year. He posed the question "what do we do with a surplus at the end of the year?" He went on to point out two potential paths. The first path, is to use/spend that surplus, "trying something new". The second path is to save the surplus for future needs, "acknowledging that perhaps God has blessed us today so that we can afford the future". He ended by saying "Both of these paths are faithful; but as we enter this year of 'fearless generosity', I invite you to consider, which one is fearless?"

Pray for your Session as they make decisions about this surplus, as they finalize the budget and consider trying something new in 2019.



"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have".

2 Corinthians 8:12

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session

**What is the EASIEST way to contribute to MagPres?
Buy some Stater Bros. gift cards.**

Stater Bros. script cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50, and \$100 on the first Sunday of every month in Café Magnolia from 10:00 to 11:00. 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.

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



This Year as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior during the Advent Season our Bank offering will go Operation safe house which has been helping teens in crisis in Riverside County for 27 years. You can find the Advent Calendars with the Red and Green Banks in the Narthex.



Time and Talent Recognitions

Thanks to...

- † The Social Programming Committee and Laura Medrano for the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner.
- † The talented MagPres musicians and guest musicians for the Thanksgiving concert.
- † Those who gave to Operation Christmas Child and Heather Dickenson for arranging to have them mailed.
- † Zach Gipson for hosting Men's Group.
- † The Stewardship Committee for their hard work on a successful Stewardship Campaign. (see page 4)
- † Everyone who participated in the Work Party (names on pages 7).



December Celebrations Birthdays

Claire Schlegel	December 7
AJ Knopf	December 12
Julia Marken	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
Kristi Andrew	December 30

Anniversaries

Vierich, Richard and Alma	Dec. 12
Brooks, Dan and Karrie	Dec. 19
Simmons, Roger and Susan	Dec. 19

TWO-CAN SUNDAY REPORT

180 Cans Collected in November

Bring your two cans of food on Sunday, December 9 for distribution to Lutheran Social Services. What we give is MATCHED by a grant! So give generously.

Scout Corner

We will have a regular Scout meeting on Wednesday evening at 7pm on December 5 (Troop Committee, also). We will celebrate the Court of Honor on the December 12 to celebrate Merit Badges earned and Rank Advancement obtained. Parents and guests are invited. The Troop will be dark until January 2, 2019. Then we will begin a new year of activities, outings, learning and preparing for summer camp.. Enjoy the Holidays and see you next year!



Tim Lewis, Charter Organization Representative

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.

Work Party Win!

BAG graciously thanks those who came out to the Fall Work Party (or in the days before!) to get the church ready for the holidays. The jobs are too numerous to name, but people generously dedicated their time and talents, worked together, and accomplished much needed maintenance, cleaning, installation, repair, and organizational tasks. The Buildings and Grounds Committee could not do it without all of you! Much thanks to:

Kathy Stevens, Barbara Johnson, Cherylyn Thornton, Flora Livingstone, Diana and Tim Lewis, Claire and Amanda Schlegel, Donna Crossen, John Reinhart, Tom Hutchinson, Tom Safford, Gary and Jeannie Belangeri, the McCormick Family, Heather Dickenson, Mary Lee, James and Ann Laudermilk, Wayne Andrew, Kyle Rinker, Tyson Andrew, David and Claudia King, and Aaron Cohen

See you next time!

DEACON'S CORNER

"Unto us a child is born"

Advent 2018 has begun – the season of preparation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Your Deacons are busy preparing the food baskets with the groceries that all of you have provided. You may be rushing to shop or decorate or getting ready to travel. We may feel the stress or anxiety of doing too much in a short period of time.

So how different was the preparation for the birth of Jesus...

When Mary received the news of the upcoming birth of Jesus, she rushed off to help her cousin Elizabeth who also was expecting a child.

Mary (very far along in her pregnancy) and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to register as required by the census – and their child was born far from their home of Nazareth.



Mary and Joseph experienced challenging circumstances leading up to the birth of Jesus.

Whether the holiday season is your favorite time of the year, or not so much – we can remember that Mary put aside her situation and focused on caring for others.

This is the blessing available to all of us; we can express love and caring for each other, no matter our circumstances. Let's rejoice as Mary did:

"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."

Luke 1:46-48

Your Deacons want you to know that we are available to listen, pray and support you and MagPres.

In Christ,

Your Deacon Mary Lee

The Women's Bible Study group meets
Mondays 9:30-11:00 am
in the Christian Education Building.

December Schedule:

Dec. 3 Regular meeting

Dec. 10: Brunch (off site)

Adjourned until January 7, 2019

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Sunday January 6 and Sunday, January 23
at both 9 am and 11 am

This is a special part of our worship service, so
please make plans to attend!

Floral arrangements for the
communion table can be provided in
two ways:

1. Permanent silk arrangements to be used throughout the year.
2. Live arrangements for special occasions.

Call the church office or see Alli Shaff if you would like to contribute.

A Bright Future

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
2018

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

Chris Stanley
Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A merry heart does good ...



Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2010

**THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST
THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS
STABLE!**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	
<p>All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. www.magpres.com/calendar</p>					<p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>5 pm - EEEAC Worship-S</p> <p>6 pm - Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various</p> <p>10 am - Advent Breakfast and</p>	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<p>First Sunday in Advent</p> <p>9 am - Deacons Door Offering</p> <p>9 am - Worship w/ Communion @</p> <p>10 am - Stater Bros. Cards For</p> <p>11 am - Worship w/ Communion +</p> <p>12:30 pm - New Officer (Elder)</p> <p>5 pm - MS Youth 5-6:30</p> <p>6 pm - Combined Youth 5-6:,6-7,</p> <p>7 pm - HS Youth 7-8:30</p>	<p>Pastor Paul OUT</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>9:30 am - Women's Monday</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p>		<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:30 pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4</p> <p>7 pm - New Elder Training @</p>	<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>10 am - Riverside Presbytery</p> <p>7 pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Pastor Claire Out</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>5 pm - EEEAC Worship-S</p>		<p>8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various</p> <p>10 am - Sack Lunch Prep @</p> <p>12 pm - Sack Lunch Serve @</p> <p>4 pm - Path of Life Meal Prep and</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
<p>Pastor Claire Out</p> <p>Lessons and Carols (Adventist)</p> <p>Second Sunday in Advent</p> <p>TWO-CAN Sunday</p> <p>9 am - Worship + SS</p> <p>11 am - Worship + SS</p> <p>12:30 pm - New Elder Training @</p> <p>5 pm - MS Youth 5-6:30</p> <p>7 pm - HS Youth 7-8:30</p>	<p>Pastor Paul OUT</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>9:30 am - Women's Monday</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7 pm - Men's Group</p>		<p>Deacon Food Box prep</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7 pm - New Elder Training @</p> <p>7 pm - Troop 16 Court of Honor @</p>	<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>7 pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>UpLook Articles Due</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>5 pm - EEEAC Worship-S</p>		<p>8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various</p> <p>9 am - Deacon Breakfast, Food</p> <p>9 am - New Deacon Training</p> <p>5 pm - Progressive Dinner</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
<p>Third Sunday in Advent</p> <p>9 am - Worship + SS</p> <p>11 am - Worship + SS</p> <p>5 pm - MS Youth 5-6:30</p> <p>7 pm - HS Youth 7-8:30</p>	<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p>		<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>1 pm - Tai Chi @ Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:30 pm - Troop 16 @ FH, CE 4</p>	<p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>7 pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>5 pm - EEEAC Worship-S</p>		<p>8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
<p>Fourth Sunday in Advent</p> <p>9 am - Worship + SS</p> <p>11 am - Worship + SS</p>	<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>7 pm - Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>Pastor Paul OUT</p> <p>Pastor Claire OUT</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p>			<p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:30 am - MPBSP @ CE Building,</p> <p>5 pm - EEEAC Worship-S</p>	<p>8 am - EEEAC-S and FH, various</p> <p>10 am - Sack Lunch Prep @ FH</p> <p>12 pm - Sack Lunch Serve @</p>
30	31	1	<p>End of year Giving: Contributions should be made in worship, to the church, or postmarked by December 31 to be included in your 2018 statement.</p>				
<p>10 am - Unity Service Worship +</p>	<p>New Year's Eve</p>	<p>New Year's Day</p>					

MagPres Prayer Calendar

December 2018

December 2018							January 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Dec 1 George Robbins
2 Youth Groups, Leaders, and Parents	3 Jaeson and Allie Robinson	4 John and Becky Robledo	5 Sheila Roche	6 Claudia Roman	7 Tom and Cathy Safford	8 Grace Sarring
9 Sunday School Teachers	10 Rev. Claire Schlegel; Amanda and Julianne	11 Alli Shaff	12 Evelyn Shea	13 Kris Shea	14 Saw Shein	15 Roger and Susan Simmons
16 Nursery Staff	17 Ramsey and Abby Sindaha	18 Phil and Sally Smith	19 Shawn and Robin Smith	20 Cynthia Spring-Pearson	21 Chris Stanley	22 Krysten Stiffler
23 Ushers and Greeters	24 Gale Teunissen	25 Thomas and Cherylyn Thornton	26 Chuck and Delores Tobin	27 Chris Tolleson	28 Mona Vanderpool	29 Cesar and Tamie Vasquez
30 Financial Secretaries	31 Richard and Alma Vierich	Please pray for the individuals and groups listed.				