

# December 2021



*They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
-Matthew 2:11 (CEB)*

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As we enter into Advent, we recognize that Christmas is right around the corner. It is important though, liturgically, not to celebrate Christmas too early (even if radio stations began playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving). We work our way through the season of Advent, intentionally preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate on Christmas. One way that we celebrate Christmas is by giving presents to those we care about as a reminder of he who became present so many years ago. By the way, are you looking for gift ideas? I have one recommendation; if you are looking for a gift, consider a Bible.

Over the last five years, there has been an explosion in the types of bibles available. Not just translations, but also the format the Bible comes in (I have this weird hobby of collecting bibles and appreciating the physical form of them). What happened five years ago? A Kickstarter campaign for Bibliotheca was successfully funded and shipped.

In Kickstarter, entrepreneurs can post an idea and if there are enough backers, the idea can become a reality. Bibliotheca was an idea that created a Bible in a beautifully readable form. Bibliotheca takes the text of the Bible and puts it in a large and beautiful font. It also presents it in a single-column format and removes the chapter and verse markings from the body of the text. In order to have this large font, single-column format, Bibliotheca is five volumes long. But the reading experience is a great one.

If you have a Bible, open it to a random page. What do you see? Most will see text presented in a small font, placed in two-columns on a page. Some Bibles will separate each verse individually, while others will put it in paragraph form. Which pattern is your Bible? Publishers have printed Bibles in this two-column format for centuries because the Bible contains a significant amount of text and they want you to have the entirety of it in one volume, so they print it in a small font, two-column format. And if yours has each verse separated, a quick glance over the page might confuse it with a dictionary.

After the Bibliotheca Kickstarter campaign (the creator hoped to raise \$35,000 to do a small print run) raised over \$1.4 million, publishers saw a desire for a new format of the printed text and have begun publishing Reader's Editions of the Bible. These new editions are in single-column format with no chapter or verse markings in the body of the text. So now we consumers have many options.

Studies have shown that those reading the reference style Bibles (two-column with chapter and verse markings in the text and verses separated individually) read 70% less than those who read the reader's edition Bibles (single-column with no chapter or verse markings). People who sit down to read the Bible read 70% more when they read the reader's edition because they get caught up in the story and stop when there is a break in the story while those reading reference editions stop when they get to the end of a chapter. Many people make resolutions at the new year to read the Bible more; why not encourage it simply by giving them a format that allows for a more pleasant and enjoyable reading experience. After viewing some of these new forms of Bibles, you might want to pick one up for yourself.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!  
 Your "New Bible as a Christmas Gift Recommending"  
 Co-Pastor, Paul

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## Advent & Christmas 2021

### Advent Series: What are You Waiting For?



<p><b>November 28<sup>th</sup></b>                  "Active Waiting"                  Worship 10 am-Advent Candle-lighting</p>	<p>1st Sunday of Advent</p>
<p><b>December 5<sup>th</sup></b>                  "Waiting for Light"                  Worship with Communion 10 am -Advent candle lighting</p>	<p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p>
<p><b>December 12<sup>th</sup></b>                  "Waiting for Strength"                  Worship 10 am-Advent Candle-lighting</p>	<p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p>
<p><b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b>                  "Waiting to be Satisfied"                  Worship 10 am-Advent Candle-lighting</p>	<p>4th Sunday of Advent</p>
<p><b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>                  Candlelight and Communion 5 pm                  Advent Candle-lighting</p>	<p>Christmas Eve</p>
<p><b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b>                  Worship 10 am                  Wear your Christmas PJ's!</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</p>
<p><b>December 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>January 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p>	<p>Office closed-holiday observed                  Office closed-holiday observed</p>

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”...

Session Committee Advent events are being planned: The sermon series, “What Are You Waiting For?”; “Night Watch” devotional available; Our choir practicing for Advent participation; Christmas decorating party; poinsettias being purchased for our members who need a little extra cheer, and Christmas Eve Communion worship service.

Although another year has passed with many traditions at Magnolia having been put on hold once again, the one constant is why we celebrate Christmas...the story stays the same...

“ For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given... Isaiah 9:6

Merry Christmas!!  
Melanie Nelson  
Clerk of Session



## YOUTH GROUP

**Welcome back Youth Group!**

**NEXT MEETING: December 5, 2021**

Please keep our leaders and youth in your prayers.

Contact: Eric Brandenberger at [epsouthernca@gmail.com](mailto:epsouthernca@gmail.com) for more info.

*\*exceptions for holidays and other events \**

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Work Party Success!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is grateful for all who participated in the recent Work Party. Sixteen people, young and not so young, brand new members, long time members, friends, pastors, and BAG Committee members showed up ready to work! Many tasks were completed and things are looking good around here!

BAG would like to thank... John Wright, Rosie Quinones, Dave King (and his friend), Pastor Paul & AJ Knopf, Brenda Flowers. Carolyn Raughley, Pastor Claire Schlegel, New members Beth & John Zarecki, Carlos Castro. Last but not least BAG members, Gary Welman, Tom Safford, Tim Lewis and Ann Laudermilk..

## DEACONS CORNER

Is Christmas at Risk?

I read somewhere that Christmas is at risk due to the supply chain problems. As we look to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today, we will re-discover that the true wonder of Christmas is found in love of Christ and made real in our hearts when we share that love with others. Dr. Suess has the right idea! "Christmas doesn't come in boxes with bows!" Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more. Although much about our world seems filled with darkness, danger and uncertainty, we have as Christians the certain hope that a light shines in the darkness and darkness has not overcome it.

This Season may you embrace and celebrate the true wonder of Christmas, believing that because of God's love and light in Jesus Christ, anything is possible!

Flora Livingstone  
Deacon

## SCOUTS CORNER

As the year winds down the Scouts work to complete advancement requirements. This last camp out was cooking: menu planning, ingredients list & purchasing them, pot/pans/utensils needed, personal mess kit, meal prep, cooking, and cleanup. Each scout had a role. For some it was to do; for others it was to direct & orchestrate what needed to be done by others. Quite the learning experience for some; for others it was it was "old hat." Next Court of Honor is on Dec 15 and we will be honoring Ed Kolb for his years of service to the Troop and District as he steps away from Scouting. We are planning a Recruiting night for Dec 1. If any of you know of a youth that could benefit from the Scouting experience, please invite them (or let me know and I can do that). We will be beginning the Troop's 100th year next year (started 1923). There are generations that have gone thru Troop 16!

Tim Lewis

## ACCESS WORSHIP ONLINE

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

## STEWARDSHIP NOTES

When Chris Nettles first asked me about community service outside of church, I thought about supporting my family, friends, and neighbors. Further reflection reminded me that we are all part of an international community. This acknowledgement is why I want to talk about my participation in Compassion International.

Through compassion I have sponsored four children from four different countries over the last several years. It has been a wonderfully rewarding experience. The program selects a needy child for you to support with a small monthly donation. You then have the joy of seeing the difference your sponsorship makes in their life. Sponsorship provides basic necessities including medical care, schooling, and bible instruction. You develop a personal relationship with your compassion child through letters and pictures. You receive the blessings of watching them grow up in improved circumstances because of your support.

Compassion International has helped me appreciate that each one of us is part of a global community and my actions can impact someone half a world away. If you would like to sponsor a child or just get more information please visit [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)

Blessings,

Carla Carrasco



### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**October 31, 2021**

**Income-\$372,657.77**

**Expenses- \$363,672.79**

**Balance- \$8,984.98**

### HOW TO GIVE

Please take advantage of these Giving Opportunities

◇**ONLINE:** Visit our website at [www.magpres.com/give](http://www.magpres.com/give)

◇**MOBILE** via text "magpres" to 77977

◇**MOBILE** via app -- Download our church app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. Search for "Magnolia Presbyterian Church"

◇**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)





## Gingerbread Christmas Cupcakes

1 2/3 Cups all purpose flour  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 tsp ground ginger  
1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg  
1/4 tsp ground cloves  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
2 large eggs  
1/2 cup unsulphured Molasses

1/2 cup milk  
12 mini gingerbread men  
red and green sprinkles

### Frosting Ingredients

8 oz cream cheese, room temp  
1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temp  
3 cups powdered sugar  
1 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a muffin tin with cupcake liners and lightly spray liners and top of pan with non-stick cooking spray. In a mixing bowl whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves, set aside. In a bowl mix brown sugar and butter until pale and fluffy, mix in vegetable oil then blend in eggs one at a time. Slowly combine ingredients and mix in molasses, and milk. Insert mixture into muffin pan and bake between 19-22 minutes. For the frosting, in a bowl, mix butter and cream cheese until smooth. Add vanilla and powdered sugar and mix until light and fluffy. Tip- If frosting is slightly runny simply freeze in 3 minute increments, whipping again with a mixer until desired consistency is reached. Decorate and enjoy!



We want you to experience this truth and become a more fully formed follower of Jesus Christ by being a part of a life group. To join a life group, you first have to go through Rooted.

**ROOTED** provides the opportunity to **connect with God, the church community, and your purpose** in unexpected life-changing ways. This 10-week series is one of the most transformational experiences that we have at **MagPres**. Whether you have been following Jesus for years, or you are new to the faith, this is the perfect place to jump in!


visit [magpres.com/rooted](https://magpres.com/rooted) to sign up

We will have an initial meeting on [Sunday, January 30th at 5pm](#) where we'll get oriented to Rooted and meet our group for the first time. Want to know more? Visit [magpres.com/rooted](https://magpres.com/rooted)



## *CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE*

*Friday, December 24, 2021 at 5:00 pm.*





# DECEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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  
 Kristina Andrew December 30

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



### HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES



The Deacons and Mission Committee are collecting food items for distribution to needy families in our community this Christmas, to brighten up their holidays. Please check out the list below for items to donate. You may purchase all or any portion of the items on the list. If your preference is to make a monetary donation instead, that would be most welcome as well. The estimated value of each food box is \$45.00. Please turn in your items by Sunday, December 12, 2021, in the box at the front entrance to the church or to the church office.

Thank you for your generous donations to our fellow Christians and community.  
 Have a joyous, Merry Christmas!



### SHOPPING LIST (NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE)

- |                               |                           |                        |                          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 box pancake mix             | 1 Plastic bottle of syrup | 2 can of corn          | 2 cans of green beans    |
| 2 cans of fruit               | 2 cans of soup            | 1 pkg of pasta         | 1 can of spaghetti       |
| 1 bag of rice                 | 1 can sweet potatoes      | 1 bad of beans         | 1 box of cereal          |
| 1 package of gravy mix        | 1 box cereal              | 1 box cake mix         | 1 tub of frosting        |
| 1 bag of flour                | 1 bag of sugar (4lbs)     | 1 jar of peanut butter | 1 bag or box of stuffing |
| 1 box instant mashed potatoes |                           |                        |                          |



A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
RIVERSIDE, CA

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

December 2021



**Magnolia Staff**

The Rev. Claire Schlegel  
Co-Pastor

The Rev. Paul Knopf  
Co-Pastor

Lorraine Chapa  
Office Manager

James Walters  
Music Director/Organist

Saw Shein  
Contemporary Music Leader

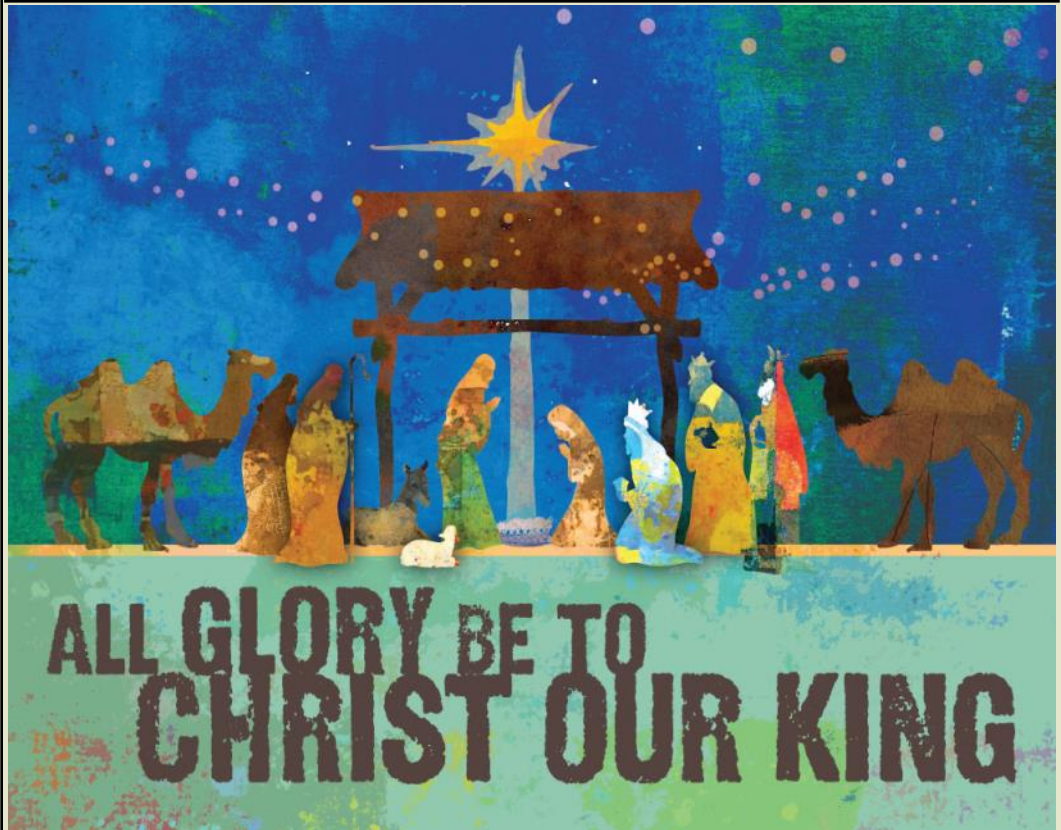
John Wright, Choral Director

Cynthia Wright, Pianist

Allison Robinson  
Nursery Attendant

Jeff Ludwig  
Treasurer

[vacant] Youth Leader



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# Monthly Calendar

# December



# 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3pm - Crossways #1 7pm - Crossways #2 7pm - Troop 16	2 7pm - Choir Practice	3 <b>Office Closed</b>	4
5 Communion Sunday 10am-Worship 6:30pm- Youth Group Deacon Door Offering	6 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	7 6pm - CE-Cmte 6pm - Mission Cmte 6:30pm - FOM Cmte 7pm - Bag Cmte	8 3pm - Crossways #1 7pm - Crossways #2 7pm - Troop 16	9 7pm - Choir Practice	10 <b>Office Closed</b>	11
12 10am – Worship 2pm-Two Can 6:30pm – Youth Group 11:15am-Cong Meeting	13 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	14 6:30pm Stewardship Cmte	15 3pm - Crossways #1 7pm - Crossways #2 7pm - Troop 16	16 7pm - Choir Practice	17 <b>Office Closed</b>	18
19 10am – Worship 6:30pm – Youth Group	20 9:30 am Women's Bible Study	21 6:00pm-Deacon Meeting 7:00pm-Session Meeting	22	23 7pm - Choir Practice	24 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Christmas Eve Svc.</b> <b>5:00pm</b>	25 Christmas Day <b>Merry Christmas!</b>
26 10am – Worship	27 <b>Pastor Paul Vacation</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	28 <b>Pastor Paul Vacation</b>	29 <b>Pastor Paul Vacation</b>	30 <b>Pastor Paul Vacation</b>	31 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b>	1 New Year's Day <b>Happy New Year!</b>
2 10am – Worship	3 <b>Office Closed</b>					

# Prayer Calendar

# December



# 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Makenzie Nelson	Chris & Sherry Nettles	Zach Ni	Jay & Katie Nicholson
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Family Promise Program <a href="https://www.facebook.com/familypromiseriverside">https://www.facebook.com/familypromiseriverside</a>	Janet Nicks	Judy O'Bier	Lila Odell	Tessa & Daniel Paredes	Jane Peden	Giovanny & Monica Perez
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MagPres Session	Ron & Cornelia Phifer	Susie Phillips	Gary & Pat Platner	Clarke & Jeanette Prescott	Rosario Quinones	Charles & Carolyn Raughley
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
National Human Rights	Jeff & Laurie Reidman	John & Sharon Reinhardt	Dave & Sandy Richards	Jean Riggs	Kyle & Kendall Rinker	George Robbins
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
All MagPres Families and Someone You Love	Jaeson & Allie Robinson	John & Becky Robledo	Claudia Roman	Tom & Kathy Safford	Amanda Schlegel	Rev. Claire Schlegel
2	3					
Women's Bible Study Group	Alli Shaff					