

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. 5

May 2019

Got Volleyball? Neither do we!

The annual church picnic is coming up on May 19. This is a Unity Service Sunday with one service at 10:00 am. Plan to stay after the service and join in the potluck picnic out front under the oak tree. ***The hot dogs and hamburgers are provided*; plan to bring either a dessert or side dish.*** Usually there would be a volleyball game or two after lunch but this year there will be bocce ball and corn-hole tournaments. This is a great opportunity to "slime" a neighbor, coworker, casual acquaintance, friend, etc. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fireside room starting May 5. Hope to see you under the oak tree!



**Sunday, May 19
after 10 AM Unity Service**

* a free will offering will be taken at the door to defray the cost of the main dish

** "SLIME" = smile, listen, be interested, meet people where they are at, enjoy each other



Cinco de Mayo POTLUCK,
Saturday, May 4 at 4:30 p.m., at
the home of Carla Carrasco.
Bring a dish even if you haven't
signed up. Games and piñata for
the kids. FAMILY-FRIENDLY!

FROM YOUR MISSION

INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

1. Riverside churches raised \$17,320.50 for the Crop Walk to help eliminate hunger. Magnolia Pres. raised \$5,885.00, which was the most raised by any other church participating.

2. Mag. Pres. gave \$1500.00 for Shared Mission Support.

3. On April 27th, we provided volunteers for Brush with Kindness, a Habitat for Humanity project.

4. From Jan. through April the Guest Chef teams have prepared 400 hot meals for the homeless at the Hulen Center.

5. Your Mission Committee is gathering and working on possible ideas for a big project to help the homeless in our community.



Friday May 17 @6:45 Outreach Night/Potluck-

Great Event for all ages, Invite Friends
Socialize while making gifts to give away to others to spread God's love.
Similar to the last Outreach Night but with different projects

Donations Needed Before the Event:

Stationery, river rocks (1 to 4"), permanent markers of different colors, paint pens, terracotta pots, planting soil, brown sugar, semi-sweet chocolate chips, quart size mason jars, canned/boxed food

POETRY BY SUSIE PHILLIPS ON PAGE 4.

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

*Praise the LORD, all you nations!
Worship him, all you peoples!*

*² Because God's faithful love toward us is strong, the LORD's faithfulness lasts forever!
Praise the LORD! Psalm 117*



Did you know that Psalm 117 is the shortest Psalm in the Bible? It is two verses long and yet encompasses all we need to know about who God is and how we are to respond to God's love

and faithfulness. Of course, we are meant to praise God continually as individuals but there is something especially meaningful and powerful when we participate in worship with other believers.

In *Life Together*, the great theologian, pastor and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer has this to say, "What do we who no longer have any fear or awe of night, know of the great joy that our forefathers and the early Christians felt every morning at the return of light? If we were to learn again something of the praise and adoration that is due the triune God... then we would also begin to sense something of the joy that comes when night is past and [brethren] who dwell together in unity come together early in the morning for common praise of their God, hearing of the Word, and common prayer." He goes on to say that Sunday morning does not belong to the individual, but belongs to the church of God, the Christian family, the fellowship.

So, if worship is not about us, the question becomes, "What is my attitude as I walk in the door? Am I excited to be here today? Am I open to meeting God today through song, Word and prayer?" Or is my attitude one of looking for and expecting someone to mess up or say something that I can easily find fault with? Is my praise and participation focused on God or is it focused on my own needs?

If the preacher drones on, or the music is off key, or the sound system has a glitch, God will still be praised! Even if the sanctuary burns down, God will still be praised! Even if I'm not "feeling it" today, God will still be praised. I remember as a teenager asking my priest Fr. Satrang what to do if when saying the Lord's Prayer, you just didn't feel anything. His answer? "Do it anyway, God will still be praised. Eventually you will "feel it" again." Praise the Lord all you peoples! We worship a loving, faithful God!

In Christ,
Pastor Claire

On my recent vacation, I was faced with a choice that perhaps many of us are faced with on a Sunday morning: was I going to wake up and attend church? This was unusual for me because the way I was raised, if it was Sunday morning, I was at church. To relieve myself of the guilt I was experiencing for not attending the church service provided by the cruise I was on, I did watch a live stream of a church service.

As I reflected on this experience, I wondered if you are ever faced with a similar decision: Should I go to church today? This question/decision connotes a consumer attitude. It could be considered the equivalent of "should we go to McDonald's or Burger King?"

Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish Christian thinker and writer who lived in the 1800's, compared worship to a play. Kierkegaard complained that too often we imagine the minister is the star actor in a play, with the choir and liturgists in supporting roles and the congregation as the audience. Kierkegaard offered a different way to frame worship: it is the congregation who is on center stage and the minister, worship leaders, and choir who is coaching all of the participants to do their best for God, who is the audience.

If we utilize Kierkegaard's understanding of worship, we become less consumer oriented. Instead of asking "Should I go to church today," we ask, "what will it take for me to worship the best that I can?" If you need help in determining what you can do to worship the best you can, consider the activity we did on Palm Sunday (if you missed it, you can listen to it here: <http://magpres.com/sermons/cultivating-praise-and-letting-go-of-other-peoples-expectations-and-judgements/>):

*With my hands up high (hands up)
And my feet down low (point down)
This is how I praise
the Lord (action)*

...
*Praise the Lord,
praise, praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord,
praise, praise the Lord!*



So are you going to church this Sunday?

Your re-framing worship Co-Pastor,
Paul

News Around the Church

Men's Group meets the second Monday of every month.

Their next meeting will be May 13 at 7 pm, at the home of Jeff Ludwig.

All men are welcome for lively discussion!

TWO-CAN SUNDAY REPORT

99 Cans Collected in April

This program needs more!

Bring your two cans of food on Sunday, May 12 for distribution to Lutheran Social Services. What we give is MATCHED by a grant! So give generously.

most needed: breakfast foods, protein sources.

Church Office Closed Monday May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

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

May Meetings:

May 5, 12, 19

For updates on the aftermath of the Sanctuary Fire, please visit

www.magpres.com/fire-updates

If you would like a printed update, please contact the church office and we will send you the latest news.

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.

Calling All Grads



Do you have a graduate in your family? Send a nice jpg and a short bio to church@magpres.com for inclusion in next month's UpLook.

"NEW GROWTH"

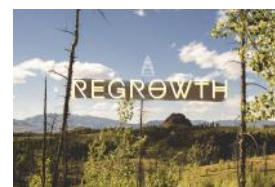
It seems like the way life goes is like a forest fire
Blazing through the forest.
And afterwards the bark and branches are charred.
It seems no life is there.

But there is life inside the trunk - the core.
And that tree will grow again.

And the rubble on the forest floor
Is rich earth for seedlings...

New growth...hope...life again.

Susie Phillips



Summer
Church Camp

MagPres 4th Graders through High School: Get your camp registration and scholarship forms. See Chris Stanley for more info!

Chris@magpres.com

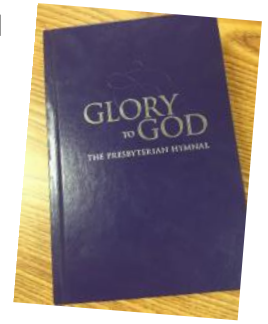
A Bright Future

NEWS from the Worship Committee

- ◆ Drummer – We are seeking a drummer to participate in the 9:00 a.m. service. Please contact Saw Shein if interested.
- ◆ Wedding Coordinator – We are taking applications for a Wedding Coordinator for the church. There is an average of 4-5 weddings a year. There is a stipend for this position. Please contact Brenda Flowers, Personnel Committee chair, or the church office if interested.
- ◆ PowerPoint preparation – We are seeking someone to weekly assist with the preparation of the PowerPoint presentations which are used during worship services. It would be most helpful for someone who has experience with Microsoft products including PowerPoint. Please contact Pastor Paul.



Hymnals – The Church will be purchasing hymnals to be used in the Worship Center. We are offering the opportunity to donate to the purchase in honor of someone. A nameplate with the honoree and donor will be placed in the hymnal. Please see Laura Medrano for more information.



What is Per Capita

Per Capita is "the tie that binds" - annual giving that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

+ It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of word and sacrament/teaching elders.

+ It is how Presbyterians come together to discern God's call in their lives.

+ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources.

+ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (Book OF ORDER, G-4.0101)

For more information about Per Capita and how it is accessed and allocated, please go to:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ecclesial-and-ecumenical-ministries/per-capita/>



2019 "Fearless Generosity"

**March Financial Report:
The March 2019
Treasurer's report
indicates an income of
\$132,800.29 and
\$112,050.62 in
expenses. The
result is a current
positive balance
of \$20,749.67 for
the month of March. God
is Good!!!**



**Thank you for your
fearless generosity by
supporting the Church's
2019 budget by staying
current with your pledges
and your Per Capita
giving of \$36.22.**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Three weeks ago, your Session embarked on a 10-week journey. Once a week for an hour and a half, they are delving in to the small group discipleship program "Rooted". "Rooted" is a catalyst for life-change, provoking questions and conversations and group experiences designed to give a glimpse of one's story in God's story. It's a journey for people in every life stage, wherever they are on their walk with Christ. The weekly readings teach of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus through an experiential model built on foundational elements of Christianity such as Scripture, prayer, worship, generosity and service.

After the Session concludes their journey, they will decide whether or not to offer it to their Magnolia family as a small group study. It may just provide us the opportunity to connect with God, our Magnolia church family, and our purpose in unexpected, life-changing ways.

Stay tuned for more...

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock". Matthew 7:24

Melanie Nelson
Clerk of Session



"ROOTED"



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Over \$2200.00 was received for Hunger, Disaster, and Development Programs.

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.

New Members Since September 2018

No pictures (yet) - but look around for

Monique Mowry

Gary and Pat Platner

Tessa Islas

Cyndee and Dave Hurlebaus

Candice Bowman

Laure and Lance Mordue

Dorothy McLaughlin

Cynthia Spring-Pearson



A Bright Future

Time and Talent Recognitions

Thank you to...

- ✦ Women's Monday Morning Bible Study for crafting the palm crosses.
- ✦ Wayne Andrew for supplying the large palm fronds.
- ✦ All those worked at (see page 7) and Ann Laudermilk for organizing the all-church work party.
- ✦ Tim Lewis for finessing the lock on the front door.
- ✦ Dave and Margy Crowley for trimming and carting away the debris from our fruit trees along Teunissen Way.
- ✦ Gary and Edith grant for faithfully counting and delivering cans/boxes to Lutheran Social Services every month.
- ✦ Those who hosted and led Growth Groups: Dick Kirby; Janet Field; Mary Lee; Adam Martinez; Brian and Melanie Nelson; Laurie McCormick; Gary and Jeannie Belangeri; Lisa McDougall
- ✦ Robin Smith (point person), Heather Dickenson, AJ Belangeri, Tessa Islas, and the Junior and Senior High youth for organizing and implementing the Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks also to those who purchased and supplied candy and eggs.
- ✦ Laura Medrano, Brenda Flowers, and Alli Shaff for preparing our worship space for Palm Sunday.
- ✦ Chris Nettles and Brenda Flowers for assisting with feet-washing on Maundy Thursday.



David King, May 1
 Marjorie Ludwig, May 1
 Jo Alford, May 2
 Melissa Holden, May 2
 Loretta Ward, May 2
 Brian Thornton, May 5
 Dorothy McLaughlin, May 10
 Tessa Islas, May 11
 Janet Field, May 13
 Cole Gettis, May 14
 Mark Brooks, May 15

Caitlin Hutchinson, May 17
 Nancy Poor, May 17
 Sarah Ward, May 17
 Olive Watson, May 17
 Krista Zwart, May 17
 Konrad Reidman, May 18
 Donna Crossen, May 19
 Judith O'Bier, May 21
 Sharon Reinhardt, May 22
 Ida Craft, May 22
 Anderson Duncan, May 25

Marshall Lee, May 29
 Brenda Wynsma, May 30
 Neil Cohen, May 31



May Anniversaries



Vasquez, Cesar & Tamie — May 4 — 23 years
 King, David and Claudia — May 5 — 23 years
 Welman, Gary & Linda — May 28 — 8 years
 Crowley, David & Margy — May 30 — 37 years

Floral arrangements for worship 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.

What is the EASIEST way to contribute to MagPres?

Buy some Stater Bros. gift cards.

Stater Bros. script cards 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.

Deacon's Corner

The Lenten small group study was on the book *Why?* by Adam Hamilton. One of the key points was that **God's primary way of working in our world is through people as evidenced in scripture.** God sends people to feed the hungry, care for the sick, fight for justice, and to offer encouragement. God works through our lives for the benefit of others. We need to make ourselves available to God each day and to pay attention.

For me, thinking of this call on a global scale is overwhelming. We give money to organizations that are equipped to reach out on a world-wide scale to alleviate human suffering. Our denomination has a disaster relief fund. It also supports colleges and hospitals.

As individuals we need to think on a smaller scale. How can we work here in our own community? In the aftermath of the fire, Magnolia could have become very self-centered, directing all financial and human resources into our own facilities and problems. I have witnessed the opposite. We have continued to meet our mission commitments and are seeking new opportunities. The first Outreach Night was a huge success. The response to the CROP Walk was overwhelming. Large numbers participating in Growth Groups and the Women's Retreat show that members are interested in personal growth and fellowship.

The Deacons play an integral part in Magnolia's ministry of helping others. We reach out to lend support to flock members in need, special friends (primarily shut-ins), and those in the hospital. The Deacon's door offering taken on Communion Sunday supports our food and financial assistance to Lutheran Social Services. It is also used for other assistance as needed. **God can work through us in simple ways.** Maybe we say just the right thing at the right time even to a stranger. **We just have to pay attention.**

Barbara Johnson, Deacon



SPRING WORK PARTY Success!

In less than four hours one Saturday morning in April, 24 members and friends came together at the all church Work Party to accomplish an incredible number of tasks! In addition to all of the "regular" maintenance items, there was roof repair, clearing out and consolidation of the sheds, some sort of magic going on in the CE office/craft room, and monument sign repainting. I want to thank Laurie Mordue and Carolyn Raughley for working the entire time on trimming up the Harris Courtyard...it looks great! And Kierstyn and Caitlyn Cohen were my right-hand girls, doing one task after another without complaint! Many thanks go out to: John Wright, Adam Martinez, Lance and Laurie Mordue, Carolyn Raughley, Cherylyn Thornton, Brian Nelson, David King, Brad Copeland, Tom Safford, John Peden, Gary Welman, Aaron, Caitlyn, and Kierstyn Cohen, Lisa MacDougall, Bret Benninger, Paul Knopf, Wayne Andrew, Jeannie and Gary Belangeri, Heather Dickenson, and Mary and Marshall Lee.

BAG relies on the time and talents of all! Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Ann Laudermilk

On behalf of your BAG Committee



A Rich Tradition...A Bright Future

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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



May 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

Chris Stanley
Youth Leader

AJ Belangeri
Interim Media/Audio Coordinator

Diana Lewis
Administrative Assistant

A merry heart does good ...



A Rich Tradition... A Bright Future